



## *From the Presidents Quill*

Well it is said that good news travels fast, but bad news travels faster. The bad news that crossed our desks this past week was that the Colorado Historical Society has once again turned us down on our grant request to restore the Arbaney Barn. Four readers reviewed our grant application and two of the reviewers approved, one had concerns and one reader denied. The reason the one reader denied was: the amount of logs that needed to be replaced would be too big of a loss for the historic material, there would be limited public use or access, the estimate seemed to high.

The comments of the other two readers are: This is certainly a worthwhile project and enjoys considerable community support, the contractor is experienced with this type of building and has been the contractor on other SHF projects, the applicant should be able to complete the project successfully. So although two reviewers strongly agreed that we should get funding, another review denied funding.

One way of looking at this is that maybe we as a community may not want a museum and if that is true we should direct our engeries elsewhere. The other way of looking at this, is that as a community we have a can do attitude so maybe that is what we should do in order to restore the barn. I know the Town of Basalt thinks this is a good idea for the community since they have set aside \$10,000 to start the restoration process.

I also know that some of the community supports this living musuem ideas of ours, since in the past two years we have managed to raise \$10,000., \$3,000. of that coming from Community Bank of Basalt. Although we only have \$20,000. to start our \$207,000. project, it is a start. We are looking to our members for guidance and also your ideas for fundraising to make this museum a reality. As Will Rogers said: **“Even if your on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there”**

Now for the good news. The Gredigs, Liz and Caley have been looking into the republishing of the “Basalt, Colorado Midland Town” book which chronicles the early years of Basalt. They have also been researching more of the stories so that an updated book can also be published. They are getting quotes for both of these so thay we can republish this book and use it as a fundraiser. So those of you who have filled out a from requesting this book, you may be able to purchase one in the near future.

Thanks to all of the members who took the time to responded to my email regarding changing our historical markers to the permanent signs and for your offers of adopting a marker. This is your historical society and members drive it.

Sincerely, *Diana C. CordovaElliott*

### The Aspen Times 1907 Train Service in the Good Old Days

Last evening as the Midland special came in from Basalt, loaded with handsome ladies and chivalric men from the railroad town, it seemed like the good old days when specials were daily features in the Crystal City of the Rockies.

At 8:30 o’clock the Basalt people arrived and upon disembarking from the coaches marched in a body to the Wheeler opera house to witness the performance of “Kerry Gow.”

All were satisfied with the show and stated they would attend the next big performance at the Wheeler. The special returned with the party shortly after the conclusion of the show.

## Calendar of Events 2007

**BRHS Annual Membership Meeting** - Basalt Town Hall, Thursday May 17, 7-8 p.m.. Items for discussion are: Arbaney Barn Restoration, Saloon Night, Flag Day, election of officers, and budget.

**Spring Chat** - Basalt Town Hall , April 26, 2007. 6-8:00 p.m. Pioneers of the Past, Caley and Liz Gredig bring to life Basalt’s cemetery.

**Flag Day Celebration** - Lion’s Park, Thursday June 14, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.. Chicken dinner with all the fixings, hand cranked ice cream and homemade pie. Narrated downtown historical walking tour, Flag Lowering Ceremony Lions Park and Frying Pan Bluegrass Band.

**Saloon Night** - Saturday October 20, 2007 Two Rivers Cafe 6:00 - 11:00 p.m.. Saturday October Join us for an evening of gaming, dining, magic and dancing to the Jimmy Dykan band. BRHS member: \$25.00 or a couple for \$45.00. Public: \$35.00 or a couple \$60.00.