

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 8 NO. 4 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1

Halloween
Parade

Election Results

Page 2

"Historically
Speaking"

Recognition

Page 3

"Getting Around"

Research
Activities At
The Society

Program For
Senior Citizen
Council

Program For
Third Grade At
Christ The King
School

Eden Park
Music Program

Cleaning Crew

Cement Crew

Page 4

Exhibits

First Night

Vermont History
Expo 2002

Archive &
Library
Committees
Seek Additional
Workers

It's Time To
Renew



This white truck (above) carried the Society's "Time Travel Machine" in the Halloween parade.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

The Society's presentation in this year's Halloween Parade was a float on the theme of "Time Travel". Mo Tucker and Jim Davidson, in their white clean room suits with "Rutland Historical Society" identification on the back, served as operators of the "Time Travel Machine". Lisa Davidson and daughter Ashleigh operated the white truck carrying the "Time Travel Machine". Time travelers were: Joel Davidson (a contemporary adult), his son Taylor (a young boy of the 1930's) and Jeff Coombs (a young Civil War soldier). Helen Davidson and Tom Carpenter distributed brochures about time travel and the Rutland Historical Society. Although the parade was accompanied by a light drizzle, it failed to dampen the spirits of the Society's time travelers.

ELECTION RESULTS

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society on Thursday 25 OCT 2001, the following officers and directors were elected by the membership:

Pres. Helen Davidson

V.P. Dorothy Whitford

Sec. Jacob Sherman

Treas. Thomas Carpenter

Dir. (2 yrs.) Robert Cassidy

Dir. (2 yrs.) Michael Dwyer

Dir. (2 yrs.) Angela Hinchey

Continuing Directors are:

David Nettleton

Karen Sanborn

Morris Tucker.

Michael Dwyer has been re-elected by the Board as Chairperson.

**2002 MEMBERSHIPS
ARE DUE IN JANUARY**

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING"

"Historically Speaking" can be seen on Channel 15 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 # 28 - Jim Davidson hosts a conversation about history in Vermont with Gaior Davis, Director of the Vermont Historical Society. The conversation ranges from the nature of history to its proper role in the schools and the importance of state and local historical societies.

Episode # 29 - Dorothy Whitford hosts Donald Wickman who presents an illustrated history of the American Revolutionary activities at Mt. Independence during 1776-1777. The program includes colored views of the site features today and a number of historic colored images of the officers, men and places involved in the events of 1776-1777.

Episode # 30 - Jim Davidson hosts Michael Seward, local antique dealer, and Dorothy Whitford, who loaned a number of pre-WWII toys to the Society, in a discussion of some samples from the exhibit at the Society entitled "Traces of Holidays Past". Michael provides an historical view of the objects selected while Dorothy adds a number of personal notes about the toys.

RECOGNITION

At the Annual Society Meeting Dorothy Whitford and Tom Carpenter were recognized in verse penned by Elaine Purdy for their most recent extraordinary services to the Society. Be sure to note the vertical acronym created:

Vice President Dorothy Whitford

Genealogy is her joy

Looking for stories about early Rutland residents

And helping researchers trace their roots

She's involved in both church and historical society activities

Sitting on committees and ex-chair of the Society's executive board

Problem solving with grace and humor

Listing the Society's historic photo collection

And preserving its invaluable glass plate negatives

These are just a few of her many endeavors

Eager to serve but never seeking acclaim

She personifies the best in volunteerism

Treasurer Thomas Carpenter - Tom Terrific

Nothing stumps Tom

Our invaluable treasurer

Never at a loss for a solution

Or suggestions for resolving a difficult situation

Not ever losing his patience

Calling upon his sense of humor and vast store of anecdotes

Eager to assist in many diverse functions

Nailing down our financial assets

Trusty Tom is our terrific treasurer

Suffice it to say he is the Society's most singular, significant, and staunch supporter

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 Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee

Dorothy Whitford - 773-3219

Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

President

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Board Chairperson

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

"GETTING AROUND"

On 22 SEP 01 Jim Davidson represented the Society at the fall regional meeting of the Council of Local Historical Societies at the Wallingford Historical Society. He also represented the Society at a workshop on Communications offered by the Vermont Historical Society at the Pittsford Historical Society on 2 OCT 01. He brought back to the Society a manual on Communications produced by the Vermont Historical Society. A copy is available at the Society.

On 18 OCT 01 President Helen Davidson and husband Jim represented the Society at a breakfast presentation by Mark Fenton, nationally-known consultant on Walking Programs. The Society has a walking tour package that goes from Main Street Park down Center Street to Merchants Row, thence to Washington Street and east up to Main Street and back to the Society. The tour emphasizes the movement of the town center from Main Street Park down Center Street to the area near the 1850 railroad center. The walk up Washington Street re-enforces the changes in residential types in a reverse chronology. This tour is used with school groups visiting the Society but certainly could be used for other groups and individuals. It takes about one hour to complete the loop.

On 20 OCT 01 President Helen Davidson and husband Jim attended a conference at the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier on the topic "So What! - Why Does History Matter". On 20 NOV 01 they attended a Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance-sponsored open interchange on the topic of "Home Schoolers and Historical Societies and Museums".

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT THE SOCIETY

Three students from the Lothrop School in Pittsford and their teacher have been meeting with Jim Davidson at the Society on Friday mornings. They are doing research on the French-Canadian families who came to Rutland in the 19th Century. They are developing an historical presentation for the Vermont History Day competition in April 2002. They have been particularly focusing on the Valiquette family.

The Proper Victorian Ladies from Massachusetts spent 7 and 8 DEC 01 at the Society in research for local material for their presentation at First Night.

PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZEN COUNCIL

On 6 NOV 01 Jim Davidson presented a program on "The Care of Photographs" for the Senior Citizen Council at the Godnick Center. A sampling of prints from the Society's glass plate collections was also shared.

PROGRAM FOR THIRD GRADE AT CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL

On 14 NOV 01 Jim Davidson visited a Third Grade class at Christ the King School to offer a program on the development of the Rutland community from 1761 to 1800. The class has been studying the local community. Jim reports that the program was well-received, the children had numerous questions, and most important of all, they would like the Society to come back again.

EDEN PARK MUSIC PROGRAM

Jim Davidson continues to visit the people at Eden Park on a monthly schedule to provide a program of recorded music from the past.

CLEANING CREW

This fall a volunteer group of Society members gave the main level of the Society a thorough cleaning. They also began cleaning the upper level library area. This group has agreed to provide periodic maintenance cleaning of the Society's facilities. Members interested in helping in the regular maintenance of the Society building are welcome to join this group. Please contact Morris Tucker, Building Committee Chairperson for further information.

CEMENT CREW

On 8 OCT 01 a "cement crew" of volunteers mixed cement and filled cracks in the walks and the building foundation where needed.

EXHIBITS

The Society currently is continuing its exhibition on "Eight Generations of Rutland's History". It also is offering "Covered Bridges of Rutland" and a seasonal exhibit of dolls, children's tea sets, a doll house, children's books, toy soldiers, early children's iron vehicles and a collection of Christmas and New Year's postcards.

The Nickwackett Firehouse materials and the Sanborn Insurance Map of 1890 Rutland are also still on exhibit.

FIRST NIGHT

The Society will again be a part of the Rutland First Night celebration on New Year's Eve. This year the Society will offer recorded music for dancing and listening in the atrium of the Asa Bloomer State Office Building from 4 to 6 p.m. and again from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. The program entitled "Swinging Through the Ages" will offer dance music of the 20th Century from Charleston and swing to rock and roll.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2002

On 20 NOV 01 the Society hosted the Vermont Historical Society regional meeting for information on Expo 2002. The Rutland Historical Society will participate in the 2002 Expo in Tunbridge, Vermont, on 22 and 23 JUN 02. Details will be offered in a future *Newsletter*.

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

ARCHIVES & LIBRARY COMMITTEES SEEK ADDITIONAL WORKERS

The Archives and Library Committees are actively seeking additional volunteers. Both committees deal with processing and cataloging new materials: Archives primarily with papers and Library primarily with books, although in practice there is much overlap. Training will be provided. The Archives people work every Thursday evening from 7 - 9. The Library people work Wednesday mornings from 9 - 12. If there is sufficient interest, additional work groups and schedules will be arranged. If you are interested, leave a message at (802) 775-2006 and a member will contact you.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW

As the old year leaves us, it is time to renew your membership in the Rutland Historical Society for the year 2002 unless you happen to be one of those who renewed for multiple years or chose to be a Life Member. A "01" on your mailing label means that you have paid through 2001 and need to renew for the year 2002. The Society operates on a January to December membership year. As you prepare your check for membership, don't forget that gift memberships keep giving throughout the year. Why not give a friend a membership? It is a wonderful way to bring old Rutland memories to both young and old no matter where they now live.

**IF YOU HAVE A "01" ON
YOUR MAILING LABEL
WE NEED YOUR DUES**

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