

FROM RAGS TO RICHES

OR

How the Ale went from 'we'll just about
break even' to a very nice profit

A comedy in three acts

PROLOGUE

Various Ale meetings produce a budget, projections, revisions of budgets and projections, and revisions of revisions...in the week before the Ale communications between Fort Collins (registrations), Boulder (money and food) and Denver (food) picks up in speed and escalates into a past-midnight budget session that ends in THE BUDGET and cheques are written for food shopping.

ACT ONE

Time: Saturday of the Ale, some time between 11pm and midnight, while the contra dance is going on

Place: Ponderosa sofa, downstairs (in front of the fire)

A review of the money situation is going on...

balance in checking account	1,041.46
balance in savings account	2,500.00
cash received during Ale	187.00
cheques received during Ale	251.00

3,979.46

receipts handed to me by
people who need to be re-
imbursed so far
estimated refunds

<249.21>
<200.00>

3,530.25
=====

Over \$2,900.- have been paid to the Trojan Ranch already, the amount being arrived at by the lodging portion of the registrations received until Saturday - with the understanding that a final accounting could increase/decrease that figure.

Now let's see how much of the above \$3,500.- needs to be spent:

t-shirts (est.)	800.00
buttons (est.)	50.00
seed money (firm)	500.00
first aid (est.)	60.00
cooks (firm)	350.00
address books (est.)	70.00
busses (est.)	1,500.00

our budget calls for 1,200.-
but we've just gone through so
many busses, i.e. more hours,

more miles that it'll overrun	
these figures	
photography (est.)	150.00
miscellaneous (est.)	200.00
(postage, flyers...)	

	3,680.00
	=====

which leaves us \$150.- in the hole...

-- but, there are still \$160.- coming from the Boulder Arts Council!
we'll make it, we'll at least break even!!

Treasurer gives a deep sigh, puts the notebook away and celebrates with some cheapo wine in the Main Lodge.

INTERLUDE

Some hours after Act One took place, a beaming Donna announces, 'We've stayed considerably under budget!'

Several people, not having paid previously for their stay, come up and shove some bills into my hand, some apologetically on their own accord (?!), others after having needed some maroon prodding (that's you, Bill).

And on Monday, the busking money (so far, it had been about \$10.- in a plastic cup that Rin had given to me) appears - I spent a couple of hours or so on Monday afternoon putting singles onto singles, dimes onto dimes, bundling bills, rolling coins into paper, seeing the figures under the bottom line changing from red into black...!

ACT TWO

Time: June 11 -14

Trigger: final accounting needs to be submitted to the Boulder Arts Council (who turn out to be content with receiving that later, as we did not receive all invoices yet)

The lady at the Boulder Valley School District Administration sounds frazzled (is he trying to pay all those medical bills?), and no, she has no idea yet as to how much we will be charged; Steve keeps hoping that they won't present us with a whooping bill in order to cover their bills...

Rick Nagler calls from Minneapolis with the good news that we get a refund for their bus as it was not able (or willing? or both?) to climb the mountains on Sunday night.

Josh declares that all first aid materials were free, and, yes, that means that nifty little oxygen-tank, too.

Encouraged by the rosy outlook, full refund checks are written, last-minute reimbursements made; a revised budget for things to come (busses, photography, address books, seed money, a tiny bit of misc.) reveals a nice profit.

A postcard is dropped off to James who's still 'sitting on hot coals', wanting to know the final figures: profit in the high three figures, and maybe, just maybe, something in the low four figures --but for that he'd have to hold his breath.

ACT THREE

Time: June 15, A.M.

Boy - did that James do a good job of holding his breath!!!

The School District calls to say that the invoice is ready, and gathering my courage (I mean, how many busses did we go through?? will they charge us for that bus on Sunday that nearly made it but not quite?), I ask for the amount -- and then I have to catch my breath: just over \$700.-!!! I repeat the amount, thinking I misunderstood her, but that's just what she said...

A report is drafted between work and running errands, at least in its rudimentary form; phone-calls placed to Steve (to re-assure, maybe unnecessary) and to James (to inform - I'm leaving him stunned)...

Income and expense accounts are being reconciled (previously just done against the bank statements, never in detail); trying to fulfill the two-sided goal of being concise and explanatory:

James tells me that MTM -next year's host- spent just \$3,000.- on their last Ale - less than we spent on food alone..., that it'd be helpful for a detailed accounting to go into the Ale folder - you know, that big red folder he's been carrying around - and I can see his point - and tell the story of how those figures came about (I mean, I'd just about question anybody who'd go from break-even to a profit like this in just over two weeks!)

And this is it:

COLORADO MORRIS
Income and Expenses July 1988 to June 1989

INCOME

500.00	seed money
640.00	Boulder Arts Council grant
955.00	donation
51.50	late fees
5.00	first aid
143.46	busking money
12.00	Colorado Morris dues
9,513.50	registrations
30.00	paid for airport rides by participants

11,850.46

<212.00> refunds

11,638.46
=====

EXPENSES

762.08	t-shirts and buttons
500.00	seed money
2,938.00	lodging
323.58	beer and wine
3,423.66	food
350.00	cooks
892.70	transport
202.09	flyers and postage
11.16	cheques
160.00	CDSS dues and state registration
29.61	registration materials
15.54	spoof gifts
35.00	audio equipment rental

9,643.42

?? photography

?? Ale book

?

which means a profit of \$1,995.04 at the moment; after all upcoming expenses: \$1,800.00 plus!!

Decision is made (easily this time) that champagne is in order for the Ale group (pre-Ale, during-Ale, post-Ale....) - if this isn't a reason for celebrating, what else is?
Cheers!

EPILOGUE

Now what do we do with all this money?

One solution would be to go into a detailed accounting of 'people-nights' at Trojan Ranch, including cook and cook's helpers, and tourguides who stayed, though unregistered, etc... - considering how close the amount paid out is to the amount taken in, and also, how little service was received for \$6.50/night (anyone remember those port-a-potties on Sunday night - or even later?!) - anyway, I feel this is not worth Debbie's time or mine.

Another would be to send refunds into the bags of participating teams, based on number of participating dancers/musicians/horses/fools/...

The simplest way would be to be split the profit in question in the 1/3 - 2/3 Fort Collins - Boulder/Denver proportions that were established nearly a year ago - with the appropriate back-ups, but, even more so, the complete consensus --- and that is a point that I feel everybody should feel comfortable on before a final decision is made.

Another topic is the continuation of COLORADO MORRIS.

Obviously, this little construction has had little expenses (\$160.- for its two financial years that covered the Ale) compared to the benefits (donation received, school bus rental vs. Greyhound prices, etc.) and it'd be nice to keep it going.

Maroon Bells has already taken refuge under its umbrella for the Renaissance Fair - rather than pretending to be an individual who is taking money for performances, Colorado Morris is doing that, fully in accordance with its statutes and by-laws.

This situation needs to be looked at:

****can Rocky Mountain Morris and Sword benefit in a similar way? If not, let's forget about Colorado Morris**

****what IS the future purpose of Colorado Morris after the Ale?**

****if both teams decide to 'feel united under' the organizational base of CM and use it, it would certainly be helpful, if the secretary's roster showed more than six people (at currently \$2.-/year), proving the validity of the group's purpose.**