

*From the President's Quill***LIFE AS WE KNOW IT**

My husband's Great-Grandfather homesteaded our ranch in 1888, during much simpler times. There

was no electricity or telephones. Homes were heated with wood burning stoves, relying not on utility companies, but by the sweat of your own brow. (He who gathers his own wood is warmed twice!)

To walk around the ranch is to enter into a time capsule, there is the 1935 John Deere Tractor Dwight's Grandfather bought to enter the modern age; the log barn with hand hewn logs his Father fashioned with hand tools; and the original bunkhouse created from the kitchen of the old homestead house when it was dismantled.

In 1984, Dwight and I remodeled his grandparent's house, built in 1914 by Sam Watson, to enlarge it and bring it into the 20th century. A walking history to be sure.

Time has passed, and our daughter Meredith, the fifth generation, and her husband have come home to take their turn. They raise chickens which produce organic eggs, and grow organic vegetables in an ever expanding garden. Come to think of it, Grandma had organic eggs and vegetables, as well!

However, with the Electronic Age upon us, everything is Quick Books, e-mails, text messages, electronic transfers, even ordering ranch equipment is done on line. A pace, that makes my head whirl and I'm sure our Great-grandparents could never have imagined. In a phrase, "Beam me up, Scotty!"

Nancy Maurin

**Calendar of Events 2015****The Summer of the Arbaney Barn**

We will be working on the inside of the barn this summer. We will be creating the kitchen, bedroom, tack and living areas of the barn. We will need volunteers to help us move a large wood stove into the barn. We hope to start in June and will let you know when a date has been decided on. Many hands will make light work.

**Mother Blair's Annual Fried Chicken Dinner
Lion's Park August 24, 5:30-7:00pm**

Come and dine at our annual fund raiser chicken dinner while listening to Basalt Chamber of Summer Music. The BRHS will serve up fried chicken, coleslaw, baked beans and lemonade. and a slice of homemade pie and ice cream. Adults and teenagers \$12.00 kids (6-12) \$6.00 / children under 5 eat free. Come and enjoy a wonderful community event! Volunteers are needed the day of the event. Pies are always welcome. For more information call 927-4693.

Exploring the Families of Basalt

From the Story Archives of
Earl Elmont, Basalt Historian

The Liss Lawrence family lived to the immediate east of Mrs. Jorriozon, Basalt's old Third Street. I do not know the names well of those streets today. I only know that they were still dirt roads in 1948.

We all knew Liss Lawrence had come somewhere from the South. We only needed to hear that his wife's name was Hattie to verify that. One of their famous sons was Walter Lawrence and his wife, Edith, and their popular daughter, Sharlene. They had sons also, Orville and Wilbur. (Named for the Wright Brothers?) Liss Lawrence owned a player piano. Not once did he ever deny the local kids the opportunity to put in a paper roll in the top of the piano and start watching the keys play by magic. I believe we had to pump the pedals with our feet to make it play. I know it was not electric.

They had a daughter, Ella, who was severely handicapped. She was always in a wheelchair. We always marveled how they got her down four or five front steps to go somewhere. My brother, Cliff, always moved the lawn for Liss. He would smile all the way home as he remembered the words from the lips of Liss: "Thanks until you're better paid!"

Cliff said that for the rest of his life. They also had a daughter named "Goldie" who may have been their oldest child. For a while she lived in a trailer home in their yard.