

Not a Bad Seat in the House Tells these Exciting & Inspiring Stories

The story of the gift and flowering of Chandler Music Hall is a tribute both to the founder's abundant generosity and to the lively community on which it was bestowed. Albert B. Chandler himself was one of Vermont's most fascinating sons—a Civil war telegrapher for Abe Lincoln at age 22 who became one of the architects of the American communications industry. The Music Hall he donated to his hometown is quite simply one of the finest in New England. This beautifully written book details the fascinating history of Albert Chandler, his Music Hall, and is a stirring tale of a Vermont community in action.

- ◆ Chandler's years as a telegrapher in War Department during the Civil War and his close association with President Lincoln
- ◆ His astounding rise from small town boy to one of the giants of the communications age.
- ◆ The close friendship between Chandler and Robert Kimball that resulted in not only the Music Hall but the Library in their home town.
- ◆ The heady first years of the Hall, which attracted trainloads of well-known acts from around the country.
- ◆ The inspiring renewal of the Hall that began in 1970 and, led by the work of volunteers, has continued to the present day.
- ◆ The long traditions of Community Musicals, the Mud Season Talent Shows, and the three Chandler Festivals.
- ◆ The beginning of the Chandler Gallery and the contributions it has made to artists—young and old—in Central Vermont.
- ◆ The contributions of hundreds of community people, dozens and dozens of whom are named in the book.

Rave Reviews!

“Villages like Randolph are one of Vermont's true treasures. In this very enjoyable history of the Chandler Music Hall by Dick Drysdale and others, we are shown how Albert B. Chandler and other Randolph citizens enhanced their home town's fortunes and kept it vital with a beautiful music hall, a library, and an art gallery. It's an inspiring tale, and a lesson for other Vermont towns in how to make a good community even better. This is real Vermont in action.”

- Tom Slayton, editor emeritus of [*Vermont Life*](#)

“Even if you have never been to Chandler Music Hall and never plan to be, you will enjoy *Not a Bad Seat in the House*. It tells the story of this remarkable hall and its many lives, and provides a portrait of a period that defined so many of our Vermont communities. We learn about Albert Chandler, a giant in an age of giants, and his relationship with Lincoln during the Civil War. Chandler's personal recollections of Lincoln are fascinating and revealing.

With *Not a Bad Seat in the House*, M. Dickey Drysdale has provided a gift to Randolph, to lovers of Chandler Music Hall, and to generations to come by capturing all the history that has happened in this hall for 100 years.”

- Chris Graff, journalist, longtime chief of the *Associated Press* Vermont Bureau

“What you have created with "Not a Bad Seat in the House" is not just a picture of the Randolph at a point in time, but a picture of Randolph as a community over time...an amazing accomplishment. Perhaps the most revealing thing about the Chandler Center--and indeed about the town of Randolph--

is the degree to which young people are constantly brought in, brought out, and brought up within the Chandler's expansive cultural embrace.”

- Alex Aldrich, executive director, [Vermont Arts Council](#)

How to Order

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Books may be purchased in person at Chandler for: softcover (\$14.95, plus 6 % tax); hardcover (\$29.95, plus 6 % tax), or by mail by calling 802-728-9878 (plus \$5 for shipping).