

# Newsletter

Holiday Issue, November, 2000

[Editor's note: Your Board of Directors contributed the following articles to review and summarize the activities of our annual Hemingway "Up in Michigan" weekend of October 27-29. Enjoy, and if you were not with us, be jealous! PS, we missed you! Charlotte]

## READERS' THEATRE

"Nick turned off the light and went out, hooking the screen door shut. He had the lunch wrapped up in a newspaper and crossed the wet grass, climbed the fence and went up the road through the town under the big elm trees, past the last cluster of R.F.D. mailboxes at the crossroads and out onto the Charlevoix highway. After crossing the creek he cut across a field, skirted the edge of the orchard, keeping to the edge of the clearing, and climbed the rail fence into the wood lot. In the center of the wood lot four hemlock trees grew close together. The ground was soft with pine needles and there was no dew ... He saw Kate coming through the trees in the dark but did not move."

Our program Friday night included a Readers' Theatre performance of "Summer People," a story set in Horton Bay. I would like to thank the Board members who read so well: Narrator - Jack Jobst; Nick - Ken Marek; Kate - Charlotte Ponder; Odgar - George Beswick; Bill - Art Wagner; and the Ghee - Fred Svoboda. Each of Hemingway's characters in the story is based on a real person, mostly friends from Oak Park, Chicago, and Horton Bay. The narrator/Nick is, of course, Ernest himself. Kate is Kate Smith, and Bill is her brother, Bill Smith. Odgar is Carl Edgar, and the Ghee is Jack Pentecost. Critics today say that Ernest Hemingway "invented from experience." Hemingway said of his talent, "...The only writing that was any good is what you made up, what you imagined. That made everything come true ... Everything good he'd ever written -he'd made up. None of it had ever happened. Other things had happened. Better things, maybe ... He wanted to be a great writer. He was pretty sure he would be....."

Yes, Ernest Hemingway became a great writer, and we gather once a year to pay tribute to him in Northern Michigan, the land he loved so very much and never forgot.

Carole Underwood

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## FRED SVOBODA, "SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE"

Our First Vice President, Fred Svoboda, presented information about the history of the short story "Summer People" at Friday evening's program. The story was written in 1924, but was never published until after Hemingway's death. Its first appearance in a collection was in *The Nick Adams Stories*, published in several printings, both hard cover and paperback by Charles Scribner's Sons for the Ernest Hemingway Foundation. The story also appears in *The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway: Finca Vigía Edition*, also published by Scribners.

In the editing process, a page of the manuscript was omitted from the published version of "Summer People," and Kate's nickname "Stut", a variation on her other nickname "Butstein," was mistakenly read as "slut" and printed that way. Nick's calling Kate "slut" following the couple's lovemaking changed the entire tone of the story's ending. That error was corrected in the Finca Vigía edition, but the missing page was not included. Fred distributed copies of that missing page to the participants so that we could see the difference it made in the story.

Dr. Svoboda brought out another very interesting and ironic fact which many of us had not known before. Hemingway once considered using "Summer People" to replace "Up In Michigan" when that story was deemed too risqué for inclusion in the book *in our time*, an amusing idea since the former story is much more explicit. [Editor's note: if you don't recall the last part of the story, reread it and guess which board/cast member took much kidding, following the readers' theater presentation, about a talent for the "900-number business" and "porno books-on-tape."] As most of you will recall, Gertrude Stein pronounced the story "Up In Michigan" *inaccrochable*; the French verb *accrocher* means to hang on a hook, as with paintings. In other words, the tale was too naughty to display.

The Michigan Hemingway Society is always glad to hear from Fred Svoboda, as he presents us with

(Continued on Page 2)

scholarly material in a very appealing way. Fred is a founding member of both our organization and The Hemingway Society and currently serves on both boards of directors. His day job is heading the English department of the University of Michigan, Flint, where he is also a popular instructor. He has numerous Hemingway related scholarly publications and presentations to his credit, including the book *Hemingway: Up in Michigan Perspectives* which he edited with our founder and former president, Dr. Joseph Waldmeir. His book *Hemingway and The Sun Also Rises: The Crafting of a Style* is highly respected by scholars everywhere. Two of his many articles, "Landscapes Real and Imagined: 'Big Two-Hearted River'" and "The Things Nick Carraway to the Big two-Hearted River: An Estimate," are available on our website at [www.northquest.com/hemingway](http://www.northquest.com/hemingway). C.P.

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#### ELLEN ROSEWALL, MICHIGAN AUTHOR

Friday's program ended with the special treat of remarks and a reading by our guest Ellen Rosewall. Ms. Rosewall is the author of a book about the Walloon Lake-Petoskey area entitled *Sparkle Island: Stories of Love, Life and Walloon Lake*. Raven Tree Press of De Pere, Wisconsin released the book in June 2000, and it has been very successful in the Petoskey area and elsewhere.

Ms Rosewall's family cottage is located just down the road from Windemere, the Hemingway summer cottage. A chapter in her book, called "Ernest Hemingway Sat Here," depicts a mythical encounter between the child Ernie Hemingway and the author's predecessors at the cottage, the Siddons brothers. The editors of *Voices of Michigan: An Anthology of Michigan Writers*, also released last June, selected that essay for their anthology. Our participants thoroughly enjoyed hearing the very personable Ms. Rosewall read that delightful selection, and many purchased copies of the book to be signed by the author after the program. C.P.

#### Your Suggestions

The Board of Directors always welcomes suggestions from our membership. Please notify us at any time if you have suggestions for ways to improve our activities, speakers to recommend, ideas for themes, or subject matter you would like to see covered. We serve at your pleasure, and any member may serve on a committee. Let us know about your talents and interests! (Addresses are on the attached roster; E-mail me at [C2ponder@aol.com](mailto:C2ponder@aol.com); or telephone 256-350-7745)

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#### THE PILGRIMAGE TO HORTON BAY

So many of Hemingway's Michigan stories are set in Horton Bay that a visit to this curious town is on every aficionado's schedule. "Summer People" also begins at the bay, so it was the focus of this weekend's tour, but inevitably the pilgrims comment as well on other stories set here.

The tour began at nine A.M. Saturday in the lobby of the Perry and processed by car south on US 31 to Horton Bay Road. A left turn at Boyne City Road brought the group to the Horton Bay General Store, where they distracted themselves with coffee and the memorabilia displayed in this historic building. Of course, the bibliophiles shuffled next door to the Fox Inn to browse the dusty tables and be regaled with the running commentary of Jim Vol Hartwell.

Courteous cajoling from the patient tour leader Ken Marek urged the entourage down the steep road to the beach. Ken pointed out the Pinehurst and Shangri La, cottages of the Dillworths and site of the wedding reception for Hadley and Ernest. One hundred feet beyond are the vestiges of the spring at which Nick performs his emotional ablutions in the opening of "Summer People." Fresh digging, through the courtesy of a local resident, marked the spring. The exact location has been the subject of debate, since the spring once crossed the road, causing erosion, and over the years, efforts were made to divert or block it. However, it gurgles up for every visit of the MHS.

At the beach, record low water levels permitted Ken and the group to walk among the remains of pilings that had supported the warehouse, the Bean house, and the dock, the stage for the swimming episode. Across the bay is the beach at the point, the setting for "The End of Something." Halfway around the bay to the right is the mouth of Horton Creek.

As the group turned to pace slowly up the steep road back to the highway, the clear, sunny weather was suddenly punctuated with a stiff, cold breeze aimed directly into the cheeks of the party. Zipping up, buttoning, muffling, and bending, they gradually wandered between fiction and reality, a common experience for Hemingway readers.

This passage was written with the leftover adjectives that participants in Mike Delp's writing workshop were not allowed to use.

Art Wagner

**LUNCHEON WITH DR. CAPPEL AT THE LITTLE TRAVERSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**

It was hard to tell which was the most delightful at the Michigan Hemingway Society's Saturday luncheon: the setting, the lunch, or the program. Ms. Candace Eaton, Director of the Little Traverse Historical Society and members of the Society's Board welcomed us to their museum housed in Petoskey's historic railroad station.

Participants browsed the museum's permanent collection and two Hemingway related displays. Both a temporary exhibit featuring art work done by Marcelline Hemingway Sanford, sister of Ernest Hemingway, and a permanent display of items relating to Ernest Hemingway's northern Michigan connections were informative and interesting. It was noted that the museum has significant Hemingway holdings and that new materials are rotated in and out of the ongoing Hemingway display.

After a wonderful lunch, Dr. Constance Cappel, author of *Hemingway in Michigan*, told of her research on Prudence Bolton, the young Native American girl Hemingway is said to have loved. Dr. Cappel also discussed a new novel she has written based loosely on Hemingway and Prudence. Mike Federspiel

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**CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**

The Saturday afternoon writing workshop was directed by Mike Delp, a Northern Michigan writer, teacher, and Director of Creative Writing at Interlochen Arts Academy. Jack Driscoll, a superb writer himself, has called Mike Delp "a writer of exquisite tenderness and wild imagination..." Mike's daughter Jaime wrote, "My father's soul is made of water; river water that silver trout swim through and old fishermen love. It's always been a mystery to me, people's souls. You can't see them, but my father's soul is more clear to me than most things in this world. I know that if I could hold it in my small hand, I would be holding poetry and rivers and thoughts. Then, in the deep shadows, I would find a tiny trout fly that holds it all together."

Mike is the author of three books: *OVER THE GRAVES OF HORSES* (1988), *UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF WATER* (1992), and *THE COAST OF NOWHERE* (1997), all published by Wayne State University Press.

During the workshop, he laid out various photos of Ernest Hemingway and asked each writing participant to look carefully at any one photo and write whatever came to

mind, including feelings. After allowing enough time to write, Mr. Delp invited participants to share what they had written. We heard several thoughtful essays. Among them were two based on the famous photo of Ernest climbing a box car ladder and another based on a photo of EH and an animal he had killed in Africa.

Those of us who attended the writing workshop enjoyed it and will never forget Mr. Delp's advice to cut out everything that is not essential. In other words, distrust adjectives and adverbs!

We are indeed grateful that we had Mike Delp to head our Saturday writers' workshop. Carole Underwood

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**DINNER WITH CRAIG LESLEY**

After our banquet on Saturday evening, we were privileged to hear Craig Lesley speak to us and read a passage from his novel *The Sky Fisherman*. Dr. Lesley is has a captivating style of both writing and speaking, and everyone enjoyed hearing him enormously.

Craig Lesley is the author of three other novels: *Storm Riders*, *Winterkill*, and *Riversong*. He also edited two anthologies: *Talking Leaves: Contemporary Native American Short Stories and Dreamers and Desperadoes: Contemporary Fiction of the American West*. His short stories have appeared in *Massachusetts Review*, *Northwest Review*, *Seattle Reviews*, *Left Bank*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and others.

Both *Storm Riders* and *The Sky Fisherman* were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

His work has received honors from the Pacific Northwest Booksellers' Association for Western Writers of America Best Novel of the Year, and the Medicine Pipe Bearer's Award.

Since his return to Oregon after our conference, Dr. Lesley has received the Oregon Book Award for the year's best novel by an Oregon writer. Of his four published novels, three have been nominated for this distinguished prize. Congratulations, Craig!

Craig's compassionate writing about Native American and other western characters, along with his much-lauded landscapes, have earned him rave reviews as well as his many awards. It was a true pleasure to have him enrich our time in Petoskey this October.

Charlotte Ponder

## PETOSKEY ACTING GROUP OFFERS A SUMMER WITH HEMINGWAY'S TWIN

The Little Traverse Civic Theater presented Lucille de View's play, *A Summer with Hemingway's Twin* during the recent Hemingway in Michigan conference. Since the play deals not only with Hemingway, but also with Summer People, this year's theme for the conference, it was doubly applicable.

The play's summer people, however, are different from those in the Hemingway short story that was read and discussed at the conference. Ms. de View's play takes place at a summer cabin on Walloon Lake in 1939 and focuses on two conflicts.

The first conflict is between Marcelline Hemingway Sanford, Ernest's only older sister, as she reacts to her famous younger brother's apparent disinterest or even hostility towards his birth family. The other conflict is within the college student, Lila, who is hired as governess for the Sanford children. Both Marcelline and Lila hope for a visit by Ernest on his fortieth birthday, but he never comes. Marcelline continues her life of anger and frustration with Ernest, but Lila moves on to a more mature understanding of the problems inherent in combining hero worship with affection for an older man.

The play is of interest to Hemingway fans because of what it reveals about the conflicts within the family, many of which appear in the letters published in the recent reprinting of Marcelline's book *At the Hemingway's*. Just as the play focuses on two conflicts, the title also suggests two sets of twins, again referring to the same characters. Marcelline and Ernest are one of the sets of twins because they were both dressed similarly as children, and as adults they compete with their writing skills.

The other set of twins that we meet in the play consists of the missing Ernest and the usually present Willis Homer Whittemore, both of whom share similar physical characteristics. Whittemore is a married family friend whom Lila finds as romantically interesting as if he were the author she has really come to meet. Lila, as the play's major character, matures through the action of the play after she realizes Whittemore's interest in her is not so much sincere as predatory. Her disappointment in this older man reflects Marcelline's disappointment in the adult Ernest.

Of the play's other characters, Ernest and Marcelline's mother, Grace Hall Hemingway, is of particular interest to fans of Hemingway biography. While the adult Ernest often railed against his mother, the character of Grace in

this play is ever forgiving, ever hopeful that he will return to his birth family and make amends. The character of Grace constantly works towards reconciliation between her two oldest children, and Marcelline's failure to see life with her mother's sense of optimism is Grace's major disappointment on that fateful summer.

Other characters include Marcelline's daughter, Carol Sanford, and Lila's younger brother, Thomas, who plays an important, although minor role in the play since his troubled adolescent relationship with his own family mirrors the adult conflicts in the Hemingways.

The play, directed by Sabra Hayden, cast all local talent, including Beverly Holden as Grace, Laura Steele as Marcelline, Erica Walls as Carol, Dana Bolton as Lila, John Bartha as Thomas, and John Coe as Lila's love interest, Willis Homer Whittemore.

Of the many people required to produce this play, special mention should go to Set Designer Jesse Hickman, who offered a well-realized lakeside cottage setting, complete with fir trees, a tent, and a screened-in porch that perfectly complemented the play's action.

Jack Jobst



### A Word About Our Sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for this year's Hemingway Weekend: American Spoon Foods, the historic Stafford's Perry Hotel, and the Little Traverse Historical Society. Not only did American Spoon Foods help financially with our Sunday brunch; they provided a delicious selection of their products for us to sample on the buffet, AND a jar of honey, spoon fruit, or jam for each participant! The Perry provided us with complimentary rooms for our keynote speakers and fed us hugely and well. As always, their staff and service were impeccable, and our stay was extremely pleasant. The Little Traverse Historical Society, of course, provided us with the venue for our luncheon and program on Saturday, their board members and executive director serving our meal with their very own hands.

### SUNDAY BRUNCH

We traditionally close our October weekends with a Sunday brunch. This year's was as delicious as ever, with such delicacies as Eggs Benedict and the goodies from American Spoon Foods. Having our keynote speaker at the brunch worked out extremely well since we had the opportunity to see Ms. de View's play before hearing her address. A report on that address follows.

## LUCILLE DEVIEW'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS: A SUMMARY

Lucille de View began her keynote address by speaking about the title of this conference. She told of the experience of being a year-round residence of Northern Michigan and seeing the return every year of the Summer People. She spoke of her peace and solitude being broken by the traffic and congestion brought about by the return of the summer people or "fudgies" as they are referred to in Northern Michigan. She remembered being at a gas station when two women, obviously returning to the north for the summer, ran to each other and gave each other a big hug. The gas station attendant turned to the side and quipped "summer people -- disgusting."

Ms. de View then spoke about her play *A Summer with Hemingway's Twin*. Her first knowledge of Marcelline and Ernest being raised as twins by their mother was when she read Marcelline Hemingway Sanford's book, *At the Hemingways - The Age of Innocence*. In the book the author tells of being held back a year from attending school so she and Ernest could start together. She related being dressed like Ernie, either she wearing coveralls or he wearing dresses. They graduated from high school together and they shared editorship of the Oak Park High School newspaper.

This knowledge gave Ms. de View the title of the play she had written about her experience of being a "mother's helper" to Mrs. Sanford during the summer of 1939 at the Sanford's cottage on Walloon Lake. She took the job in hopes of meeting her idol, Ernest Hemingway, not because she wanted to be a nanny to the Sanfords' three children. During that summer, she developed a great admiration for the two Hemingway women: Grace, Marcelline and Ernest's mother, and Marcelline. She saw the conflict in their lives as they hoped to pursue their professional talents in the arts, music, and writing, and still remain the loving mother and grandmother everyone expected. At that time, a woman's place was definitely in the home. Ms. de View quoted two passages from her play to emphasize the point. She remembered Mrs. Hemingway telling her, "I earned enough with my music to hire cooks and maids. Never learn to cook or you'll never write." Later in the play, Ms. de View has Marcelline say, "When the writing goes well, and you end each day empty, as Ernie says, you can't leave it. You have to be ruthless. That's what Ernie can do--and I can't."

This conflict between professional career and family was what the playwright dealt with as she raised her two children as a single mom. Ms. de View pursued her journalistic career as a reporter for the *Detroit News*,

several Traverse City publications, as a writing coach for the *Christian Science Monitor*, and now for the *Orange County Register* in California, where she is also a syndicated columnist to about 75 Knight Ridder newspapers. She told the conference attendees that her writing career was inspired by the two Hemingway women she met in the summer of 1939.

Marian Sanford

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

Our Writing Coach, Mike Delp, would indeed frown at the adjectives I have at my disposal, but I am quite short on superlatives for this occasion. I don't know how to describe to you what a wonderful time we had in Petoskey during our Hemingway weekend! I hope you are able to tell from the reports herein. All the speakers were fascinating and eloquent, the meals were delicious, and the activities were just plain fun, as well as being informative. A thousand thanks to our Board of Directors for providing us with such a grand time. Remember, although education regarding the Hemingway/Michigan connection is our primary mission, we do have that codicil in our unwritten bylaws that learning should never be boring nor should it be conducted by snobs. Learning is like religion: one needn't be somber about it in order to be serious about it!

By the time you receive this newsletter, there should be photos of the weekend's events on our website at [www.northquest.com/hemingway](http://www.northquest.com/hemingway), courtesy of First Gentleman and Board member, Cecil Ponder. Second Vice President Audrey McMullen continues to do a wonderful job designing and maintaining our *award winning* website. In addition to our website, we have a listserv for members. If you are not receiving E-mail messages and discussion from other members, you may sign on by sending the message "subscribe MiHemSoc-L" to [majordomo@mtu.edu](mailto:majordomo@mtu.edu). Many thanks to Board member Jack Jobst and to Michigan Technological University for providing us with this service.

We have already described to you the several planned things we did on Friday night, but I would like to tell you about the "afterglow." It is a "family tradition" among the regulars, and newcomers are always welcome, to gather in the lobby bar at the Perry to visit and to recap the day. We also recap ourselves with our favorite libation there: the Awesome. This drink is coffee fortified by some four kinds of liqueurs. The mixture is

poured into a glass which has been coated with brandy, dipped in sugar and cinnamon, and *flambéed*. (Did you know that cinnamon *sparkles* when set afire?) On this particular Friday, a spontaneous "Jokefest" broke out among the somewhat rowdy crowd. It was one of those hilarious, couldn't-be-planned times which happen among good friends once in awhile. (Did anyone take roll? Some of our reputations are in one another's hands, and a list of potential blackmailers could be useful!)

After enjoying the production of Lucille de View's marvelous play on Saturday, a few friends wandered the downtown area, seeking a place to have refreshments and a visit. The lobby bar at the Perry was closed, and most other establishments had loud bands or singers. No other strollers seemed to be on the streets, a situation which inspired a vocal rendition of "Saturday Night in Toledo, Ohio." Finally finding a pub with no entertainers, we had a short drink and a long chat. As if the splendor of the weekend so far were not enough, returning to our room, we saw the Northern Lights over Little Traverse Bay. A telephone message from a thoughtful friend alerted us to the display, and we were lucky enough to have a balcony with a northern exposure. Those moments were a true gift!

Thanks again to everyone who helped with the conference and to everyone who participated! The board will meet again on December 2 in Petoskey to hammer out some more details on next year's conference, whose tentative theme is "Hemingway and Native Americans." The board members were feeling exceptionally creative on Sunday after brunch and came up with a number of excellent ideas for speakers and activities. We are busy contacting potential speakers now and exploring various options for venues and events. We will keep you posted! Next year's dates will be October 26 - 28. See you then!

Best regards,

Charlotte Ponder 

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPENINGS** 

Two of our Board members have resigned this year because of personal and professional obligations. We will badly miss **Rosemary Horvath** and **Chuck Totten**, although both promise to remain active as MHS members and to attend our October weekends whenever possible.

According to our by-laws, these positions may be filled by vote of the remaining Board members. If you would like to volunteer to serve on the Board, or if you would like to suggest someone who has special skills and talents to bring to our event planning, please contact Charlotte or any other Board member. (Addresses are on the attached roster; E-mail me at **C2ponder@aol.com**; or telephone 256-350-7745)

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**Mark your calendars now! Oct. 26-28, 2001  
our next Hemingway weekend in Petoskey.**

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Annual dues for 2001 are payable now. Please take the time to fill out the form below before you become busy with the holiday season and forget us! Your annual contribution provides our operating funds and supports our efforts in promoting education regarding the Hemingway/Michigan relationship and its importance. Thank you for your help and for your participation!

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**Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday  
season from the Board of Directors of the  
Michigan Hemingway Society!** 

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM ---Please Mail Check Payable to Michigan Hemingway Society To:  
Michigan Hemingway Society, PO Box 953, Petoskey, Michigan 49770**

Dues are \$10 annually and were included in your registration if you attended Oct. 2000 conference. Life membership is \$100

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please let us know your areas of interest.