

tax&investment newsletter

March 2010

MONTGOMERY TAYLOR, CPA, CFP

A wise man should have money in his head, but not in his heart.”
~Jonathan Swift

Monty’s Opening Thoughts...

Last January, in one of my tax update courses, the instructor shared an interesting finding from his own CPA firm. He was concerned about the client turnover he was experiencing, so he and his staff went through all the prior year files of those clients who did not come back in the current year. They were looking for what they may have all had in common or any clues as to why they may not have returned to have him prepare their tax returns again. The one common denominator each of these former clients shared was that they owed additional taxes on April 15th. So, the instructor’s point was that you have to explain to clients why they owe additional taxes or they will blame you and not come back.

Every once in a while, here in my own CPA firm, I sense the same thing from a client. . . like they blame me for the fact that they owe taxes. It seems ludicrous to me that one could think that, so I’m thinking that something else is going on. But, just so you’ll know. . . when we prepare a return, we put all the numbers in and question it along the way as to the best way to report something to get the lowest tax result—legally of course. Then in the review process, we look at it all over again—looking for ways to save taxes for our client. If we find something that will help the client in future years, we make sure we point that out to them.

Sometimes a client is surprised by what they owe on April 15th. And, this surprise comes when their tax return is done. Well, when it’s done, it’s a bit late to try any tax reduction strategies--those should have been taken care of before December 31. I always recommend a year-end tax planning consultation, but few take advantage of it. I don’t know, I could be wrong, but it seems like some people like surprises. Please don’t shoot the messenger.



In February I did something I’ve never done before in the last 30 tax seasons. I left the office at noon on Friday AND didn’t come in on Saturday. Yep, that’s right. I went to a Men’s Retreat out at Alliance Redwoods with my church. Alliance Redwoods is out in Occidental among the redwoods and is a very beautiful and relaxing setting. So, I went out there and took my sleeping bag to the cabin I was assigned to. Inside the cabin there were four beds (bunk bed style), 3 singles and 1 double. My first thought was to take a single bed and leave the double for an “older gentlemen” who may find it more comfortable. Then, after 3 seconds of thought, I figured I was probably that older gentlemen—and I took the double bed. As it turned out, I was the old guy in the room. . . that is hard for me to believe, as I’m used to being the younger brother. . . I’ve refused membership invitations from AARP for years!! Augh!

-Monty

“The Only CPA Firm We Trust”

If you’re a KZST, KJZY or Country 106.3 FM listener, you’ll hear the radio personalities talking about our CPA firm as “the only firm we trust.” They selected us to be their tax experts for a special tax question-and-answer line for their listeners. They have also added a whole page to their website www.kzst.com to feature our firm.



We Feel Truly Honored!

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STAFF NEWS

She's baaaack . . . now that Tax Season is upon us, we are happy to welcome back the "Queen of Scanning", **Pat Lucas**.

Pat is back at the processing desk, ready to print and assemble your tax returns, and meet with you when you come in to pick them up. She looks forward to seeing you this year!

After last year's tax season, Pat took some time off and made a few motorcycle jaunts around the state to visit friends and family. Since then she has been working part time for a new home care company, Sonoma Homecare. She continues to assist in several American Sign Language classes at SRJC, and is active in the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue unit.



Motorcycling, hiking, and lying on the couch reading books takes up a chunk of her leisure time, and gardening uses up the rest of it. It's a good thing that zucchini season doesn't coincide with tax season, or you would all have to agree to take zucchini before she would hand over your returns!



Pat is looking forward to this summer, when she will spend a couple of months in Nicaragua. If you have ever been there, she'd love to chat with you about your experiences.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME arrives early this year — March 14 — so don't forget to set your clocks and watches **forward** the night before.



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY is celebrated each year on March 17th. This festive holiday has everyone wearing green (so they won't get pinched), thinking of shamrocks and leprechauns, eating corned beef and cabbage, and kissing a big rock called a blarney stone. Do you know what leprechauns really are, according to Irish legend? (The answer is at the end of Monty's Money Message on p.8....)



Honest CPA Puts Me Completely at Ease

Monty has always been very informative. He always answers all my questions and he's able to explain things in a way that

I can understand them. He has the ability to put you completely at ease over financial situations, which sometimes aren't very easy to talk about. It's comforting working with someone like Monty, who you can trust.

I used to go to H & R Block for tax preparation. I felt like just a number there. I feel like those people are hired just for tax season and I'm not sure that they're very well versed with everything. With Monty, I feel like I'm getting more knowledgeable help as he's a CPA and very well versed in tax law.

I would tell anyone considering Monty's services not to hesitate. I think they will be as satisfied as I am.

~ Nancy Roberts Graphic Designer, Santa Rosa

Check out Monty's blog! Recent topics: *the importance of financial planning for divorced women, advice on recovering from unemployment, and a Medigap update.*

<http://taxwiseadvisor.blogspot.com>



Tax Strategy of the Month

“Here’s an idea I think will save you money!”



Roth IRA CONVERSIONS: WHAT’S ALL THE WHOOOP-LA?

Most of our clients have a significant portion of their wealth in IRAs and company retirement plans. There may be a benefit to moving money among different plans, each

of which involves its own set of costs and benefits.

One such opportunity is the “Roth conversion.” If you have a traditional IRA (one in which you got a deduction each time you made a contribution to the account), distributions from the account (presumably during your retirement) will be treated as taxable income. Distributions from a Roth IRA are tax-free.

You may convert all or a portion of a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA and make future distributions tax-free, but there is a cost: the amount of the conversion is taxable income in the year of the conversion.

There are two reasons why the conversions are at the forefront of tax planning strategies this year:

- There have always been income limitations that prevented many people from making the conversions. Those limitations are gone in 2010.
- It is good planning to make conversions when income is down and you can report the income from the conversion in a low tax bracket. Many people’s incomes are down in this economy.

I would like to suggest that you schedule an appointment so we can plan on how to save the maximum amount of tax. Please bring your most recent IRA account statements.

DO YOU HAVE A SECRET FOREIGN BANK ACCOUNT?

U.S. taxpayers are required to report their worldwide income; that is, income from both U.S. and foreign sources. In addition, taxpayers who have an interest in or signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country, such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account are required to file a Form TD F 90-22.1, **Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR)**, if the aggregate value of all such financial accounts exceeds \$10,000 at any time during the calendar year. The FBAR is not filed with your tax return. Instead, it is filed with the Department of Treasury in Detroit, Michigan, no later than June 30 of the year following the calendar year reported.



Failure to report income in foreign bank accounts, or to file the FBAR, carries serious consequences including large monetary penalties and, in some cases, criminal penalties.

If you have foreign accounts and are unsure whether you are required to file the FBAR, we would be happy to review your portfolio and advise you.

CALIFORNIA TAX ON INTERNET AND OUT-OF-STATE PURCHASES



The state of California is getting aggressive at collecting all the taxes the law allows – no matter how small. If you purchased merchandise from a vendor located outside the state or the country, you may owe California use tax. This includes purchases you make over the internet. When we prepare your taxes, we will be asking you if you made purchases outside of California because you can pay the use tax with your income tax return.

Use tax is like sales tax but you pay it directly to the state, rather than to the retailer. The rule of thumb is: You owe use tax if what you bought would have been subject to sales tax if you purchased it at a local store and you did not pay California sales tax. If the vendor does not collect the California tax on the purchase, the purchaser must pay the tax directly to the state. If you don’t report and pay your use tax in a timely manner, such as with your income tax return, the state will assess penalties and interest.

As an individual, you can pay the use tax by adding it to your California income tax return, or you can file Form BOE-401-DS, **Individual Use Tax Return**.

The Legislature has enacted strict **new registration and filing requirements for businesses with gross income of \$100,000** or more. You may have received a letter from the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) requesting contact information so you could be registered as a use tax payer. The letter advised you to provide contact information. Whether you provided that information or not, the BOE registered your business because they believe you meet the \$100,000 requirement.

We can help you and your business by filing the use tax forms for you. Please provide copies of the invoices so we can take credit for any sales tax paid to another state. In addition, the BOE may contact you if they believe you have an unpaid use tax liability for a prior year. If this happens, please contact us immediately so we can limit any potential tax liability and penalties.

COURT CASE: Couple Allowed to Deduct Interest on Home Owned by Son



Taxpayers were allowed to deduct interest and real estate taxes they paid on a home owned by their son. Because they had filed for bankruptcy two years before, they were unable to obtain a mortgage. As such, the home was titled in their adult son’s name and he obtained the mortgage. At all times since purchasing the residence, taxpayers lived in the home and made the mortgage payments and paid the real estate taxes.

The court ruled that taxpayers were the equitable and beneficial owners of the home and entitled to deduct the interest and property taxes. (Njenge, TCS 2008-84)

Tax News You Can Use...

Major tax deadlines for March

- ▶ **March 1** – Payers must file 2009 information returns (such as 1099s) with the IRS. This deadline is extended to March 31 if you file electronically.
- ▶ **March 1** – Employers must send 2009 W-2 copies to the Social Security Administration. The deadline is extended to March 31 if you file electronically.
- ▶ **March 1** – Farmers and fishermen who did not make 2009 estimated tax payments must file 2009 tax returns and pay taxes in full.
- ▶ **March 15** – 2009 calendar-year corporation income tax returns are due.
- ▶ **March 15** – Deadline for calendar-year corporations to elect S status for 2010.

Note these tax changes for 2010

There are significant changes in the tax rules this year, with the promise of much more to come. Here are some of the 2010 changes that could affect you.

◆ **Deductions.** The 2001 tax law gradually restored the full deduction for personal exemptions and itemized deductions for higher-income taxpayers. Effective this year, high-income taxpayers are entitled to the full \$3,650 deduction for each personal exemption they take, and there will be no income-based reduction in their total itemized deductions.

As with most other provisions in the 2001 tax law, this change ends after December 31, 2010, and itemized deductions and personal exemptions will again be limited for high-income earners in 2011.

◆ **RMDs.** For 2010, annual minimum distributions from most retirement plans are once again required for those aged 70½ and older. In 2009, these required minimum distributions (RMDs) were suspended.

2010 distributions must be taken by December 31, 2010. Taxpayers who turn 70½ in 2010 may choose to delay taking their first distribution until April 1, 2011.

◆ **Roth conversions.** Prior to this year, taxpayers with adjusted gross income over \$100,000 were not allowed to convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. A provision from a 2006 law went into effect January 1, 2010, repealing the income limit for Roth conversions.

Roth IRAs have two major benefits over the traditional IRA. Qualifying distributions are tax-free, and no annual distributions are required once you reach age 70½.

The major drawback to converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA is the fact that the conversion is taxable. But if you convert in 2010, you can elect to report half of the income on your 2011 tax return and half on your 2012 tax return.



New credit card protections go into effect

The Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act of 2009 (CARD), designed to protect consumers from unfair credit practices, generally took effect on February 22, 2010. Here's a summary of several key provisions.



★ Introductory rates offered by credit card companies must remain in effect for at least one year (six months for

promotional offers). Consumers must receive at least 45 days' notice (instead of the previous 15 days) before a rate hike. (This provision became effective August 20, 2009.)

★ Companies will be required to mail credit card statements at least 21 days before the due date (seven days longer than before).

★ Issuers can't raise rates on an existing balance unless you're late by 60 days or more.

★ Credit card payments will be applied to debt with the highest interest first. Previously, companies did the opposite.

★ Double-billing cycles, the practice of basing finance charges on both the current and previous balance, are banned.

Tax News You Can Use (continued)...

- ★ To reduce “over-the-limit” fees, companies must obtain a cardholder’s permission to process transactions above their personal limit.
- ★ Consumers must be notified how long it will take and how much it will cost to eliminate debt through minimum monthly payments.
- ★ Applicants under age 21 won’t qualify for a credit card without showing an ability to pay or a co-signer.
- ★ Statements must prominently display fees paid to-date as well as explanations for those fees.

FUTA surtax is extended

The federal unemployment surtax was scheduled to end after 2009. The surtax has, however, been extended through June 2011 in order to help offset the cost of extending unemployment insurance benefits for the unemployed.

Service is slow at the IRS

In her annual report on the IRS, National Taxpayer Advocate Nina Olson singled out poor telephone service as the agency’s most serious issue. The IRS has set a target for 2010 of answering 71% of taxpayer calls, a goal that leaves three of every ten calls unanswered. Those taxpayers who do get through to the IRS will have an average wait of 12 minutes. Olson’s report recommended that the IRS increase staff so that 85% of calls can be answered with an average wait time of five minutes.



Tax Advice Disclosure: To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS under Circular 230, we inform you that any U.S. federal tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments), unless specifically stated otherwise, is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding tax-related penalties or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any tax-related transaction(s) or matter(s) addressed herein. This general information should not be acted upon without first determining its application to your specific situation. For further details on any article, please contact us.

College Strategist

Paying for College Without Going Broke

The Winter Olympics of College



Admission

After 12 years of hard work and training, surrounded by teachers, coaches and parents, your student is in competition with the best students in the nation for admission into the college of his or her choice. Will it be the thrill of victory . . . or the agony of defeat?

If your child is a graduating senior, and you’ve received admission letters, you are currently making that hard decision about which school to choose. We urge you to get all of the information you can. For example, ask about the school’s four-year graduation rate. Are the classes your student needs for graduation going to be offered every year? And don’t be afraid to play the schools against each other when it comes to financial aid. Feel free to let schools B and C know that your student has also been accepted to school A, and request that they reassess their financial aid award letter. A little competition among schools can increase your chances of receiving a hefty award package.

For parents who are looking forward to seeing their child stand on a podium to receive their gold medal, or college diploma, it can take years of hard work and planning to prepare for paying for college.



Just like Olympic athletes need to be in top form, you need to stay up to date on the rules of financial aid and tax laws. We can help you stay current. Each year there are evolving deductions, incentives and tax credits designed specifically for students, and for families who are sending their children to college. We can help if you have questions about how your current tax situation may affect your family’s college plans.

We are here to offer you financial coaching and the assurance you will need to move confidently toward the finish line of paying for college. If you would like help with college financial aid planning, contact our office at 576-8700. Now it’s up to your student to finish high school and move up to the starting line of college. Ready . . . set . . . go!



Financial Strategy of the Month

“Here’s an idea I think will save you money!”

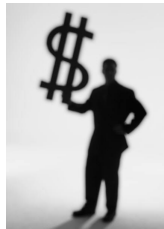
How the Affluent Manage Home Equity to Safely and Conservatively Build Wealth

If you had enough money to pay off your mortgage right now, would you? Many people would. In fact, the ‘American Dream’ is to own your own home, and to own it outright, with no mortgage. If the American Dream is so wonderful, how can we explain the fact that thousands of financially successful people, who have more than enough money to pay off their mortgage, refuse to do so.



A Tale of Two Brothers

There’s this story which illustrates the benefits of integrating your mortgage into your overall financial plan. There are two brothers, each of whom secures a



mortgage to buy a \$200,000 home (obviously not in California). Each brother earns \$70,000 a year and has \$40,000 in savings. The first brother, **Brother A**, believes in the old way of paying off a mortgage, which is as soon as possible. Brother A bites the bullet and secures a fifteen-year mortgage at 6.38% APR and shells out all \$40,000 of his savings as a 20% down payment, leaving him zero dollars to invest. This leaves him with a monthly payment of \$1,383. Since he has a combined, federal and state income tax rate of 32%, he is left with an average monthly net after-tax cost of \$1,227. Also, in an effort to eliminate his mortgage sooner, Brother A sends an extra \$100 to his lender every month.

Brother B, in contrast, subscribes to the new way of mortgage planning, choosing instead to carry a big, long-term mortgage. He secures a 30-year, interest only loan at 7.42% APR. He outlays a small 5% down payment of \$10,000 and invests the remaining \$30,000 in a safe, money-making side account. His monthly payment is \$1,175, 100% of which is tax deductible over the first 15 years, and 64% over the life of the loan, leaving him a monthly net after-tax cost of \$799. Every month he adds \$100 to his investments (the same \$100 Brother A sends to his lender), plus the \$428 he’s saved from his lower mortgage payment. His investment account earns an 8% rate of return.

Which brother made the right decision?

The answer can be found by looking into the future. After just five years Brother A has received \$14,216 in tax savings; however, he made zero dollars in savings and investments. Brother B, on the other hand, has received \$22,557 in tax savings and his savings and investment account has grown to \$83,513.



Now, what if both brothers suddenly lose their jobs?

The story turns rather bleak for Brother A. Without any money in savings, he has no way to get through the crisis. Even though he has \$47,320 of equity in his home, he can’t get a loan because he doesn’t have a job. With no job and no savings, he can’t make his monthly payments and has no choice but to sell his home in order to avoid foreclosure. Unfortunately, at this point it’s a fire sale so he must sell at a discount, and then pay real estate commissions.

Brother B, while not particularly happy at the prospects of searching for a new job, is not worried because he has \$83,513 in savings to tide him over. He doesn’t need a loan and can easily make his monthly payments, even if he is unemployed for years. He has no reason to panic, as he is still in control.

Now let’s say neither brother lost his job. We’ll



check in on them after fifteen years have passed since they purchased their homes, and evaluate the results of their financing strategies... To find out how this story ends and who’s making the BIG bucks, call our office and request a copy of the whole story and a detailed strategy

explanation (this report will go out to current clients only). We will send you a free copy of the 12 page report written by Steven Marshall and Mike Lowe.

Warning: don’t try this strategy without a consultation with me on how it may or may not work in your particular situation. As a CPA and investment advisor (not a mortgage broker or salesman), I’m in the best position to provide you with independent and unbiased counsel.

Montgomery Taylor, CPA

Client Benefits:

1. Expert tax-saving advice as a regular part of your income tax preparation
2. Professional Service Warranty that guarantees you the largest tax refund possible with the lowest tax liability
3. Your tax returns completed within eight business days of when you provide all necessary data
4. Your phone calls returned promptly (any time of year), always within 24 hours
5. Help with allocating your 401(k) investment funds
6. Monthly ClientAdvisor Newsletter
7. Professional online tax advice anytime ~ mtaylor@taxwiseadvisor.com

**Platinum Tax Maintenance Program
2009 Member Benefits:**

1. ALL CPA Client Benefits listed above, **AND**
2. Three phone consultations (20 minutes each or a total of 60 minutes) during the tax year scheduled through our appointment desk
3. W-4 review to be sure your withholding is correct
4. Audit assistance in the event you are subject to an audit for the 2009 year, limited to four hours of service at no additional expense
5. Answer all IRS notices and correspondence you receive for 2009 tax year
6. Answer FTB notices and correspondence including Head of Household Audit Letter for 2009
7. 1 additional copy of tax year 2009 tax return
8. \$50 discount on our fall tax planning appointments scheduled through our appointment desk

**Montgomery Taylor & Company, LLC,
Registered Investment Advisor**

Client Benefits:

1. Independent, unbiased, investment advice on a fee-only basis (no commissions)
2. Investment management for any account size (no minimums)
3. Monthly account statements directly from Fidelity Investments
4. Quarterly performance reports and consultation meetings
5. Tax-sensitive investing strategies integrated with your financial planning
6. Monthly ClientAdvisor Newsletter
7. Weekly Economic Update e-mail communication

College Plan Advisors, LLC

Client Benefits:

1. Student Counseling and Assessment
2. Calculate Expected Family Contribution
3. College Funding Strategies & Planning
4. Complete your FAFSA Forms
5. Complete your CSS Profile Forms
6. Appeal/Negotiate Better Awards
7. Monthly Cash for College Newsletter
8. Monthly ClientAdvisor Newsletter
9. Weekly "Tip of the Week" E-Mails



Notes from Monty's private money management file...

We began February with an allocation of 21% cash, 74% stock and 5% commodities. The only change made was an additional purchase of the **GLD gold bullion trust** on February 5. I bought in at \$104.65 and watched it go up to about \$110. Now, it is at \$108.35, up 3.5%

Looking back at earlier purchases of GLD, I bought in on July 31 at \$93.46 and again on August 17 at \$91.65. By early December GLD was up to \$119.54. It has since dropped back, along with the broad market. The July purchase is now up 14.88% and the August purchase is up 17.14%.

Gold ETFs are a major innovation. They provide investors' access to a highly liquid asset that provides direct exposure to the gold price and has been successfully trading in other countries for several years without problems.



The price of gold has increased in recent years from a 2001 low of \$250 to a high of \$1,108 as of this writing. Worries over the economy, along with future price inflation, continue to fuel interest in its investment potential.

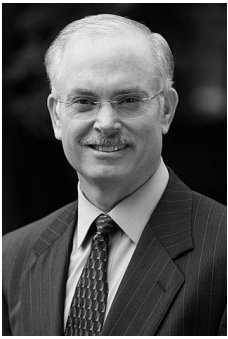
Worries over the economy... what worries? Isn't our economy in recovery and the stock market a raging bull?

Check out this very recent quote from Richard Maybury, a straight-shooting, independent economist: *"I think the effects of the Fed's "stimulus" injections of 2008 and 2009 will peter out in 2010, and the Fed's great historic moment of truth will arrive. Officials will be faced with a stark choice. Will they refrain from further injections, and let a terrifyingly deep depression begin? Or will they begin yet another round of injections to once again revive the malinvestment?"*

If they choose the latter, they will do it knowing that foreign governments and others are already nervous about the dollar and thinking about bolting for the exit. Additional injections could lead to complete rejection of the dollar, and worthlessness. It will be another disaster for those who aren't ready, and more huge profits for those who are.

Be ready for another downturn in the economy and most investments this year." You can find more from Mr. Maybury at www.richardmaybury.com.

The Green Label Portfolio was designed with this fragile economy in mind and it is my personal goal to help you profit where possible and to protect you from declining stock markets and currencies.



Monty's Money Message

Monty started his career in financial services about 30 years ago as a Stockbroker. He then became a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Financial Planner, Certified IRA Distribution Specialist and Registered Investment Advisor. With all these years of experience, he has a wealth of information to share with you about money and how you can prosper. Monty recently received the "America's Top Financial Planners" award of excellence from the Consumers' Research Council of America. Monty was selected from among his peers based upon years of experience, formal education and specialized professional certifications and designations achieved.

Are you putting red flags in your tax return??? ***"You can't catch me! You can't catch me!"***

Here is a list of deductions as claimed by Joe and by Jon in their income tax returns:

Deduction claimed	Joe	Jon
DMV fees	281	300
Goodwill donations	463	500
Business cell phone use	532	1200
Business meals	689	1000
Business office supplies	2883	3000
Auto business miles driven	1241	22000
Auto personal miles driven	23759	3000

Now, you tell me which of these tax returns smells a little fishy? Pretend you're an IRS Agent for a moment and tell me which of these two you would go after. Well, let me see, I'll bet you picked Jon. WHY?



You may look at this and think I'm just being stupid. Well, no... I see this every tax season. I sit down with someone to interview them about their income and deductions so I can prepare their income tax returns. On their list, or maybe off the top of their heads, they're giving me some nice round, fishy numbers (\$200, \$2000, 20,000 miles) to deduct. **I'm NOT the IRS**, so I take the numbers down that they give me and report them in their income tax return. And, in my file is an engagement letter which they signed declaring that all the information they are giving me is true, accurate and can be substantiated, if necessary, upon audit. They're hanging themselves and waving a red flag at the IRS. **If I were the IRS**, I'd give it the smell test and then DEMAND that Jon gave me a receipt for every single item going into his tax return.

When Jon tells me his deduction amount is \$500, It is not my place to challenge him or assume he's lying. I don't even give him a wink and say, "Ah, don't you really mean \$493?" Here's the deal: I'm an honest person, I don't lie to my clients and I assume they're not lying to me. What they tell me, I report as fact—with or without a receipt.

There are other funny things that happen in these tax interviews. I may ask someone how much they contributed to charity last year. They look at me for a moment and then ask me, "Well, how much would be reasonable for someone at my income level?" Ah, NO, I don't make up numbers for people! The deduction is what you spent. Period.

When You Don't Have Receipts....

Contrary to wide publicity by the IRS, it is possible to have many deductions allowed at a tax audit even if you don't have receipts with you. The trick is to reconstruct your expenditures and back them up with corroborating evidence.

Home entertainment example: Suppose you claimed a business-expense deduction of \$984 for home entertainment expenses but you can't prove, with receipts, that the money was actually spent. *First step:* Establish the dates that you entertained people in your home. Check your calendar. If it's lost, speak to a few people you remember entertaining and ask them to look at their calendars. *Next:* Make a list of all the people you entertained at each party and record the company they were affiliated with. Jot down your business




relationship with each person. This will help you establish, for the IRS, that people were entertained. At the same time, it will refresh your memory. If you mailed invitations or received thank-you notes, it will help you prove your case to show them.

Reconstruction: Now, reconstruct the amount of money you spent each time you entertained at home. What did you serve? Did you keep a menu? Figure out the approximate cost of the food you purchased. Make a list of the quantity of food and beverages bought, the approximate prices and the name and address of each store that you shopped at. Include items purchased at the supermarket, butcher shop, bakery, fruit store, liquor store and party shop. Don't forget to include the approximate value of food and beverage items served which were on hand and that did not have to be specifically purchased.

Other helpful evidence: Photographs taken at each gathering and sworn statements from people attending each party attesting to its date, the approximate number of people present and the types of food and beverages served.



 Leprechauns were believed to be **SHOEMAKERS!**