

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 13 NO. 2

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2006

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"NICKWACKETT NICK" UNVEILED AT LOYALTY DAY PARADE



"Nickwackett Nick" and the Rutland Historical Society parade entourage.

For some time there has been discussion at the Society about the term "Nickwackett" and its meaning. It is an Indian term meaning "place of the squirrel". Squirrels gather nuts for food which is stored. The Society is also a gatherer but of historical nuggets which it also stores. Here the parallel stops, for the Society can only justify its gathering if it has a plan to share these "historical goodies".

Thus was born the idea that the Society should most appropriately adopt a squirrel as a mascot. The costume for "Nickwackett Nick" was researched, designed and executed by Society board member Helen Davidson. The Society was most pleased that the *Rutland Herald* carried a photo of Jim Davidson, who played the role of "Nick" in the Loyalty Day parade, on its local front page as an introduction to an article

on History Days (see page 3). It seems that everyone in Rutland County saw the squirrel photo and its identification with the Rutland Historical Society. During the Loyalty Day parade "Nick" garnered the attention of young and old.

The Society is quite pleased with the notice that mascot "Nickwackett Nick" has gained for the Society. There are plans to have "Nickwackett Nick" have future adventures that would both entertain and inform the public about the Society's mission and activities, possibly as a cartoon series. If the "talking gecko" on TV can gain such a positive following, perhaps "Nickwackett Nick" can do for the Society what the "talking gecko" has done for its sponsor. The Society would like to have member ideas on what "Nick" could do for the Society. (More pictures on page 3.)

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces "Historically Speaking" on cable Channel 15. A new program is produced each month. The series includes interviews and historical pictorial material in a rather flexible TV magazine format. The programs can be seen every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., Thursday at 1:30 p.m. and Friday at 7:30 p.m. Videotapes of the following episodes can be obtained from Channel 15, Rutland Region Community Television, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 108, Rutland VT 05701-4460. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to the above. You must provide a self-addressed padded bag with postage or \$1.50 for shipping and handling. Channel 15 provides the tape. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 72 - Jim Davidson hosts a program on "Rutland's Spring Heritage Activities". Representatives from the Downtown Partnership, the Sons of Union Veterans and the Loyalty Day Parade briefly cover the "All Aboard, Rutland" railroad project, the History Days living history activities and the Loyalty Day Parade.

Episode # 73 - Michael F. Dwyer hosts Mary Fregosi of Proctor in a program entitled "Practicing History". Mary recently retired from a long career in education but has kept busy researching and writing articles and books on local history. Michael converses with Mary about her historical projects which have engaged and enriched her retirement hours.

Episode #74 - Jim Davidson hosts a program entitled "West Rutland in the 1920s As Seen Through the Camera Lens of Frank Hinchey". The program is filled with individual and group photos of West Rutland in the 1920s. All the photos are from the family archives of Frank Hinchey who was involved in West Rutland education for over 40 years as teacher, coach and administrator. Few people know that Frank took hundreds of photos of what went on around him. Fortunately many of his negatives survive. His daughter, Angela Hinchey, and "Red" Sutkoski of West Rutland are guests on the program and help to identify many of the people and places in the photos. However, numerous photos still beg identification.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members of the Society are asked to keep the Society informed of any change of address. The U.S. Postal Service will forward items for a brief period of time but each forward costs the Society 75 cents. If you have any difficulty receiving Society mailings, please contact the Society. Our e-mail is "president@rutlandhistory.com".

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Archives Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Artifacts Committee

Ann Glagola - 775-1302

Building Committee

Morris Tucker - 773-7356

Exhibit Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Finance Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

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Mary Segale - 773-2326

Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee

Patty Pickett - 775-1706

Society Historian

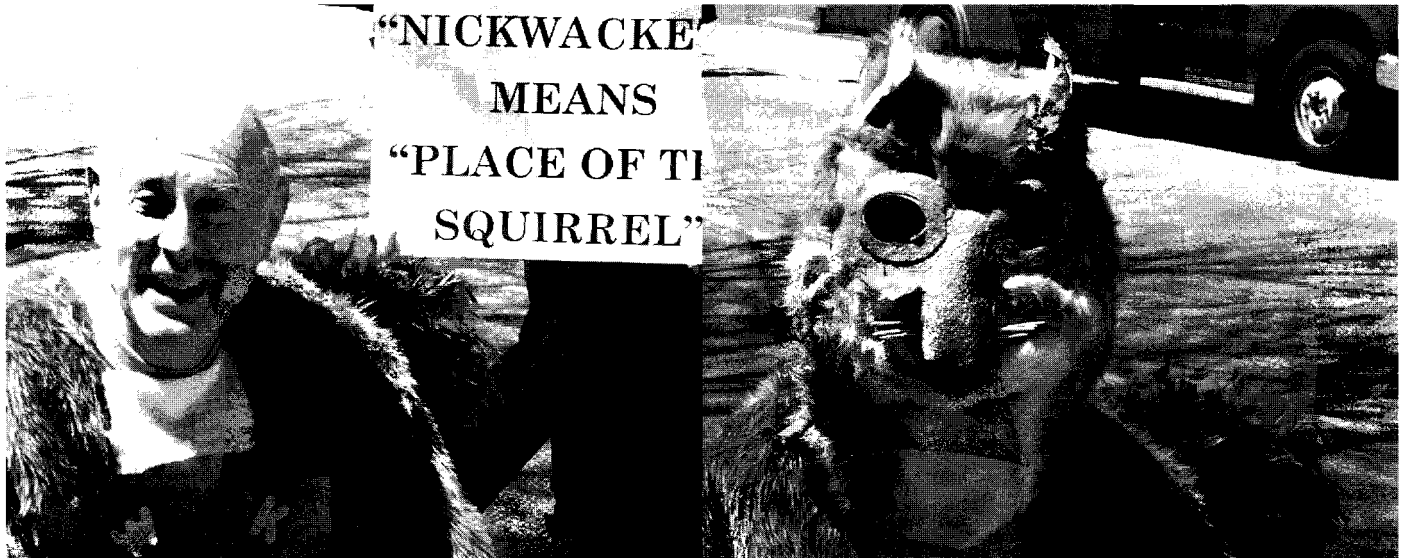
Mary Segale - 773-2326

President

Dorothy Whitford - 776-1018

Board Chairperson

Mary Fregosi - 459-2723



(Continued from page 1.) Jim Davidson (on left) and his alter ego, "Nickwackett Nick".

SOCIETY OUTREACH

Chuck Piotrowski and Jim Davidson represented the Society on 30 March and again on 3 May at the Creative Economy public meetings. On 11 April Jim Davidson represented the Society at the Castleton State College Career Day where the Society shared a table with the Vermont Historic Sites. Jim was able to interact with college age students who might be interested in some aspect of the history profession. On 20 April Jim briefly addressed the breakfast meeting of the Rutland Rotary South. He particularly highlighted the services that the Rutland Historical Society offers the community. On 19 May a small class of students from Rutland High School visited the Society where they viewed one of the Society's "Historically Speaking" video programs. They also looked at the Society's various exhibits. On 22 May Jim and Helen Davidson represented the Society at the Annual Meeting of the Rutland PEG TV channels 15, 20 and 21 at their new facilities. This was the 10th Annual Meeting and was attended by Governor Douglas and other dignitaries. On 11 June Jim Davidson presented a program entitled "History Is Everywhere" to a small group at the Hubbardton Battlefield Historic Site. On 13 June 10 members of the Rutland High School Class of 1956 visited the Society for a special program for that class.

HISTORY DAYS

The Second Annual History Days sponsored by the Rutland Parks and Recreation Department, the Ripley Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans, the Rutland Historical Society and the Downtown Rutland Partnership on Saturday 6 May in the Main Street Park got the blessing of good weather. Although the offering was compacted from last year's program, the committee on arrangements was quite pleased with the day's activities. Even a shower held off until the last hour.

IRISH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAMS

The Irish Roundtable programs on 17 and 24 May were attended by ten and nine folks, respectively. The quality of information from the Society's resource people was impressive. Although there was room for additional attendees, the small numbers allowed some wonderful one-to-one assistance for those in the beginning stages of their family search. All in all, the programs were quite successful.

**REMEMBER 2006 DUES
ARE PAYABLE NOW.
CHECK YOUR MAILING
LABEL FOR YEAR PAID**

MUSIC OF THE PAST

In the summer of 1998 the Society embarked on a project to offer a weekly series of free Friday night dances featuring the recorded music of the great dance bands of the 1930s through the 1960s. The series ran each summer for nine weeks from the end of June to the end of August. Attendance averaged 45 per evening the first year but slowly declined to 25 per evening in the summer of 2000. In 2001 the Society moved the program to Saturday evening in the hope that this might stimulate a greater attendance. It didn't. The Society discontinued the summer program in the fall of 2001. At that time the Society decided to take a new approach to providing music of the past for the public. The Society would customize a recorded program for an organization that had an event or an audience that would like such a program for an agreed upon and appropriate donation to the Rutland Historical Society.

In December of 2001 the Society began offering an evening of dance music in the atrium of the Asa Bloomer State Office Building for the First Night celebration of New Year's Eve. This program has been offered each year since and has been quite successful in both entertaining the public and gaining recognition of the Rutland Historical Society. In February of 2003 and again in 2004 the Society provided dinner dance music for over 60 residents of the Meadows and the Gables for their Valentine's Day celebration.

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Publications Committee of the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701-4023. Tel. (802) 775-2006. Jim Davidson - *Editor*

DUES SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|----------|
| Sponsor | \$50.00 | Students | \$8.00 |
| Contributing | \$20.00 | (18 & under) | |
| Regular | \$10.00 | Senior citizens | \$8.00 |
| | | (62 & up) | |
| Life Membership | | | \$200.00 |
| (Individuals only) | | | |
| Memorial Membership | | | \$200.00 |

This summer the Rutland High School Class of 1956 engaged the Society for a recorded music program for its reception and dinner dance at the the Rutland Country Club on 13 June. The Rutland High school Class of 1951 has also engaged the Society for a similar program on 29 July at the Holiday Inn.

Interest in the Society's project seems to be growing. Local groups that would like music from the past can now have it for a reasonable and agreed upon donation to the Rutland Historical Society. Programs will be customized to the interests of the group. Most contemporary music is NOT a part of the project. The projects new title of "Musical Memories" and its new theme song of "Making Memories" well expresses its philosophy. Organizations interested in the musical services of the Society should contact Jim Davidson at 773-7525 for details.

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY WEB SITE

In February the Society celebrated its first year of operation with over 90,000 visitors. The numbers were tremendously encouraging. However, in March 2006 alone there were over 25,000 visitors. This year from January through May the Society web site has averaged over 20,000 visitors per month.

The Web Site Committee has continued to meet regularly on the third Tuesday of each month. The Committee has nominated Rosemary Vandenburg and Patty Pickett to be co-webmasters of the site. President Dorothy Whitford and the Board of Directors have confirmed these nominations.

The Society now has DSL service for its communication needs. This was particularly needed for its on-line computer work, especially to upload data to the web site.

**THE FACILITIES OF THE
RUTLAND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:
MONDAYS 6 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS 1 - 4 PM**