

Original Masthead Illustration by Will Bradley

Ishpeming Area Historical Society • Newsletter • Winter 2024

2023 IAHS Summer Events a Success

The Ishpeming Area Historical Society had wonderful turnouts for last summer's fundraising events. The new owners of The Mather (formally The Mather Inn), along with IAHS, hosted tours of the magnificent structure whose restoration was close to completion. Approximately 300 people toured The Mather's historic rooms and hallways including a few of the completed new apartments. IAHS and church members also hosted a tour with refreshments of the historic Bethel Lutheran Church.

In celebration of Ishpeming's sesquicentennial, IAHS also hosted a big screen showing of John Voelker's 1959 film, Anatomy of a Murder, in the beautiful W. C. Peterson Auditorium. Along with High School Principal Seth Hoopingarner who graciously ran the projection equipment, approximately 200 people enjoyed the award-winning blockbuster movie that was filmed on location in Ishpeming and Marquette County as a whole.

Karen Kasper, IAHS Vice President and Ishpeming historian hosted the very popular and interesting Ishpeming Cemetery tours during the months of July and August which were very well attended.

2024 IAHS Summer Events Update

Once again, IAHS will host our popular Historic Places and Interesting Spaces Tour (Home Tour Fundraiser) with a celebration of Ishpeming's 8th Addition. The Home Tour will take place on June 30, 2024 from Noon to 4 p.m. IAHS is working to firm up plans for three or four tour locations with two locations committed at this time for your enjoyment.

IAHS is excited to announce that we will feature the 4,500 square foot, mid-century Koenig home on our tour. The Koenig home was designed in 1963 by Chicago architect Winton Elting and built by Dr. Harry

**Visit: www.ishpeminghistory.org to find features, news and information about our society memberships and donations • Find us on Facebook
Email: ishphistoricalsociety@gmail.com**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
• 2023 & 2024 IAHS Summer Events
• Project Unmentionable (John Volker's Hornstein's Boy)



Koenig House

and Debbie (Dubinsky) Koenig. The new owners, only the second owners of this home, have completed some careful, necessary restoration, while at the same time

Historical Society Board
President: David Aeh
Vice President: Karen Kasper
Secretary: Chris Gleason
Treasurer: Sandee Smetana
Trustees: Jason Chapman, Bud Hart
Trustee and Newsletter Editor: David White

keeping the original features such as the green wool carpeting which came from F. Schumacher and Company of New York City.



Tasson House Mural

In a celebration of renowned local artist, Roger Junak, the second featured home on the tour will be the Angelo and Priscilla Tasson home which features two colorful murals that have survived the four to five decades since being painted by Junak. It is also planned to have a selection of Roger's original artwork on display in the Tasson home during the tour.

Ishpeming Cemetery Tours

Ishpeming historian Karen Kasper will once again present the interesting stories of the lives and deaths of an all-new array of Ishpeming pioneers this summer. At this time, the cemetery tours will begin the evening of Tuesday, June 25, and will continue weekly on Tuesday evenings from July 9 through the end of August.

A detailed schedule of the IAHS Summer Events will be included in our summer newsletter. Please check our website (www.ishpeminghistory.org) and/or our Facebook page for updates.

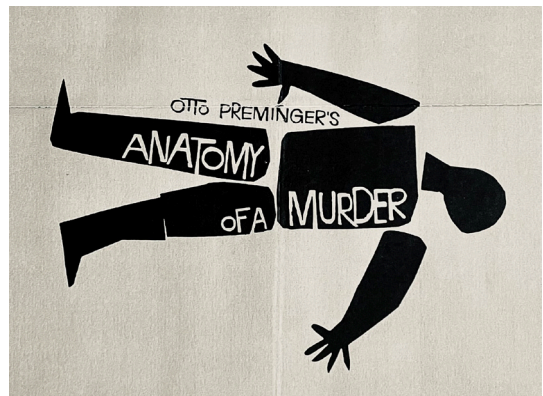
Project Unmentionable

By David Lee White, IAHS Board Member
Seventh in a series concerning Robert Traver's (John Voelker) books

"As life is action and passion, it is required of a man that he should share the passion and action of his time, at the peril of being judged not to have lived."

*Oliver Wendall Holmes the Younger
(Epigraph for "Hornstein's Boy")*

John Donaldson Voelker had a best seller on his hands. By June 1, 1958, Anatomy of a Murder had been on the New York Times Best Seller List for 20 weeks. On May 28, 1958, John penned a letter to Ian MacKenzie (St. Martin's Press manager) and Sherman Baker (St. Martin's Press editor and good friend). In the letter John informed Ian and Sherman that he needed money, he had gotten over his head with expenses associated with the new house on Deer Lake Road and the redecorating and necessary repairs to their old house on Barnum Street which he was turning into his office. There was also their \$3,200 quarterly payment to the Internal Revenue Service due June 15. For tax purposes, John had entered into an agreement with St. Martin's Press that would pay him a maximum of \$24,000 a year on the accumulating royalties from Anatomy of a Murder. After explaining his financial situation John wrote "This brings me to the point of this letter. You have already advanced me \$20,000 this year to keep me out of Leavenworth. That leaves \$4,000 that will be coming to me later under the limitation in our contract. Could you advance me that now? If you can do so, that is fine, but it is only a drop in the bucket. I will need at least \$10,000 more to see me through this bad year of many demands.....Please ponder and write this aging spendthrift."



After Ian MacKenzie discussed John's financial request with his tax experts, he wrote John on June 9, 1958 with a solution. "The \$4,000 due under the contract for Anatomy of a Murder is included with this letter. I believe that Sherman's suggestion of an advance payment of \$10,000 on your next work and on Trout Madness does provide us with a means of making a payment which would not interfere with the protection against tax which we have been able to secure on earnings on Anatomy of a Murder." After further discussion with their tax experts, Ian MacKenzie wrote John on July 8, 1958 with the good news "...we are prepared to write the contract for two works, namely, the existing manuscript of Trout Madness, and your next work which you discussed with Sherman while he was in Ishpeming. We are happy to pay an advance of \$10,000 on

signature of this contract.”

St. Martin's Press was first established in New York in 1952 as an affiliate of the British publisher, Macmillan and Company. Initially, St. Martin's Press was used as a distributor of books published under the imprint of Macmillan and Company. By 1956, when Ian Mackenzie took over the reins of St. Martin's Press, they were publishing books under their own imprint, of which, Anatomy of a Murder was their first national best seller. The success of Anatomy of a Murder brought recognition and respect to its “new kid on the block” publisher, including its manager, Ian MacKenzie and editor, Sherman Baker.

After being informed of the unusual arrangement St. Martin's Press had constructed with their new best-selling author, the managing director of Macmillan and Company, Lovat Dickson, wrote Ian MacKenzie on July 28, 1958 and asked for an explanation. In part Lovat wrote “It is very interesting that there are to be these two further books. Are they both novels, and are you doing them to prevent him from going to someone else, or is one or both of them really promising?” Ian replied to his chief's inquiry in a letter dated August 4, 1958. Ian explained the financial situation John Voelker had found himself in that necessitated the advance, then went on to explain the “two further books.” “Trout Madness is already written. The Judge agrees, for various reasons of tax and tactics, that this book, which is about his passion for fishing in the north woods, should not be published within the near future.” Concerning the second, as yet, unwritten work, Ian wrote “The Judge has a plot and a story, again about the law and politics in the Midwest, which is not yet in finished draft. He is not sure, in view of his quite arduous duties as a Justice of the (Michigan) Supreme Court and as a prominent Democratic politician in his state, when he will be able to commit it to paper. There are elections in 1960, and he is a friend and prominent supporter of Governor Mennen Williams, who may be a Democratic candidate, and these ties impose considerable responsibilities on him.”

In a letter dated August 4, 1958, John informed his editor, Sherman Baker, of his plans to attend the upcoming annual convention of the American Bar Association in Los Angeles, along with a request for a “case of Anatomys” to take with him. John then informed Sherman “I woke up last night with the main plot of my contemplated new book crystal clear in my mind, even to the names of some of the hitherto unthought of let alone unnamed characters. It is a queer experience. Now all I need is the leisure and repose to write it. It could be a good book.”

In his journal entry from September 23, 1958, John explained his thoughts for his new novel “The title is ‘Hornstein's Boy’ and it is I guess to be the story of a political opportunist, a ‘honeyboy’ a possible hellish character still unnamed who is Hornstein's Boy. Hornstein is a brilliant, handsome, cynical, crippled (polio) Jew and is X's campaign manager. There will be many flash backs in the past as to both H and X. There will be a Negro girl whose name will be Lena Tansy or Nedra Bitters who will figure large. There will be a labor leader called Roger Werther. There will be a character called Jacobetti or Sorrell (or both) and a dame called Frieda. Emil Hornstein is the name, or possibly Julius. His mother called him Emil after Zola, but he dropped the ‘e’.”

As 1958 came to a close, Ian MacKenzie wrote a letter to John dated December 29, 1958. The letter ended on a wildly optimistic note “All good luck with the new book as it boils and bubbles its way to maturity in 1959.” In a letter dated January 21, 1959, to “Justice John D. Voelker” from Sherman Baker, Sherman put in print, possibly for the first time, a phrase the good friends had obviously been using to refer to John's new book “How is project unmentionable?” In John's reply to Sherman, dated January 26, 1959, John wrote “Project unmentionable grows more unmentionable than ever. I have simply banished the thing from my mind until I can find the time and repose to discover whether I have a book.”

John Voelker had very little time to work on his new novel in 1959. He was still hearing cases and writing opinions during recesses as a Michigan Supreme Court Judge. In March 1959, John brought Hollywood to Marquette County in the form of Otto Preminger and the 75-100 actors and crew who filmed Anatomy of a Murder entirely on location. The success of the film, which was previewed in Ishpeming and Marquette on June 29, 1959, brought national recognition and celebrity to John Voelker, which included many requests for his time. With his share of the proceeds from continued sales of his best seller and from the blockbuster movie, John felt comfortable enough to retire from the Michigan Supreme Court on January 3, 1960. John famously told Governor Williams, who had appointed him to the supreme court three years earlier, “Other people can write my opinions, but none can write my books. I have learned that I cannot do both, so regretfully I must quit the court.”

Evidence that John had done little writing on “project unmentionable” in 1959 is found in a letter to Ian MacKenzie dated November 19, 1959, in which John thanked his publisher for a gift. “I am most grateful to you and St. Martin's for the three lovely briar pipes

from my granny's old town of Edinburgh, and which are almost too handsome to despoil with tobacco. Now when I start writing my new book, I shall wear kilts and keep rotating them (the pipes, not the kilts) in order: one in smudge, so to speak; one drying out and cooling off; and one tamped and ready for application of the torch. Under such auspices Tobias Smollett should live and pant once again!" In a letter dated February 6, 1960 to Ian MacKenzie, John included "About the new book: I have started it; it moves very slowly – but it moves." More of John's time was taken in February and March, 1960, working with Sherman Baker editing and putting the final touches on his fishing dissertation, Trout Madness, which was published on August 21, 1960.

On November 11, 1960, John wrote: "Dear Ian and Sherman: I have thought up a plot for a new story. It is the sad tale of a man who built himself a handsome new den in which to write a new book and then found he had nothing to say. The only trouble with this tale is that the man's middle name is Donaldson, and I feel sure you will share with me the conviction that any man bearing such a name would find it impossible to spend his money for such a purpose and then not carry it through. So, I must report a change in plot: the den is done, the bird season is over, the first snow has fallen, all excuses have fled – so the man has taken pen in hand and gone to work."

A week later, Friday, November 18, 1960, John made his first entry in his personal journal number 4. Not entirely at ease living in their new house on Deer Lake Road, he had made his new den a comfortable and familiar place. "I now have most of my treasures here in one place in my den: my woods clothes, fly rods, fly vest & boxes, my reference books, notes, journals - - all here available, in one place, and it is good.... The new Franklin stove works like a jewel.... My old Hammarlund war surplus radio is set up in my den and works beautifully, pulling in music from afar. Now all I have to do is write my book."

After more than two years of fits and starts, by sheer will and the familiar atmosphere he had created in his new den, John found success bringing his second novel to life. John closed his November 18, 1960 journal entry with "Chapter 1 is pretty well whipped, a toughy, and I am on the draft of No. 2, also a toughy. Once the yarn gets rolling the sheer cerebration & drudgery should ease off. There is so much to do so fast in these opening sections."

The new addition to the Voelker's new house on Deer Lake Road included a bedroom next to the den that featured large picture windows through which the Voelker's could watch the white-tailed deer and other wild-

life. John's journal entry on November 30, 1960 began with what appears to be a strongly held conviction of deer season "So the poor deer are reprieved for another year, the poor devils, the storm yesterday, last night, and today giving them a one-day start on the end of the witless slaughter."

John was still struggling when it appeared he may have had an epiphany as portrayed in a journal entry "4:00 a. m., December 8, 1960. I suddenly see my book differently and larger; this is no mere political story any longer; its principal thrust now is a fictional plea for the survival of mankind. That is a large dose for a novel, and I wonder whether I can sufficiently coat the pill."

John kept the fire going in his Franklin stove in his den which gave him great comfort "like a sort of eternal flame, like a young priest tending the alter candles." His journal entry of December 11, 1960, related that John had all but finished a draft of chapters 3 and 4, an important part of the novel that included "the proposal by Hornstein that Walt should run (for Senate) and more important, the rationale of such a move." "I am now satisfied that I have control of the story, know where I am going, and can do it." By December 16, 1960, John had split "long, heavy and important chapter 4" into chapters 4 and 5 and was writing chapter 6 "I am appalled at the job that lies ahead, but sense that I may have gotten over at least one of my big hurdles...." December 21, 1960 "I am in no mood for this journal, so I turn back to the monster."

Daughter Julie was home for Christmas "with her new engagement ring and full of plans for marriage and babies." On Christmas day John wrote "A quiet and somnolent day. This afternoon Julie and I took a long hike down to the point and around up through the woods and so back home. Then a big dinner and I came in here (den), stuffed and sleepy, with some idea of tackling chapter 7 - - no 8, since I split 5 into 5 and 6." John's January 12, 1961 journal entry starts out "Have finished 12 chapters and have gotten over a most important hump, I feel, having now introduced and described in passing most of the principal characters..."

Journal entry, Wednesday, January 18, 1961 "Production has virtually ceased since Monday night, when a bug hit me, and I in turn hit a metal waste basket at thirty paces. Was going great guns on Chapter 14, when boom." John goes on to say that after a couple days recuperating, he reread what he had just written and "Now I can't even read what I've written, a pretty sharp lesson that a guy's got to be on the ball writing a book.... Today I have been hours trying to write one simple paragraph. Wooden, wooden, and the whole project seems banal and empty. Horrible thought - -

maybe this is the clarity of illness! On top of it, Grace is having a group of “the ladies” out this afternoon to see Ellen and Bee and Nana Taylor... What a pity I lack the strength to snow-shoe into Uncle Tom’s Pond. Oh me, oh my.”

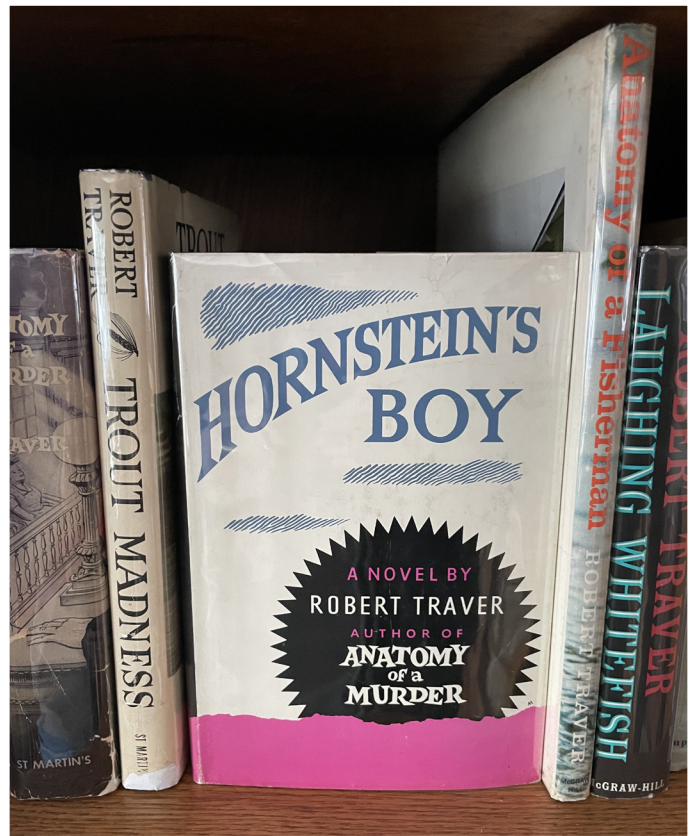
Journal entry, Friday night, January 20, 1961 “Commencing Wednesday afternoon and continuing far into the night I wrote more than at any one stint, completing one chapter (15), most of another (16), and doing extensive adding and polishing on a third (14), all in all a busy day for a convalescent.” “I suppose one must write a book how and when he can; I envy these iron-willed “authors” who can strictly compartmentalize their lives while writing a book” arise, bath and shave, do the mail; then at a certain hour begin and write for four hours or 3,000 words; and then, turn off the spigot and be carefree until the next day. The other night after my spree I lay in bed feverishly correcting in my mind what I had done and also laying out chapter 17 in my mind, it being almost 5:00 a.m. before I dropped into a troubled slumber, and my hand felt as though I had punched a brick wall with it: numb, achy, swollen. The next day I paid and could scarcely correct even a glaring error. In fact, I’m still bushed.”

Journal entry, Friday, February 10, 1961 “The old annual countdown has begun. It is now 78 days till fishing season (Saturday, April 29). We never start counting until it is under 100 days. So that gives me 78 days or 11 weeks to finish my book, which will take some doing, as one rarely averages over a chapter a week, and I see more than 11 chapters more as I see it now. But perhaps not; perhaps I had better speed up the action to avoid a let down in an already packed narrative.”

Journal entry, Tuesday, February 28, 1961 “Have finished chapter 33 and envision from here about seven more.... The jeep is being painted from stem to stern, and I pant for spring. Bought new Chippewa boots yesterday in Marquette.”

Journal entry, Thursday, March 2, 1961 “The painted jeep is a thing of beauty, better even than when it was new. Also had the seats cleaned, doors tacked, and towing hooks put on the front. I’m sick of always towing and never being towed!.... Am ruminating over chapter 36 and hope to finish on #40.”

Journal entry, Sunday, March 12, 1961 “I wrote the last word of Chapter 43 ending the book tonight at 8:15. I hope they keep the title ‘Hornstein’s Boy’. All I feel is weary and let down, but its’ done, its’ done, and I only hope it’s good..... Wrote 43 chapters in 4 months and one day, beginning the book on November 11, 1960..... I feel like a squeezed sponge, enough for now, my fingers ache.”



First Edition

Journal entry, Tuesday, March 21, 1961 “My editor Sherman Baker arrived last Thursday (March 16) and left yesterday, having read the book through. He likes it; thinks it is ‘a good book’; and is planning early 1962 publication. There are suggested revisions, especially in the opening 6 chapters, but these I mostly saw already and, in any case, will not get to for a week or so. I am tired all the time and sleep all the time - - naps, naps & all night. I’m as pooped as Walt was in the book.”

Believing he had all but finished “project unmentionable”, John looked forward to spring and the opening of fishing season. John informed his journal in the March 21 entry “Don Anderson phoned (Donna’s brother, note: Donna Snyder was John’s long-time secretary) and my suggested plan to start fly fishing classes for the kids is bearing fruit, and the first class starts this Thursday evening in the 8th addition school. There will be 8 or 10 old hands, and, we hope, about 10 kids for each instructor. Bill Nault, Don and Fred Berg have been sparking it. This is not only kind to the kids but to the trout, as the bait boys kill about 90% of the fish they hook, while 5 or 10% would be large with a careful fly fisherman.” Journal entry, Sunday, March 26, 1961 “Fishing is 34 days away and I am ready.”

Back in New York, Sherman Baker wrote John a letter dated March 27, 1961. Sherman had taken a copy of the new manuscript back to New York with him and re-

read the manuscript on the train ride back to his office. Sherman first thanked his hosts for a “happy few days” in their company, then he mused about the new novel. “The more I think of the book the better I like it. I think it’s a thoughtful book and I think it says a great deal about ideals, about compromise, about the goodness of ordinary people and the evil in the world. These are important things, and you have leavened them with humor and some fine gold culled from your wide reading. It is going to be a very good book, John, and we are going to be very proud to publish it.”

Journal entry, Good Friday, March 31, 1961 “Snowshoed into Uncle’s (Uncle Tom’s Pond) today from Sands Station. First time this winter. Shoeing perfect. Ice all gone from pond. No man signs. Picked tamarack boughs and pussy willows for house. Full moon tonight gleaming on the hammered silver of the rotting snow.”

In a letter from Sherman Baker dated April 4, 1961, John received his homework “Here are my rough notes just as they occurred to me on first reading. Note that they don’t say much about the good things about the book, of which there are plenty, but concentrate on those cruel and negative aspects which gave me pause....”

Journal entry, Friday, April 14, 1961 “Fifteen days ‘till fishing.

John wrote Ian MacKenzie and Sherman Baker a letter on April 18, 1961 in which he relates “The revision proceeds; Donna (Snyder) is back from breaking Mustangs; and shortly we shall go to press.” John then gave his editors orders “Now that I have you together, I implore, I beseech, I enjoin upon you not to divulge the title or anything else about the new book until you simply have to. I know there will be pressures on you, but old John is pressuring first, so please, please do not let me pick up any gossip sheet and read the word.....”

Journal entry, Sunday, April 30, 1961 “A raw cold day. Grace left for Chicago this a.m. I sit fussing with the manuscript & wondering whether to go fishing. The battle is brief - - fishing wins.”

Journal entry, May 9, 1961 “despite the chancy weather the fishing has been the best it has been early for many years. I have already kept 39 trout and returning easily half again as many. Good old Uncle Tom’s Pond is valiant as ever, and this year seems simply crammed with beautiful trout, especially at and just below the top log and again in the narrows at the dam and at the far side. In certain lighting I could see the schools of trout fanning away and even rising to the small insects going over..... Carroll & I will go to Uncle’s this afternoon, in the meantime I work on my manuscript..... The jeep is

being greased, and I put in time, put in time.”

John worked on the revisions, which extended the number of chapters, through May and into June as Donna Snyder typed up the finished pages. On June 24, 1961, John wrote Ian and Sherman “Donna finished typing the tome last Tuesday, June 20, all 55 chapters and 480 legal pages of it....” John had been approached by Life magazine to do a photo shoot for a color feature based upon Trout Madness. Each photograph would be captioned by a quote from the book, or possibly new captions written by John. The June 24, 1961 letter continued “...but, I have been so preoccupied all week with the Life guys, who it looks will remain another week, that I haven’t had time even to look at it, let alone check it over, so I doubt that I’ll get to it much before the wedding. Why don’t you bring an extra briefcase when you come for the wedding and I’ll deliver it to you in person?” Life magazine intended to publish the story in the spring 1962, John and St. Martin’s Press felt that the feature article, if published, could help boost the sales of the new novel. The wedding referred to



Fish Car

previously was for daughter Julie who was married on Saturday, July 8, 1961 at the United Presbyterian Church in Ishpeming. After a wedding breakfast at The Mather Inn, the newly married couple left on a two-week honeymoon trip to San Francisco, California. The newly revised manuscript was passed on to John’s publisher as Sherman Baker and wife Margaret did attend the wedding, and once having returned to New York, Sherman wrote John a letter dated July 12, 1961 “By this time the last glass and the last guest should have been washed out of your mind. It was well worth the hedge-hopping to see the beautiful Voelker girls beaming at the altar. Margaret and I thought the latest addition to the Voelker family was very smart indeed and he and Julie seemed to get along splendidly. Ian (St. Mar-

tin's Press general manager) is guarding the manuscript in Cleveland while he charms the lady librarians and as soon as he finishes reading it, I will get my chance."

John wrote Sherman Baker a letter on August 3, 1961 "I enclose in original and duplicate my first series of corrections to the typescript. This is almost worse than writing the book itself, and if I sound cantankerous and out of sorts it is because I am. What exquisite drudgery! I'm going fishing." Sherman had written several times asking about a good time to travel to Ishpeming, on July 24, 1961 he wrote "...we should have our usual three day 'tightener'. Perhaps when the old Farmer's Almanac indicates rain and squalls and the trout are in hiding, I can catch the plane." John had thought that Sherman was not going to make his "tightener" visit until at least near the end of the fishing season. When

about the results and I guess they plan a big thing."

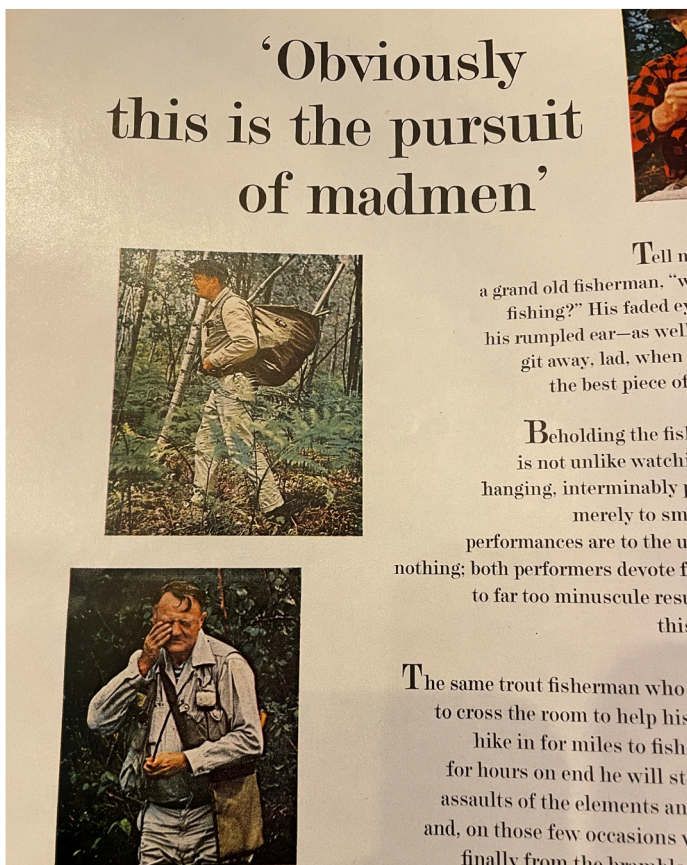
Sherman Baker delayed his Ishpeming arrival until September 20, the delay allowed Sherman to revise the manuscript with all of John's corrections, saving them time while in Ishpeming. In a letter dated September 11, 1961 John promised his editor "Work, gathering pine knots and wild cranberries, gorging at Salvador's --- one dizzy round of gaiety and fun...." John's personal journal entry for Wednesday, September 27, 1961 relays "Sherman Baker arrived late Thursday night by plane and we worked Friday, Saturday, Sunday and part of Monday subduing the Beast.... A savage interlude of work and I still feel drawn through a knot hole, but feel the script is tight and better."

John worked on revisions to the book manuscript with many letters back and forth to Sherman in New York through October and into November. John was looking forward to the Life Magazine fishing article and mentions in his personal journal entry for Monday, November 13, 1961 that "The book is now being put in galleys and the Life fishing piece is put to bed, so I am out of work. With the advent of deer season on November 15, I will be barred from the woods for 15 days, so I better take up chess." John again mentions his thoughts about deer season in his personal journal entry for Thursday, November 16, 1961 "We leave Monday to go visit Bee (daughter Elizabeth), Vic and Baby Ellen at Dayton (Ohio). It will be good to see them and doubly good to get away from the hoopla of deer hunting, the season of my discontent, and the only season I feel barred from the woods. Already the yahoos have shot and killed a farmer in his own field while headlighting for deer."

Originally planned for spring 1962, John's big fishing article was moved earlier to a special Life Magazine outdoor double issue dated December 22, 1961.

Sherman Baker wrote John a letter dated December 7, 1961 and stated that St. Martin's Press planned to spend \$10,000 on advertising in the first three weeks "There will be teaser ads in New York and the large cities before publication and then a full-page splash in the New York Times. Half-pages in the Chicago Tribune, Herald Tribune, etc. and follow-up small ads until we get our first quotes and we hope, a second printing. First printing 25,000 copies.

On October 7, 1961, John wrote to Sherman with an idea for the illustration on the book jacket "It is simply a stark picture showing a battered old upright piano, perhaps half in the shadows, on the side of which stands a half-filled highball glass and a smoking cigarette, and on top of which stands a lone political placard: "Dressler for Senator," the three words running vertically. This symbolizes the story in a piano if not a nut shell. I



Special Outdoor Issue of Life Magazine Dec. 22, 1961

he realized Sherman desired to come sooner, John ended the August 3, 1961 letter with "Please come along. All my fulminations about all fish and no work are merely a pretty literary pose. A man can't fish all the time. I've tried. If while you're here I get a seizure, I'll throw a mosquito veil over the dashing Bakerian profile and smuggle you along and you can sit on a log and perchance incant a mermaid. Do come, Sherman, but better call me first so you don't collide with the Life guys, who threaten to come momentarily to pick out the pics. One of them phoned me that New York is wild

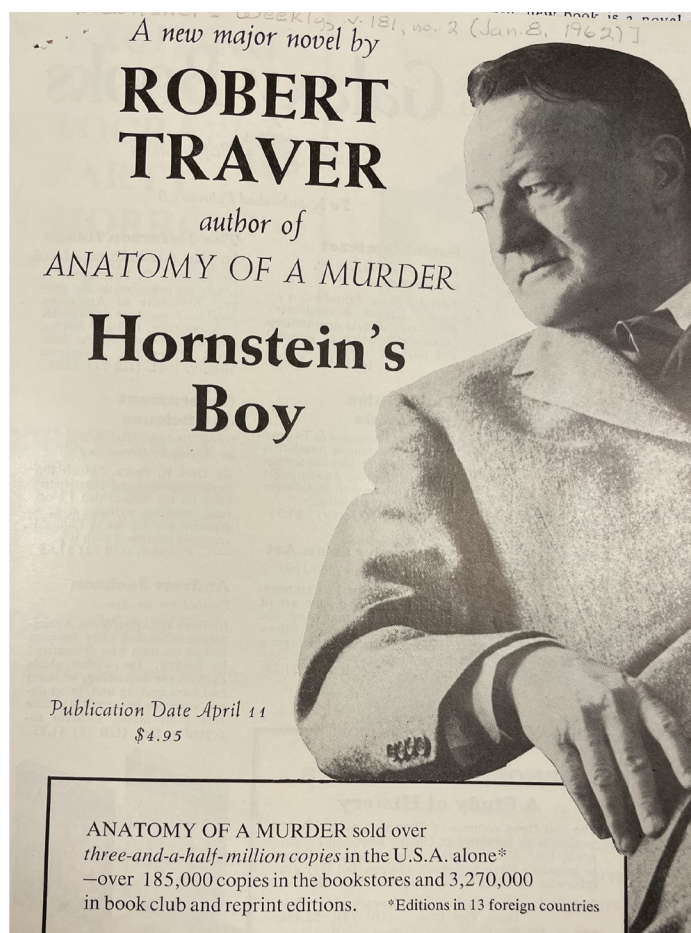
think it is a pistol - - eye gripping, different, intriguing. It could also become the motif and recognizable trademark of the ads. On December 15, 1961, Sherman wrote John a letter that discussed the design of the dust jacket and let him know that the jacket designer was not a fan of his idea. Sherman went on to say "There is an element of 'cuteness' in this idea which little Orvie (Orville Prescott, New York Times book reviewer) and the others might stamp on with both feet. The fact is, however, that when we get a bold HORNSTEIN'S BOY on the jacket and BY ROBERT TRAVER, AUTHOR OF ANATOMY OF A MURDER there is not going to be too much room for illustration." This is of course what St. Martin's Press went with, a very simple design that relied on Anatomy of a Murder to draw people to the book, instead of intriguing the buyer with a new design that gave them an idea of the theme of this very different novel. Instead of allowing the new novel to stand on its own, they piggybacked it to "Anatomy". In this editor's opinion, who is a book collector who loves a good dust jacket, a big mistake.

Christmas 1961 found John was worried about how Hornstein's Boy would be accepted. He did resign after only three years on the Michigan Supreme Court so he would have time you write books instead of opinions. The last paragraph in his person journal entry for December 27, 1961 reveals his apprehension "Yesterday sent a half dozen minor goofs to St. Martin's on 'Hornstein,' steeling myself to read the last 16 chapters the night before. My mind tells me Book-of-Month won't take it, but I keep hoping and fearing. The fear? That if this book doesn't go, I may have to go back to the chains of the law. I think I'd almost lecture first. Selling the tatters of my charm like an old whore lady. Go 'Hornstein,' so I can stay free and fish and grow old disgracefully."

John's journal entry for Friday, December 29, 1961 starts out "Ah well, the suspense is over - - Book-of-the-Month declined yesterday and Sherman phoned to break the news, which apparently surprised him more than it did me. They gave no reasons, so I must tell myself that it was their gutlessness over the 'controversy' in the book, not its badness; that it said something decent about Negroes and Jews, not that it said it badly." It appears that John and Grace did not let the rejection ruin their weekend as the next paragraph in the journal demonstrates "Today Julie and her Joe arrived and we are full of expectation and plans for the weekend: pasties, snow-shoeing, big fires, popcorn, etc., etc."

Early January, 1962, found John reading and worrying over the "Hornstein" manuscript, finding errors and passages he disliked, which he detailed in a letter and rushed to Sherman with the hope it was not too late to

correct. At the same time St. Martin's Press began the advertisement campaign as evidenced by a full-page announcement in the January 8, 1962 issue of Publish-



ers Weekly with a publication date of April 11, 1962.

One of the passages John worried about, which he described as a "monstrous line," was in Chapter 32. John asked Sherman in the January 6, 1962 letter to have it removed if possible. This "monstrous line" came during a conversation between Walt Dressler and the "lovely Louisa" as they are driving back to town after a day spent in the woods near "Chippewa" during a respite from the campaign. John had written a love scene in the previous chapter between the two lovers which took place on top of a tall rocky cliff overlooking a small pond "several hundred feet" below where Walt, that afternoon, had caught their dinner of brook trout. John called the line "shear soap opera," the line as written "I learned something else, Walt. I learned that never before today had I been so completely a woman, I thank you for that too." It turned out it was too late to remove the line or correct the other mistakes detailed in the January 6, 1962 letter in the first edition, but Sherman promised to correct them in later printings. John was also very concerned about the love scene itself in chapter 31, which took place on a car robe after sunset on the "tall rocky cliff" in a thunder storm with driv-

ing rain, described in part "...the rain slanted across us in thin spectral veils – but we paid no heed, suddenly caught and helpless before the unleashed furies of the oldest storm that can beset a man and woman." The author of this narrative is glad the love scene remained in the novel. It is a bit surprising, and it is I believe the first love scene written by and published under John's name, but it is also, in the authors opinion, very romantic and warm, and I found myself very happy for the lonely couple. After finding out the "monstrous line", and the love scene itself would remain in the first edition, John ended a post script in a letter to Sherman dated January 14, 1962 "Now watch the critics leap on that lovely bit of soap opera! My face is red already."

By January 25, 1962, John has set his mind on his next task, and all but moved on from "Project Unmentionable" as he writes in his Journal "I got home yesterday from Lansing where I started the initial research on the Marji Gesick story (the discovery and mining of the first iron ore in the Lake Superior district), and for which I have the tentative title, Laughing Whitefish." Then on Friday, February 2, 1962, John writes in his journal "Lloyd le Vasseur (Marquette County Clerk, also played the Court Clerk in Anatomy of a Murder) dug up the old original files in the Indian case, and they appear to contain all I'll need, a great break. I thought of writing it now but will probably go west instead to fish, after Grace gets home, and do it next fall."

On February 9, 1962, John wrote his editor, Sherman Baker, with an idea for a new book "Bob Kelley of Life, who took the pics for the trout piece, (Special Issue "Our Splendid Outdoors" of Life Magazine, December 22, 1961) has just written me an interesting idea – it is that he would like to make a picture book of the millions of pics he made here last summer. I wrote him back that the idea was swell, but why didn't we collaborate? Here is my thinking, right off the top."

"First, as you are ruefully learning, fishermen are the hardest guys in the world to buy a gift for. First, they're crazy, they're morbidly picky and choosy, and moreover they already have 3 of everything, including heads. Yet there are thousands of these crazed people at large ranging from unabashed lunatics like Voelker to the two-week-a-year boys, who are just as impassioned but also badly frustrated to boot."

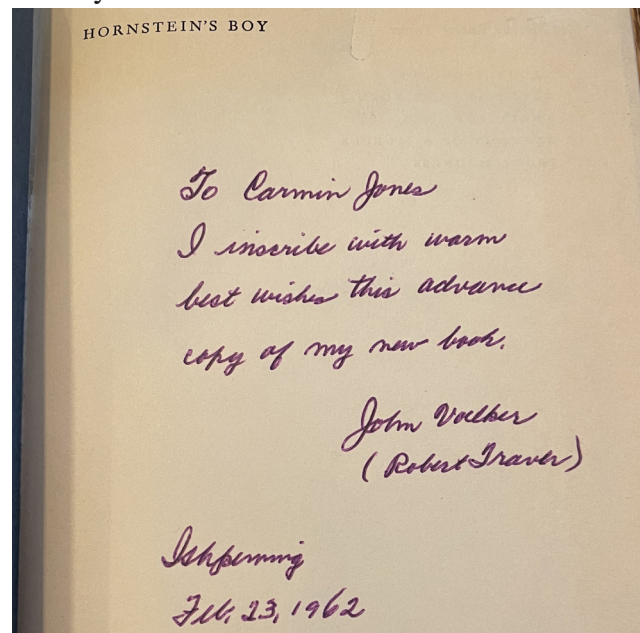
"My idea would be to make a handsome picture book covering the whole gamut of trout fishing. I would write the captions and commentary, largely in a light vein but with an undercurrent of the serious. It could be called 'Trout Madness in Pictures' and the former book might serve as a kind of text, thus helping each other. Kelley could doubtless con Life into doing a handsome

picture review, since he is one of their top men. The book would deliberately be made expensive (as though you need to try, Voelker!) and perhaps Kelley and I could adjust our royalty to give St. Martin's a break. We would get after it at once to try for the Christmas trade. Moreover, I want to get clear for my Indian story, which looms."

"...After you resume breathing tell me what you and Ian (SMP General Manager) think...I figure on at least a ten-buck book. Women go crazy every Christmas trying to find gifts for fishermen. This would be a good gift, like a book of solid activated pornography for the lecher. It could sell for years and years. Sometimes I think I'm a frustrated merchant."

St. Martin's Press airmailed John's first copy of Hornstein's Boy to Ishpeming as he conveys in his journal entry on February 16, 1962 "Went to town later for the mail and found at the Post Office the Number One copy of the book, which Robert Traver promptly inscribed to his old pal John Voelker." 200 more "advance" copies of the new novel, along with mailing bags were being shipped to John as well. John was anxious to receive the books, inscribe them to friends and colleagues, and get them in the mail. By March 4, 1962, (letter to Sherman) John had "Sent out nearly 100 inscribed Hornstein's, including one to sweet Carmin Jones of Kroch's and Brentano's (at the time, the largest bookstore in Chicago), who writes swearing her delight and devotion."

Without the benefit of being picked as a Book-of-The-Month club choice, John and SMP knew that they had to leave no stone unturned to promote Hornstein's Boy in order to put the book over to the reading public. To this end, after a trip that began on April 1, 1962 to New York City to charm and schmooze book critics and



Advance Copy Inscribed to Carmin Jones

book sellers, on the way back, John took the time to address 600 librarians at a luncheon at the Cleveland National Library week on April 9.

John's new novel was released to the public on April 11, 1962. John dedicated the book "For Ellen", his first grandchild and daughter Elizabeth's first child.

Hornstein's Boy was reviewed very well in the press. Philadelphia Inquirer – "Traver is at home in the political scene, as he was at home in the courthouse atmosphere of his earlier book, for his personal career has encompassed these fields. He makes the political in-

plagiarize ourselves?"

Sherman Baker informed John in a letter dated July 12, 1962 that the sales of Hornstein's Boy was now "down to about 125 copies a week, which is not bad, and if the gods are willing, we will try to revive the sale in the Fall." John received a contract from Dell on July 26, 1962 for the paperback rights for Hornstein's Boy. The paperback would not be published sooner than April 1, 1963 and Dell would pay up front as a royalty (15%) guaranty \$38,000, \$23,000 upon signing of contract, \$15,000 on publication day.

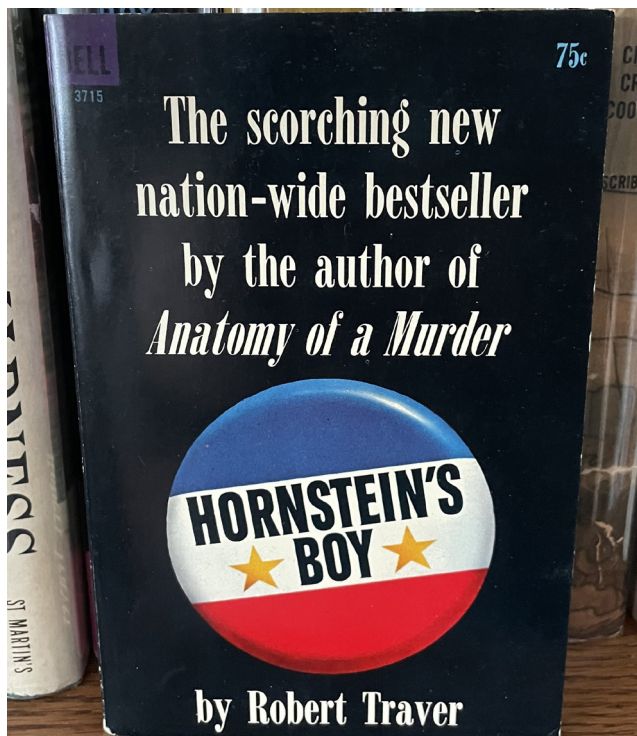
Sales held steady as after the first edition sold out, and before the Dell paperback was released in April 1963, St. Martin's Press had a second and third printing bound in hardcover. Both additional hardcover printings state the printing on the copyright page and both remained at the first edition price of \$4.95. The dust wrapper for the third printing varies from the first two printings as reviews were added to the lower front cover and both the front and rear dust wrapper flaps.

Since early 1962, John had been excited about the possible publication of his second fishing book, a book with the working title Anatomy of a Fisherman. Sherman Baker had not been overly excited about the idea, but through 1962 caught John's enthusiasm and worked with his good friend, convincing St. Martin's Press to move forward with the idea. By March 1963, John had written the text and the captions for the wonderful color photographs for the book and St. Martin's Press was planning a date to begin the printing and binding process. Then on March 17, John received bad news in a personal phone call from Sherman Baker, news that would delay the publication of Anatomy of a Fisherman and require John to make an important decision about his future in the book business.

The summer issue of the Ishpeming Area Historical Society newsletter will contain the narrative regarding the publication of Anatomy of a Fisherman, as well as the beginnings of John's third novel, and the major decision's John made along the way.

Research for this article conducted at the Northern Michigan University Archives.

The editor of this newsletter is very grateful for the wonderful assistance from the staff of the NMU Archives!



Dell Paperback

fighting and the grueling work at the ward rallies sound very real." Cleveland Press-News – This is a genuinely significant piece of work by a thoughtful man who understands that the old-time politician is obsolete. In some of the most brilliant dialog that I have read the author affirms that if democracy is to survive, democratic principles must be brought into practice. If this is a novel of ideas, which it is, it is also a rousing good tale without a single dull page, and there is also a satisfying love story as well." Hornstein's Boy hit the New York Times best seller list at number 13 on Sunday, April 22, and stayed on the list for 13 weeks, rising as high as number 8.

A letter from John to Sherman dated May 28, 1962 starts out "I have dreamed up a fine original title to Kelly's and my trout picture book: Anatomy of a Fisherman. Everybody else has been stealing it from us, since I stole it from Burton, so why can't we be original and

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.

**Our newsletter is sponsored in part by
Globe Printing and our members.**

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.

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)

<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Student (high school-College)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional donation _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Family (One household)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Non-Profit Business	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Business
<input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Lifetime Individual or Family,	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Lifetime Business

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

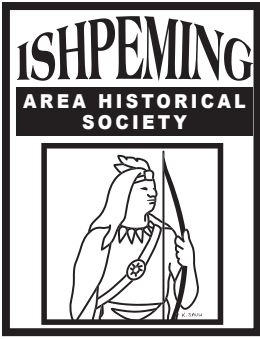
In memory/honor of (if applicable) _____

I do NOT wish my name to be used in any publicity or on a membership plaque.

Is this a New Membership Renewal Membership

Is this address my/our year-round address? If not, what months do I/we reside here?

**Visit our website at www.ishpeminghistory.org or: Mail completed form and payment to:
Ishpeming Area Historical Society, 308 Cleveland Ave, Ste 303 Ishpeming, MI 49849**



In The Historic Gossard Building
ishphistoricalsociety@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook

Ishpeming Area Historical Society
308 Cleveland Ave
Ishpeming, MI 49849

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Ishpeming, MI
49849
Permit # 62



ishpeminghistory.org

Special Outdoor Issue of Life Magazine Dec. 22, 1961