

The Negaunee Historical Society

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

JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson

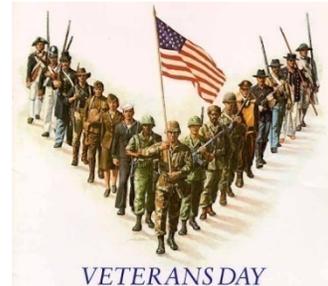


The year was 1917 when the United States became involved in World War I. This year, Marquette County has several programs honoring those who lost their lives and those who served their country. John H. Mitchell, at the young age of 21, was the first Negaunee resident to pay the ultimate sacrifice and was killed in action.

After the local soldiers and sailors returned to civilian life, they formed an organization known as the "Negaunee Soldiers and Sailors Club." Soon in every city, hamlet and village those returning from war caught the spirit of organization and united to form "The American Legion."



The Negaunee Museum was formerly the home of Negaunee's American Legion, named the John H. Mitchell Post No. 66 in honor of Mitchell who lost his life serving his country. On the stationery used by the John H. Mitchell Post is written, "***Negaunee is a Good Town but Let's Make it Better***" Good words to live by.....



Please stop by and enjoy your local museum.

VIRGINIA PAULSON

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

Jean Nelson – 25APR2017
Ron Isaacson – 11JUN2017



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

“PINEAPPLE FACE” BECOMES “PINEAPPLE GIRL” 1987 PEN PAL CREATES CONTROVERSY

Sarah York, as a 10-year old Negaunee school girl, created controversy when she became a pen pal of Manuel Noriega, then the de facto ruler of Panama. In 1987, Sarah began corresponding with Noriega after her father suggested that she should write to him because she liked the general's hat. This developed to the point where Noriega invited Sarah's family to visit him in Panama. Her family agreed to the visit seeing it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The parents were then later criticized for that visit and for encouraging Sarah's friendship with the highly controversial figure.



In October 1988, Sarah (11) and her mother were escorted by a military guard on a tour of Panama. She was interviewed constantly during that visit becoming the main item on the Panamanian news. The mayor of Panama City awarded Sarah an honorary key to the city. Upon her return home she was praised by her school and community. But soon, the story was covered in the national media where she was derided and ridiculed for befriending an enemy of the United States. Nevertheless, Sarah would visit Noriega once again in October 1989 just two months before the United States invasion of Panama.

Sarah now lives on a farm in remote rural Wisconsin and was interviewed by the radio show *This American Life* in 2003. She is a guitarist and is a part of the upper mid-west Old-time music scene. Her story was used as the basis for the song, "Pineapple Girl".



UPDATE: Since I wrote this article, Manuel Noriega died on May 29th at the age of 83. His death announcement indicated that he ruled with an iron fist, ordering the deaths of those who opposed him and maintaining a murky, close and conflicted relationship with the United States. Two years after Sarah's second visit to Panama, Noriega was arrested and spent a 17-year drug sentence in the United States. He was known mockingly as "Pineapple Face" for his pockmarked complexion, thus it must have been the reasoning for Sarah York's trip to be the basis of that above song "Pineapple Girl". It was brought to my attention by Virginia that she was the Mayor of Negaunee in 1987 and was contacted by a Chicago radio station to give her reaction as to the city's feelings on Sarah's visit. Sarah's teachers at the time were Michael Haines and Judy Maki. Judy stated "political cartoons appeared in the papers which she thought depicted her as a teacher".

1957 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BOOK ON SALE

I have put together a 66-page book recalling my memories of the 1957 State Basketball Championship season as a 12-year old Miner fan. You may purchase your souvenir copy with a minimum \$5.00 donation and \$5.00 postage. Make your check payable to "Negaunee Public Schools" % P.O. Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866-0221.





FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

No meeting has been scheduled for July due to Pioneer Days activities. Our future meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, August 1st and Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 at the museum. All members and guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments are always served at our meetings.

JACY KIRBY 2017 NHS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Virginia Paulson, representing the Matthews' family, presented the \$500.00 Frank Matthews Scholarship to Jacy Kirby during the 2017 Negaunee's Awards ceremony. He is the son of Rodney & Sherry and resides in Negaunee. Congratulations, Jacy!!

"Thank you so much for awarding me the Frank Matthews Memorial Scholarship. I have been involved in student council, peer coaching and sports. I plan to attend Macomb Community College for physical therapist assistant. I really appreciate your generosity." Jacy Kirby

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME

(Since our March newsletter)

Judy DeFant – misc medical items
Mike Ruhanen – misc newspapers, etc
Mark Carlson – 1871 Lithograph in Frame
Tom Chevrette – books written by Jim LaJoie
Robert Maki – "Mining Journals" from 1950's
Lani Duquette – several books, newspapers, etc
Anonymous – Negaunee Male Chorus misc items
Mark/Sharon Soave – combination wood/propane stove
Betty Ann Schneider – misc 1936 school items from Hilma (Pynnonen) VanEerdon

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

A Memorial Day ceremony was held at the Negaunee Cemetery under the threat of inclement weather. The event still had a very nice turnout by area residents to honor the brave men and women who served in the military to protect our freedom.



NEGAUNEE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1967

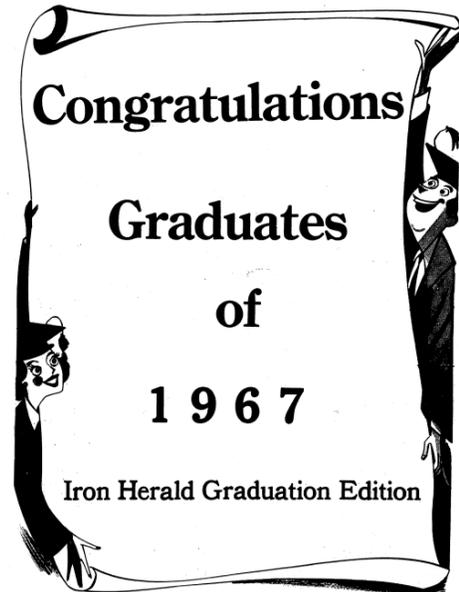
G. Christine Aho
David Alan Anderson
Gerald J. Anderson
Thomas Stephen Anderson
John Allen Argall
Ann Carbinas Baas
Thomas Charles Balzarini
Carolyn Esther Bazinette
William M. Bleau
Arthur F. Bond
Linda L. Bond
Christine Lynn Carlson
Richard Dale Catron
Bernice Marion Cody
James D. Cody
Dennis James Collick
Sigfrid Arthur Danielson
Ronald Frederick Erickson
Michael Alan Etelamaki
Paul Lawry Evans
Richard James Field
Duane Paul Gensheimer
Cheryl Christine Gleason
Kerry Jo Goulette
Donald Roy Grisham
Barbara Ann Gula
Alan Thomas Gyles
Stephen Richard Haight
Martin John Hanninen
Paula Arlene Harju
Susan Marie Heliin
Arlene Grace Hewitt
Linda Louise Hewitt
John Edward Hill
Deborah Lee Hodge
Daryl M. Holem
Susan Marie Holman
Phillip Wade Hyry
Annette Marie Hyttinen
Susan Mae Jarvi
Susan Maureen Jennings
Linda Rae Johnson
Linda Sue Johnson
Louis Charles Johnson
Paulette Rene' Johnson
Rudy Arthur Johnson
Dale Ralph Juchemich
Charles Jacob Jurvelin, Jr.
Jack Louis Kaikkonen
Daria Kristine Kallioinen
James Arthur Karki
Linda Sue Kellan
Thomas Ross Kemp
Sandra Mae Kompai
Linda Ann Koponen
Mildred Lois Korvela
Paul Michael Koski
Lee James LaPreniere
Tom Tuano Lahti
Maryanne Laine
Paul Allen Laine
Melvin Paul Laitinen
Rodney Wayne Laituri
Faye Marie Lammie
Glenn Gustave Larson

James Arne Larson
Marvin John Laurila
Howard Paul Lehto
Carl Gregory Lenshek
Frans William Leppanen
Sharlene Marie Lindstrom
Nancy Kay Lukkonen
Stephen Raymond Luoma
Linda Christine Makela
Sheryl Ann Maki
Karen Tenhunen Martin
Joanne Lynn Matthews
Daniel Williams Mattson
Russell Orvil Mattson
Barbara Ann Mell
Kathryn Lynn Meloni
Michael Paul Mingori
Archibald James Mitchell
Jack Lester Nicholas
Sandra J. Ojala
Patricia R. O'Neil
Thomas W. Oster
Steven Frederick Pascoe
Colleen Kay Peterson
James Carl Peterson
Larry Edward Peterson
Albert C. Pirkola
Susan Helen Pirkola
Harold Arthur Polkinghorne
Jerome Henry Poutanen
Michael Arnold Prusi
William Rodney Prusi
Dennis Francis Robare
Camma H. Roberts
Linda Lee Elizabeth Roberts
William James Roberts
Linda A. Rombeck
Marsha Lynn Ronn
Carolyn Mae Roose
Michael Paul Roti
Donald David Ruokola
Thomas Carl Salmi
Cynthia Lynn Slik
Richard Stanley Smith
Sandra Tossava Smith
Tom James Stanaway
Mary M. Steede
Jeanne Marie Steffensen
Ralph Hugo Sundquist
Allen Charles Sunne
Jean Lynn Sunne
John Richard Symons
Kathleen Ann Symons
Bruce Allen Talus
Roy Alfred Thurston
Eileen Faye Turri
Patricia Ann Vadnais
Arthur James Vidlund
Peggy Marie Wangberg
Earlene Rae Ward
Darrel Gene Wernholm
Paul William Wertanen
Donna Mae White
Patricia Ann White
James Clark Wickstrom

Negaunee Iron Herald

The only Paper in the World that gives a darn about Negaunee

VOLUME LXXXIII NEGAUNEE, MICHIGAN Thursday, June 1, 1967 NUMBER 2



ST. PAUL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1967

Michael Joseph Balzarini
Helen Jane Barabe
Joseph F. Brisson
Albert A. Carrier
James Joseph Comensoli
Timothy William Coyle
Ilene Elizabeth DeGabriele
Robert Roy Delongchamp
Waunita M. Francis
Denise Giotto
William Peter Gustitis
Mary Margaret Harlan
Raymond D. Jandron

Beatrice H. Juchemich
Margaret Ann Korpi
Michael Lee Kratz
Zita Francine Larson
David Clay Maurino
Kerry Anne Miljour
Bruno Martin Misale
Mary Jo Russo
Christine Spelgatti
Peter Michael Tousignant
Walter Turino
Joseph Dale White

This was the final
graduating class
from St. Paul's.

CLOSED

VERL WILLS – BIOLOGY TEACHER AND WOOD SCULPTURER



Mr. Verl Wills was well known as our biology teacher at NHS where he began his professional career in 1946. However, how many of us can remember that he had another talent as a wood carver? Verl took up woodcarving while stationed at an Army camp in Texas during World War II. He whittled hundreds of figures which are owned by people in practically every state. The most interesting carving is of the 1951-52 Negaunee Miners basketball team which is on display in the showcase at Lakeview Memorial Gymnasium. More than 100 hours went into carving the figures of the “starting 5” for that district championship team and Coach Bob Carey. Each figure is approximately one foot high and Wills mounted them on a mahogany base and presented it to the team at the school’s awards assembly. Below is a picture of his wood carving of Coach Carey and the starting “5”.



Left to right: Ray Trehwella, Don Anderson, Lowell “Lowie” Johnson, Coach Carey, Donald “Booner” Price and Dave Stromquist

EIGHTY YEARS AGO (from Bob Dobson’s notes)

May 7, 1937 - Alvin R. Koskey has purchased the Heinonen home on West Main St. and will use the home for a funeral home. (First floor for office, chapel, and operating rooms) (2nd floor for living quarters)

FIFTY YEARS AGO (from Bob Dobson’s notes)

May 18, 1967 - Death of Russell Thomas, 204 Iron St. (73) WWI veteran
May 18, 1967 - The Viga Bowling Alley remains from the fire have been demolished
May 18, 1967 - Don Ellis is the new Pineview School Principal in Palmer. He had been Assistant Principal at Central.
May 25, 1967 - Second Phase of Empire Mine completed and public open house on Saturday. First open house had 10,000 attendees. More expected this time.

EMPIRE MINE CLOSES AFTER 50 YEARS

PALMER, MI-- Operations have officially ended at the Empire Mine in Palmer.



Cliffs Natural Resources says as of Thursday the mine was put into an indefinite idle state. The company says it will not be completely shut down so the Empire will stay compliant with certain maintenance and environmental codes.



1967-2017



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ST. PAUL'S HIGH SCHOOL CLOSSES AFTER 34 YEARS

1st Graduating Class June 1938 – Last Graduating Class June 1967



September 5, 1934 marked the opening of St. Paul's new high school department with Father Mathias LaViolette serving as its first principal. The first year of operation showed a freshman class only with a new class added each successive year. There were 19 members in the first graduating class on June 12, 1938. In 1955, Father Robert Cordy became the new pastor of St. Paul's and the superintendent of the school. St. Paul's closed after the 1967 school year with a graduation class of 25 students. The following year, all students transferred to Negaunee High School.



1934-1967

VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR MUSEUM

While our museum has been idle for the winter, volunteers have contributed their time and talent inside and outside. We accept the ladies yearly remodeling of different areas of the museum as normal – because they have done this winter after winter. But, our “hats” off to Virginia Paulson, Laura Jandron, Jeanne Sandstrom, and others who spend countless hours re-doing one room after another and making big changes for our museum. They do get help from Paul Jandron and Dave Dompierre to move heavy items and to enjoy a little coffee with them.



Thank you to John and Marlene Ennett, the owners of Peninsula Janitorial, for cleaning the museum carpets with the help of employee, Dave Hagemeister. Well done!



Art Gischia has joined our governing board but has also been very instrumental in repairing our back porch – a major task. We had a volunteer group from Northern Michigan University who drew up different



plans on replacing the deteriorated back porch with cost estimates. Art and Dave have already volunteered many hours of their time and skills to complete this tedious repair and replace project. Thank you very much.....



Miles Parkkonen did a majority of the snow removal in the winter and has now reseeded the museum yard. Preston Koski and his Grandpa cleaned up the leaves from the museum yard, cut the grass, and the garden had its first touchup. Thanks to the 12 board members for their time and contributions to keep our museum open. Thank you to all of our 264 members, as of this writing, who have continued to renew their memberships or for becoming a member for the first time. The Negaunee Historical Society does not receive any federal, state or local funding.



PALMER FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TEAM – circa 1949

(Picture submitted by Fran Nelson of Palmer)



Front L-R: Gordy Swanson, Jerry Nease, Kenny Hewitt, “Bing” Riecki, Jack Nease, Manager; Leo Koski, Roy Rautio, Alan Wakkuri Back L-R: Lowell Liquia, Harold Trehwella, Ted Nelson, Charles Numikoski, Lenny Anderson, Charlie Swanson, George Hewitt, Sr., Joe Newman

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - JUNE 15 264

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS 177

2017 MEMBERSHIPS 87

Thank you to all of our 264 members for their continued support of our society. 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 of the past memberships, donations, gifts, grants and to all of our volunteers.

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

Lifetime - \$100.00 2017 Individual - \$10.00 2017 Student - \$5.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip: _____

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