

www.basalthheritage.org (web page courtesy of sopris surfers)



Fall is in the air and with a busy summer now in our past it is time to take a breath and recap what the BRHS has been up to.

Our last fireside chat with Earl Elmont had a great turn out. His slideshow and talk were very interesting, lasting over two hours.

For the spring we are considering

a talk with Jim Crowley about the Midland Bar Days and if we can the Ute Indian Chief. Robbie Darcy and I are working on getting the Ute Indian Chief to Basalt and any help anyone can give us is welcome.

Robin Ferguson our accountant has filed the papers for our nonprofit status with the IRS and we are still waiting to hear from them. As soon as we are approved we can go ahead with applying for grants to restore the Arbaney Barn into a museum/ educational center.

Our next fund raising project will be christmas ornaments. We have a company who will carve the Arbaney Barn onto a round finished piece of alder wood with raised detail. We plan on offering a different historic building/place each year until we complete a set. The cost of this ornament will be 18.00 for BRHS members and \$20.00 for the general public. If you would like to pre order one, please e-mail me, otherwise we will have them available at All Us Ladies, Alpine Bank and other stores around town.

We will not offer the Holiday/Dinner Dance this year but our planning a similar event for this spring. Please let us know if you would like to see a Saloon Days/gaming event on February 14th or in April. This event will have casino games, appetizers, drinks and music.

Sincerely,

Diana Elliott, President BRHS

FRYING PAN COKE OVENS

In the early 1880's the Aspen Smelter and other industries in Aspen needed charcoal. In the Spring of 1882 a group of men constructed seven kilns near the confluence of the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan Rivers and began to produce charcoal.

This charcoal not only was used for the smelter in Aspen but was also used in the Leadville smelter. The charcoal was transported on the back of horses and mules to Aspen. Pinion trees were plentiful in this locality and the trees made good charcoal and business thrived temporarily.

The need for charcoal faded after coal was discovered at Spring Valley and the rail roads could furnish charcoal more easily from the Carbondale area. The kilns stopped producing charcoal in 1887.

A small settlement of tents and shacks grew up around the kilns. A few businesses were started and it became known as "Frying Pan Junction." A ten-store was opened by Dennis Barry and Red Duggan operated one of several tent-saloons. The town of Frying Pan remained a tent village with a few cabins built in the location of the current elementary school.

The land including the kilns were owned by the J.B. King Family who sold the property to the Emery Arbaney family. The Town Of Basalt purchased the property, including the kilns, to provide a town park, Arbaney Park.

BASALT REGIONAL HERITAGE SOCIETY MINUTES EXECUTIVE SESSION 8/21/03

In attendance for the executive breakfast session were: Pres. Dianne Elliott, Treas. Nancy Maurin, VP Janice Duroux, Delicious food had by all! Including guest Darren.

Was decided to investigate price and quantity and gave Diana authority to order wooden ornaments with the Arbaney Barn picture for possible fund raising project 2003-2004. Possible selling spots Roaring Fork Club, Express Us, All Us Ladies, Alpine Bank, Chamber etc.

Arbaney Barn Restoration: Ann Freedman will contact the Town regarding the bids/assessment of barn condition and repair necessities. A board member will try to attend the non-profit workshop in El Jebel this next month.

Continuing discussion of Walking Tour, Janice will contact Andrea for computer map, finish implementation of buckets for plaque placement near some buildings.

Possible Saloon Day/Evening fund raiser this Spring/April with Two Rivers (Rick Kane) and Primevera, maybe Bucky's. Investigate the possibility of fund raising gambling? More discussions.

Earl Elmont will be the fall speaker on Sept. 18 at Basalt Middle School on Basalt and Frying Pan area with slide show. Upcoming author of book on area.

Individual discussed the interest of working with a living museum at the Gredig property in the future.