

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 8 NO. 2

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2001

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BIG BAND DANCES MOVE TO SATURDAY

This summer the 4th Annual Series of big band dances sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society will move to Saturday nights. The series will feature the music of the great dance bands of the 1930s to the 1960s. Each Saturday evening from June 30th through August 25th, the Society will provide the recorded music of two different bands for your dancing and listening pleasure. Each band will provide a mix of sweet and swing music to provide for different music tastes. The exception to this general policy will be the last band on the last date which will offer an all swing hour. The dancing will run from 7 - 9 p.m. each evening.

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.

People of all ages are welcome and encouraged to share the fun. Don't worry that you might not know the steps. There have been young toddlers who danced with their parents, teenagers who had just discovered swing, mid-life folks who just caught or just missed the big band era and seniors who danced or just listened and reminisced. Both singles and couples are welcome. Bring a friend or friends.

You can afford to treat yourself or explore something new because

its all free. Plan to gather a group for a night out dancing to the music of the big bands.

2001 SATURDAY BIG BAND DANCE PROGRAM

- 30 JUN Les Brown &
Count Basie
- 7 JUL Tommy Dorsey &
Louis Armstrong
- 14 JUL Duke Ellington &
Glen Gray
- 21 JUL Billy Vaughn &
Benny Goodman
- 28 JUL Les Elgart &
Jan Savitt
- 4 AUG Enoch Light &
Harry James
- 11 AUG Sammy Kaye &
Charlie Barnet
- 18 AUG Glenn Miller &
Woody Herman
- 25 AUG Artie Shaw &
Billy May (All Swing)

**IF YOU HAVE A "00
ON YOUR MAILING
LABEL WE NEED
YOUR DUES**

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society continues to produce a new program of "Historically Speaking" on Channel 15 each month. 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 # 22 - Patricia Wiley, Museum Educator and Coordinator of the Annual Meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies, was the guest of "Historically Speaking" in April. The show discusses the program of the League meeting on 5 MAY 2001 which was held in Rutland and hosted by the Rutland Historical Society. Jim Davidson of the Society and local arrangements coordinator was host. The program highlighted the various offerings of the program which was held at the Grace Congregational United Church of Christ and the Rutland Historical Society.

Episode # 23 - Jim Davidson of the Society prepared a sampling from eight of the Society first 22 programs to represent the variety of topics and types of programs offered during the first two years of the Society's "Historically Speaking" series. This program is a celebration of the Second Anniversary of "Historically Speaking".

Episode # 24 - Tom Carpenter hosts this program in which Jim Davidson offers a brief history of the big bands who are to provide the music for this summer's big band dance program offered by the Society in cooperation with the Rutland Recreation Department. The program includes pictures of the bands and their leaders as well as short samples of their music. This summer the music of these 18 bands will be available for dancing and listening on Saturday nights at the Godnick Center.

NEW ENGLAND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION MEETING

On 4 JUN President Helen Davidson and Vice-president Dorothy Whitford attended a conference for administrators and board members of local historical organizations in Woodstock. This meeting was sponsored by the New England Museum Association.

Many good personal contacts were made and much good discussion took place. Helen and Dorothy were pleased to report that the Rutland Historical Society seems to be well-organized and in the forefront of new initiatives among local historical societies. However, in common with many organizations, the Society could make use of new volunteers in almost every area of its endeavors. Anyone interested in volunteering to be part of a winning team, is invited to call Helen Davidson, President, at 773-7525.

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

David Nettleton - 438-2689

Library Committee

Ann Glagola - 775-1302

Membership Committee

Jim Davidson - 773-7525

Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

Publications

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research

Dorothy Whitford - 773-3219

President

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

CONTINUING EXHIBIT

The current exhibit "Eight Generations of Rutland's History" will continue through the summer. School teachers and students have found the exhibit very useful in putting the elements of our local history into perspective. A companion brochure traces the outlines of Rutland's history and identifies the key persons and events in Rutland's past generations whose images appear in the exhibit.

SPRING CLEANING

Morris Tucker and Jim Davidson of the Building Committee had able assistance from Society members Tom Carpenter, Mary Segale and Carmine Pacca for a Saturday morning spring cleaning session on 21 APR.

All windows up and downstairs at the Society were washed inside and outside. All woodwork on the main floor was cleaned. The carpet was thoroughly vacuumed and all light globes were cleaned. The regular cleaning of the restroom floor and facilities was included.

Regular cleaning maintenance is a continuing task. The Building Committee would very much like to have some volunteer members willing to assist with the regular cleaning schedule to make everyone's task easier. If you could help, perhaps once a month, please contact Morris Tucker, Building Committee Chairman, at 773-7356.

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

On 4 JUN Society members Nancy Kennedy and Mary Segale attended an Oral History workshop program at the Proctor Library. The workshop was presented by Greg Sharrow and sponsored by The Vermont Council On the Humanities and the Proctor Library.

Oral history interviewing is a very time-consuming process but filled with rich historical rewards. The Society has equipment and many opportunities for interviewing older citizens about numerous phases of Rutland's history. The Society can also provide training and advice as needed. Many of these personal reminiscences of Rutland will disappear unless we find

volunteers who have an interest and some time to pursue such a rewarding project. Call Jim Davidson at 773-7525 if you are interested in this phase of our community's history.

SURVEY OF SIOUX INDIAN BEADED WORK

On 3 JUN Michaela Niero, of the Shelburne Museum, visited to Society to view the Sioux beaded work of the Livingston Collection for possible conservation work. The Society has received a grant for this assessment and will be receiving a report of recommendations shortly.

PROGRAM FOR TWILIGHT HOMEMAKERS CLUB

Jim Davidson presented a program on "Care of Photos" for the Twilight Homemakers Club at the Society on 22 MAY. The program included a discussion of the proper handling and storage of photos. Jim also emphasized the urgency to identify the who, where and what in family photos before the last living links or memories have departed.

LOYALTY DAY PARADE

The Society participated in this year's Loyalty Day Parade with a vehicle and recorded big band music. Two students from Rutland High School, Andrea Doenges and Ethan Townsend, thrilled the crowd with their wonderful demonstration of swing dancing along the parade route. The Society especially thanks them for their contribution. Society members passed out summer big band dance schedules along the route.

VERMONT LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Vermont Local Historical Societies in Rutland on 5 MAY was well-attended and, by reports, its programs were well-received. Thanks go to the members of the Rutland Historical Society who assisted in many ways to make things go smoothly.

SCHOOL VISITS BY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Lloyd Davis, Carmine Pacca, Elaine Purdy and Jim Davidson made visits to the Sixth Grade history classes at the Rutland Intermediate School to discuss The Depression and Life On the Home Front during World War II.

Carmine Pacca, Elaine Purdy and Jim Davidson also made a visit to the Seventh and Eighth Grades at the Rutland Area Christian School to discuss The Depression.

PROGRAM AT MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER - GENESIS ELDER CARE

On 17 MAY Jim Davidson played an "Historically Speaking" program "A Walking Tour of 1890 Rutland" for the residents of Mountain View Center. This program involves a look at an 1890 map of downtown Rutland and then moves a TV camera up and down the same streets to provide a moving close-up view of an 1890 photo.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2001

The Vermont History Expo 2001 will take place on Saturday 23 JUN and Sunday 24 JUN at Tunbridge, Vermont. Activities and programs will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

CLASS VISITS TO THE SOCIETY

During the last 30 days nearly 300 young people have visited the Society. Eight classes from the Rutland Intermediate School's Sixth Grades visited on four different dates. Each class was given a half-hour overview of the current exhibit "Eight Generations of Rutland's History", watched the "Historically Speaking" TV program on David Sawyer's 1898 photo album of life in Rutland and took a one-hour walking tour of Rutland's historic districts.

The walking tour goes from the Main Street Park down Center Street to Merchants Row, along Merchants Row and up Washington Street and back to the starting point at the Society. An emphasis is placed on the movement of the town center from uptown to downtown near the railroad. Architectural types of different time periods are noted as evidence of this movement toward the railroad.

In June two Clarendon Sixth Grade classes also availed themselves of the same school program.

Two Rutland First and Second Grades visited the Society for a brief program about the Society and its collections and programs. The Society also loaned a video about early railroads in Vermont to the classes in preparation for a train trip.

GLASS PLATE FUND

Since our last Newsletter the Society has received two gifts of \$200 each and a gift of stock valued at approximately \$1,000 toward the Glass Plate Fund. The Glass Plate Committee would still be pleased to receive any financial assistance that members can offer.

THE FACILITIES OF THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN ON:

MONDAYS **6 - 9 PM**
SATURDAYS **1 - 4 PM**