

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 14 NO. 4 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2007

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held on Thursday evening 18 October 2007 at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court Street. Light reception hors d'oeuvres were followed by a potluck supper. The Annual Business Meeting and the election of officers and directors was followed by a power point presentation by newly elected President Chuck Piotrowski which visually sampled some of the gems in the "Treasures of the Society"

The attendance at the meeting was less than last year but for those who were not able to attend, the "Treasures of the Society" has been presented in two parts in "Historically Speaking" episodes # 90 and # 91. (See descriptions on page 2 and the note about the On Demand feature allowing these episodes to be viewed anywhere in the world at any time.)

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

Pres. Chuck Piotrowski
V.P. Jim Davidson
Sec. Helen Davidson
Treas. Tom Carpenter
Dir. (2 yrs) Lloyd Davis
Dir. (2 yrs) Ron Hemenway
Dir. (2 yrs) Dorothy Whitford

Continuing Directors are:
Robert Cassidy, Mary Fregosi and
Patty Pickett (Brogren)

Mary Fregosi has been re-elected as
Board Chairperson.

WEB SITE NEWS

After two and a half years a mystery has been solved. Family members browsing the Society web site on Thanksgiving Day found the mystery picture of "Jack", the WWII airman. He is Jack Abraham Jr. and a graduate of Rutland High School, class of 1936. He is the son of Jack Abraham who owned Abraham's Drug Store in Rutland. Visit the Society web site for more information about Jack who is currently alive and well in California.

During 2007 there were over 340,000 visits to the Society web site. This is nearly 100,000 more visits than last year's quarter of a million visits. During October and November of this year the site averaged over 40,000 visits for each month.

Visit the Society link to Rutland Community Access TV for access to PEGTV's On Demand feature. (See page 2 for details about the On Demand feature.)

Whether in print, picture or video, the Society now reaches the whole world through its internet web site.

EXHIBIT

At the Society there is currently a small exhibit of pictures of the Pico Raceway and its stock car activities which took place in 1951 and 1952. The raceway was located near where the Rutland G.E. plant is today in Rutland Town. More research is on-going and many people and race cars need identification. Those who remember this place and its activities are invited to inspect the pictures. Perhaps you will find a memory and help us.

"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. DVDs of past episodes can be obtained from Channel 15, Rutland Regional Community Television, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 108, Rutland VT 05701-4460. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to RRCT. Include \$2.50 for shipping and handling. Channel 15 provides the DVD. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information. Consult the Society website at rutlandhistory.com for a complete listing.

Episode # 89 - Rutland's Halloween Parade has a history of nearly 50 years. A chronology of the parades, assembled by Betty Mumford, aids guest Bill Reardon, a long-time employee of the Rutland Recreation and Parks Department, and host Jim Davidson in discussing Bill's memories of the participants, the weather, changes in the parade and problems during its history.

Episode # 90 - Chuck Piotrowski presents "The Treasures of the Society: Part 1" which offers excerpts and comments from his program at the the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Society. Part 1 focuses mostly on the artifacts in the Society's collections. Chuck makes the point that the term "treasures" is not to be taken in a monetary sense but for the valuable insight they offer about Rutland's history. Jim Davidson is the episode host.

Episode # 91 - Chuck Piotrowski presents "The Treasures of the Society: Part 2" which continues his program from the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Society. Part 2 focuses on the papers, books and photos of the collections. Jim Davidson is host.

ON DEMAND AT PEGTV.COM

This feature allows archived programs to be viewed anywhere in the world at any time. Episodes # 90 and #91 (above) are available through this free service as is the 2007 Rutland Halloween Parade.

To bring this to your computer, go to Rutland Community Access TV on the Society's web site [LINKS PAGE](#) or go directly to PEGTV.COM. At PEGTV click on IPEG SERVICES at the top of the page. Scroll down to VIDEO ON DEMAND. Click on "Video On Demand Library". Scroll down to "Halloween Parade" and "Historically Speaking # 90" and "Historically Speaking # 91" for the programs above. Click on the image. If you don't have the free Quicktime Player, you can easily get a download at this site.

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

Scott Ludwig - 287-8225

President

Chuck Piotrowski - 747-5447

Board Chairperson

Mary Fregosi - 459-2723

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

James Smithson, a Brit who never set foot on American soil, died in 1829 and left his personal fortune to the United States to build an institution "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." The venerable Smithsonian Institution was born and it has since set the standard against which all museums, archives, and historical societies measure their progress.

Let us measure ourselves by that standard: "the increase and diffusion of knowledge about Rutland, Vermont, among all people". By this measure the Rutland Historical Society must be considered an extraordinary success. The *Quarterly* is in its 37th volume and continues to draw accolades from readers. *Historically Speaking*, our half-hour television show, just completed its 91st episode. It was awarded "Best in Show" by PEG-TV and is now available online **for the world** to watch through PEG-TV's web site. The Society's own web site, www.rutlandhistory.com, has received over 340,000 visits during the past year! Finally, our energetic volunteers, who go out into the community and who help those who come into the Society, are a priceless vanguard of Rutland historical knowledge. They are our foundation, for without the knowledge what would we diffuse?

As we go forward into the New Year you, the members of the Rutland Historical Society, should be very proud of the Society's success in print, video and the world-wide web. With your support and help we will continue to promote the increase and diffusion of knowledge about Rutland, Vermont, among all people.

Happy New Year!
Chuck Piotrowski

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Is it time to renew?

Please check the date above your name on the mailing label.

* If the date on your label is **2006** or earlier: your grace period has expired and this the last *Quarterly* you will receive unless you renew by 31 January 2008.

* If the date on your label is **2007**: your dues for 2008 are now due. Please use the membership form on this page.

* If the date on your label is **2008** or later: your dues are up to date. Thank you.

Rutland Historical Society – Membership Form		
96 Center Street, Rutland, VT 05701-4023		
Phone: 802-775-2006		
_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	
_____ Street Address		
_____ City/Town	_____ State	_____ ZIP Code
_____ Phone (optional)		_____ E-mail address (optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$8 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$8 Senior (62+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Regular
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Contributor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Lifetime
Second person at same address (if any). No additional fee. Not available for Student or Lifetime memberships.		
_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	

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SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

The Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences Fall Conference at the College of St. Joseph on Saturday 22 SEP 07 featured Chuck Piotrowski, Tom Carpenter and Jim Davidson as the presenters of a morning-long program on the topic of "Evidence". They received many accolades for the topic and their outstanding presentations. In the evening Jim Davidson was one of four newly inducted Fellows of the VAAS, a very prestigious honor. Jim was honored for his involvement with Rutland history.

Jim Davidson showed the video "David Sawyer's World" at the Boys and Girls Club on 2 OCT 07 and at the new Interage facility on General Wing Drive on 6 DEC 07.

The Saturday morning roundtable on the Pico Raceway (6 OCT 07) at the Society drew a number of participants who were involved in some way with the raceway. Much information was gathered about a short-lived but greatly attended activity.

Jim and wife Helen Davidson brought the "Made in Vermont" program to senior living sites at the Schoolhouse Apartments in Poultney (8 OCT 07), Linden Terrace in Rutland (19 OCT 07) and in Benson (23 OCT 07).

Helen and Jim Davidson presented a mock trial of the John Phair Murder Case for an Elder Hostel group at the Brandon Inn on 16 OCT 07.

The Halloween Parade on 31 OCT 07 drew 13 Society participants and missed another family of five that were unable to participate because of illness. The weather was near perfect and thousands of spectators crowded the sidewalks. (For those who missed the parade, it may be seen on PEGTV's new ON DEMAND feature on the internet. See page 2 for details.)

On 2 NOV 07 Jim Davidson represented the Society at the joint meeting of the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance and the Vermont Local Historical Societies at the Middlebury Inn. He was also a presenter on a very successful afternoon panel called "Web Wise".

On 6 NOV 07 Jim visited the Christ the King 3rd grade to talk about the Rutland community as it was in 1800.

On 15 NOV 07 Tom Carpenter presented a program on "Coins, Stamps and Currency of the Civil War Era" for the Rutland County Stamp Club.

Chuck Piotrowski represented the Society at the official opening of the Winter Indoor Farmers' Market in the old Shrine or Strand Theater on 17 NOV 07. On 29 NOV 07 he presented a program on "The Rutland Royals Baseball Team" for the Rutland County Stamp Club.

Jim Davidson provided a holiday music program at Eden Park for the Baptist Church and Christ the King Christmas Party for residents on 5 DEC 07.

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*

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Society now has Comcast Highspeed Internet service which also provides a free basic TV cable service to channels 2 through 23. Voice Over Internet (VOIP) telephone service has also been installed which allows free unlimited long distance service.

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