

NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 9 NO. 4 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2002

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SUCCESSFUL SALE

On the weekend of 12 and 13 OCT 02, the Society conducted a day-long sale each day. The sale included Society publications and prints, items from the Henry Safford Fiske Collection of Vermont and Lake Champlain sketches from the 1890's which have been on loan to the Society, old picture frames with glass, duplicate issues of Vermont magazines, duplicate town and city reports, duplicate telephone directories, general books not appropriate for the Society's Library and lumber scraps. A number of Society members helped to organize and staff the sale which was immensely successful. The Society netted over \$1,000 from the sale.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

The presentation of the Society at this year's Halloween Parade was a decorated antique auto provided by Ray Nutting. It was followed by a number of fans complete with goal posts and led by a football player in early costume. The presentation theme commemorated nearly three-quarters of a century of football rivalry between Rutland High School and Mount Saint Joseph Academy. Readers may be interested to know that the Society Library has a copy of *The Rivalry: Football ... the first 60 years* by Ed Carroll and "Funzie" Cioffi. The Society also has photographs of many R.H.S. football teams from the early 20th Century. Rutland has always been a football town and the rivalry between Rutland and M.S.J. has been a jewel of Rutland's sports history.

ELECTION RESULTS

At the Annual Business Meeting of the Rutland Historical Society on 16 OCT 2002, 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.) Carmine Pacca
Dir. (2 yrs.) Karen Sanborn
Dir. (2 yrs.) Morris Tucker

Continuing Directors are:
Robert Cassidy, Michael Dwyer and Angela Hinchey.

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

SUCCESSFUL FIRST NIGHT PROGRAM

At the First Night celebration on New Year's Eve the Society provided recorded music in the Asa Bloomer Building. The program provided music from the Twenties, the Big Band Era, Rock 'n' Roll, a Latin segment, and some of the New Swing from the 1990's. This is the fourth year that the Society has been a part of the First Night entertainment. The Society provided music for listening and dancing from 5 pm to 10:15 pm.

**REMEMBER 2003
MEMBERSHIPS ARE
DUE IN JANUARY**

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" ON CHANNEL 15 IN RUTLAND

The Society produces "Historically Speaking" on cable 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, Rutland Regional Community Television, P.O. Box 500, Rutland VT 05702-0500. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to the above. You must provide a self-addressed padded bag with postage. Channel 15 provides the tape. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 40 - Jim Davidson hosts Anna Whooley for a discussion for her research on the Irish immigration experience in Ireland and America. A highlight of the program is Anna's ten minute monologue presentation in costume of "The Plight of the Irish Mill Girl". Anna writes her own script and designs and makes her own costumes.

Episode # 41 - Jim Davidson of the Society presents a video program on the Flood of 1927 which is devoted to pictures of the flood's destruction in the Rutland and Proctor areas. Jim provides a narration which identifies the various pictures and ties them into the story of the flood in the Rutland area. This was the 75th Anniversary of one of Vermont's greatest natural disasters.

Episode # 42 - Jim Davidson hosts a program on the Physical Activity Coalition of the Rutland County Area. A far ranging discussion between his guest, Dr. Ben Thompson, a leader in the local Physical Activity Coalition, and host Jim Davidson of the Society, traces the history of the Physical Activity Coalition and the involvement of the Society in the Coalition.

THINGS TO NOTE

The Rutland Free Library has a new service available to its patrons who are on the Internet. Stop at the Library to check out the Bistro Library System that you can use at home. The system offers EbscoHost Online Services which give full-text coverage for a large number of magazines. Free access to the History Quest web site is another benefit offered.

The Sons of Union Veterans, Ripley Camp # 4, meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Rutland American Legion Post on Washington Street at 7:00 pm. Men who have an interest in the Civil War era are welcomed. Civil War ancestors are not required.

A new program on Jewish Immigration to Rutland will begin on Channel 15 on the cable on 15 JAN 03. This is the fifth program on genealogy in the "Historically Speaking" series. Times can be found above. Don't miss it.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Chairpersons

Archives Committee

Tom Carpenter - 773-3626

Artifacts Committee

Ann Glagola - 775-1302

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

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Personnel Committee

Mary Segale - 773-2326

Program Committee

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

Publications Committee

Jake Sherman - 775-2784

Research Committee

Patty Pickett - 438-2759

Society Historian

Mary Segale - 773-2326

President

Helen Davidson - 773-7525

Board Chairperson

Michael F. Dwyer - 483-6993

PROJECTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Society has a number of exciting new projects planned for the new year. Foremost, the Society will be establishing a WEB site. Folks interested in this WEB project should contact Jim Davidson at 773-7525.

A Cemeteries Project, which the Society plans to get off the ground this spring, will offer an opportunity to repair stones in local cemeteries. Contact Dorothy Whitford of the Society at 775-2006 if you have interest in participating in this project.

The Society is also going to carry on an Italian Immigration Project which will develop a history of Italian immigration to the original Town of Rutland in the 20th Century. Persons interested in this project should contact Michael Dwyer at 483-6993.

The Society is also presenting a new ethnic cultural history series for the residents of Eden Park in addition to its monthly music programs. Each cultural program consists of a video on the background of a particular Rutland ethnic group from the Society's "Historically Speaking" series and music of that cultural group.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

In September Jim and Helen Davidson contributed a mock jury program based on the John Phair murder trial for the Elder Hostel programs of The Homestead in Castleton. The Homestead is a community program in Castleton which provides senior and other community services. Guests at the Elder Hostels come from throughout the country and have had an opportunity to explore some of this region's cultural riches. The Society's *Quarterly* "Rutland Murder Mystery - 1874" (Vol. XIII No.4) has been the major source material for this program which has literally stirred the interest of participants. Jim and Helen have offered this program for three years.

In October Jim Davidson made a presentation on the activities of the Green Mountain Boys for another Elder Hostel program in Goshen.

STUDIO PHOTO NEGATIVES PROJECT

The Society has published over 500 names of people from the Rutland area whose studio negatives were part of the glass plate collection that the Society received last year. The studio portrait negatives came from the era of 1925 to 1935. *Sam's Good News* was kind enough to print a full page of these names. Interested parties can get a copy of this list by sending a request with a self-addressed and stamped envelope to the Rutland Historical Society at 96 Center Street, Rutland VT 05701 or by stopping at the Society on Monday evening or Saturday afternoon. The Society will arrange for prints at cost.

VISITORS

In October the Society hosted the Vermont Historical Society's Expo 2003 regional informational meeting at the Society.

The Society also hosted a local Cub Scout group for whom they provided a video program and a brief exhibit program.

Paul Wood of the Barre Granite Museum visited the Society seeking images of some of the stone working machinery manufactured in Rutland during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries at the Howe Scale Company, Patch-Wegner Company and the Lincoln Iron Works. Paul scanned numerous images for the Granite Museum and gave the Society a copy on two CDs.

Members of the Mendon Historical Society also visited the Society to select some images for their exhibit on Election Day at Mendon Town Meeting.

NEW EXHIBIT

The Exhibit Committee has added an exhibit from the Ella Bean Livingston Collection of western Indian materials. This new exhibit focuses on Navaho Indian jewelry and woven material and completes the recent exhibition of the various elements of the Livingston Collection. The Society is continuing its Building Exhibit and the "Eight Generations of Rutland's History" exhibit.

CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING

The Society is planning the installation of central air conditioning on the main and upper floors of the Society. New techniques allow for the elimination of unsightly ductwork. The Society has received a competitive quote for this work which seems within the Society budget. For some time now, the Society has been setting aside money on a monthly basis in a maintenance and building budgetary account. That fund should cover all but \$3500 of the estimate. Members and friends of the Society may find this an opportunity to aid the Society in a project that should improve the efficiency of cooling the building and protecting the collections. The Society should be able to retire the current window air conditioners which will need replacement in the near future. The central air cooling system should have a longer life than the current window units, be less unsightly and eliminate the current seasonal storage and re-installation problems. If you would like to help in this project, please contact Tom Carpenter, the Society Treasurer. Donations are tax deductible.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY COALITION

The Society has been actively involved with the Physical Activity Coalition of the Rutland County Area for a number of months. The Coalition's goal is for a healthier community

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DUES SCHEDULE

Sponsor \$50.00	Students \$8.00
Contributing \$20.00	(18 & under)
Regular \$10.00	Senior citizens \$8.00
	(62 & up)
Life Membership (Individuals only)	\$200.00
Memorial Membership	\$200.00

through increased physical activity. This first caught the attention of the Society as the Society's walking tour and dance programs seemed to be a logical contribution to increased community physical activity. Although the Society may not be a major contributor in this effort, there have been a number of places where the Society has been able to make a contribution. One of those has been in the design of a series of neighborhood walking loops. The Society was an active contributor to the publication of a Rutland City Neighborhood Walking Map whose printing was underwritten by Vermont Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The Society's historical walking tour is a part of the walking map. Free copies of this map are available at the Society.

NEW EQUIPMENT

The Society has recently purchased a black and white laser printer for its computer. This will provide faster output of a higher quality (1200 dpi) and a saving in ink costs. The Society still maintains its color ink jet printer for the few color requirements it may have. The Society has also purchased a new scanner (2400 dpi) to allow the Society to put photographic material from its collections into a digital format. The scanner includes a slide attachment to allow slides to be scanned. The purchase of a CD "burner" now allows the Society to store scanned photos and other images on a CD.

**IF YOU HAVE AN
"02" ON YOUR
MAILING LABEL
IT'S TIME TO RENEW**

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