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From The President's Quill

I have to admit that as I sit here writing this column with the outside temperature at 87 degrees, I am wondering how much longer it will be until the days start turning cool and crisp and Fall approaches.

The 4th of July picnic was a little smaller this year but we managed to eat well, visit with one another and enjoy the day. The kids took full advantage of the fishing pond and cake walk and collected prizes from both.

We will be putting out bids later this month for the Arbaney Barn as the architect and engineer finish up the final drawings. These bids will be used in our grant application and we encourage anyone to pick up a package and bid. We will let you know when they are ready.

The BRHS would really like the opportunity to host a Fireside Chat by the Ute Indian Tribe and if anyone has a person that I can talk with to make that happen I would really appreciate hearing from you. It is one part of our history that we have not yet presented .

We are always looking for people to speak at our Fireside Chats and we encourage you to E-mail or call us with ideas or a person's name who you think would be of interest.

As always thank you for supporting the BRHS and feel free to E-mail, write or call us with your comments, complaints or complements.

Diana C. CordovaElliott
President BRHS

Volunteer Opportunities

Roaring Fork Charity Classic Sunday September 11 and Saturday September 12, 2005. Our participation would be on the night of September 11th for the Cowboys and Caviar event from 6-11 p.m. The 6 - 8 p.m. shift is covered, but we **still need bussers for the 8-10 p.m. shift and the 10-11:30 p.m. shift.** You can come prior to your shift and have dinner and drinks and then work your shift.

We will also need some help at 12 noon on Sunday to set up banquet tables. If you can spare some time please do so.

To volunteer for any of these events please call 927-4693 or E-mail us at mail@basaltheritage.org.

Calendar of Events 2005

River Days - Saturday August 20 Arbaney Park. Food, Parade, Vendor Booths, Kids games.

Roaring Fork Charity Classic - Cowboys & Caviar Sunday September 11, 6-11 p.m. Roaring Fork Club. The BRHS benefits from this evening of dining and dancing.

Fireside Chat - Thursday September 15, Basalt Town Hall 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.. Speaker and subject to be announced.



Tough Towns

In the early cow towns, where the chances of being killed in a shoot-out were high, many men died and were buried with their boots on. Several cow towns had a cemetery on a rise at the edge of town known as Boot Hill.

Wooden markers usually identified the booted corpses. Sometimes more elaborate markers had epitaphs burned into them. "Died of lead poisoning", meant that the gun slinger died of a bullet wound, while cattle rustler's epitaph read, "Too many irons in the fire".

Western towns were built in a hurry. Dusty streets and wooden sidewalks, fronting one and two-story wooden buildings, seemed to pop up almost overnight. Hotels, boardinghouses and saloons were frequented hunters, trappers, prospectors, cowboys, stagecoach drivers, dance-hall girls, gamblers and gunmen.

In the 1860's Julesburg, in northeastern Colorado, became known as the toughest town on the 2,000-mile-long Overland Stage route. Even the stage company's superintendent, Joseph Slade, was notorious for his gun disputes. He is credited with killing several men, including Julesburg's founder.

Slade's idea of fun was to get drunk, ride his horse right into the saloons and shoot our the plate glass windows.

(reprinted from Coors Taste of the West)