# NEWS FROM NICKWACKETT

VOL. 12 NO. 1 RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**APRIL 2005** 

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# SPRING PROGRAMS 2005: INSPIRING TEACHERS

The Program Committee of the Society has announced the following programs for the spring season of 2005. The programs share a common element of Rutland area teachers who inspire young people to be excited about history. All the programs will be on Sunday afternoons.

# SUNDAY 17 APRIL AT THE SOCIETY

"Proctor: 100 Years Ago and Today." Maureen Dobart of the Proctor Elementary School tells about creating hands-on history projects with her students as they explore the community's past. This program starts at 2:00 p.m.

# SUNDAY 1 MAY AT THE SOCIETY

"Sam Slick, a 19th Century Peddler." John Peterson, a Social Studies teacher at Rutland High School, brings to life the work and world of an itinerant peddler through a vivid reenactment following the Loyalty Day Parade. This program starts at 5:00 p.m.

# SUNDAY 15 MAY AT THE SOCIETY

"The Vermont Marble Company Strike of 1935-1936." Mary Fregosi, retired history teacher from Rutland High School, brings a Proctor native's historical perspective to this event that still stirs strong emotions today. This program starts at 2:00 p.m.

#### **EXHIBIT CHANGES**

The Exhibit Committee of the Society is preparing a new exhibit on the photographic history of Rutland. This exhibit will include biographical information about Rutland's photographers of the 19th and early 20th Centuries as well as examples of photographic equipment. Samples of the work of the various Rutland photographers will be a centerpiece of the exhibit.

The Committee will also replace the current exhibit of the models of the World of Mirth Shows which have been on loan from Dave Knipes of Rutland. A number of artifacts from the Society's collections will be placed in cases related to the "Eight Generations of Rutland's History".

The portion of a light pole from Merchants Row with the signatures of numerous youth of Rutland of the 1950s is still on exhibit.

DUES FOR 2005
ARE PAYABLE NOW.
CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR
YEAR FOR WHICH
ALREADY PAID.
IF YOU CAN
VOLUNTEER TO
HELP AT THE
SOCIETY IN SOME
WAY, PLEASE
CONTACT US

## "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 Region Community Television, 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 108, Rutland VT 05701-4460. They are \$10 for each episode. Make checks payable to the above. You must provide a self-addressed padded bag with postage or \$1.50 for shipping and handling. Channel 15 provides the tape. Personal pickup is available. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

Episode # 61 - Tom Carpenter hosts a program that discusses the new web site of the Rutland Historical Society. Committee members Jim Davidson and Patty Pickett join Tom, who is also a committee member, in a fast paced overview of the numerous sections of the site which is now available to the public. The site can be reached at: http://www.rutlandhistory.com.

## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY COMMITTEES REACH LANDMARK

The year 2004 was marked by an archival landmark. The Society's backlog of unprocessed materials has now been processed. Many of these boxes held materials from the late 1980s and the early 1990s when the Society was temporarily homeless as the old home in the Bank of Rutland building was ruled unsafe and the new home in the Nickwackett Fire Station was being readied for occupancy.

Today the Library and Archives Committees are reworking the storage of a number of items that need better organization. The Archives Committee is continuing to catalog materials on the computer. Approximately 15% of the archival materials are now computer cataloged. About 5% of the Library collection has been computer cataloged. The glass plate collections have all been printed and about 30% of the glass plate collections have been computer cataloged.

The members of the two Archival work groups and the Library work group have worked patiently and persistently on what at times seemed like a never-ending task. There is still much work to be done especially in cataloging. This will make the Society's collections that much more accessible. Reaching this landmark has given the volunteers a great sense of accomplishment and removed a lot of stress. Now the workers see the pieces of the huge web of materials, that make up the history of old Rutland, begin to come together.

### 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** 

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
Dorothy Whitford - 776-1018

**Board Chairperson** Mary Fregosi - 459-2723

#### SPONSOR MEMBERS FOR 2004

The following either became SPONSOR members in the year 2004 or renewed their previous sponsorship. Others (\*) made gifts of \$50 or more in the year 2004.

\*Anonymous Banknorth, N.A. Casella Waste Systems, Inc. Clifford Funeral Home M/M John P. Crowley Dr. Francis D'Auria Downtown Rutland Partnership Hugh Duffy Coal Company, Inc. Eleanor J. Elwert Factory Point National Bank M/M William F. Gillam Jr. \*Nancy Nakki-Goranin Heritage Family Credit Union D/M John Hinsman Holiday Inn of Rutland Initial Ideas Irving Oil Corporation

M/M Lee Keirstead M/M Patricia Lancaster M/M Richard Lavictoire Virginia Lindholm Anthony Marro M/M William Mather Jr. Nimtz, Berryhill & Figiel M/M Robert Noble William J. Notte **Owner Services** Paramount Center Rutland Products Inc. Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce **Smalley Contractors** \*Reiko C. Tuttle Anne Walker

Carmine Pacca and Dorothy Whitford became new Life Members of the Society in 2004.

#### VISITS AND VISITORS

On 21 January Robert Perkins of the Society provided a walking tour for half of a bus tour group from Syracuse NY. As the day was extremely cold, Jim Davidson provided a video program for the alternate half of the group. Jim Davidson has hosted three students and their mentor from the Wallingford Graded School several times. This group is working on a Vermont History Day presentation. On 8 program on the "World of Mirth Shows at the Rutland Fair" to the residents of Haven Health. On 11 March the Society hosted a focus group for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission's cultural plan.

#### FIRST NIGHT

For the sixth year the Rutland Historical Society has provided historical musical entertainment for the revellers of First Night. It has seemed most appropriate that the Society be a part of this community celebration. Passersby and First Night staff

have had nothing but positive comments about the Society's presentation.

#### MUSIC OF THE PAST

Popular music has played a great role in the history of the community. For many people today those songs of wonderful by-gone years are a highway to many memories of personal history. J Davidson of the Society has assembled a very large personal collection of this music of the past which he shares monthly, March Jim Davidson brought the video in the name of the Society, with the residents of Eden Park, Our House One and Our House Too. The response of residents to this music makes this Society activity one of the most humanly rewarding of all the Society's activities.

For a number of years now the Society has provided an historical musical setting at the First Night headquarters in the Asa Bloomer State Office Building on New Year's Eve. In many other ways the Society has brought historic sounds to the celebrations of the community.

Jim and the Society also provide music for occasional dance programs for local groups.

## RUTLAND HISTORY DAYS

Plans for the Rutland History Days on 30 April and 1 May are being finalized. On Saturday 30 April there will be living history encampments in the Main Street Park from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Society will host related programming at the Society throughout the day during the same hours. The Society will also be offering walking tours from the Main Street Park to Downtown and from Downtown to the Main Street Park throughout the day. Free bus service will operate from the Main Street Park to Downtown and back to the throughout the day. Downtown merchants have planned special promotions in connection with History Days and Depot Park will host a Farmers' Market. Sunday the traditional Loyalty Day Parade will include some units from the History Davs encampments.

#### LOYALTY DAY PARADE

This year marks the 42nd Loyalty Day Parade and the Rutland Historical Society will be offering a float with John Peterson, Rutland High School teacher, who will be recreating the life and times of a 19th Century Yankee peddler, Sam Slick. After the parade John will offer a program for the general public at the Society at 5:00 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 (Individuals only) Memorial Membership \$200.00

#### WEB SITE

The Society's Web Site Committee has continued to meet and work during January and February. On 14 February they were pleased to see the fruit of their labors as a working web site was unveiled. If you haven't checked it out yet, please do. The address is: http://www.rutlandhistory.com. There are a variety of buttons on specific topics. Also don't neglect to check out the message board where research queries and answers may be left. Perhaps you can help a fellow researcher.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If you have some time and some interest in helping in some aspect of the Society's activities, please visit or contact us to talk about our particular needs and your interest.

NOTE THAT THE SOCIETY WILL NOT BE OPEN FOR RESEARCH ON SATURDAY 30 APRIL BECAUSE OF HISTORY DAYS PROGRAMMING

REMEMBER 2005 DUES
ARE PAYABLE NOW.
CHECK YOUR
MAILING LABEL FOR
YEAR ALREADY PAID

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