

The Negaunee Historical Society

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MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER #49

Prepared by Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

FROM THE PRESIDENT, ART GISCHIA



As I sit in the comfort of my living room, March continues to exhibit its “Lion Face”. Daylight savings time has been reinstated, so as the optimists say, “There’s more daylight.” So, we look forward to the reopening of our Museum on June 1 with anticipation and excitement for all the good things this summer will provide. Thanks to all the volunteers, especially to Virginia Paulson for her dedication and leadership during the past ten years as president of the Historical

Society. She continues to give selfishly of her time preserving and promoting the history of the people and places that continue to make Negaunee a great place to live and raise a family. Our membership is truly blessed to have Virginia as “one of us.”



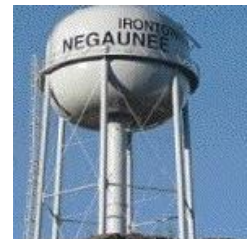
WINTER MARCH 1931

This is a picture taken in 1931 of our Historical Society museum which formerly was the home of the American Legion. Photo is from Don Price who lived here.

**Happy
Easter**

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Our future meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd, Tuesday, May 7th and Tuesday, June 4th at 7:00 at the museum. All members and guests are welcome to attend. Refreshments are always served at our meetings.



IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

(Deaths reported to the Society since our December 2018 newsletter)



Mary A DeGabriele – December 31, 2018
Tarmo Savolainen – January 7, 2019



GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME

(Since our December newsletter)

Kathy Cronin Boyd – monetary gift
Dean Dompierre – monetary gift
Scott & Rachel Gischia – monetary gift
Facebook friends – donating pictures of Old Negaunee
Dave Dompierre – donating all of the glass for our new display case



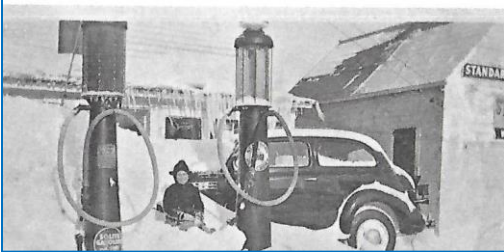
Note: If your name was omitted from this list, please notify us so we can acknowledge your thoughtfulness

NEGAUNEE SKI CLUB -1958

Pictured below are some members of the new Negaunee Ski Club in 1958. From left to right: Mary Lou Andrews, Sue Ives, Jerry Violetta, Leona Kananen, Joan Violetta, Gwen Swanson, and Nancy Dobson. Camera shy included Tom Anderson, Scott Bannon, Alton Chapman, Sharon Darling, Lee Erck, Donna Etelamaki, Jim Harris, Joy Holman, Bill Johnson, Allan Kananen, Fritz Olson, Ilona Rubatt, Steve Stoll and Jerry Sundberg.

Welcome to our Negaunee Historical Society Website
Visit us at www.negauneehistory.org

STORM OF 1938



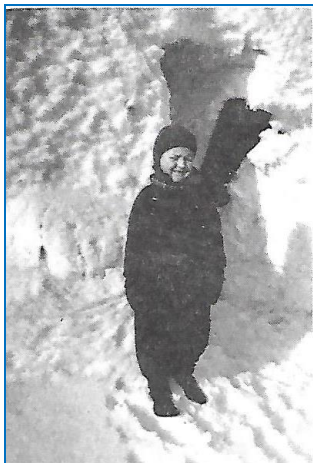
Car buried in the snow and youngster sitting in the snow



Picture time for some local persons on Iron Street



Don Price sitting on top of huge snow bank with friends in front of American Legion Bldg



Jean Matthews Nelson, daughter of Frank, and former treasurer and lifetime member is shown at the tunnel to her home, Swedetown Location.

THE SNOWSTORM OF 1938

The worst snowstorm Negaunee has recorded started at Noon on Monday, January 24, 1938. The storm continued through Tuesday and part of Wednesday the 26th.

High winds and blinding snow were the worst on record and made travel next to impossible. School buses got children home on Monday with great difficulty and did not resume their normal runs until Thursday morning.

The section known as "Beverly Hills" was completely isolated. Plows tried to open the road but had to give up due to the amount of fast-falling snow. Many homes at the Rolling Mill location were entirely covered with drifted snow, and occupants had to tunnel from the house to the road. Iron Street became a street of tunnels for a time since it was with difficulty that even the plows were able to get through.

Ten men marooned at the Mary Charlotte Mine could not leave until Friday morning as the road was impassable. Two young men, John MacKenzie and Ralph Archibald, made trips each day on snowshoes and skis carrying food to the men. Ishpeming miners employed at the Maas made use of the dry house Monday night until they could make their way the following day to stay with friends or relatives until traffic was opened to Ishpeming.

One Negaunee resident, Phyllis Pascoe, still has vivid memories of the big snowstorm of '38: "It was Monday, January 24th and I was working for Bannan Dry Cleaners. On this particular day, John MacNamara, husband of Gladys Bannan, drove me to Ishpeming to work in their shop. Around Noon, they called to tell me to close early and John would come and get me. We drove home along County Road, John driving with the car door open most of the way in order to see where he was going. We didn't even realize we had passed a stalled bus, with people inside, until the following day. We did arrive in Negaunee quite cold and glad to be home. It was truly a great snowstorm."

DRAWINGS NEEDED FOR DISTRICT TOURNAMENT SEATING

Excerpts from "Negaunee Iron Herald – Feb 27, 1959



Our Negaunee Miners captured the Class B State Championship trophy in 1957. Because of that special season, basketball had become our favorite attraction the following year. With Marquette, Ishpeming, Negaunee and Calumet participating in back-to-back games in the District tournament, many fans were denied admittance as over 2,500 fans would fill the Memorial Gymnasium to capacity. In 1959, the tournament was held in Negaunee again.

Because of the disappointment of many fans the previous year, a drawing had to be held for the Negaunee sports fan to get a reserved seat as each school was only allotted 200 tickets. Several Negaunee fans purchased a reserved seat throughout the year located above the rails – a lot more than the 200 available. So all of the names were placed into a box and the drawing took place in the High School auditorium. If his/her name wasn't drawn, that unlucky reserved seat holder had to get in that long line with the others (for hours) on the road alongside Teal Lake hoping to acquire a ticket. Another predicament was now occurring as only 1,700 general admission seats were available to the public before the doors were locked. It was quite possible that a season ticket holder (for many years) would now have to stand in the cold and snowy weather for hours and then have the doors locked because of over capacity.

CHAMPIONSHIPS PART OF THE BESSOLO TRADITION

It was interesting to recall that Negaunee's Dentist, Dr. Savino Bessolo, was a member of the Negaunee State Championship team in 1930. In 2017, I organized a 60-year celebration for the 1957 State Championship team with his son, Dr. Rodney, a big part



Rodney and his dad in 1957

of that team. Now, a third Bessolo family member participated in a State Championship this year in California. Rodney's son, Randy, coached his team to the championship game only to lose to a larger school.



Rodney and his son 2019

Rodney and Randy visited Negaunee this past summer and visited the Memorial Gymnasium and then our new High School and viewed all of our trophy cases. Rodney related to me that their trip to Negaunee was an inspiration for his son in setting the goal for his basketball team. Wouldn't it be amazing if Rodney's grandson also participated in a championship game down the road?

IRON STREET BUSINESSES – (circa 50's-60's)



- A&P**
- Moose**
- Main Drift**
- Mattson's Store**
- Paris Tavern**
- Neg Hardware**
- Neg Bake Shop**



- Specialty Shop**
- Kellan's Jewelry**
- Jo-Jo's Bar**
- Pickand's Coal**
- Neg Eagles**



- Symons**
- Lowenstein's**
- Sexton's Restaurant**
- Cronin's Drug Store**
- Neg Elks**
- Ben Franklin**
- 1st Nat'l Bank**

Thank you to all who have provided pictures to the Historical Society. Much appreciated.

JOHN NEGAUNEE KILLED – “IRON HERALD” STORY 1910

John Negaunee, an Indian aged 83, who lived with wife and daughter at Assinins, was killed on New Year’s Day. As a result, Mrs. Negaunee, his daughter Maggie, aged 30 years and James Wawasong are being held in the County Jail at Houghton. The story is related as follows:



“Mr. Negaunee was out of the house on the day above named and sometime during afternoon Wawasong went to the house having with him a bottle of alcohol. The women and James proceeded to make merry. Shortly after, Mr. Negaunee came in and the story runs to the effect that he objected to the young man’s presence there. Another tale is to the effect that the wife demanded money of the husband. At any rate, the women got into a tussle with Mr. Negaunee and threw him down. While he was down the girl is said to have jumped on his head. Mr. Wawasong pulled them off and after this the victim was quiet. This tussle happened at about five o’clock in the afternoon. When it came time to go to bed, the women went to pick Mr. Negaunee up and found that he had departed from this life.”

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE, “IRON HERALD” STORY 1874



Last evening, our community was shocked at the report of a strange and unaccountable suicide committed across the in the upper part of Menominee. The facts, as we have been able to get them from various sources are as follows:

“Mrs. Whitman, wife of Dr. Whitman, druggist and practicing physician of Upper Menominee has shown of late symptoms of jealousy of her husband. Yesterday afternoon, while the Dr. was riding in a buggy with his wife, they passed on the street a coup-le of what is known here as “fancy women” who waved their handkerchiefs at the Dr. as he passed. Mrs. Whitman was very angry at this and upon reaching home immediately went to her room. She took a revolver and fired two shots at her own breast, one of which took effect near the center of the breast passing the sternum, near the aorta and vena cava through the lung and lodging near the skin on the back, about two inches below the right shoulder blade. Medical assistance was called at once, the ball extracted and the lady cared for as well as possible. At the last accounts, she was still alive, but while there is a mere chance of her recovery, the prevailing opinion is that she must die. She is supposed to have brooded over her jealousy and fancied wrongs until she became partially deranged, which accounts for the rash act.”

ANOTHER PUZZLE – “IRON HERALD” – 1889

The following puzzle is going the rounds of the newspapers. A benefit association has offered a \$10 prize for solution.

1 1 1
3 3 3
5 5 5
7 7 7
9 9 9

The trick is to take six of the above figures whose sum when added together will make 21.

DID YOU KNOW THAT A CHURCH TURNED INTO A BAR?

In the 1948 Polk Directory, I discovered that the Holiness Gospel Church was located at the corner of Iron and Gold Street. In the late 1950's, that building became the new home for Ki's Bar (501) and its owner, Willis "Ki" Kemp. Residing upstairs during this time was Carl "Rip" Johnson, the car dealer, who later moved to 815 County Road. Also shown in the picture are Salminen's Upholstery (505), Frievalt Furniture (507) which became vacant, Bannon Cleaners (511) and the Community Building (515) which was part of the well-known Sundberg Block.



This outstanding and attractive billboard was designed and created in September 1983 by Dave Paquette and Mike Lempinen and was placed on US-41 Highway. Have you spotted it in your travels?

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP – JANUARY 1, 2019 258
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS 185
2019 MEMBERSHIPS 73

(Negaunee Historical Society, P O Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866-0221)
Lifetime - \$100.00 2019 individual - \$10.00 2019 student - \$5.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip: _____



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