

# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 2 NO. 1 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 1995

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## MAJOR PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM PLANNED FOR 2-4 FEBRUARY 1995

The Rutland Historical Society has planned a number of informational and entertaining activities for Rutland Historical Society Days on 2-4 February 1995.

Ken Wild is preparing a large pictorial article based on some glass plates recently acquired by the Society. The pictures were probably taken by the younger George Tuttle whose family had owned the Rutland Herald in the early 1880's. The pictures include some wonderful scenes of Rutland around 1890 and a number of scenes of Tuttle family members that provide wonderful vignettes of life in late 19th Century America and Rutland.

On Thursday evening the Society will present a cable TV program of entertainment and information on Channel 15, the Rutland cable access channel, from 7-8:30 p.m. The program will include:

- Movie film of 1914 Rutland.
- A talk segment on Society publications.
- A presentation of "Rutland Quickstep", a 19th Century piece written for Rutland and played by the First Republic Brass.
- A presentation of "Salute to Rutland", a 20th Century piece written by a Rutlander and played by the Rutland City Band.

- A talk segment on Society programs.
- Movie film of 1919 Rutland.
- A video tour of the Society's home at Nickwackett Fire House, including a view of some of the activities going on there.

Tom Carpenter will be the Society host for this special program. Nearly 20 members of the Society are involved in some phase of this production. A special thanks is offered to the staff of Channel 15 for their assistance in making this program possible.

On Friday morning WJJR-FM (98.1) has invited Jim Davidson, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Rutland Historical Society Days Committee, to join the Morning Show from 6:30-10:00 a.m.

This overall promotion is an effort to further community awareness of the Society and its activities. Hopefully this may increase membership in the Society. For some people involvement may only extend to supporting our publications activities with their readership and our program activities with their attendance. But for others perhaps they may seek to take a more active role in some of the varied activities that go on within the Society.

## MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

Whereas February has been designated as National History Month and

whereas Rutland has shared a long and distinguished part of this nation's history and

whereas the Rutland Historical Society is dedicated to receiving, holding, preserving and interpreting historical information, data and artifacts relating to Rutland City and the surrounding area and

whereas the Rutland Historical Society is striving to increase community participation in their activities

I hereby declare February 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1995, as Rutland Historical Society Days.

## OUT OF PRINT QUARTERLIES

In Volume 1, Number 4 of the *News from Nickwackett*, a listing of previously published Quarterlies included a number that were not available. The Society will make photocopies of the out of print back issues for \$2 per issue upon request. Please be aware that the quality of these copies will not be the same as originals. They should meet the need for accessing the information contained.

Following is a list of back issues for which only photocopies are available:

- Vol VI No 4 Architecture of the Rutland Community
- Vol VIII No 4 Benjamin Whitcomb's Corps of Rangers
- Vol IX No 1 The Rutland California Company
- Vol IX No 4 Vermont Currency and Coins
- Vol XI No 3 Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad
- Vol XII No 2 Rutland's Mayors
- Vol XV No 2 The Carpatho-Rusyn Community

## MEMBERSHIP TRIVIA

The Rutland Historical Society currently boasts memberships from 23 states and the District of Columbia. Outside of Vermont, New York and Massachusetts lead with 12 members each. There are eight from Florida and six each from California and Pennsylvania. New Hampshire has five. All other states and the District of Columbia have one to three members. Other states include Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

## COMMITTEE CORNER

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Eleanor Elwert - 773-3417

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Ron Butterfield - 775-5883

#### Exhibit Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

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#### Library Committee

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#### Public Relations

Ken Wild - 773-8687

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Elaine Purdy - 773-6819

#### Research

Dawn Hance - 775-4406

#### President

Morris "Mo" Tucker - 773-7356

(reprinted with permission from the Rutland Daily Herald of 26 December 1994)

## Historic Observances

The Rutland Historical Society has enthusiastically and very capably joined in the observance this month of this newspaper's 200th anniversary.

To begin with, there was a display assembled with painstaking care at the Historical Society's home in the old fire station on Nickwackett Street. The members who worked on that display went out of their way to get names and identities of people and places from the past years of the Herald's existence. There are a lot of Rutland families, past and present, included in the show and it would be well worth the while of anyone in the Rutland area to go there when the museum is open to take a look.

Next, it turned out that this year is the 50th anniversary of the mailing of a "Christmas letter" to Herald employees who were in the armed forces during World War II. The Historical Society's latest quarterly very cleverly reproduces the letter. It, too, has photos and names of many people familiar to Rutlanders.

It is hard to convey to people who are too young to have experienced World War II what a sense of solidarity existed in the nation at that time. It was almost as if the whole country were an extended family. When the draft scooped up nearly every able-bodied man for the armed services, all businesses felt their absence, and the Herald was not the only business to take special steps to reach out to members of the company "family" who had gone to war.

By Christmas of 1944 there were 24 people on the Herald "honor roll" of absent servicemen. In those days even paper-boys were employees of the Herald - the

organization of "carrier merchants" did not arrive here until after the war.

The carriers were paid according to the lengths of their routes. While some routes had 120 or even 140 papers to deliver, those were in relatively short stretches of the city. The highest-paid route (Route 10) had only 90 papers to deliver, but it went along West Street from the tracks at the Mintzer junk yard to the East Proctor Road, taking in Cramton Avenue and Shedd Place along the way. Then the Route 10 carrier went a half-mile out the East Proctor Road, returned to cross Otter Creek to deliver to homes just on the other side of the river, covered Barrett Hill and the western part of Clement Road, and ended at a home that is now part of the College of St. Joseph.

The home at the end of the route was the mansion of Percival W. Clement, once owner of the Herald. In 1944 one of his daughters still lived there, and the carrier would be met at the door by Miss Clement's maid, to whom he would hand the last paper on his route.

For that route the carrier was paid \$21 a month, and that was the highest sum paid to any carrier. Also, if a carrier missed delivering to someone's address, his pay was docked a nickle for each missed delivery.

So the Herald honor roll at Christmas, 1944, included the names of some who had been carriers before they entered the services, as well as the names of full-time employees - and the owner of the newspaper.

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In all, the Rutland Historical Society deserves the thanks of the community for helping to preserve and resuscitate some interesting pieces of local history.

## CURRENT EXHIBIT

"Behind the Headlines", an exhibit commemorating 200 years of the *Rutland Herald* focuses on the people and functions of the *Rutland Herald* that never appeared in the headlines but nevertheless were the backbone of the newspaper. This exhibit will be on display through 15 March 1995. For information about the next exhibit see "Next Exhibit" on this page. The Society is open on Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. and Mondays from 6-9 p.m.

Persons interested in contributing items or in helping to install this exhibit should contact Eleanor Elwert (773-3417). Planning and collecting materials is starting immediately and plans call for the exhibit to be completed in late March. The exhibit is scheduled to run until June.

## NEXT EXHIBIT

A sub-committee, chaired by Eleanor Elwert, is planning an exhibit of Rutland Historical Society life style treasures. The exhibit will include women's hats, fans, and clothing from bygone eras. It will also include silverware, oil portraits, and ephemera that portray some of the particular graces that so highly stylized life in the varied eras of Rutland's past.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The Society's Board of Directors meets every month on the second Tuesday of the month at the Nickwackett Firehouse at 7:30 p.m. Any members are welcome to attend.

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

If your address label shows a "94" then you need to send in your dues for 1995 NOW !!

**RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
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Jim Davidson - Editor

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