

The William and Esther Koski Property

In the care of their daughters; Carol Schwemin and Joyce Britton since 1998



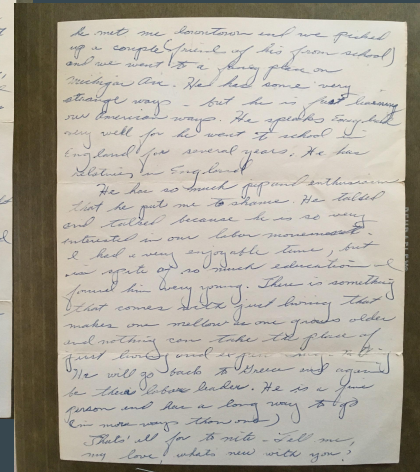
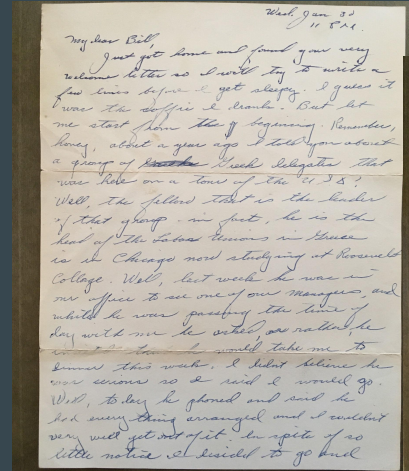
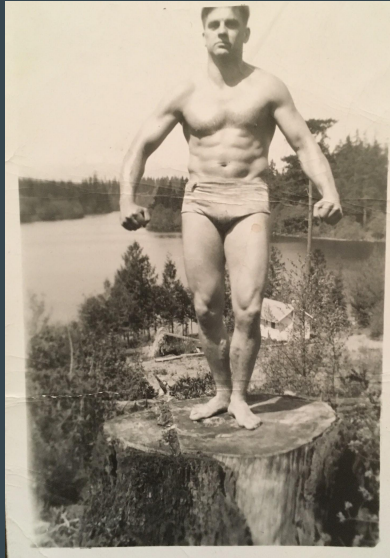
A unique opportunity to continue connecting trails, connecting communities, and honoring the history and heritage of the Marquette Iron Range

A love story born on the RAILS.....

Esther Lindholm traveled to the Upper Peninsula for the first time via the train from Chicago, IL. to Ishpeming, MI. for her work in 1951. Esther was an employee of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union in Chicago and came to the area to help women factory workers organize a women's workers union at the H.W. Gossard Company (maker of women's corsets) in Ishpeming, MI.

Esther went out to a dance one evening while in Ishpeming and that is when Esther saw William; the handsome saxophone player in the local band.....

They "courted" for 2 year. She continued to travel the rails from Chicago, IL. to Ishpeming, MI. for visits and they corresponded back and forth through letters until she move to the U.P. to become William's beloved wife.



William Koski's Land- Gifted to Joyce and Carol

As a young man in the 1930's ; William Koski purchased 240 acres in Marquette & Negaunee Township. It is estimated that he purchased it for just over \$200 dollars! He purchased the land for hunting, outdoor recreation, and natural preservation.

As was their final wishes; William and Esther left the land in the care of their beloved daughters; Joyce and Carol.

Joyce and Carol have owned the land for 22 years now....they have turned down several purchase offers over the years. It has been their wish to see it remain natural and preserved and not developed into a subdivision, condos, or a big box store, etc.

Small Town Connections

Sometimes the right people just walk in the door at the right time and the wheels start spinning.....

This opportunity just presented itself at the Quick Stop Bike Shop one day.

The Executive Director of the Noquemanon Trail Network, Lori Hauswirth, stopped in the Quick Stop Bike Shop and the Koski Property came up in a conversation with Nevin Brownell.

They chatted for a while about the potential for a trail network on the property for all to enjoy. The Koski Property could also serve to connect other local trails in the surrounding area and perhaps most importantly the they discussed the opportunity to keep the land natural and preserved, forever.

Next thing you know Lori, the NTN Director was calling Carol with the Iron Ore Heritage Trail and a few days later a great group of local professionals / outdoor enthusiast explored the land together.



Photo Credit-
Nick Jensen



Photo Credit-
Michelle Schwemin



It takes a village....thank you for exploring the land with us that day!

Carol Fulsher- Administrator for the Iron Ore Heritage Trail

Don Britton- Member of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail

Lori Hauswirth- The Executive Director of the NTN

Nick Jensen- NTN member and photographer

Nicholas Leach- Negaunee Township Planning and Zoning Administrator

Michelle Schwemin- Daughter of Carol Schwemin, Niece of Joyce Britton

Nevin Brownell- Michelle Schwemin's partner and guide extraordinaire



Video Credit- Nick Jensen / Floline Media

The Families Vision: The Koski Trails

A non-motorized trail network on the property for Hiking, Biking, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, etc. that also expands and connects existing trail networks in the surrounding area together.

A trail system that provides outdoor recreation for the community while helping to promote individuals physical, emotional, mental, spiritual health and well-being.

A memorial for William and Esther Koski, trailhead signage in remembrance of William and Esther Koski.....perhaps "The Koski Trails".

Property remains Natural and Preserved for all to enjoy....Forever

Joining Together- so that all may enjoy this land



Property Details and Agreements

It is 180 acres of land that is for sale at this time. (140 acres in MQT Township and 40 acres in Neg. Township).

Carol Schwemin plans to keep a 20 acre parcel but is open and receptive to discussing access/easement to her parcel for the IOHT/NTN to develop trails on in the future. The parcel division is currently in the works; but the family is **100% all for** working with the IOHT so all parties are on board with the project and very happy with the outcomes. Carol is very open to conversation and friendly negotiations to make this work.

My Mother; Carol Schwemin and my Aunt, Joyce Britton; are both in agreement to the terms of the offer to purchase with land donation; through the Land Acquisition Grant under the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF).

They both are in agreement to: **Just Compensation for the Land-** A Michigan Department of Natural Resources Certified Appraisal of the land would determine the **Fair Market Value** of the land.

And

The Landowners agree to at least a 25% donation of the Fair Market Land Value/ Purchase Price Offer.

It is our families sincere hope that the Iron Ore Heritage Trail Board of Directors will consider this project for the 2021 Grant.

The Koski Trails - a Beautiful Memorial to William and Esther Koski for all to enjoy;
and the preservation of the land, forever and ever.



“We are happy and excited to offer the U.P. property to many people for spiritual, physical, and emotional uplifting activities and are very prosperous! Thank you God!! It is now done, it is now so!!”

-Joyce (Britton) and Carol (Schwemin) Koski , daughters of William and Esther Koski