IAHS NEWS

Original Masthead Illustration by Will Bradley

Ishpeming Area Historical Society • Newsletter • Winter 2026

IAHS 2025 Summer and Fall Tours

We are pleased to report that our 2025 summer home tour, which included the Julius and Sophie St. Clair home built in 1880, the Raymond and Emily Satterley Colonial Revival home built in 1949, a Cleveland Cliffs Company residential home built in 1914 and The Mather (formally The Mather Inn) which was our host for refreshments for the tour was again a great success with 170 attendees. IAHS is working to firm up plans for our 2026 summer home tour which will likely take place on Sunday, June 28, noon to 4:00 p.m. Please check our Facebook page, website, or our summer newsletter which will be released around June 1, 2026 for details.

Early fall 2025, IAHS was privileged to offer a Cohodas historical places bus tour which included the Cohodas English Tudor revival style home located in Ishpeming and the legendary Cohodas Lodge on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigamme. The individual two busloads of ticket holders were met by one of the current owners who gave them an introduction to the history of the lodge along with an account of the extensive and careful restoration. The visitors were given about an hour to tour the lodge and were treated to wine, soft drinks and endless hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Everyone, including the IAHS hosts had a wonderful time.

A Son of Ishpeming

Lloyd William LeVasseur

"The King"

By David Lee White, IAHS Board Member

Lloyd William LeVasseur was born in Ishpeming, Michigan on April 29, 1902 to Alphonse LeVasseur and Clarinda Pelissier LeVasseur. Lloyd grew up in the LeVasseur home located at 413 High Street, Ishpeming and graduated from Ishpeming High School in the spring of 1920. Lloyd's father Alphonse provided for his family by working as a Barber at his shop located downtown Ishpeming at 113 E. Cleveland Avenue.

Lloyd LeVassuer

Courtesy of Tom Buchkoe

Lloyd was very well known and respected by the people of Marquette County where he lived and worked most of his life. One of Lloyd's good friends and bird hunting partner was John D. Voelker, fly fisherman, author, attorney, Marquette County Prosecuting Attorney, and Michigan Supreme Court Justice. John and Lloyd were only a year apart in age (Lloyd was the oldest), had both attended Ishpeming schools and had worked together at the Marquette County Courthouse where Lloyd was the Marquette County Clerk for many years.

One of Lloyd's passions during his life was as a sportsman. Several years after his death a group of Lloyd's friends got together with the idea of honoring Lloyd by renaming Mud Lake in Chocolay Township,

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Lake LeVasseur. Mud Lake was a tributary to Lake Kawbawgam, and one of Lloyd's favorite duck hunting spots. After about a year of planning and seeking approvals from the relevant government agencies, approval was given for the name change in November 1968. A dedication ceremony was held on April 29, 1969 at the site of a DNR access site and memorial plaque on the north shore of Lake LeVasseur. Speakers at the Lloyd LeVasseur memorial dedication were Circuit Judge Bernard H. Davidson, master of ceremonies; Lloyd's daughter Mary Lynn Westerman who unveiled the plaque honoring her father; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Arnold Casanova who offered the benediction, and John D. Voelker, dedication speaker.

The effort John Voelker made writing the dedication eulogy says a great deal about John's admiration and respect for his good friend.

Lloyd LeVasseur

By John D. Voelker

We meet today to dedicate Lake LeVasseur and to pay honor to our old friend for whom this lake lying within gunshot of Lake Superior has been re-named. There was a Bunyanesque quality about our friend Lloyd LeVasseur and he became a kind of legend in his own lifetime. For the truth is that the man was a sort of genius; with his passion for perfection, he did such a wide variety of things so superlatively well that almost instinctively his marveling friends hailed him as – and indeed called him – The King.

The man possessed so many talents and excelled at so many accomplishments and had so many facets to his character that perhaps it is not excessive to say that there were as many Lloyd LeVasseurs as there are friends of his here today. On this occasion one can only touch the highlights. In the field and woods, he could outhunt and outshoot all competitors; in politics outrun the field; in the world of entertainment out-act and out-sing all others; and, when in a relaxed mood of conviviality, out-convivial any and all brave challengers.

Let me tell one typical hunting story. One lovely fall day three of us were hunting partridge in the wilds beyond Covington. After a long and rather unfruitful day we met in a tangled old logging camp clearing to walk out to the car. Gurn and I were bird-less and even the King had only two. We walked thirty paces and out bombed a bird. "Bang!" a gun spoke and now Lloyd had three. "Cover me!" Lloyd whispered to us as he knelt groping in the brush and tall grass to find the bird. So, with Lloyd virtually on his hands and knees two more birds exploded. Gurn and I stood there gaping and helpless, but not Lloyd. In what seemed one continuous movement he rose, wheeled and fired two shots, bing bang – and now five! It was a kind of ballet and was by all odds the most awesomely spectacular shooting performance I've ever beheld. This was Lloyd the hunter, the hunter who rarely missed.

Marquette County Clerk Lloyd LaVasseur, left, in his office.

Courtesy of Tom Buchkoe

In public office Lloyd was so unfailingly efficient and gracious that, though he rarely campaigned in any conventional fashion, he remained unbeatable. In fact, he was the only man I ever knew who in his own bailiwick consistently out-polled the national champ, F.D.R. Indeed, he held his job so long that our old friend Judge Bell once said to him: "Lloyd, you've been here so long and done such a grand job you have elevated political incumbency to a form on immortality." This was Lloyd the politician who never politicked.

Lloyd was also a consummate actor and entertainer. When a certain movie was made in his courthouse some years ago, Lloyd had the distinction of being the only native from the U.P. to win a speaking role – and naturally he all but stole the show. At the same time, he established another record – he was also the only actor in that or any other movie who had learned his lines by heart twenty years before the part was written …

One could run on for hours spinning true stories about Lloyd's fabled accomplishments in many fields. In fact, a book could be written about him and them and I'm not so sure one shouldn't be. But perhaps the biggest thing Lloyd excelled at was his capacity for friendship. The man radiated warmth and charm and zest and joy and I suspect we are all a little better for having known him. Lloyd Le-

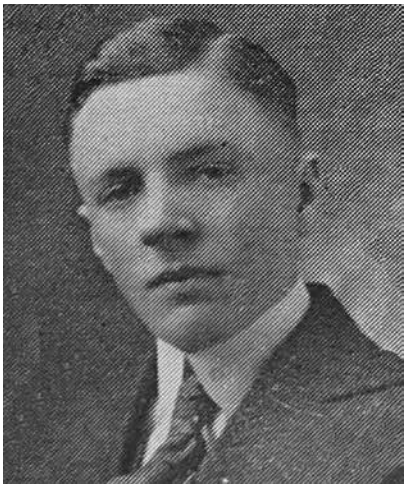
Vasseur was never a bystander before life but went out to embrace it with both arms. He lived to the hilt and died like a man. Of Lloyd LeVasseur it can perhaps for once be said: "The King is dead! Long Live the King!"

The plaque unveiled by Lloyd's daughter which rests on the access site reads: "Lake LeVasseur – Named in honor of Lloyd LeVasseur (1902-1963) for his devoted service to Marquette County, his excellent sportsmanship, his great love for the outdoors and, in particular, for this favorite spot where he spent so many pleasant hours. Dedicated April 29, 1969."

In addition to Lloyd's daughter, Mary Lynn Westerman, those attending the dedication ceremony from out of town included Lloyd's widow May Bushey LeVasseur, now of Detroit, and his only sibling, Mrs. Lucile Kindlin of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Beginnings

Lloyd LeVasseur's father, Alphonse was born in Champlain, Quebec, Canada in 1868 and immigrated to the United States in 1892. By 1894 Alphonse had settled in Marquette, Michigan and worked as a driver for P. F. Frei Bakery in Marquette. By 1897 Alphonse had learned the barbering trade and set up shop with Alfred Garceau in downtown Ishpeming at 113 E. Cleveland Avenue. Alphonse married Clarinda Pelissier on June 3, 1901 in Marquette. Clarinda was born in Rockland, Michigan in 1865. By 1870 Clarinda had moved with her family to the Village of Marquette where her father, Amedee Pellissier worked as a carpenter.



Lloyd LaVasseur

1920 Senior IHS Yearbook Photo

Lloyd did well in high school as evidenced by his diploma. The high school graduation rate in 1920 in the United States was less than 20%, with fewer boys than girls graduating. Lloyd was one of 7 members of the 1919-1920 Ishpeming Upper Peninsula championship basketball team, who had also competed in a national basketball tournament in Chicago. In high school, Lloyd's nick names were "Rabbit" and "Phonse," "Rabbit" for his slender, quick and fast presence on the basketball court and "Phonse" for his French ancestry. The 1920 IHS Hematite year book included a description of Lloyd as a member of the championship basketball team:

Lloyd "Rabbit" LeVasseur

"Rabbit," the "flyweight" of the team, possessed all the speed and grit necessary for a sensational player, but his weight placed him as a decided disadvantage. His shooting and playing ability was a by-word with the team. "Rabbit" is good proof of the theory that "Good things come in small parcels," and that "quality, not quantity counts."

1920 IHS UP Championship Basketball Team,

Lloyd is Standing in back row far left.

After graduation from high school, Lloyd spent a few years as a tumbleweed, working odd jobs and spent time as a singer and entertainer in an Upper Peninsula traveling vaudeville troupe. Lloyd also appeared frequently on local stages and radio stations. Lloyd sang in church choirs in Ishpeming and Marquette for about 40 years. He was also a member of the Kawbawgam Chorus and was one of the organizers and a charter member of the Kawbawgam Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

The early 1920's saw Alphonse and Clarinda move to Marquette where they took up residence at 209 Fisher Street. Alphonse began working as a guard at the Marquette Branch Prison. Lloyd moved in with his parents on Fisher Street in Marquette in 1925, and in March of 1928 began attending Northern State Teachers College in Marquette. Lloyd took mainly math and science classes and finished his course work in June 1931 without a diploma.

Lloyd's first job as a professional started in 1934 when he ran for and was elected to the role of Marquette County Surveyor. Two years later he ran for and was elected as the Marquette County Clerk, a position Lloyd was reelected to 13 times and duties he carried out until his death. For several years before his death, Lloyd also served as the librarian for the Marquette County Law Library which was on the ground floor of the courthouse.

From an article about Lloyd titled "An Artist with a Shotgun" in the November 1989 issue of Michigan Out-of-Doors "… Counting his election as surveyor, he won 15 consecutive two-year terms and became the oldest elected county officer, in point of service, in Marquette County and one of the oldest in the state. His popularity was such that voters ignored party labels when they came to his name on the ballot. On several occasions he polled more votes than any other candidate for either party and for any office – county, state, or national – an eloquent tribute to the high regard in which he was held by the people of Marquette County."

May Julia Bushey caught Lloyd's heart and they were married in Sault Ste. Marie on October 19, 1937 and set up house at 1027 Front Street, Marquette. May was born in downstate Huron County in 1908, became a registered nurse after high school and worked in a hospital in Detroit during the early 1930's. Lloyd and May were blessed with a daughter, Mary Lynn on October 18, 1939.

John Voelker had mentioned Lloyd's fine marksmanship with a shotgun in his eulogy. During his lifetime Lloyd had entered and won several Upper Peninsula skeet championships. In 1947, he became the first person from the Upper Peninsula to win the Wisconsin State Skeet Championship. In doing so, he broke 100 straight targets – the first time this had been done in the history of the tournament.

Lloyd seated at court clerks desk.

In the early morning hours of July 31, 1952, Lt. Coleman Peterson, lately of Big Bay, Michigan, entered the Lumberjack Tavern, strode to the bar where tavern owner, Maurice Chenoweth was working behind the bar. Peterson, who believed Chenoweth had beaten and raped his wife Charlotte earlier that night, raised his loaded nine-millimeter Luger and without hesitation, shot and killed Chenoweth who fell to the floor behind the bar.

Lloyd on scene with Jimmy Stewart and Brooks West.

The murder trial of Lt. Coleman Peterson was held at the majestic Marquette County Courthouse in mid-September 1952 with John D. Voelker as the defense attorney. As Lloyd LeVasseur was the Marquette County Clerk at the time, he was actively present for portions of the trial. Lt. Peterson was found not guilty a short 9 days after the trail began. Voelker had used a rare version of the insanity defense called irresistible impulse to set his client free.

When John Voelker wrote his bestselling novel, Anatomy of a Murder, he likely modelled the court clerk, Clovis Pidgeon, after his good friend Lloyd LeVasseur. One must assume that in his many conversations with Otto Preminger about the film version, John recommended Lloyd for the role of court clerk. Lloyd was visible in most of the court scenes, as he sat directly in front and below Judge Weaver (Joseph N. Welch) at the clerk's desk. During the court scenes Lloyd was seen swearing in witnesses and near the end of the film Lloyd stood in front of the jury and asked them if they had reached a verdict. In this author's opinion Lloyd was very convincing in his performance and served as a distinguished, dignified presence in the court room.

The June 30, 1959 issue of The Marquette Mining Journal ran an interview with Lloyd the Detroit Free Press had previously run about his role in the film. "I wanted to do a good job – for Mary Lynn, Johnny and Otto. The speaker was silver-thatched Lloyd LeVasseur, who was commenting on his role of Clovis Pidgeon, the

court clerk in the movie, Anatomy of a Murder, filmed entirely in Marquette County this spring. Mary Lynn is his attractive blond daughter, who just completed her sophomore year at the University of Detroit, majoring in theater and speech"

"Johnny is Michigan Supreme Court Justice John D. Voelker of Ishpeming, author of Anatomy of a Murder. Voelker and LeVasseur grew up together in Ishpeming and both had graduated from Ishpeming High School. They still hunt partridge together on opening day of every bird season."

"Otto is Otto Preminger, producer-director of 'Anatomy,' a man for whom LeVasseur developed tremendous respect while working for him while the movie was being filmed in the venerable Marquette County Courthouse."

Lloyd swearing in witness

Mr. George Lemon (Russ Brown) camp ground caretaker

"LaVasseur, who looks like (actor) Adolphe Menjou, says his brief acting career was 'a thrilling experience.' He adds: 'I got a great kick out of it, mostly because Mary Lynn's been studying dramatics in college, and I get a speaking part in a Hollywood movie. The part wasn't difficult for me, he says, I didn't even have to memorize any lines. All I had to do was to say the same things I'd been saying in court for 23 years. The oath I used in the movie is the same one I always use, except Otto had me speed up the lines a little."

"LeVasseur threw himself into the movie role with concentrated dedication. For five weeks, he spent 10 or 11 hours a day on the set and kept up his duties as county clerk by working nights and weekends. During the daytime, his private office was used by James Stewart, star of 'Anatomy,' as a rehearsal room."

"I got along swell with the whole movie company, he says, in fact, I never met a nicer bunch of people – the stars, the technicians, the director – they were all wonderful. I'm reasonably sure the movie people liked us folks, too. We did everything we could to help them. It was a great experience, from beginning to end."

Lloyd in Anatomy of a Murder opening credits

On October 24, 1963, John Voelker confided to his personal journal "My old friend and partridge hunting chum, Lloyd LeVasseur, lays dying of cancer. The doctors are as helpless as I." On December 5, 1963 John again reported to his personal journal "My old friend, Lloyd LeVasseur died yesterday of cancer. One by one the old chums go, and more and more I am left with my fishing." Lloyd died at the age of 61 from Pancreatic Cancer on December 4, 1963.

Lloyd William LeVasseur deserves to be remembered as one of Ishpeming's, and Marquette County's favorite sons. Undoubtedly, Lloyd will be remembered for his speaking role as the distinguished and dapper Clovis Pidgeon, Count Clerk, in the Hollywood blockbuster film, Anatomy of a Murder, along with having his name immortalized in the opening credits.

The author of the article wishes to thank the JM Longyear Research Library, The Peter White Public Library, Northern Michigan University, Mr. Eric Bradley and Mr. Tom Buchkoe for information and photographs.

Sailing with the Wind

Part Two, Laughing Whitefish,

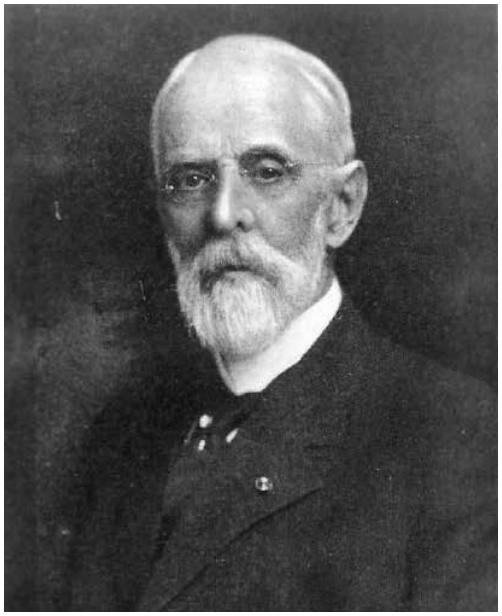
Publisher Incompetence

Eleventh in a series concerning the books of Robert Traver (John Voelker)

by David Lee White, IAHS Board Member

Summary of "Sailing with the Wind", Part One ("Sailing with the Wind" is Charlotte Kawbawgam's anglicized Ojibwa name, "Minwash.") John Voelker began conducting research for his new novel, Laughing Whitefish, in earnest in January 1962. The idea of seriously writing a novel around the discovery of Iron Ore in Marquette County and Charlotte Kawbawgam's involvement and interest in the discovery began in January 1948 with a letter to his mentor, Judge Bell, with an offer of a collaboration. Judge Bell had previously drawn John's attention to the supreme court cases reporting the various suits brought by or on behalf of Margi-Gesick's daughter against the old Jackson Ore Company. Judge Bell wished John good luck with his research and writing, but let John know that he had no interest in the project. The amount of research John knew this historical novel would take kept it on the back burner until he retired from the Michigan Supreme Court in January 1960. John made slow work writing his "Indian yarn" and had finished the difficult process of completing the draft manuscript, having it typed up, and submitted to his long-time editor, Sherman Baker by June 1964. Sherman was now working as an editor for McGraw-Hill. It took until mid-January, 1965 for John to shorten and revise the draft, based upon Sherman's suggestions, into what he hoped would be his next bestseller. There would be a few more revisions prior to publication and unfortunately, a hint of building dissatisfaction from the McGraw-Hill brass concerning certain aspects of John's new novel. Problems began when the McGraw-Hill brass all but insisted that John's beloved title, Laughing Whitefish, needed to be changed.

John Voelker's Personal journal, January 25, 1965 "Sherman phoned he's finished reading the revision and thinks it's 'terrific.' He's coming out here next week."



Judge Frank A. Bell, John Veolker's Friend and Mentor

Photo courtesy of Delta County Historical Society

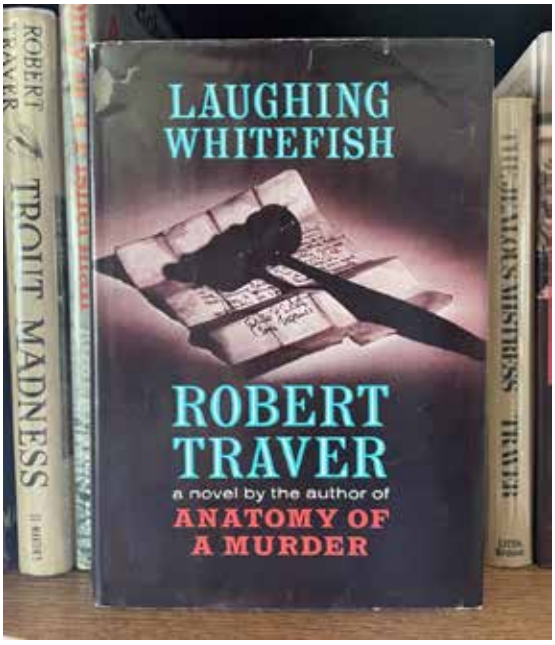
Letter to John's editor Sherman Baker, January 25, 1965, "The Sunday after I mailed you the revised script (January 17th) I took off for Port Huron to go over the script with my friend Eugene F. Black who is a bearcat on legal history and procedures and was a fellow justice with me on the supreme court and still sits."

"Gene and I sat down with the script Tuesday noon, my plan being to speed his work by pointing out only the legal passages. Pretty soon he became absorbed in the book and pushed me aside and read the whole damned thing on his own. He read all Tuesday afternoon, read through dinner at home that night, read until nearly eleven after dinner - - and he was back at it again before I woke up Wednesday morning."

"He (Gene) is not a man given to superlatives or easy praise, but he loves the book and thinks it my finest. Flatteringly enough he picked up more typos and non-legal goofs than legal ones. Of the latter he only beagled two, neither serious, but which I'll correct against the fly-speckers."

As John and Sheman were nearing the finish line on all the corrections to the Laughing Whitefish manuscript, Sherman wrote John a letter just after his trip to Ishpeming where the two old friends worked side by side on the final draft, dated February 6, 1965. The letter addressed McGraw-Hill's concerns about the title.

> "Before you turn in the final will you please take one more look at the title – Laughing Whitefish. It is a 'joke' title and because it is odd it will be recognized."



"…Mull over these points:

- A trick title is not always good for sales (I remember a startling book we did at Dutton's called 'Blind White Fish in Persia' – sold 2,200 copies).
- The novel even with your strengthening of Laughing Whitefish is not about her.
- You are following a fishing book with a fish title. You'd be surprised how many stupid librarians will say – 'Oh, another book of fishing stories by Mr. Traver.'

So, before you close your mind to this consider some word combinations:

- Treasure at Haunted Mountain
- The Swindle at Iron Rock
- Gods of Treasure Mountain
- Trial at Treasure Mountain
- Rape of the Haunted Mountain, etc., etc.

Whatever you decide we will do."

Author's note: I'm not sure what Sherman was thinking, he offered horrible title suggestions in my opinion, maybe it was easier to write down his "concerns" in a letter than to address John face to face with them. I believe there is a good chance Sherman was being pushed by his boss and Editor in Chief, Edward Kuhn, to address the title issue with John.

John wrote Sherman a letter dated February 12, 1965 that gave his editor an update on the final corrections/additions to the manuscript. John ended the letter with "I will need a short punch additional chapter - - to describe the savage assault on Willy by a nameless Indian - - and the complications flowing from that. I've already done it and it goes. The rest will be various splicing pages full of jealousy, rivals, suspicion and gradual explanation - - perhaps a half dozen in all. Plus, a new ending to resolve all the mysteries. All that remains is to 'aloof' Lotti (Charlotte) more at the beginning, gradually warm her up - - and then comes all the trouble. It goes; it goes…"

Personal journal, Sunday, February 14, 1965 "Finished the final revision of Laughing Whitefish at 2:20 p.m." "Mailed it in (to Sherman) on Friday, February 19th."

Four days after John submitted the manuscript that he and Sherman had been working on for the last two years, Edward Kuhn, Editor in Chief and General Manager of McGraw-Hill Book Company wrote his new author a letter dated February 23, 1965:

"Dear John

We're delighted to have the manuscript back in - - and so quickly. Sherman has it now and I'll read it over the weekend.

This letter is about the title. Let me put it bluntly, John: nobody likes it. It's not only a giggly title but half the people who hear it think you've written another fishing book. (This I must say I did not expect.)

So, please, grab that pencil, scratch that wise and grizzled head, and give this title business some heavy thought. We will do the same. I never argue with an author about a title, John. Unless I think the title disastrously bad.

Very best, Ed"

Based upon evidence of letters written and posted between John Voelker and Sherman Baker (New York City to Ishpeming), A first class letter (air mail) took 1-2 days to arrive at its destination, quite a feat for 5 cents in 1965. That would mean John had Edward Kuhn's letter to mull and fume over for about a week before he decided to write his editor in chief about his suggestion that the title needed to be changed. The day before he wrote Kuhn, he wrote Sherman on March 4, 1965 with personal and business news, and with a warning shot in the last sentence "I am writing Ed that I do not propose to change the title, and since the result could be serious, I'll send you a copy of my letter."

On March 5, 1965, John wrote an amazing 3 ½ page, single spaced typewritten letter, with his thoughts and reasons for choosing the title of his new novel. He titled the letter "In defense of Laughing Whitefish." The letter starts out "You have been frank in expressing your dislike of my 'disastrous' title, as you call it, and I shall

be the same in return."

John explained that in his previous books he had "tried to avoid symbolic, enigmatic or dreamily poetic titles. They have either been bluntly descriptive of the book's main subject (Anatomy of a Murder, Trout Madness) or of one or more of its characters, or a mixture of both." John then told Kuhn, "You ask me to grab a pencil and give this title business some heavy thought. I have already done that, sir, long before I ever starting writing the story."

John then patiently explained his reasoning "This book is mainly about three things: Indians, the discovery of iron ore, and the ancient and bitter litigation that followed and involved both. Now I could have stressed the second in my title, such as 'Red Gold' or 'The Haunted Mountain', or the third, such as 'The Misbegotten' or (brace yourself) 'Anatomy of a Lawsuit.' Why then did I choose to stress the Indian phrase?"

"I chose the present title because it is an old and widely-known Indian name in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; because as such it correctly connotes an historical narrative; because it is the name of one of the principal characters and also of the leading Indian and feminine character; and because it is the anglicized version of an ancient Chippewa Indian name for a lovely old river that still flows in the Upper Peninsula - - a river, moreover, beside which she was born and from which she drew her name. To name my heroine after a river accords with the common Indian custom of naming their children after natural objects or animals or fish or birds. Here she is named after a river in turn named after a fish."

"Why I wanted to stress the Indian quality of the book over the others in my title is I suppose partly because it was this that first excited my imagination and, after many years, finally compelled me to tackle this long and difficult story; because of the gnawing injustice of the situation; because an Indian was present at the first discovery of iron ore and later led the white men to it; and finally perhaps because this and the other 'Indian-ness' of the situation forms the whole rationale of the litigation that is the guts of the book."

"It is not as though I had chosen a gimmicky or irrational title of the kind that adorn so many books and plays these days; it means something, and is drawn directly from the leading Indian character in the book and from the river beside which she was born and drew her name."

"To any suggestion that a book with such a title might be regarded by many as simply another Traver fishing book I will say this: to the great unwashed 'reading' public Robert Traver is a man who has written but one book, a novel called The Anatomy of a Murder. (Invariably they add the 'The'.) Literate readers know that Traver is a far-gone trout snob who would not concede that whitefish exist let alone deign to fish for or write a book about them."

"I am usually open to all manner of editorial suggestion, and Sherman Baker has been brilliant in helping solve some of the knotty problems of this book, but I must reserve to myself the right to pick my title. I don't want to sound arty, but this particular title is more or less in my blood, and to me is a beautiful one. Moreover, if I did not have this deep feeling for it and the story and for the Indians and my native country, I could not possibly have written the book. It was far from easy in any case. Now that the job is mostly done to go ahead and change that title to please some mystic unknown readers or a committee or a sales staff or an editor sitting out in remote Manhattan would be to my mind an act of impiety and almost of deceit against the Indians who gave me this powerful story."

"I have promised I would be equally frank with you, and I'll keep my promise. I like the title of my new book, I think it is 'right' for the story, and I do not propose to change it. While I very much hope that the foregoing explanation of my reasons will at least let you people learn to live with my title, if not I suppose we had better resolve the issue without delay" (end of letter).

Sherman wrote John on March 10, 1965, starting out with "So be it, LAUGHING WHITEFISH. Your thoughtful letter carried strong convictions. It is now our job to sell it as wide and deep as possible."

Edward Kuhn wrote John on March 12, 1965, "Well - - yours of the 5th was very strong, eloquent defense of the title. I admire men strong in their convictions and ringing in their announcements of same. My convictions on this matter (and hell, yes, I could be dead wrong, I hope so!) are equally strong, but this is your decision to make and you have made it. So, fine!"

Three days later, Edward Kuhn wrote John to let him know that he had read the latest version, was happy with it, and would be meeting with Sherman soon to discuss "re-typing the messier pages, starting work on the jacket, and generally moving off in the direction of press as quickly as possible."

John and Sherman were making what John called "fly-specking corrections" to the manuscript while at the same time, making plans for a fishing trip in a warmer climate, John wrote to Sherman a letter dated March 15, 1965 "Sherman, the place I am thinking about going trout fishing early in April is in the Waynesville area of North Carolina, in the Smokies. This is in the extreme western portion of the state, not far from Ashville, and only a matter of miles off of US 75. Now I certainly don't want to inflict this trip on you, but if you really

want to go, I'd love to have you, and we could meet either in Detroit, say, and drive on down together or else you could also drive over in your Hornet and we could meet in Waynesville. Perhaps we could combine the fishing with a final go-around of the typescript…I mainly want to get the hell away from all the snow and ice still lying between me and our Michigan fishing season."

The scrap concerning the title for his new novel had somewhat soured John on his new publisher. The last paragraph of the March 15 letter to Sherman started out "I am developing a theory, Sherman, that outfits as big as McGraw-Hill succeed not because of any aptitude but despite their ineptitude. This pearl is prompted by the fact that I still do not have the ten (additional) copies of my fish book (Anatomy of a Fisherman) I ordered well over a month ago …"

In an effort to smooth this over, John wrote Edward Kuhn on March 19, 1965 with another point in defense of his title "... (though not to equate myself with him, heaven forbid) Hemingway named one of his early and most famous stories after an 'ugly' Indian-named U.P. trout stream, 'Big Two-Hearted River.'"

John continued "I think your suggestion to complicate the relationship between Lotti (Charlotte) and Willy was a good one, Ed, and I bought it the moment Sherman told me about it. I think that between the two of you, you and Sherman have improved the book immeasurably with your suggestions. It was the hardest job of writing I've ever tackled; there was so much story to tell, I guess."

Via phone call Sherman let John know he planned to meet him in Willow Run (Michigan) for the fishing trip on April 6. Sherman planned on bringing a fishing vest and pants, ten-inch boots and waders. He would use one of John's extra fly rods. John planned on driving his Pontiac convertible.

While I'm sure John and Sherman had a good time together, the fishing was a bust. Sherman and John both arrived back in New York City and Ishpeming respectively on April 13. John had planned on stopping and fishing in Virginia, but wrote to Sherman and explained his hasty return on April 14 "After learning that most of the 'brook' trout in 'You All' land were planted rainbows (as I suspected from that one bunch we saw), and since I won't even fish the wild ones around here, I shortly took off over the mountains, missed the Ohio tornadoes by a hair, and got home last night, weary to my bones. So, I drove over three thousand miles to fish thirty minutes …" However, the two friends did take time to read the manuscript out loud to each other and made more changes and corrections, John writing "… I now think it's a much better book."

John returned a revised copy of the Laughing Whitefish information for the salesmen, etc. in a letter to Sherman, dated April 23, 1965. The letter ended with "Tomorrow's the big day, so I mail this (now). We needed a tractor to plow into Uncles."

May 10, 1965, found John writing to Sherman with last minute discussion before his new novel went to press. John had suggestions about the dust jacket and asked Sherman to dedicate the book "To Anne and Adam" John's latest grandchildren. John also put in an order for 100 copies of the new book along with mailers. John could not resist telling Sherman about spring fishing "The glacier is retreating and fly fishing is just opening up. Mennen Williams was our guest over Friday night (he was out here talking African affairs at the college) and for breakfast he devoured my first brook trout…so the madness is once again upon us."

John ended his discussion about the new novel in the May 10 letter with "One more vital thing! The last of our good post-season fishing expires on October 15, and if I am expected to come to New York for publication day I would prefer that it be after October 15. Now there's trout madness for you." McGraw-Hill acceded to John's request and initially set the publication date on Friday, October 15, 1965. That is until he reminded them that he requested "after" October 15 - - the publication date ended up being Monday, October 18, 1965.

John is his signature blue and white striped shirt.

McGraw-Hill sent John their Fall 1965 catalogue of trade books which included Laughing Whitefish. Along with a lengthy description of the new novel, it had a photograph taken by Robert Kelley of John sitting from the waist up sporting his trademark blue and white

striped shirt that he primarily used as an undershirt while fishing. Sherman had asked John if they could use the photograph on the lower dust jacket cover of his new novel. John answered Sherman in a letter dated June 6, 1965 "That is a fine honest craggy picture of that old bastard Traver, and for my part you could 'go' with it. But the ladies in my life prefer that I look as pretty as the arts of photography can make me, so I suppose in the interests of domestic tranquility I'd better vote for the (Gjon) Mili (portrait) on the jacket and at least in some of the ads."

Early June still saw John and Sherman discussing the artwork on the dust jacket. John had thought the first version rather dull and unappealing. One problem John pointed out was that Marji-Gesick's document from The Jackson Mining Company, written on a piece of note paper in the 1840's, and which was centered on the front panel, had a perforated edge…John wrote Sherman in a letter dated June 11 "For one thing I doubt that people carried loose-leafed perforated journals around with them back in 1844, and moreover I devote a whole scene in the book showing Philo Everett matching the torn jagged original paper against the place in his journal from which it was torn."

A letter from Sherman to John dated July 7, 1965 had book club acceptance news "Beverly J. Loo reports that she has just had an offer from the Doubleday Dollar Book Club for January-February 1966. This will not affect our publication date of October 18 … The minimum guarantee is $10,000 and this club frequently earns in excess. BOM (Book of the Month Club) reported yesterday to Miss Loo that book reports had 'not been strong enough' to justify their choice."

July 9 saw a return letter from John to Sherman "About the Doubleday Dollar Book Club offer. Isn't 4 months after hardback publication pretty early to peddle the book for a buck? And if a big book club should take it and delay publication couldn't Doubleday thus scoop the field? I would like to hear more before the offer is accepted."

"Too bad about the BOM rejection. Personally, I think they have rocks in their head, but they might be right. The book does not have the drive of 'Anatomy' but in some ways I think it's a better book."

In late June, McGraw-Hill had sent out galleys (a galley is a preliminary proofreading version of a book not yet published) to Doubleday Dollar Book Club, Book of the Month Club, Literary Guild, Reader's Digest and paperback publishers Dell and Fawcett to gage their interest. They received an offer from Dell for a paperback edition for a $30,000 (over $300,000 in 2026 dollars) advance against royalties of 10%. The Dell paperback would be published a number of months after the initial hardcover was published. Apparently, McGraw-Hill signaled approval of this offer without checking with John first.

John had high hopes for Laughing Whitefish. He had put a lot of time and effort into his new, very unique novel. In a letter to his editor, Sherman Baker, dated July 17, 1965, John laid out his displeasure with his new publisher's actions. "I am afraid you guys are getting chicken on my new novel. I think the Dell offer should be rejected. They offered as much for Hornstein. The trouble with you publishing guys is that you try to drain every dollar out of a book even before it is published and the book is established as a hardback. Nobody makes big offers for an untried property. I am willing to gamble on this book and to decline all offers until the book is out and has had a chance to make its way. This book may be no bomb but it is a good solid story and I suggest McGraw get with it. I'll happily take it elsewhere if they don't want it. Please show this to Ed Kuhn"

Sherman replied to John's letter the next day, Sunday, July 18. Sherman apologized, tried to explain his reasoning and let John know that "… if it is your wish, the deal is off with Dell … I will await your further instructions Tuesday."

John wrote a longer letter to Sherman dated July 20, 1965. The letter was written, and I think waiting to be mailed out when John received a call from Bob Gutwillig (McGraw-Hill vice president), who was in charge of McGraw-Hill when Ed Kuhn was gone. Bob must have been able to smooth things out over the Dell offer as the words "not sent" was handwritten at the top. Half way down the page John had written: "But my concern and resentment over the way my book has been handled goes far beyond money. It is that my publisher by doing what it has done has put a pall of defeat on my book even before it is born. And has deliberately allowed the dreariest segment of American publishing gratuitously to do it to my book that we have all toiled so long and hard over. Now don't tell me that this pall does not exist. The mere fact that you and Ed could seriously entertain much less accept the Dell offer tells me with trumpets that it does exist; that you are running scared. And I resent it; resent deeply having my own publisher put me and my book in this unhappy position at the hands of those semi-literate feather merchants. I have delivered myself." The above letter was not sent to McGraw-Hill but John did send Sherman and Ed a similar, if somewhat softened critical letter dated August 4, 1965. This long, three-page letter was now signed "I guess the Michigan Tiger has now delivered himself, Sir."

John D. Voelker Back cover photo of Laughting Whitefish.

McGraw-Hill cancelled the initial paperback deal with Dell. Dell would eventually publish Laughing Whitefish in paperback in October 1966, which to this editor sounds about right as it was one year after the hardcover edition was published. John's insistence to control his own and his novel's fate earned him a new nickname around McGraw-Hill, "The Michigan Tiger."

John received a letter from McGraw-Hill's Sales Manager Joseph Allen dated July 21, 1965 "Dear Mr. Voelker: I was in Detroit recently and visited Hudson's where I had a very interesting talk with the buyer, Mrs. Golub, concerning promotion for Laughing Whitefish."

"Hudson's is very, very enthusiastic about the book and really wants to go all out on promotion. Their suggestion is that we set a date as close to publication, October 18, as possible for you to spend a day in the Detroit area. Mrs. Golub would arrange a lecture program for the morning for such groups as the Detroit Bar Association and the Woman's Book Review group to be followed by an autographing appearance at the store itself. In addition, there would be all sorts of Advertising, radio and T.V. tie-ins … let me know at your earliest convenience what date, or a choice of dates, would be most convenient for you."

John replied to Mr. Allen's letter soon after it arrived "The answer is yes and please work with my editor Sherman Baker regarding the date as I think I was expected to be in New York for publication. Personally, I would much rather not have to go to New York as I do not fly or much care for New York. So maybe we can make my part in it an all-Michigan thing."

Sherman wrote John on July 28, 1965 concerning the Hudson's appearance "We all think that your idea of making Laughing Whitefish a big Michigan book with much celebration at Hudson's is an excellent idea and Sonia Levinthal says that she would like to arrange some TV appearances in Detroit. Obviously, this is your own happy hunting ground and there should be a maximum of publicity coverage…I think that this party at Hudson's on publication day will make a more effective splash than anything we could do in 'this jaded enclave of Europe' (John's quote)."

Ed Kuhn wrote John a letter with surprising news on August 13, 1965. Ed was leaving McGraw-Hill to become Executive Vice President and Editor in Chief at the publisher New American Library.

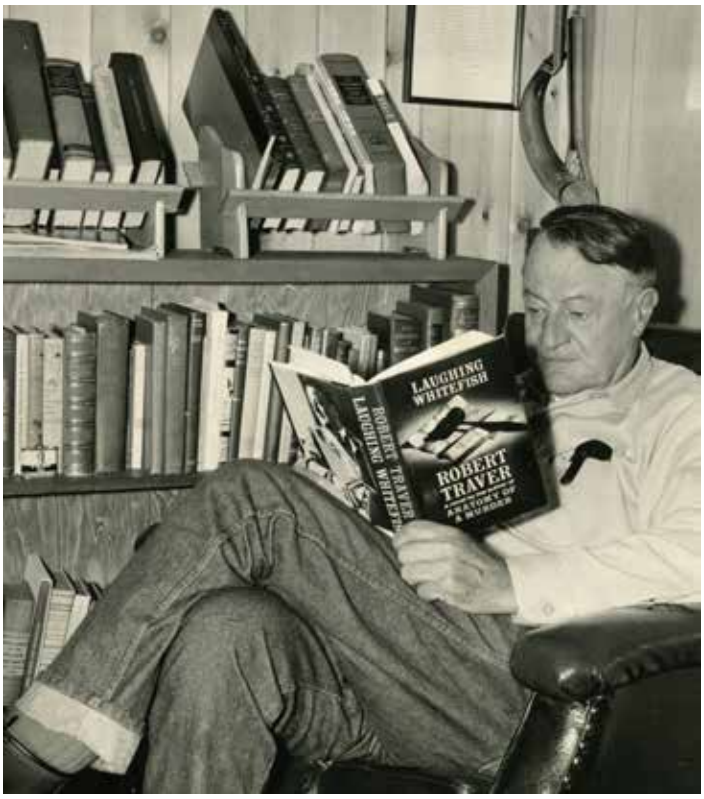
John wrote back to Ed on August 20 and wished him good luck. But Ed had to defend himself one more time before leaving concerning the Dell paperback deal. In a letter to John dated August 19, 1965, Ed justified his decision to take the deal offered by Dell. In part Ed wrote "You seem to have a fairly low view of scared, unsure hardcover publishers and as a blanket condemnation or characterization I can't go along with you. I don't think we are suffering from 'timidity, corporate lethargy and institutional myopia, lack of discrimination or lack of an informed central authority to appraise and determine how a given book should best be handled,' etc."

"Judging all factors deliberately and in full possession of the facts and our own faculties, we decided the Dell offer a good one, probably the best we could get and one we should take immediately. We thought to take it, was in your best interests and in our own. I still think so."

In any case the initial Dell deal for the paperback edition had been rejected, whether or not that was a wise decision would become evident. Looking back, knowing the high regard John had for his new novel, and the advance Dell had offered more than a year after the publication of the hardcover edition of Anatomy of a Murder, $100,000, after a protracted negotiation by St. Martin's Press, one understands John's misgivings and his decision that his new publisher was making a big mistake.

It appears that Sherman and John buried the hatchet, as good friends do, when they spoke together in person at the premier of the play version of Anatomy of a Murder in Chicago on August 17, 1965. Sherman wrote John after returning from Chicago on August 24, 1965. Sherman told John that the prepublication copies of

Laughing Whitefish should be available by September 10. Sherman also shared with John a piece of gossip that he had heard at lunch "Harold McGraw (McGraw-Hill CEO) is looking for 'a bigger man than Ed Kuhn.' Where oh where are my Adler Elevator Shoes!" As it turns out, Sherman was also looking to leave McGraw-Hill and had received an offer from World Publishing Company, Sherman made a counteroffer and was waiting to see if they would meet his salary demand. John replied to Sherman's letter on August 26, 1065. In part John wrote "Hudson's bookstore plans many burning hoops for me to leap through. I'll adjust my toupee and leap and leap. Great to see you in Chicago despite distractions."



John reading Laughing Whitefish in his den in his Deer Lake home.

Sherman sent John a letter and a package dated September 7, 1965 "Here is the Number One copy of Laughing Whitefish by special messenger from the bindery. I think it is a good-looking book and I hope it sells and sells and sells." In John's reply dated September 10, John wrote "Thank you for the Number One copy of Laughing Whitefish, which arrived yesterday. It is certainly a handsome job, both the jacket and the book itself, and please congratulate and compliment the jacket designer for a wonderful imaginative job. Also please thank Sherman Baker, when you see him, for taking the blinders off the designer's eyes. All in all, it is perhaps the handsomest production of my eight published books."

John touched upon his upcoming appearance at Hudson's bookstore (planned for October 20, 1965) again in a letter to Sherman dated September 8, 1965 "Tell Joe Allen (McGraw-Hill Sales Manager) I'm in touch with Hudson's and will be their slave, leaping through flaming hoops, from punchbowl to punchbowl, exuding charm as a skunk does attar of roses, signing books with both feet."

John received a letter from McGraw-Hill's advertising manager, John Breon dated September 10, 1965 that spelled out the advance advertising scheme for Laughing Whitefish. It included ads for book sellers in Publisher's Weekly, Library Journal, Book Buyer's Guide, Campbell and Hall's Guide, McClurg's Book News and American News of Books. Ads for the public would appear in the New York Times Book Review, Book Week, New York Herald Tribune, Los Angeles Times and the Detroit News. McGraw-Hill also offered to pay for 75% of the cost of ads placed by bookstores in local newspapers, and made available display materials including a large poster for retail bookstores. Lastly McGraw-Hill had an extensive plan for placing Christmas ads in retail book publications nationwide. It all sounded like a good plan.

John wrote John Breon a return letter dated September 16, 1965 "Short of hiring the Air Force to do sky writing for Laughing Whitefish, I can't possibly dream of what else you might do. I am deeply impressed and a little groggy and warm all over to learn of your magnificent plans for the book. May it soar and soar."

With publication of Laughing Whitefish less than a month away, John wrote to Sherman with news and concerns on September 21, 1965. John sent Sherman some corrections to be made before future printings of Laughing Whitefish were ordered and told Sherman "I do hope you will keep close tabs on things so that McGraw-Hill doesn't get caught with insufficient copies." Sherman had lobbied for minimum print run of 35,000 copies of the first edition, however, before Ed Kuhn left McGraw-Hill, he had cut the first print run down to 20,000 copies.

John was very encouraged with the planned advertising blitz, but also disturbed at the fact that only 20,000 copies of the book would be available. "… McGraw-Hill may run out of copies during the crucial early weeks of publication. My growing apprehension is heightened by the fact that Hudson's store has planned a dazzling wingding for me on October 20 from early morning until 11:00 p.m., TV, radio, luncheon, dinner, autographing, including wooing 600 people in a synagogue! Moreover, I have received confidential information that Detroit's leading paper, The Detroit News, has assigned the book to one of its best and most erudite and respected reviewers, who happens to be an

old friend of mine, and that plans are afoot to feature the book in its brand-new separate book review section. Moreover, I am now working with Bob Cromie (Chicago talk show host) on plans to do a solo TV interview with him around publication time …"

John ended the September 21, 1965 letter with "I am so much concerned about this, Sherman, that I wish you would look into this as soon as possible. If necessary, you can respectfully assure the McGraw brass for me that if I learn that they are unable to fill orders for Laughing Whitefish because of an inadequate stock that I will most surely take my next book elsewhere. In fact, I just may do that anyway because of the book being put in this uneasy position in the first place. Goddamitt, even poor Hornstein sold more than they've printed."

One of a publisher's responsibilities is to mail out review copies of a new book to newspaper and professional journal book reviewers, etc. A letter John wrote to Sherman dated September 25, 1965, illuminated a possible concern "Mother McGraw owes me at least two books: review copies I have hastily sent (from John's limited supply) our local Mining Journal newspaper and also the State Bar Journal in Lansing. Maybe she mailed both their copies to Playboy!"

September 29, 1965 saw John writing a hopeful letter to Sherman, ending with "Initial reaction from my friends (John mailed out quite a few inscribed copies), lawyers and others, is most encouraging. Predictably they praise but, in the past, I've noticed that they don't write or phone when I've laid an egg. One guy kept me on the phone a half hour last night - - a cagey battered old lawyer from Green Bay. I appointed him drumbeater for northern Wisconsin - - without a fee. He thinks it's my best. What did the brass say about more copies? Who killed Cock Robin? Who dat say dat last who dat?"

John's letter concerning the review copies lit a match under Sherman. Upon investigating, Sherman found out that (letter from Sherman to John dated October 1, 1965) all of the out-of-town (out of New York) review copies were to be mailed out weeks ago from the McGraw-Hill warehouse…this had not been done. In addition, Sherman requested a count be done for remaining stock of Laughing Whitefish that had yet to be allocated for orders. Sherman was told they were approaching 20,000 and were close to being out of stock. Sherman demanded a 15,000 copy second printing be immediately ordered. This request went up the ladder until it landed on the desk Harold McGraw Jr., CEO. Harold approved a second printing of 12,500.

Sherman wrote a letter to John on October 1, 1965, exposing the ineptitude within McGraw-Hill concerning Laughing Whitefish. Sherman already knew that Beverly Jane Loo, McGraw-Hill Manager of the Subsidiary Rights Department, who had brokered the deal in July 1965 with Dell for the paperback rights, was very unhappy when John insisted that 3 months before publication of the hardcover was entirely too early to close on a deal for paperback rights. Sherman believed Miss Loo was throwing up road-blocks for John's new novel. Sherman met with Bob Crandall, McGraw-Hill Vice-President and reviewed all the McGraw-Hill blunders. Crandall told Sherman "Well you know who poisoned the well on Traver. Sherman asked him what he meant, and Crandall said "Bob Gutwillig (McGraw-Hill Vice President who had recently quit) had been against the book." Sherman continued in the letter "I was incredulous as Bob Gutwillig had always indicated to me that he thought Ed (Kuhn) was wrong in printing only twenty thousand copies. I now put him, Gutwillig, down for a two-faced bastard. I was warned when I first came to McGraw not to trust him, but I put this down to a couple of disgruntled individuals who subsequently left. I am convinced now that it was not entirely our Miss Loo but Bob as well who in Crandall's words 'poisoned the well.'" Sherman ended the letter with "Enough of this sorry business. It looks as though we're going to have a best-seller in spite of all the obstacles."

John replied to Sherman's last letter on October 5, 1965 "Thanks for your revealing and most interesting letter of October 1st with its enclosure. My, my, the plot thickens. By some miracle the two 'pay back' books arrived yesterday, I also airmailed a third copy to (Bob) Cromie and he is cooperating beautifully to try to get a crash review written (Bob Cromie wrote book reviews for the Chicago Tribune and also created two television talk shows for new books and authors). It really shook me to learn that the most important review medium in the Midwest did not have a review copy of my book."

Sherman wrote John with news on October 13, 1965 "Corrections number two (John had been reviewing Laughing Whitefish for errors) have been ordered by the Manufacturing Department as of October 12. Both sets of corrections will appear in the next printing. When I tried to get them made before we went back to press on the second printing of 12,500, I was told that it would delay bound books at least a week. It now looks as though we would be going into a third printing of 10,000 shortly - - as reported by our director of sales, Joe Allen. These copies will have all corrections made."

Sherman also revealed in the October 13 letter that McGraw-Hill had hired a new editor-in-chief, Frank Taylor (replacing Ed Kuhn). Sherman had put his hat in the ring but was not surprised when he did not get the promotion. Frank Taylor had a long history in the book publishing business, he had previously worked for Reynal and Hitchcock, Harper's and Dell.

John ignored his personal journal from March 10 to October 8, 1965. I think we all know what he was doing … John unloaded his thoughts about McGraw-Hill in his journal on October 8, 1965 "Am thinking seriously of leaving McGraw-Hill, they are so big and arrogant and stupid. Item: they 'forgot' to mail review copies of Laughing Whitefish to many of the leading US review mediums; Item: they 'forgot' to contact the sports stores that issued catalogues when my fish book came out last fall (Anatomy of a Fisherman); Item: they wanted to peddle Laughing Whitefish to Dell paperback for peanuts before publication, which I put down; Item: oh, what's the use. I hate bigness anyway, and where it is combined with arrogance and an invincible stupidity, I recoil."

Letter to Sherman from John, October 16, 1965 "I report this without comment as I am running out of comment. Bob Kelley (co-author of Anatomy of a Fisherman and Life magazine photographer) airmails me yesterday from New York that he asked Dave Scherman when he was going to review Laughing Whitefish for Life (magazine) and that Dave said he has not yet received a review copy."

October 18, 1965 brought publication day for Laughing Whitefish. Marquette's Mining Journal printed a long article in the October 19, 1965 newspaper "Laughing Whitefish, John D. Voelker's first historical novel is cast in the mold of his best-selling Anatomy of a Murder and just might prove almost as successful as its famous forerunner."

"Voelker, writing under the pen name Robert Traver bases his novel on an actual case stemming from the discovery of iron ore in Negaunee and the subsequent claim of his Indian heroine, Laughing Whitefish, against the corporation which profited heavily from the discovery after her father had pointed out the fabulous ore deposit to prospectors."

"With many of the ingredients of 'Anatomy,' Voelker's newest novel seems destined to enjoy a large measure of his first novel's popularity, and Marquette County conceivably could be invaded again by the likes of Jimmy Stewart, Lee Remick, Ben Gazzara and other Hollywood and Broadway actors who made up the cast of 'Anatomy.'"

Sherman shared news with John on October 19, 1965 "The second printing of 12,500 (is) due Monday (October 26, 1965). Each day I will check with (Joe) Allen and I think a third printing of 10,000 will be indicated."

Laughing Whitefish New York Times Book Review

"As tense, intriguing, and provocative as Anatomy of a Murder – and completely different! Robert Traver is back in the Courtroom where a shy, young Michigan lawyer is battling New York's shrewdest attorney, the sleek old 'Siver Fox.' The locate: the rugged and picturesque Upper Peninsula; the time: the turbulent 1870's. At stake, the fortunes of a beautiful Indian girl."

"Laughing Whitefish who gives this compelling book its name. The daughter of the Chippewa guide who led the white man to Michigan's fabulous iron ore mines. Laughing Whitefish is now fighting to gain what justice grants, but what law withholds. And she has only a neophyte lawyer, Willy Poe, to help her. As in Anatomy of a Murder, Traver moves in and out of the courtroom – probing men's motives, searching their hearts – brilliantly sorting out what is legal and what is just. Laughing Whitefish is Traver in his most suspenseful and most indignant vein, it is also Traver at his most poetic, tender best."

Part three of "Sailing with the Wind," "Laughing Whitefish, Winning Out" will be in the next IAHS Newsletter, Summer 2026.

Research for this article was conducted at NMU Archives, the editor is grateful for their very helpful assistance.

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 any future mailings. 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!

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. 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)

___$5 Student (high school-College) ___Additional donation_____

___$10 Individual ___$20 Family (One household)

___$25 Non-Profit Business ___$35 Business

___$200 Lifetime Individual or Family, ___$250 Lifetime Business

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In memory/honor of (if applicable) _____

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

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

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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

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Photograph courtesy Tom Buchkoe.

This historic photograph is included as hockey fan Lloyd LeVasseur is standing in the photo, back row, middle, but mainly it is included just for fun. It is assumed that this photograph was taken on February 2, 1954, when the Detroit Red Wings traveled to Marquette to play an exhibition game against the Marquette Prison Pirates hockey club.

People in the photograph include:

- Standing left, Ray Buchkoe, Asst. Deputy Warden, Marquette Branch Prison.
- Standing middle, Lloyd LeVasseur, Marquette County Clerk.
- Standing right, Kenneth S. Lowe, Editor Marquette Mining Journal.
- Sitting left, Ted Lindsay, Red Wings team captain.
- Sitting middle, Terry Sawchuk, Red Wings goalie
- Sitting right, Gordie Howe (Howe switched from #9 to #16 jersey number when later in the game, he switched sides and played with the Prison Pirates against his Redwing teammates).