



## Annual Membership Meeting Basalt Regional Heritage Society

January 20, 2009

### Members and Board attending:

Janice Duroux, Diana Elliott, Ryan White, Nancy Maurin, Dwight Maurin, Gingie Bair, Pete Bair  
Meeting called to order at 6:05pm by President Janice

### Treasurer's Report:

Ryan reported last year's budget was \$6,050, total expenditures was \$5,144.04.  
Budget for 2009 was reviewed and approved, at \$6,000.

### New Business:

**Fund raiser suggested:** Christmas Tea @ Roaring Fork Club first week of December.

### Old Business:

**Holiday Stroll:** Diana made a motion that we not participate this year as the expense out weighs the benefits. Sponsorships are likely to be thin or non-existent this year due to the economy. It was seconded by Janice.

**New Ornament** for this year. Motion was made by Gingie we choose the "Bogue House" at 104 Midland Ave. It was seconded by Janice.

**School Bell Repair:** Dwight offer to find someone to repair it.

**Arbaney barn:** Due to the economy and concern for the fundraising effort, a motion was made by Janice that we get a price from Mr. Bailey, only to stabilize the barn so that it is structurally sound. It was seconded by Nancy and approved.

**Fireside Chats:** Possibility for spring, Bowles family and Woods Lake. Other names for future chats were suggested.

**Saloon night Benefit:** Date suggested was October 10<sup>th</sup>. Jimmy Dykan has offered to entertain again this year. Due to the fact that Two Rivers Café is for sale concern for a building was expressed. Diana stated we needed another black Jack table. Janice suggested we ask Leroy to make one.

**Publications:** Earl Elmont's Woody Creek book was postponed until next year. Reprinting of "Colorado Midland Town" Book was also postponed until next year.

**Flag day Fundraiser:** discussion of date and name we decided to call it Mother Blair's chicken Dinner and have it prior to the Chamber's first summer concert.

Approval was given to renew our membership in the Basalt Chamber of Commerce.

Motion was made by Gingie to adjourn, seconded by Ryan.

### Looking To The Past

*The Famous Mr. Tucker McClure of the Frying Pan Calley*

By Earl Elmont, BRHS Historian

Perhaps no more famous name ever graced the Frying Pan Valley than that of Tucker McClure. During WW II he heard of a construction company in California that needed workers to go to Latin America. He signed on and became an expert at operating Caterpillars and other heavy duty equipment. He was sent to Panama, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, to build roads, airports, road beds for trains and other vital infrastructure. Working with him were two or three other men from the Frying Pan Valley, Albert and Earl Nelson and others. He (Tucker) knew of the Frying Pan Valley since childhood, having helped herd sheep for his grandfather at North Fork. Tucker's first name was in honor of that grandfather's last name. Panama appreciated Tucker so much that they gave him his own private railroad car on the Panamanian National Line from which he directed the work.

Upon returning to the Frying Pan after WW II, he lived in the two story house right by Mr. Sloss, until his own new rambler type home was built north of there. He brought the gas lamps from the Panamanian train home and had them installed electrically in his new home. All the furniture was made in Panama and had distinctive carvings on every piece. The bedroom had one single bed, which visitors found to be curious. Mrs. Tucker did not like the house and preferred to stay in the old Sloss home.

When Tucker returned to the Frying Pan he was worth an estimated 22 million dollars. At that time nearly every farmer and rancher on the Frying Pan was in financial trouble, and most were anxious to sell. Tucker McClure bought property from North Fork clear down to Carbondale and saved the financial life of many a family in the area. When he died, his only child, a son, came from California to inspect the properties. He did not like the house anymore than his mother did, taking only two paintings as his share of the inheritance. His mother died two short months after his father. Tucker died on October 25, 1954, and his wife, Bessie, died December 24, 1954. Today the heart of his property is the equally famous Cap-K Ranch.