



From The President's Quill

Welcome to 2004 and a new year for the Basalt Regional Heritage Society. We are very excited this year about the BRHS as we are finally going to be established as a 501 3 (c) non-profit group.

This means we are able to apply for historical grants and finally start drawing up plans for the Arbaney Barn. So in the future we will be able to store and preserve the History of Basalt for future generations.

We encourage all of our members to participate in the Fireside Chats, Fund raisers, Annual Meeting and to call or email us if they have ideas or thoughts for future activities. At this year's annual meeting we will be forming a committee to start the process of designing the inside layout of the Arbaney Barn with an architect. If you would like to participate on this committee, please attend the meeting.

Our Arbaney Barn Ornament will still be on sale throughout the year at ALL US LADIES. As always let us know how we can serve you better.

Diana C. CordovaElliott, BRHS President

Calendar of Events

March

Fireside Chat: Stories from the Midland Bar and History of the Arbaney Barn
Thursday March 18, 2004
Valley Pines Senior Center 6:30-8:30 pm. East Valley Rd.
Refreshments will be served.

April

Saloon Night - Fund raiser to restore the Arbaney Barn
Saturday April 24, 2004
Two Rivers Cafe 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Dancing, Black Jack, Craps, Roulette, Poker,
Appetizers, Cash Bar, Prizes
Cost: \$40.00 BRHS members

May

BRHS Annual Meeting
Thursday May 20, 2004
Eagle County Bldg. 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

If you have an E-mail address please consider receiving your newsletter electronically. It saves us on postage and gets to you faster. E-mail us: mail@basalthheritage.org.

A LOOK AT THE PAST

In this article we will define a bit of
"Western Wit and Wisdom", from the old West.

A "bummer" was the name given to a gang of thieves who tried to take over and run the town of Auraria, Colorado in the 1850's. The "bummers" were slowed down a bit when a vigilante committee of ten townsmen and the local sheriff brought some law and order to the town with multiple hangings.

In the 1860's, Jack Slade founded the town of Virginia Dale. It was a stagecoach stop, but in reality was used to run rustling activities in Southern Wyoming.

In 1862, John B. Stetson was on his way to the gold fields of Colorado. To pass the time on his long journey, he decided to make a hat. He designed a wide-brimmed hat made from fur shavings. His new creation was so popular that the Stetson Hat Company was founded and similar hats were manufactured.

Slow Elk was term used to describe cattle that were "rustled" just for the purpose of keeping a frontier family well supplied with food.

(Reprinted from the Colorado Historical Institute for Children)

144 MIDLAND AVENUE/KELLY BUILDING

(Mason and Morse)

The original Kelly building was damaged in the July 1899 fire with a \$7000 loss. The fire began when a kerosene lamp exploded in Nell Smith's Restaurant. E.B. Kelley rebuilt the building in 1900 of brick with a stone foundation. Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Kelly, kept a saloon on the lower floor and rented the upstairs rooms to railroad men. In 1919 the Kelley's sold their building to Mr. and Mrs. Lamb who opened a restaurant downstairs and continued to rent the upstairs rooms.

Throughout the 1920-1944 the building was empty and used for storage. Ben and Margaret Darien purchased and operated the Basalt Supply Company, a general merchandise/grocery/meat store. The family resided in the upstairs of the building. From 1978-99 the downstairs was leased to the United States Post Office.

In 2000 the Mason and Morse Real Estate office renovated the interior of the downstairs for their local real estate offices. The Darien family still keeps a residence in the upstairs of the building.