

The Negaunee Historical Society

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

MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson

As I write this, spring has come to Negaunee - at least for a few days. Temperatures in the 50's and an occasional 60, and the nights are cold which makes for a good sap run. It's perfect weather for those who make their own maple syrup. Spring has come to the Historical Society as well.

We are looking at projects that we may be able to accomplish because of a generous gift of \$25,000.00 we received from William Pentinmaki. Raised in the Rolling Mill location, Bill was one of five children (four boys and one girl) born to Isaac and Selma Pentinmaki. Bill graduated from NHS in 1942. He was a member of the high school band and took honors in declamation and oratory competition (known today as forensics) and served on the editorial staff of the school newspaper, "The Nee Hy Nuz". He graduated from Michigan Tech in 1947 with a degree in electrical engineering. He resides part time in Pottstown, PA and Boynton Beach, FL.

Bill shares with us many memories he has of Negaunee. We thank him for his generous contribution that will enable us to make improvements to our building. It is where we have the opportunity to preserve and showcase the heritage of our city.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS



Leo F Seeley, Jr – 28JUL2014
William Thompson – 24NOV2015
Allan Dighera – 6DEC2015
Paul St. John – 27DEC2015
Jacob Holappa – 1JAN2016
Barbara Bancroft – 22JAN2016
Mildred Ropponen – 29JAN2016
Mary Trolla – 5FEB2016
Elsie Kantola – 6MAR2016

FROM THE "IRON HERALD" - 50 YEARS AGO
(JANUARY-MARCH 1966)

January 28- LOCAL INSURANCE MAN HONORED BY MIDWEST UNITED

Barry J. Torreano was recognized as one of the 13 million-dollar producers for Midwestern United Life Insurance Company held at the 18th annual Leaders Award Banquet at the Fort Wayne, Indiana Chamber of Congress. Barry was also honored for being one of the top 10 premium income leaders during the past year.

February 4- NHS CLASS OF 1966 MEMBERS HONORED WITH A'S/B'S

Judith Arbelius and Michelle Bussone earned straight A's. With honors – Ted Anderson, Nancy Bath, Ann Bogetto, Susan Delorenzi, Delores Deschaine, Paula Goulette, Jean Korpi, Norma Leiviska, Jim Luttinen, Dennis Maki, Sharon Maki, Daniel Manninen, Christie Method, Betty Nyman, Kristine Partanen, Christine Prusi, Lois Prusi, Diana Tammelin, Bonnie Tikkanen and Raymond Wiig.

February 11- MASONIC UNIT WILL HONOR MAN

Fred Tuttle, well known resident, was to be honored at a special communication of the Negaunee Masonic Lodge. Tuttle designed and supervised remodeling of the new lodge facilities on Teal Lake Avenue which was completed at the end of 1965. Stewart Abbott acted as toastmaster for the dinner and presented Mr. Tuttle with a life membership sponsored by the Ironwood Lodge.

February 18- LOCAL BASKETBALL TEAMS STAGE TWIN BILL

Something new and unusual in the way of regular season basketball attractions was to be offered area fans at the Memorial Gymnasium. In the first game of the twin bill, St. Paul High will meet National Mine at 7:30 while Negaunee will meet Stambaugh at 9:00. "Two for the price of one" admission prices and season tickets from both schools were honored.

March 4- MINING OPERATIONS MAY
CAUSE JACKSON PARK ABANDONMENT

Probability that future mining operations in the city would result in closing of Iron Street west of Merry Street and abandonment of Jackson Park has been revealed by City Manager Rodney Hodge in a memo to City Council members.

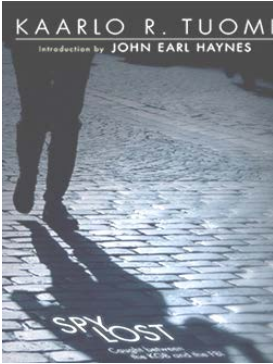
PLAY TV BINGO

MONDAY Through FRIDAY

5-5:30 P.M.--WLUC-TV

**Pick up Bingo Cards at your Negaunee IGA Foodliner.
Everyone 18 years of age or over is eligible to participate.**

NEGAUNEE'S COMMUNIST SPY **Tuomi Caught between the KGB and the FBI**



Kaarlo Rudolph Tuomi was born in a Finnish farm community in Negaunee Township on November 30, 1916. His father, Kalle Tuomi, died 4 months later on April 24, 1917 from the Spanish Flu and was buried in Potter's Field at the Negaunee Cemetery. His mother, Karoliina (Maarala), remarried Robert Saastamoinen who was a member of the Communist Party on August 7, 1922. The family moved to Rock, Michigan as noted in the 1930 Polk Directory and then made the move to Russia in 1933, during the Great Depression. Five years later, the stepfather became disillusioned and was arrested during the Stalinist purges and was executed as a spy on January 10, 1938 in Karhumaki, Russia even though his death wasn't confirmed for over 50 years. During this time, Kaarlo worked in the lumber industry in Soviet Karelia. Reaching the age of 22 and being responsible for taking care of his mother and stepsister, Kaarlo was drafted in the Soviet Army from 1939 until 1946 fighting against Finland. After demobilization he lived in the city of Kirov and working as an English teacher in various schools until 1957.

Because Kaarlo Tuomi was born in Michigan, he had the most prized possession Soviet espionage could ask for - a legitimate American passport and native fluency in English. The KGB trained Tuomi and sent him back to the United States in 1958 as a sleeper agent but the FBI quickly identified him and turned him back against his handlers, using him to feed disinformation into the Soviet Union.

The awareness of Kaarlo contributed to the US discovery of Soviet missiles in Cuba triggering the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1963, Kaarlo was condemned to death by the KGB and ordered back to Russia, but he chose to defect and remain in the U.S. but never being able to see his wife and three children again. At this time, he was provided with a new identity by the FBI and became a Christmas tree farmer in Minnesota and spending his winters in Florida where he sold his trees and eventually remarried. Kaarlo died in Lake Worth, Florida on March 1, 1995 at the age of 78.

(Note: Miles Parkkonen, our board member, actually met and talked to Kaarlo in Florida back in the 1980's.

NEGAUNEE FIRE SLED PICTURED IN PHOENIX, AZ

(Picture provided by Sandra Everett of Phoenix, AZ)



Pungs (the Algonquin word for sled) were commonly used in the snowy regions of the northern United States. This one, a Studebaker wagon converted to a bobsled, was built around 1890 by a blacksmith named Chevrette for the firefighters of Negaunee, on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It was used to carry hose, ladders, and firefighting equipment. Attempts were made to convert steamers to sleighs, but they proved to be top heavy and difficult to pull, turn, and stop.

BREAKING GROUND FOR A SCHOOL GARDEN - 2015

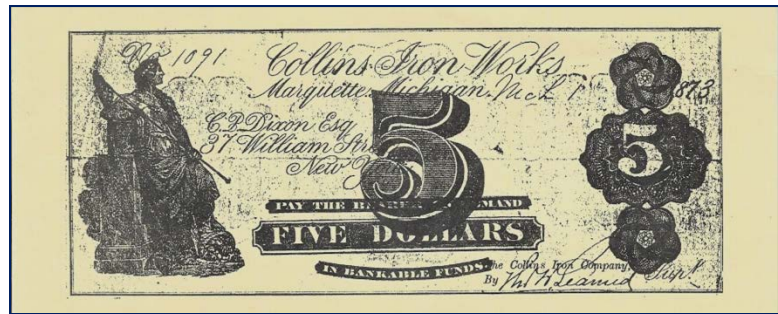
Moyle Excavating took time out of a busy work day and came to Negaunee High School to help level off the area we will be using for our school garden. They provided both the equipment and labor at no cost to the school. Before leveling, this area consisted of different, unwanted plant species and very uneven ground not suitable for planting. Now with the space cleared and leveled we will be able to start our gardening project. This area will accompany hoop houses and many raised beds to assist our plant growth. The garden area will provide a place for students to learn methods of testing soil texture and nutrients using a hands-on approach. The class would also like to thank Mr. Kimme Peterson for being a great resource for our class, coordinating the bulldozing, and helping us get started with our educational project.



“IRON MONEY” – 1852-1872

(Excerpts from R. A. Brotherton article February 1947)

After the discovery of iron ore by William Burt in 1844, work steadily increased to vast proportions and miners had to be paid. Negaunee was unpopulated and located in a dense wilderness making it nearly inaccessible except by way of Lake Superior and shut out from business communication with the rest of the world when navigation was closed. Ore from our area found a market in the eastern cities where the head offices were and where the funds were kept and managed. Large monthly disbursements were required at the mines, mostly for payment for labor. Transportation of currency was very expensive and extra hazardous and the risk of travel through the 120 miles of wilderness by dog sled or by stage was almost impractical. There were no railroads or banks in circulation in the region.



In 1852, it became the practice of the various mining and furnace companies to pay the monthly wages with drafts written up by the mining superintendent. At first the drafts were drawn for the exact amount to each laborer but caused a great inconvenience to make purchases. This led to drafts in \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5 and \$10 denominations of the so called “Iron Money”. Now the laborer was able to purchase sugar, flour from one store, buy his clothing at another store and still go to an old cobbler on Jackson Street to get a quart of whiskey for medical purposes for a \$1.00.

The IRS investigated this type of banking as statutes provided that banking associations were subject to a 10% tax on all notes and drafts and sent a government agent to Negaunee to collect this tax. The agent picked up his first sample of “Iron Money” paid in change in settlement for his dinner at the old Jackson House. He continued to make 10% collections from all of the mining companies and it was claimed that he collected over one million dollars in taxes before a relief bill was passed by Congress. He is even said to have received one-half of the taxes he collected. There was no “Iron Money” issued after 1872 as the railroads were now operating and real currency could now be obtained.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - MARCH 9 252
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS 176
2016 MEMBERSHIPS 76

Wow!! This is a very nice start for 2016. Thank you to all of our 252 members for the continued support of our society. Listed below are 76 of our yearly members who have already sent in their dues. A card may be picked up at the museum



or if you would like one mailed to you, please let us know. Now would be a good time for others to help and support the preservation of Negaunee's history by renewing 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. If I have omitted your name in error, please advise me.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Judy Altobello</i> | <i>Marjorie Isaacs</i> | <i>Kati Laituri</i> | <i>Anna Sophia Pirkola©</i> |
| <i>Bob Borlace</i> | <i>Ron Isaacson</i> | <i>Keith Langlois</i> | <i>Beth Pynnonen</i> |
| <i>Carol Brown</i> | <i>Laura Jandron</i> | <i>Pat Langlois</i> | <i>Steve Repola</i> |
| <i>M Elizabeth Cain</i> | <i>Paul Jandron</i> | <i>Philip Langlois</i> | <i>Darin Rinehart</i> |
| <i>Diane Carlson</i> | <i>Harold Johanson</i> | <i>Marilyn J Lukkonen</i> | <i>Karin Rinehart</i> |
| <i>Mary J Collins</i> | <i>Julie Johnson</i> | <i>Paul Makela</i> | <i>Wayne Roy</i> |
| <i>Andrew Dellangelo</i> | <i>Staci Jones</i> | <i>Deanette Marcotte</i> | <i>Karen Saari</i> |
| <i>Eric Dompierre</i> | <i>Barbara Koski</i> | <i>Joe McCormick</i> | <i>Wade Saari</i> |
| <i>Joseph Drobny</i> | <i>Danielle Koski</i> | <i>Kathy McCormick</i> | <i>Deanna St. Andre</i> |
| <i>Hunter Duquette (c)</i> | <i>Gerald Koski</i> | <i>Joanne Miljour</i> | <i>Peter Sangalli</i> |
| <i>MacKenzie Duquette (c)</i> | <i>Jim Koski</i> | <i>Celeste Morgan©</i> | <i>Connie Scanlon</i> |
| <i>Nancy Duquette</i> | <i>Joyce Koski</i> | <i>Jon Neely</i> | <i>Ellen Weingarten-Skaates</i> |
| <i>Nolan Duquette</i> | <i>Kevin Koski</i> | <i>Tom Nelson</i> | <i>Carmella Spelgatti</i> |
| <i>Barbara Fernandez</i> | <i>Loraine Koski</i> | <i>Brian Niemi</i> | <i>Robert Sutherland</i> |
| <i>Margaret Gravedoni</i> | <i>Preston Koski ©</i> | <i>Loretta Niemi</i> | <i>Maxine Sylvester</i> |
| <i>Michael Haines</i> | <i>Roland Koski</i> | <i>Brian Ostwald</i> | <i>Robert Sylvester</i> |
| <i>William Haupt</i> | <i>Todd Koski</i> | <i>Donald Palomaki</i> | <i>James R Thomas</i> |
| <i>Stephanie Heikell</i> | <i>Cindy Kotila</i> | <i>Mary Parkkonen</i> | <i>Byron Tossava</i> |
| <i>Jeanette Hodge</i> | <i>Peter Kotila</i> | <i>Paulette Piirainen</i> | <i>Steve Wetton</i> |

Our society regrets the resignation of Theresa Rinehart as our Treasurer after so many years of her dedicated time and effort to ensure that our finances were balanced each and every month. Thank you for a job well done!





GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME

(Since our last newsletter)



Rae Helgren – monetary gift
Anonymous – monetary gift
Jeanette Hodge – monetary gift
Ronald Kauppila – monetary gift
Kathleen Beauchamp – monetary gift
James & Betty Steward – monetary gift
We Energies Foundation – matching funds gift
Karen Northey Saad– gift in memory of her parents
Pat Johnson – proceeds from home Christmas tour
Miles Parkkonen – winter snow removal at our museum
Theresa Rinehart – for being our Treasurer for several years
Suzanne Morris – updating the mailing labels for our newsletters
Elmer Rinehart – for upgrading and assembling our new computer
Bon-Ton Stores – monetary gift from Younkers Coupon Fund Drive
David Jr & Linda Dompierre– gift in memory of his grandparents, Horace & Millicent

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

FROM THE 'IRON HERALD' 100 YEARS AGO - 1916

Negaunee Women's Club founded with Eleanor Gaffney elected as President, it became federated in 1922 but discontinued in 1968.

Perala Funeral Home business was founded and operated by John W Perala and located on West Lincoln Street.



"Iron Herald" reported that (with exception of Johannesburg, South Africa) Negaunee is the richest city per capita in the world.

First NHS Girls basketball team was formed under Coach H. A. Smith and the team had a 7-1 season record. Only four games were played the following year because of World War I. Competition in Girl's basketball ended in 1917.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Our future meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 5th, Tuesday, May 3rd and Tuesday, June 7th at 7:00 at the museum. All members and guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments are always served at our meetings.

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

Excerpts from Superintendent – Mr. Dan Skewis

January has been designated as School Board Appreciation Month, and I wanted to take a moment to thank members of the Board of Education of Negaunee Public Schools. Our school board members bear responsibility for an annual budget of \$14.1 million, 1,521 students, 180 employees and 6 buildings. These are citizens whose decisions affect our children and build our community. Even though showing appreciation for the important work of school boards should be a year-round process, we often neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of these men and women who represent us. This month, on behalf of the NPS staff and students, I am asking members of our community to take a moment and thank a school board member. The men and women serving Negaunee Public Schools are Nita Argall, Fae Collins, Virginia Paulson, Dave Rice, Martin Saari, Greg Toutant and Susan Wideman-Schaible.



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

(Negaunee Historical Society, P O Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866-0221)
Lifetime - \$100.00 2016 Individual - \$10.00 2016 Student - \$5.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip: _____

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