

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 1 NO. 3 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1994

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NEW EXHIBIT PREVIEW

"Behind the Headlines", an exhibit commemorating 200 years of the *Rutland Herald*, will be installed at the Society in early November. This exhibit will focus on the people and functions of the *Rutland Herald* that never appeared in the headlines but nevertheless were the backbone of the newspaper.

A special exhibit preview will be held on Friday 4 November 1994 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Nickwackett. Members and their guests are hereby invited to join in the festivities.

NORTHWEST SCHOOL VISITS

More than 60 sixth graders from the Northwest School are visiting the current Society exhibit over a three-week period. Exhibit Committee members are providing commentary on the exhibit.

As one group explores the exhibit, another group is guided through a walking tour of Center and Washington Streets by a member of the Society.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society will be held on Thursday 20 October 1994 at the Fox Room of the Rutland Free Library which is located at the northeast corner of Center and Court Streets in Rutland. The business meeting, which includes reports and the election of officers and directors, will start at 7:30 p.m.

Art Cohn, Director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, will give a presentation on "History and Archeology On and Under Lake Champlain" at approximately 8:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend the business meeting and program.

SLATE OF OFFICERS PROPOSED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pres. Morris Tucker
V.P. Donald Bordeau
Sec. Linda Gee
Treas. Tom Carpenter
Dir. Robert Beauchamp
Dir. Ronald Butterfield
Dir. Helen Davidson

Continuing Directors are:

Elaine Purdy
Richard Rodgers
Robert Solari

RUTLAND HERALD BOOK PREVIEW LUNCHEON

The Bob Mitchell Years: An Anthology of a Half Century of Editorial Writing by the Publisher of the Rutland Herald will be available for the first time at a book preview luncheon on Monday 24 October 1994 at the Holiday Inn in Rutland at 12:00 noon. Tyler Resch, the book's editor, and Tom Wicker, retired columnist for the *New York Times* and author of the book's foreword, will be available for book signing. Stephen C. Terry, former managing editor of the *Rutland Herald* and currently vice-president of Green Mountain Power Corporation, will be the luncheon speaker.

For this one day only, the book will be available at \$16.00, plus tax. (Regular retail is \$24.00, plus tax.) Luncheon seats are \$15.00 each. Please mail to the Book Preview Luncheon, Rutland Herald, P.O. Box 668, Rutland, VT 05701.

VERMONT ETV'S SERIES ON FARMING IN VERMONT WILL PREMIERE 31 OCTOBER 1994

Vermont ETV producers have been at work for over a year on a nine-part series covering the history, issues and everyday concerns of Vermonters who make their living from the land. Five documentaries, followed by four "town meetings" that were videotaped on location in historic spots, explore the role of farming in the state's economy, its challenges and opportunities, and the uncertain future of a traditional way of life. The series premieres over one week, Monday 31 October 1994 through Friday 4 November 1994 at 9 p.m. each evening, with the town meetings scheduled for Tuesday evenings in November.

This new series is funded by a grant from The Rural Development Administration.

GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS ON A BUDGET OF \$2.00 TO \$30.00

The Rutland Historical Society's publications make a good gift for both your budget and the gift recipient. Our books, *Early Families of Rutland, Vermont* and *History of Rutland, Vermont, 1761-1861* are both on sale for thirty dollars (\$30) each until the end of 1994. Shipping and mailing is two dollars (\$2) extra. A regular gift membership, which provides four Quarterlies a year, is only ten dollars (\$10) for the year. Individual Quarterlies of the past are only two dollars (\$2) each.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Archives Committee -
Don Bordeau - 775-2761

Artifacts Committee -
Eleanor Elwert - 773-3417

Building Committee -
Ron Butterfield - 775-5883

Exhibit Committee -
Jim Davidson - 773-7525

**Historic Preservation
Committee** - Ann Singiser -
773-8172

Library Committee -
Ann Glagola - 775-1302

**Long-range Planning
Committee** - Bob Beauchamp
- 773-9281

Membership Committee -
Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Personnel Committee -
Carroll T. Jones - 773-9055

Program Committee -
Linda Gee - 775-1035

Public Relations -
Ken Wild - 773-8687

Publications - Jean Ross -
773-7301 / Elaine Purdy -
773-6819

Research - Dawn Hance -
775-4406

President - Morris "Mo"
Tucker - 773-7356

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rutland Historical Society, presently celebrating its 25th year, has been like a beehive full of activity since July 1993. The completion of renovations in our new home leads us to more projects and challenges as we prepare exhibits, catalogue and shelve books and begin the slow and tedious process of accessioning the materials accumulated over a period of five years while we were without a building.

The celebration of our Grand Opening on 18 July 1993, was blessed with a warm and sunny day. The attendance was good and many people marveled at the beauty of our new home. The exhibit, "A Place Called Rutland", has been viewed by many visitors. It presents a pictorial history of early life and business as Rutland slowly moved toward becoming a city. Robert Beauchamp was emcee for this event. Curtis Johnson of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and U.S. Senator James Jeffords both presented brief remarks pertaining to our celebration. Mayor Jeff Wennberg also spoke and cut the ribbon for the opening. A tent was set up in the parking lot for the dispensing of refreshments and the First Republic Brass band provided music.

Teachers and their students were invited to visit the Society throughout the year. A walking tour of Center and Washington Streets, conducted by James Davidson, presented a brief history of the many old houses in that area.

Once we were in our new home it seemed as though a thousand and one things had to be done right now. Priorities were scheduled and we tried to follow them as planned. Needless to say, some goals were not attained and remain as challenges for the future.

Capital improvements that were made include: the purchase of a computer and printer, the lease of a copy machine, the renewal of the slate roof, and the purchase of window film to reduce heat in summer and contain heat in winter. Hopefully, the necessary capital improvements have been made and our treasury will have a needed breather.

The transfer of the Society's Farm Museum collections, located in two barns at the Fairgrounds, was finalized. They are now part of the Rutland County Agricultural Society until such time as the State Fair ceases to operate, then ownership reverts to the Rutland Historical Society.

The Annual Meeting of our Society was held at the Franklin Conference Center on 21 October 1993 at the Howe Business Center. Victor Rolando, the featured speaker, presented a program on "Heavy Industry and 19th Century Rutland County".

During the year we held workshops on "Video and Collections" by Gloria Gil, "Archival Materials Organization" by Polly Darnell and "Collections Inventory" by Michelle Pagan. All of these serve as guides for us to set up programs for the care and extended knowledge of materials in our Society.

This year the Annual Meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies was held on 30 April 1994 at Grace Congregational Church under sponsorship of the Vermont Historical Society and the Rutland Historical Society. This was thus a very busy time for the Society.

We express many thanks to the Rutland Recreation Department for the fine job of mowing our lawn. Thanks are also extended to Mayor Jeff Wennberg and City Treasurer Ron Graves for their kind advice and support of our Society. (continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (from page 3)

We appreciate the continued close relationship as we endeavor to enlarge the scope of operations of our Society and benefit more people studying and researching history. As we wind down our 25th year, we are mailing a new newsletter, "News from Nickwackett", between the mailings of the Quarterlies, to provide information throughout the year. We are also, at this time, preparing an exhibit on the *Rutland Herald* called "Behind the Headlines". It will include people in various departments of the paper throughout its past 200 years. The celebration of the *Herald's* 200 years will take place in December. Congratulations!

In closing may I express my sincere appreciation to the Officers, Board Members, Committee Members and others who have so freely given of their time, skills and ideas to make this a most rewarding and fruitful year in the life of our Society.

Morris G. Tucker
President

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

If you are temporarily away from your address and so inform your post office, please let us know also. The post office only gives us a forwarding address if it is a permanent one. We also need to know the dates that you will be away from your permanent address. We will then hold your mail and forward it at an appropriate time or if you will give us the temporary forwarding address, we will mail to you there temporarily.

If you have a winter and a summer address, please let us know both and the dates you are at each and we will do the rest.

We frequently get mail returned because you may be officially away for a few weeks. We do not know where you are or for how long. Our Third Class bulk mail does not get a temporary forwarding address. We want you to get our mail. Please help us to keep in touch.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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Jim Davidson - Editor

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