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## *From The President's Quill*

Congratulations to all of us involved with the raising of the Arbaney Barn benefit, also known as Saloon Night.

We managed to raise almost \$3,000. between ticket-sales and our silent auction. A fair number of people came in period costume which added to the festivities. Once again our sponsors: Roaring Fork Real Estate, Isberian Rug Co., Daly Property Services, the Town of Basalt and Community Banks of Basalt and Aspen helped us to present a great evening for everyone. We hope to see you next year with a more expanded line of entertainment.

Our annual membership meeting will take place on May 20, 2005 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Basalt Town hall. I will also be sending and end of the year report to each of you along with a membership renewal letter.

We now have our first set of drawings done for the restoration process and our architect, Brad Elliott, will be putting out a request for proposals for the Arbaney Barn. Once these are received we will have another meeting to inform our members on what the next stage will be. If you are interested in any aspect of the Arbaney Barn Project, please plan on attending the Annual Membership meeting.

As we roll into summer we have many exciting and fun events planned for the community. Please check out the website and the events calendar for more information. As always thanks to each and everyone of you who help us to keep our Basalt History alive!

*Diana C. Cordova Elliott*

## Calendar of Events 2005

**Spring Firside Chat:** May 12, 2005 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Basalt Town Hall Ed Grange will speak on Holy Cross bringing electricity to Basalt. Refreshments will be served.

**Annual Membership Meeting:** Friday May 20, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Basalt Town hall

**Flag Day Fund raiser** - Lion's Park, Tuesday June 14, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.. Chicken dinner with all the fixings, hand cranked ice cream and homemade pie.(\$5.00 per person). Narrated downtown historical walking tour and Fairview Cemetery tour and Bluegrass Music.

**BRHS 4th of July Picnic** - Arbaney Park, Monday from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and lemonade. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Horseshoes and kids games. Free and open to the public.



## SWINGING BRIDGE

The original wooden one-lane bridge located here across the Frying Pan River was finished in 1880. Prior to 1908 the main wagon road into Aspen Junction/Basalt from the west followed High Street or Second Street, (Homestead Street) turned west onto Railroad Street (Main Street) and crossed the river here. The road continued on toward Aspen.

After being condemned for wagon use, in the fall of 1926 the Town Council voted to convert the bridge into a footbridge abandoning the road access. In March of 1927, Emery Arbaney milled four logs of proper length at a cost of \$16 to repair the footbridge, making the total cost of repair \$150.00. Almost every year in June flood waters washed out the north end of the wagon bridge which was used to reach the school.

During 1949-50, the Town of Basalt completely removed the wooden footbridge replacing it with a swinging bridge. The swinging bridge had a partial metal fencing along the sides of the wooden planks for safety. Before the Ruedi Dam was built, during high water run-off, the middle planks could have water running near or over them.

The two suspension cables of the swinging bridge were damaged by a fallen cottonwood tree in August of 2001. The swinging bridge would swing no more. It was replaced with aircraft-grade steel cables at a cost of \$75,000.00. The community dedication was on January 11, 2002.