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A 20th Century Partnership: Rutland and Its Chamber of Commerce

In the 1880's the original Rutland Business Men's Association formed. By 1889 it had become the Rutland Board of Trade. In 1912 the Rutland Merchant's Protective Organization was organized, and in 1920 morphed into the Rutland Chamber of Commerce.

The origin and growth of the Chamber of Commerce is the focus of this issue. From those early beginnings through the twenties, thirties, forties and past the 70's its accomplishments and changes in fortune are described, culminating with the current 1998 issue.

Accompanying this well documented account are a variety of photographs including downtown stores such as the Mead Building; Sterns and Company on Merchants Row; the Rutland Royals Baseball Team; and, surprisingly, actress Betty Davis. Married to Arthur Farnsworth of Rutland, she is shown presiding at the Chamber of Commerce and Lion's Club Ball selling war bonds in 1942.