



Onward!

Negaunee High School Alumni

Issue 3
March 2009

Thank You for the Music!

Music, the universal language, has always been part of the bedrock, that constitutes the well-rounded curriculum Negaunee Schools offers. Education studies and statistics show that students involved in the music program perform better in college and make more creative and productive employees. Mary Trolla has dedicated her life to spreading the joy music brings to all humanity. Her efforts to teach us how to use the most versatile of all instruments, the human voice, puts a smile on our faces and leaves a song in our hearts.

Thank you Mary!

— Brian Peterson

What kind of influence did Mary Trolla have on musicians and musicians to be? She had quite an impact on many students that went through NHS, but my story is only one perspective.

When I was in 4th grade and sitting in the audience of one of Mary Trolla's massive productions, I turned to my mother and said, "I'm going to play the piano for her one day." Being only 9 or 10 at the time and without knowing who Mary Trolla was, she exuded a passion and enthusiasm of music that I knew I wanted to be a part of. As an educator, you never know who, how, or when you will touch the lives of others.

I was able to finally meet "Miss Trolla" in 7th grade and she took me under her wing to prepare me for 6 years of musical memories. She taught her students persistence, perfection, and how to sing/play with their soul. She wanted nothing but our utmost effort because she had the vision of what skillful teamwork and music sounded like. Students



MISS TROLLA
Choruses

would perform hard for her because they knew if they gave it their all, the outcome would be our reward. Hearing how a song finally came together; beautiful melodies, intricate harmonies, and an elaborate accompaniment is something very special to a musician's heart. There are no words to describe the culmination of all our hard work, but by listening to one of her concerts, the audience felt what we were giving them, our soul.

Mary was rigid in her schedule. You could always count on the warm-ups, sight reading of music, working on complex sections and combining the two to four parts to improve the quality of our songs. Oh, we knew the days we were not giving our best. After all, what teenager likes to put forth their best ALL the time? Miss Trolla did NOT care about that. She expected it and when WE didn't think we could do it, she pulled it out of us. Her direct-

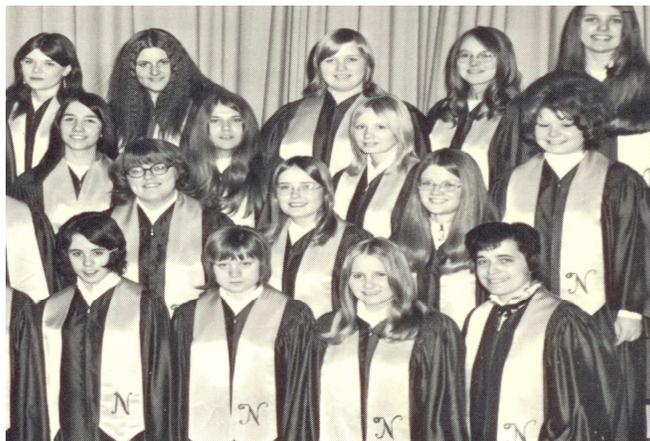
ing would mesmerize us into musical puppets and produce the sounds she knew we could convey. Those are the moments we felt the music.

When you walked into the A-7 classroom, she listed the expectations for the class period and had a little quote or saying on her chalkboard. Knowing the expectations helped us to stay focused and to this day I have a hard time being a part of another choral group because I'm used to her style of directing. I also looked forward to her inspirational sayings each day I came to class. Here's my quote to Mary:

Without music, life would be a mistake. ~ Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

Without Mary Trolla, the NHS Choral Department might have floundered. Mary's past students have a mountain of musical memories because we were not only getting quality music instruction, but she also taught with dedication showing her love of music. Mary Trolla left a legacy at NHS and I am thrilled to have been a part of some of the many years she spent teaching at NHS.

... Continued on page 2



Inside this

"More Memories"	2
"Alumni Scholarship Winner"	2
"Harnessing the Sun's Power"	3
"The Jackson Mine Park"	3
"The Pentimaki Brothers"	4

NHS Alumni Staff

Joan Coduti
Patty Gagnon
Brian Peterson

Onward!

will be
published annually

Notice!

If you are having a class reunion in 2009 please

notify us via e-mail
nhsalum@maresa.org

Or mail details to
101 S. Pioneer Avenue

Negaunee, MI 49866
If you would like mail-

Memories of Mary Trolla Continued...

As the group ABBA would sing ("Thank You For The Music"):

Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing,

Thanks for all the joy they're bringing

Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty,

What would life be?

Without a song or a dance what are we?

So I say thank you for the music

For giving it to me!

Thanks for the memories Mary! (She's no longer "Miss Trolla", but a dear friend.)

— **Kirsten (Ramseth) Miller**

Head Accompanist 1984-1985

(student from '79-'80 to '84-'85)

Mary Trolla was and still is a living legend of choral music in Negaunee. She is of the highest quality in character, commitment and musicianship in which she conveyed to her students of the 25 plus years of teaching at Negaunee High School. Mary was a teacher of all level of students, not only to the ones that had a natural talent for singing but those who struggled with learning as well. A testament to her "legendary status" was her final concert in May of 1986 at the Lakeview Gymnasium, in which all alumni were invited to join the chorus for "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." There had to be 300+ voices on the number. There were more people singing than what was left in the audience.

Since retirement, Mary has continued to be involved in music. She directed the Negaunee

Male Chorus for several years and currently co directs the St. Paul Sunday Church choir and an ecumenical group called, St. Paul Concert Choir. She also plays trumpet in the Negaunee City Band.

— **Tony Beacco Class of 1985**

Me-May-Ma-Mo-Moo was often heard on a descending scale coming from room A-7 in the "Old Negaunee High School". Every day students gathered under the direction of Mary Trolla to further their knowledge of music and enjoy their gift of singing. It was a happy room where those who loved music would try to go for 1, 2 and even 3 hours of their high school day. (This was obviously before the current high school requirements.)

Miss Trolla was very organized. As you walked into the room, you glanced at the chalkboard where you would see a lesson plan beginning with warm-ups and continuing on with the songs in your folder. Sometimes you only worked on a few measures of a song. But you may have worked on them for 20 minutes until you got it right. Mary knew and loved her music and she knew how far she could push us until we got it right.

Under her direction we not only learned about music but we learned how to be disciplined, and we gained a love for music. We gave 100 % during rehearsals and as a result, our concerts were superb and we always performed before a packed gymnasium.

Mary had a unique way of "grooming" her accompanists. I was one of the fortunate piano players under her direction. She taught me many of the important skills that an accompanist should have and I was able to accompany most of the choral groups at that time. In return, Mary was always grateful to what she called "her right and left hands" and always gave credit to her piano players.

— **Connie (Paulson) Scanlon Class of 1978**

I did not attend NHS but I so remember when I moved to Negaunee in 1978 attending my first choral concert at the High School! What an even it was -- it was not just a frilly concert -- it had substance to it! Some very difficult pieces were accomplished by her students.

I did a practicum with Mary when I attend NMU. I remember the kids being noisy but when the bell rang and Mary went to close the door in her room -- it quickly silenced.

Mary has directed the St. Paul Church Sunday choir for over 50 years, yes over 50 years! She also had co-directed the St. Paul Concert Choir for 25 years with me. She always wants to "challenge and teach" the choir something about music.

She is a dear friend to many in our area. If someone needs something, Mary is there! Many of her students, that have found the road difficult, she is still there for them, calling them, taking them to lunch and still caring about their well being.

Mary is a very giving person.

— **Bill Barrette Co-Director St. Paul Choir**

Negaunee High School Alumni Scholarship

Patty Gagnon, NHS Alumni Spokesperson presents Senior Karen Rinehart a check from the NHS Alumni Association Scholarship fund. Due to the generous giving of the NHS Alumni in just their second year of existence the Association was able to give out their first Alumni Scholarship to a graduating senior. A \$500 scholarship was given to



Is there someone you'd like to read about?

We are looking for stories for our next issue. Do you have an idea for the next featured article in *Onward!* ?

Or how about some famous quotes from past or present teachers? Email us at nhsalum@maresa.org

Negaunee Public Schools Harnesses Sun's

Negaunee Public Schools will soon benefit from a new application of solar power with the installation of a 10 kW array of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels located at the Negaunee High School.

A proposal that was submitted by the Negaunee Public Schools in response to the State of Michigan's Large Scale Demonstration Project grant program has been recommended by the selection committee for funding and has been approved by the Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth. The grant will provide \$50,000 from the Energy Office of Michigan towards the purchase of the system. The project is expected to start in October 2008 and the solar panels are expected to become operational by late fall.

"We're working hard to lead by example," said Derocher. "The use of renewable energy is a simple step anyone can take to help create a cleaner energy future. This project will create a great opportunity to educate our students, and the community, on the benefits of renewable energy."

In addition to the state grant, the City of Negaunee's Electric

Department will donate \$5,000 and Wisconsin Public Power, Inc (WPPI) will donate \$25,000 towards equipment purchase and installation of the system. WPPI is the regional power supply company of which the City of Negaunee is a member-owner. Of the estimated \$95,000 total costs for the project, the School district will be providing \$15,000, a small investment for such a valuable addition to the education resources of the district.

Solar PV systems collect energy from sunlight and convert it into electricity, providing renewable, emissions-free energy. These highly visible projects demonstrate the technology, while educating the community on their benefits, operation and performance. Students and the general public will be able to monitor the actual production of electricity from the solar panels on a real time web-based monitoring system. Plans call for the public to access this information via the school district's web page.

In addition, lesson plans are being developed by the Science teachers at the high school that will incorporate the importance of alternative energy production for the future independence of our country's energy needs. Having the solar energy panels on site will provide hands-on learning opportunities for our students.

Jackson Mine Park

By Jim Thomas, Class of 1961, Member of the Negaunee City Council & Gerald Peterson, Negaunee City Manager

The City of Negaunee acquired approximately 900 acres of land from the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company in 2003. This acquisition created the opportunity to develop new economic development initiatives on land that has been used for mining and related activities in the past. A Land Reuse Committee was appointed by the Negaunee City Council to create a plan for future development of this land and for implementing redevelopment.

In 2005 UP Engineers & Architects prepared a Land Reuse Plan for the acres of property purchased by the City from CCI. The plan contains recommendations for reuse of the various land parcels. Recommendations for the Old Towne property can be placed into four (4) general categories which the public identified: 1. Open space and park development; 2. Development of a trail system particularly non-motorized; 3. Preservation and interpretation of historic mining activities, and 4. Economic development.

To date much has been accomplished in meeting the objectives identified by the public. The public appears to be pleased with the City's progress. In the past three (3) years, the City has developed over 3.35 miles of walking/biking trails in Old Towne. These trails along with the 2.5 mile segment of the Heritage Trail, (from the Senior Center in Negaunee to the Brownstone in Ishpeming) gives us approximately six (6) miles of new walking/biking trails in the City. Another step in meeting public expectations is the development of a new Jackson Mine Park to replace the Jackson Grove Park committed to sale for the development of housing (meeting an economic development goal of the plan.)

A plan for the development of Jackson Mine Park (or other name the Council/public might select) is needed in order to receive input from the public and to apply for grants to help pay costs to build the park. The City Council has pledged proceeds from the sale of Jackson Grove Park (\$150,000) to build a new park. It is expected the City could receive \$450,000 or more in grant funds to help leverage City funds. Funding may be available in late 2009 or in 2010 for this work.

The new park will be located across from the Negaunee Senior Center, and is expected to host community events, performances, festivals and more.

The master park planning now underway calls for a performance structure located where the Old Chicago & Northwestern Railroad platform for the 400 to Chicago is located.

Grass seating is proposed for the audience, along with permanent bathrooms, vending areas, world class horseshoe pits, (consolidation from several City parks), playground equipment and structures, skateboard area, restored trolley car and a possible water feature. Some elements of Old Towne also will be preserved.

The new park will also act as a Trail Head in Negaunee for the new Iron Ore Heritage Trail, a 48-mile, multi-use, year round trail that connects, preserves and interprets the significant sites, structures and stories of our iron mining heritage.

For more information on the Heritage Trail and the needs of the Negaunee Historical Society, see the Alumni Website @ <http://www.negaunee.k12.mi.us/alumni>

The Pentimaki Brothers

By William Pentimaki Class of 1942

During World War II Mrs. Pentimaki proudly displayed the Department of Defense gold service flag with three blue stars in a front window at her home on Rolling Mill Drive. The blue stars signified that three of her members of her family were serving there country in the War. Fortunately none of the blue stars were ever replaced by a gold star which meant that a life had been lost during the war.

Having her three sons in the Armed Forces was in itself relatively uncommon in Negaunee, but she was especially proud because all three who were graduates of Negaunee High School had become commissioned officers.

Oliver Pentimaki (1917-1979), the oldest, graduated from Negaunee High School in 1935 and worked in the Negaunee iron mines until the outbreak of the War on December 7, 1941. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and received an ensign's commission in 1942. After graduating from the Officer Training Program at Hunter College in New York City his first assignment was to transport a destroyer escort ship from the

Brooklyn Navy Yard to Key West, Florida. Since he and his new crew had limited sailing experience they used the lights of shoreline cities as reference points for navigation. On foggy nights they would stop and anchor the ship until daybreak and the fog cleared. By the time they reached their destination they had become fairly experienced sailors. Oliver spent the WWII years in the South Pacific as executive officer on a destroyer escort. He had progressed to the rank of full lieutenant when he was discharged in 1945.

Walfred Pentimaki (1921-1991) graduated from Negaunee High School in 1939 and also worked in the Negaunee iron mines until he enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1941 as a telegraph operator and bugler since he had learned to play a trumpet quite well in the Negaunee High School Band. He was soon selected to become part of the U.S. Navy's first enlisted men's pilot training program which is commemorated at the U.S. Navy Museum in Pensacola, FL. He later attended an Officer Training Program and received an ensign's commission in 1942. He learned to fly a variety of land-

based and sea-based airplanes and helicopters. He was discharged in 1945 and spent a few years as a civilian and graduating from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor until he was recalled to active duty in 1950 at the outbreak of the Korean War. He then decided to make the U.S. Navy his career and was an anti-submarine warfare specialist until he retired in 1987 with the rank of Commander.

William Pentimaki (1925-) graduated from Negaunee High School in 1942 and attended Michigan Technological University until 1944 when he was drafted into the U.S. Army. After being trained as an infantry soldier he was sent to the Signal Corps Officer Training School where he received a second lieutenant's commission in 1945. He spent a year-and-a-half on Adak Island which is half way out along the Aleutian Island chain in Alaska and had progressed to the rank of first lieutenant when he was discharged in 1947. William credits the high quality of the Negaunee Public School System for giving him and his brothers the advantages they had in enabling them to become commissioned officers.

Contribute to Your Association!

Would you like to make a donation to the NHS Alumni Association? Your donations will help us to keep sending a yearly newsletter and an Alumni Scholarship for a NHS senior furthering their education.

Donations are non-tax deductible. For more information about us, email nhsalum@maresa.org



DATE: _____

CLASS OF _____

NAME (Please include maiden name if applicable): _____

STREET: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ AMOUNT: _____

All checks should be made payable to the Negaunee Alumni Association.

Please mail your donation to:

NHS Alumni Association, c/o Negaunee Public Schools, 101 S. Pioneer Ave., Negaunee, MI 49866

