

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 5 NO. 4 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 1998

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1

**Society in
Halloween
Parade**

Election Results

Page 2

**New Mailing
Procedure**

**Bernie Donahue
Recognized**

Page 3

**Membership
Report**

**Does 911 Change
Your Address?**

**Music At Eden
Park**

**Special
Programs**

**Wills, Bequests
and Memorial
Funds**

**The Rutland Flu
Epidemic of
1918-1919**

Page 4

**30th Anniver-
sary Update**

Exhibits

**Brandon
Program**

SOCIETY IN HALLOWEEN PARADE



Pat Tucker "lies in state" at the Rutland Historical Society prior to venturing out onto the streets of Rutland to "Bring the Past to Life"

For a second year, the Society participated in the Rutland City Annual Halloween Parade. Using the same theme as last year, "Bringing the Past to Life", the Society entry featured Pat Tucker as the occupant of the Society's ancient body basket. Pat frequently moved arms and legs in such a manner that many asked if the body in motion was a robot. Certainly it was coming to life.

The basket, which rode on a wheeled gurney, was guided through the city streets by Mo Tucker, Jim Davidson, Tom Carpenter and Alex Alexander who were dressed in black derby hats and white gloves. Helen Davidson carried the Society theme board and Paul Crossman and Pat McCormack bore the Society banner.

ELECTION RESULTS

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society on Thursday 15 October 1998, the following officers and directors were elected by the membership:

Pres. Elaine Purdy
V.P. Helen Davidson
Sec. Gloria LaMontagne
Treas. Thomas Carpenter
Dir. (2 yrs) Pat McCormack
Dir. (2 yrs) Alan Shelvey
Dir. (2 yrs) Dorothy Whitford

Continuing Directors are: Alex Alexander, Jacob Sherman and Morris Tucker. Jacob Sherman has been re-elected as Chairman of the Board.

NEW MAILING PROCEDURE

The Publications Committee and the Board of Directors of the Society have announced a new mailing procedure for the Society's Quarterlies and Newsletters.

Starting with this mailing, the Quarterly and the Newsletter will be mailed together in a single envelope. You will still receive four Quarterlies and four Newsletters per year and they will still offer the same basic content. In the past we have mailed each piece separately but the Quarterly and the Newsletter have usually been less than 30 days apart. By this procedure your Society can save about \$200 per year in mailing costs.

But money was not the only reason for this change in procedure. We do know that with the increased use of automation by the U.S. Postal Service, that some of you have received damaged items. If you receive any of our items in a damaged condition please let us know. We will replace them at no cost to you.

Our options to reduce the damage to items were to tab the items, which is an expensive and not very effective procedure, or to put them in envelopes which offer more protection. By combining the Quarterly and the Newsletter in a single mailing we can cover the cost of the protective envelopes and save nearly \$200 per year. We also will cut the cost of mailing labels in half and reduce our labor of mailing in half.

The one drawback is that you will only get mail from us four times a year rather than eight times. However, you will get the same publications that you get now. Many organizations have reduced their publications to save money. We hope to avoid that. We trust that you will be supportive of our efforts to provide good member service.

With the advent of a new Rutland Historical Society web site, for those of you with computers, and our planned program on Public Access Channel 15, for those of you on the Adelpia cable system, we should be able to replace our reduced mailing contact with these new opportunities for member and Society interaction.

BERNIE DONAHUE RECOGNIZED

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Society, Bernie Donahue was recognized for his quiet but persistently loyal contributions to the Society. Bernie is a faithful and long-time member of the Archives, Exhibit and Program Committees.

In addition, Bernie hardly ever misses the Monday night and Saturday afternoon public hours. Such a long-term and devoted service is what makes the Society vital. Bernie has set a wonderful example of service for others to emulate.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Archives Committee
Alan Shelvey - 775-4168

Artifacts Committee
Eleanor Elwert - 773-3417

Building Committee
Morris Tucker - 773-7356

Exhibit Committee
Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Finance Committee
Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Historic Peservation Committee
Ann Singiser - 773-8172

Library Committee
Ann Glagola - 775-1302

Membership Committee
Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Personnel Committee
Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee
Pat McCormack - 747-0243

Public Relations
Kendall Wild - 773-8687

Publications
Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research
Dorothy Whitford - 773-3219

President
Elaine Purdy - 773-6819

Society Historian
Mary Segale - 773-2326

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our current membership is over 550 but the Society needs to increase this number in order to keep its budget balanced and still carry on new ventures. There are two ways you can help: (1) perhaps some of you may be able to voluntarily increase your membership support to Contributing or Sponsor; (2) all of you can enroll friends, neighbors or family members either by asking them or making a gift to them that works throughout the year.

During our 30th Anniversary year we will be particularly working to increase our community support at the Contributing and Sponsorship levels. We also need the active help of new members on our various committees. Please remember that as an all-volunteer organization we depend on members for everything that the Society does. Consider if you have some time or talents that you would be willing to donate to the work of the Society. We could use your help.

DOES 911 CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS?

If the implementation of 911 has affected your mailing address, please let the Society know your new address. If you are renewing, just a note with your new address will be appreciated. The Postal Service will forward your mail but there is a 50 cent fee to the Society for each address change they send us. Please help us save money.

MUSIC AT EDEN PARK

For over a year now, Jim Davidson has been bringing a taped music program to the residents of the Eden Park Nursing Home every month except December. In the name of the Society, he has presented music of the past to renew memories of days gone by. This is just another facet of the Society's mission of "Bringing the Past To Life".

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

During this fall the Society had the opportunity to provide two programs for local groups. In October the Meadows at East Mountain, one of our corporate members, hosted an open house. The Society provided a slide show on the history of transportation in Rutland for their residents and guests.

In November the Society hosted the program portion of the annual meeting of the Ann Story Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Jim Davidson presented a talk on "Rutland's Revolutionary Soldiers" at the Society.

WILLS, BEQUESTS AND MEMORIAL FUNDS

As you may have the opportunity to create or reassess your will or bequests we hope that you might keep in mind the future needs of the Rutland Historical Society. As we reach our 30th year and the completion of our first generation of corporate life, we are most interested in acquiring funds that could help to guarantee our future financial well-being.

Remember that we have a memorial membership which is most appropriate for those departed who have had a special interest in and love of Rutland's history. We would also be pleased to be included as one of the charities of choice at the time of funeral arrangements.

THE RUTLAND FLU EPIDEMIC OF 1918-1919

Rutland was struck with an influenza epidemic in 1918 when September's 34 cases climbed to 710 in October. The epidemic reduced to 77 and 78 cases respectively in November and December. But in January cases rose back to 198. By April there were only 10 cases. The epidemic was over.

30TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

The 30th Anniversary Committee has become a committee of the whole Board of Directors and has held special meetings for planning and implementing a 30th year celebration.

The new Rutland Historical Society WEB site is moving forward. A WEB committee has met with the Rutland Chamber of Commerce representative and the WEB site designer and maintenance person to map out plans. The committee would like to invite any persons who may have talents or interests in the continual preparation of changing materials for the WEB site. (Please call Jim Davidson at 773-7525). We will have more details on this project in our next Newsletter.

The new Society television series for Channel 15 (the Rutland cable access channel) is also moving along. We should begin offering alternate week programming in a month or two. Again, any persons interested in any aspects of this TV programming, especially the technical aspects, should call Jim Davidson at 773-7525.

The Quarterly sale continues during 1999. To date we have sold over 700 back issues during the sale. Don't miss out on this opportunity.

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
Memorial Membership			\$200.00

**IF YOU HAVE A "98" ON
YOUR MAILING LABEL
WE NEED YOUR DUES**

EXHIBITS

The Society has installed two new exhibits.

One is on the Spanish-American War of 1898 and is highlighted by a series of photographs of Rutland's Company A of the Vermont National Guard. Although the Vermont National Guard did not get any closer to the fighting than a camp in Georgia, the photographs of camp life offer an interesting insight into the war. The photos include the names of many well-known Rutland families.

The second exhibit commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the Rutland Chamber of Commerce. It focuses on the activities of the Chamber in the 1950's, which was a decade of intense and widespread activity by the Chamber and its many committees.

BRANDON PROGRAM

The Brandon Historical Society and the Vermont Council on the Humanities will offer a program entitled "Picking the Brains of Genealogical Researchers - Dead and Alive!" by Malcolm Bevins at Illingsworth Hall, Brandon Senior Center, on Thursday 21 January 1999 at 7:00 p.m.. The meeting is free, open to the public and ADA accessible. For further information call Deborah Kirby at (802) 247-3124.

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