



# The Negaunee Historical Society

## Quarterly Newsletter

September 2021

Issue #55

### From the president...

The fleeting days of summer are upon us, and quite noticeable in the reduced amount of daylight and the presence of colored leaves. The annual turning of the seasons is reason to pause and be thankful.

Things that immediately come to mind are the hours of volunteer time that went into keeping the museum in operation. On the heels of a year-long closure due to the pandemic and with renewed financial support from many who responded with generous gifts, we were open for business again. Renewed and increased traffic and tours through the collection were a pleasant surprise. Our outstanding volunteers staffing, cleaning, setting and resetting displays maintains interest and spawns additional visits. Thank you to all who gave of their time, tools and talents; we cannot exist without YOU. Thanks to all who visited. Please consider putting the museum on your planned stops for next year. WE can't do it without you.



Special thanks to Hoover's Tree Service for their contribution. Ray's team applied their professional time, tools and talents and gave our trees a much needed haircut!

One thing on the planning list which the board will be working on is a display plan for the Carriage House. Because this building is used both for seasonal storage and displays, our space is limited. We need space to store and display large items such as carriages, a sleigh and a variety of hand and bench tools. Our automotive-related items, some of which were used in Negaunee businesses, could occupy a section. Donations continue to come in and are being stored in the upstairs. Circulating new items into the display, or themed displays are possibilities under consideration. Once the plan is determined, lighting will need to be addressed. Any ideas you may have, please don't hesitate to contact any of the board members; we appreciate your input.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2022!

—Art Gischia, society president

## Detering grave robbers

A new piece in the museum's collection has an interesting past. This item was donated by the estate of Clyde "Tiny" Anderson after his passing. This lantern was used by Anderson's great-great uncle to patrol the cemetery after the Civil War to protect graves from being robbed. Families had few choices to protect their loved ones' graves in those days—other than hiring a man to stand guard.



## Local state police find origins with ore

The Michigan State Police, one of the most respected law enforcement agencies had its beginnings in Negaunee, Michigan in 1917.

They were known as "The Constabulary." The United States declared war against Germany and its allies, and a few days later Michigan National Guardsmen were headed for the battlefields of France. Left without men to guard the home front, the state created an emergency force, the Michigan State Troops on April 10, 1917.

This was the birth of the State Police Force. Negaunee residents felt the effects of the war on the home front with the unexpected arrival of troopers who came unannounced, arriving on the Duluth Express during the early morning hours.

The state "soldiers" came to relieve a threatening situation in the mining region. Their post was established in the west end area on what was called, Cornishtown Road.

America was not at ease at the onset of the war, because of espionage, sabotage and labor unrest. Serious labor trouble was threatening the iron mining industry. Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) were causing unrest on the Gogebic Range, and it was feared that it would move to the Marquette Range where rumors of a strike were rampant.

Ore was needed for the war effort. According to the *Iron Herald*, an affidavit was circulated, and signed by thousands of citizens, including a huge majority of miners affirming their loyalty and criticizing the IWW.

The strike failed to materialize and the detachment of 30 troopers stayed in Negaunee and set up temporary headquarters and pitched their tents. The *Iron Herald* noted that they are "a trim, young fellows and their equipment is complete for the kind of duty they may be called upon to perform."

They had short barrel rifles, revolvers and riot sticks. A single troop-

# Constabulary involved mining interests, prohibition patrol

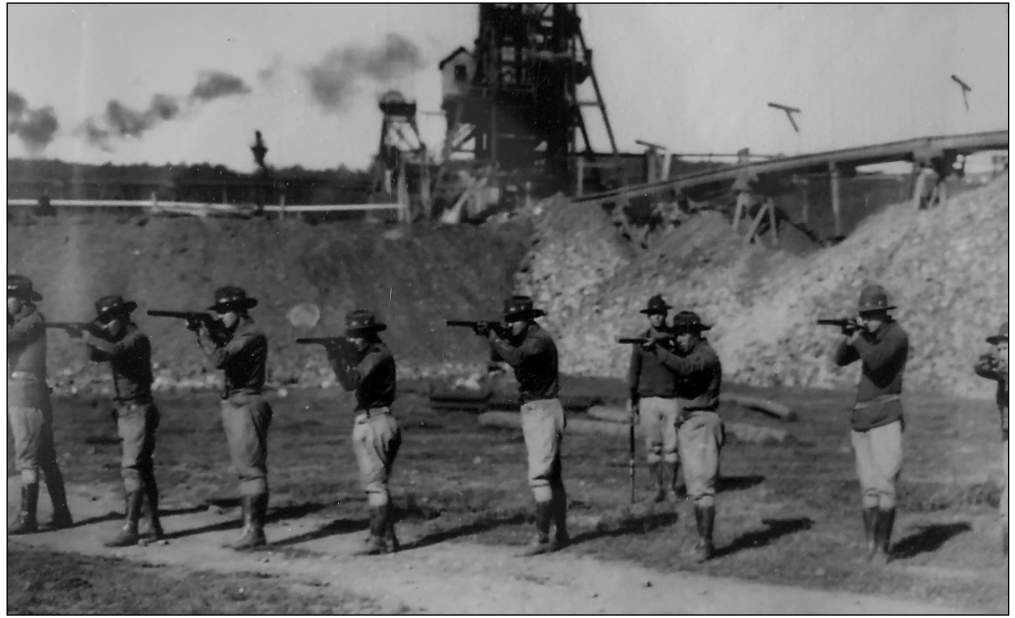
er astride his horse, swinging one of those four-foot clubs, could do a heap of execution in a mob without resorting to his artillery at all.

The fledgling force got established in Negaunee and a crew of men was put to work extending water pipes and electric wires to the campsite. The local mining company built a cook shed and a mess room.

A cook stove was hauled in by wagon. Carpenters from another mine built an ice chest and a telephone was installed. Such were the beginnings of the first police post in Upper Michigan, staffed by the states first troops.

In 1919, the Constabulary became the Michigan State Police. Prohibition in 1919 provided new challenges. The manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages was illegal. Locally, the saloons were boarded up and miners were thirsty for their nickel beer on the way home from work.

Prohibition bred corruption and the term bootlegger—the seller of illegal liquor—became a household word.



Negaunee served as the headquarters for the troops until a major riot and escape from the Marquette Branch Prison in 1921.

The troops had new headquarters on US-41 near the Department of Natural Resources until 1973. Once again they

were housed in Negaunee in the Jones & Laughlin Research Lab at the Tracy Mine site.

They stayed there until their present headquarters on US-41 in Negaunee Township was ready for occupancy.

—Virginia Paulson

## AT THE MUSEUM

# Local lady rides bicycle from Detroit to Negaunee

With the new bike shop opening in Downtown Negaunee, it prompted me to write about the bicycle we have on display in the museum.

The bike belonged to Katherine (Kay) Jarvi of Detroit. Originally from Negaunee, Kay's family moved to Detroit. Her father bought her the bike, a two-speed pedal bike in the 1930s, when she was in her teens.

Kay was 23 years old when she made the trip up north. She had a sleeping bag with her and spent the nights in that bag on the side of the road.

An article written in the *Mining Journal* in May 1946 noted that transportation difficulties present no problem to Miss Kay Jarvi, who planned a visit to her mother, Mrs. Nestor Kallioinen of Rolling Mill Location.

"Transportation chances looked slim and she wasn't in a hurry, so she rode to Negaunee on her bicycle," the *Mining Journal* article stated. "She averaged 50



miles a day, found cycling a pleasure and there's one advantage that even the train couldn't give her—she had the bicycle to herself.

—Virginia Paulson

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

## Negaunee Historical Society Board

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## Miners' wives go underground

The Rolling Mill Mine made history when it invited women to come to work with their husbands.

It was the only mine on the Marquette Range that allowed the wives of miners to go down into the mine and work with their husbands for two hours one day a year. Mine Superintendent Mr. Cory wanted the wives to know exactly what conditions the miners had to work in, what type of jobs their husbands did and how hard they had to work for their money.

The women put on miners' clothes, hard hats and headlamps and went underground. They worked with their husbands for two hours, without pay. At the end of the two hours, they were treated to coffee or tea and had a light lunch with the miners. Then the women went home and the men went back underground to finish their shift. It was a good experience, and they now had firsthand knowledge how dangerous, difficult and dirty the job of a miner is. The exact year is unknown, the mine opened in 1871, and the Rolling Mill Mine disaster that killed 10 miners happened in 1907, so it's unlikely they would have sent women underground after that.

—Virginia Paulson

# Negaunee Historical Society Donation Form

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

\_\_\_\_ \$10 Yearly Membership      \_\_\_\_ \$100 Lifetime Membership  
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Please include your email address if you would like the newsletter via email:

## Thank You!

## School chooses Hall of Fame inductees

Negaunee Public Schools held their inaugural Hall of Fame dinner on August 6, 2021. It was scheduled for the year 2020, but due to the pandemic it was postponed.

The inductees from 2020 and 2021 were honored at a dinner in the Lakeview Gymnasium, where bios and pictures of awardees are located on the wall of the newly renovated entrance to the gym.

The inductees were Gerry Anderson and Mary Trolla, both from the music department, Les Coduti, Dave Hallgren, Tom Russo, representing the sports field, and all highly thought of as teachers.

Alan "Goofus" Ammesmaki was

inducted as a "super fan," and many of us remember his "Go Negaunee Go!"

H.B Krogman is probably the name most are not familiar with. In 1894, the first athletic encounter involving Upper Peninsula high schools was initiated by Mr. Krogman. He came to Negaunee from the University of Michigan, where he was involved in football.

Krogman persuaded the school board to sponsor a program, and he agreed to coach the Negaunee team. He later became Negaunee School superintendent, and was known as the "Father of Athletics" in the town.

—Virginia Paulson



## Museum's summer season statistics

It was a good year for the museum with more than 400 visitors coming from Michigan, Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Dakota, Florida, Oregon, California, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Texas, Indiana, Delaware, Arizona, New York, Montana, New Mexico, Maryland, Washington and Kentucky. Two such visitors were Easton Saari and Lucy Scanlon, shown at left.

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

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## Lake Superior claims lives of four from Negaunee family

The house located on 302 Main Street in Negaunee at one time was owned by the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, and was made available to their employees, mainly engineers or superintendents. One such family, that of John “Jack” Schausten, Sr. resided there in 1962.

Schausten and three of his six children—John Jr. (10), Timothy (9) and David (6)—lost their lives on Lake Superior when their sailboat got caught up in high winds and capsized. When they were late in returning from their outing, John’s wife called the U.S. Coast Guard.

The sailboat was discovered tangled up in some fishing nets near the mouth of

the Chocolay River. The boys’ bodies were found with life preservers on, but the waves were too much for such young children.

The father’s body was not found immediately, but when it was, he did not have a life preserver on.

John Schausten worked as a physicist for Jones & Laughlin at the lab, and later at the Cleveland Cliffs Research Lab. Pallbearers for the children were St. Paul School classmates John Basolo, George Beeby, Joey Brisson, Jim Comensoli, Jack Ghiardi, Billy Gustitis, Bob Miller, Don Patierno, Bobby Quayle and Fred Tousignant.

—Virginia Paulson



### 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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