

Original Masthead Illustration by Will Bradley

Ishpeming Area Historical Society • Newsletter • Summer 2024

SUMMER EVENTS

Home Tour • Sunday, June 30th

Ishpeming Cemetery Tours
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
in July and August

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Ishpeming Historic Places Tour (Home Tour Fundraiser)

Please join us for our Historic Places Home Tour Fundraiser this summer, Sunday, June 30, Noon to 4:00 p.m. All sites will be in Cliff's Eighth Addition.

Featured will be the following:



770 and 764 Mather Ave. Home Tour Sites

The interesting and beautiful mid-century Koenig home located at 770 Mather Avenue, a 4,500 square foot home designed by Chicago architect Winton Elting and built in 1963-64 by Dr. Harry and Debbie (Dubinsky) Koenig. The current owners, only the second family to reside in this home, have completed some careful, necessary restoration, while at the same time maintaining the mid-century character.



The old Miner's First National Bank and Trust building located at 1700 Ash Street which was built in 1967. After the bank moved out it was extensively remodeled and became a State Farm office. The third and current owner has recently completed renovations and has renamed the building Artisan Studios where it serves as her creative workspace and recording studio. The original bank vault is still present.

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The **St. Joseph Catholic Church** located at 1889 Prairie Avenue will serve refreshments in conjunction with the home tour. St. Joseph's may have some historic items on display during the tour, and do not miss the wonderful, sweeping, Roger Junak painting of Jesus at play with children and their pets in the front hallway.

Tickets are a suggested \$10 donation to the society, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Advance tickets will be available by mid-June at the Main Street Antique Mall in Ishpeming. Tickets can also be obtained on the day of the event at the featured sites (cash or check only). Proceeds from this event will benefit the Ishpeming Area Historical Society. For more information call the Main Street Antique Mall at 906-486-8680 or check the societies' Facebook page. The brochure provided as the ticket will describe the tour along with a map to the event locations. Please note, in case of rain, and or road construction, IAHS will have hospital booties available, or shoes may be removed.

Ishpeming Cemetery Tours, Tuesday evenings in July & August.



The Ishpeming Area Historical Society will again host its popular Ishpeming Cemetery Tour with a new group of interesting citizens. Included will be Al Quaal, who helped plan for, and oversaw the development and management of Ishpeming's Winter Sports Area (now Al Quaal Recreation Area) in the 1930's. Also, on the

tour will be two sisters and wartime nurses. Ethel (Anderson) Remer who served as a nurse in World War 1 and Helen Anderson who served as a nurse in World War 2. The tour will be hosted by Ishpeming historian, Karen Kasper. The tours will kick off on Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30 p.m. and will be held each subsequent Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. through the end of August. All tours will begin at the sexton's office. This is a walking tour and will last about an hour. In case of inclement weather, the tour will be canceled. The suggested donation is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students 12-17, and children under 12 are free. All proceeds from the tour will benefit the Ishpeming Area Historical Society. For more information call the Main Street Antique Mall at 906-486-8680.

Son of Ishpeming Roger Junak, Artist

By David Lee White, IAHS Board Member



Photo of Roger in his home by Tom Buchkoe 1988

Author's note: Regrettably, I never had the opportunity to meet Roger Junak in person. I did however, have the pleasure of visiting his home. Soon after he passed away in 2022, Roger's family called the Peter White Public Library (PWPL) and asked if the library could use his art book collection. As a longtime member of the Friends of PWPL, I respond to messages concerning large donations to the library. I made arrangements

for our visit and assured the family that the Friends of PWPL would find new homes for Roger's treasured art books. On a warm, sunny August day, three Friends and two vehicles (we were warned that there were a lot of big heavy art books) took off for Roger's home on Greenwood Road west of Ishpeming to box up and transport the books back to the library. We arrived, and I for one was struck by the beautiful rural setting of Roger's boyhood home. As we walked up to the front door, we were greeted by functional items on the small porch that had been transformed into art, while somehow, still serving its original purpose. Once we walked in the small home, we found ourselves surrounded with...art. It was everywhere we looked. I found myself looking around, trying to understand what I was seeing. Everyday items, creatively transformed into art. I'm sure I had a big smile on my face as I tried to take everything in. An artist had lived in this house, and through the years, had transformed the house into...art. Snapping out of my wonderment, I realized we had a job to do. We were shown Roger's studio where many large volumes were stacked on shelves. As my companions began boxing up the books, I began carrying the boxes out to our vehicles. Each time I returned for another box, I could not help stopping for a minute, while I tried to absorb another piece of Roger's art with my eyes. I lost track of time but I believe our task took about an hour or two. As we turned to leave, saying goodbye to our hosts, I took one last glance around at this unique, warm, beautiful home. I realized that in some small way, I had met and had been welcomed by Roger through his art. Without a doubt, an artist had lived in this house.

Roger Michael Junak was born November 27, 1943, the youngest son of George J. and Margaret M. (Morin) Junak. At the time of Roger's birth, the Junak family operated a logging business and lived on Greenwood Road in Ely Township. During a 2002 interview by A. M. Kelley for an article in Marquette's Mining Journal, Roger reminisced about his childhood and shared a favorite memory, he remembers his father sitting at the dining room table telling and illustrating animal stories. "Now as an adult I think how tired he must have been, working in the woods all day, we didn't play baseball, none of those things, I wasn't interested in sports. But I can still see him drawing these little stylized squirrels and other animals. He was a kind and gentle man." Roger also recalled that as a child, each payday his parents would bring him paper, crayons, maybe some watercolors or pencils, "it's all I've ever wanted, to be an artist, and they (his parents) were sensitive to that. I've always marveled at that. I was off in my own little world and they let me be."

As a young boy Roger had thoughts about becoming

a Franciscan Brother. His parents, who were devout Catholics, convinced Roger to finish school before making a decision about his future. Becoming an artist as a profession began to take root after Roger met and began learning from his high school art teacher, Tynne (Kauppila) Ostlund, who became a lifelong mentor. Ostlund helped Roger pursue scholarships and upon graduating from Ishpeming High School in 1961, Roger received a scholarship to the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Roger then continued his studies at St. Francis College in Fort Wayne, Indiana where he received a BA teaching degree.



Portion of Tasson Home Mural painted by Roger

With the Vietnam War emerging as a major conflict in the late 1960's, Roger decided to join the military and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968, and due to his education and artistic talent, served as an illustrator/graphic artist at Fort Meade, Maryland. Roger received an honorable discharge from the U. S. Army in May of 1970 and moved back to the family homestead on Greenwood Road to help his mother as his father George had passed away the previous July.

Now back home in Marquette County, Roger began his art career in earnest. He took on many commissions and sold his artwork at local art fairs such as Art on the Rocks in Marquette. Roger painted many murals in our local area such as the wonderful wildlife mural in the children's library in Ishpeming's Carnegie Public Library, two large murals and a series of artwork pieces depicting the history of skiing at the U.S. Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, and private murals such as the one commissioned by Patricia and Angelo Tasson for their basement which was christened "Tasson's Tarry Room" and used to entertain their guests. Roger was a devout Catholic, and as one would expect, many of the area catholic churches display his murals and framed

artwork. Mama Mia's Italian Restaurant in downtown Ishpeming has 8 wonderful "window" framed paintings of the Italian countryside in the restaurant's back room which were designed and painted by Roger.

After his mother passed away in 1978, Roger lived alone in the old homestead and opened up his home as the "Art Stop" as a way of marketing his art. In 1988 Roger agreed to an interview at the Art Stop by Mary Kinnunen who wrote an article about Roger and his art for the October 1988 issue of Marquette Monthly. Kinnunen wrote "Junak's sole income is from his art. Most of it is commissioned work, such as the piece he recently installed in the Humane Society building on Snowfield Road, or one of the many portraits he does. Much of his artwork is concocted out of recycled 'junk.' What he does with this junk is to transform it into something which in many ways can only be classified as awesome. Subtle awesome. It's awesome because it's everywhere. One way to look at the Art Stop is as one huge, eclectic piece of art. For example, one day Junak decided he wanted a column. Salad bowls, clay birds, wooden rings and bookends were some of the materials used in its construction. The column now serves as a nice breaking point between the gallery and Junak's 'sleep space.' Junak has created different rooms to fulfill different functions and moods. Junak explained that the kitchen is 'village peasant,' the sleep space is 'Santa Fe,' and the gallery is 'Spanish Mission.' Roger also used his art to work out personal conflicts – of war, of daily life and of church. One of Roger's favorite pieces is a wall hanging of a dove made out of Army and Navy blankets. Another is a carved resurrection symbol of an American Indian on the cross, except his hands and feet are free, and he is looking upward. 'I wanted to show what that act (Jesus' crucifixion) made possible for us.' He says he arrived at using the Indian pretty much at random. It was the artist showing through the philosophy – the Indian worked nicely into place because Junak could use some beads and feathers to bring an interesting visual element into the sculpture."

Soon after returning from serving in the Army in 1970, Roger began teaching art classes through the Ishpeming-Negaunee Community Schools. After the schools made cutbacks, a strong community desire to continue the art instruction found Roger holding classes at the Negaunee Senior Center which hosted three eight-week art sessions a year. Many people in the Ishpeming-Negaunee area participated in Roger's classes for years. One of Roger's students, Gertrude Borlace, was quoted in an article for the Mining Journal "Without Roger's help, we would have gotten nowhere at all, He's a great teacher."

In 1972 Roger entered the national Bicentennial Medal Design Competition sponsored by the Franklin

Mint. In June of that year, Roger was notified that out of 403 submissions, his design had won first place for Michigan's Bicentennial Commemorative Medal. Junak was quoted as saying that his design depicts three basic contributions that Michigan gave the nation "The top section shows a simplified motif of trees indicative of the abundant forests of the Upper Peninsula and their value to pulp and paper." "The central portion portrays an underground mine with stockpiles of iron ore. I placed this theme in the center for importance since iron ore is a vital national resource with an unlimited number of uses." "I pictured the industrialized lower regions of our state in the bottom third, stressing the automotive industry which suggests Henry Ford's bequest to Michigan and the entire United States." Roger received \$5,000 for his first-place design.



In 1975 Roger was chosen to design a **commemorative ski medallion for the National Ski Hall of Fame**. The medallion features "Snowshoe" Thompson, a native Norwegian who delivered mail on three-meter-long skis in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Thompson centers the medallion surrounded by alpine, Nordic and cross-country skiers and with the words "National Ski Hall of Fame." The reverse of the medallion features the old ski hall of fame on Mather Avenue. The plan was to produce 50 silver and 2,000 bronze medallions for public distribution.

1977 found Roger commissioned to produce several paintings illustrating the history of skiing that were featured in the "old" National Ski Hall of Fame on Mather Avenue in Ishpeming. 1993 found Roger commissioned once again at the new National Ski Hall of Fame where he painted two very large murals on the second floor. One of the murals depicts the famed Tenth Mountain Division, a U.S. Army division who often operated on skis during World War 2 and whose veterans started much of the U.S. ski industry.

1987 found Roger working with the Friends of Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library to produce a large painted portrait of Margaret Dundon who began working at Carnegie in 1934 and was head librarian for 34 years. The portrait was presented to the Friends by Junak during a special ceremony at which time the por-

trait was hung in the newly renamed Margaret Dundon Reading Room.



10th Mountain Division Mural at Ski Hall of Fame

Roger became known for his religious artwork in addition to his secular work. In a 2001 interview by Angela C. Johnson for the July 6, 2001 issue of The U.P. Catholic newsletter, Roger stated that he didn't set out to create religious works specifically, but that direction for his craft simply evolved. Johnson wrote "The talent of religious artist Roger Junak can be seen in many parishes throughout the Diocese of Marquette. Junak has created a three-dimensional painting of the last supper, an altar backdrop for St. Michael Parish in Marquette and a painting of Jesus at play with children for the nursery at St. Joseph Church in Ishpeming. Another piece for St. Michael's that Junak said he 'really, really felt good about' was a processional cross he painted that depicts a triumphal Christ." Sally Luft, pastoral associate for St. Michael's Parrish stated "Junak is a deeply spiritual man and has a very strong background in religious art history."

Roger passed away of natural causes on August 11, 2022, he was 78 years old. During the 2002 interview with A. M. Kelley of the Mining Journal, Roger reflected about his life and said that he's never regretted the choice he made long ago to be an artist. "At some point you have to make a decision about what you really want to do, I wanted to be an artist. I hung in there, kept plugging away at it. I do my art thing. Some years it's very sparse, other years it's not quite so bad." Commissioned by individuals, local churches and businesses to make art, he earned a living that supported his simple lifestyle. "I've never been terribly successful, but it depends what you mean by success, I'm rich in my own way."

I would like to thank members of Roger Junak's family for much of the information in this article.

A Short History of Cliffs Eighth Addition, A Modern Neighborhood

By David Lee White, IAHS Board Member

In 1951, the City of Ishpeming had a critical housing shortage. The city, which had about 9,000 residents (2020 census showed Ishpeming with about 6,100 residents), was home to a booming iron mining industry. The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company (CCI) alone was operating six iron mines in the Ishpeming district, employing on average about 1,500 men above and below ground. The ranks of the veteran iron miners who had worked throughout World War 2 suppling the vital iron ore which had built America's war machine, had been swelled by the returning men who fought in the European and Pacific theatres. These men and women, referred to as "The Greatest Generation" by journalist Tom Brokaw, returned to their sweethearts, found jobs and started families. A room in a boarding house would not pass muster.

Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, with a confidence in the future of the Ishpeming community and the Marquette iron ore range, sought to relieve the housing shortage with a planned development of 80 acres situated between the winter sports club area (Al Quaal Recreation Area) to the north, the Marquette County Road Commission property and Ash Street (alley) and Miracle Street (alley) on the south, Prairie Avenue on the west, and Walnut Street and Mather Avenue on the east. The community would be called the Cliffs Eighth Addition and would contain 261 lots, mainly residential with 10 lots designated as Residential B where certain commercial construction would be allowed. CCI announced that its objective with regards to the Cliffs Eighth Addition was solely altruistic, had no intention of realizing any profit, and would build homes that were within reach of the average resident. CCI employees in the Ishpeming





1951 Artists Rendering of Cliffs 8th Edition Neighborhood

and Negaunee districts would be given priority.

The Cliffs Realty Company (CRC) was formed by CCI with the responsibility of platting the lots, site improvements, installing sanitary sewer and water lines, grading and hard surfacing the streets, installing curbs and gutters, installing sidewalks, and making available electric service and telephone lines. CRC planned to jump start Cliffs Eighth Addition by building 100 homes by the end of 1951, by June, CRC had awarded construction contracts for about 100 houses. More than 100 lots would be made available for residents who wanted to plan and build their own home, as long as the construction met with the standards of the development. Two of the lots at the extreme north-east corner of the development would be made available to the Ishpeming Ski Club for the construction of a national ski museum.

The homes to be built by CRC were of two basic types. Series “A” houses are so designed that a room or rooms may be completed on the second floor. Series “B” houses are designed with no second-floor rooms. In order to avoid monotony, the front of the homes will have 12 variations available, making 24 variations in the exterior appearance of the home. There were also additions available to the basic plans such as attached or detached garages, extra bedrooms on the first or second floors, and enlarged kitchens. CRC planned on working with prospective buyers as to the location of the lot, series “A” or “B” house, and any of the available additions to the home. The plan was to “scatter” the homes built by CRC throughout the development instead of bunching them together in one section.

The 1951 CCI annual report for CRC stated that “The construction work, both in grading of the plat and the building of the houses, was hampered very seriously by wet weather, which continued through the summer and fall. The result was that there were no dwellings actually completed and ready for sale by the end of the year, but it is hoped that with favorable breakup next spring the streets can be completed so that they will be passable, and we are looking forward to the sale of all these dwellings. We have a large list of applications for individual lots, and these will be offered for sale during the coming year (1952), and we believe will be in good demand.”

The 1952 CCI annual report for CRC announced that all 100 homes planned and constructed by CRC

had been completed. “53 of these houses were sold during the year. Six were sold to the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company and four to the Negaunee Mine Company, and 43 to individuals. Also, there were ten houses occupied on a rental-purchase agreement, leaving 37 to dispose of as of December 31, 1952.” In addition, the report states “...22 lots were sold to individuals and one lot was deeded to Abel Niemi in connection with his farm which was located at this site, leaving 138 lots to dispose of as of December 31, 1952. The average price of the new homes sold during 1952 was \$13,200 and the average price of individual lots sold was \$1,590, ranging from \$1,100 to \$2,200.

The 1953 CCI annual report stated “The construction work on the housing project (Cliffs Eighth Addition) was completed and also the work of building streets, sidewalks, curbs, etc. At the end of the year, 95 houses had been sold, and also 33 vacant lots.” The remainder of the 100 houses built by CRC were occupied by Mining Department employees on a rental basis. By the end of 1953, 128 vacant lots were still available for purchase.



Original Ski Hall of Fame located on Mather Ave.

An article in the July 13, 1954 issue of the Mining Journal was titled “Cliffs Eighth Addition Rapidly Turning into Ishpeming Showplace.” The article went on to call the development, a Summer-Winter Mecca. “The Winter Sports Area has been located there for several years and has been a perennial mecca for skiers and tobogganists in the winter and picnickers and sightseers in the summer. The Winter Sports Clubhouse there has served as a cheerful gathering place for scores of meetings.” The National Ski Museum (eventually designated the National Ski Hall of Fame) built by the Ishpeming Ski Club was dedicated in February 1954.

The article goes on to describe the planned “Miracle Circle Center” which will boast “three full floors” and will be 160 feet long and 80 feet wide. “The lower level will contain a modern, 12-lane bowling alley.” The only other city in the Upper Peninsula to boast a 12-lane bowling alley was Sault Ste. Marie. “The main floor will have five retail store units including a drug store, furniture store and a supermarket. Five thousand square feet of office space will also be available facing Ash Street and Jopling Avenue.”

June 1, 1955 saw the grand opening of the Miracle Circle Shopping Center, the first modern shopping center to be built in the Upper Peninsula. Located in Cliffs Eighth Addition, the shopping center was bounded by Ash, Jopling, and Mather Streets and the Marquette County Road Commission Shops. As reported in the Mining Journal “The Miracle Bowl (a bowling alley), completely air-conditioned, 12-lane set-up unequalled in this region, was the first unit completed, followed quickly by the adjoining Miracle Lounge and the Miracle Coffee Shop. Selin’s Furniture Store, featuring the largest furniture display floor in the region, opened in the middle of the block, and was followed shortly by the ultramodern IGA Foodliner Grocery, Johnson’s new Walgreen Drug Store and Evelyn’s Beauty Shop are the latest tenants to move in.”

A special grand opening insert in the May 31, 1955 issue of the Mining Journal included an article with the headline “100 Persons Employed At Big ‘Center.’” The article continued “Ishpeming – Completion of the Miracle Circle means an addition to the salaried income of the community, for when all 12 units are in complete operation, there will be approximately 100 persons employed at the Shopping Center.” The article ended on a very optimistic note “The success and progress of the American way of life has been made possible by a pioneering spirit and a willingness to gamble on the future of this country, as is exemplified by the planners and builders of the first modern shopping center to be constructed in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.”

The special grand opening insert for the new shopping center also had an article titled “8th Addition is Miracle in City Growth.” This article had a very positive message for the new Cliffs Eighth Addition “Rapid growth of the Eighth Addition, site of the Miracle Circle Shopping Center, has been one of the convincing demonstrations of the growth of Ishpeming and its capacity for expansion. From a rolling elevated countryside, overlooking the winter sports area, the site was platted. Then came that period where it looked dusty, dirty, as huge machinery came in, scraped away sod, graded the area to its present levels. Excavation, frame work, homes, steadily rose out of the foundations. Graded streets replaced rutted passageways, homes were paint-

ed, topsoil brought in, lawns sprouted, streets were paved, sidewalks installed. Now...Miracle Circle adds to the touch of suburban living. In a matter of months, from rolling fields, to suburban life, with children playing in the streets, TV antenna rising from rooftops, cars parked in driveways and at curbing. The Eighth Addition itself, is in the Miracle class and there’s class to Miracle Center.”

The Mining Journal, Marquette, Mich.
UPPER • MICHIGAN'S LARGEST • DAILY
SECTION TWO MAY 31, 1955

YOUR INVITATION!
... to the

Miracle Circle Shopping Center

Here to Serve You

Easy to get to... easy to park... easy to shop... Grand Opening starts Wednesday for our beautiful Miracle Circle Shopping Center... it's everything we could possibly have dreamed up... modern, useful and above all friendly.

**GRAND OPENING DAYS
JUNE 1-2-3-4**

Parents of young children in the Cliffs Eighth Addition must have been very pleased when the new Birchview Elementary School opened for classroom instruction on September 2, 1958. Principal Lillian Rowe was on hand to welcome 247 students, kindergarten through 5th grade for classes. The new school, with a price tag of over \$401,000 was located on the north side of Popular Street in the north west corner of the new development. 1971 saw a significant expansion to the school.

Religious worship found a home in Cliffs Eighth Addition with the move of St. Joseph Catholic Church to Prairie Avenue in 1964 and Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church to Mather Avenue in 1962. Eventually, 235 homes in total were built in the Cliffs Eighth Addition, greatly easing the Ishpeming housing shortage that spurred its origin. To this day, the Cliffs Eighth Addition remains a very popular residential neighborhood with its homes in high demand.

Anatomy of a Fisherman

Part One, Disappointment

Eighth in a series concerning the books of Robert Traver (John D. Voelker)

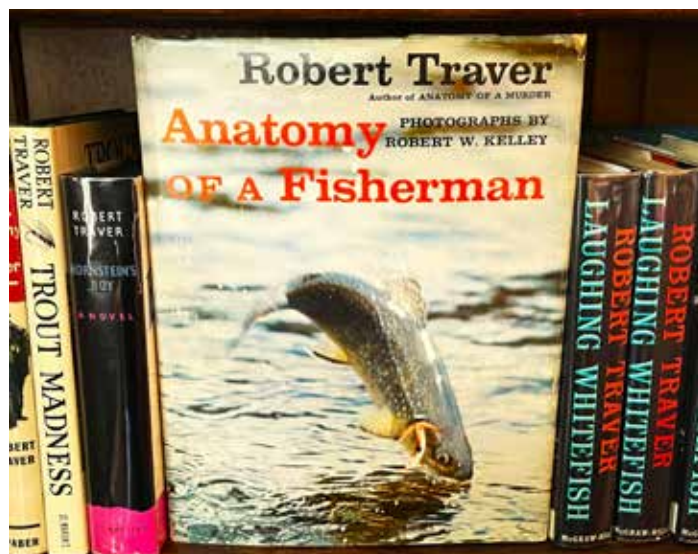
By David Lee White, IAHS Board Member

“A trio of low-flying ducks rushed upstream with a great whir, banking away suddenly when they saw a lone man standing there in the dusk straining away at a bent stick. I nearly fell into the pool when a raucous whip-poor-will bubbled shrilly behind me. Sweat rolled off me despite the evening chill, and I blinked to clear my vision. Presently a sliver of moon showed above the grove of tall pines on the opposite hill and I saw a ghostly bridal veil of mist creeping down the river. Still my fish tugged and sulked, occasionally moving a few feet and again sawing and boring away.

Worried now by the increasing darkness and the state of my leader, I tried a little more pressure, gently pumping. He was not ready; it was as though I were snagged to a log. By now my aching wrist was almost totally numb and I kept battling mosquitoes and clearing my sweat-clouded vision with my free hand. I was vaguely pondering my chances of daring to change hands and lighting up a smoke, when suddenly he surfaced. He came at me in a great charging rush. Lo, he lay on his side in the water below my feet! It was indecently easy: I knelt and slipped the net under him and staggered up the bank. The Battle was over.”

~ Excerpt from Anatomy of a Fisherman

John D. Voelker and his editor, F. Sherman Baker were very close, they had been working together since late April 1953 when John, in desperation after many rejections, mailed his soiled and dogeared manuscript for Small Town D.A. to the New York based publishing house, E. P. Dutton for their consideration. A month later, John received his first communication from Sherman, advising him that he liked the manuscript, that he would work to convince his employer to publish what would be John's third book. After getting Small Town D.A. ready to be printed, Sherman moved to a new publisher, St. Martin's Press. John stayed in touch with Sherman and updated him on his progress writing his fourth book and first novel, Anatomy of a Murder. When he finished the first draft of the manuscript, John gave E. P. Dutton first refusal, which they did. After having the manuscript rejected by two more publishers, John sent the manuscript to Sherman. Over the next 4 months, Sherman worked tirelessly editing and working side by side with John, improving the manuscript to create what would turn out to be one of the best-selling novels of 1958, it would stay 65 weeks on the New York Times



best seller list. The success of “Anatomy”, first in print, then as a block buster movie, brought fame and notoriety to the relatively new, New York publisher, St. Martin's Press. Sherman, now vice president of St. Martin's Press continued as John's editor through the publication of Trout Madness, Hornstein's Boy, and by mid-March 1963, Anatomy of a Fisherman was weeks away from being sent to the printer.

Then on Sunday, March 17, 1963, John received a phone call from Sherman, a British delegation from the owners of St. Martin's Press, the London based Macmillan Publishers, arrived in New York with plans for a new direction for their New York house. This new direction did not include their recently promoted vice president and editor, F. Sherman Baker. Sherman had been fired by Maurice Macmillan, the only son of Harold Macmillan, the current Tory Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. John Voelker had a decision to make, stay with St. Martin's Press and have Anatomy of a Fisherman published in short order, or stay loyal to his good friend and trusted editor of the past 10 years, F. Sherman Baker.

Let's travel back about 13 months and examine how John's new book, what was referred to as “Anatomy Jr.” came to be.

Robert (Bob) Kelley, the Life magazine photographer who took fishing photographs of John Voelker and his fishing buddies for the December 22, 1961 special issue of Life Magazine, which included the special article titled “Quest for Trout”, first suggested in a letter to John dated February 5, 1962, that the hundreds of color photographs he took could be boiled down and made into a fine fishing book. John immediately liked the idea and sent out a return letter suggesting a collaboration where Bob's photographs would be accompanied with captions and commentary written by John. In a letter dated February 16, 1962, John outlined to Bob the details and type of book it should be, plus he suggested a tentative title, “Trout Madness in Pictures”.

Bob and John met with Sherman Baker, St. Martin's Press editor several times throughout 1962 with steady

progress toward the publication of what would eventually prove to be an unusual and delightful (at least for fisherman and outdoor enthusiasts) book. In a letter to Sherman dated May 28, 1962, John suggested a new title for the book, Anatomy of a Fisherman. Bob was worried John might have lost interest in the new book as he had been unable to take time off from his job at Life magazine to meet John and finalize the photographs for the book. John allayed Bob's fears in a letter dated June 19, 1962 which ends with "Yes, I'm still up on our book and panting to drape my pearls of prose about your lovely snaps." End of June 1962 found Bob Kelley in Ishpeming where he and John worked on selecting photographs for "Anatomy Jr."

A letter from John to Sherman, dated June 19, 1962, started out with "Dear Sherman: If I sounded a bit addled and depressed over the phone yesterday it was because I just learned for sure that my old friend and fishing companion, Carroll Rushton, has cancer. It is all depressing and sad beyond words. What a world..."

John's first glimpse of the new book came accompanied by a letter dated September 19, 1962 from Sherman's assistant, Nancy Crampton. In the short letter Nancy wrote "Sherman asked me to send you the dummy of Anatomy of a Fisherman, as our production department can't do anything more with it till text and captions are ready. Good cheer!" John wrote to Sherman on October 2, 1962 "Dear Sherman, I have the dummy, but being a bit of one myself, I know not what to do with it, and so we sit and contemplate each other. Do I write captions? Text? Both? Or do I take off on my own? I have written Kelley of my dilemma, but he is at Oxford (Mississippi), embalming American culture for Life (magazine) and posterity, and cannot come up here till the pain goes away. So, I am doing nothing on the fish book."

Sherman replied to John's October 2, 1962 letter on October 3 "Dear John: Dummy is a dummy. In this case, a rough layout of where the pictures are going to go, where text. You will have to supply the words of wisdom. As to captions, I think these would benefit from your dry-fly humor. But there should be a text as well for 10 or 12 bucks. Picture books with brief captions have a way of getting read in about 15 minutes.... My suggestion is that you start by gazing resolutely at a picture held up to your brilliant leaden sky and let your imagination roam. You can write 50 words or 250, depending on what you have to say. I think we outlined, at one of our liquid meetings, certain subjects to be covered, including, as I recall, helpful hints, sly suggestions for beginners, etc."

John's entry to his private journal on October 20, 1962 reads "On Thursday I got activated and wrote the first draft of the text for the book "Anatomy of a Fisherman" I am doing with Bob Kelley. The pictures are beautiful and the writing is a good start. Last Week (Friday the 12th) I bought a Volkswagen, a gay nimble little car that will help spare my precious Jeep (i.e., Fish Car) (this entry brought a big smile to this editor as both he and his wife each had

a Volkswagen beetle in the 1970's when we were teens, we both loved them and wished we still had them to flit around in). Sherman arrives in a week to go over the book, and perhaps Bob Kelley, who has been in Cuba for Life (magazine), may join him for the big go-around."

A Letter John wrote to Bob Kelley dated November 14, 1962 advised Bob that he had finished writing the script for Anatomy of a Fisherman. Near the end of the letter John writes "Bob, I think we have a pistol of a book, in fact a cannon, and I cannot tell you how delighted I am that you thought of it."



Judge Carroll Rushton

Personal Journal, Thursday, January 31, 1963 "My old friend Carroll Rushton died Monday afternoon (while I was snowshoeing) of a long harrowing illness from cancer. All of my close friends are dying. We buried him yesterday, and then all went to Millie Johnson's (Marquette County Deputy County Clerk) and got drunk. Oddly enough, another old friend, Tom Cole, was buried the afternoon Carroll died, and both Carroll and I were named as pallbearers. Both men had taught me to fly fish and were old, old friends." It is likely that John Voelker and Carroll Rushton first met through their respective law practices as they were both lawyers in Marquette County. Carroll, who began his career as a teacher in Munising and then at Graveraet High School in Marquette, was first admitted to practice law in 1936. Carroll served as assistant Marquette County prosecuting attorney beginning in 1938, then was elected probate judge in 1940, a position he held for 19 years until being appointed judge of the 25th judicial circuit court embracing Marquette and Delta Counties in May of 1959. John thought so highly of his old friend he dedicated Anatomy of a Fisherman to Carroll.

In the midst of John, Bob and Sherman ironing out the final galley proofs of Anatomy of a Fisherman, the Marquette Mining Journal ran a story in the Saturday, February 23, 1963 newspaper titled "New Trout Book, Movie Short Feature Voelker". The story begins: "John D. Voelker, the Upper Peninsula's best known fly fisherman, has written a new book about trout fishing and soon will

appear in a movie short on fishing, which he will narrate. The book, to be published in time for trout season under the title “Anatomy of a Fisherman,” is an outgrowth of a photo essay which appeared in Life magazine in December 1961 and which featured Voelker fishing the streams and ponds of the Upper Peninsula.”

Personal Journal. Tuesday, February 26 “...Sherman has the “flu”, awaits Maurice Macmillan, and plans to be out here in a week or so.” John had been trying to plan a meeting with Sherman and Bob Kelley for weeks so they could iron out last minute questions about the text, captions and photo’s for “Anatomy, Jr.” The problem was Bob’s schedule with Life Magazine and that Sherman felt he had to stay in New York and press the flesh with the British “overlords”, including Maurice Macmillan who represented the Macmillan Publishers, owners of St. Martin’s Press in New York. The British delegation had been expected since mid-January, but kept delaying their visit.

A letter from Ian McKenzie, St. Martin’s Press general manager to John Voelker, dated March 13, 1963, in part informed John “We have been very busy recently with visitors from London and future plans for the development of the company. This, as you know, has led to Sherman postponing his visit to Ishpeming. Anatomy of a Fisherman, however, is well in hand and I had the opportunity of seeing the proofs both of the text and the photographs yesterday. It certainly looks very good.”

Personal Journal, March 17, 1963 “Sherman just phoned from N.Y that following Maurice Macmillan’s visit, St. Martin’s Press has entered upon a new era; that he, Sherman, was just fired; that Jacek Galazka (sales manager) has just resigned; that Ian (general manager) has now an English and Canadian “proctor” board; and that the thrust in St. Martin’s Press from now on is pro-text and anti-trade book. All this was a shock to me, as it means my old friend is out of a job and that I must decide whether to stay on at St. Martin’s and what to do about the pending trout picture book, which they now propose sharply to downgrade to protect against loss, and here I am half way thru a new novel. Sherman is flying out here.”

Personal Journal, March 19, 1963 “Sherman arrived late yesterday afternoon and told me all. I have already concluded to leave St. Martin’s Press but I am today writing Ian a “delaying” letter so that I can rationalize my retention of the printers’ proofs of “Anatomy of a Fisherman” and also to allow Sherman to exit from St. Martin’s Press gracefully and whole on April 1st. He has money coming.”

Personal Journal, April 2, 1963 “On Saturday, March 30th I sent my letter of farewell to St. Martin’s Press withdrawing my book and myself from that house. It was something of a wrench, but they were so shabby to Sherman and silly on my book that I had no other course.”

Ian MacKenzie (St. Martin’s Press General Manager) was not happy, he lost his vice president and top editor in Sherman, he lost his very talented sales manager in Jasek

Galazka, and now he was losing his top author. In a desperate move he telegraphed John on April 10 and requested a personal visit in Ishpeming. John phoned Ian and tried to dissuade him from making the trip, that he had made up his mind to leave St. Martin’s Press with Sherman and that was that. At 10:00 pm on Thursday, April 11, John’s phone rang and it was Ian at Ishpeming’s Mather Inn. Ian said he had a new proposal for Anatomy of a Fisherman and requested a meeting. John’s personal journal entry for Sunday, April 14, 1963 sums it up “Ian MacKenzie flew in Thursday evening. I saw him Friday and again said no in several languages, I put him on an early plane yesterday (Saturday), a haunted and lonely figure.”

Sherman got right to work interviewing for a new job as an editor, as he and John discussed several times in letters, Sherman was looking for a new publishing house for both of them. John received a card in the mail on April 22, 1963 from Sherman’s wife, Margaret. The card read “Friend – one who entertains for another such sentiments of esteem and affection that he seeks his society and welfare – a well-wisher, an intimate associate – one who promotes the good of another – Friend. A beautiful word, a lovely word, a word whose meaning is synonymous with John Voelker in my vocabulary. Thank you, dear John for the good letter you wrote to Sherman. It really put a floor right under his feet again and for this I shall be forever grateful to you. Affectionately, Margaret.”

After seven months of interviews and liquid lunches at the Players Club, Sherman received an offer from the New York publishing house, McGraw-Hill. John’s October 17, 1963 entry in his personal journal announces “Sherman finally received an offer from McGraw-Hill, and he and some wheel are flying out here this weekend or so to huddle, and I shall probably go with them.”

John’s October 17, 1963 personal journal entry also included “Should record that this summer I bought Uncle Tom’s Pond (160 acres) for \$4,000 and, the day after trout season, started raising the dam, using mostly sand bags, and have now raised it a solid 6 inches. It is simply matted with spawning brook trout, running from barely legal to 16 inches. I hope some will conclude to remain.” The warranty deed records that John and Grace Voelker purchased the land that contained Uncle Tom’s Pond on June 24, 1963. John had fished Uncle Tom’s Pond for years, now he could make it his own.

In a letter to Bob Kelley dated October 28, 1963, John informed Bob of the good news “The McGraw-Hill deal is closed and I’m personally taking our book (Anatomy of a Fisherman) out there next month and they’re going to work on it right away. About the 18th. Sherman is radiant, I’m radiant...”

Part Two, Anatomy of a Fisherman, A New Publisher will be in the next IAHS Newsletter, Winter 2025.

Research for this article was conducted at NMU archives the editor is grateful for their assistance.

Volunteers needed at the Museum

Would you like to spend a pleasant afternoon surrounded by Ishpeming history? Do you have a few hours to spare, not necessarily every week, but even once a month during the summer? If so, please contact us and volunteer as a host at the Ishpeming Area Historical Museum. Anyone interested in helping to preserve the history of our town is welcome. We offer training for those interested in becoming a volunteer. If you are interested, please contact David Aeh at the Main Street Antique Mall, 121 South Main Street, Ishpeming, Michigan 49849. Phone 906-486-8680.

Please become a member or renew your membership

While we do several fundraisers throughout the year, our memberships are the backbone of the historical society. Through yearly and lifetime memberships, we keep the doors open. We pay for insurance and memberships in organizations such as the Historical Society of Michigan, the Greater Ishpeming Chamber of Commerce and more. We pay for our newsletter and the flyers to help us publicize our events. Those yearly memberships keep us going and they are important to us.

If you are not a member, please consider becoming one. Annual membership is just \$10 per year for an individual. We also have business and family memberships. If you are a member, please renew your membership on a yearly basis. Every membership helps us in our mission of preserving the history of Ishpeming and making it available to everyone. Our membership application is included in this newsletter.

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Thank You!

Become a member: Ishpeming Area Historical Society

The Ishpeming Area Historical Society is a 501(c)3 Michigan Non-Profit Organization. Our mission is to promote and encourage a better appreciation for and a sustained interest in the history of the Ishpeming area. Your membership allows us to carry out this mission. (We send out newsletters in the winter and summer)

Yearly membership (Renewable January 1st)

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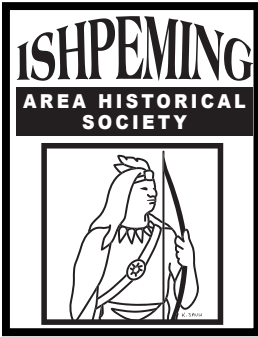
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**BOOK SALE FUNDRAISER
JOHN D. VOELKER'S
PERSONAL LAW BOOKS**

The Ishpeming Area Historical Society has taken possession of a number of John D. Voelker's personal law books, and as a fundraiser, will be selling a number of the volumes to the interested public. The law books have John's ink stamp "John D. Voelker/Prosecuting Attorney"

inside the front cover and will be accompanied by a letter of authenticity. Please contact IAHS board member, David White, at whitebks@hotmail.com for details.

PLEASE NOTE – IMPORTANT

Due to increased costs associated with our printed newsletter, we will need to remove members who are not current from our mailing list for the upcoming Winter 2025 mailing. If you enjoy reading our newsletter, and/or wish to support the Ishpeming Area Historical Society, please renew your annual membership (if you have not already done so) by mailing us a check along with the completed form near the end of this newsletter. You may also renew through our website www.ishpeminghistory.org. Thank You!

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CONCERT SERIES Downtown @ Old Ish Park**
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JUNE 20, The Palestras • JUNE 17, Combo Caliente
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JULY 18, Diversion • JULY 25, Last Call
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