

**The Negaunee Historical Society  
303 East Main Street (P.O. Box 221)  
Negaunee, MI 49866 (906-475-4614)  
SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER**

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

**FROM THE PRESIDENT. Virginia Paulson**



We had another exciting summer at the museum. We had approximately 800 visitors from 16 states, Guatemala and Japan. We had several guests that were looking for family history. This is always interesting to me because I also learn from these experiences. One instance in particular, the guests had family from Suomi Location and I was able to add to their family stories. In my conversation with the elderly gentleman, he began explaining where he ate his meals when first came to Negaunee to work. The restaurant gave him a meal ticket for a week. He then proceeded to talk about the waitress who ultimately became his wife. This was a story his son and daughter had never heard. I continued talking to him while the daughter-in-law recorded his story. The restaurant was the Main Drift and the name of the waitress was Lorraine from Suomi.

We have had a lot of good things happen in the past year. We have received generous gifts from William Pentinmaki, Rachel Pentinmaki Hirvonen, Ronald and Paul Anderson and Barbara Lehtonen. With the previous gift from Jean Matthews Nelson, we are able to do the major repairs to the roof and back porch.

We are grateful to those people who pay memberships and those who make donations when they visit. This is what keeps our lights on and takes care of our everyday expenses and insurance, but when it comes to the big ticket items it takes a little boost. Our thanks go out to all who support us in any way.

Two major projects have been accomplished this year by volunteers. Lynn Chevrette took on the task of organizing and labeling the mining equipment that had been on the floor in the basement. Barbara Dushane Perala took on the task of reorganizing our photo albums. Thanks to these volunteers.

VIRGINIA PAULSON

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

## WAS CITY UNDER HAUPT OWNERSHIP?

Excerpts from Negaunee Iron Herald 13SEP1915

Ernest and Pauline Haupt traveled across the seas from Germany and were married in Cleveland, Ohio in 1853. Two years later, they arrived in the Lake Superior region and settled for a time on the Carp River and at a place later established as Eagle Mills. Thus, Pauline was one of the first three women to make her home in the settlement which consisted of but a few log cabins. There were but three structures in the hamlet and the Haupt's nearest neighbors resided near where St. Paul's parochial school stood. There were no railroads and a journey, even to Marquette, was considerable of an undertaking especially in the winter.

Wolves were numerous during this period and Mr. Haupt's journey to Marquette for supplies became a chaotic day at the cabin. Home with her children, Pauline encountered the wolves that were bolder than usual scurrying about the Haupt cabin until they knocked off the tin stove pipe. The resultant smoke in the cabin was almost suffocating, thus creating a difficult question. She and her children could perish inside the cabin or take a chance with wolves on the outside. Pauline finally got the door open and received much needed air yet was able to brace it so the wolves could not enter.



Mr. Haupt was a baker by trade and established the first bakery in this section of the Upper Peninsula. In the 1870's, his shop was on Iron Street and Ernest did a prosperous business there for many years while establishing his home at 212 East Main Street. Land was available in those days and Mr. Haupt entered into a contract with a land company for the purchase of a little tract lying north of his store. Being such an attractive proposition, George agreed to take 160 acres instead of the 40 acres as intended. He paid \$10.00 to bind the agreement while the papers were being prepared by the Marquette agent. However, the agent was called to Cleveland and failed to return for several years. George had secured wood from the tract so that he felt he was fully reimbursed for the \$10 outlay. With so much land in his possession, he never took steps to complete the purchase. This large piece of property would have taken in a goodly section of Negaunee extending from Iron Street to or beyond Teal Lake bluff and from Tobin Street eastward for a number of blocks.



**(Note: The Haupt's would have been grandparents to Aileen (Erickson) wife of Dick Pellow)**

## CEMETERY TOUR ON SEPTEMBER 18

The Cemetery Tour is scheduled for Sunday, September 18th beginning at 1:00pm weather permitting. The cemetery burial lots are close together in a 4-block area to make it a lot easier for visitors to walk to and hear the stories of some Negaunee pioneers. Familiar names on the tour this year include Bell, Honkavaara, Kellan, Kirkwood, Muck, Neely, Perala, and Sundberg. Refreshments will be served and there will be a free will donation for the tour.

## KAREN VIOLETTA KUNKEL – “QUEEN OF WOMEN’S SOFTBALL”

It could be said that Negaunee’s Karen Violetta Kunkel grew up swinging a baseball bat, catching a ball with ease or rounding third base several times scoring runs while competing with the boys in her neighborhood at the sandlot baseball fields. When they say “Practice Makes Perfect”, Karen has accomplished a brilliant and distinguished career in women’s softball and other sports. A Negaunee High School graduate from the Class of 1952, Karen also furthered her education graduating from both Michigan State and Northern Michigan. She was inducted into both the NMU and Upper Peninsula Hall of Fames while also becoming certified as a professional ski instructor. Karen was also a Professor Emiratis at NMU, administrator of the U S Olympic Education Center and she earned a Presidential Commendation. After her freshman year at MSU, Karen was offered a contract by the Texas Cowgirls (aka: Texas Redheads), a traveling woman’s professional basketball team but declined the offer because she didn’t want to be on the road constantly. She was also an accomplished bowler in her “spare” time - probably spending hours and hours at the Viga Bowling Alley on Iron Street which was owned and operated by the Violetta family.



However, Karen’s claim to fame was actually playing softball in which she began a star-studded career at age 12. She was a member of the Marquette Indians team that claimed the Upper Peninsula’s first women’s state softball championship. While she was still attending high school, Karen was offered a contract by the Grand Rapids Chicks, a team that was part of the All American Girls Professional Softball League. The offer was renewed in 1953 whereas she played catcher and then became a utility player. Karen was a technical advisor for the 1992 movie **“League of Their Own”**. The film was set during the World War II era of the league which was established by chewing gum magnate, Phillip K.

Wrigley in 1943. She was invited as an honorary third base coach for a girl’s softball game played on the White House lawn.

Karen is also a motivational speaker and with husband Jack have their own company, K2 Unique Inc. that consults for business, education and non-profit organizations. Lastly, Kunkel founded and directed the first Great Lakes State Games and served on the administrative committee that helped to build the Superior Dome in Marquette.



## “NEGAUNEE IRON HERALD” HI-LITES 50 YEARS AGO

**June 24, 1966** - City establishes a Housing Commission (5 members) for housing for the aged.



**June 29, 1966** - Negaunee celebrates its first “Sidewalk Day”. Negaunee city band gave a street concert, with a youth day parade at 2:00 and a teenager ball at night.

**July 1-10, 1966** - “Negaunee Iron Herald” closes for employee holiday. No weekly newspaper.

**July 14, 1966** - Temperature hits 100 during current heat wave and water consumption was high. June 25 through July 10 ( 92, 93,80,75,97,87,97,100,96,96,74,81,73,78,88,83).

### **August 11, 1966**

Clarence Thoren retires from the Land Dept. of CCI and will travel. He has been to over 40 countries and has lectured on travel and art, and has many of his artwork in museums and libraries. He was a past director of the Longyear Research Library.

**August 25, 1966** - Viga Bowling Alley destroyed by fire but the buildings on both sides (Violetta Music Store and Warner Heating and Plumbing) were saved. Renters on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Mrs. John Van Brocklin and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Vadnais, escaped on a back stairway. Owners of the bowling alley were on vacation trips. Originally called the Kings Inn Hotel, the bowling alley was installed with four lanes in 1931.

**August 25, 1966** - The new teacher’s contracts have been signed and starting salary is either \$5,700, or \$6,270 with a master’s degree. A master’s degree after 11 years is \$9,006.

## MONTHLY AND 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED



Our future monthly meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 4 and Monday, November 8 at 7:00 at the museum. The Historical Society will hold its thirty-second annual meeting on Tuesday, December 6 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 Laura Jandron, Paul Jandron, Miles Parkkonen and Linda Perucco. Nominations can be presented at our October 4th and November 8th meetings while additional nominations may be presented at the Annual Meeting. Refreshments will be served and all members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

## **INVITATION TO A SAUNA PARTY** Excerpts from Cliffs News 1955 by Walter Gries



A typical sauna building


Every nationality group enjoys some particular rite or ceremony. In Finland, there are said to be over one-half million saunas. You may also enjoy a sauna in Negaunee even if you're not a Finn. The ideal 6 by 6 foot cabin size sauna is constructed as a separate log building near a creek or lake. The sauna must be airtight to get the best results from the steam. The bather gets a pail of water and a towel and prepares for the bath by pouring water on the hot stones. The purpose is to raise the temperature by spreading steam so that the body pores really open up. Normal temperatures

might reach 150 degrees but the saunas in Finland can reach over 250 degrees. Sitting in the sauna for 15 minutes will be more than enough to open those pores. Then it's time to have a little fun by leaving the sauna and jumping into the cold waters of the lake or stream. In the wintery weather, you can actually roll in the snow. Your circulation is so complete that you don't feel that sudden cold water or snow. After your sauna experience, you should feel clean, vigorous, utterly relaxed and have a sense of well-being.

Cleanliness is almost an obsession with the Finns who are often called the cleanest people in the world. Long before the invention of modern plumbing, the Finn had his sauna. You don't know what you're missing if you've never taken a sauna!



Three of Ishpeming's outstanding ski riders. From left to right: Clarence Hill, Wilbert Rasmussen, Ralph Bietila and his son, Paul, in Burton Boyum's sauna



**Bosch**  
**Shooter's Clinic**  
**MAY 29, 1966**  
From 10 A.M. To 4 P.M.  
AT THE  
**NEGAUNEE ROD & GUN CLUB**  
EXHIBITION SHOOTING BY  
**GEORGE ATANASOFF**

## GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME

(Since our June newsletter)



Ida Hakkarinen- monetary gift  
Bruce Conradson- Finnish bible  
Bill Taggart- 5" miniature day jug  
Paul & Martha Suomi- monetary gift  
Dan Landmark- 7-foot surveyor pole  
Tom Giddings- 1940's wedding dress  
Bob Tamblyn- 5 reels of 1937 parade  
Anonymous- monetary gift for research  
Alan Nelson- Breitung Hotel door markers  
Judy Jarvi- 2-speed pedal bike from 1930's  
Karen Northey Saad- 1940's wedding dress  
Pete Meli- 4 photos of NHS being torn down  
Lani Duquette- Negaunee license plate, etc  
Darlene Chambers – monetary gift for research  
Karen Salmer Pepin- monetary gift for research  
William Romo- pictures taken by Len Warmanen  
Jill Lamere- 1962 Negaunee miner photo in frame  
Bill Hakkarinen- several old Negaunee post cards  
Tony Marta- colored pictures of miner at Mather "B"  
Paul and Ron Anderson- monetary gift for research  
Patty Annala- Ish-Neg 100-year commemorative plate  
Barbara Lehtonen- monetary gift for back porch repairs  
Renee Petrocik- St. Paul school patches and arm bands  
Main Street Antiques- sales from unusable museum items  
Cathy Baldini- Lakeview elementary yearbooks & calendar  
Doug Dushane/Barb Perala-various photos & service book  
Beatrice Matthews- monetary gift in memory of Mattson family  
Superior View Photograph- sales from unusable museum items  
Lakeview School teachers- monetary gift in memory of Leo LaFond  
Anonymous- several letters and fabric samples from Lowenstein's  
Robert Richards- Book "Iron Brew" the evolution of iron mining in U.P.  
Perucco family- hand made Jig Saw by Eber Perucco in NHS shop class

(Note: If your name was omitted from this list, please notify us so we can acknowledge your commitment)



# HISTORY OF THE NEGAUNEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

“Only 9 librarians appointed during 126 years of operation”



In the year 1890, a group of public-spirited citizens in Negaunee banded together for the purpose of providing a place for the residents of the community to come to read and obtain books for home entertainment and study. Thus, Thomas Flynn became the first librarian in Negaunee on October 8, 1890 in a position he held for 12 years. In 1902, our Mayor appointed Miss Sezerine Wellet as our librarian at the time when it was located in two upstairs rooms in the old City Hall.

When the Hall was razed in 1913, the books were moved to the High School for two years until the City Hall was rebuilt in 1915. At this time, the library was included and occupied the greater part of the main floor which still operates over 100 years later. Miss Wellet was our librarian for 37 years until her death in 1939. Other librarians since then were: Dorothy Hooper 1939-1941, Iva Klinglund 1941-1962, Caroline Goodhue 1962-1974, Marion Phillips 1974-1982, Katherine Thurner 1982-2007, Marsha Mattfield 2007-2016, and our current librarian, Jessica Holman.

Mondays: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Thursdays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Fridays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
*Closed Saturdays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend*



**QUIET PLEASE**  
**Librarian**  
**AT WORK**

In 2007, an extensive remodeling took place and the library area greatly expanded. A new Michigan Room has replaced the old smaller one and the library is equipped to provide Wireless internet (WIFI) to allow users to bring in their own laptops. Year by year, the library has continued to grow in prominence in our community and it has increasingly satisfied the reading needs and desires of area residents.



**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - SEPTEMBER 1      281**  
**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS                      179**  
**2016 MEMBERSHIPS                              102**

Did you forget to renew your membership this year?  
 You can still renew for 2016 and also continue being a member for 2017 at the regular one-year price shown below. 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. Ask a family member or friend to become a member.

Join Us!

Join Us!

Join Us!

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

Lifetime - \$100.00    **2016&17** individual - \$10.00    **2016&17** student - \$5.00

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

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

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

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

### JAPANESE DELEGATION VISITS MUSEUM



The museum had some unexpected visitors from Higashiomi, Japan on August 30<sup>th</sup> as part of a Marquette Sister Cities Program which originated in 1979. That program focuses on cultural understanding, international friendship and sharing of ideas. Gary Rasmussen, representing the Negaunee Lions Club, led the group on a tour of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail, Suicide Hill, the Iron Mining Museum as well as this visit to our museum. Here, the Japanese delegation poses for a picture on the front steps of the museum with volunteer Roland Koski and Rasmussen standing in the middle of the back row.