

UP THE RUN

Our Home - Revisited 2009

On September 20 and 21, 2009, I drove up and down Boggs Run Road. I hadn't been there for more than two years, perhaps longer, and the changes in some areas were stunning.

My area of interest was mainly the property I grew up on, so I was taking photos of it. Nothing about the house on the property resembles *our home*. It is essentially a new house, with only a few remnants of the original structure. And the lay of the land was unfamiliar, as hills had been cut away to accommodate the larger house, and other parts of the hills were lost to major floods over the years.

As I was trying to find something - some landmark - that hadn't changed, a woman came out of the house. Knowing how intrusive it was to be photographing her home, I introduced myself. She was warm and welcoming and she invited me to come onto her property. -- Yes, I cried. It has been a very long time since I was home!

The owner is Toni Obright, the daughter of a wonderful woman who was dear to the hearts of many in our family. A nurse, Toni's mother took care of both of my grandparents at the end of their lives. She was a treasured friend of my Aunt Helen and my mother.

Toni's grandmother once quilted a quilt top I had from my deceased mother-in-law. Her Aunt Linda was my best friend in first grade at Boggs Run School.

So, even if there was nothing familiar about the house, at least I was with a young woman whose family goes back a long way with my family. And she is lovely! She is engaged to the son of William Simons who grew up in the house on Boggs Run where my dad was born in 1924. - Sadly, all of the houses in that area are gone.



Toni Obright & Linda Fluharty

Toni's uncle now owns the house near Orum's Lane that was once owned by Ursel Loy. He also owns the first house on Orum's Lane. Toni's mother still lives in the Obright home on Brown's Run.

Inside Toni's house, I could see nothing of the old house, probably because it is almost new, and the old house is gone.

I asked to see the cellar and that was the one place that has remnants of the original house. On the right side of the house, the old concrete floor remains that was under the original two rooms. Over the years, the dirt has been dug out and the floors are now supported by real support posts. When we lived there, standing room was limited to the concrete floor and part of the furnace area. The floor under one room was supported by car jacks.

Being in the house was very therapeutic. It was a good thing to see a happy young woman living there - and saying how much she loves her home. She was familiar, in some inexplicable way.