

And finally, there's the youngest of the McKnight children, Tribal Elder Rick McKnight, who lives in Willamina. Rick served in Saigon, Vietnam in 1967 for six months, then re-upped for another six.

"He came to me with the mail containing his papers when he re-upped," said Olsen. "He said, 'I got my papers but I'm not going to open it.'"

"I said, 'Ok, I'll open it.'"

"Rick is another one that's quiet, and a real devoted family man. My sister Dorothy told him when Wayne died, 'Now the brothers are gone, you have to step up and take care of us girls.' He said, 'I've been the baby all my life and I'm not changing now.'"

Olsen's brother-in-law, Tribal Elder Orville Leno (married to Ramona) "taught me to drive and how to do things," said Olsen.

Her dad, she said, also "was the strongest person in defending Mom and us that I've ever known."

"That's what's wrong with me," she said. "I've got his mouth."

Tribal Elder Joe Mercier, who has passed on, once told her, "You're your mother's daughter but you've got your father's mouth."

No longer married, Olsen bore two children with her husband, Larry Olsen, a Ph.D. specialist in community health. They lived together in Illinois, Arizona and California, where his studies and teaching assignments took him.

For many years, Judy worked on the private switchboard of Clark Kerr, the first Chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley and the 12th President of the University. She also opened the office mail and routed it through the office.

She met John Glenn there, after his moon walk. She rode the elevator with Kirk Douglas. But most of all, she supported her husband as his career got underway. Though the pair haven't been together since the 1980s, it is still with pride that she talks about him heading up departments at the University of New Mexico, and traveling to Saudi Arabia and China to teach health education and community health for the federal government.

And it is also with pride that she speaks of her son, Larry Martin Olsen, 37, and her daughter, Laura Hoyer, 34, both living in Arizona.

"Larry was always inquisitive. He has to know how everything works," she said. "He owns his own painting company and works for a remodeler. His wife, JynChelle, works at a mall in Scottsdale, and also does faux painting and murals. She did a wall in Arizona. "She made it look like bricks with a fireplace," said Olsen.

Larry's always been very active. He was a good soccer player, the kind of student that got bored but he passed all the tests. He'd skip school and I'd catch him."

"My son said once, 'Before I tell you I've done something wrong, you already know it. How do you do it?' I said, 'It's a mother's prerogative.' He didn't stop to think he just looked guilty."

"I remember that Orville (Leno) stopped in at my brother's, and Larry immediately stood up when Orville walked in the room. He's polite and considerate. And he plays guitar and piano by ear."

Larry has a daughter, Nadia, who lives with her mother in Pennsylvania.

► **Judy's mom's family, the Langleys...Included in this picture are Judy's mom, Elvira, at right in her 1st Communion dress. From left is Uncle Clint, Uncle Ivan, Grandma Mary Quinelle Langley, Grandpa Bill, Aunt Mamie standing, Uncle Roscoe on Grandpa's knee, and Uncle Joe standing next to and behind Elvira.**



Photo by courtesy of Judy Olsen

"She is going on 12," said Olsen. "Laura was always put in the advanced class. Her first grade teacher was from Europe, and she taught the first graders to speak French, and since, Laura's always been involved with her French. When she was 13, she went back to Pennsylvania with her dad, who took a group to France and Switzerland. She also plays the piano and she also plays the flute. She's very artistic. She paints Indian figurines and rocks. She used to work at Honeywell, but now she stays home with Brody."

Olsen has always tried to bring out the artistic side of her children. "I try to get kids involved in creative things. And now I'm doing that with Brody."

"I got down on the floor with my kids and played with them," she said, "and now I'm doing it with Brody. He wanted me to race with him on tricycles. I told him that that might not be possible, but he kept at it and in the end, we raced."



Here are Judy Olsen's children, from left, son-in-law Clay Hoyer with son, Brody, and wife, Tribal member Laura, daughter-in-law JynChelle Olsen and Judy's son, Larry Olsen.

Photo courtesy of Judy Olsen

Though family life is a beautiful remembrance for Olsen, there is one child who was always missing.

"In the 1960s, she said, when she was 18, "you didn't keep a child born out of wedlock." The daughter who became Lisa Robison of Vancouver, Washington, was born in 1963. Of Lisa's father, Olsen said, "You love this person and they just walk away from it."

But her family, as always, stood with her. "I had choices," said Olsen. "They said to 'make up my mind and they would stand by me whatever I decided.' I felt, being single, I'd have help but back in the 60s, there was a stigma on the child and I wanted her to have both parents, not just one. I went through Catholic Charities, and I'm pleased with what happened. She went to good parents and lived in Portland."

Today, Lisa and her husband, Shawn, work at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Portland. She came down to the casino with their son, Kyle, 10, just the other

day to meet Larry and other family members.

A few years ago, Olsen's longtime friend, Pat Royal, had to apply for Social Security and it got her thinking: "When are we going to make you go to Catholic Charities to find your daughter? So, I did the paperwork."

It turned out that Lisa also had been looking for Olsen. And Catholic Charities went out of their way to give Olsen hints to help her make the connection.

It was only three days later that she got a call from Robison.

"You're looking for your daughter?" asked Robison.

"I go, 'Yeah.'"

"She asked when was I born and so

people have given me. I hope there's some way I can give back."

**WITH THE ELDERS' COMMITTEE**

To this day, she still fights at the Elders Committee meetings, and has earned the nickname: The mouth. (She said, "When you become an Elder, you have the right and privilege to bitch.")

One of her pet peeves is when the Tribe makes rules for Elders. "Don't make us feel like children," she told them. "We're Elders but I'm not dead yet, and I'll live the way I want to live," she said.

And she is well-known for bending the ear of Tribal Council members, particularly her nephew Reyn Leno. "I found a picture of him sitting on my lap the last time he ran for Tribal Council, and I ran it in the *Smoke Signals* just to remind him. I told him, 'Reyn, you're getting too big-headed, and it's time to run that picture again.'"

Olsen also makes pies for Elders all year. "I bake for all of them," she said. Her specialty is lasagna, the old fashioned way. "It takes all week to make."

"At Christmas, I bake for everyone out there."

She counts the Elders among the best friends she's ever had.

And, it was with a lot of sadness that the Elders recently held a farewell party for Olsen. "I told them, 'I can't bake for you from Arizona.' But Kathryn Harrison and Mary Johnson said, 'Well, you can send us cookies.'"

"I told them a bad penny always comes back."

**INDIAN LIFE**

The family "didn't have much in the way of Indian traditions like the Warm Springs or the Siletz. We had to become white people out here. Mom never spoke jargon, mainly out of respect to my dad."

"I've always been on the original (Tribal) roll. A lot of people complain and gripe about the Tribe, but I am very proud of them, of what they've accomplished. I give thanks for what they've accomplished. I think the Tribe is making wonderful strides in the right direction."

"I would be in a real rough place if not for the Tribe. I think it's a privilege. I'm proud of what I have (in the Tribe)."

"I wish you could write something I did that was really spectacular," she said, "but I don't have anything." ■