

# The Negaunee Historical Society

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Negaunee, MI 49866 (906-475-4614)

## MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

### FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson



In our last newsletter, I printed a story by William Treloar of how Negaunee got its name. Well, several readers informed me that this was a STORY....the term alternative facts seems to be the catch phrase this year.....SO.... like Andy Rooney would say “now for the rest of the story.” Negaunee is a Chippewa word and means “go ahead” in one sense and then means “the first”. Peter White was a member of the legislature in 1857 and got an act passed providing that the territory of Negaunee should be organized into a “township” to be called “Teal Lake”. That summer, Mr. C. T. Harvey and E. C. Hungerford came to bid the “Pioneer Furnace” for the Pioneer Iron Company. They wanted Peter White to give them the word “pioneer” in Indian and the closest he could come was “The First” and they were satisfied with it, so adopted it and organized the town.

Ishpeming is actually what the Indians called that vicinity. “On High,” it means heaven. Some vulgar commercial men have drawn improper references to Negaunee being the next place to heaven it must be named hell which is profanity. It is perfectly proper to say the word “Negaunee” means “Pioneer.” This was adapted from Peter White’s letter dated February 10, 1906. Remember, we open for the summer on June 1st.

### **SUZANNE MORRIS**

*(August 28, 1950 – January 22, 2017)*



*The Negaunee Historical Society expresses its deepest sympathy in the passing of our Vice President and an energetic and hard working volunteer who will be missed. Suzanne was very instrumental each year in putting on the Home Tour for the community. She was the special person who updated the labels for our quarterly newsletters. She served many years as a tour guide for the museum.*

*Her last act of kindness and thoughtfulness was the very successful “Christmas Tea” that she organized at the museum in December. We will miss you very much, Suzanne.*



***Please visit us on our WEBSITE – [www.Negauneehistory.org](http://www.Negauneehistory.org)***



***Donations to Negaunee Historical Society in  
Memory of Clarence "Coke" Thomas***

***Larry/Mary Bussone  
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***Donations to Negaunee Historical Society in  
Memory of Edna (Thomas) Budner***

***Dr. & Mrs. C Doug Webb  
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***Donations to Negaunee Historical Society in  
Memory of Suzanne Morris***

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Christie Kangas  
Jeanne Sandstrom/Ron McGlone***

## IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

(Deaths reported to the Society since our December 2016 newsletter)



*Edna Thomas Budner – 13DEC2016*  
*Clarence “Coke” Thomas – 19JAN2017*  
*Joan Ericson – 21JAN2017*  
*Suzanne Morris – 22JAN2017*

1942--Negaunee became the only school to win a district tournament title under the since abandoned "point system". The Miners edged Ishpeming 23-22 for the championship. At the end of regulation play the score was tied at 22 apiece. A check of the official score book showed each team had made the same number of field goals and free throws. However, Negaunee had committed one less foul. The Miners were awarded one point for this accomplishment and declared the winner.

### GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME

(Since our September newsletter)



Jim/Betty Steward- monetary gift  
Terry Reynolds- monetary donation  
Pamela Olander- monetary donation  
Priscilla Hammond- monetary donation  
Rodney/Lucena Bessolo- monetary gift  
Miles Parkkonen – plowing at museum  
Kathleen/Raymond Beauchamp – monetary gift  
1957 Negaunee Miners Reunion – monetary gift  
Jon/Sharon Montgomery – Negaunee Miner Booster Club jackets  
All members – for their time and dedication preserving history

### FINAL REPORT ON NEGAUNEE'S TURKEYS



Turkey excitement came to an end since our last newsletter. From trying to get a room at Valley View Apartments and then hoping to get an education from the Negaunee Middle School, the turkeys were picked up and taken away by authorities for loitering. They were probably sentenced to do time at the turkey farm. We enjoyed their visit and wish them well in the new surroundings.

**1957 Negaunee Miners Class B**  
**Basketball State Champions**  
**Honored Friday, February 10, 2017**



Kneeling – Doug Niemi, Jack Fredrickson, Bill Hyry, Joe Lucci, Paul Jandron, Dan Maki, Peter Paine  
Standing- Asst Coach, Lodie Morris; Bob Manske, Asst Coach, Dominic Ghiardi; Tom Anderson, Bill Kokko, Don Larson, Russ Jacka, Bill Bond, Wayne Jarvi, Marty Isaacson, Richard Ellis, Rodney Bessolo, Coach Jack Taylor, and Keith Gagnon.

Negaunee **WELCOMED HOME** their 1957 State Basketball Championship team prior to the Ishpeming-Negaunee basketball game on Friday night, February 10th. The Miners surprised everyone going the distance under a new coach and only one returning starter. The following members of that team, the cheerleaders and family members of deceased players were recognized and honored. They included Reverend Doug Niemi, Bill Hyry, Paul Jandron, Dan Maki, Donald Larson, Tom Anderson and Doctor Rodney Bessolo. Cheerleaders included Laura (Maki) Jandron and Elaine (Tessmer) Nirva. Representing deceased members included Jack Fredrickson's daughter, Stacy Lander; Bill Bond's son David Bond; June Wales representing her husband Richard Ellis; and Coach Jack Taylor's son, Brad Taylor. Members unable to attend were Marty Isaacson, Bill Kokko, Bob Manske and Russ Jacka as well as cheerleader, Jean Leveillie. Deceased players from that team not represented included Joe Lucci, Wayne Jarvi; assistant coaches, Dominic Ghiardi and Lodie Morris; and deceased cheerleaders Julia (Parkkonen) Kolar, Barbara (Roos) Bancroft, and Virginia (Karki) Henthorne. The players were greeted by Negaunee high school students at an assembly, followed by a luncheon held in the Fellowship Hall at Immanuel Lutheran Church and a final tribute and introduction as a prelude to the varsity game.

Roland "Foo" Koski spent over a year organizing this event coordinating with the Negaunee Historical Society and the Negaunee Public Schools. He was only 12 years old during that 1956-57 basketball season and he had a rather unique hobby. He took score of every single game that season in his own scorebook of which he still possesses.



## High-lights from that Championship Season

Reflecting back during that unexpected State Championship season, it should be noted that the Miners had just an 11-5 regular season record. With a new coach and only one returning starter, this feat was unbelievable. Interestingly, the Miners were tested time after time during the season. They were involved in many exciting close games and were becoming “battle ready”. The Miners lost both regular season games to Ishpeming – once in sudden-death overtime and then again in overtime. Back then, after being tied after overtime, a second overtime was played and the first team to score was victorious. They defeated Marquette 61-60 on a last second basket by Paul Jandron whereas it was reported that none of the fans knew for sure whether or not the basket would count. The Miners lost a game to Stephenson 67-66 on a basket from beyond mid-court at the buzzer. They made history by being the first Miner team to play a regular season game downstate whereas they upset an undefeated Class ‘A’ Traverse City team 62-58 making 28 of 36 free throws.

Negaunee overcame those two heart-breaking regular season overtime losses and defeated Ishpeming 48-41 for the District championship, the U. P. championship over Stephenson 61-59 after trailing by 10 points in the first quarter. “Joe Lucci, with ice-water in his veins” made 2 free throws with six seconds remaining in the Miners 65-64 major upset win over Big Rapids in the quarterfinal game at Petoskey. They defeated Lansing Resurrection 63-52 in the semi-final after trailing by 11 points at one time. The Miners then defeated Harper Woods, which was undefeated and riding a 25-game winning streak, in that memorable 68-66 championship game.



The 1957 State Champions were greeted by the Negaunee High School students at an assembly. Pictured above L-R are Tom Anderson, Reverend Doug Niemi, Bill Hyry, Don “Ducky” Larson, Paul Jandron, Dr. Rodney Bessolo and Danny Maki. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Bessolo)



## **MARY BOWER CERVENAK – “TO SEE THE REST OF THE STORY”**

Excerpts from an e-mail sent out to family members by Bob Anderson

“As a bonus for you, (smile), I have plenty of historical data about the Hungarian Joseph Sedlock Sr. family going back seven generations. Frank and Margaret Bower gave birth to a daughter, Mary, on September 20, 1875. From my sister’s (Jody) notes, memories from my mother (Genevieve) and from my conversations with a genealogist (Roland Koski) in Negaunee, I am relaying the following account about Mary and her proclivities. Mary Bower married Thomas Cervenak in 1898 when she was 23 years old and they had a son named Joseph. Mary resided at 401 Cherry St. which was about a quarter mile from Grandpa Joe Sedlock Sr. who lived at 311 East Peck St. Mary would visit Joe’s kids and he did not look with favor on those visits as she had gained a reputation of being on the wild side—a lady’s man for sure. Mary Frances (Anderson), now 84 years old, can still remember Mary’s residence on Cherry St, a shanty of sorts and her strong perfume worn for the boys at the local bars. Actually, I think she must have been one of the finest Negaunee’s prostitutes. (The “prostitute” word was not allowed in the Sedlock home). Apparently she was not the smartest person in Negaunee either. Thomas Cervenak had more than he could handle and he and Mary divorced. Grandma May Sedlock felt sorry for Mary and was there to give comfort to her, serving her coffee and food when she stopped to visit, and was always nice to her to the end of her life. Mary Cervenak died on November 3, 1949. She was found dead by Grandpa Joe Sedlock Sr. in her shanty of a house at age 74 years. Mary’s house was torn down after she died and that site became a part of the neighbor’s yard even to this day. Even though Grandpa Joe did not approve of her presence at his house, he did not want her to end up in a common grave with no identification. He wanted her to have a Christian burial, so he provided a space in the Sedlock plot in the Negaunee Cemetery. There is no headstone, but there is a stone marker at ground level.”

“Ironically, Roland, the Negaunee genealogist, and a buddy (Dave Dompierre) were talking about Mary Cervenak a few days before my first call to him. Dave had discovered a picture in an album at the Negaunee museum that he thought was Mary - based on the way she dressed and the reputation that still follows Mary to this day about her frequency of visiting the bars in Negaunee. Roland sent me this picture and I sent it to Mary Frances, as she was used to seeing Mary as a young kid. Lo and behold, Mary Frances recognized the picture immediately and was overcome with memories of Mary and her strong and cheap perfume. I called Mary Frances and Bob, her husband, and we had a great telephone conversation about Mary and the many stories that Mary Frances remembered about her! Wow—what a discovery for a stranger in Negaunee to find that picture, and for we relatives, **“TO SEE THE REST OF THE STORY”**. Mary was our great-great Aunt and a great Aunt to our mother Genevieve and her sister Mary Frances.”

February 24, 2017 - Robert (Bob or Mike) Anderson, Genevieve Sedlock Anderson’s third oldest kid at 74 Yikes!!! from Centreville, VA. He had several conversations with Roland Koski and was seeking genealogy information on the Joseph Sedlock, Sr. family lot in the Negaunee cemetery. An interesting lady’s name was mentioned and the above memory became the topic of this article. Mr. Anderson is sharing his thoughts to his family members and also wanted to include some information provided by me. And, he allowed me to share his family memories with our members by this newsletter.

## PARENTS GET LETTER FROM MISSING SON

(Excerpt from "The Mining Journal" April 13, 1945)



In April of 1945, William and Annie Stanaway, residing at 825 County Road, received a letter from their son Bernard who was reported missing in action in Germany for over a month. Bernard was serving with Lieutenant General Patton's Third Army in Germany when he was reported missing. He wrote the letter on Red Cross stationery and said, in part:

"Just a few words to let you know I escaped from the Nazis and am back in American hands again. I am run down from lack of food and lack of medical care, but the American Army will take care of that. I traded my watch to the Nazis for food and this is what I got: 25 crackers, one can of salmon, 12 squares of chocolate, 10 cigarettes, one package of tea, one can of cocoa and one can of powdered eggs. I divided this with three of my buddies so I didn't even fill my hollow tooth." **Bernard Stanaway**

## ST. PAUL HIGH CLOSES AFTER 34 YEARS

(Excerpt from "The Iron Herald" February 1967)

St. Paul High, which graduated its first class in 1938, awarded diplomas to seniors for the last time in 1967. According to a letter to parishioners from Rev. Robert Cordy, operation of the high school was being discontinued because of a shortage of teaching sisters. It was understood that only the high school would be affected with the grade and junior high continuing in operation. The present school was erected in the depression days of the early 1930's - opening in 1934 with the first class graduating in 1938.



## EMERALDS HAD 11 COACHES – WON 8 DISTRICT TITLES

(Excerpt from "The Iron Herald" February 27, 1967)



The St. Paul high school basketball team was introduced as a sport by Sec Violetta in 1936 thus becoming the first of 11 coaches to guide the team during the next 31 years while the Emeralds captured 8 district titles and losing in the State Championship game in 1963. Part-time coaches were hired from 1936-1959 when Pellow relinquished his job and James Greenwood became the physical education instructor and full-time coach. Allan Dighera took the 1963 team to the State Championship game losing to Briton-Macon 59-58. Gordy LeDuc led the Emeralds to a perfect regular season in 1964 and had a 21-game winning streak snapped by Pickford in the state quarter-finals.

1936 – Sec Violetta  
1938-1943 – Earl Messner  
1944-1945 – Francis Dighera  
1946-1949 – "Mugs" Gingras  
1950 – Dick Pellow  
1951 – Bill Jennings

1952-1954 – Matt Vanni  
1955-1959 – Dick Pellow  
1960-1962 – James Greenwood  
1963 – Allan Dighera  
1964-1966 – Gordy LeDuc  
1967 – Mike Forsberg



**LEAKS ARE GONE – OUR MUSEUM HAS A NEW ROOF**

The museum has a new roof and the future concern of major damage by leaks has been avoided. The contract was made with Stonehouse Window and Door and they did a very good job of replacing and repairing various parts of the very steep roof. This very expensive project was largely funded

by a generous gift from our Lifetime member, William Pentinmaki. We are grateful for the thoughtfulness of Mr. Pentinmaki and for his gift in preserving the history of Negaunee. We also thank Stonehouse for a job well done.



**CITY HALL CLOCK OUT OF ORDER IN 1927**

*“It wasn’t my fault – blame the clock”*



Husbands getting off of work at the mines probably had a good excuse for not getting home at a decent hour after having a few drinks at the local pub. *“It wasn’t my fault – blame the clock.”* For the first time in several weeks the clock on City Hall struck the required number of strokes designating the hours. The clock hours registered with only one stroke instead of the required 1 to 12. Contrary to the general belief, the striking mechanism is not built into the clock located on top of the tower, but consists of a large bell swung in the scaffold of the roof of the building. The mechanism within the clock pulls on a thin steel cable which in turn operates the heavy striker for the number of strokes designating the hour. Ninety years later, the clock is still on time.

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - MARCH 1 239**

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS 178**

**2017 MEMBERSHIPS 61**

(Negaunee Historical Society, P O Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866-0221)

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