

The Negaunee Historical Society

303 East Main Street, P.O. Box 221,

Negaunee, MI 49866 (906-475-4614)

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER #47

Prepared by Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson

(Another item of interest from the world of mining.... Excerpts from the "Mining Journal")



CLEVELAND CLIFFS HIRES WOMEN - DAYS "FOR MEN ONLY" ARE GONE

For the first time since World War II, Cleveland Cliffs has women working in its mine complex in the U.P. Three women were hired on April 16, 1973 and in August of 1975, there were approximately 35 women included in the work force. These women are employed in positions designated "for men only".

Indications are pretty convincing that women conveyer attendants, plant testers, general laborers, cooler operators and welders are at here to stay. The lady miners think of themselves as "modern day pioneers". They came to work in Levi's, flannel shirts, hard hats and steel toed shoes. Stereotyped notions about careers for women are breaking down. Many women who are employed at Cliffs are the mainstays of their family income with insurance and benefits. There are new letters on a door, "WOMEN'S DRY" where after a day's work the women head for the dry where they change clothes and shower. The men always have made use of the "dry" but when they added a woman's dry it raised a few eyebrows. A favorite story is that when Mrs. Dunquist's first assignment was to clean the floor in the plant, a maintenance man walked through with dirty boots. She pointed out her efforts in cleaning the area and asked him to stamp off the dirt before walking on the floor. He was startled ...it's not just the new sign on the Women's Dry!

Thank you for the work each one has contributed to keep our museum open. Our success depends on your willingness to volunteer.



VIRGINIA

33rd ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER

Our future monthly meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 2 and Tuesday, November 6 at 7:00 at the museum. The Historical Society will hold its thirty-third annual meeting on Tuesday, December 4 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 Art Gischia, Pat Johnson, Roland Koski and Theresa Rinehart. Nominations can be presented at our October and November meetings while additional nominations may be presented at our annual meeting. Refreshments will be served and all members are encouraged to attend.



DETERMINATION FROM SHINING SHOES TO OWNING SUPERMARKET

Francis (Buster), Carmello, Charley and Tony Russo proved that work and determination as youngsters would provide dividends in owning a supermarket in 1965. The two older boys (ages 10 & 12) began by having a 'shoe shining' business in Negaunee with chairs on both ends of Iron Street. The parents, immigrants from Italy, were known to be "green thumbs" and provided a surplus of garden supplies. The boys then began their successful career by distributing produce throughout the city each day taking turns pulling a wagon. In 1938, their first store opened in Ishpeming called the Stop and Shop which was limited to fruits and vegetables. Two years later, they decided that pastures were greener in Negaunee and they opened shop on the west end of Iron Street. In 1942, the store ceased operations during World War II and all four brothers entered the armed forces. The business reopened at the close of war in the same location prior to moving next to Pioneer Agency Building (Pellow Printing) in 1953. The move to their last home on Iron Street was finalized in May 1965. The market was the first major construction in the Iron Street business district since the early 1920's. Russo's later moved their business to US-41 which is now called Super One.



	
Milwaukee Casket Co. Showroom and Office 1418 W. St. Paul Ave. Phone Division 4-4600 Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin	
Serving the Funeral Directors for over Three Quarters of a Century	
H. L. "HARRY" DITON 218 W. SPRING ST. APPLETON, WIS. TELEPHONE 4-1009	
Iron Mt. to Negaunee - 25 00 Negaunee to Gwinning & Cemetery - 25 00	}
Shroud, Underwear & Socks - 20 00	
Opening Grave - 10 00 Nightstone - 5 00	
Casket - 100 00 Outside Box - 13 50 Embalming - 35 00	
	233 50

PERALA FUNERAL HOME 102 YEARS OLD

The Perala Funeral Home was founded in February of 1916 by John W. Perala and was located on the second floor of his Negaunee Hardware Store (next to the Mall & Main Drift). It remained there until the mid 1920's when the site was moved to the McDonald Building (Negaunee Elks) on Jackson Street. The business remained there until the present Perala Funeral Home was erected at 123 W. Lincoln Street. The business is now operated by John Kamppinen. Times have changed as shown by the funeral expenses shown on the left by a Milwaukee, WI casket company. A body was removed from Iron Mountain to Gwinn via the Perala Funeral Home in 1951.

2ND RICHEST PER CAPITA CITY IN WORLD

Believe it or not but a little known article once proudly boasted that Negaunee residents could relate that they lived in the 2nd richest city per capita in the world. The story behind this statement appeared in the November 16, 1923 edition of the "Negaunee Iron Herald". Then City Attorney, Theodore Thoren, had first-hand knowledge of the resources of the city and used the Encyclopedia Britannica to verify the wealth. That book actually gives Johannesburg, South Africa the title of the richest city in the world in 1908. All of this probably came about because of the discovery of iron ore in 1844 and all of the mining in our city.



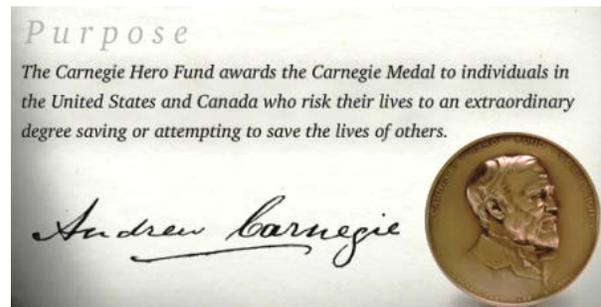
CITY HAD CARNEGIE MEDAL RECIPIENT

"Far better a stainless death, than life's dishonored breath"

A large majority of present day residents are probably unaware of the fact that a young Negaunee man gave his life to save patients in the Negaunee Hospital (Mason's Bldg on Teal Lake Avenue) fire which occurred on March 30, 1924. Presented posthumously, the recipient of this honor was Axel Martinson who was only 21. He had returned to Negaunee to complete work on his diploma after dropping out of school. He worked as an orderly in preparation for a career in medicine. Reports indicated that Axel was studying in his room when the blaze broke out.

Following comes from the records on the Carnegie Fund Awards website:

"Axel J. Martinson died attempting to save Johanna Sjolund from being burned, Negaunee, Michigan on March 30, 1924. Mrs. Sjolund, 45, was a patient on the second floor of a small hospital when fire was discovered in a linen chute by the only nurse in attendance. The nurse ran from the building to give an alarm. Martinson, 21, hospital orderly who was on the first floor attempted to use a fire hose near the foot of the stairway. After flames appeared on the stairway and heavy smoke prevented others from entering the building, he went to Mrs. Sjolund's bed. The fire department arrived and extinguished the fire. Martinson's body was found face down on the bed with arms outstretched, and Mrs. Sjolund's body was found on the floor near her bed".



Found in the remains of the fire was Axel's textbook with a bookmark, directed to this quotation which was underlined. *"Far better a stainless death, than life's dishonored breath"*. Axel's Carnegie Medal is on display in the showcase in the museum's west room.

Announcement

On Thursday, July 26th, we will open our new Undertaking Parlors in

The Kuhlman Block
407 Iron Street

On that date we will be ready to serve the people of Negaunee and vicinity with the most modern and up-to-date equipment, and will carry a complete stock of Hardwood and Metallic Caskets and Steel Vaults.

Negaunee Funeral Parlors
ALVIN R. KOSKEY, Director

KOSKEY FAMILY CELEBRATES FOUR GENERATIONS

The Koskey family achieved 90 years in the mortician business on July 26th which dates back to its original location in 1928 next to the vacant building (Symons Hardware & Northern Propane Gas) on Iron Street. Great grandfather, Alvin Koskey, came to Negaunee from Bessemer and had many years of experience in funeral arrangements after graduating from school in Chicago. The business moved to its present location (106 W Main Street) in 1937. Grandfather, Robert provided services for several years prior to handing the reins to his son, Allan who in turn has retired and the business is in the hands of his son, Louis. The only family owned funeral business in the county from inception was named the Negaunee Funeral Parlors in 1928.

KICKING IT THROUGH THE GOAL POSTS

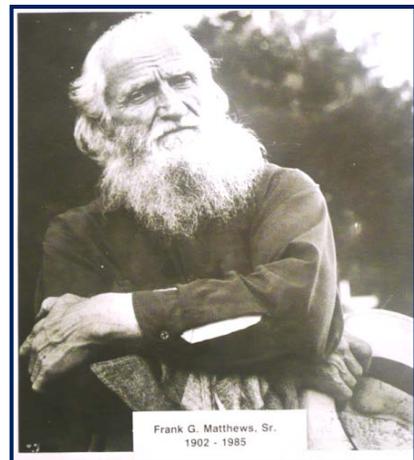


I was reading Tom Pellow's book "Negaunee Athletics 1894-1995" for the umpteenth time and decided to use an interesting article on field goal kicking in Negaunee. Sec Violetta played for the Miners in 1924 and he drop kicked field goals (run a bit, drop the football, and kick it) through the goal posts. He was so good that he still holds the Negaunee record for the longest made field goal of 47 yards against Ishpeming. In 1940, the rules were changed and someone had to hold the ball on the ground for a legal kick. Then I realized that the Miners had another kicker who still holds a few team records and an Upper Peninsula record. Tom Salo had the talent kicking a football and proved it on the jayvees in 1984 booting 2 field goals and 18 of 20 extra points. On the varsity in 1985, Tom kicked just 1 field goal but was good on 21 of 22 extra point tries. Salo saved his best in 1986 and the Miners relied on him game after game to score points with his toe. Tom was a perfect 7 of 7 in field goal attempts and converted 18-21 extra points. Negaunee qualified for the playoffs that year and "Tom the Toe" added 3 more field goals and 5 extra points giving him 53 points for the year. His 10 successful field goals that season is still the Upper Peninsula record and he had the 3rd highest total in the state record book. His 53 points by a kicker in one season must also be a U.P. record.

FRANK MATTHEWS REPRESENTED CITY AT BRIDGE DEDICATION

Excerpts from "Negaunee Iron Herald" June 27, 1958

The 3-day Mackinac Bridge Dedication Festival was held in St. Ignace during the July 4th, 1958 holiday weekend. This all pertained to the opening of the great bridge in November 1957 and Negaunee was well represented for the celebration. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Matthews attended and they were authorized to ride on a float in two separate parades thus being on the only decorated vehicle from this area. Our City Manager and Mayor along with 30 band members and two majorettes were also included in the St. Ignace parade on Thursday. However, Frank Matthews was also invited to enter his float in the Mackinaw City parade the following day. Throughout the 3-day event, Frank also distributed 2,000 copies of our tourist brochure to the general public. Unofficially, hundreds of Negaunee families drove to St. Ignace for the ceremonies on the Upper Peninsula side of the bridge. The majority would have to drive back that evening because it was practically impossible to obtain lodging within 60 miles of the bridge.



Kauppila's Store
Groceries & Soft Drinks
Teal Lake Location
Negaunee, Michigan

NEELY'S LUMBER & SUPPLY
317 W. CLARK, NEGAUNEE

95-YEAR HISTORY OF THE “NEGAUNEE IRON HERALD”
“The only Paper in the World that gives a darn about Negaunee”



With the final edition of its newspaper on August 28, 1968, the “Negaunee Iron Herald” had come to an end after 95 years of publishing a weekly newspaper. The paper’s heading when the Pellow family became owners in 1948 reflected an everlasting memory to its readers – ***“The only Paper in the World that gives a darn about Negaunee”***. Negaunee became a city in 1873 and the beginning of Northern Michigan’s oldest weekly newspaper was established by C. G. Griffey, from Pennsylvania, who moved his printing press and equipment by rail to Cleveland, Oh and then to Marquette by boat. However, the beginning of the “Iron Herald” was nothing short of a disastrous event in history with heavy snow, heavy winds, and then the start of the “Panic of 1873” which closed the mines, brought industries to a standstill and the Pioneer Furnace had to suspend operations. The two local banks, holding \$800,000 of area residents’ money closed their doors. The situation, as bad it began, grew continually worse for more than a year. Snow started to fall on the day the plant moved to its quarters and continued for 40 days – more or less each day until it was nine feet in the woods. (Yes, the paper said 9 feet). However, the first edition of the local paper was still published on Thursday, November 13, 1873 and continued to be published every week for the next 95 years. Thomas and John Pellow purchased the business on January 1, 1948 until John, who was a Navy pilot during World War II, was recalled for active duty during the Korean crisis in 1952. His interest in the business was purchased by another brother, Richard. At this time, the brothers also began the operation of a job printing business that they named the Pellow Printing Company which is still operating today. There are several more articles regarding the paper’s history that an interested reader can still ponder as most editions of the “Iron Herald” have been copied onto CD’s from 1873-1968 and are available for purchase at our museum.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP – SEPTEMBER 1	306
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS	188
2018 MEMBERSHIPS	118

Two years ago, our membership roll reached 300 for the first time ever and we reached that mark again in 2017. We have now reached another all-time high for memberships with 3 months remaining. Visitors are impressed with our museum and memberships are increasing weekly. Now would be a good time for you to help and support the preservation of Negaunee’s history by renewing your membership and seeking additional new members. 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.





NEW HOME FOR NEGAUNEE YOUTH CENTER

Formerly located in the old Jackson School on Snow Street, the Negaunee Youth Center found a new home in the Sundberg Block. At a cost of \$20,000, the second floor of the former garment factory was renovated to have a large dance floor, a game room, conference room (lounge) and a canteen. An open house for Negaunee residents was held on August 29th, 1958 and Jack Taylor, Director announced that youth activities would get underway two days later following the Stambaugh-Negaunee football game. The dance floor would be the first thing you would see when you reached the

2nd floor with six ceiling fluorescent fixtures. On the west side of the floor was the game room which had two pool tables and similar number of ping pong tables. The pool tables were taken from the old Jackson School and completely refinished. On the east side was the canteen, a hook-shaped bar which was constructed to accommodate 20-30 youngsters at one setting and would provide automatic dispensing of hamburgers, milk shakes and soft drinks. In the front part of the canteen were a cloak room and a conference room which was also used as a lounge to watch television for those interested. Centrally located and enclosed by glass was the Director's office which permitted an unobstructed view of all activity. On Saturday night, there would be a dance from 8 to 11:30 and Sunday afternoon the Center would be open from 2 till 5. However, no dancing was permitted on Sunday but the game room, lounge and canteen would be available to students.

LINDA PERUCCO

(September 2, 1947 – June 22, 2018)



The Negaunee Historical Society expresses its deepest sympathy in the passing of our energetic and hard working volunteer. Linda was happy to be a member of our governing board and we will miss her positive attitude at our meetings. Linda was very willing to volunteer her time each week as a guide for the museum visitors. We will miss you very much, Linda.



Donations to Negaunee Historical Society in Memory of Linda Perucco

*David/Linda Vallier
Virginia Paulson
Roland/Barbara Koski*

*Christie/Doug Kangas
Miles Parkkonen
Mark/Jana Nicholls*

*Danny/Claudia Thompson
Mary Paulson*

MARVIN JOHNS REPLACES “MOOSE” LACOMBE

Are we reading this correctly? How could anyone replace “Moose”? It did happen 60 years ago. The retirement of “Moose” LaCombe as Negaunee’s rural route carrier, after 30 years, left a void that had 42 applicants taking a competitive examination for his position. Marvin Johns, an employee at the Negaunee Post Office for 11 years, earned the promotion which



was announced by Mrs. Agnes Regan, postmaster. Johns began his association with the post office in November 1947 as a substitute clerk/carrier. He later received an appointment as a regular city carrier and covered a route that included the business district and the County Road. Norman Bell would then have a career position taking over for Johns’ city route. Active in athletic circles, Marvin played on independent basketball teams, was formerly a member of the Rovers baseball team, served as player/manager for the CCI softball team and was the secretary of the Negaunee Bowling League. In his spare time, Johns was very good at repairing lawn mowers and snow throwers for his rural route customers.

Excerpts taken from the “Negaunee Iron Herald”

NEGAUNEE ROVERS HAD TO BAT AGAINST “SUBMARINE SLIM”

August 1938 - Negaunee Rovers baseball team clashed with the Brown Cubs, a colored team from Piney Woods, Mississippi. Their pitcher, “Submarine Slim”, was a man 7 feet 1 inches and had one of the fastest deliveries to be seen in this part of the country. A nominal price would have been charged with a large crowd expected to attend the game. However, no score was ever reported in the “Iron Herald” paper.

LOWENSTEIN SUBMITTED 2 ENTRIES IN CONTEST – BOTH WINNERS

July 16, 1948 - Aaron Lowenstein submitted two entries to a contest. He won both times. The first time he received a lighter, the second a nice pipe. If anyone is in the market for such items, contact lawyer Lowenstein. He doesn’t smoke.

TEAL LAKE SWIMMING PROPOSAL DEFEATED

August 6, 1948 - City voters vetoed a Bond Proposal that would allow swimming in Teal Lake.

NEGAUNEE HIRES DICK KOSKI AS FOOTBALL COACH

June 5, 1968 – Negaunee’s new Head Football coach would be Richard E. (Dick) Koski, 27.

**BETTY’S BEAUTY
SALON**

122 East Peck Street
Negaunee
GR5-4666

**---Welcome to our Website ---
Take a moment and visit us at
www.negauneehistory.org**

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME



Betty Lukkarinen – monetary gift
William/Caryl Hyry – monetary gift
Paul/Martha Suomi – monetary gift
“The Great Pretenders” – monetary gift
Elmer/Theresa Rinehart – monetary gift
Dave/Beverly Stromquist – monetary gift
Preston Koski - for mowing the lawn this summer
Millie Isaacson and Jeanette Hodge- kitchen items
Pat Johnson – donation in memory of Starks Humphreys
Lynn Chevrette – taking care of the museum flower garden
Arto Kovanen – donation for cemetery research via Roland Koski
Katherine Marcotte – assorted documents pertaining to Negaunee
Joan LeClair- great-great grandmother’s Mohair coat and a mink stole



Steve Perucco, Lynn Chevrette, Barbara Perala, Judy Altobello, Kathy McCormick, Virginia Paulson, Connie Scanlon and Karen Saari – for keeping the museum open for visitors

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



“Iron Herald” March 1928

Little girl: “Grandpa, why don’t you have hair on your head?”
Grandpa: “Well, why can’t grass grow on a busy street?”
Little girl: “Oh, I see. It can’t get up through the concrete”.

Join today and become a member for 2018 and 2019

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

Lifetime - \$100.00 **2018-19** individual - \$10.00 **2018-19** student - \$5.00



Name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip: _____

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