

# The Negaunee Historical Society

303 East Main Street, P.O. Box 221,  
**DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER**

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson

Happy New year from the Negaunee Historical Society...

At this time, we would like to pay tribute to Robert "Nob" Rogers who passed away in November. "Nob" was a long time member and great volunteer for many years. He was our Monday quarterback...cutting grass, taking care of the garbage, keeping the museum clean and being a tour guide.

"Nob" was responsible for setting up an athletic display for high school sports and compiling books with all the information on the years of the football and basketball championships teams. He did a presentation with pictures of all school buildings in the city and townships to show students how school buildings have changed. He took an interest in the history of Old Town when it reopened to the public as a tourist destination and hiking trail.



He had put together a history of the homes and people who resided in Cornishtown where his family home was located. These are a sampling of things he did. I'm sure there are many more. We extend our sympathy to "Nob's" family and we give thanks for the hours that he has given to preserving the history of Negaunee.

### *IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS*



*Ann Marie "Nancy" Sorenson – 26NOV2013*

*James A Mattson – 17JAN2014*

*Glenn Bjork – 2SEP2014*

*Robert "Nob" Rogers – 25NOV2014*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**2015 GOVERNING BOARD REMAINS UNCHANGED**

The Historical Society held its 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on Tuesday, December 2nd in the Fellowship Hall at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Donna Gravedoni-Bjork, Dave Dompierre Sr, Virginia Paulson and Jeanne Sandstrom were re-elected to three-year terms as trustees. After the annual meeting, the governing board elected its officers for the coming year and the below persons were reelected.

**Virginia Paulson.....President**  
**Donna Gravedoni-Bjork.....Secretary**

**Suzanne Morris..... Vice-President**  
**Theresa Rinehart.....Treasurer**

**NISKANEN GENEALOGY VISITORS – SWEDEN TO NEGAUNEE**

All it took was a quick search on the Internet and an e-mail contact with Roland Koski of the Historical Society for the Holmquist brothers of Sweden to make plans to visit Negaunee for the very first time. Researching the "*Negaunee Iron Herald*" and Niskanen obituaries from his cemetery records, Roland provided a wealth of information for Jan and Pelle and they requested a visit to the museum for October 19<sup>th</sup>. A couple of telephone calls reached out to eleven family members as well as "Midge" Waters - the Finnish-Swedish genealogy expert in our area. To the surprise of the Holmquists', a family reunion was about to take place. Information from the family siblings were shared, several photos were taken and e-mail addresses were exchanged. Following this 3-hour session of interesting stories and updating the family trees, some members of the group were then escorted to the Negaunee cemetery to take photos of the Niskanen family grave sites.

Jan and Pelle Holmquist with family members in the background



Family members and "Midge" Waters sitting around table and listening to the Niskanen story



## PALMER ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS CASCADE

The early years of Palmer from 1848 -1900

Palmer, home of the Empire Mine, is named after a Pennsylvania merchant, Waterman Palmer, who purchased 160 acres of land there in 1848 as a mining venture (note: after surveying had been completed it was reported Mr. Palmer had owned over 3,000 acres). The village was built almost in the middle of an old Indian trail that followed up the Escanaba River and led to Lake Michigan with a branch off to the east end of Teal Lake, a favorite camping spot of the Indians. Palmer was originally known as Cascade (after a nearby stream with beautiful cascades running through a gorge). The name was changed to Palmer in 1860 when a post office was built there to avoid confusion with another Cascade located in Kent County, Michigan. It was reported that Waterman Palmer never lived in the community and probably never even visited here.

It has been reported that the first pit opened was No. 4 of the Palmer Mine in 1864. The land was sold in 1869 to several Philadelphia and Pittsburgh men according to "The Mining Journal". The first ore was shipped to Escanaba in September 1871. The panic of 1873 curtailed all production and the Cascade went bankrupt the following year. However, the Cascade Range had become important at that time to warrant formation of Richmond Township in 1873 as the land was taken from Marquette Township.

An old Michigan directory published in 1877 said: "Palmer, formerly known as Cascade, is located at the head waters of the Escanaba River and is the location of the Palmer iron mines, 17 miles southwest of Marquette and five south of Negaunee. Mining is the only industry and iron ore the only shipment, although there is a one small sawmill. Mail is brought in daily from Negaunee by stage. The population is 350. It was settled in 1860. Two years later, the population was given as 500. Joseph Kirkpatrick was the postmaster and manager of the Palmer mines".

In 1889, Palmer became incorporated as a village. The population grew to 1,110 in 1893. There was a general store in the village. The fare to Negaunee on the stage line was 25 cents. Miners back then had to go down in the mines by ladder and after they mined the ore, they had to push the cars as there was no electrical means in the mines nor did they use mules. The highest wages were \$1.75 to \$2.00 for miners for a 10-hour day. The population was quite heavily Finnish and the Finnish Lutheran Church was built in 1890. About 1894, Palmer got its only saloon, which was in the building later occupied by the temperance lodge. The saloon was allowed by the mining superintendants, one of whom claimed that **"this would save the horses a lot of unnecessary torture given them by the countless number of men who otherwise had to satisfy their thirst in Negaunee"**.

Finally, no individual owned a house or lot or land in Palmer around 1890 through 1900. The property was all controlled by the mining companies.

## **EAGLE MILLS “RICHES TO RAGS” 1851-1897**

(Excerpts taken from “The Mining Journal” – March 16, 1957)

Eagle Mills, with its historic school building still erect on the corner of M-35 and CR-492, was established in 1851 as the site of a small sawmill. The United States patent for the location was sold to a James Duncan in 1851 and the original steam powered sawmill was built shortly thereafter. From being a thriving community and historically noted for its lumber production for the Plank Road from Marquette to Negaunee’s Jackson Mine in 1855-56, Eagle Mills had become a ghost town by 1897 plagued by fires and the depression during those early years. A later project in 1869 consisted of furnishing hardwood rails for the little tram road that ran from the nearby Morgan blast furnace to the charcoal kilns on Dead River to the north.

After passing through several hands, the property was purchased in 1873 by F.W. Read and his firm only to see almost immediate failure due to the panic that year and by a fire which destroyed the mill and a huge supply of logs. In 1876, Mr. Reed took over the property and rebuilt the mill and, despite another fire and another rebuilding taking place two years later, the plant prospered.

Before 1890, Eagle Mills became important enough to have a post office with Reed as postmaster. The population was listed as 150 and the village had a railroad depot, 10 electric arc lights and numerous incandescent lights. The mill operated 7 logging camps and employed 250 men hauling in an average of 15 railroad cars of logs daily. The plant added fifteen woodworking and molding machines so all kinds of fancy woodwork, shingles, flooring, laths, and regular lumber could be made.

The factory moved to Marquette in 1895 and the Eagle Mills plant closed down in 1897. The ghost community appeared in the headlines briefly during the summer of 1928 when what was called the old Read farm became the county airport.

### **GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME**

(Since our September newsletter)

John Alguire – donation for research done  
Miles Parkkonen – several repairs at the museum  
Ron Kauppila – monetary gift in memory of his parents  
Dave Dompierre Sr – miscellaneous jobs at the museum  
Virginia & Laura Jandron – updating displays in museum  
Dennis Paulson & Kevin Koski – plowing snow at the museum  
Suzanne Morris – editing and making labels for our newsletter  
Barbara Lehtonen – man’s winter coat, lap robe, polk directories  
Kathleen Northey Giddings – monetary gift in memory of her parents  
“Midge” Waters – Crisp cookbook, “Cornish Cousins of Mqt County” book  
Virginia, Donna, Suzanne and Theresa – accepting their duties on governing board

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

## **KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS VASTLY IMPROVED**

(Provided by Virginia Paulson and her daughter, Connie Scanlon – Kindergarten teacher)

Kindergarten classes have progressed tremendously since the opening of the Lakeview School in 1951.

### **THEN - New Lakeview Kindergarten Meets Most Rigid Standards - 1951**

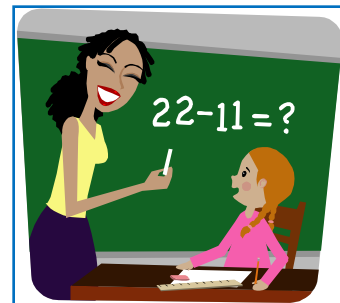


The primary purpose of kindergarten according to educators is to handle transition period when a youngster leaves the shelter of home and toddles off to school and to teach them how to play with other boys and girls. Lakeview School measures up for meeting these standards. The room is painted in pastel shades of blue, red, green, yellow and rose...colors which experts say youngsters prefer. Precautions were taken to guard against

the possibility of colds. With daily naps in effect for kindergarten age children, radiant heat was installed in the floor of the room to keep the floor warm as toast for the daily rest period. The room contains features of a modern child's nursery. Tables and chairs are movable and blocks are in moveable bins that can be pushed to any spot in the room.

### **NOW - Kindergarten Standards Continue to Progress - 2014**

Students entering Kindergarten this year attend school all day, 5 days a week. They enter Kindergarten already knowing their colors and shapes and most of the students recognize the letters of the alphabet. All students are expected to meet the Common Core State Standards. Kindergarten students briefly review 85 sight words. In math, they learn about the basic shapes and 3-D shapes and are expected to do addition and subtraction up through 5. Most children can count to 100 by 1's, 5's, and 10's. If you ask the children if they want nap time, they would say no. Realizing the importance of play for the Kindergarten age child, time is set aside during the day for the children to play. Students also take part in Music, Art, Physical Education, Library and Technology.



## 'IRON HERALDS' NOW SEARCHABLE ON DVD

(Thanks to Miles Parkkonen for working on these grants and making all of the DVDs)

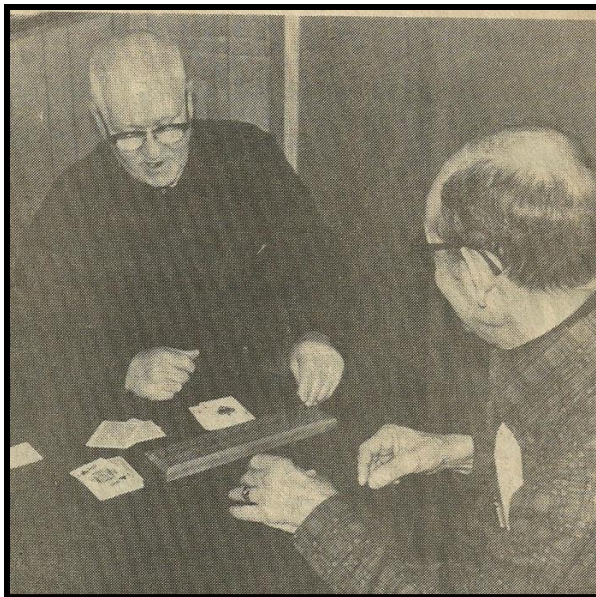
About a decade ago, Richard and Aileen Pellow donated 95 years of the "Iron Herald" newspapers to the Negaunee Historical Society Museum. When we went to pick up the papers, Richard told us he did not want the papers destroyed. Ever since then, we have been trying to preserve them like Richard wanted us to do. We wanted to make them available to researchers and anyone interested in local history. The Negaunee Iron Heralds are the Negaunee Historical Society's most important contribution to the heritage and history of Negaunee and surrounding communities. Due to the fragile condition of the papers they would be destroyed just by turning the pages. Thanks to the generous grants from the Plum Creek Foundation and Cliffs Natural Resources - Lundin Mining Corporation (Eagle Mine), we were able to preserve and make the "Iron Herald's" information available to Negaunee and surrounding communities without using the hard copies. The grant from Plum Creek (2009) was used to digitize the newspapers (1884-1968). The Cliffs and Eagle Mine grant (2014) was used to enhance the first DVDs and added older copies from (1873-1883) having most of these weekly papers digitized and searchable. These DVDs are now for sale at the museum. (\$25.00- non members) (\$20.00- members) (\$30.00- with a new membership)



## CRIBBAGE LEAGUE IN ACTION - 1978

Excerpts from "Mining Journal" – December 13, 1978

Monday night has belonged to the Negaunee Social Cribbage League for over 85 years. The league was founded in 1927 by Oral J. (Moose) LaCombe, whose fame came from a trip to France with World War I veterans in honor of Veteran's Day.



George Mitchell and Fran Method are shown playing a quick game of cribbage 36 years ago. The season started in September with 10 teams of 12 players and finished up in April. People asked, "Why, April?" George and Fran replied, "**By April, everyone is itching to go fishing**"

Other quotes from these two old-timers included:

"We have a lot of fun"

"The best card game invented"

"We like the strategy involved"

"It's the fastest action game in town"

"It's a good way of learning arithmetic"

**George Mitchell vs. Francis Method**

## **HOW DID NEGAUNEE NAME ITS STREETS?**

(The following illustrations are possible reasons for these street names)

### **WILLIAM A BURT (13JUN1792 –18AUG1858)**

**BURT ST**

Burt Street is located one block south of US-41 and west from Baldwin Avenue. It was September 19, 1844 and near the Jackson Mine where William Austin Burt and his survey crew watched as the needle of their compass fluctuates wildly. At that time, Burt had no idea that this accidental discovery of iron ore would provide the foundation for America's Industrial Revolution. Burt patented America's first typewriter in 1829. He also built the solar compass, patented in 1836. It became an indispensable instrument for surveying because it used the sun instead of the magnetic north therefore unaffected by the magnetic fields of iron ore deposits. Burt was also credited with discovery of the Marquette Iron Ore Range in 1844. The first samples of iron ore were collected during this survey. A pyramid was built in Cornishtown to dedicate this discovery. It was later taken apart and then moved and rebuilt at Miner's Park. William Burt died in Detroit, Michigan in 1858 at the age of 66.

### **SOLOMON T CARR (1823 – UNKNOWN)**

**CARR ST**

Carr Street is located one block south of US-41 and west from Baldwin Avenue. In the summer of 1844, Mr. Carr started on a pleasure tour from Detroit and reached Mackinaw when he became acquainted with a squaw who told him about some rock located near the Carp River. Arriving here, it took him six days of perseverance until he ascended a hill – and 'lo and behold' there was a high mountain (the Jackson Mine) where a metallic rock laying on its side free of moss or trees and sparkling in the rays of the rising sun. The discovery was made on 17JUL1844. Thus, Solomon Thayer Carr had become famous for being the first white man to discover the iron mountain on Lake Superior and later known as the Jackson Mine site. Solomon and Francis Carr were members of the Jackson Mine board of directors in 1845.

### **PHILO M EVERETT (1807 – 27SEP1892)**

**EVERETT ST**

Everett Street is located one block south of US-41 and west from Baldwin Avenue. Philo Everett met Marji Gesick in L'Anse in September 1845. They returned to Negaunee where Gesick showed Everett's group the location of the iron ore in the roots of a fallen pine tree, which became known as the "Jackson Stump". The Jackson Mining Company was thus created on September 20, 1845. Philo Everett would be in charge of exploration and become the company treasurer. The following summer, permanent occupation of the property began when Everett built a log cabin there and left some men to remain in charge during the coming winter. It was built near the point of the iron ore discovery and this camp marked the beginning of Negaunee. Philo Everett died in 1892 in Marquette, Michigan at the age of 85.

## CYR STREET MEMORIES – 50 YEARS AGO

Thanks to Joan (Korpinen) Coduti for the pictures and memories

Where was Cyr Street located? Where was the Twin City Hospital located? Was the Bethany Lutheran Church originally located in this area? Here are some memories and pictures taken from Joan Coduti's recollection of the good old days on the west end of Negaunee in what we now call Old Town. I have included her pictures to go with excerpts from her memories.



1- The large home of Clarence & Dorothy Salmer. The columns were purchased by the Swedish Church as indicated below in item 3. The Stolnack family resided just south of this home and they were the grandparents of Chuck, John and Jim Vercoe. The house just north of the Salmer home was owned by Eino Koski and it was moved to its new location at 108 Sunset Drive by the Eastwood Apostolic Church. Other families that lived in that home were T. A. Kauppila and "Boosta" Stanaway.

2- Joan and her brother, Gunnard, are standing on top of a snow bank in front of their home at 211 Cyr Street. In the background is the front of the Twin City Hospital. The Korpinen home was moved to 109 West Arch Street and is now owned by Dan and Connie Lindblom. There are very few, if any, pictures of the hospital that we are still searching for prior to it being razed.



3- Bethany Lutheran Church had a Swedish congregation and was located on the corner of Cyr and Snow Streets. It was moved to the end of Cherry Street where it is now located. Joan says "The backyard of the church had the best trees to climb in the whole neighborhood". The church purchased the columns from the Salmer home, which were then purchased by Dave Dompierre for his home on Huron Court and then were given to his great uncle, Frank Matthews, Sr.

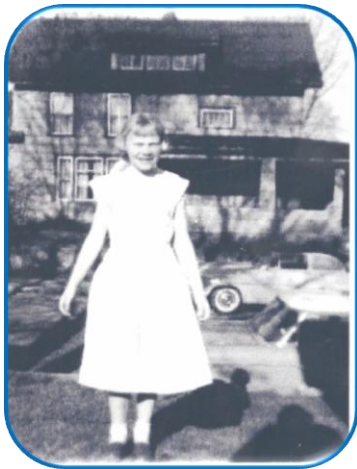


4- A friend and Joan standing on the corner of Jackson Street and Tobin Street with the bluff in the far background. The Senior Center would be located across the street (east) from the girls. At one time, that location was the site of Manning's Grocery and then later called Quality Market and owned by "Dina" Kangas. The business was relocated at the corner of Kanter and Jackson where Raymond Collins had his market. In the far right background is Leaf's Shop on corner of Tobin and West Peck. It was formerly named Handy Service owned and operated by "Slug" Arbelius and "Flinko" Wakkuri.



#### 5- Joan's memories – **"Gosh, we thought that wall was so high!!!!"**

*"I included this picture because almost all houses on the west side of Cyr Street had a wall that abutted to the sidewalk. A house on the opposite side of the street had a wall and it was the only one there. This was the wall where the kids in the neighborhood would meet on Saturday mornings to exchange comic books. "We had a street light on the corner of our property. This was our goal for our game of '30 more' (a rendition of hide and seek). We also had fun jumping off the wall into the fall leaves. Gosh, we thought that wall was so high but in retrospect it wasn't very high at all. Another game we had lots of fun playing was "one foot in the gutter" (a rendition of Mother May I) and the goal was to get from our curb to the curb across the street or vice versa."*



### **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

There are no regular meetings scheduled for January and February. The museum is closed for the winter. Persons interested in visiting with a group may do so by calling Virginia at 906-475-9641 or Roland at 906-475-7622. Our future monthly meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, March 3 and Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall at Immanuel Lutheran Church. All members are welcome to attend.





Negaunee Mine - 1936 - (Steam Shovel Operation)

**THEN:**

Operated: 1887-1949

This was the first underground mine to achieve production of one million tons per year. That was in the World War II year of 1944. It was originally called the Lonstorf & Maas Farm Mine.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**NOW:**

Operated: 1950-1979

Mining location was called the Bessemer, Lillie, Cambria & then Mather B until all of the mining operations ceased on July 26, 1979. This location is now the home of the High School.



Mather B Mine - 1950

# **HIGHLIGHTS – 50 YEARS AGO**

Information taken from Robert Dobson's "Iron Herald Notes"

## **1964**

- June 12 - Jubilee Scholarship to Kristine Sunne,  
- Seven Negaunee men graduate from Michigan Tech University,  
- Going to Wolverine Girls State from St. Paul's is Rosemarie Patierno (she is sponsored by the Mitchell American Legion Post Auxiliary),  
- Gordy LeDuc new St. Paul Basketball coach
- June 26 - Negaunee City band begins its 1964 season with 4 long-time members totaling 220 years of service (Dominic Francisco, Frank Catanesi, Joseph Sedlock, Sr.& Robert Veale)  
- Robert (Pappy) Ellis new Negaunee Basketball coach
- August 7 - St. Paul's holding 1st Alumni Reunion for the past 25 years (expecting 400 former students to attend including one from Rome, Italy)
- August 28 -The new Russo Brother's Store on Iron Street by the Negaunee Tire Service is underway with removal of two old buildings, including the old Russo Brother's Store and Cain's News
- September 4 - Former NHS students now return to teach at Negaunee (Rudy Johnson, Robert Ellis, Loraine Lehto, Dorothy Sivula, and Mrs. Shirley Roberts)
- October 2 - Several girls vying for Football homecoming queen (Linda Erck, Susan Gervae, Linda Hooper, Cheryl Prusi and Alice Wills)
- October 23 - New school board policy is to give students one day off for deer hunting if request was made by their parents
- November 20 - New Palmer Road opened. Included in the project was a new highway over the C&NW tracks, 4 miles east of Palmer (In 1965, the road will be extended from 480 to US-41)  
- The First National Bank builds a new drive-in bank on US-41 in the city limits  
- Death of Dr. Raymond L Paine, 56, suddenly at Bell Hospital while visiting patients (Came here for CCI in 1939 and went into private practice after WWII)  
- New law outlaws hitchhiking on limited access highways

Did you forget to renew your membership this year? You can still renew for this year and also be a member for 2015 for the regular price shown below:

(Negaunee Historical Society, P O Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866-0221)  
 Lifetime - \$100.00 2014&15 individual - \$10.00 2014&15 student - \$5.00

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

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

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

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

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - JANUARY 1, 2015      197**  
**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS      165**  
**2015 MEMBERSHIPS      32**



We wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you. 2014 has just about become a memory for us and now is the time to look towards 2015. Thank you to all 165 of our Lifetime Members for your support. We also have 32 active yearly members with an early start in paying their 2015 membership dues. Now would be a good time for others to help and support the preservation of Negaunee’s history by continuing your membership. 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.

These are the members who have already renewed their membership during the past year:

<i>M Elizabeth Cain</i>	<i>Barbara Koski</i>	<i>Adrienne MacGregor ©</i>	<i>Rosemary Sharland</i>
<i>Mary J Collins</i>	<i>Danielle Koski</i>	<i>Gregg MacGregor</i>	<i>Maxine Sylvester</i>
<i>Lynn Dalton</i>	<i>Gerald Koski Sr</i>	<i>Susan MacGregor</i>	<i>Robert Sylvester</i>
<i>Nancy DeCaire</i>	<i>Joyce Koski</i>	<i>Joanne Miljour</i>	<i>Paul Symons</i>
<i>Judy Dobi</i>	<i>Kevin Koski</i>	<i>Tom Nelson</i>	<i>James R Thomas</i>
<i>John Gorto</i>	<i>Preston Koski ©</i>	<i>Phyllis Palmer</i>	<i>Mary Trolla</i>
<i>Stephanie Heikell</i>	<i>Roland Koski</i>	<i>Judi Perrault</i>	<i>Gary Vidlund</i>
<i>Jeanette Hodge</i>	<i>Todd Koski</i>	<i>Peter Sangalli</i>	<i>Steve Wetton</i>