

MICHIGAN

Hemingway

NEWS

SOCIETY

Newsletter

February 1994

President's Corner

Welcome to the first number of the first issue of the Michigan Hemingway Society Newsletter. It will occur from time to time each year, with a special number, such as this one, devoted primarily to extraordinary events--in this case, the Hemingway Walk/Weekend of Oct. 23-24, 1993, and the formalizing of the Society's structure.

This corner will keep you posted on business matters such as these: The fiscal year begins Jan. 1, 1994; those of you who have already paid your dues are in good standing until Dec. 31, 1994; we now have about fifty dues-paying members. The Board of Directors consists of an ever-expanding number of members, of whom the officers are: Joseph Waldmeir, President; Frederic Svoboda, Vice President & Editor; Audrey Collins, Executive Secretary; Michael Wilson, Treasurer and Business Manager. The headquarters of the society is the Little Traverse Historical Museum, but since the museum is closed during the cold months of the year we have a separate mailing address: P. O. Box 2039, Petoskey, Michigan 49770. Phone messages may go to (616) 347-7024.

We invite applications for Board members, particularly from people in the Petoskey area whose interest in Hemingway and the Society includes a desire to work voluntarily to make it and its events resounding successes.

Over the next quarter, the Board will work toward writing a Constitution with bylaws, and establishing standing and *ad hoc* committees. Members will be kept posted on our progress in this newsletter.

Again, welcome to this first issue of the Newsletter, which signals the beginning of the Michigan Hemingway Society as a going and growing organization.

Sincerely,

JOE

Lorian Hemingway Highlights October Weekend:



Lorian at Windemere
On Walloon Lake, MI

Lorian Hemingway was the keynote speaker for the Society's October 1993 Weekend in Petoskey in a discussion of her own novel, *Halking into the River*, as well as the debts and burdens assumed by a creative writer who finds herself an heir to the Hemingway name and reputation. Among the highlights of her excursion from the Pacific northwest to northern Michigan were the opportunities to meet her cousin, James Sanford, and great-aunt, Madelaine ("Sunny") Hemingway Miller.

Other Weekend activities of note included a boat tour from Charlevoix to Horton Bay narrated by Kenneth Marek, and Brad Leech's walking tour of Petoskey locales related to Hemingway's life and work. The Little Traverse Players presented Reader's Theatre interpretations of "The Killers," "Soldier's Home," and "Cat in the Rain," while Joseph Waldmeir examined "Hemingway in His Time." Frederic Svoboda discussed aspects of "Big Two-Hearted River" which related to Michigan history.

Dates & Speaker for 1994 Hemingway Weekend Set:

The 1994 Hemingway Weekend has been scheduled for October 21-23, in Petoskey. The special speaker will be William McCranor Henderson, author of *I Killed Hemingway: A Novel* (1993, St. Martin's Press). Henderson's novel is at once serious and comic, a fictional what-if in which a literary hack ghost-writes a memoir for a Key West derelict who claims to have written some of Hemingway's works. The novel is a meditation on fame, pop culture, literature, and Ernest Hemingway's relationship to all the above--with a side trip to Paris of the 1920s.

Henderson's talk promises to furnish an entertaining and interesting evening.

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

An Interview with George, of "The Killers"

We are working to obtain the rights to an interview with the real-life prototype of the "George" of the classic Hemingway short story, "The Killers." As scholars have discovered, the first draft of the 1925 story was set in Petoskey, in the lunchroom of the now-vanished Park Hotel (near the current Penn Plaza and Perry Hotel). The Park was owned by the family of George O'Neal, and in 1972 he was interviewed, the interview subsequently appearing in a privately published family history. We intend to reproduce that interview as well as period photographs of the hotel exterior and of George O'Neal in the lunch room's interior.

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

A Walking Tour of Hemingway's Petoskey:

Petoskey City Planner Brad Leech has agreed to produce a brief written version of his popular walking tour of Hemingway's Petoskey. He is now hard at work on the manuscript, and we hope to have it in the hands of members at about year's end.

Board of Directors:

- Joseph Waldmeir, President, Michigan State University
- Frederic Svoboda, Vice President & Editor,
University of Michigan-Flint
- Audrey Collins, Executive Secretary, Petoskey
- Michael Wilson, Treasurer and Business Manager, Petoskey
- Bob Clock, Charlevoix
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- Brad Leech, City Planner, City of Petoskey
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- Kenneth L. Marek, North Western Michigan College, Traverse City
- James S. Sanford, Grosse Pointe, Michigan
- Kendall Stanley, *The Petoskey News Review*
