

# The Negaunee Historical Society

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

## MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

### FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson

Winter is on its way out and spring is slowly making an appearance. At least, it seems that way with today's rain. We could still see some snow fall but a true yoooper knows it won't be long before the dandelions will sprout. We continued to make improvements during the winter and two rooms were painted, our meeting room/office space and the military room. If anyone has time to do some volunteer work, we have a spot for you. It could be rearranging rooms, working on photo albums or filling in to greet visitors.

Do you remember H.S. Doolittle? If you were enrolled in Negaunee Public Schools from 1922 to 1948, you would have known him as your superintendent. He lived on Main Street next door to the museum which at that time was the American Legion clubrooms. He was the longest serving superintendent for Negaunee schools. During his leadership, a music program was set up and the first full-time band and orchestra leaders were hired. A bus service was started to pick up students in the rural areas. Teachers' salaries were spread over a twelve month period. An outstanding sports complex was added at the playground. Progress was made both in the building program and curriculum. He was regarded as one of the leading school administrators in Michigan. (Note: Excerpts taken from 1948 Nee-Hy-Nuz)



VIRGINIA PAULSON



### ***IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS***

***Elsie Helstein – 2FEB2015***

***Charlotte Drobny Simmons – 2FEB2015***

***Richard W. Mattson – 26FEB2015***

***Lawrence E. Klein – 9MAR2015***

## FOOTBALL FIELD, PLAYGROUNDS AND ICE RINK - circa 1953

Originally constructed in 1915, the athletic field complex is shown from the bluff. It's been over 60 years ago, but I can still remember climbing on the monkey bars, watching our high school baseball and football teams in action as well as running on an oval cinder track. The smaller field was used for fast pitch softball as well as for the youth during the weekly summer recreation program. We also played baseball and hockey at the outdoor ice rink located across the road from the grandstand. The first two green shacks were used as changing areas and warming spots for the men and women with the pot-belly stove situated in the middle of each. The third shack was actually used to play music for the skaters. In the background, the newly constructed cement highway is visible being built in 1951. The old highway followed along Teal Lake (which we now call Croix Street) and connected to the newly built highway near Fox Motors. Shown in the background and on the corner of Baldwin Avenue and the highway is Immanuel Lutheran Church which was moved from Park Street in 1952.



### GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME

(Since our last newsletter)

Anonymous – monetary gift  
Barbara Fernandez – monetary gift  
Tina Johnson - painting at museum  
Raymond/Kathryn Beauchamp – monetary gift  
We Energies Foundation – matching funds gift  
Suzanne Morris – updating the mailing labels for our newsletters  
Mike Jurmu- old hand-made mine tools, carbide lamp and a fuel tin  
Jonelle Collins, Linda Nicholls and Virginia Paulson – gifts in memory of “Nob” Rogers



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

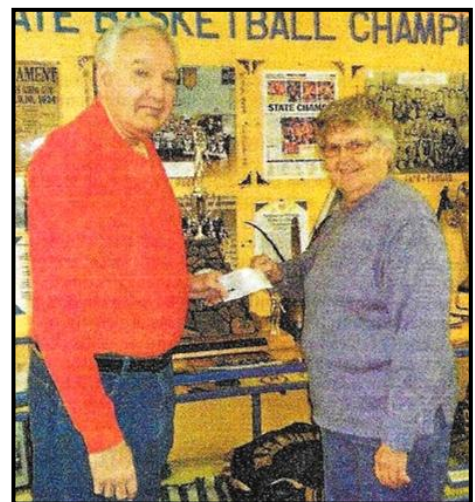
## **NEW LAKEVIEW SCHOOL AND MATHER “B” MINE – circa 1953**



An interesting picture shows the newly built Lakeview School from Baldwin Avenue before any housing had taken place. Taxpayers gave the board the go-ahead signal in 1949 granting a bond proposal for \$650,000 to defray the cost of erecting a new elementary school and gymnasium. The dedication of Lakeview School was held on October 14, 1951 and the Memorial Gymnasium was dedicated the following month on November 20th. In the background, the Mather “B” Mine is shown. Formerly the site of the Jackson and North Jackson Mines, the “B” shaft originated in 1950 and ceased operations on July 26, 1979. Negaunee’s new high school opened for grades 9-12 on this property in September 1986

## **NEGAUNEE INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT ENDS 50-YEAR RUN**

The Negaunee Invitational Basketball Tournament has sadly come to end. More than 100 teams from the local area and the Midwest participated in the tournament each year. “We’ve had a great 50-year run, and it’s bittersweet,” tournament director John Basolo said. Over the years, the tournament has raised money and given it back to the community, including thousands of dollars to the Negaunee school systems and other school-related causes and scholarships each year. John and his wife Terry, who were home to “NIT central,” were honored at the 50th anniversary celebration during the 2014 Class A weekend festivities after more than 35 years of volunteer service to the organization. The NIT committee included the Negaunee Historical Society in their distribution of the remaining monies. Shown here, John stopped by the museum and presented a check to President, Virginia Paulson. “Thank you, John and the NIT.”



## VOLUNTEERS HELP TO KEEP MUSEUM OPEN IN WINTER



Even though the museum is closed until Memorial Day, it still remains open for board members to continue upgrading a different part of the building each year. The meeting room has now been repainted and the memorial wall honoring Frank Matthews has been upgraded. The military room on the second floor is being painted and displays are being upgraded. Thanks to Virginia Paulson, Jeanne Sandstrom, Laura Jandron and Tina Johnson for all their time and

expertise on their yearly museum projects.

On the outside, volunteers continue to make room for the ladies to get in the museum by plowing the back entrance. Miles Parkkonen has been our main plow man but he has been helped out at times by Kevin Koski (shown here), Dennis Paulson, Don Larson and Dave Dompierre, Sr (who keeps the steps and porch cleaned). "Thank you, volunteers"



## THREE YEARS OF GLORY END IN DISAPPOINTING LOSSES DOMINIC 'DUKEY' JACOBETTI EARNS ACCOLADES

Negaunee St. Paul's 1964-65 basketball team, under 1<sup>st</sup> year Coach Gordy Leduc, completed a brilliant 3-year streak of success (63-8) on the hardwoods on a sour note again after a stunning loss to the Pickford Panthers in the 1965 quarterfinals and snapping its 23-game winning streak. Under Coach Allan Dighera, the Emeralds lost in the state finals in 1963 to Britton Macon to finish with a 20-5 record and then were upset in the 1964 regional finals by Baraga to finish 20-2. Dominic "Dukey" Jacobetti was a key player during this run while setting a Michigan High School career scoring record of 2,140 points. During the 1965 season, "Dukey" set a Memorial Gymnasium single-game points record on January 15 by scorching the nets for 51 in a 93-44 win over Michigamme. In a January 29 contest, St. Paul's set a team record for points scored in a game with a 119-73 clubbing at Doelle. The Emeralds also set a Memorial Gym record for total points in a game with a 100-51 win over Republic on February 13.



A fitting tribute in 1965 saw Jacobetti being named to the Detroit Free Press All-State team and having the Upper Peninsula Sports writers presenting Coach Leduc and the St. Paul Emeralds the George Rudness "Team of the Year" Trophy.

## **HIGHLIGHTS – 50 YEARS AGO**

Information taken from Robert Dobson's Iron Herald Notes

### **1965**

November 28, 1964 – New Palmer Road opened with a new highway over the C&NW tracks, 4 miles east of Palmer. Next year the road will be extended from 480 to US-41

January 15, 1965 – Clarence “Joe” Trotochaud elected as Negaunee’s Centennial Mayor

January 29, 1965 - First National Bank opens a new Harvey Bank Branch

January 29, 1965 - Old section of M-35 to be closed in the Rolling Mill Location because of mining at the Tracy Mine and J & L Steel Corp

February 19, 1965 - Negaunee has worst snowstorm since blizzard of 1938. County airport recorded 28 inches of snow in a 24 hour period. No school and cars stalled everywhere; US-41 closed at the Water Works corner; only business mail delivered; and city workers worked 14 hour shifts and one plow in use continuously

Friday March 5, 1965 - Centennial Committee books singer, Bobby Vinton for Teenagers Day

March 12, 1965- St. Paul’s wins 3rd Class D Upper Peninsula Championship in a row

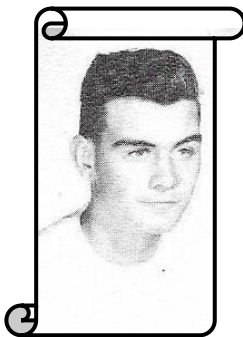
March 19, 1965- Centennial Committee opens office at 330 Iron St, (former Symon’s Hardware)

March 19, 1965- Death of Llewellyn (Dad) Price, 73, Negaunee School Custodian

April 9, 1965- Negaunee Sewer Plant recording device show that the Mercury hit zero or below in 54 days, greater than the 1962-63 season of 46 days. (One -30 reading, -22 and -18 below)

## **NEGAUNEE’S DELEGATE TO PEACE SEMINAR**

Excerpts from “Negaunee Iron Herald” February 5, 1965



David Rice was a delegate to the 10th annual United Nations-Washington, D.C. Peace Seminar sponsored by the Methodist Church. Highlights of his one week trip included attending the General Assembly of the United Nations, meeting with African missionaries, visiting various church centers and attending worship services. While in Washington, David visited the legislative branches of government and also met Rep. Gerald Ford of Michigan (and future President). David served as President of the local Methodist Youth Fellowship, was a member of the Hi-Y Club and played in the high school band and orchestra.

**Correction:** I made at least two errors in my last newsletter. The pillars on the Salmer house were given to Bethany Lutheran not Eastwood. T. A. Kauppila was not a Reverend as I indicated. Sorry!!!

## THE BREITUNG - "THE GREAT NORTHWEST'S FINEST HOTEL"



You might ask, who was this Edward Breitung? Born in Germany in 1831, he came to Marquette in 1855 then Negaunee in 1859 while operating the Pioneer furnaces. He served in the State Legislature from 1873-1877, was a State Senator 1877-78, the mayor of Negaunee from 1880-1883 and then a member of Congress from 1883-1885. At only 56 years of age, his active and most useful life came to a close on March 3, 1887. Originally buried in the Negaunee cemetery, Edward Breitung was removed to Marquette. Surviving was his son, Edward, Jr. who continued the tradition of his father's determination and energy. The "Negaunee Iron Herald" article on February 13, 1890 reported Breitung's net worth at over 6 million dollars. His son donated a large section of land to the city for the new cemetery which opened in 1910.

Originally the site of the Ogden House, rebuilt as the Breitung Hotel (aka: Breitung House), to disappearing in a fiery ending, Negaunee's greatest asset in history covered 108 years on the property adjacent to the Fire Hall. A cigar manufacturer, Andrew Seass, arrived here from Albany, NY in the 1870's and brought with him a vision and a lot of energy. The mines were booming and the Pioneer blast furnace was operating and Seass proposed to build a first class hotel in 1879 to cater to railroad officials, merchants and business people coming to Negaunee. When completed, it measured 87' by 76' and had 50 rooms as well as a bar and billiards room in the basement. The hotel was finished at a cost just over \$35,000. One night, local businessmen gathered in the hotel's bar when someone mentioned naming the hotel after its mayor. The suggestion found favor so a bottle of champagne was opened and Edward Breitung christened the hotel in his name. Known by many people as the "great Northwest's finest hotel" the grand opening was celebrated on October 11, 1880. Three notable guests included Presidents Grover Cleveland and Teddy Roosevelt as well as "Buffalo Bill" Cody. The original "log book of visitors" sits under a glass display case at our museum. Breitung's history shown below:



**Andrew Seass sold the hotel to his son, Laverne, in December 1910**  
**Laverne sold the hotel to Niilo Saastamoinen in May 1955**  
**Saastamoinen sold the hotel to Reverend Herman and Bertha Matero in April 1956**  
**Bertha sold the hotel to her son-in-law and daughter, Orvall and Helga Sutton in 1966**  
**Hotel destroyed by fire on January 15, 1988**

## **HOW DID NEGAUNEE NAME ITS STREETS?**

(The following illustrations are possible reasons for these street names)

**BROWN AVE**

**CLARK ST**

In the early 1870's, Jacob Brown started a soda factory in Negaunee. In the business directory, he was listed as a soda water maker. Brown and William Clark both had soda factories in Negaunee and surrounding Marquette County cities.

An 1873 Mining Journal article described how Clark had shown his appreciation for the efforts of the baseball boys by bringing several cases of pop to the grounds during the game. The boys imbibed freely and shouted "Long live Clark and his pop factory".

According to an 1874 Mining Journal article in its Negaunee column, Clark was providing his customers a new option. "Clark's root beer wagon goes about our streets regularly dispensing the popular beverage which cheers but does not inebriate".

By 1876, only Brown was in business. A region wide slump in the soda business faced new competition as the area pharmacies starting installing soda fountains. The fountains filled drinking glasses instead of bottles. Customers could order their favorite flavor, watch the soda being prepared and sit at the counter and drink it.

## **HISTORICAL STRUCTURE & SCHOOL HOUSE**



Just down the road from my home in Negaunee Township is a piece of property which has an interesting story behind it. This original farm structure is still standing after 125 years of withstanding the elements on property first owned by a John Mattson who came over from Finland in the 1880s and settled here. John and Sophia Mattson lived on their farm in a two-story hewn log house. They had a large barn for cows, horses and storage of hay. There was a chicken coop and pig pen. Of

course there was a sauna and an outhouse. As their children went on to have their own children, Mr. and Mrs. Mattson donated a portion of their property to establish a school house for the township to accommodate children living on the farms in the area.

The picture on the right is an example of a typical schoolhouse in those days. After researching this article, I realized that I purchased my home in 1973 on property which was originally owned by John Mattson. Thanks to a family book completed by Thomas Chevrette, visitors may further research this interesting family history when visiting our museum.





## FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Our future meetings are scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>, May 5th and June 2nd at 7:00 at the museum and all members are welcome to attend.

(Negaunee Historical Society, P O Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866-0221)  
Lifetime - \$100.00    2015 individual - \$10.00    2015 student - \$5.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you would like your newsletter e-mailed to you – please indicate e-mail address)

( \_\_\_\_\_ )

<b>ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - MARCH 23</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>2015 MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>65</b>

Thank you to all of our 167 Lifetime members and 65 yearly members for your support. Now would be a good time for others to help and support the preservation of Negaunee's history by continuing their membership and seeking new members. 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.



**Welcome to our Negaunee Historical Society  
Website – take a moment and visit us at**

**[www.negauneehistory.org](http://www.negauneehistory.org)**