

## President's corner

Dear members and other friends,

It has been a very busy and productive year so far for The Michigan Hemingway Society board of directors! Immediately after our election in October, I was approached by The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park (Illinois) the birthplace of EH, to participate in the planning and funding of a traveling exhibition for Hemingway's centennial year, 1999. Their director, Jennifer Wheeler, has put together a wonderful grant proposal to obtain funding for this worthy project from various sources, one of which is the Michigan Humanities Council. As their sponsoring non-profit agency in Michigan, we will have input on the planning

and access to the exhibit for our "home" state. Vice President Fred Svoboda and I are serving on the planning committee; Fred as a consulting scholar, and I as a courtesy because I wrote a supporting letter and signed the grant application!

Fred and I are also involved in the planning of a documentary being made by McGowan Film and Video of Chicago, "Hemingway Before Paris" for the same reasons. I love having the opportunity to represent our organization on these important projects. It enhances our visibility and prestige to be involved in these things,

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## In memoria

### Society president eulogizes Bill Ohle

#### Memorial

In January we had the sad news of the death of our dear friend and board member, Bill Ohle. He is sincerely missed by all who knew him, and visits to Petoskey and Horton Bay will never be the same for us. Through the extreme generosity of board member Jim Sanford and his wife Marian, we were able to donate an original invitation to Hemingway's wedding to Hadley Richardson (his first) to the Little Traverse Bay Historical Society. You may view it in the glass case which is part of the Hemingway display in their museum in Petoskey.

Michigan Hemingway Society president Charlotte Ponder spoke at a memorial service for Bill which was held on April 19 in Charlevoix. By request of the board of directors, her speech is reprinted here in the newsletter. There are some wonderful tributes to Bill recounted in it. Our 1997 conference will be dedicated to his memory.

The following is the text of the speech I delivered at Bill Ohle's memorial service in Charlevoix on April 19, 1997, on behalf of the Michigan Hemingway Society:

#### Remembering Bill Ohle (Approximately as delivered)

Good afternoon. My name is Charlotte Ponder. I serve as president of the Michigan Hemingway Society, and I have come here from my home in Decatur, Ala., to share in this farewell to our dear friend and colleague, Bill Ohle. I want to try to let you know something of the breadth and importance of Bill's influence in the field of Hemingway scholarship. You gathered here know what his means to you and to this whole area, and what good he did here, but you may not know the breadth of his reach, nor the importance to people in many other places. At the time of his death, Bill was serving as a member of

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## Planning for 1999!

Your board of directors has been working for the last two years on a joint conference with the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park Ill., to honor the centennial of Hemingway's birth on July 21, 1999.

The first part of the conference will be in Oak Park, from July 16 or 17 to July 21. We will then have transportation available to travel to Petoskey for the Michigan aspect of Hemingway's life and work, from July 23 to 25.

This conference will be a very special one, with many important scholars, writers, Hemingway family members, and other celebrities. Watch future newsletters and our

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## Reaching us:

The Michigan Hemingway Society can also be reached via the internet at: <http://www.freeway.net/community/civic/hemingway/> or if you prefer the regular mails, at P.O. Box 2039, Petoskey, MI 49770.

# A tribute to Bill Ohle

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our board of directors. He had also done so in previous years, and throughout the life of the organization, he has been a great contributor and respected member. Our society has received an outpouring of sympathy from Hemingway scholars and fans all over the world for the Ohle family, and for us, upon losing Bill's beloved physical presence. But in addition to saying goodbye and to grieving our loss, we also come celebrate his life and our sharing of it and his continued spiritual presence among us.

I would like to share with you some of those wonderful messages we have received, for they exemplify the type of effect Bill had in many different ways on many people's lives and how far-flung his influence was. From my good friend Paul Montgomery of the Brussels, Belgium, bureau of The New York Times: "You might tell Bill Ohle's widow of my far away regrets. I ordered the [first] book from him when it came out, got a copy from him promptly and efficiently, and read it with delight. It was just the right combination of local knowledge and research, without any of the pretentiousness you often get from academics. I remember wishing at the time that every town in America could have someone like him to preserve their place from forgetfulness. I sure hope they're fixing to reprint it for your conference." (This verb form would be a reference to my Southern address. We do not prepare to do a thing — we "fix" to do it.)

From Jack Jobst, who teaches at Michigan Technical College and is a recognized expert on the U.P. and Hemingway stories, particularly "Big Two Hearted River," and the keynote speaker for our October 1997 conference in Petoskey:

"In 1982 I found myself at the Bill Ohle front door in Horton's Bay. I think I was checking references to Hemingway points of interest across the street. Bill invited me in to talk about the author. Mrs. Ohle, I think, was fixing dinner, but she was patient with me and my

impromptu visit. Bill and I talked for a wonderful half hour. When he published his book some years later, I sent him the money for a copy, and he very graciously said he remembered me (I'm not sure he really did) and signed the book before mailing it to me.

"He was a gentleman and a scholar, and I treasured that brief visit with him. Although only a half hour, it meant a great deal to me, and spurred my incipient interest in Hemingway (and now we have a writings and research on Hemingway's stories which came about because of Bill's passing that torch). I was pleased to see Bill again at the Up in Michigan Conference in Petoskey. He was a wonderful resource."

From our dear friend and dedicated board member, Ken Marek, who teaches at Northwestern Michigan College and who is also an expert on the U.P. and on Hemingway-related sites in Michigan:

"Dear Charlotte, I certainly share your sadness about the death of Bill Ohle. Not only did Bill make many contributions to the Hemingway Society, he was a generous friend to all who were genuinely interested in Hemingway and his Michigan stories. For more than 10 years Bill guided my American literature students to Hemingway sites around Horton Bay, charmed them with wonderful stories, and invited us into his home. It was a thrill for me to watch him interact with students of all ages, for they all loved him. He will be missed. I hope the Michigan Hemingway Society can make some fitting contribution or gesture in Bill's memory."

Well, Ken and Peg, family, and friends, I hope we have found that "fitting

gesture": so many have wished for as we present to the Little Traverse Historical Society, in memory of Bill Ohle, an original invitation to the wedding of Ernest Hemingway and Hadley Richardson, which was held in Horton Bay in September of 1921. That occasion was one which Bill enjoyed describing in conversation and in his writing, because he was one of the small boys mentioned in his second book who "waited outside as the wedding party entered the church and slipped in beside their respective parents."

The invitation is to be displayed in the Hemingway case at the Little Traverse Historical Society Museum. Every guest who looks at the invitation will also see Bill's name, and that guest will remember him and his many contributions to this area and to Hemingway scholarship. If he or she did not have the privilege to know Bill, the guest may ask someone about him. In this way, his memory will be not only preserved, but shared and spread. Bill got a kick out of telling us the fact that he was the last living male guest who attended that wedding. And we all got enormous joy out of having Bill as a colleague and a friend. Thank you.

The delivery of this speech was extremely difficult and emotional. The text was interspersed with many apologies for loss of composure. Following the service, I received thanks from many people and comforting hugs and reassurances from friends and strangers alike. I wish every member could have been there to hear all the tributes and memories to our friend and colleague. We miss him greatly already.

## Hemingway birthday plans set

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webpage ([www.freeway.net/community/civic/hemingway/](http://www.freeway.net/community/civic/hemingway/)) for more news as plans firm up.

Our tentative transportation plans include motor coaches, lake ferry, and maybe an old excursion train. It would be lovely to pull up in front of the Perry Hotel on those tracks — the same place the Hemingways used to arrive to change to a dummy train on their way to Windemere Cottage. If the cost per passenger is not excessive, we will try to incorporate it.

# Board has had a busy, productive year

Submitted by Chuck Toton  
Board Activities

The board of directors that was elected at the October '96 conference has been at work on a variety of projects. First, however, we want to recognize the energetic and proactive leadership of our new president, Charlotte Ponder.

Committed to improved relations with Petoskey civic leaders, Charlotte has traveled north from her home in Alabama on several occasions in the past nine months. She attended and spoke at Bill Ohle's memorial service April 19. In May she met with the Historical Society and the Visitors' Bureau about their plans for a writers' conference to be held near the time of our October '97 meeting. Thanks to Charlotte, the MHS now enjoys more solid working relations with its host city than heretofore.

Kudos also to the Sanfords for their abundant hospitality. The March meeting held in their Grosse Pointe home was bookended by two sumptuous meals. On June 15 the venue shifted to their cottage on Walloon Lake, where again we feasted before getting down to business. Some highlights:

- Audrey McMullen was elected to the newly-created office of VP for Membership. She will maintain a database of members and keep postings current on

our Webpage, which she created.

- Publicity brainstorming focused on the broader dissemination of our newsletter: to colleges and libraries, English departments, booksellers, newspapers. The board wishes to establish a regular schedule of publication: August, late fall, and spring issues under the expert editorship of Kendall Stanley. All society members are encouraged to send him items of interest to Hemingway enthusiasts.

- The Society would like to republish Bill Ohle's book on Horton Bay as a memorial tribute. Fred Svoboda has spoken to the MSU Press about this and they have expressed some interest.

- Jim Sanford very generously gave us a well-preserved invitation to EH's wedding to Hadley Richardson on Sept. 3, 1921, in Horton Bay. The board immediately voted to present this treasure to the Little Traverse Historical Museum, along with a commemorative plaque explaining the Bill Ohle connection.

- The City of Petoskey is planning an October '97 writers' conference and has sought our help. Charlotte secured James Plath and Lorian Hemingway as conference directors, their expenses to be underwritten by the local organizers. Sponsors want to showcase Petoskey as a cultural center in its own right, and their activities will not conflict or compete with

ours. The Society will recommend regional authors as participants and will encourage development of a theme, such as "A Sense of Place."

- On June 14, 10 board members traveled to the UP to reconnoiter sites for the Oct. 18 conference bus trip. On a gorgeous day of early summer, marred only by marauding hordes of mosquitoes, the group looked into the Two-Hearted River at Highbridge and at its mouth at Lake Superior, then on to the Fox River at Seney. The trip was invaluable in firming up October plans. Besides having a look at the two rivers, we will lunch at the Falls Hotel in Newberry, visit the historical museum at Seney, and possibly be treated to a reading by Moe Cohen at the railroad bridge over the Fox.

- Conference speakers this year are Jack Jobst and Lorian Hemingway. Jack will keynote at the Friday evening dinner by way of preparation for the Saturday excursion. Lorian speaks at the Sunday morning brunch. Both writers, we hope, will accompany us to the UP on Saturday.

- The October board meeting is set for 8 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 18 — a breakfast meeting in the dining room of the Perry Hotel. Since this is a prelude to the UP day trip, we look for 100 percent member attendance. Treat yourselves on a crisp October morning to the Perry's fabulous cherry French toast and join the fun!

## Year has been busy one for new president

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and, more importantly, it allows us to fulfill our mission of education about Hemingway in Michigan in a larger way without expenditure from our small budget. As a bonus, I get to work with outstanding scholars like Fred Svoboda and Susan Beegel, and meet new friends and colleagues from other parts of the country.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see announcements concerning new activities being developed in

conjunction with our conference. I attended meetings concerning these events in both May and June, and now I participate via e-mail and telephone. Working with the Chamber of Commerce members and the Convention and Visitors Bureau in Petoskey is a real pleasure. Everyone there has made me feel completely welcome and a part of their team.

The same is true of the Little Traverse Bay Historical Society, whose members accepted me to the point of honoring me with an invitation to take coffee with

"The Coterie." This group is made up of "hard-core" volunteers, and delightful folks they are. In short, the city is very friendly to all comers, and if you haven't explored beyond the Perry Hotel in the past, please do so. You are in for a treat, especially if you do as I do and "take up with" (southern term?) everyone you encounter.

So, "y'all come" to the October, 1997, Michigan Hemingway Conference! A good time will be had by all!

Best regards always,  
Charlotte Ponder, President

# Writing contest gearing up in Petoskey

Another exciting development in the evolution of our annual conference is that the civic leaders of Petoskey are starting a new Hemingway festival which will be held in conjunction with our conference dates. There will be activities such as a tennis tournament, fly casting competitions and demonstrations, fly tying demonstrations, and possibly (depending on licensing, etc.) a young Hemingway look-alike contest.

In addition to the festival, the Chamber of Commerce group asked our board to develop a writers' conference and short story contest for Petoskey. In particular, they wanted it to be directed by James Plath and Lorian Hemingway, who recently lost their

conference in Key West. I'm sure you've all seen some publicity on that situation. (In that vein, rest assured that the Chamber folks are doing all of these things properly, with licensing as required and so forth.)

Dr. Plath and Ms. Hemingway have agreed with enthusiasm (they love the area and our educational philosophy), but the question of funding is as yet unsettled. We hope to begin, at least in a small way, this coming October 16-17. You will receive separate mailings concerning both the festival and the writers' conference as details are finalized.

The most exciting section of the writers' conference for us as a society will be the Young Writers' Competition. Students will

submit samples of writing to win recognition, conference fees, and we hope other expenses. Encouraging young writers and giving some of them the opportunity to visit Petoskey and work with outstanding established writers is a thrilling contribution for us to make to education in Michigan and the region. We have selected wonderful writers to invite, and where better to savor the importance of place in writing than in Northern Michigan, where so many great writers—including Hemingway, of course—have found inspiration?

Wish us good luck on the funding to make it happen, and watch for further news!

# Giggles, tips and trips in Michigan

By Ken Marek

## Hemingway in Charlevoix?

Someone in Charlevoix has a sharp sense of humor about Petoskey's claim to Ernest Hemingway ("Hemingway stayed here," "Hemingway ate here," etc.)

The sign on a Charlevoix restaurant proclaims: "The Acorn Cafe: Hemingway Never Ate Here."

## UP trip a pleasure

On Saturday, June 14, nine members of the board and new society member Ardian Rogers spent a beautiful late spring day in a "trial run" for the bus tour being planned for Saturday, Oct. 18, during the '97 fall conference.

Leaving from the Perry Hotel at 9 a.m., drivers Cecil Ponder and Jim Sanford pointed their respective vans for Newberry, where the group visited the historic Falls Hotel as a possible site for lunch during the October tour.

After lunch at Timber Charlie's in

Newberry, the group proceeded to High Bridge on the Two-Hearted River, where conference participants will be able to view the river with the name that Hemingway loved and "borrowed" — even if he never actually fished or camped there.

That stop was followed by an impromptu "detour" to the mouth of the Two Hearted River on Lake Superior. Unfortunately, time will not permit such a visit during the fall conference, but we will certainly recommend the area to conference participants who may want to return to the Two Hearted on their own in the future.

Everyone was a bit surprised to find the lakeside temperature at 57 degrees in the sun! It was a bracing walk down the beach to the mouth of the river, where several members found agates and other beautiful rock treasures to take home. Then it was off to Seney for a visit to the Seney Historical Museum and the railroad bridge on the Fox River where Nick Adams stood in the beginning of "Big Two-Hearted River."

The last stop on the reconnaissance mission was the state forest campground on the Fox River Road. Here the members

battled the giant mosquitoes and tenacious black flies (no need to worry about those in October!), while taking a quick look at the Fox River and surrounding area.

Then it was back on the road to Petoskey, where Audrey McMullen graciously hosted us for a late dinner. Not only was it a very enjoyable day, but it should prove invaluable in our planning for the fall conference.

## Seney and Fox featured in National Geographic

The June 1997 issue of National Geographic magazine contained an article titled "Hemingway's Many Hearted Fox River." Written by renowned outdoor writer and editor Nick Lyons, the article is illustrated with color photos of stunning beauty. Anyone who loves the Upper Peninsula, the Fox River or Hemingway's stories should find this piece to be a treasure. And it will be excellent background reading for anyone planning to take our bus trip in October.

# THE MICHIGAN HEMINGWAY SOCIETY

1997 CONFERENCE      OCTOBER 17-19, 1997

at the PERRY HOTEL  
PETOSKEY, MICHIGAN

## *AN EXCURSION TO THE SITES OF "BIG TWO-HEARTED RIVER"*

Friday, October 17

- 12 pm Book Fair in the lobby (until 7 pm)
- 6 pm Welcome and Social Hour (with cash bar)
- 7 pm Dinner

Speaker: Jack Jobst - The Big Two-Hearted

Saturday, October 18

- 8 am Breakfast on your own
- 9 am Leave by motorcoach for Michigan's Upper Peninsula from  
Perry Hotel
- 11 am Arrive in Newberry
  - Visit the Two-Hearted River at High Bridge
  - Lunch at the historic, frontier-style Falls Hotel
  - Arrive in Seney
    - Visit Seney Museum
    - Visit Fox River at the Railroad Bridge
    - Visit East Branch campground & fish hatchery
- 7 pm Arrive in Petoskey (Dinner on your own)

Sunday, October 19

- 9 am Breakfast at the Perry Hotel
  - A Backpack Demonstration by Fred Svoboda
  - "The Things Nick Adams Carried to the Big Two-Hearted River"
  - Speaker: Lorian Hemingway
- 11 am A Walking tour of Hemingway's Petoskey  
with Brad Leech

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Mail to: THE MICHIGAN HEMINGWAY SOCIETY  
PO Box 2039  
Petoskey, MI 49770

Registration for the 1997 Michigan Hemingway Conference Oct 17-19, 1997

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Conference fee is \$130 per person,  
(\$120 before October 1st)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(Includes 1998 membership)

Lodging is not included in the conference fee; for reservations contact  
the Perry Hotel at 800 456-1917 (or Visitors Bureau at 616 347-4150)

# The Things Nick Carried to the Big Two-Hearted River: An Estimate by Frederic Svoboda

ITEM	WEIGHT
Duluth Canoe Pack w/ tumpline	5 lbs
brown canvas tent (tarp)	5 lbs
rope	8 oz
leather thong	1 oz
cheesecloth for mosquito netting	8 oz
three blankets	6 lbs
camp axe	3 lbs 8 oz
pocketknife	3 oz
paper sack of nails	10 oz
can of pork and beans	1 lb
can of spaghetti	1 lb 8 oz
can of apricots	10 oz
can of condensed milk	1 lb
jar of catsup	1 lb
jar of apple butter	1 lb
loaf of bread	12 oz
large onion	1 lb
buckwheat pancake flour	2 lbs
crisco or similar grease in can	1 lb
wire grill	10 oz
frying pan	2 lbs 8 oz
tin cup	6 oz
tin plate	6 oz
spoon	2 oz
oiled (waxed?) paper	8 oz
canvas bucket	1 lb 4 oz
coffee pot & coffee	1 lb
matches	2 oz
empty milk bottle	6 oz

leather rod-case & fly rod      3 lbs  
fly reel                                      10 oz  
aluminum leader box w/ gut leaders   8 oz  
fish hooks and flies in fly book      4 oz  
flour sack                                    1 lb  
landing net                                  1 lb 8 oz  
cigarettes                                    4 oz

**maybe:**

.22 Colt Woodsman pistol (from Hopkins on previous trip)

2lb 10 oz

Kodak camera (from Hopkins on previous trip)

1 lb

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**Pack Weight:**

**55 lbs 8 oz plus clothing and any additional food**

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clothing mentioned:

wool socks

boots (called "shoes" interchangeably, though Nick might have a pair of canvas shoes for wading as well as hiking boots)

pants

hat

khaki shirt w/ two pockets

**Minimal Clothing Weight: 7-10 lbs**

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**Total Weight Carried, at least: 62-65 lbs**

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