

The Negaunee Historical Society

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Negaunee, MI 49866 (906-475-4614)

SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson



The leaves are beginning to turn, and we have come to a close of another regular summer season here at the museum. The best news for us is that our porch has been repaired. I want to thank all those who volunteered their time to keep our doors open this past summer and look forward with you again next year with a few new volunteers who are willing to give of their time.

Looking back in history and of course it does not seem that long ago to me... I remember the Belleview Location located south of Negaunee on the old road to Palmer. I remember it because we passed by that way every time we made a trip into town from Suomi Location. It was a winding road full of curves that brought us to "Ruesing's Crossing" which was a railroad crossing over old M-35 with a very sharp curve. I remember only one house there (St. Aubin's?) and then to Sunrise Location with a row of houses on a hilltop on the west. One big brick house sat across the road to the east (it seemed big to me) as was the Rolling Mill School which is still standing today and used as a residence. The Negaunee Luge is now located in this area.

The Belleview Farm was built by the Cleveland Cliffs Mining Co. as a sheep farm. It also served as the boundary line for the school districts. The children that lived on the north side of the one street location went to Negaunee School and those on the south side attended Richmond Township School in Palmer. The farm was closed in the 1930's and in the 1950's Cliffs started buying out the homes in Belleview for the opening of the Empire Mine. Today, the farm is buried under millions of tons of waste rock.

29th ANNUAL MEETING DATE SCHEDULED

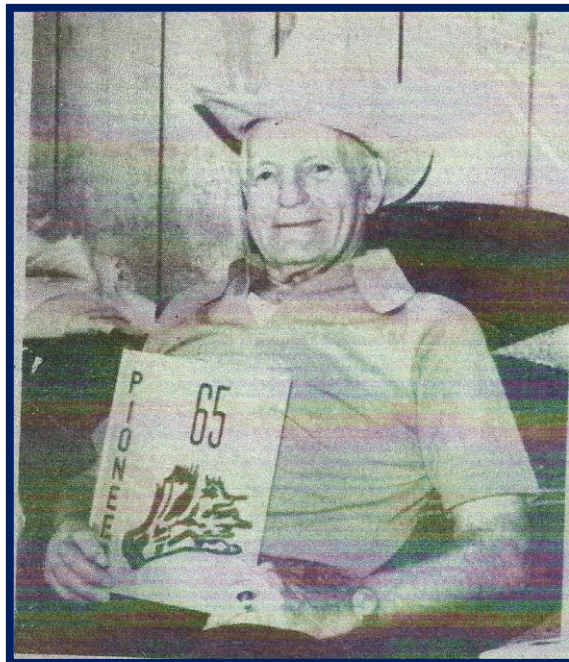
The Historical Society will hold its 29th annual meeting on Tuesday, December 3 in the Fellowship Hall at the Immanuel Lutheran Church at 7:00pm followed by its regular monthly meeting. Election of four (4) trustees will be on the agenda as three-year terms will expire for Lee Guizzetti, Laura Jandron, Miles Parkkonen and Linda Perucco. Initial nominations may be presented at our October 1st and November 3rd meetings while additional nominations may be presented at the Annual Meeting. Refreshments will be served and all members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

IN MEMORY OF
Philip B Kirkwood, Jr – SEPT 6, 2013

LEE IS NEGAUNEE TRANSIT PIONEER
(Excerpts from the Marquette Mining Journal – June 8, 1985)

Roy Lee had made a lifetime serving people of Negaunee being a transportation pioneer and using his business to improve life in the mining town. His father earned a living by starting the Henry Lee and Son (general moving & transfer) Company in 1873. No job was too small for the Lee men as their one-horse and two-wheel cart became a familiar sight around town. Leaving school while in the 11th grade, Roy joined his two brothers and three other assistants and formed Lee Brothers. They delivered freight to stores from the incoming rail cars, charging about \$1.00 for the work. Times were tough during the depression but the business managed to survive. “There was always work for us”, he said. Besides moving goods and Rahr’s and Bosch beers, Roy provided Negaunee schools with their first school bus in 1930 and was the first bus driver. His first bus was purchased from a man in Ishpeming for \$5,000. However, it was not equipped with a heater and that made for some pretty cold winter mornings. Being a strict bus driver, Roy had very few problems with the “kids” as he called the school children. At the end of the school year, the “kids” were treated to ice cream cones to reward them for good behavior. The moving company disbanded in 1961 and he retired from his bus driver job. He also served as a crossing guard and also served on the city council. Lee enjoyed riding horses all his life and had several of his own. He often provided a team of horses and a sleigh for Negaunee Christmas parades. While saying all memories of his early days were fond ones, Roy Lee also said he didn’t miss his work.

“No way, I worked all of my life”
“Negaunee was good to us”
“I had a good life, mister”



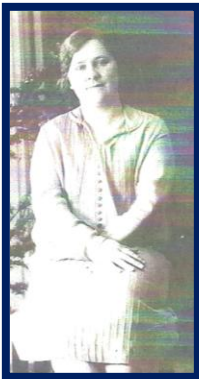
Born 25JUL1901 – Died 25JAN1993

'BOONER' AND MUSEUM HAVE OLD-TIME CONNECTION

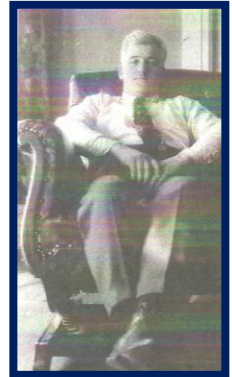


“Booner” is getting ready for his trip down Iron Street during the Pioneer Days Parade with his chauffeur, “Wally” Scanlon.

“Where’s all the candy, Don”?



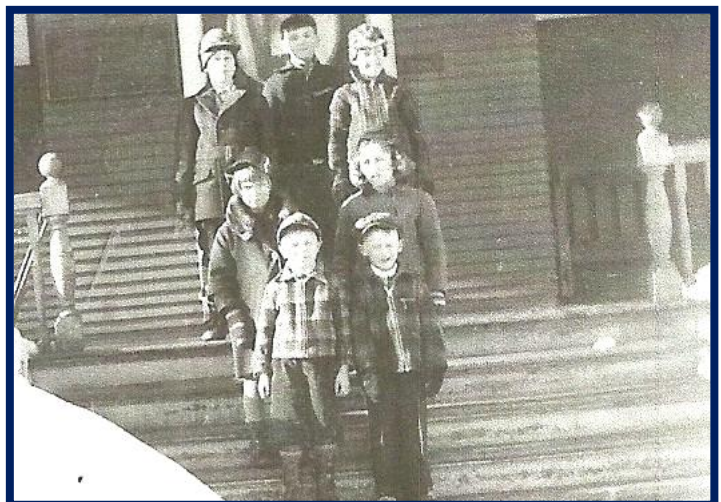
Don “Booner” Price was featured in the Negaunee Pioneer Days parade as a representative of the Negaunee Historical Society. He was a resident of the building that houses our museum from the time he was an infant until 1954 when he enlisted into the Army. Don’s parents, Llewellen and Hilda Price, were occupants in the American Legion building and were also the caretakers of the clubrooms.



Don tells a story about Dr. Nankervis who rented one of the rooms upstairs. When the Doctor died, his body was laid out in the clubrooms. Don and Ron Cardone would “pinch the nose” of the corpse and then run.

This picture was taken around 1940 with “Booner” and his friends posing on the steps of the old American Legion building and now the museum.

Back Row L-R: Walter Huttula, Glenn Carlson, Arnold Carlson
2nd Row L-R: Betty Carlson, Joanne Anderson
Front Row L-R: Bob Helgren, Don Price



HOW NEGAUNEE WAS NAMED

(Note: A letter to August P. Johnson from
Peter White dated February 10, 1906)



Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 8th, I would say that the word "Negaunee" is a Chippewa word and means "Go Ahead" in one sense and then again it means "The First". I was a member of the Legislature in 1857 and got "An Act" passed providing that same territory should be organized into a "township" to be called "Teal Lake", but that summer Mr. C.T. Harvey and E.C. Hungerford came to bid the "Pioneer Furnace" for the Pioneer Iron Company. They wanted me to give them the word "pioneer" in Indian—that was the nearest I could come to it—"The First"—and they were satisfied with it, so adopted it and organized the town.

When a lot of people are walking on snow shoes in heavy snow and the leader cannot stand it any longer to break the track, he steps to one side to let the column pass and says "Negaunee" meaning "pass on" and he falls into the tail end of the processions. At the request of Mr. Samuel P. Ely, I named "Ishpeming" because it is actually what the Indians called that vicinity, vis. "On High" being the nearest to Heaven, it means "Heaven". Some vulgar commercial men have drawn improper references to Negaunee being the next place to Ishpeming must be named "Hell" which is simply profanity. It would be perfectly proper to say that the word "Negaunee" means "Pioneer".

Faithfully yours, Peter White – 1906

The NEGAUNEE WAY

(From the "NEGAUNEENSIA" - 1929)



It was said that, although Mr. Doolittle was very busy in his administrative duties, he always found time to speak a word of advice or of encouragement. His policy of "Athletics for All" demonstrated the great personal interest that he felt toward his students. Below is his quote on the 4 C's.

*"The word "Negaunee" is a Chippewa command meaning "Take the lead." Every boy and every girl, no matter how badly handicapped, can contribute toward the realization of this worthy ideal. As a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, so is a school is no stronger than the individual units of which it is composed. Check up on yourself to determine whether you are doing your part as an individual to exalt the group standard known as the "Negaunee Way". Are you keeping physically fit, mentally awake and morally straight? Are you observing the four C's, Clean Speech, Clean Athletics, Clean Scholarship and Clean Living? Do you do someone a good turn daily? Do you earnestly desire and are you willing to put forth your very best effort to make your school the finest it can possibly be made in every way? If your answer to these four questions is in the affirmative, I give you the command, **NEGAUNEE**".* H. S. Doolittle, NHS Superintendent



Car crashes into the museum – June 2011

27 MONTHS LATER – OUR PORCH IS REPAIRED



Porch roof being held up by posts– November 2011



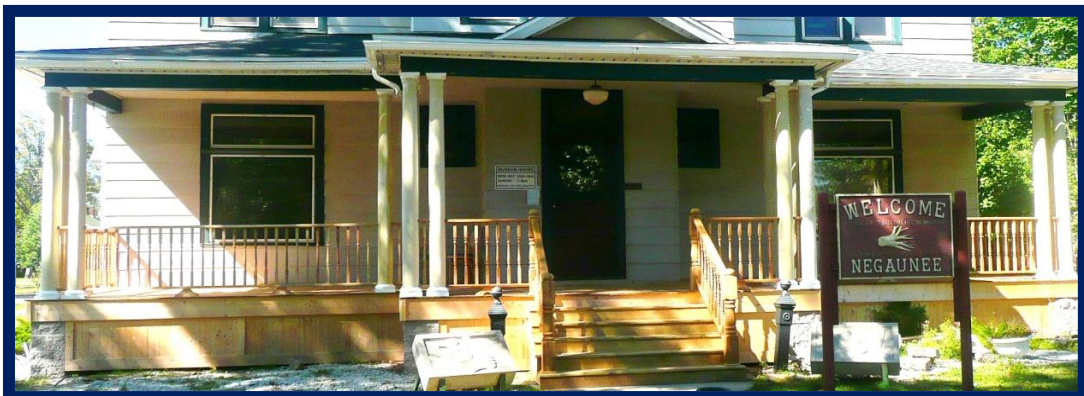
Repairs finally authorized, work begins – August 2013



Lynn Chevette - doing the touchups

The finished product is now taking place. Thanks to volunteer, Lynn Chevette, all of the railings and spindles will be done artistically with different strokes of her paint brush. With a smile, she is really enjoying this tedious job. Thank you, Lynn!

Yes! Our porch has been put back together again. We can actually use our front entrance after 27 months. What a beautiful site to see! View of the repaired porch prior to the final painting – September 2013.





NEGAUNEE TOWNSHIP HISTORY

The City of Negaunee and Negaunee Township were actually all part of one township under different names going back to February 29, 1844 when all of the present Marquette County was called Carnes Township and a railroad station was established at Eagle Mills in 1855. Carnes was renamed MacLeod Township, Marquette Township, Carp River Township, and Teal Lake

Township until February 14, 1859 when it became Negaunee Township (included City of Negaunee). Negaunee Township, as we know it now, dates from February 27, 1867 with the first records available back to May 6, 1869. The first annual meeting was held on April 4, 1870 and records indicate that there were 462 names in the ballot box. It seemed that both city and township electorate were combined at the meeting. In 1872, the annual meeting showed 80 ballots cast and from this date on the books appear to be for the township only. A sawmill was established at Eagle Mills in 1873 and it had a post office beginning in 1877. It operated periodically through 1912. The "List of Registered Voters" started with the year 1882. The township was informally divided into various localities such as: Eagle Mills, Baldwin Kilns, Houston Kilns, Morgan Kilns, Carp River and the Cliffs Location.

*In August 1909, the minutes recorded that a new school (North or Kivela School) measuring 22 by 30 feet at a cost of \$750.00 being built. It was also referred to as the Mitchell School and North Negaunee Township School.



*In May 1919, the minutes note that the Township will not hire workers under the age of fifteen years.

*In May 1924, it was decided that the workday would be 9 hours and pay for a team of horses and one man would be \$7.00 per day. Common labor was set at \$3.50 per day and the foreman at \$3.75.

*In the days after World War I, many changes were made including the first concrete highway between Negaunee and Marquette traversing through Negaunee Township. The power dams on the Dead River were built also.

*In May 1925, it is mentioned that bids to repair the Township Hall should be advertised in the "Mining Journal" and the "Finnish Daily" papers.

*In the election of April 5, 1926, 107 votes were cast.

*The December 4, 1926 meeting considered keeping the highway open all winter.

Ruby Honored in 1983 at a Tea



RUBY L TRATHEN - LEARNING FROM THE PAST

(Born 14APR1893 – Died 2APR1985)

“I loved my job, the children and I always tried to be fair” Ruby Trathen

With these few words, so sincere, Ruby Trathen sums up her teaching at Negaunee High School. Ruby came to school every day for forty-three years to what she enjoyed every minute of doing – being with young people. She spent twenty-eight of those years teaching students in the Home Economics Department retiring in 1955. She was talked out of retirement that fall and taught 7th grade for four years at St. Paul’s School. While teaching young people at NHS, Miss Trathen started several important projects including being the forerunner of the hot lunch program. She and a number of students would prepare forty quarts of hot cocoa daily. Many a teacher and student must have hurried to school for such a treat! Many former students have shared memories of situations, lessons and never to-be-forgotten experiences of her classroom days on how to make creamed vegetables, to using hankies for “show and not blow”, and learning proper table etiquette “never putting your dish towel on your shoulder”. Miss Trathen began her career as a teacher in the Negaunee School system in 1916 at the old Eagle Mills School. She also taught at the Mary Charlotte School, the Jackson School and the old Central Grade School.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME

(Since our last newsletter)

Dave Danielson – Catholic Bible

Irja Anderson – 1941 NHS group picture

Paul Jandron – for mowing the lawn on several occasions

Doug & Kathy Bushong – Bedroom set, dresser, mirror, etc

Suzanne Morris – For making labels for quarterly newsletters

Linda Kellan Warner – NHS band uniform from the mid 1960’s

Valerie Oja – Western Electric intercom owned by Egnazio Pezzotti

Sherrie Stanaway Willey – Misc newspapers, magazines, post cards

Dave Dompierre & Donna Gravedoni-Bjork for cleaning out carriage house

Tom Chevrette – 1920’s mandolin from Edward Chevrette family with chair

John McDonald – 1940’s Dormeyer “Food-Fixer” owned by his grandmother

Anonymous – Old blacksmith vice with a leg from St. Arnaud’s basement

Martha Heikkinen – 1941 Air Force military uniform belonging to husband, Abe

Frank Juchemich – Boarding Pass from Chicago & Northwestern for meritorious service

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

HOME TOUR ATTRACTS 80 VISITORS

The annual Home Tour held on Friday, July 12th was successful again this year with Suzanne Morris providing the planning for the event. Five sites and our museum were available for the tour with refreshments served at the museum. Thank you to the following business and volunteers who helped to make this yearly event such a great moneymaker for the museum.

DONATIONS

Range Bank - sponsorship; Globe Printing - providing free graphic design time for brochures and posters; Super One Foods - cheese, crackers, lemonade, cookies and ice; Midtown Bakery - cookies; Shelly's Floral Boutique - helium filled balloons; and Immanuel Lutheran Church - coffee

TOUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer ticket collectors and tour providers at the museum and homes included Judy Altobello, Donna Bjork, Karen Hakala, Roland Koski, Kathy McCormick, Ron McGlone, Virginia Paulson, Kathy Perucco, Jeanne Sandstrom, Connie Scanlon, and Amy Stanaway. Miles Parkkonen took pictures for the brochure and poster.

HOME OWNERS

Jonelle Collins (109 West Main Street); Daniele Carol/Daniele Carol Photography and Janice Chittle/Panache (334 Iron Street); Jim and Ann Kantola (318 Iron Street)); Teal Lake Masonic Lodge/Alan Nelson (416 Teal Lake Avenue); and Marci Saari (339 County Road) were kind enough to open their homes and businesses for this fundraising opportunity.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – 2 YEARS FOR 1

Our membership has reached 269 members. Take time to renew your membership now (2 for the price of 1) and be a member for 2013 and 2014 and you will still be supporting the Negaunee Historical Society. Adults are only \$10.00 and your donation can be mailed to P.O. Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866.

Lifetime - \$100.00 2013 & 2014 individual - \$10.00 2013 & 2014 student - \$5.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip: _____

Note: If you want your newsletter via e-mail please indicate _____