

Ridge Runner

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FALL 2001

RIDGE MEETING LARGEST ATTENDANCE EVER !!

According to the Officers of the Ridge Assn., the Rustic Ridge Association is in better shape than ever! The roads are being repaired, the dues are being paid, the water is pure, the trees are being trimmed, garbage is being picked up, money is being donated to worthy causes and, to quote a famous bard, "God's in His heaven and all's right with the world." Well, almost!!

There were some concerns voiced about the "Restrictive Covenant" so that more study and interpretation will be done on that. Other concerns include housekeeping matters, fire safety, dog control and the ongoing ones mentioned above.

We thank our outgoing president, John Voorhies and welcome Charlotte Martin to the post for the coming year. Other officers include, Lucia Powell, Treasurer and Marilyn Williams, Clerk. The Directors are, Edgar Moore and Ted Denise, class of 2002, Jeff Broadhead and Marybelle Chapin, class of 2003 and Janet Abel and Leslie Krichko, class of 2004.



HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

Historical Documents from the Rustic Ridge have been found to be almost complete back to 1901. Though our forebears obviously cared for them, there are better ways, today. Arrangements have been made to keep them in a climate controlled space during the winter and then to have them on display at the Northfield Historical Society building on Pine Street next summer.

SPECIAL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

While most couldn't say for sure, they all were quite certain that this event was the greatest in 100 years. Families, from great-grandparents to tiny babies were in attendance and all participated, each at his or her own level. Saturday evening started with a baptism by flood waters from heaven, but it kept no one away! Some of the highlights included the food, the children blowing bubbles as the sky cleared -- all singing "Day is Dying in the West" to a magnificent, multicolored, light show of a sunset-- "The Rustic Ridge Rappers"(Copy of the words attached), and dancing for all styles of dancers to a talented trio of musicians.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE, AUG. 5

Worship and remembrances were the highlights of the worship service including the Ridge people and Town people alike. It was a colorful event, with costumed ushers, choir members and some congregation. Dave Powell put us in historical perspective, Janet Able, with great enthusiasm, led the costumed choir through two sets of hymns from the Moody era, Richard Mueller recounted the Moody heritage and Edgar Moore spoke of his family history of six generations of participation in the conferences and the summer community. Other participants were , Beverly Phelps on the piano, Marilyn Williams, Call to Worship and Margaret Conner, Responsive Reading. A Lemonade Social and a requested repeat of the "Rustic Ridge Rap" followed.

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A publication of the Rustic Ridge Association

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100TH YEAR WINDUP!

What a wonderful Anniversary we had! Thank you to all who worked and all who came because you all added so much to the festivities!

For those who were here, I'm sure that you would join the rest of us to thank those who worked on all the events. For those who were not here, this is to fill you in on what took place. If we miss anyone with our "Thank you", we are truly sorry for, you all took part in many, many ways. Especially noted are, John Voorhies, outgoing President for his MC job in his top hat on Saturday night. Charlotte Martin for being overall Chair of the event; Sharie Broadhead (and family) for planning and organizing the dinner at Hibbard Hall. Margie Conner for posters (see other articles), as well as serving lemonade after church with Bonnie Burdick; Dave Powell for research and planning the church service, as well as delivering the porringers which Lucia ordered, all those who loaned artifacts to the "Museum" at Centennial House; Janet Abel for organizing and directing the choir with so much enthusiasm and the myriad tasks connected there-to; Molly Caruthers for making the "Centennial House" sign and for flowers at the dinner; Nancy Hann for the logo on the "tote" and Charlotte for distributing them; Dick Young for organizing and leading the wonderful hikes plus the video of the whole weekend for permanent record; Vin Catania for taking the group picture and making copies available; Dona and George Thomas for arranging the Hayride; Ed Moore for his six generation family story on Sunday Morning; Mary Helen Pfeifer and Marilyn Williams for costumes; Adrienne Parker for donating the American Flag and Eagle for the top of the pole.

Note: The Ridge has a list of service providers. If you have found a good carpenter, electrician, plumber, etc. to recommend, notify the editor.



DEDICATION OF FLAG POLE

The new Flag Pole was dedicated with ceremony, following the Ridge Meeting on Saturday, August 4th. The pole is situated in the large garden conceived and developed by George Thomas. The flag and the eagle on the top of the pole were given by Adrienne Hawkinson in memory of her father, Arthur Parker, a former President of the Rustic Ridge Assn. Early Ridge poetry was read by Margaret Conner and John Voorhies, prayed. The area was livened by the children who tried on some of the costumes of 1901 and ran around enjoying them. The placque on the pole reads:-

RUSTIC RIDGE CENTENNIAL
1901-2001

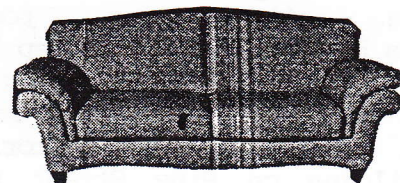
HELP!HELP!HELP!

At the August meeting of the Rustic Ridge Association Board of Directors it was agreed to initiate a relationship with The Franklin County Survival Center in Turners Falls.

We will support the Center's mission by facilitating contributions of food, clothing and furniture for donation to the Center.

As you close your cottage, if you have any canned goods...or items of furniture or clothing, please call Bob Caruthers at 498-2737, and pickup will be arranged.

Please keep this in mind for next year, also, as ongoing donations are needed.



RUSTIC RIDGE RAP

The beginning of history-the beginning of time-
For Rustic Ridge-we're making a rhyme.

Moody held a conference at the campus right here.
Our grandmas and our grampas held it all so dear.

The people came a traveling from all the nearby states-
With their Bibles and their children and even with their mates.

The preaching and the choristers were all so grand-
That the Holy Spirit visited and Sanky led the Band!

The tents were all so crowded and the sanitation bad,
That they scouted out the hills around to see what could be had!

Rev. Thompson, while a walking found his heart was filled-
With the plans for a house he would like to build!

Hustling Harris built that cottage overlooking valley land.
There followed other dwellings built on rock not sand.

Then Moody pasture land beneath the Garnet Rock
Became the chosen area, lot by lot.

Meetings were our destination every single day
At night the lanterns lit the path down Willow Way!

Swimming in the River or- at the Ice Pond,
Wanamaker Lake of which we all were fond.

Then the big bad hurricane of nineteen thirty eight
Smashed some trees, roofs and plates!

But Rustic Ridge was really quite lucky,
And all its inhabitants, exceedingly plucky!

Visiting the Chateau or dancing in its halls,
Swimming, now at Schell Pond or sitting in its falls

Hiking to Old Orchard and Balancing Rock,
Past the cellar holes with nary a lock.

Destination-Pulpit Falls or even to Big Birch,
Getting home in time to go to evening Church.

We've been playing with a club on the Hotel Nine
And eating at the restaurants all so fine!

Damming up the brook at Mt. Grace Park-
Or climbing to the Fire Tower for a lark!

Driving up Mount Sugarloaf, looking for the view-
Spring, summer, winter, fall, always something new!

We've conquered plants that do recycling
To keep our valley clean for fun and cycling!

We've planted gardens for all to see
And welcomed to our flowers the humming bird and bee.

We've added black top to the roads-
Cleaned out the culverts but saved the toads.

One hundred years, -up to six generations
Have loved and eaten the country rations.

We remember ancient names like Brainard and King,
Aylesworth, Goodrich, Moffett and Spring.

We wish that we could name every person from the past,
But their names are in the history to make them last.

We're here to honor those who filled those hundred years,
To look to the future with smiles, not tears.

We've kept Rustic Ridge's original plan-
It's loved by every woman, child and man!

Here's to Rustic Ridge and its' second hundred years.
Lift your glasses high- lets hear your cheers!

Written by Marilyn Anderson Williams
Performed by Marilyn and Janet Voorhies Abel
Accompanied by Alan Abel, Percussionist, Philadelphia Orch.(Ret.)

Celebrating the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Rustic Ridge
of East Northfield, MA. August 3-5, 2001.



One Hundred Years of
Summer Fellowship
Rustic Ridge
Northfield, MA 01360