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## From The President's Quill

Our grant request for the State Historical Fund (SHF) was mailed off on September 29, 2005 and we requested a grant for \$212,500.00. We actually need \$242,000.00 to restore the Arbaney Barn but the SHF request that you offer some matching funds and I strongly feel that we can come up with the additional \$25,000.00 either through material donations, in-kind labor or selling a log to restore the barn. We already have \$5,000. raised. We will know by January 20, 2006 whether we have a grant and how much it will be.

Our new holiday ornaments of the Frying Pan Inn have arrived. We will start selling them on November 1st at Basalt Town Hall, Town Center Booksellers or by calling 927-4693. They will also be available at St. Vincent's Holiday Bazaar on November 12. This is the third ornament in a 18 historical collection. We do have some Arbaney Barn and Halfway House ornaments left if you are just starting your collection.

We had several disappointed families last year during the Holiday Stroll since we did not have our famous BRHS chili supper available, so we have brought that back for this year's event. If you can, please make a pot of chili and bring it to the event. We ran out the previous year as it was quite a hit. Please check the calendar for all of our events. Thank you for being such active members!

*Diana C. CordovaElliott*  
President BRHS

## Calendar of Events 2005

**BRHS VICTORIAN HOLIDAY TEA - Dec. 4, 1- 3:30 p.m.**  
Primavera Restaurant - Afternoon Tea, sandwiches, scones, desserts. Music by the Walt Smith Trio. \$20.00 per person. Take a break from Holiday Shopping and enjoy tea in a festive atmosphere. On sale November 1 at Basalt Town Hall or by calling 927-4693.

**BRHS/CHAMBER HOLIDAY STROLL & TREE LIGHTING  
December 9, 4-6:30 p.m.**

Lion's park Basalt - Tree Lighting with holiday music by the Basalt Middle School Band, hay rides thru downtown Basalt, BRHS chili and bread supper (\$5.00), bon fire and cookies by the Lion's Club. Please join us for a wonderful community gathering.

## A look at the Past: Pompions

One of the oldest foods in American history, the pumpkin played an important role in feeding the settlers moving west. American discovered pumpkins from the Indians who traded pumpkin seeds with early Spanish settlers. They combined pumpkin seeds, almonds, cumin seeds, popped corn, garlic and chili to season sauces. Soups, stews, griddle cakes, fritters, breads, puddings and cakes were among the uses early pioneers found for the beloved "pompion". Records also show pumpkins were used in brewing when ingredients were scarce and regular beer could not be made.

The abundance and versatility of pumpkins even prompted one pioneer to create the saying,

*"We have pumpkins at morning, pumpkins at noon,  
If it were not for pumpkins, we should be undone".*

(reprinted from Coors Taste of the West)



## HISTORY OF THE JACK O'LANTERN

The Irish brought the tradition of the Jack O'Lantern to America. But, the original Jack O'Lantern was not a pumpkin. The Jack O'Lantern legend goes back hundreds of years in Irish History. As the story goes, Stingy Jack was a miserable, old drunk who liked to play tricks on everyone: family, friends, his mother and even the Devil himself. One day, he tricked the Devil into climbing up an apple tree. Once the Devil climbed up the apple tree, Stingy Jack hurriedly placed crosses around the trunk of the tree. The Devil was then unable to get down the tree. Stingy Jack made the Devil promise him not to take his soul when he died. Once the devil promised not to take his soul, Stingy Jack removed the crosses and let the Devil down.

Many years later, when Jack finally died, he went to the pearly gates of Heaven and was told by Saint Peter that he was too mean and too cruel and had led a miserable and worthless life on earth. He was not allowed to enter heaven. He then went down to Hell and the Devil. The Devil kept his promise and would not allow him to enter Hell. Now Jack was scared and had nowhere to go but to wander about forever in the darkness between heaven and hell. He asked the Devil how he could leave as there was no light. The Devil tossed him an ember from the flames of Hell to help him light his way. Jack placed the ember in a hollowed out Turnip, one of his favorite foods which he always carried around with him whenever he could steal one. For that day onward, Stingy Jack roamed the earth without a resting place, lighting his way as he went with his "Jack O'Lantern".