

# The Negaunee Historical Society

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

## MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

### FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson



Spring is just around the corner.....according to the calendar anyway. December, January and February have been extremely cold months. Many residents have had frozen water pipes.

But for those of us who like to work inside, changes have been happening at the museum. The painters are busy and the showcases are changing.

Mike Prusi now shares the political stage with Dominic Jacobetti. Both individuals were good Representatives for the Upper Peninsula and Marquette County.

The last repair job after the damage to our porch was to get the fence repaired. Miles Parkkonen took that project on and it will be ready to install when the weather permits.

As a side note....In 1955, the population of Negaunee was 7,500 and the school population was 2,180. In 2014, the population is 4,630 and the school population is 1,511.

VIRGINIA PAULSON



### ***IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBER***

***James A. Mattson – 27JAN2014***

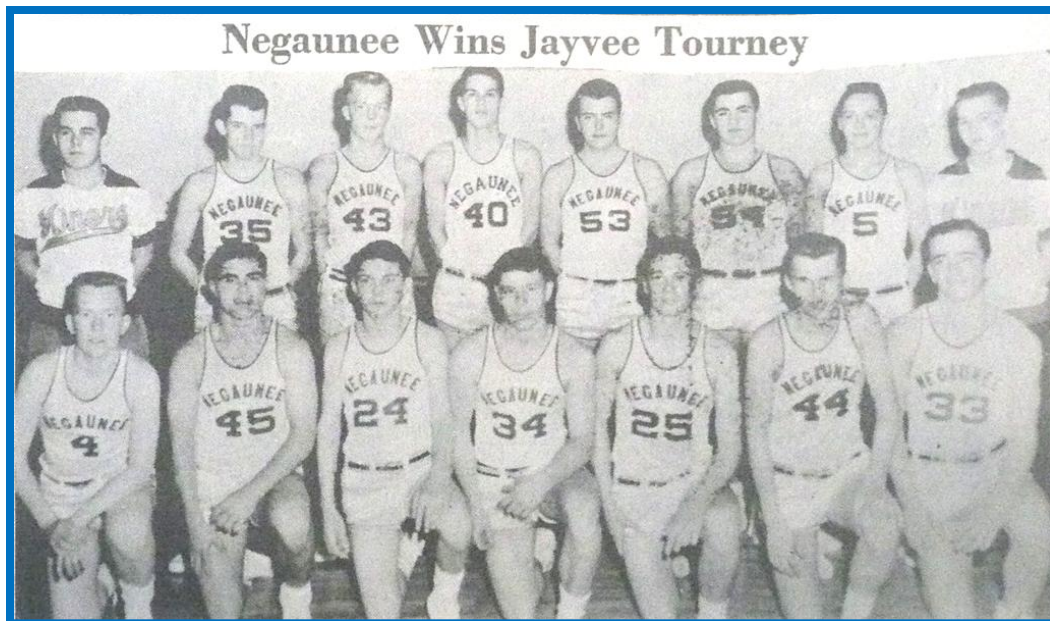
### **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Our future monthly meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 1st and Tuesday, May 6th at 7:00 at the museum and all members are welcome to attend.

## ST PAUL'S JR HI & NEGAUNEE JV 1964 CHAMPIONS



Winners of the Marquette County Western Division Junior High Basketball Tourney were the St. Paul Emeralds, pictured above. The squad coached by Al Dighera, who also directs the school varsity, completed its season with a record of ten wins and only one defeat. Front row --- Charles Giotto, Jim White, Pat Keely, Dennis Kratz, David Paquette, Peter Comensoli, Mike Patierno, Dennis Flannigan and Bob Treloar. Back row --- Coach Dighera, Francis Ghiardi, Dan Niemisto, David DeGabriele, Mike Bussone, Clayton Quinn, Jim Davey, George Torreano, Mike Koskey and Student Manager Steve Perucco



Pictured above is the Negaunee Junior Varsity squad which won the 1964 Great Lakes Conference Tournament for reserve teams held at Munising. Negaunee beat Marquette and Gladstone prior to defeating the Munising Colts 55-46 for the championship. Front row, left to right--- Rob Veale, John Argall, Al Kantola, Ray Richards, Tom Kemp, Richard Hill and Mike Keeley. Back row, left to right--- Larry Heiskanen (Student Manager), Dennis Maki, Wayne Nurmi, Ben Vanni, Don Evans, Bob Tamblin, Mike Ruhanen and Stan Mager (Student Manager). The squad was coached by Mr. Bob Tapio.

## GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME

(Since our last newsletter)

Ron Kauppila & Kris Kaski - monetary gift  
Glenn and Millie Bjork – monetary donation  
Robert Leaf - Antique wood/coal burning stove  
Tina Johnson - painting and cleaning in museum  
Marty Saari - snow removal from museum porch roof  
Theresa Rinehart – for maintaining our financial records  
Donna Gravedoni-Bjork – continuing her duty as secretary  
Kimme Peterson (Loy Lawns) - monetary gift for porch repair  
Suzanne Morris – updating the mailing labels for our newsletters  
Miles Parkkonen - snow removal from rear entrance to museum  
Virginia, Laura, Jeanne - continuing work in upgrading museum rooms



(Note: If your name was omitted from this list, please notify the museum so we can acknowledge your kindness)



## NEGAUNEE MALE CHORUS TURNS 83

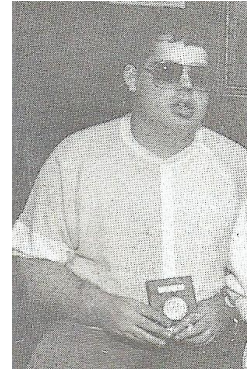
*“The Negaunee Male Chorus will continue as long as men love to sing” - Mike Lempinen*

Mike Lempinen has researched some interesting information regarding the Negaunee Male Chorus and the beautiful music it has brought to our community over the years. Eino Hutander and Joe Phillips founded this musical group in 1930 which brought together 16 young men who liked to sing. Mike stated, “The Negaunee High School music room has been the chorus’s home base throughout its existence. The chorus owes a great debt of gratitude to the Negaunee Public Schools administration and staff for their cooperation and assistance for these 83 years”. According to Mike, “The chorus was created by two men who loved music and enjoyed singing, particularly male chorus music. We are sure that they never dreamed they were starting a legacy of music which would survive so long, one which has been a source of pride not only to the city of Negaunee but to the entire county as well, for men from all areas have been part of the chorus.”

Negaunee is the name used, but men from around the area are invited to join. The only requirement is a love for singing and to be at least 18 years old. Practice takes place at 7:30 every Thursday night except in the summer months. Vicki Lempinen, Mike’s wife, has been directing the chorus since 2003. Yes, the Male Chorus still meets in the NHS music room.

## **NEGAUNEE RESIDENT EYEING 50 AND CONTINUES TO CONQUER BLINDNESS**

Overcoming blindness since his birth in 1965, Todd Morgan has proved over and over again that determination and faith can overcome anything in a person's life. Todd has reached his major goal from years ago when he stated, "My ultimate goal is to becoming self-sufficient. I don't want to spend my life under government assistance". Now at the age of 48, Todd is living alone at the Lakeview Apartments and has overcome many obstacles during his lifetime to reach his desires.



Todd was born prematurely because of a complication at birth causing blindness. Music was one of the reasons Todd's life was on the right track. He began playing the piano in 1969 at 3 ½ years old but months later, Todd's mother, Joan Borlace Morgan, died from complications related to her diabetes. Todd wanted to attend school in Negaunee and he attended Lakeview Elementary and graduated from Negaunee High School in 1988. Reaching this goal was because of the unconditional love from his grandparents, Lloyd and Gertrude Borlace, with whom he resided for so many years.



Todd had lived with his father, William Morgan and stepmother in Oak Creek, Illinois for several years prior to returning to Negaunee. In 1974, at the age of 9, Todd was attending the Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped in Janesville. Home for a weekend, he was presented with a brailor on behalf of the Oak Creek Lions Club. A brailor is set up like a typewriter but Todd was able to transcribe what he hears into Braille through a pattern of dots.

Returning to Negaunee in 1979, Todd donned his first pair of cross country skis and went with the other students at Lakeview Elementary to try his hand at the sport. He took two trips and only fell down three times. No major accomplishment unless you knew that Todd was blind. The Principal at Lakeview in 1979 was Don Mourand who stated, "It's been beautiful for all of us. The other kids are more appreciative of their own abilities and are more caring about those with limitations. Todd has been a wonderful addition to the school".



At right, Judy Annelin Dobi helps Todd with his skis for a cross country ski run.

## EXCERPTS FROM THE "NEGAUNEE IRON HERALD"



### GRIM REAPER SKIPS BUT ONE IN A ROW OF FOUR CHERRY STREET HOMES

December 26, 1924

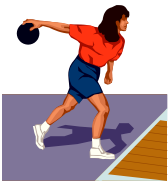
Negaunee is neither large nor small as communities go, but signs of mourning on three homes in a single short street is most unusual, and constituted a grim reminder that Christmas is not necessarily a season of joy in all homes. Cherry Street lacks the intersecting thoroughfares that characterize most streets, but its total length does not exceed three or four ordinary blocks. Yet, not only were three of the four Reaper's four visits to Negaunee during the Christmas season confined to one short thoroughfare, but these three stops were made within a compass of adjoining homes – he skipped but one of the four.



### COUNCILMEN ELECT MAKELA MAYOR

January 10, 1964

Earl Makela, who is associated with Ericson Oil Co., was elected Negaunee's mayor for 1964 at the annual organization meeting of the city council. Makela previously served two full terms as presiding officer of the council and also occupied the mayor's chair during the last three months of 1963 following the resignation of Dorste Roos. Benjamin Pascoe, who operates a local Standard Oil station, was unanimously elected to serve as mayor pro-tem. Other members of the 1964 council include Matt Vanni, Stewart Abbott, Oliver Maki, Clarence Trotochaud and Francis Dompierre.



### THE VIGA BOWLING RESULTS

December 23, 1964

Liz Cain took high game and match honors in Viga Women's League competition as she combined a 214 with games of 186-187 for a total of 587. Beau Chateau again walked off with the high match total rolling 2354 on games of 824-806-724.

In the Women's Afternoon League, Betty DeGabriele had the high individual match of 481 while Ramseth Furniture had high game of 737, and Fannie's the high match of 2086.

Ron Laitinen had a 591 total for the high match and 232 for high game in the Business and Professional Loop. Ramseth's posted the high team match total of 2670.

Bob Polkinghorne led Viga Major 875 bowlers with a 236 high game while Milt Cain had the high match of 583 including a 219 game. Other 200's included a 234 by Don Manning and 220 by Bill Deroche.

Pat Sager recorded the high individual match total of 438 in the Friday Afternoon Women's League.



## **NEW UNIFORMS FOR ST PAUL CHEERLEADERS**

**"Negaunee Iron Herald" - September 16, 1960**

Before school was over last June, tryouts were held to pick the cheerleaders for 1960-61. Three former cheerleaders, Mrs. Pat Bertocchi, Mrs. Pat Langlois and Mrs. Barbara Perala were the judges and the following girls were chosen: Diane Tremblay, Ann Quinn, Kathy Tremblay and Lois Roberts. These girls along with four seniors – Barbara Patierno (Captain), Pam Torreano, Karen LaRock and Kathy Cronin make up the group. They have held regular practice sessions each week during the summer and have ordered new uniforms. The uniforms will consist of green pleated skirts and white crew neck sweaters with the school emblem on the front of them. Ann Quinn and Diane Tremblay pose with their new uniforms.



**Welcome to our  
Negaunee  
Historical  
Society  
Website – take  
a moment and  
visit us at  
[www.negaunee  
history.org](http://www.negauneehistory.org)  
Preserving our  
heritage for the  
future...**

Our new Website is now being updated with the thoughtfulness of Darin Rinehart who has volunteered to add information that board members can provide him onto this site. We are hoping to improve the site to make it enjoyable and interesting for anyone to access. Of course, we are also hoping that we will be able to obtain several new members to our Society. Memberships are helpful for us to maintain the museum with the daily expenses. We are an all voluntary group with no city, state or federal funds to help our cause. Please pass the word to non-members about our new Website and considering them on becoming a member. If anyone has any questions, please e-mail our President or myself at the following address ([negauneehistorical@att.net](mailto:negauneehistorical@att.net)). Thank you.

## EARLY HISTORY OF NEGAUNEE 1844-1944

Excerpts taken from hand-written report by an unknown author

HEREABOUTS WHILE ENGAGED IN ESTABLISHING THE TOWNSHIP LINES AND MAKING GEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WILLIAM AUSTIN BURT AND HIS PARTY OF SURVEYORS CHANCED TO MAKE THE FIRST DISCOVERY OF IRON ORE IN THE LAKE SUPERIOR REGION ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1844.  
M. C. H. S

In his excellent talk before the Negaunee Women's Club on January 10, 1944, Ray A. Brotherton gave some very interesting highlights on the history of Negaunee. The theme of the meeting was the Negaunee Centennial, the anniversary of which occurred in 1944. In 1844, William Burt and a company of government workers happened to locate the stump of a great tree about which clung to bits of iron ore. Negaunee can well honor that historic stump on its official seal, for it revealed infinite mineral riches. The Jackson Iron Company was formed to explore for minerals on July 23,

1845. They constructed the small camp of six log houses and a barn which marked the beginning of Negaunee. The first iron ore from the Jackson pit was vested in a forge with charcoal fire. Mr. Brotherton recalled an account of a trip to Negaunee made by his uncle, Henry Brotherton, and Henry Van Dyke in 1853. The two travelers spent a night in a small cabin at the Carp River Forge. It was in this same house that Barbara Koehler was born on October 4, 1855 and thus became the first person born in Negaunee. Years later and being married to John Stecher, she told Ray Brotherton of having crossed the top of the dam there when she was two years old while horrified lookers-on watched fearfully expecting her to tumble off into the Carp River. The Plank Road was completed on November 1, 1855 and iron ore was carried over it from Negaunee to Marquette in four-wheel wooden carts drawn by mules. The road was replaced by a primitive railroad in 1857. Light iron rails were used. In 1864, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad track was completed between Negaunee and Escanaba.

Negaunee had the first blast furnace (Pioneer Furnace) built in the Lake Superior region and operating on April 18, 1858. After burning down in 1874, the furnace was rebuilt in 1877 and operated until 1893. Negaunee was built in 1860 and grew from 526 inhabitants to 6,552 in 1930. "Negaunee" which is Chippewa for "Pioneer" or "Foremost" was officially named in 1865. The first school (Union Schoolhouse) was established in 1866. The first newspaper, the "Negaunee Iron Herald" originated on November 13, 1873.



**PICTURE FROM THE PAST - NEGAUNEE EAGLES MEMBERS**



**Negaunee Centennial July 5, 1965**  
**Seated L-R: Bert Dushane, Ed Miller, Bert Jetty, Art LaForest, Dave Carlson, Art LaForest, Lester Juchemich, John Lyons, Leonard Pellow, Angelo Rubatt**  
**Standing L-R: Clyde Eddy, Wm. Larson, Paul Smith, Fred Bath, George Prusi, Andrew Niemi, Richard Goldsworthy, Doald Jenkins, Alvin Hampton, Gunnard Anderson, John Flink, Paul Laine, Wm. F. Langson, Gilbert Lukkonen, Lloyd Allen, Clarence Verran**

**2014 MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE**

Our active membership is now at 204. Take time to renew your 2014 membership now and ask a friend to join and support the Historical Society. Adults are only \$10.00 and your donation can be mailed to P.O. Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866.

<b>Lifetime - \$100.00</b>	<b>Individual - \$10.00</b>	<b>Student - \$5.00</b>
<b>Name:</b> _____		
<b>Address:</b> _____		
<b>City and Zip:</b> _____		
Note: If you want your newsletter via e-mail please indicate _____		