

Michigan Hemingway SOCIETY Newsletter



Fall issue, Sept. 2000

P.O. Box 953 • Petoskey, MI 49770

Dear Members and Friends,

I must begin this letter with an apology to you all for not getting a summer newsletter out. I won't bore you with excuses, but please accept my sincere regrets, as the fault is entirely mine.

Much of the content herein concerning the conferences past and future comes directly from our website at www.northquest.com/hemingway as I see no need to redo something which has already been so well written by our dedicated Web Maven, Audrey McMullen. Please check there often to see what updates there are. If you are not a computer user and are interested in having copies of any of the articles and papers mentioned on p.6, ask a friend to print them out for you, or contact me at 256-350-7745 or at the return postal address on the back of this newsletter.

In addition to this newsletter, I hope you have all received a copy of our beautiful new brochure from our Public Relations board member, Kay Smith. Thank you, Kay, for a job extremely well done and for giving us so much of your time during the summer of your first grandchild's birth! That is true dedication. Congratulations on the births of both the grandson and the brochure.

Our hard-working board of directors has prepared a wonderful conference for October. I hope to see many of you there. If you are curious as to the later date, you will discover the reason by reading about this year's room rate. The city of Petoskey has discontinued its annual Hemingway Festival, but we have plenty of great activities scheduled to keep you as busy or as relaxed as you care to be.

If you miss the opportunity to see and hear our visiting writers, Michael Delp and Lucille de View, you will be missing a great treat. Those of us who attended the special Centennial Conference in July, 1999, had the pleasure of hearing Michael Delp speak as a member of our panel of distinguished Michigan writers. Many of you will also remember meeting Ms. de View at previous conferences, as she is a member of our organization. Our own Vice President, Fred Svoboda, will be talking with us about our theme story, "Summer People," on Friday evening following the reception and the reader's theatre presentation of the story. Fred Svoboda is, of course, the board's "token" well-known scholar and has published a number articles and books on Hemingway and other literary topics. The thing we love best about Fred's presentations is his wonderfully engaging manner of delivery. You will find that all three of these speakers have the gift of being able to discuss matters complicated or simple in an understandable and entertaining way.

Our Sunday brunch is being sponsored this year by American Spoon Foods®, purveyors of delicious products made from original recipes and from Northern Michigan produce. One of their retail stores is in Petoskey at 411 East Lake Street. Their catalogue is online at www.spoon.com, or you may request one by phoning 800-222-5886. Many thanks to this fine company for their assistance in making our stay in Petoskey a delightful one. Thanks also go, as always, to the historic Stafford's Perry Hotel for their hospitality, preferential room rates, friendly staff, and delicious food.

Meeting in the atmosphere and scenery that Hemingway so dearly loved makes each of our conferences special, and Petoskey is a charming town to visit. The reason the spirit of Northern Michigan stayed with Hemingway his entire life is obvious when one visits the area. I am looking forward to sharing the experience with all of you.

Best regards,



Charlotte Ponder, President, Michigan Hemingway Society

The Michigan Hemingway Society Presents:
"Up in Michigan"
An annual program of lectures and tours
held each October in Petoskey, Michigan
"SUMMER PEOPLE"
October 27 - 29, 2000

October 27-29 marks the tenth annual celebration of Hemingway in Michigan held at Petoskey. "Summer People," the theme of the conference, was inspired by Michael Reynolds' talk of the same title at Idaho's 1996 conference, and by Lucille deView's award-winning play, *A Summer With Hemingway's Twin*.

Conference headquarters, Stafford's Perry Hotel, is offering fabulous rates for our conferees: \$75 per room per night plus tax and county room assessment. Reserve early and be sure to mention Michigan Hemingway Society to get this preferential rate. The toll-free number is 1-800-737-1899.

Our Friday welcome reception will be a pizza party; conferees are invited to wear a hat or something appropriate for the "summer people" theme. Participating entries in a writing contest sponsored by North Central Michigan College will be read at the party. A reader's theatre presentation of Hemingway's short story, "Summer People," with commentary by Dr. Fred Svoboda, highlights the evening program.

Saturday promises to be a day of exploration and guided writing led by Michigan poet Michael Delp, creative writing instructor at Interlochen Arts Academy. A car caravan to Horton Bay, scene of the short story "Summer People," is planned for the morning. Other events on the docket: a screening of Dave Fortin's taped interview with Sunny Hemingway Miller and an evening of dinner and the theatre.

A full production of Lucille deView's play, *A Summer with Hemingway's Twin*, will be presented on the stage of the Crooked Tree Arts Center by the Little Traverse Civic Theatre. The play, which won the 1997 National Play Award from the National Repertory Theatre Foundation, deals with DeView's fantasies and real-life experiences as a "nanny" for the children of Marcelline Hemingway Sanford.

Ms. deView will be the keynote speaker for the conference at brunch on Sunday at Stafford's Perry Hotel. She will discuss her experiences with the Sanford family and her work as a playwright to fictionalize and stage them. The brunch, sponsored by American Spoon Foods, will feature their gourmet Michigan products.

Cost of the full conference package is \$125 per person. It includes Friday's reception and program, Michael Delp's writers' workshop, the Dave Fortin presentation and luncheon, Saturday's dinner and play, Sunday's brunch and keynote presentation by Ms. deView. Commit now to these dates, get your hotel reservation (separate from conference fees), and join us October 27-29. For your convenience, please mail the registration form printed at the end of this newsletter.

Here is more information, from the Little Traverse Civic Theatre website, regarding the play we will see as a group on Oct. 28 :

***A Summer With Hemingway's Twin*
by Lucille de View**

October 26, 27, 28, 29, November 2, 3, 4 2000

Three generations of women, two of them from American literature's first family and all three liberated well ahead of their time, gather in 1939 in Walloon Lake. This coming-of-age drama, set at a time when the world is on the brink of war, swirls around a summer romance between a young girl and an older man - a friend of Ernest Hemingway. Each of the principal women struggles with the contemporary conflict of how to reconcile careers with family responsibilities; how to do useful and satisfying work and still meet the needs of those at home. The play gives a warm and touching insight into the life of Ernest Hemingway and the women who loved and admired him. Little Traverse Civic Theatre will produce the show to run October 26, 27, 28, 29, November 2, 3 and 4.

Ms. de View is a longtime member of the Michigan Hemingway Society, and we are very proud of her many accomplishments and awards.

**Saturday, Oct. 28, 2-4 p.m. at Crooked Tree Arts Center
Petoskey, Michigan**

**WRITERS' WORKSHOP:
RESPONDING TO HEMINGWAY: AN AFTERNOON WITH MICHAEL DELP**

Join us at the Annual Fall Conference of the Michigan Hemingway Society for a writers' workshop based on the life and work of Ernest Hemingway. Explore an opportunity to respond to the life and work of one of America's greatest and most controversial authors, underwritten in part by Crooked Tree Arts Center.

This workshop is open to the public as well as to Hemingway conference registrants. Cost is \$10.

This workshop will be led by Michael Delp, an accomplished writer and instructor of creative writing at the Interlochen Arts Academy. Delp's essays, poetry and fiction have been published in a wide range of magazines, and he is the author of three books: *Over The Graves Of Horses* (1988), a collection of poems; *Under The Influence Of Water* (1992), a collection of essays, poems and short stories; and *The Coast Of Nowhere: A Meditation On Rivers, Lakes And Streams* (1997).

Recently he has been reflecting on Ernest Hemingway's life and work by writing creative responses to photos of Hemingway. With guidance from Mr. Delp, participants in this workshop will select a photo of Hemingway as the subject for their own creative response, or elect to write a personal response to EH's story "Summer People," which is the focus of this year's conference. Feedback and discussion of this new writing will follow.

This workshop will be open to students and the public as well as to those attending the Hemingway Conference. It should be a stimulating and productive two hours! NOTE: At 4:00 p.m., Michael Delp will read from his work—including some of his responses to Hemingway—in a brief program that will be open to all conference registrants and the general public as well as participants in the workshop.

BOARD MEMBER SPEAKS ON HEMINGWAY

On April 14, 2000, MHS Board member Ken Marek spoke to the Traverse Area Women's Club about Hemingway in northern Michigan. Ken was introduced by Kay O'Brien, former manager of the bookstore at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, where Ken is an instructor. The members of the club were particularly interested in the Hemingway family and the family summers at Walloon Lake, so Ken focused his talk on those subjects and how they influenced several of the Nick Adams stories. He also gave the audience a list of Hemingway's Michigan stories and an article which details how one can take a self-guided tour of northern Michigan sites related to the stories. The group also seemed interested in the activities of the Michigan Hemingway Society, so perhaps we will see some new participants at one of our fall conferences! K.M.

Summer Children

An essay by Carole Underwood

I was a child of privilege—a summer person. Although my parents had little money, a dear, childless aunt and uncle who loved me very much built a small cottage on Round Lake in Jackson County, Michigan about 1950. Thus began those magical Michigan summers which enriched my life and left indelible memories.

Aunt Ann and I stayed at the lake all summer, and Uncle Glen drove up from Toledo on weekends. My aunt did not drive, but we rode to stores with neighbors. In addition, those were the days of home delivery. A milk truck brought us dairy products, and a bakery truck delivered bread and pastries. All Lake Children were glad to see the bakery truck drive down the gravel land behind the cottages. My favorite treat was yellow cupcakes with pink frosting and sprinkles.

The cottage was cozy—a knotty pine living room with a brick fireplace, kitchen, half-bath, two tiny bedrooms, and a screened-in porch overlooking the lake. There was no bathtub, shower, or laundry. The lake itself was our tub; it was common to see cottagers carry soap shampoo, and towels out onto docks and proceed to bathe. Family and friends did it together, sort of a social event. We scrubbed clothes in a bucket with a washboard and used nature as a dryer.

Ernest Hemingway's Horton Bay had a general store. My downstate Horton had The Brown Cow, an ice cream shop where we went frequently on warm evenings. My best friend Roxanne and I would sit in a booth, usually with her pesky younger sisters crowding in, while her grandmother and my aunt sat nearby. We girls loved to play the jukebox: my sodas and sundaes were always accompanied by "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White."

Hanover, a larger village five miles from the lake, was where we went for groceries. It had two grocery stores, a drug store, post office, hardware store, bar, gas station, and a telephone office in a private home. If we needed to call family long distance, the operator put the call through on a switchboard. I always went into the drug store to buy comic books, and, when I was older, flirt with the cute teenage boy behind the soda counter.

Television and telephone were non-existent in most cottages in those days. Lake Kids read many books, played board games and cards, and performed nearly nightly charades on front porches up and down the lakeshore. On rainy days, our favorite games were "Monopoly" and "Park and Shop." Roxanne owned the "Park and Shop" game; it was much fun, but I've never seen the game since childhood. Does anyone else out there remember this game? My uncle and I played endless canasta games, and he usually beat me. As teenagers, we listened to 45-rpm records and danced at porch parties.

Summer Children needed few clothes. We lived in bathing suits—usually wet—shorts, and T-shirts; blue jeans and sweatshirts were donned on cool nights. If we were forced to wear shoes, tennis shoes or sandals did the job.

Swimming, boating, and water skiing were our activities; and when we were very young, every self-respecting lake child was proud to display his menagerie of turtles, frogs, polliwogs, and hair snakes. My collection resided on the porch in various buckets and cans, Uncle Glen's garage being the chief source of reptilian housing units. Aunt Ann had sacrificed her French fry basket early on to the cause of catching these aquatic creatures. I wonder what ever happened to that metal basket. How I would love to have it now for my grandsons!

"Thursday, July 15, 1954

Dear Diary

Roxanne and I went swimming out at the raft today. Some boys who were there flirted with us. I had such a good time. I bailed out the boat from the rain yesterday. I caught two painted turtles on the sandbar and put my initials on them with nail polish. We went to Hanover for groceries, and I bought two comic books."

When Ernest went swimming off the dock in Horton Bay with his friends, he said he didn't like to touch the "marly" lake bottom. I can identify with that because my lake bottom was marly also. Nevertheless, my friends and I became used to it—it was our lake and our marly bottom. Only sissy, city-slicker visitors whined about the "muck," and we felt nothing but disdain toward the complainers. We would have called them "Fudgies" if, at that time, we had ever heard the Up North term for an outsider. (Continued next page)

Ernest wrote in "Summer People" about meeting Kate late at night in the wood lot for an intimate encounter. Ah, yes, lazy summer nights lend themselves well to sweet romance. While I remember fondly several tender attachments, affectionate relationships, and a few amorous trysts, I am constrained from writing about them as freely as Ernest did. However, most Summer Teenagers did experience romantic alliances. It could not be otherwise with midnight swims, mesmerizing bonfires, gentle lake breezes, music over moonlight waters, soft lights reflected from shoreline windows--all culminating in ardent emotions. Summer love is irresistible even though the heart may already be aware of autumn's chill.

"Monday, September 3, 1956

Dear Diary,

We all took a midnight swim out on the raft. What a wonderful way to end the season! The water was so warm. Skip took us all home in his boat, and we sang happy songs. We all hate to go home tomorrow."

Today's Summer Children would have little appreciation for those slower-paced days; but, thank goodness some fundamentals of lake living don't change from Ernest's day through mine to that of my grandsons. If you are lucky enough to grow up on the water as a Michigan Summer Child, you're lucky enough.

Carole Underwood, "semi-retired" teacher, is a board member of the Michigan Hemingway Society

MHS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TOUR KALKASKA AREA SITES RELATED TO HEMINGWAY'S LIFE AND WORK

On Saturday morning of the fall 1999 MHS conference, approximately 30 of the conference participants formed a car caravan and traveled south to Kalkaska for a visit to several sites related to Ernest Hemingway's life and work. Thanks to a Friday night talk by MHS Board member Jack Jobst on Hemingway's 1916 summer camping and fishing trip to northwestern lower Michigan, the travelers were well prepared for what they were about to see. (They had also received photocopies of Jack Jobst's article "Gone Fishin'," and Board member Fred Svoboda's article "The Genesis of Hemingway's "The Battler," both of which explore how Hemingway drew on his experiences in the Kalkaska/Mancelona area but also did a significant amount of inventing and "changing" the countryside and the people in the process of creating "The Light of the World" and "The Battler.")

The first stop on the tour was the Kalkaska Historical Society Museum, located in the train station which was the likely site of EH's "The Light of the World." We were met by the very gracious and helpful guides from the Historical Society, who answered questions and volunteered valuable information as we viewed displays on life in the Kalkaska area during the logging boom and the early decades of the twentieth century. We could easily see what Kalkaska was like before and during the time of Hemingway's visit.

By this time the morning rain had ceased, opening the way for our next stop, at Rugg Pond on the Rapid River. Fred Svoboda explained the history of the dam and the community of Rugg, and commented on Hemingway and Lewis Clarahan's camp-out there in the 1916 trip. The last stop of the morning (before lunch at Kevin's Diner in Kalkaska) was at the Seven Bridges area on the Rapid River. Tour guide Ken Marek described how the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has worked to protect this beautiful area from development and to keep it open to the public. Fred Svoboda feels that Hemingway and Lew Clarahan may have fished in this stretch of river on their trip, and there seems little doubt that Hemingway would have heartily approved of the efforts to save this magical area. K.M.

The Michigan Hemingway Society

has been active for many years, but was incorporated officially as a non-profit organization in 1993. The group's volunteer energies have been focused *ad hoc* on such events as its annual Hemingway weekend held in Petoskey, Michigan, each October.

The Michigan Hemingway Society is made up of university professors, writers, high school teachers, fly fishers, journalists, and all kinds of other people who are interested in exploring the body of literature created by this Nobel prize-winning author. MHS is not a state branch of any other organization. It is, rather, one of three major Hemingway Societies headquartered in the United States, the others being The Hemingway Foundation and Society and the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, IL. Our membership is international; our focus is on Hemingway's presence in Michigan and Michigan's presence in the Hemingway canon.

Goals and objectives of the group include:

- To encourage the study of Hemingway's relationship to Michigan in his life and work
- To collect, interpret and preserve artifacts, memorabilia and places connected with Hemingway
- To make available to the public, the knowledge and interpretations of Hemingway scholars and researchers
- To sponsor annual Hemingway weekends in Petoskey, where he spent his boyhood summers and was inspired to use northern Michigan people, settings and incidents as a basis for his early writing (especially the Nick Adams stories)
- To publish literary materials illuminating Hemingway's life and work
- To publish such materials as might help researchers locate the places in northern Michigan which figure in Hemingway's life and fiction

To celebrate in 1999, the centennial of Hemingway's birth in cooperation with the National/International Hemingway Society and the Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, Illinois. (accomplished!)

Notes on previous conferences

Two Michigan conferences were sponsored by the Michigan Hemingway Society in 1999. The first celebrated Hemingway's birth centennial in July, and was an exploration of "A Sense of Place: Michigan as Muse." The Keynote Address from our Hemingway Birth Centennial Celebration: "Why We Celebrate Hemingway" by Dr. Joseph Waldmeir is available on our website, along with scenes from the birthday party. Board member Frank Hursley's essay on fishing in Hemingway's waters is also available there. (www.northquest.com/hemingway)

Our second conference was our annual October gathering, which featured travel to sites in Kalkaska that inspired the settings for Hemingway's "The Battler" and "The Light of the World." (See Ken Marek's article elsewhere in this newsletter.) Keynote speaker was James Plath, co-author with Frank Simons of *Remembering Ernest Hemingway*. You may read Dr. Plath's keynote address on the website, as well as the fiction contest's winning story, "One for Major Findley," by David Shotwell.

Focus of the 1998 conference was Hemingway's infamous *The Torrents of Spring*, a novella which was set in Petoskey. Speakers included Judy Henn, Dr. Fern Kory, Dr. Waring Jones and Dr. Robert (Robin) Gadjusek. As the texts of their papers are received and formatted for the World Wide Web, you will find them there. "The Torrents of Spring, Once and For All," by Judy Henn and "A Thing or Two about *Torrents of Spring*," by Fern Kory are posted there for your enjoyment.

The 1997 conference which was a study of Hemingway's Upper Peninsula Trip to Seney, which became the setting for "The Big Two-Hearted River." We invite you to our website to read some of the material presented at the conference: "Landscapes Real and Imagined: Big Two-Hearted River," by Fred Svoboda, reprinted by permission of *The Hemingway Review*, and "Hemingway in Seney," by Jack Jobst, reprinted by permission of *Michigan History Magazine*. You may also see snapshots of our 1997 trip to Seney, which was a splendid day, indeed.

mail to: **Michigan Hemingway Society**
P.O. Box 953
Petoskey, Michigan 49770

Name (s): (please list names as you wish them to appear on nametags)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

complete conference package

Please reserve a complete conference package for _____ people for the fall, 2000 conference. I have enclosed a check for _____ (\$115 per person if postmarked by October 1; \$125 per person thereafter), which includes membership dues for the year 2000. (sorry, no credit cards)

_____ I cannot attend the conference, but I have enclosed \$10 for membership dues.

individual events

I cannot attend the full conference. Register me for the following individual events only; my check is enclosed. (These events all are included in the full conference package.)

- _____ Friday "Summer People" reception (\$20)
- _____ Saturday lunch and program at the history museum (\$25)
- _____ Writer's workshop with Michael Delp (\$10)
- _____ Saturday dinner (\$40)
- _____ Sunday American Spoon Foods brunch featuring Lucille deView (\$20)

Theatre tickets \$10 -- included in conference package. If you wish to attend only the play, please reserve tickets from Little Traverse Civic Theatre -- (231) 348-1850
