

**The Negaunee Historical Society  
303 East Main Street (P.O. Box 221)  
Negaunee, MI 49866 (906-475-4614)  
SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER**

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

**FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson**



As we leave another summer behind, I reflect on the happenings at the museum. We had an awesome year with about 700 visitors. One visitor who came in on my shift asked about the cost to enter and I said “it’s a donation” and he deposited \$10.00. I asked “do you want a tour or do you want to look on your own?” He wanted to do it by himself. As he was leaving, I made sure that he had visited all floors and told him “I hope you got your money’s worth”. He replied, “I knew it would be worth it the minute I walked in”.

“A nice museum for a town this size” is one of the comments many visitors make. Our visitors came from Michigan, Illinois, Arizona, Tennessee, Florida, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Maryland, New Hampshire, Alaska, Utah, Georgia, New York, North Carolina, California, Texas, Colorado and two countries, Sweden and Germany.

The carriage house got a face lift this summer with some door repairs and a new paint job. I thank the staff that enables us to keep the museum open six days a week and also to those who work behind the scenes and keep our displays in good order. Also, we express our thank you to those who support us financially. We will close for the season after Labor Day but are willing to make special arrangements for anyone wanting to visit in the off season. You may call 906-475-9641 or 906-475-7622.

VIRGINIA PAULSON

**CEMETERY TOUR IN SEPTEMBER**

We will be having another Cemetery Tour on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:00pm. The cemetery burial lots are close together in a 4-block area to make it a lot easier for visitors to walk and hear the stories of these Negaunee pioneers by volunteers from the Historical Society. Names on the tour this year include Thomas Kirkwood, Louis Kellan, Neely family, Muck family, Judge Bell, Sawbridge Brothers, Charles Sundberg, Honkavaara family, and J William and Art Perala. Refreshments will be served and there will be a free will donation for the tour.

**Welcome to our Negaunee Historical Society – take a moment and visit us at [www.negauneehistory.org](http://www.negauneehistory.org)**

# **NEGAUNEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** **EARNNS 2015 SUPERIOR AWARD**

*"The Negaunee Historical Society established, and now successfully runs, a museum honoring the heritage of its community"*

IRONWOOD - Established by the Historical Society of Michigan in 2006, the **Superior Award** was awarded to the Negaunee Historical Society at the 2015 Historical Society of Michigan's 66th annual Upper Peninsula History Conference in Ironwood. It recognizes the achievements of historical societies, museums and other history-related organizations. Negaunee was presented this award was for its outstanding effort to preserve and promote the history of the Upper Peninsula since its founding in 1984.



The news release stated "The Negaunee Historical Society established, and now successfully runs, a museum honoring the heritage of its community. It offers extensive displays ranging from mining, sports, military and businesses to Native American artifacts and household items. Various educational programs are also offered throughout the year for the young and the young at heart to learn and explore the community's rich cultural history."

Shown above - Paul Keep, President of the Historical Society of Michigan, presenting the Superior Award to our President, Virginia Paulson



## **RAILROAD CROSSING SIGN GETS NEW LIFE**

The old worn out historical sign in our museum's front yard was about to be taken down when Lynn Chevette volunteered to restore it. Sure enough, she and her brother Dave took everything apart and repaired and repainted it and it looks like new. Thank you again, Lynn and Dave.

## **IN MEMORY OF LEE GUIZZETTI**

*We would like to pay tribute to a lifetime member, Lee Guizzetti, who passed away on August 22, 2015 at the young age of 69. Lee was our society President for several years and continued to be active as a board member while being self employed as an insurance agent for Central Insurance Agency. Lee was a big asset in acquiring our museum building and property from while serving as President. He made several donations of his time and artifacts as well as recalling many historical stories from years past. These are just a few of the good things he did, but we're sure there are many more. We extend our sympathy to his family and we also express our sincere appreciation for everything Lee did to preserve the history of Negaunee.*

*May God Smile  
On You Today*



## **GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME**

**(Since our June newsletter)**

Fred Langson- photo albums  
William Romo- photos/slides  
Mary Stevenson- photographs  
Jean Hosey- photos of Negaunee  
Joyce Rogers Pavicic- turkey platter  
Rex Martin- yearbooks and newspapers  
Judy Webb- photos of NHS Class of 1935  
Pat Johnson Lahti- various papers, books, items  
Dee Heard- Negaunee Women's Club book of recipes  
Snyder Drugs- flowers for the planters at the museum  
Barbara Lehtonen- monetary gift in memory of Lee Guizzetti  
Jerry Anderson- band uniform donated by family of Sam Dozzi  
Betty Ann Schneider- purse, music, an iron, misc kitchen items  
Barbara McBride-Schmidt/Globe Printing- old photos of Negaunee  
Dominic Jacobetti III- photocopy of his grandpa with Mohammed Ali  
Ruth Tompkins Koskinen- 1946-48 Negaunee Figure Skating booklets  
John Miller- vast amount of genealogy on Miller, Koester, Neely families  
Joe Comensoli family- curtain stretchers and mining hard hat with welding hood  
Charles Kirkpatrick- "Kitten Ball", newspaper clippings, 1914 Negaunee HS "Echo"

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

## **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – SIMILARITIES**

“Big in a Little Town”



Dan Skewis

Since the opening of the first school house in 1866, Negaunee has a reputation of long serving executives. Only fifteen people have served as the head of the school district over the past 150 years with six carrying the title of principal and nine with the title of superintendent. Previously holding the position as Principal of the Negaunee Middle School and after serving last year as an interim, Dan Skewis is now the tenth Superintendent of Negaunee Public Schools succeeding Jim Derocher. He also has the distinction of being only the second Negaunee High School graduate to serve in this position along with Robert Northey who served from 1963 until retiring in 1981.

Similarities seem to be in abundance for these two persons. Both families had strong roots in Negaunee with everyone attending our schools. Both being lifelong residents of Negaunee and graduating from Negaunee - Robert in 1935 and Dan in 1990. Both were mathematics teachers at Negaunee. Both excelled in sports. In 1934, Northey set the Negaunee school record in the 100 yard dash with a time of 11.19 since tied by Paul Symons in 1969. Skewis took first place in tennis singles while his Miner team captured the U.P. Championship in 1989. Three new tennis courts were constructed at the Negaunee playgrounds under supervision of Northey in 1972. Eight new tennis courts (with four having lights) were completed in the area of the High School in 2014 under the supervision of Skewis.



Mr. Robert E. Northey

“Big in a Little Town” was the title of the yearbook in 1990 when Dan graduated. Dan serves his community well and the community is proud to have him as Superintendent of Schools.

## **THE ENJOYMENT OF BEING A VOLUNTEER**



Karen Saari and Connie Scanlon have been volunteering their services at the museum on Wednesdays during the past several years. However, they have come up with an interesting passion – “knitting on the job”. They can sit inside during the miserable cold and wet days or sit on the front porch when the weather is cooperative. From left to right, are Karen, Diane Faust, Connie, Linda Dompierre and Donna Hayrynen.

## CARPET MADE AND DONATED BY NORTHEY FAMILY



Ida Catherine (Pesola) Loytymaki was born October 11, 1887 in Finland. In 1910, she and her 18-month old daughter (Aune) immigrated to the USA to join her husband who was working in the Palmer iron ore mine." Ida would also become the mother of three more children born in Palmer: Aino, Arvo and Irja. She used her own loom for weaving carpets using discarded fabrics. Besides giving carpets to family and friends, she also sold some by fulfilling orders. Ida died in Marquette on March 1, 1979 at the age of 91.

This carpet was donated to the Negaunee Historical Society by Ida's grand-daughters (lifetime members of our society) Karen Saad, Lynn McMann and Kathleen Giddings. Pictured below right are Roland Koski and Karen with the donated rug during her visit to the museum this summer.

Note: An interesting trivial fact while I was researching old pictures at the museum relates to the sisters' mother. Aune (Loytymaki) Northey was the valedictorian of Palmer's first graduating Class in 1928 and she was also a classmate of my father, Leonard (Numikoski) Koski.



## FIRED TEACHER IS GIFTED WITH GOLD WATCH

(Excerpts from December 1964 "Mining Journal - 30 years Ago Column)

A Negaunee history and social science teacher was fired from the Negaunee High School faculty which led to an exposure of charges brought against him by H.S. Doolittle, superintendent of schools, before a taxpayers' committee meeting with the school board. Although recognized as being a capable instructor, he was accused by Doolittle of causing friction in the school system through alleged subordination, disloyalty and other unethical practices to the teaching profession. It aroused a storm of protest here and culminated in a walkout of over 300 students on December 11, 1934. Held in high regard by many in the student body, he was given another demonstration of their respect for his teaching abilities when he was presented with a gold wrist watch by the senior class.



## **MINER'S STRIKE ON FEBRUARY 8, 1946**

(Excerpts from Local 4950 News, May 1986)



1946 was a period of unrest among the workers of the Marquette Iron Range. Miners were trying to put the sacrifices of World War II behind them and wished to begin enjoying the fruits of democracy. Beginning on February 8, the strike was peaceful and well organized for the first four weeks. President Truman proposed a nationwide settlement of an 18 1/2 cent per hour increase but North Range Mining Company only offered a 10 cent raise, thus the continuing of a bitter strike. Injunctions, state police, demonstrations, scabs, violence and civil unrest began to fester in Negaunee. Violence broke out at the Mather Mine as a striker was taken into custody for damaging a scab's car. On April 8, 1946, a near riot occurred as eggs, potatoes, and rocks were exchanged by scabs and strikers. Fifty-four Steelworkers members as well as Negaunee's Mayor, Alvin "Mike" Hampton, were charged with contempt of court and also accused of inciting violence. One month later on May 10, a striker was shot through an ankle by a scab during a demonstration who was later arrested confessed to the shooting. After 104 days, the miners were victorious. They had finally received what the rest of the industry had been given months before. More importantly, was the sense of unity and realization of the strength that the strike had brought to the miners and their families.

## **THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING DATE SCHEDULED**

Our future monthly meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 6 and Monday, November 3 at 7:00 at the museum. The Historical Society will hold its thirty-first annual meeting on Tuesday, December 1 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 Pat Johnson, Roland Koski, Suzanne Morris and Theresa Rinehart. Nominations can be presented at our October 6th 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.



## **FLOWERS BEING PLANTED AT MUSEUM**



Thanks to the Negaunee Area Beautification Committee for donating the planters, Laura Jandron and Jeanne Sandstrom are making the museum's front entrance a thing of beauty. Two planters were placed in different locations on the Main Street corner. Thank you, Laura and Jeanne for your planting expertise.

## KITTEN BALL FROM A CENTURY AGO

Over a century ago, kitten ball was a similar version of today's softball game but with a bigger ball being used. This ball was donated by Charles Kirkpatrick during his visit to our museum this summer. It is



the same ball that was used by the "Negaunee Unions"

baseball team of which his grandfather, Charles Kirkpatrick, was part of. The team played indoor baseball in the Adelphi Rink during the winter season of 1907-1908 and kitten ball was still being played in 1932. Grandfather, Charles, is shown in middle of the first row holding the same ball as shown above.

## WHY HISTORY MATTERS!!

(Information provided by members of the Negaunee Historical Society - Laura Jandron, Suzanne Morris, Jeanne Sandstrom, Steve Perucco, Theresa Rinehart and Roland Koski)

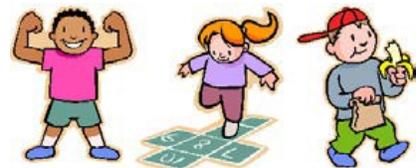
How can we possibly know where we are going, if we don't know where we've been?



History matters because it often repeats itself and we can learn from this. It preserves our heritage for all who follow - here and in the future. History is important because it gives you an idea of where you came from and some pride in the people that came before. It also lets you know how they solved problems that are similar to the ones we're struggling with now. We appreciate learning the background of all different aspects of our life, our

town and our state. This knowledge helps us to understand where we started, to becoming what we are today and where we will go tomorrow. We find it interesting what happened in the past and we like to compare it to current events. Hopefully, this comparison can prevent mistakes of the past from occurring again. We like seeing items that our grandparents had and remembering a bit of the past when we see them.

Memories!! No cars, no lights, no television, no computers, and diseases that we weren't even aware of takes us back in history. How did our grandparents and parents cope without all the luxuries? Take the time and look back at Negaunee during the past 150 years. Compare the living conditions of families then and realize how fortunate we are now. Imagine our style of life 25 years from today. Be prepared for the unexpected, because it will sneak up on us before we actually realize "Why History Matters".



## **HOME TOUR ATTRACTS 123 VISITORS**

The annual Home Tour was held on Friday, July 10th and was successful again this year. Suzanne Morris provided the planning for this event but wants to genuinely thank each and every volunteer, every homeowner and every business that donated to this fundraising event for our museum. Four homes and our museum were available for the tour with refreshments served at the museum. Thank you again, Suzanne.



### **DONATIONS**

Range Bank – monetary sponsorship; Globe Printing – provided free graphic design time for the brochures and posters; Super One Foods – cheese, crackers, ice, juice and cookies; Midtown Bakery – cookies; Shelly’s Floral Boutique – helium filled balloons; and Immanuel Lutheran Church – coffee and lemonade.

### **TOUR VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteer ticket collectors and tour assistants at the museum and homes included: Judy Altobello, Kathy McCormick, Donna Bjork, Karen Hakala, Roland Koski, Virginia Paulson, Connie Scanlon, Amy Stanaway, Pat Johnson, and Christie Kangas. Miles Parkkonen took pictures for the brochure and poster.

### **HOME OWNERS**

These generous individuals were kind enough to open their homes for our biggest money making event of the year: Ann Dianich (300 East Lincoln Street); Lori and Ed Lancaster (112 East Main Street); Mike Wirtanen and Jim Somers (73 Heritage Drive); Amy and Chris Gendron (116 East Main Street).

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## **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Have you forgotten to renew your membership? Would you like to become a new member? Support the Negaunee Historical Society with your check for 2015 and 2016 membership for only \$10.00. Our active membership total today is 268.

**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)**