

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 7 NO. 2 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2000

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SUMMER DANCES WITH RECORDED MUSIC OF THE GREAT BIG BANDS

This summer the Rutland Historical Society will offer its 3rd Annual Series of Friday Night dances featuring the music of the great dance bands of the 1930's to the 1960's. The programs will provide recorded music of two great bands each Friday evening from the 23rd of June to the 18th of August 2000. The programs will run from 7 to 9 p.m. on each date.

Through co-sponsorship by the Rutland Recreation Department, the dances will be held at the Godnick Center off Deer Street in Rutland City. Lemonade or punch will be provided. There is no charge for admission. Both listeners and dancers of all ages are welcome.

The Program Committee of the Rutland Historical Society suggests that neighbors, relatives, friends and social or family groups might wish to come as a group to one or more of the dance evenings. Find out how much fun the music that grandmother and grandfather swung to can be.

People of all ages are welcome and encouraged to share the fun. No one is too young or too old to enjoy the evening. Bring a friend or friends. Remember that it is all a free community service of the sponsors.

2000 FRIDAY DANCE PROGRAM

- 23 JUN Artie Shaw &
Harry James
- 30 JUN Glenn Miller &
Glen Gray
- 7 JUL Kay Kyser &
Benny Goodman
- 14 JUL Tommy Dorsey &
Les Brown
- 21 JUL Sammy Kaye &
Les Elgart
- 28 JUL Guy Lombardo &
Ray Anthony
- 4 AUG Shep Fields &
Bert Kaempfert
- 11 AUG Billy Vaughn &
Lester Lanin
- 18 AUG Lawrence Welk &
Herb Alpert

DID YOU PAY YOUR YEAR 2000 DUES?

The Membership Committee has recently mailed out membership reminders to those members who have currently not paid for the year 2000. If your mailing label has a "99" please respond as soon as possible. Although we are an all-volunteer organization we depend on our membership dues to provide for a number of items in our budget that must be purchased.

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society continues to produce "Historically Speaking" on 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 the following episodes can be obtained from Channel 15. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 13 - Tom Carpenter hosts George Bates of the Loyalty Day Parade Committee in a discussion of the history of the Loyalty Day Parade. The program includes still photos of Rutland parades from the Civil War era into the 20th Century. Rutland has always loved a parade and has always been a great parade city. The program also includes a series of wonderful video clips from Loyalty Day parades of the 1990's.

Episode # 14 - Jim Davidson hosts a program with Marissa Johnson, a senior history major from Castleton State College, as his guest. Marissa volunteered at the Society during the Spring Term to gain some hands-on experience in a local historical society. The Society provided experiences with archives, library materials, artifacts, exhibits, publications and hosting. Marissa shares her experiences which are illustrated by a series of still photos. The program provides an interesting overview of the multitude of volunteer activities that take place at the Society.

Episode # 15 - Tom Carpenter hosts Jim Proctor, State Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, in a far-ranging discussion of the Sons of Union Veterans and their activities. The discussion includes a focus on the Ripley Camp (or post) which is based in Rutland and its activities. Jim Proctor was the leader of the Rutland Camp for the last few years prior to becoming state commander. Other camps are in Montpelier and Chelsea, Vermont.

VMGA DISCOUNT ADMISSIONS

The Rutland Historical Society is a member of the Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance which is offering members of local societies who belong to the VMGA a 10% discount on admission to VMGA institutions that charge admission. The discounts apply to admission only. Most Vermont institutions (165) are members of the VMGA as well as 12 others in New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts.

A single person membership gets a single 10% discount. A Mr. and Mrs. membership will get two 10% discounts. As the Society does not normally issue membership cards, those interested in the discount should call ahead to obtain a proper identification card and a list of institutions offering the discount.

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 Preservation 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

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

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

RUTLAND RAILWAY ASSOCIATION LEASES CENTER RUTLAND DEPOT

Through the generosity of William Carris, son of the late Henry Carris of Carris Reels, the Rutland Railway Association, Inc., a public nonprofit organization, has leased use of the Center Rutland Depot railroad station for use as exhibit space for model railroads and historical railroad artifacts.

HO-scale and N-scale model train layouts are planned for the east end of the building. At some future date, the Association may establish model train layouts of other gauges such as Lionel and American Flyer. The other half of the station will be used as a museum of historical railroad artifacts. The RRA has assumed custody of Henry Carris' railroad collection, and will be working to exhibit it as part of the planned displays.

The Association's meetings are currently held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Center Rutland Depot. Guests are welcome. Membership is open to the public. Interested persons are invited to visit the Association's website at <http://rutlandrailway.tripod.com>. Interested persons may also contact the Rutland Railway Association at P.O. Box 232, Center Rutland, Vermont 05736. The Association's President, Ron Butterfield, can be reached at (802) 775-5883 or via E-mail at: rab42@usa.net.

GENEXCHANGE OFFERS FREE ONLINE DATA

Genealogical research by computer on the web is now one of the hottest new research tools that is offering new sites and services daily. Some sites offer free services and some offer services for a fee. Recently the Society received a notice from GenExchange which is the third largest genealogy project online. Opened in September 1996, the GenExchange is a site dedicated to ensuring permanent free access to genealogical data. The GenExchange project seeks to preserve raw genealogical data online where it is indexed and searchable using one of dozens of search engines. The GenExchange is a not-for-profit organization whose members and volunteers work to transcribe records into databases for free permanent use by all.

The state coordinator for Vermont is Debbie Whitman, P.O. Box 1978, Manchester Center VT 05255. Debbie can also be reached at dwhitman@genexchange.org.

Any type of genealogically significant data can be found at the GenExchange. The amount of data in any given county depends on the work of volunteers interested in those materials. GenExchange Project members add over 100,000 new records to the databases each month. There are millions of records available in the databases now. For specific information on the databases, please visit some of the following sites:

Main GenExchange	http://www.genexchange.org
US GenExchange	http://www.genexchange.org/us.cfm
Vermont GenExchange	http://www.genexchange.org/vt/index.cfm
How can I help?	http://www.genexchange.org/volunteering.cfm
About the GenExchange	http://www.genexchange.org/volunteers.cfm
Mailing lists	http://www.genexchange.org/maillistform.cfm
Surname Discussion Forum	http://www.genexchange.org/forums/
GenExchange Newsletter	http://www.genexchange.org/gesr/
Frequently asked questions	http://www.genexchange.org/faq.cfm
Contact	http://www.genexchange.org/contact.cfm

TREASURE HUNT

In May the Pleasant Manor Nursing facility in Rutland sponsored a Treasure Hunt. The Rutland Historical Society contributed treasure hunt clues based on a series of historical locations in downtown Rutland. The Society also contributed book and membership prizes. The Society and the Rutland City Recreation Department were the beneficiaries of the project this year.

FACTORY POINT BANK

The corridors of the new Factory Point Bank on the corner of West Street and Court Square have been enhanced by reproductions of a number of historic photos from the collections of the Society. The bank selected photos which illustrate the neighborhood's past. The bank is a Sponsor member of the Society.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2000

The Society participated in a statewide festival, "Vermont History Expo 2000", on Saturday and Sunday, 17 and 18 June 2000, at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. The event was attended by numbers way beyond the expectations of the sponsors. The Society's exhibit included "Down at the Depot", an exhibit of Rutland's railroad past, and "Heavy Industry In Rutland" which included the Howe Scale Company, the Patch-Wegner Company, and the Lincoln Iron Works.

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

HISTORY OF ST. PETER'S PARISH, RUTLAND, VERMONT

In 1970, Father Patrick T. Hannon completed a hand-written history of St. Peter's Parish in three volumes after several years of research. The work remained unpublished until this year when St. Peter Parish published it. Father Hannon's work has been edited and updated by Society members Jim and Helen Davidson.

The 166-page work includes over 40 full-page pictures. An extensive index makes the work useful for those seeking family history. Although the work is primarily a church parish history, it includes the activities of parish social and athletic organizations. The book may be purchased at the St. Peter Rectory, 134 Convent Avenue, Rutland VT 05701.

SLIDE PROGRAM

The Society has a series of slides which have been developed into a flexible slide program on several aspects of Rutland's history. A number of versions of this program have been offered. In April the Twilight Homemakers visited the Society for a program, In May the Society brought a slide program to the Godnick Center for the Senior Citizens' organization. In June the Poultney D.A.R. Chapter came to the Society for a slide program on Rutland's history.

SCHOOL VISITS

During May and June there were a number of school visits at the Society. Second and Third Grades from the Rutland Public School system stopped to briefly acquaint themselves with the Society. In June, Sixth Grade classes from North Clarendon Elementary School came for a slide program and walking tour.

THE FACILITIES OF THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:

MONDAYS 6 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS 1 - 4 PM