

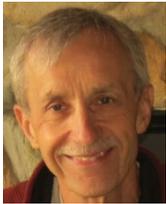
# The Negaunee Historical Society

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

## JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER #50

Prepared by Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

### FROM THE PRESIDENT, ART GISCHIA



Spring has sprung...or has it. The NHS volunteers have been busy with cleaning and readying the building for the opening on Memorial Day weekend. Thanks to Miles Parkkonen who has spearheaded a project funded by the Community Foundation of Marquette County. He is completing the conversion of the entire collection of "Negaunee Iron Herald" newspapers into searchable and digital format. We've already experienced the value of this project when assisting one of our newest members with research information regarding the Seuss's meat locker building, which is in the process of conversion to a new micro-brewery! Ryan Engemann was able to find some old advertising for the Peninsular Brewery which was located in Negaunee and Marquette. The process underscores the value of a searchable digital archive and one that we are proud to share with our membership.

Through the efforts of Dave Dompierre, we've acquired ownership and licensing through the Highway Department for an existing US 41 billboard advertising location near Catron's Lumber. Thanks also to Jim and Pat Blewett, property owners of the billboard location, for permission to keep it in its present location. We appreciate your support!

The Museum will host the LSCP business after hours on June 26, and our ice-cream social/Model A car show will be held on July 9, from 6-8 p.m., during Pioneer week. We'll also host a home/fire hall tour on July 12 and participate in the Pioneer Days parade on July 13. Stop by to see what we have to offer.

Reminder: If you'd like to receive the newsletter by email, help us keep our operating cost to a minimum by sending your email address to: [negauneehistorical@att.net](mailto:negauneehistorical@att.net). Thanks!

ART GISCHIA

### **SNOW REMOVAL BY STONEHOUSE WINDOW & DOOR**

The Negaunee Historical Society is thankful for all of the winter snow plowing done at the museum this past winter by Terry Hill, owner of Stonehouse Window and Door. Terry volunteered his services in memory of his mother Pat who was so appreciative of the work done by society volunteers in preserving the history of Negaunee. Thank you, Terry, for the upkeep that you and your company have provided for our museum over the years.



## **CHICKS HATCH WHILE KINDERGARTEN CLASS WATCH**

(Excerpts taken from "Iron Herald" July 24, 1914)



I came upon this cute article while researching the "Iron Heralds" on my new DVD that is available for purchase at our museum. There are many stories to be found that turn out to be interesting reading material. I will summarize the hatching of chickens under the careful eyes by a kindergarten class that occurred over 100 years ago.

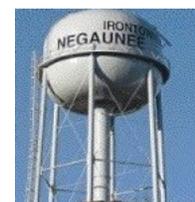
The kindergarten class of a school has proved itself to be one of the most interested and observing audiences that ever watched the hatching of chickens. The mother was known as Chick A. Bidy and the students regarded her as a wizard having seen her transform eggs into tiny creatures that run around and peep and insisting on being fed. The teacher purchased a box filled with excelsior and fifteen eggs and her students placed Chick A. Bidy in a corner of the room and fed her during the time she was acquiring a family. Papers were spread on the floor and the desks were put on edge to fence in the area. Mrs. Bidy left her nest only at meal time and when she returned she would duck her head and move the eggs around so all of the eggs would get equal warmth. All this delighted the children and made them ask questions. They wondered how the mother could sit so patiently all day. The class began to hold their breaths when the shells began to crack and the peeping sounds began as one chick after another finally came out. The first one out was brown, the next three were yellow and the final eight were black. Finally, that big day arrived and 12 children were born to Chick A. Bidy. Their names were Brownie, Wink, Blink, Tickle, Bob, Mob, Cob, Nob, Sucky, Hittabob, Tiny and Tot. The teacher remarked, "It was beautiful to notice how the children watched the hen taking care of her brood, how she fed them, tended them, took them under her wings and how proud she was of them."



## **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**



Our future meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, July 2nd, Tuesday, August 6th and Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:00 at the museum. All members and guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments are always served at our meetings.



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

(Deaths reported to the Society since our March 2019 newsletter)



*Joyce Rogers Pavicic – December 21, 2018*

*Ruth Koskinen – January 8, 2019*



## **DICK KOSKI - TEACHER & FOOTBALL COACH 50 YRS AGO**

(Excerpts from Negaunee Iron Herald June 5, 1968)



I recently came across an amazing feat while researching stories from 50 years ago in regards to Negaunee's successful football coach and teacher, Dick Koski. There is a lot more behind the fact that he was just a coach. Coach Koski was a star athlete at Wakefield High School, not only in football, but in all four sports. Not only was he a member of all these sports, Coach also had the unique distinction which may be without parallel of being named the captain for each sport. What an amazing accomplishment for a gifted athlete! Members of the Upper Peninsula Sportswriters Association selected Dick as U. P. "back of the year" in 1958. He was also picked on all-state teams in both basketball and football. Coach Koski enrolled at Northern Michigan University in the fall of 1959 where he obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in physical education plus minors in biology and sociology in 1964. Dick was an outstanding defensive back for the Wildcats for four years and also captained the team in 1962. Coach was a member of the NMU track team for two years and held the school record in the high jump in 1960. Koski signed a professional football contract with the Boston Patriots of the AFL but his career ended with a knee injury. His teaching career began in Ontonagon in 1964 serving for 3 years as football, track and JV basketball coach. Dick moved on to Escanaba High School in 1967 prior to his hiring in Negaunee the following year. He replaced the retired Lodie Morris as football coach, became the new track coach and also became a junior high science teacher in 1968. Coach Koski was elected into the NMU Hall of Fame in 1987.

## **AMERICAN LEGION PAYS TRIBUTE TO 'IRON HERALD'**

(Excerpts from Negaunee Iron Herald October 3, 1952)

Sixty-six years ago, Howard Lehto, Commander of the American Legion, extended his appreciation in expressing the splendid cooperation given by the "Negaunee Iron Herald" newspaper in his Letter to the Editor. His letter is shown below.

"The John H Mitchell Post of the American Legion takes this means of extending to you our thanks and appreciation for your splendid cooperation on the many occasions that you have supported our efforts. There has never been a time when we requested your assistance that you have not responded to the fullest extent. Your support on all these occasions does not only help promote these activities but also gives a moral boost to the Legionnaires of this post. Although our Pageant "Know Your America" was presented a few months ago, I would like to mention that in particular. We have had many compliments on the success of the program, not only from the neighboring communities but also from the state level. We are very proud of these compliments, but without your support, would not have been enough to carry this through to a final success. If at any time the John H. Mitchell Post can be of assistance to you do not hesitate to call on us. We will do our utmost to assist you in any way. In closing, I want to say that the "Negaunee Iron Herald" is one of the finest assets any community could have." Respectfully, HOWARD LEHTO, Commander



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

## NEGAUNEE BROTHERS WIN UNFAMILIAR CONTEST

(Excerpt from "Negaunee Iron Herald" July 24, 1914)



Over 100 years ago, the miners held a Championship Drilling Contest in Ishpeming and three brothers from Negaunee captured top honors. William, Alfred and Jethro Collins all worked at the Rolling Mill mine and were the victors in the hammer and drill contests. The team took first place in lift hole and two of the brothers, William and Jethro Collins along with Ben Pringle captured top honors in the up hole. What in the world is a "lift hole" and what is an "up hole"?

## LITTLE LEAGUE TRYOUTS SET FOR BASEBALL TEAMS – 60 YRS AGO

(Excerpts from the "Negaunee Iron Herald" May 15, 1959)

Old-timers remember the good ole days when they had to try out to make a Little League team. Back then, the teams were "gerrymandered" via the different sections of town and included Palmer and Negaunee Township. Everyone wanted to be on a team and many went home with a sad expression on their faces when they weren't selected. Little League was very competitive and included a big time parade of all players and teams marching down Iron Street to LaCombe Field for opening day ceremonies. Excerpts from the May 15, 1959 newspaper:

*"All boys in Negaunee from ages 8 through 12 will have the opportunity to try out for Little League Baseball on May 20. Tryouts will be held starting at 5:30 at the playgrounds. Boundaries for the four city teams have been set by a committee composed of Nick Lenten, Marvin Johns and Bob Gleason. (Note: they all worked at the Post Office, were good athletes and they knew everyone in Negaunee). Several adults have volunteered their services to act as managers and assistants". Below, 1970 Lion's Little League team managed by Roland Koski, who was also a postal employee.*



***Front Row: Neil Lynch, Dave Dompierre, Ned Cory, Richard Juidici, Peter Hicks, Steve Palm, Ricky Renfors, Brian Veale***

***Back Row: Don Couture-Coach, Mark Remillard, Mike Lyons, Paul Stille, John Parkkonen, Jon Jennings, Kevin Erickson, Jay Lenten, Scott Couture***

## EIGHTY YEARS AGO

March 17, 1939 - Severe storm like January of 1938 with drifts 8 to 10 feet and motor traffic was almost impossible. School children were let out at noon and school cancelled the following day. Nothing was done with road to Palmer; however the mines were still operating. Snow fighting equipment and a crew of men kept Iron Street and other city streets open.



April 14, 1939 - Thomas L. Collins is remodeling his Jackson St. building with a 5-room apartment upstairs. (Most of us remembered the building south of the old bandstand which was called the Quality Market and owned by Dina Kangas).



April 21, 1939 - Negaunee schools asking parents to check for bad throats and rash in children before sending them to school because of scarlet fever possibilities. Another big sleet storm caused thick coating of ice on all wires and limbs of trees. City had no street lights for two nights, and all mine work came to a stop. There was a major cleanup of brush and debris to pick up.



## NEWSLETTER EDITOR RETIRING AFTER 12 ½ YEARS

*"This is the end of the line for me and my tenure as Newsletter Editor"*



After volunteering his services for almost 13 years as the editor and preparer of 50 of our newsletters, Roland ("Foo") Koski has decided to pass the baton. "It's been a very interesting and a great historical learning period for me but it's time to move on. I am still very involved with the genealogy of my family tree and continue to help others with Negaunee ties. I am still active doing cemetery research for others with over 18,000 bodies buried in the Negaunee Cemetery. So, this is the end of the line for me and my tenure as our Newsletter Editor. I hope everyone

has enjoyed my writings and I will apologize again for mistakes that I have made in the past on names, times and places".

## MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES HELD AT NEGAUNEE CEMETERY

Remembering those who served - "All gave some, some gave all"



A Memorial Day ceremony was held at the Negaunee Cemetery on Monday, May 27th. The yearly event had a very nice turnout of local residents to honor the brave men and women who served in the military to protect our freedom.





## **NEGAUNEE CITY AND TOWNSHIP PART OF CARP RIVER TOWNSHIP**

(Excerpts taken from research done by Burton Boyum in 1965)

The history of Negaunee Township is closely related to that of the City of Negaunee. On September 19, 1844, William A. Burt and his survey party discovered iron ore near the Jackson Mine. Marji Gesick and Mr. P. M. Everett and group visited this place in 1845 and settled just west of the present Negaunee cemetery and thus became the first real settlement in Marquette County. This location was ideal for water power, hardwood, and the iron ore being nearby. The first post office in Marquette County was located at this site on January 12, 1847. This area became known as the Carp River Forge of the Jackson Iron Company and produced its first pig iron or "bloom" on February 10, 1848. In 1851, this land, which included this area, cities of Negaunee and Ishpeming and all adjacent townships were all put together and became known as Carp River Township. Later that year, Negaunee Township was split out as Teal Lake Township. A railroad station was established at Eagle Mills in 1855.

On February 14, 1859 Teal Lake Township now became Negaunee Township and included part of the present city of Negaunee. Information dates back to 1865 for the village of Negaunee and Negaunee Township dates back to February 27, 1867. The governments of both locations continued to work together during the early organizational days. The first records available date back to May 6, 1869 and showed that William Healy was Supervisor and John Mulvey was clerk. The first annual meeting was held on April 4, 1870 and showed that 462 names were in the ballot box. From this date forward all minute books appear to be confined to the Township only.

1873 – Read Sawmill established at Eagle Mills

1877 – Post office opened and it operated periodically through 1912

1882 – List of Registered Voters began. At that time, the Township was informally divided into various localities such as Eagle Mills, Baldwin Kilns, Houston kilns, Morgan Kilns, Carp River and Cliffs Location.

1884 – Census states that the Township had 74 dwellings and a total of 366 inhabitants.

1894 – Census showed the Township had 35 dwellings supporting 41 families at an average of 6.37 persons per family of which was one of the highest in the county. Township had only 1 school located on Wilderness Road

1902 – (September) Eagle Mills school opened

1909 – (August 9) School built called the North or Kivela School measuring 22 by 30 feet at a cost of \$750.00.

1911 – (June 1) Morgan Heights Sanitarium opened on CR492 and was 1st tuberculosis sanitarium built in the U.P.

1919 – (May) Township would not hire workers who were less than fifteen years of age.

1924 – (May) Workday would be 9 hours and pay for a team of horses and one man would be \$7.00 per day. Common laborer set at \$3.50 per day and the foreman \$3.75.

1926 – (December 4) Considered keeping the highway open all winter

1928 – (July 22) Negaunee airport opens on F. W. Read's farm at Eagle Mills

1932 – (November) Work done on power line from City of Marquette covering 18 miles and the installation of 45 Electrical meters. The power was turned on December 19.

1934 – (April 4) Common laborer earned \$2.75 per 8-hour day and increased to \$3.00 by April 1939.

1937 – (July 23) Dedication of the new Marquette County Airport

1946 – (June) Negaunee Township Community Building obtained a lease for North School from Board of Education.

- 1947 – (November) Purchased playground lot next to Community Building
- 1952 – (December) Community Building usage fallen off and gas was disconnected.
- 1954 – (November 2) Group led by George Hill, reopened Community Building with electorate voting 294-70 to buy it from the Board of Education.
- 1955 – (July 3) Grand opening of Airport Drive-In
- 1956 – (April 28) WDMJ-TV moved from Marquette to present site and the name changed to WLUC-TV in 1959.  
Began first colored network programs in 1963.
- 1956 – (November) New concrete pavement US-41 Highway to Marquette
- 1968 – Jet air service comes to Marquette County
- 1974 – (October 10) State police post dedicated across from WLUC-TV  
1979 – National Weather office moved from Marquette to county airport. It evolved a 7 person staff and open 24 hours a day.
- 1986 – State History Division constructed the \$1.2 million Michigan Iron Industry Museum at the Old Forge Site
- 2019 – (April) Township’s new Supervisor, Gary Wommer, being sworn in at Negaunee Township office (picture on right)



### **NHS BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK TEAMS VOLUNTEER AT CEMETERY**



It was a very bad winter for Marquette County and especially for the Negaunee cemetery grounds with toppled over trees, branches and other debris splattered throughout. Negaunee’s new cemetery sexton, Paige Yoho, has had a major cleanup problem to deal with because of the snow and rain which has delayed any type of maintenance needed at this time. Over 18,000 burials are located in the cemetery covering a vast area of land with an over abundant amount of debris covering the grave sites.

So, several of the high school track team members volunteered to pitch in a few hours of their time to clean up the grounds prior to Negaunee’s annual Memorial Day activities. Approximately 30 students and a few thoughtful adults spent Saturday morning, May 25<sup>th</sup> for the cleanup with water and refreshments donated by Super One and pizzas and chips from the city.



**CCI - 1957 U. P. Class A SOFTBALL CHAMPS**

Kneeling L-R: Ronald Maki, Marvin Johns, Ray Trehwella, Lowell Liquia, Harold Trehwella Standing L-R: Anselm Mantyla (Mgr), Ray Maki, Arnold "Axel" Sundell, Bob Herman, Jerry Nease, Kenny Hewitt

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP – JUNE 1, 2019    282**  
**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS            185**  
**2019 MEMBERSHIPS                97**

(Negaunee Historical Society, P O Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866-0221)  
Lifetime - \$100.00    2019 individual - \$10.00    2019 student - \$5.00

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

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

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



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