

The Negaunee Historical Society

303 East Main Street, P.O. Box 221
Negaunee, MI 49866 (906-475-4614)

DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your board of trustees at the Negaunee Historical Society.....



In reading the "Nee Hy Nuz", the bi-monthly newspaper put out by the Negaunee journalism class, the December issues in the 40's and early 50's reminded students about the disease tuberculosis. In 1950, tuberculosis ranked 8th among the causes of death in

Michigan. Do you remember buying Christmas seals to put on your Christmas mail? Do you remember having to report to the boy's gym for your yearly patch test for tuberculosis? Do you remember the mobile x-ray unit that came to school? If your tests came back positive, you had to go to Morgan Heights Sanitarium for further testing.

Bobby Miller, Class of 1951, was hospitalized at Morgan Heights. He wrote an article for the "Nee Hy Nuz" and I thank him because we don't hear much about tuberculosis anymore. He wrote about his time at Morgan Heights and I have included a couple of his snippets. "It's not as bad as I thought it would be" and "I didn't think I would be spending so much time in bed, but if I benefit it won't be a total loss".



Here are some ways I pass my time. I can continue my schooling, reading, knitting, working on my Detroit Tiger scrapbook, listening to the radio and playing my records and wire recorder. The main treatment is rest. Getting well is climbing a ladder – there are six steps and I am on number four... two more steps and I am out the door.

Other information on Morgan Heights can be read at the Negaunee Historical Society.

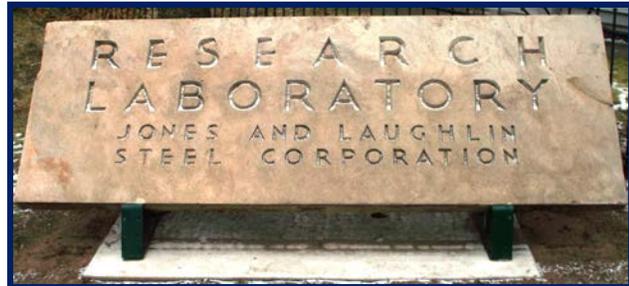
VIRGINIA PAULSON

J&L SIGNAGE HAS NEW HOME



After several years of lying on the ground and being stepped on in the back of our museum, this historical J&L signage has a new location. Thanks to Miles Parkkonen for making the brackets to hold the sign upright. Thanks to Joe Paris who volunteered his time and energy to put in the concrete base. Thanks to our city workers, Gary Parkkonen and Mark Wainio, for

moving the heavy piece of concrete. Special thanks go to Todd Masuga of Stone Reflections for repairing the broken corner and with the finishing touches. Thank you to Paul Jandron and Dave Dompierre, Sr. for coordinating this project.



ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY OVERLOOKS TEAL LAKE

Negaunee has opened a beautiful new home for our senior citizens overlooking Teal Lake.

Teal Lake Senior Living Community, located west of water Street and south of US-41 Highway, opened on October 1st. The beautiful facility has been licensed for 46 residents with 38 apartments. It measures 32,000 square feet with four types of apartments and features dining rooms, a therapy room, barber shop and beauty parlor. The apartments are cleaned daily including laundry and fresh linens. They also provide a private bathroom with walk-in shower and emergency pull cords. Pets are allowed and residents have their own mailboxes. For more information, persons can call 906-401-0511 or visit www.teallakeseniorliving.com.



NEGAUNEE 1865-1965

(Remembering memorable activities during the 1965 season)

In 1965, Negaunee celebrated the 100th anniversary of its establishment as a village. The "Iron Herald" printed a centennial "Special Edition" in July of that year with historical facts, events, pictures and memories from those previous years. Listed below are some interesting and memorable events that happened during 1965.

January

Clarence "Joe" Trotochaud was elected Negaunee's mayor succeeding Earl Makela.
Miss Charlene Russo was selected as Queen of the Sawyer Winter Festival.
Roy H Johnson elected President of the First National Bank with the retirement of R. S. Archibald.

February

New police headquarters established in City Hall with court being moved to the council chambers.
Negaunee hit with worst snow storm since the blizzard of 1938 with 28 inches on the 12th.

March

Bobby Vinton, one of nation's best known vocalist and recording star, booked for Teenager Ball.
First National Bank opened its new drive-in bank on US-41.
Negaunee Choral Club presented its Silver Jubilee concert.
John Chiri was honored by Bishop Eis Council, Knights of Columbus.

April

Records kept by Alvin Hampton showed 54 days of zero or below temperatures in 1964-65.
Dates were announced for 16th annual Clean Up - Paint Up - Fix Up program.

May

Carl Rintala selected President of Negaunee Business and Professional Association.
Janice Sivula and Laura Laurila named NHS Class of 1965 valedictorian and salutatorian.
Peter Valente and Lois Marta named St. Paul HS Class of 1965 valedictorian and salutatorian.

June

Rev. Albert Raloff succeeds Rev. Byron Hatch as pastor of Mitchell Methodist Church.
Negaunee Post Office changes from second class to a first class office.
Voters approve millage proposal and bond issue for \$250,000 Palmer elementary school.

July

The Centennial Program, a nine-day observance, was said to be the largest ever staged in the Upper Peninsula. The highlights of the celebration were written in the June 2015 Newsletter.

August

Louis LaForest and Mrs. Anna Benson were drowned in boating accident on Teal Lake.

September

600 persons cast ballots in the 1st St. Paul school board election. Board consisted of A. Robert Koskey, S. Neil Lynch, Lorraine Knutson, Delia Agnoli, Angelo Bessolo and Carl Rintala.
Negaunee Elks hosted the Fall Round-Up of the Upper Peninsula Elks Association.

October

George Sivula was honored at a County Lions Conclave held at the Thimmes Memorial Building.
Alan Dighera, former St. Paul coach, named the NMU Community Schools counselor.
Parking meters were installed in the business district.
Organization of Mid-County United Fund with Robert LaMere of Palmer elected as President.

November

Plans were approved by Retail Merchants Committee for the 19th Annual Christmas Carnival.
Christmas Club checks in the amount of \$118,600 were mailed out by the First National Bank.
First snowfall of season measuring about 3 inches fell on the 7th.

December

Lorraine Knutson, member of St. Paul's 1st school board, dies suddenly.
Chairman, Wayne Merrick, announced a highly successful Christmas Carnival.

MICHIGAN CONSTABULARY 1917

The United States was mobilizing its armed forces and Congress overwhelmingly passed a declaration of war against Germany in 1917. The Michigan National Guard was headed for the battlefields of France. Without men to guard the home front, the state had to create an emergency force.

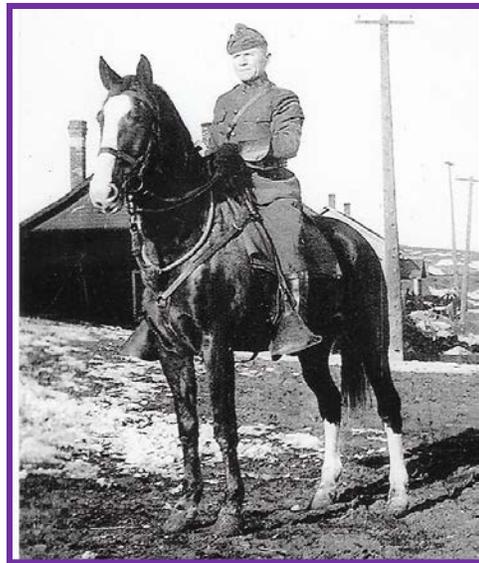
*Below is the original constabulary headquarters in Negaunee.
It was the original Jackson Mine office building.*



On April 10, 1917, the Michigan State Troops came into being under the authority of the State War Preparedness Board. Only 50 men had enlisted when it first organized but grew to over 200 in four months. All were equipped with horses, most of which had been purchased on the western plains. Most of the horses were so wild they had to be broken

and trained by a cowboy imported from Texas. The troopers, the first in the state, had arrived in Negaunee to relieve a threatening labor situation in the mining region. Rumors of a strike were seen in the area and state troopers were ready for trouble. Communist inspired International Workers of the World and other agitators were moving into our area to incite strikes. Spies and saboteurs were operating throughout the state, arson and bombings were commonplace in Lower Michigan and draft dodgers evading military service was also a concern. Thus, the Constabulary was established in Negaunee on August 4, 1917 with their headquarters located west of the old city warehouse and garage on Iron Street in the South Jackson mine location.

The “Negaunee Iron Herald” reported the troopers had short barrel rifles, revolvers and riot sticks. A single trooper astride his horse and swinging one of those four-foot clubs could do a heap of execution without having to resort to his artillery at all. With the presence of the troopers in Negaunee, the disturbances subsided and the strike never materialized.



Trooper John Maga came to Negaunee from Italy in 1906

ANGUS – “THE WOODEN SCOTSMAN” TURNING 150

Angus is one Scotsman who will live forever in Negaunee. Facing all of his visitors as they enter our museum, Angus is the wooden Scot who lives quietly and will be observing his 150th birthday in 2016. Angus has lived an interesting life which almost ended in tragedies in 1984 and again in 1991.



Donald McDonald Sr. was born in Scotland in 1841. After joining the Michigan Cavalry during the Civil War and being wounded and taken prisoner, he settled in Negaunee in 1866 and established a general merchandise store.

As was customary in the olden days, most dispensers of tobacco relied on an old Indian statue to attract customers. Mr. McDonald had another idea since he was so proud of his Scottish ancestry. He wrote a letter to his cousin in Canada and had him come to Negaunee to build a wooden pine man. Carved out of a single white log, the statue was finally built and appropriately named after his maker, Angus McDonald. It was set up near the doorway of McDonald's General Store and Opera House on the corner of Pioneer Avenue and Jackson Street which was built in 1883 and where the Negaunee Elks is located.

Angus took a lot of abuse but never fought back. Playful boys pelted him with snowballs but he wouldn't budge. His greater menaces were "drunkards" who often argued with him in the wee hours on Sunday mornings. With no rebuttal, Angus was often rough-housed and left flat on his back or face.

During the past 150 years, Angus has seen Presidents come and go. He has weathered several wars and major disasters and diseases. His greatest thrill was when he was caressed by Sir Henry Lauder and formally adopted by the Royal Canadian Highlanders on one of their many trips to the opera house.

You can visit with Angus and talk to him when you visit our museum.

“NEGAUNEE IRON HERALD” - 100 YEARS AGO

1915 - A turnip weighing thirteen and a half pounds has been on display for the past few days in the show window of Arneith Brothers Drug Store. It was grown in the garden of William Ford, 603 County Road. It's a "bute" and as "sound as a dollar."

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS



Elsie Helstein - 2FEB2015
Charlotte Drobny Simmons - FEB2015
Richard W Mattson - 26FEB2015
Lawrence Klein - 9MAR2015
Ann Fossmo - 30JUN2015
Lee Guizzetti - 22AUG2015
Donna Rogers -10OCT2015
Arthur Mattson – 22NOV2015

OKTOBERFEST TOURS

The Negaunee Irontown Association held an Oktoberfest celebration and these mules took area citizens for a ride. Virginia Paulson, representing our museum, volunteered her time as guide and a narrator with historical facts of buildings and people. Several events were scheduled for young and old on a cold wintery day but Iron Street attracted a large number of visitors throughout the activities.



HOLMAN'S
T. L. COLLINS
MAKI STUDIO
LEVINE BROTHERS
WESTERN AUTO ASSOCIATE
STORE
THE SIMONETTE
QUALITY FOOD STORE
LOWENSTEIN'S
NEELY'S STORE
THE SPECIALTY SHOP
HOBBY KNOBBY
VIGA BOWLING ALLEYS
PAUL'S FOOD MARKET
PERALA'S FUNERAL HOME
PETER P. DIGHERA INSUR-
ANCE AGENCY

HOLIDAY GREETINGS – 1950's

Submitted by Virginia Paulson

In reading the “Neer Hy Nuz”, the following greetings were published. Do you remember where these businesses were located?



MEMORY FROM THE MUSEUM - 1990

**December
3, 1990**

**THE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
STYLE
SHOW**



**25
YRS
AGO**

**Left to Right – Anne Collins, Kristy Basolo, Kristine Wickstrom, Andrew Wiesmann,
Traci Jacobetti, Jill Paquette, Julie Jacobetti, Laura Wiesmann, Christi Little**

**2016 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTED AT
ANNUAL MEETING**

The Historical Society held its 32nd annual meeting on Tuesday, December 1st in the Fellowship Hall at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Pat Johnson, Roland Koski, Suzanne Morris and Theresa Rinehart were re-elected to three-year terms as trustees. After the annual meeting, the governing board elected its officers for the coming year and the below officers accepted their appointments.

**Virginia Paulson.....President
Donna Gravedoni-Bjork.....Secretary**

**Suzanne Morris..... Vice-President
Roland Koski..... Treasurer**

Lifetime - \$100.00

Individual - \$10.00

Student - \$5.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip: _____

Note: If you want your newsletter via e-mail please indicate _____



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - JANUARY 1, 2016 217
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS 175
2016 MEMBERSHIPS 42

We wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you. This year will soon become a memory and now is the time to look towards 2016. Thank you to all 175 of our Lifetime Members for your support. We also have 42 active yearly members with an early start in paying their 2016 dues. Now would be a good time for others to help and support the preservation of Negaunee's history by continuing your membership. The museum displays are being continually updated and improved for our visitors. Thank you for all the past memberships, donations, gifts, grants and to all of our volunteers.

These are the members who have already renewed their 2016 membership during the past year

M Elizabeth Cain	Harold Johanson	Peter Kotila	Darin Rinehart
Mary J Collins	Staci Jones	Joe McCormick	Karin Rinehart
Andrew Dellangelo	Barbara Koski	Kathy McCormick	Karen Saari
Eric Dompierre	Danielle Koski	Celeste Morgan©	Wade Saari
Joseph Drobny	Joyce Koski	Jon Neely	Deanna St. Andre
Hunter Duquette (c)	Kevin Koski	Tom Nelson	Peter Sangalli
MacKenzie Duquette(c)	Preston Koski ©	Brian Ostwald	Connie Scanlon
Nancy Duquette	Roland Koski	Donald Palomaki	Ellen Weingarten-Skaates
Nolan Duquette	Todd Koski	Pauline Piironen	Carmella Spelgatti
William Haupt	Cindy Kotila	Beth Pynnonen	Robert Sutherland
		Steve Repola	James R Thomas

Victorian Christmas Party

Please join us for some holiday cheer...

The Negaunee Historical Society...

WHEN: December 13th

WHERE: 132 East Peck Street

TIME: 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Sit back and learn some of the history of the Miller family, the original owners of the home. Enjoy the beautiful Christmas decorations and holiday music. Refreshments will be served...

COST: \$8.00 per person and tickets are available at the door.

* This is a fundraiser for the Negaunee Historical Society

QUESTIONS: call 475-4930 or 475-5551.

