

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

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RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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SOCIETY WINS ROMEO AWARD

On 24 May 2007 Jim and Helen Davidson attended the PEGTV Annual Meeting as they frequently do. To their surprise Jim was called upon to receive the Romeo Award for Best Show for the "Historically Speaking" series. The "Historically Speaking" Committee had produced 83 episodes and has been in the forefront of using new technical approaches in the production of the program.

"Romeo" was a seeing eye dog in training who spent much time in the studio. Maybe he spent too much time socializing with the producers for he failed his test. When PEGTV decided to offer an award it was not surprising that it would be named the "Romeo Award".

A nice small black dog statue now sits at the Society as a reminder of the success of "Historically Speaking" and the consideration of the PEGTV personnel who chose to award the Society.

PEGTV ON THE WORLD-WIDE WEB

An announcement that Channel 15 would soon be broadcasting not only over Comcast cable but also webcasting simultaneously on the internet was a highlight of the annual meeting. Check out the PEGTV website (see link on rutlandhistory.com.) Click on "streaming video". Download the free QuickTime viewer if needed. You can then watch Channel 15 programming anywhere in the world on the internet.

That means that you can view

"Historically Speaking" episodes whether you have cable or not or wherever you may be. The system is still in test mode but should be finalized this year. Plans also include a future On Demand selection of archived programs. The Rutland Historical Society applauds PEGTV for its forward thinking and the great opportunity it offers to bring the "Historically Speaking" series to the whole world.

A TRIBUTE WORTH REMEMBERING

A recent donation to the Society in memory of Jean C. Ross by her neice, Rachel B. Rosenthal, prompts excerpts from a tribute to Jean written in 1994 by Dawn B. Hance.

Jean served as Managing Editor of the Society's Quarterly magazine for 15 years. The title "Managing Editor" meant that Jean did all sorts of things from ideas to writing to editing and seeing a publication on its way to the reader.

Dawn Hance noted that from the beginning of the Society's book project in 1989 until its completion in 1991 Jean edited nearly 1100 pages of printed copy. This was in addition to editing some 1000 pages of Quarterlies.

Jean spoke and wrote with a wonderful flair. Her goal was always to produce as fine a product as possible.

WEB COMMITTEE

A major addition has been made on the Links Page. The visit numbers continue to be impressive. Have you visited rutlandhistory.com yet?

"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 past 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 # 82 - Sam Gorruso, Master of Ceremonies for the Loyalty Day Parade, and Jim Davidson, program host and a member of the History Days Committee, discuss the Living History encampments of Saturday 5 May 2007 and the Loyalty Day Parade of Sunday 6 May 2007. Sam Gorruso talks about the history of the Loyalty Day Parade, now in its 44th Year. Jim Davidson concludes the program with a mystery object to be identified in the next episode.

Episode # 83 - Tess Taylor, Manager of the Vermont History Expo 2007, and Helen Davidson, Chairperson of the Rutland Historical Society Exhibit Committee, discuss the 8th Annual Vermont History Expo 2007 which is to be held on 23 and 24 June 2007 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. Tess Taylor gives a pictorial overview of the activities and exhibits that were seen at the 2006 Expo. Helen Davidson describes the local Society exhibit which, in keeping with this year's transportation theme, is the Rutland Railroad. The answer to last episode's mystery object is a gambrel stick, used in the butchering process.

Episode # 84 - Michael F. Dwyer presents a program entitled "Remembering the Flood of 1947". June of 1947 is the 60th anniversary of one of Rutland's most disastrous floods. Michael offers a pictorial review of the causes, the damage and the recovery efforts that highlighted life in Rutland in June 1947. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

Episode # 85 - Chuck Piotrowski, past archivist of the Society for American Baseball Research and currently Vice-president of the Rutland Historical Society, provides an illustrated history of the Rutland Royals of 1938 - 1941. Scrapbooks of the pre-war Rutland Royals given to the Society by the Martin Family provide material for a detailed history of the Royals and the Northern League. Jim Davidson hosts the program.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Building Committee

Morris Tucker - 773-7356

Cemetery Committee

Chris Book - 773-6252

Collections Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-0286

Exhibit Committee

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Finance Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Membership Committee

Robert Perkins - 773-0184

Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee

Patty Pickett - 775-1706

Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Technology and Telecommunications Committee

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

President

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

Board Chairperson

Mary Fregosi - 459-2723

RUTLAND LONG TRAIL FESTIVAL 2007

On 17 to 19 August 2007 the Rutland Fairgrounds will host the first ever "Long Trail Festival". The free celebratory gathering will showcase Rutland, Vermont, as a vacation destination with its close proximity to the Long Trail, the oldest "footpath in the wilderness" in the United States. Fashioned after the famous "Trail Days" in Damascus, Virginia, this trail fest will be the first festival for hikers in the Northeast. The goal is to establish Rutland, Vermont, as a "hiker friendly" city.

It is hoped that hikers and walkers will come to Rutland every August from all parts of the world to share their adventures with those who come to listen. Rutland children coming to the fairgrounds and meeting long distance hikers may dream that they too someday could enjoy outdoor adventures. Conversations with hikers on their way to Canada or on their way to Maine or those who have already completed a long distance hike, can offer a wealth of "lessons learned", to those "dreamers" who want to get more active or are planning a future outdoor adventure.

The history content of the festival will include a slide show presentation by David Wright of the Middletown Springs and Rutland Historical Societies on the history of Long Trail Lodge. There will also be an area to gather memories and memorabilia of Long Trail activities of the past.

For travelers using Amtrak's Ethan Allen Express from New York City to Rutland for the event, a special gift awaits them at the festival for not using their cars. Admission is free and free camping for the weekend event is available. For more information see the festival website at longtrailfestivalvt.com or contact Christina Cunningham at (802) 683-8038.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2007

The Exhibit Committee acquired a fabulous four by six foot backdrop of the 1879 Rutland Railroad yard for its booth at the Expo. The Committee ran a four minute video of the rise and fall of the Rutland Railroad Passenger station throughout the exhibit. Leon Frederick constructed and displayed a typical Rutland Railroad model train. The Committee gave out replicas of a 1911 railroad ticket which listed all the stops on the road at that time. Visitors were also given a facsimile of an old Bank of Rutland \$3.00 bill to help "pay for their trip".

AN INTERESTING VISIT TO THE SOCIETY

Recently a representative from a Connecticut observatory came to the Society with an interesting and different request. He was investigating a meteorite that had exploded over western Connecticut in 1807. Although the meteorite had exploded at some distance above ground, the reverberations were felt 50 miles away. It was also viewed by a number

of people in New England and some documented their observations. Among these was William Page of Rutland. The investigator had a copy of Page's document but wanted to know exactly where Page had lived in 1807. Then he could verify Page's readings by taking a GPS location reading from Page's front lawn from where Page had made his observations. Thus he could compare readings with those of other observers. After some research in the Society's records it was determined that although the house of Page no longer stood on the same lot (it had been moved at least three times) the lot on which he stood in 1807 was at the head of Center Street on the east side of Main Street where the Sycamore Inn of his son, Governor John Page, now stands. The Reverend Samuel Williams, well-known Rutland meteorologist, had helped Page complete his observation document. As a visual check of the property was made it was discovered that the house just south of the Page house was the home of Reverend Samuel Williams. The two men had been neighbors. Not only did the Society find the answer to a difficult query but it learned something about William Page that was not in the Society's records. So goes the exciting life of research.

SOCIETY OUTREACH

On 4 April Helen and Jim Davidson offered their program on "Made in Vermont" to a full house for the TRIAD program at the Godnick Center and on 25 May they again offered the program for the Fortnightly of Grace Church at their annual dinner at the Rutland Country Club. On 10 April Jim Davidson presented a brief history of the Rutland Railroad for Seniors at the Pittsford Congregational Church. On 15 May Jim guided a bus tour of the old Southwest Neighborhood for Interage. Jim brought a 15 minute version of "A Tour of 1890 Rutland" to the Northeast School for two showings on 25 May.

SPECIAL VISITS TO THE SOCIETY

The Society is always pleased to arrange for group visits to the Society. On 7 June a group of students from the Rutland Intermediate School was given a walking tour followed by a viewing of the program "David Sawyer's World", which is a glimpse of 1898 Rutland through the eyes of a young photographer.

On 11 June the Society opened for members of the Rutland High School Class of 1957. An exhibit of the class registration books and a special showing of "Remembering the Flood of 1947" were enjoyed.

On 17 May the Society hosted a meeting of the Creative Economy and the Arts community.

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*

PROGRAMS AT THE SOCIETY

Spring programming this year moved to Sunday afternoons in the hope of attracting a better attendance for live programming. Only the Roundtable Discussion of the Rutland Royals Baseball Teams and Seasons showed an increase in attendance. The Rutland Royals program had 23 in attendance and was filled with audience participation from beginning to end. In fact the program ran well over its planned time frame.

The other Spring programs were excellent and interesting but the audiences were few in number.

The Program Committee is finding that no time is a good time for live programming although a program of audience involvement may draw folks at any time.

HISTORY DAYS 2007

The History Day encampments on Saturday 5 May were well attended. However, the programs and the walking tours had poor attendance. Although the musician had to cancel out at the last moment due to an injury, the event gained a late participant in the person of a Civil War reenactor and his Morgan horse. The weather was gorgeous. On Sunday 6 May Nickwackett Nick, the Society squirrel mascot, took his friend, Carl the Library dog mascot, "on parade". They were very popular, especially with the young.

**REMEMBER 2007 DUES
CHECK YOUR MAILING
LABEL FOR THE YEAR
ALREADY PAID**

DUES SCHEDULE

Sponsor \$50.00	Students \$8.00
Contributing \$20.00	Senior Citizens \$8.00
Regular \$10.00	(62 & up)
Life Membership (Individuals only)	\$200.00

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