

STREET SCENE

Inside **S**²

Ernie's 'north country'

If you look closely, mixed in with the things that makes the Traverse Bay area what is are familiar places with that have turned up in the works of the late Ernest Hemingway. There's even folks who befriended the author before he was catapulted into literary history. Wondering where those places are? Find out on Page 6D.

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'Hey, buddy, will you sell that guitar?'

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

If you're a big fan of Bruce Springsteen, you probably know he plays a Fender Telecaster guitar on stage.

That's because fans who closely follow the top-name artists of the rock'n'roll age often know the top-name guitars played by the stars.

To many rock fans, a mention of Fender guitars sparks images of Keith Richards flailing away on his Telecaster, or Eric Clapton bending strings on his Stratocaster.

Say Gibson guitars, and it calls to mind Chuck Berry duck-walking with his ES-335 model, or Guns 'n' Roses cranking out power chords on their Gibson Les Pauls.

As rock enters its fifth decade, musicians have come to treasure vintage Fenders, Gibsons and other select guitars as fans treasure vintage recordings.

And that's where Doug Wasserman of Southfield comes in.

He's one of a half-dozen or so guitar brokers nationwide who searches out the vintage guitars prized by top artists.

Wasserman, 35, has sold guitars to name players including Graham Nash and Earl Klugh, and to amateurs and semiprofessionals who seek top-quality instruments.

"I've been playing for 20 years," Wasserman said. "I had a large collection of instruments. I had amassed over a period of years and I didn't realize how valuable these instruments had become."

"I HAD A friend stop over one day and he offered me a large sum of money for these instruments. The light bulb went on in my head — I know where some more of these are," he said, recalling how he entered the business seven years ago.

To find vintage instruments, Wasserman travels to cities around the country, making stops at certain music stores. He's a friendly guy, but don't ask what cities and which music stores.

"I don't want to give away trade secrets," he said.

But the popular models are no secret to guitarists, as the vintage guitar market has taken off in the 80s.

Players into Fender guitars prize pre-CBS models — those made before CBS bought the company in 1965.

"Pre-CBS guitars have a whole different feel and sound to them," Wasserman explained. "The woods are generally lighter in weight. (Fender used ash in the early '50s, then alder.)"

"And their pickups were differ-

ent too, they seemed to have a more open sound, what we term now that classic Fender sound."

When talking vintage guitars in general, "what seems to cause the prices to go up is a great number of rock'n'roll stars use these vintage guitars," Wasserman said. "And of course every kid who sees MTV wants what their favorite rock stars play."

While Fender guitars have been hot in recent years — Springsteen plays a vintage Telecaster — Wasserman said Gibson Les Paul guitars are currently the hottest, possibly because the popular band Guns 'n' Roses plays Les Pauls.

THE TOP ON A Les Paul is maple, a dense wood which allows a player to sustain a note longer, Wasserman said.

"Different types of woods will produce different types of resonances," he explained. "The Les Paul electric guitar has always been the consummate rock'n'roll guitar ever since the late '50s."

The Les Paul — named for the popular '50s performer who designed it — is prized in part for its style of construction, Wasserman said.

"It's a set-in neck that is glued to the body rather than bolted on (like a Fender)," he added. "They're just excellent playing and excellent sounding guitars and they're extremely durable."

"You're a cool guy if you have a good guitar, and they've always been considered a good guitar."

Particular players who seek out the Gibson ES-335 model — B.B. King plays his on a current McDonald's commercial — are going for ones made between 1958-63, Wasserman said. In this period, the guitar featured PAF (patent applied for) pickups and mahogany necks, among other features.

While Gibson and Fender guitars are the most popular, Wasserman said vintage Rickenbacker guitars — played by John Lennon and Roger McGuinn of the Byrds — and Gretsch guitars — played by George Harrison with the early Beatles — are extremely popular. And in certain models, bringing extreme prices.

"And there are more, of course," he said.

When you're talking vintage acoustic guitars, "Martins are certainly the most coveted. Gibson J-200s (a big, rounded body acoustic with a flowered pick-guard) have always been popular," Wasserman said. Old Guild and Epiphone guitars are also valued.

Please turn to Page 4



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Doug Wasserman of Southfield didn't realize how valuable the large collection of instruments he had amassed over a period of years was until a friend offered a large sum of money for

them. That's when a light bulb went off in his head and he became a guitar broker.

Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



"I suggest vitamin A, E, I, O and U — they're great for vowel movements."

Settling in at Michigamme lodge

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

Travelers love to discover new places, especially off-the-road accommodations that nobody else knows about. I found such a place and you could probably still get in for the cooler season this year, if you want to drive as far as the Upper Peninsula.

Michigamme Lake Lodge, a log cabin lodge set in the trees above Lake Michigamme, 35 miles west of Marquette on U.S. 41, isn't even known to most Yoopers although it's been open since May.

Linda and Frank Stabile are part of a family of hotel owners that is slowly creating a dynasty of hotels in the U.P. None of them had been in the hospitality industry when Frank and Linda left the Detroit area to move north a dozen years ago to replace city streets with a world of lakes and trees.

Frank and Linda bought, and still own, the Bay View Motel in Escanaba and later the Westwood, now the Days Inn, in Marquette. In the meantime, the other Stabile brothers

emigrated to the U.P. Ralph bought a hotel in Curtis, Jim and Shirley bought the Cedar Lodge, a roadside motel with adjacent log

cabin accommodations in Paradise. They were all enjoying Upper Peninsula life, their fortunes rising and falling with the tourist cycles



MICKY JONES

Linda and Frank Stabile (at right) talk with guests in front of the Michigamme Lake Lodge on Lake Michigamme in the Upper Peninsula.

in the U.P., when the lodge on Lake Michigamme came on the market a couple of years ago.

The lodge was built by a local financier, Sam Cohodas, in 1934 as a private retreat for family, friends and business associates. Cohodas entertained a lot of important people there over the years.

THERE'S NO way to make a totally logical decision about a place like this, so Frank and Linda Stabile took a plunge and bought the lodge when Sam died.

There is a certain mood to any lake in the north country of Michigan, where glaciers carved lake beds out of ancient rock eons ago. Gleaming water, surrounded by low treed hills. Water slapping against boat docks and boat houses. Occasional houses and cottages peek out through trees to the lake.

It's what most of us think of as cottage country, but most cottages don't look like this. Nobody used the word atrium when this place was built, but the word describes

Please turn to Page 4