



The Negaunee Historical Society

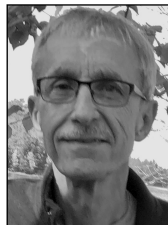
Quarterly Newsletter

May 2021

Issue #54

From the president...

For most, there isn't much more to say about the past year. It's been the topic of conversation over virtual coffee, chat sessions, emails, calls and even face-to-face (imagine that). My heart goes out to those who suffered sickness or loss attributed to this virus and its complications. For we who have been blessed with good health, thank God!



There have and continue to be positives, like the hearty crew who serve on the Historical Society board. They give of their time and talents without compensation, and I am privileged to serve alongside those who have been "in the saddle" since the society was formed. You'll see them leading work bees, cleaning inside & out, painting and repairing. It's a labor of love, and we look forward to the upcoming season with anticipation.

Volunteers are needed and welcome. If you have a morning to share your talent and are willing to be a part of this great organization, contact Dave Dompierre, Virginia Paulson or myself to get involved. There is much to do to get ready for this new season. Thanks for your donations of time and talents...without good people like you, we could no longer exist!

Put the museum on your itinerary for this summer—one stop will lead to another, I guarantee it.

—Art Gischia, society president

Tales of the Case Street Schools

In 1865, the first school building, known as the "Union School" was built on Case Street in the area of the current Negaunee Middle School, at a cost of \$6,000.

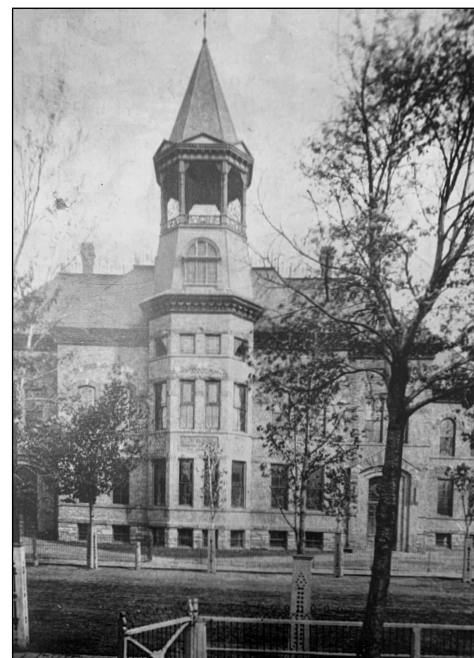
The building burned down just a year later, and a new school was rebuilt the following year at a cost of \$10,000. In 1870, the population had grown, resulting in the construction of the Jackson School on Snow Street in 1871.

By 1886, overcrowding was so severe that classes were often held outside or at the town hall. The school board worked toward raising money for a new school and purchased additional lots adjacent to the Union School. The Union School building was then sold to the Finnish Lutheran Church, who had it moved to Mitchell Avenue and it was used as a church until 1922.

In the spring of 1888, the new brick Case Street School was completed at a cost of \$40,000. The school opened in the fall, housing both grade school and high school students.

During 1894-95, the school received accreditation by the University of Michigan. Because the local economy was dependent on mining and other industries, Superintendent Krogman was able to gain support for a manual training program.

The Case Street School continued serving various grade levels of students



This Case Street School building was torn down in the late 1800s.

until 1935, when it was replaced by the Central Grade School.

After the opening of several neighborhood elementary schools, the Case Street School served as a high school until the new high school was built in 1909, adjacent to Pioneer Avenue, Peck Street and Teal Lake Avenue.

—Virginia Paulson

A note from the board

We are sorry about the delay in getting out a newsletter. The past two years have not been kind to us.

The museum was not able to have any fundraisers in 2020 and we were not open to visitors due to the pandemic. In 2019, there was street construction around the museum. These factors resulted in decreased income.

Just like with our personal expenses, we had to let some things go. The cost

of printing and mailing the newsletter was one item we had to forego. One member, who wishes to remain anonymous, wrote a campaign letter and paid the cost of printing and mailing. For this we are grateful, as it generated funds to keep our heads above water. Our sincere thanks to all contributors.

At the annual meeting, officers elected were Art Gischia as president, Steve Perucco as vice president, Kelly

Jandron as treasurer and Donna Bjork as secretary. Three-year trustee positions were filled by Donna Bjork, Dave Dompierre and Virginia Paulson.

The board is saddened by the death of board member Jeanne Sandstrom. She had a habit of walking in late, but we didn't mind because she always had bars or cookies. We will miss Jeanne and all her work getting things ready for opening day.

Take me out to the ballgame: hits from Negaunee's past



Above: the 1949 U.P. Champion Negaunee Merchants womens softball team, shown from top left, Tina Carlson, Kelly Kallioinen, Millie Hill and Jean Harvey. Second row: Karen Violetta, Aino Jarvi, Copper Olive, Ruby Harper. Third row: Joan Liquia, Betty Juntila Perala, Teresa Chequette and Manager Tom Liquia (died in 1950). Bottom row: Irma Jurmeau, Betty Perala, Elevell Hooper and Avelyn Agnoli Swanson.

Negaunee 1955 men's baseball team, from front left, includes: L. Korte, J. Lahtinen, L. Johnson, W. White, B. Collins, Harry Sortal. Row 2: J. Stolnack, R. St. John, L. Anderson, F. Terres, R. Thompson. Row 3: S. Chapman, D. Ghiardi, J. Johnson, J. Korpi, J. Gervae, T. Hares. Row 4: D. Roberts, D. Salo, D. Anderson, R. Herman, W. Hyry, B. Kokko and D. Tamblyn.



AT THE MUSEUM

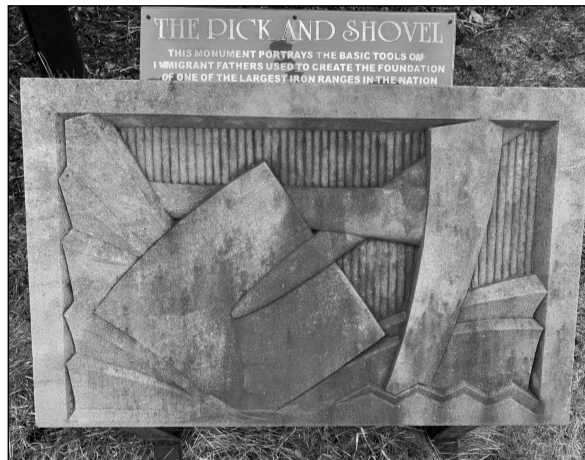
The Miner, Pick & Shovel welcome museum visitors

From 1904 to 1919, Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation operated the Rolling Mill Mine.

In 1950, the company opened the Tracy Mine in Negaunee. The mine only had a twenty-year history.

Research played an important role in the iron ore industry, and the J&L lab was located near the Tracy Mine. When the J&L building was demolished, the Negaunee Historical Society became the owners of the cornerstones.

One is "The Miner," who was the most important person in the mines, working in dangerous places with bad conditions. The other is "The Pick & Shovel," depicting the basic tools used



by immigrants to create the foundation of the local iron range.

Editor's Note: For more information, visit the Negaunee Historical Museum, where the display is located.



Negaunee Historical Society Board

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Donna Gravedoni-Bjork,
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Negaunee Historical Society Donation Form

P.O. Box 221, Negaunee, MI 49866-0221

_____ \$10 Yearly Membership _____ \$100 Lifetime Membership
_____ \$5 Annual Student Membership _____ General Donation

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please include your email address if you would like the newsletter via email:

Thank You!

Looking for a car?

Wilfred Hill, local Chrysler-Plymouth dealer, was the owner of Hill's Garage, located on Jackson Street. Wilfred was born in Gwinn and attended local schools.

He entered the business world in 1940. His first enterprise was a combination taxi business and pool room, which he operated for eight years. In 1943, he entered the automobile sales field, and purchased the building on Jackson Street from George Russell, former Negaunee mayor. This initial home of Hill's Garage was remodeled and an addition was erected to double the show room areas.

In 1950, Hill's became the dealer for International trucks. In 1960, Hill's opened a new and used car lot with offices on the shore of Teal Lake. Leonard Hill, a brother, was the company manager. Four sons were also in the business—Raymond was the bookkeeper and office manager, Roger was in the parts department, and Robert and Ronald were in the sales department.

If you were looking for a Ford, you could visit Kennedy Motors, located at 414 Iron Street. This business was taken over by D&C Motors of Ishpeming. In 1965, Russo Brothers opened a grocery store on that same Iron Street property.

—Virginia Paulson

Fun facts about Negaunee Township

The federal and state governments were interested in subdividing the Upper Peninsula following the treaty of Lapointe in 1842, which permitted white men to enter this country. Louis Nolan, an Native American guide, showed Philo Everett a site on the Carp River, just west of the Negaunee cemetery. This became the first settlement in Marquette County.

The Carp River forge of the Jackson Mine made its first pig iron in 1848. The first post office in Marquette County was located in this settlement.

In 1844, Marquette County was part of Carnes Township, renamed MacLeod in 1845, and Marquette Township in 1848.

In 1851, the Carp River Township was comprised of Negaunee Township, the cities of Negaunee and Ishpeming. In 1859, Negaunee Township became Teal Lake Township, including part of the Village of Negaunee. Negaunee organized as a city in 1865. In 1867, Negaunee Township was organized.

In 1874, there was one sawmill in Eagle Mills, employing 40 men. There were three schools, operating at different

times the Saastamoinen School on the North Road, a school on the Kivela Road (later the township hall) and the Eagle Mills school.

A building being restored by the city for "the pest house," to quarantine people suffering from the pandemic of small pox was frowned upon by township officials and a resolution was passed that all township residents would receive vaccinations at the expense of the township.

Work began for a power line for electric service from Marquette. The power was turned on December 19, 1932.

Negaunee Township was home to Morgan Heights, a sanatorium for tuberculosis patients that later served as a medical care facility,

Also home to the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company's Ore Improvement plant, the first in the world for the pelletizing of underground iron ore.

Negaunee Township was home to the first television station in the U.P and Marquette County Airport. It currently is home to the Michigan State Police.

—Virginia Paulson

**Thanks to Art Gischia for covering
the cost of this newsletter!**

Negaunee Historical Society
P.O. Box 221
Negaunee, MI 49866

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Changes & updates in Negaunee proper

The Negaunee Museum is all about preserving the history of Negaunee, so thank you to all who have donated artifacts for our displays.

The museum is not able to have a home tour this year but watch for our newest fundraiser, a 2022 calendar. The calendars will be available in June at the museum, local businesses and from board members directly.

Plans are in place for the roof to be replaced on the historic Vista Theater; the Peninsula Arts Appreciation Council (PAAC) board is waiting on pending grant to start construction on this project. Volunteers are still sorting through donations of returnable cans to help support replacement of the roof, which collapsed in August 2020.

Also in Downtown Negaunee, Campfire Coffee opened for business on May 12. Owners Ryan Nummela (NHS Class of 1995) and Keith Dickson are offering coffee, food and a friendly atmosphere, including “Camp Cake,” their take on the Finnish *pannu kakku* or oven-baked pancake—complete with

local maple syrup, whipped cream and handmade maple cinnamon butter. The business is located at 320 Iron Street.

The Union Station Depot in Negaunee has also changed hands. New owners Liisa Peterson (NHS Class of 1984) and Bill Anderson Jr. are working on updates to the kitchen, decor and more. They’ve made improvements to the heating and kitchen to better host parties and overnight stays. The couple is embracing the history and repurposing old depot relics, such as luggage carts. The depot is located at 212 Gold Street.

In other news, the playground equipment in the yard of the Negaunee Senior Center was removed due to safety issues with proximity to new sidewalks. The City secured a grant to build a new playground across the street in Jackson Mine Park, which should start in 2022.

MEDC grant renovations to the Negaunee Senior Center continue to the interior and exterior, with hopes for completion before the end of the summer. This includes a renovated kitchen, parking improvements and a new facade.



Museum Information

303 East Main Street
P.O. Box 221
Negaunee, MI 49866
(906)475-4614

May 10 through September 6:
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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www.negauneehistory.org

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