

# The Negaunee Historical Society

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

## JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

### FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson

Welcome back...We opened our doors for the season on June 1<sup>st</sup>. In May, we were honored to have as our guests the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Lakeview School. It is eight classes of approximately 200 children. I will have to say they are well behaved and interested in what we have on display. They are full of questions and we hope we have the right answers.



Of course they all like to ring the bell from the Jackson School which served students from 1871 to 1941. In June, our visitors came from Little Friends Day Care.



We will be hosting 3 Pioneer Days events at the museum. A Model A Club car show on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> in the evening. Senior Citizen Day is Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> with free refreshments and the Home Tour is on Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm. Watch for the Pioneer Week brochure.

We hope you pay us a visit this summer and we do have the coffee pot on.

VIRGINIA PAULSON

### NEGAUNEE HOME TOUR – FRIDAY, JULY 10<sup>th</sup>

Submitted by Suzanne Morris, Tour Organizer



The Negaunee Historical Society will hold its annual self-guided tour from 1 to 4 pm on Friday, July 10th during Pioneer Week. The tour includes four homes as well as our museum. 112 East Main Street, 116 East Main Street, 300 East Lincoln Street and 73 Heritage Drive (home located on the Carp River Gardens grounds). Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at the museum at 303 East Main Street or at any of the tour venues - watch for posters and advertisements of above locations. Proceeds from the tour help to support our museum. We do not receive any funds from city or state sources but are entirely supported by donations and dues. Refreshments will be available at the museum. This annual event is always highly anticipated by all participants. Enjoy the tour.

## **RUSSO BROS. FOUND GREENER PASTURES**

(The long, tedious, and hard working family venture in business began 75 years ago)

The well known Russo family (Carmello, Francis “Buster”, Charley and Tony) began their family journey the hard way while still being youngsters prior to becoming teenagers. They were born to immigrant parents from Italy unable to read or write in their native tongue or even read English. Their father, Carmello, Sr worked in the mines for over 50 years and was known as the “Green Thumb”. Thus, vegetables were grown and the young boys began distributing them by taking turns pulling their wagon each day. However, earlier in life two of the boys even had a shoe-shining business at ages 10 and 12 as they set their chairs on both ends of Iron Street strumming up business. Their original 1938 store in Ishpeming was called “Stop and Shop” selling fruits and vegetables. Two years later, the family moved to Negaunee for greener pastures and the business opened on the west end of Iron Street. The firm closed in 1942 as their store was the only local store to cease business as all four brothers entered the armed forces. At the close of WWII, the business reopened and remained at their original site until 1953. The business moved next to the Pioneer Agency Building (where Pellow Printing is still operating) until the celebration of Negaunee’s 100-year centennial. The business then moved again in 1965 to its new location and the supermarket became the first major construction in the Iron Street business district in 4 decades.



Russo’s Slogan- “Where Ma Buys Meat That Pa Can Eat”

## **STANDARD OIL CHANGES HANDS MORE THAN OIL!!**

(Negaunee’s Oldest Service Station Opened 95 Years Ago)

What do Ron “Jethro” Collins, Kenny Maki, Ben Pascoe, Roger “Smokey” Stott and Jim Thomas have in common? They were some of the owners of the same Standard Oil gas station next to the Fire Hall which had the distinction of being the oldest service station in Negaunee. Henry Lequia was the original proprietor in 1920 when he sold out to Stanley Bath in 1925. Walter Neely became the owner from 1930-1948 under the name of Neely’s Standard. He disposed of the business in 1948 to Ben Pascoe who renamed his business Pascoe’s Standard until selling out to his mechanic Jim Thomas in 1965 who in turn sold it to Ron Collins a year later. Jethro then passed Ron’s Standard on to “Smokey” who then sold it to Kenny Maki who had the business until his retirement. It’s quite possible that I even missed an “oil change”.

# **HIGHLIGHTS – 50 YEARS AGO**

Information taken from Robert Dobson's Iron Herald Notes

## **1965**

April 23, 1965 - Ten entries entered to become Centennial Queen. They were judged on swimsuits, talents, and personality just as in the Miss Michigan contest.

May 7, 1965 - NHS valedictorian was Janice Sivula and salutatorian was Laura Laurila.

May 7, 1965 - St. Paul valedictorian was Peter Valenti and salutatorian was Lois Marta.

May 21, 1965 - First centennial event was a Promenade in centennial costumes down town. It drew the largest crowd to the business district since the U.P. Firemen's tournament in 1960.

May 28, 1965 - Second centennial preview provided the Ishpeming Blue Notes and the promenade by the centennial Queen candidates.

June 11, 1965 - The Diamond Jubilee Scholarship went to Janice Sivula.

June 25, 1965 - Negaunee Post Office was made a First Class office.

### **July 2, 1965 CENTENNIAL ISSUE**

Two oldest Negaunee residents were Sarah (Smith) Augustson and Johanna (Flynn) Scanlon. Both resided on East Peck Street and they were neighbors.

First of three Centennial parades was held as a fraternal parade of all groups and six musical units.

Queen candidates were Nancy Lukkarinen, Diane Collins, Roberta Delongchamp, Sharilyn Gleason, Cheryl Hoiem, Linda Hooper, Betty Jean Johnson, Jill Ruhanen, Charlene Russo and Karen Trehwella.

Article regarding saxophones patented and built by Joe Sedlock and Charles M. Steele.

Negaunee had only one dairy, the Mattson Dairy in Negaunee Township. Pasteurization began in 1949 and vitamins were added in the early 1950's.

July 16, 1965 - Crowd totals for the centennial estimated at over 100,000. The Centennial Queen was Miss Diane Collins. 3,000 attended the Bobby Vinton Teenagers Ball, the Grand Finale Day parade had over 35,000 spectators and it took over two hours to get all the traffic out of town from an estimated 15,000 vehicles.



Thank you to all of our 168 Lifetime members and 81 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.

## **NEW LOOK ON WEST END OF IRON STREET**

Excerpts from "Negaunee Iron Herald" May 8, 1925

### **Modern Structure on Gauthier Property**

The three story frame building on Iron Street that was erected in 1865 by the late Medard Gauthier is to be replaced by a modern business block, the work of dismantling the pioneer structure being well underway. Phileas Bernard<sup>(1)</sup>, who has occupied the present building as a barbershop and residence, will meantime have business quarters in the Brand<sup>(2)</sup> building facing on Jackson Street. Plans call for a large store room, in addition to quarters for Mr. Bernard's barber shop, and there will be office rooms on the second floor. Coupled with the widening of Pioneer Avenue bringing the Gauthier lot into corner prominence, building of the new theatre<sup>(3)</sup> a few doors to the west, will add materiality to the appearance of the east end of Iron Street.

### **Also a New Bakery**

Work has also been started by Joseph A. Torreano, who purchased the property on Jackson Street, immediately west of the McDonald block<sup>(4)</sup>, in dismantling the building prior to erection of a new tile and brick structure which will house his bakery and afford living quarters. The building which is now being torn down was originally the Montreal House<sup>(5)</sup> and stood on the site now occupied by the Negaunee National Bank. It was purchased by the late Matthew Maloney and moved to the lot on Jackson.

Notes of interest:

- (1) Bernard Building became the Teen Tap and Eugene DeGabriele's Barbershop
- (2) Brand building now known as Hakala Well and Plumbing office
- (3) The new theatre being built was the Vista Theatre now PAAC
- (4) McDonald Opera House is now the Negaunee Elks
- (5) Torreano's Bakery is now Expressions Hair Styling

## **PARKKONEN'S INVENTION – THE PAINT BRUSH SCRUBBER**

*"It cleans brushes quickly and easily and without getting you dirty, and you clean it up good it works like brand new"*

Congratulations to our trustee and Lifetime member, Miles Parkkonen, for his recent invention. He invented the Paint Brush Scrubber in his own garage a few years ago -- it's a little wooden tool with a ridged surface that easily removes paint from brushes, pads and rollers to clean them. "It cleans brushes quickly and easily and without getting



you dirty," and "you clean it up good, it works like brand new," said Parkkonen. Miles created the Paint Brush Scrubber after seeing an old wash board in the Negaunee Museum. He created a prototype and sure enough, it worked. The production model is now available on store shelves and is made of 100 percent recycled, environmentally friendly wood, and is moisture and rot-resistant. It's on sale for \$14.99 and keeps your high quality brushes working better and lasting longer.

March 7, 1915 - Negaunee Star Band organized under leadership of Pietro Zanotti.

September 1915 - Manual Arts Building (western part of Central Grade School) opened for classes. It replaced the original Presbyterian Church site.

## THE COUNTRY HOSPITAL

(In reference to the Twin City Hospital that was located on Cyr Street)

*The little country hospital is hidden out of view, and seldom people notice it as pleasure they pursue.*

*But let an accident befall which is the fate of men, the proudest man is glad to see the small town doctor then.*

*And in that little hospital that humble folks maintain, he'll find that hearts are merciful and quick to comfort pain.*

*It isn't like the city place with sections blocks apart, where every patient is listed as a number on a chart.*

*And specialists for this and that convene to thumb this over, and ask a thousand questions of the ills he's had before.*

*For in the country hospital which lacks all pomp and style, the surgeon on his morning round finds time to chat awhile.*

*And whatever pain is in your groin, your stomach or your toe, the cause of it the doctor assuredly will know.*

*He will not shunt you round the place for rays and that and this, he'll diagnose your case himself and very seldom miss.*

*And whosoever shall thread the hall when you are free from pain, will stop to speak a cheery word and wish you well again.*



Marcella DeCaire Marta  
Nurse at Twin City Hospital

*"So little country hospital which humble folks maintain, which struggles for existence since its funds are always short, I pay this simple tribute now to all your tender care in lessening the hurt and pain which mortals have to bear, and pray for God's rich blessing on the men and women brave, who daily give their every ounce of strength to another's life to save."*

**Written on September 29, 1939 by Marcella DeCaire Marta**

## REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE ON BASKETBALL COURT

Excerpts taken from "Negaunee Iron Herald" March 8, 1963

History repeated itself on Saturday night at Northern Michigan College Field House as the St. Paul Emeralds defeated the Champion Indians for the 1963 District Class D basketball title 59-57 in overtime. It was back in 1938 that the Catholics playing their first season of basketball also defeated Champion for a district championship. By an odd coincidence, that 1938 game was a nip and tuck affair with the winning bucket coming in the closing seconds of play on a shot by our honorary State Representative, Dominic Jacobetti. Twenty-five years, his son Dominic ("Dukey") provided the same heroics with the winning basket in overtime. Remember -- "Ripley's, believe it or not".

## NEGAUNEE RESIDENTS GAIN NMU/TECH HALL OF FAME STATUS



### **Leslie Coduti, Jr.**

Basketball 1964-1968  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1995  
 Co-Captain 1967-1968  
 Four year letter winner  
 NMU's 1st Thoroughbred Award in 1967



### **Kurt Coduti**

Football 1989-1992  
 Michigan Tech Hall of Fame Class: 2012  
 Captain 1991-1992  
 All-America Honorable Mention  
 Academic All-America First Team 1992



### **David "Mulla" Ghiardi**

Basketball 1957-1961  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1995  
 All-American Honorable Mention 1960  
 Four year Starter  
 MVP and Leading scorer 1959-1960  
 Two year team captain



### **Edward "Matt" Gleason**

Basketball, Football 1933-1937  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1991  
 Earned 6 varsity letters  
 Two year captain of the basketball team  
 One year captain of the football team  
 Won 15 championships as a coach



### **G. Vance Hiney**

Football, Track, Athletic Director 1925-1931  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1977



### **Dick Koski**

Football, Track 1959-1962  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1987  
 1962 football captain  
 Set a then-school record in the high jump in 1960  
 Long-time head football coach at Negaunee



### **Karen Violetta Kunkel**

Coach and Trainer  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1985  
 NMU Olympic Training Center Coordinator 1985  
 Women's Athletic Coordinator 1968-1973  
 Women's Ski Coach 1967-1973



### **Mike Mileski**

Football 1958-1961  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1976  
 Member of 1961 NAIA playoff football team  
 Assistant football coach at NMU  
 Head track and swimming coach at NMU  
 Coached Ishpeming to 1975 state championship



### **Allan Ronberg**

Football, Basketball 1926-1929  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1980  
 Letterman in Football and Basketball at NMU  
 Head Coach Norway Football and Basketball 1932  
 Coached Basketball for 22 years, Football 31 years



### **Duane Soine**

Basketball 1961-1965  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1980  
 Four-letter winner at NMU Basketball  
 NAIA All-American Honorable Mention  
 Recipient Henry Tape Outstanding Senior  
 Citizenship Award  
 First full-time Intramural Director at NMU



### **Kathy Talus**

Field Hockey, Basketball 1974-1978  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1989  
 First female to earn eight varsity letters at NMU  
 Field hockey and basketball letter winner 4 years  
 Coached Negaunee Middle School girls track  
 Coached girl's varsity basketball team at Gwinn



### **Mike Trehwella**

Basketball 1974-1978  
 Michigan Tech Hall of Fame Class: 1990  
 Team's most valuable freshman 1974  
 Second-team All-NIC honors 1975, 1978  
 Captain 1978  
 Earned NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarships 1978



### **Ray Trehwella**

Basketball 1953-1956  
 Michigan Tech Hall of Fame Class: 2003  
 Three-year letter winner  
 Completed his career with 839 points in 50  
 games (16.8/game)



### **Oscar Wassberg**

Football, Basketball, Track 1927-1930  
 NMU Hall of Fame Class: 1980  
 First NMU Athlete to earn 11 varsity letters  
 First four-letter man in Track at NMU  
 Record in the 220-yard dash in 1929 which  
 stood for 23 years  
 4 letters in Basketball & 3 letters in Football  
 Coached undefeated 1945 NHS football team

## HOW DID NEGAUNEE NAME ITS STREETS?

(The following illustration is a possible reason for this street name)

### GEORGE J MAAS (30JUN1861-2DEC1915)



Maas Street is located between US-41 and Croix Street and is just north of Miners Park. Maas was a familiar name to early Negaunee residents so it isn't surprising that there is a street named for him. The Maas name is associated with the Maas Mine opened in 1902 and located in the area southeast of Cherry Street and across from the Negaunee city warehouse.

George Maas initiated the explorations on the Maas Mine property in 1891. The drilling was deep and expensive and it was in 1901 when enough ore was satisfied to justify and develop the mine. Ground was broken on February 3, 1902 as George Maas raised the first shovel of dirt and the Maas Mine was christened. George Maas was also the President of the First National Bank in 1905. One of Negaunee's finest homes was built on East Main Street and owned by the Maas family. It was torn down in the 50's when many homes were being moved due to mining.



## **GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME**

(Since our March newsletter)

- Class of 2015 – Negaunee Pioneer annual
- Lucille Method – her Ben Franklin store smock
- Lynn Chevrette – flat screen computer monitor
- Matthew Brisson – Purple Heart from 1940's-50's
- Jacob Holappa – Cascade Snowmobile Club archives
- Margaret Mitchell estate – several stylish women's hats
- Peter Dompierre - iron ore mining smelting pot and a forge table
- Sara Herd (Portland, OR) – maps of mines and city of Negaunee
- Harold Johanson (Florida) – taking over 200 photos for a museum video
- Gary Kratz via Renee Petrocik – St. Paul yearbooks & '65 centennial Iron Herald
- Dan Thompson- McDonald cash register originally used in the McDonald Opera House

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



### **LILY HELPPI 2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

*“Thank you to Mrs. Jean Nelson who donated the money for the Frank Matthews Memorial Scholarship that I received. I am grateful for receiving this financial aid.”* Virginia Paulson presented the award to Lily at Negaunee's graduation ceremonies representing the Matthews family. Lily is the daughter of Dan and Katherine Helppi of Negaunee and plans to attend Gogebic Junior College next year. Congratulations, Lily!!

# **CELEBRATING 150 YEARS** **1865-2015**



## **NEGAUNEE HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

*Corner of Brown Ave and E Main Street*

*Telephone 906-475-4614*

*E-mail address – [negauneehistorical@att.net](mailto:negauneehistorical@att.net)*

*Visit our Webpage – [www.negauneehistory.org](http://www.negauneehistory.org)*

*Open June 1 through Labor Day*

*Monday thru Saturday from 10:00am – 4:00pm*

*Individual and group tours available upon request*

*Donations welcomed from our visitors*

*Featuring 3 Floors and a Carriage House to visit*

*We now have a computer viewing on main floor*

*“Negaunee Iron Heralds” 1873-1968 on DVDs*

Lifetime - \$100.00    Annual individual - \$10.00    Annual student - \$5.00

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

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

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

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