



HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Garipay House
1461 Maple Street
Hartford Villlage, Vermont

-
- Hartford
 - Quechee
 - West Hartford
 - White River Junction
 - Wilder
-

Vol. 12, No. 6

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2000

ANNUAL MEETING and Pot Luck Dinner set for MAY 10th

Save the date now. Bring a dish for pot luck. (also bring your plate —paper or real and some silverware.) The meeting, as usual, will be in the Greater Hartford Church on Route 14 in Hartford Villlage. When we dine together we start at 6 pm. The business meeting and the program will follow all the good food.

The Nominations Committee has been hard at work. The three directors whose terms are up this year are Bob Durkee, Alice Hazen and Evelyn Stevens. Alice has agreed to run for another term, and Peggy Adams and Sue Ellen Shambo have agreed to run also. If you have other names you wish to submit to the Committee contact Dot Jones at 295-2701. Names will be accepted from the 'floor' as usual during the meeting.

SHOW AND TELL TIME Promises Fun and Edification!

Our MAY PROGRAM will feature a "Show + Tell" Time, so think about which of the antique or interesting items [or stories] YOU have to share with us! Just so we'll know how many folks are interested in sharing, please contact Mary Nadeau [home – 295-2123 evenings, weekends, and machine] with your name and briefly what you're bringing [if you don't know what it is, maybe someone else will]! If you decide to bring something at the last minute, please do so — we'd love to have you share them as time permits. Also some of the items donated to the collections recently will be on display.

Whosis will bring a whasis for all to see. Maybe another whosis will know whasis yousis brought! We've had good luck with mystery photos, now mystery artifacts.

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We DO have a nice raffle item that will be drawn for at the Annual Meeting in May – an antique basket in perfect condition – circular, about 1 foot diameter and about 8 in.high. There will be tickets available at the meeting if you haven't had a chance to get one.



Two Mystery Photos: When Weston Cate came to our last meeting he brought us several old photographs, We know the one on the left is the school hot lunch program and the one on the right is of an area singing group lead by Mrs. William Allen from Wilder. If you can identify anyone from either picture, let Pat Stark know by calling 296-2192. We got lucky last issue (see back page) maybe lightning will strike twice. Perhaps you are in one of these pictures. If you have pictures depicting past area scenes or events consider loaning to us. We can scan and return the originals, assuring that they will be preserved.

OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House

The first Tuesday [6-8PM] and the first Saturday [1:30 - 4] of each month. Everett Smith has been helping out on Tuesdays and helping to index our *Quechee Times* during the 'quiet time'. — THANK YOU EVERETT!
We are still in need of folks to help out on Saturdays — a great chance to look at the exhibits, check out the resource library, or use our computer! Contact Pat [295-3077 or 296-2192] if you'd like to come for an afternoon.

Summer is coming and it often means out-of-town visitors. Remember that Pat is always willing to open the House up **by appointment** on weeknight evenings [after 4:30] if you'd like to share our exhibits with them.

ARCHIVAL Report

Priscilla and Pat are busy taking digital photos of the Textile Collection which are available both on the computer and in a binder at the Garipay House. Also on display is our "musket collection" thanks to a new case built by John Bugbee — THANKS JOHN!!! Stop by and take a look!

We are also in the process of printing reproductions of **old post cards** from our collection for sale — no delivery date available yet. The Society offers several items for sale. Members get a special price on such things as John LaCroix's photo history of Hartford, a mug featuring old #494 (a beloved railroad engine) and a number of other items of local historical interest. See them on May 10th.

Roy Black Recalls his Father

(the April 12th meeting of the Hartford Historical Society, Roy Black took his audience back over the years of his father's life (1906-1977). For many in the audience it was an exercise in reminiscing. Judge Black's friends from his early childhood included Lane Dwinell and Winston Prouty. The people who populated state government up until his death in the late seventies were all well known to most of those assembled. Raymond Trainor became the Judge's mentor when he and Al Guarino began their careers working under him. Later, Peter Plante, Peter Welch, and Frank (Skip) Mahady were among those who began their careers in the Black law firm.



Roy Black at the podium

Black read from tributes written by his father about his fellow lawyers as well as the ones written by other bar members about his father. Among the famous cases his father had been associated with were many remembered by all. These included the Orville Gibson murder in Newbury, an international case to get back the jewels of the Baron and Baroness Rothchild after World War II, and a lawsuit against the Verham Press for distributing Playboy magazine!

Roy brought with him a number of laminated memorabilia, everything from newspaper pages about his father to milestones in state government—there was even a copy of a 1920 ballot—the first year that women could vote. These filled a table in the hall and were the subject of much informal discussion after the talk.

Among the members of the audience who travelled the furthest to hear Roy Black were Wes Cate and his wife, Jean from East Montpelier. Many years ago Wes taught at Hartford High School. One of his students was Skip Mahady who, when Cate lamented about his (Mahady's) spelling the student informed him that he would pay someone else to spell for him. He did, too. He grew up to be a successful lawyer, only to die relatively young, in his fifties.

The Black family seem to have been born public servants. Roy took us back through the advent of his forbears to Putney, Vermont where they were listed in the state's first census in 1791. The fourth generation Henry Black (Timothy 3, James 2, John 1) who listed his occupation as an administrator of estates, served as a Selectman in the town of Newport. Later, his son became a City Councilman when the town became a city. The list of public offices held by this grandfather and his other descendants would fill this page.

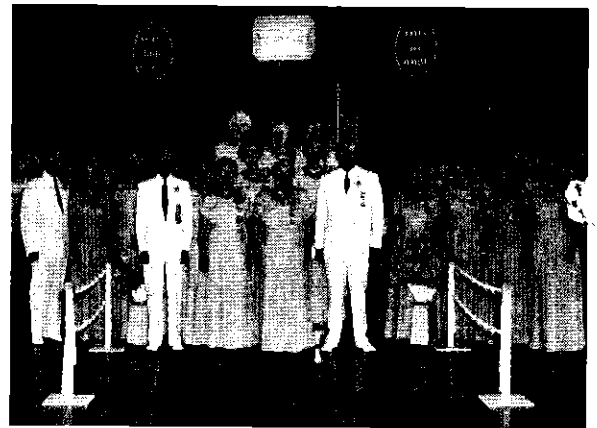
For our speaker, the evening represented a major tribute to his Father and his Father's friends. To those assembled, this was a focus on the key people in Vermont government in the past century. If the names Ernest Gibson, Jr., William Wills, Sterry Waterman or Charles Plumley have any meaning for you and you couldn't attend, you missed a real opportunity to sharpen your memories. Judge Black himself was a major contributor to the Vermont governmental scene who chose to live in Hartford almost all of his professional life.

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MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED:

Mrs. Rachel Fountain , a former Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star wrote to us and identified the 18 folks in the photo [only Martin Judd is local]! It was a state-wide photo of the Grand Chapter of Vermont, taken June 8+9, 1955. Thank you Rachel! [George Bishop, Della Clark, Carroll Hazen, Ethel Stacey, Dorothy Smith, Martin Judd, Thelma Pope, Vivian Corless, Nancy Perry, Janice Osborne, Ethel Hill, Margaret Marsden, Maude Ester, Madeline Paul, Laura Eastman, Nellie French, Kathleen Forbes, Leona Comstock.]



Among the articles in the last issue was one by our President Dot Jones who recalled Watson Hall, now long gone from Hartford Village. Among the photos recently received were two scenes of that hall taken from different angles. We expect to have copies at the meeting on May tenth.