

Florence Ruth Jones Brown, Esq., retired Assistant Attorney General. CFO, Browncastle Ranch, Inc., dba Santa Fe Skies RV Park, a family enterprise. Chair, Santa Fe County Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board. First recipient (1996) State Bar Public Law Section's Public Lawyer Award for Distinguished Service. Active in AAUW, Capitol Toastmasters Club and ABC Garden Club.

I was born in Chicago in November 1929, one month after the stock market crash, to Chicagoans Bill and Ruth Jones who had met in Santa Fe in 1928. Back in Santa Fe in 1934, broke, they homesteaded 120 acres east of Hwy. 14, where we now have 7 family homes and own and operate the Santa Fe Skies RV Park.

A Girl Scout and high school editor, I graduated from Loretto Academy in 1947, and from UNM 1950, Economics w/ minors in Government & English. In law school I ran for Albuquerque City Commission (later renamed Council) and was easily defeated by Clyde Tingley. With a 1953 J.D., I returned to Santa Fe to practice law. In 1954 I married Herb Brown, contractor/businessman, and had three children, William, John and Ruth. I clerked a year at the Supreme Court for Justice Kiker. My practice was chiefly real estate and small business and I was my daughter's Girl Scout troop leader. We sold Herb's business and property in 1971 and I closed my practice so we could run off and take our teenagers around the West in 2 RVs plus motorcycles. When we returned in 1972 from this true odyssey, we built a new house on my portion of the family "ranch" and I went back in private practice and back to trekking Girl Scouts through the Pecos Wilderness. (In the meantime, my mother Ruth Bush Jones, Forest Service public relations officer, became known as "The Mother of Smokey Bear.") In 1976 I became Chief Attorney for the then new Child Support Enforcement program. In 1978, I moved to Health and Environment, where I became General Counsel.

Herb was killed at 54 in 1984 in a heavy equipment accident. In 1985, I met Dick Folmar, retired associate director of the Legislative Council Service, writer ("Piecemeal Amendment of the New Mexico Constitution"), both of us already grandparents, and we married in 1989 with the enthusiastic consent of children and grandchildren. Dick died at 81 in 2006, just after finishing "War Cry", his third historical novel of the Wilson years 1912-1914, to be published by mid-2007.

Family: William (Rita), a mine manager for Pavestone, is a collector/exhibitor of antique gas engines. John (Karen, 3 sons), CFO of Browncastle Ranch, Inc., is corporate safety director for Bradbury Stamm. Ruth Jimenez (Chris), grants writer for NM Aids Foundation, is a mystery novelist and teaches a seminar at CNM on novel writing. Grandsons: John is at UNM, and Tim and Greg at SFCC. Dick's daughter Gillian Folmar-Alessio (Ken) is a Santa Fe City Police sergeant, and she has Tamlin at Southern Oregon Univ and Jessica in high school. His son Matt's family, including great grandchildren, live in Oklahoma. I'm at the RV Park front desk every day from 7-10 am, a job category called "working free for your kids."