

By Roberta Schwartz  
special writer

As Ernest Hemingway and his first bride, Hadley Richardson, reached the crest of the highest hill overlooking Potoskey and Little Traverse Bay, the groom asked his driver, Earl Bacon, to stop the car.

"See all that. Talk about the beauty of the Bay of Naples. I've seen them both and no place is more beautiful than Little Traverse in its autumn colors," Hemingway exclaimed.

Today, Bacon, a retired farmer of 84, and a handful of his contemporaries still recall their famous neighbor whom they call Ernie.

Forty years after the Nobel Prize winning novelist last visited Michigan, Hemingway's memory lives on in the northern woods that became the settings for his comic novel, "The Torrents of Spring" and the Nick Adams stories. Memories of 21 Michigan summers gave Hemingway the people and places from which he forged his fiction.

The novelist's favorite sister, Madeline, nicknamed Sunny, still spends her summers in the family's cottage on Walloon Lake. The 83-year-old Sunny Miller seeks to preserve her privacy, but Windemere, a national historic landmark, attracts Hemingway buffs from all over the world.

Bacon's grandfather, sold Dr. Clarence Hemingway of Oak Park the property on which he built the summer place for his wife and their six children in 1898.

The two families became lifelong friends and when the Bacons were ill, Dr. Hemingway attended them. In turn, the Bacons supplied produce to the Hemingways on a regular basis and Ernie came for milk every day. Bacon's brother Carl became a good friend of Ernie.

**EARL ENJOYS** showing a snapshot of the two teenagers pitching hay. Bacon also proudly displays an oil painting of his family homestead by Grace Hall Hemingway, the exact landscape which her son described in "Ten Indians" and "Fathers and Sons."

Carl, who was four years older than Earl, appears as Carl Garner in the stories and teases Nick Adams about his Indian girlfriend, Prudence Mitchell.

Although Hemingway's stormy relationship with his mother is well known, Earl perceived Grace Hall as "a great lady."

"She was stern, autocratic and very aristocratic, a very proper person," he said. "When you were around her, you were courteous."

"Mrs. Hemingway was a wonderful person who gave me books to read about young folks growing up. She is partly responsible for my being what I am today."

He recalls Hadley Richardson of St. Louis as an attractive woman of 30, eight years older than her husband.

"I took an instant liking to her. She was friendly, courteous and magnanimous. What Ernie wanted, she got for him and she looked after Ernie as well as she could."

Although the Bacon farm has long since been torn down, the home where Irene Gordon first met her date, Ernest Hemingway, in 1910 still stands across from the Bay View Post Office. Gordon, who was Irene Goldstein then, was exactly Ernie's age and they played tennis together. In later years, the writer sent copies of his poems and even a

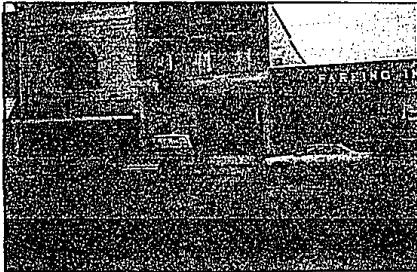
# Hemingway's Traverse — 'No place more beautiful'



Shangri-La is one of two cabins in Horton Bay that were prominent both in Hemingway's life and literature. The cabins were

where Liz Dilworth, a friend of the Hemingway family, prepared chicken for the author's wedding.

photos by ROBERTA SCHWARTZ



The Kal-Ho Bar in Kalkaska where, in Hemingway's "The Light of the World," Nick Adams and his friend quaffed a few drinks.

Among Ernest Hemingway's friends was Marion Smith's late husband, Bill, who first met the author in 1916.



love letter on their 50th birthday in 1949.

Built around 1875 by A.J. Stroud, the Horton Bay General Store still carries the groceries and hardware items popular in Hemingway's day.

"Horton's Bay, the town, was only five houses on the main road be-

tween Boyne City and Charlevoix."

Hemingway wrote in "Up in Michigan," "There was a general store and a post office with a high false front and maybe a wagon hitched out front."

Except for a few photographs left by a TV crew, the locals maintain that the store has remained un-

changed since Nick Adams described it.

Almost directly across the highway stand the Dilworth cottages, Pluherst and Shangri-La, both important locations in Hemingway's life and literature. He returned to the cottages with friends for fishing trips.

William Ohle, 77, recalls the wedding guests assembling beside the store before Hemingway's nuptials in 1921. The wooden Methodist Church, bedecked that day with wild flowers, has long since been torn down.

Ohle, who lives across from the cottage where Liz Dilworth, a friend

of the Hemingway family, proudly exhibits Hemingway's helmet and canteen from World War I, which the young soldier had given to his friend, Wesley Dilworth, at Horton Bay's Fourth of July celebration.

Ohle said his first cousin, Marjorie Bump, was hurt by her portrayal as the character of Marjorie in the stories, "The End of Something" and "The Three Day Blow." She died last year and was buried in Potoskey, but in 1981 wrote a letter acknowledging that she knew Hemingway when she had a summer job as a waitress at the Dilworth cottages.

"SHE ALWAYS kept her friendship with him in the background," Ohle recalled. "She wrote that her relationship with him was not romantic, but that he was like a brother and good to me who was so much younger and afraid of boys."

Bump was in high school when she knew the young soldier who had come back to Michigan to heal his wounds.

Ernest first met Bill Smith in Horton Bay in 1916 and they remained lifetime friends. Smith later stayed in the Hemingways' apartment in Paris and traveled to Spain with them.

Smith appears as Bill in "Three Day Blow" and "The End of Something," companion tales of a broken love affair.

"Bill's only rupture with Hem came when Ernest wanted to tell his brother, Y.K., that his wife Doodles was having an affair," said Smith's widow, Marion. "There was some drifting apart. Bill wrote him that blood was thicker than water and he sided with his brother. He cried a lot when Hemingway shot himself in 1961."

**THE PETOSKEY** library on Mitchell Street, where young Hemingway exhibited his bullet riddled breeches to the ladies auxiliary, still attracts fans of the writer.

So does the Potter rooming house at 602 State St., where Hazel Potter remembers her boarder in the top front bedroom forever banging out stories on the typewriter.

The Nativity window, dedicated to the memory of Ernest by his sister Sunny in the Emmanuel Episcopal Church also draws visitors.

Not everyone is touched by Hemingway fever, however.

In Kalkaska, the scene of one of Hemingway's most famous stories about a homosexual cook and two obese prostitutes, neither the ladies in the museum, which was the railroad station where the prostitutes argued, or the Kal-Ho Bar, where Nick Adams and his friend drank, know that Hemingway wrote about the town.

The small town inspired the story, "The Light of the World."

After he was married in Horton Bay, Hemingway never returned to Potoskey for a long stay. In 1947, Gordon saw him on his last visit to Michigan.

"It came into the store with a great deal of gusto," she said. "I remember he grabbed me and kissed me and I said, 'Ernest, why haven't you been up here before?'"

"He said, 'Trene, I've always been disappointed in places where I've returned. I have such loving memories of northern Michigan that I didn't want them interrupted.'"

Roberta Schwartz is a free lance writer and photographer and also teaches journalism at Oakland University. She has visited some 50 countries in search of Hemingway's friends and haunts.

## Just shooting 'craps' the Lelanau Sands way

By Corinne Abatt  
staff writer

Forget the neon lights and naughty shows, Frank Sinatra and Wayne Newton. If you want straight up, no frills, blackjack and craps, the Lelanau Sands Casino is fair game.

Not only is it the only game in the state, outside of New Jersey and Nevada, it's one of a very few in the entire country.

The casino, set back off Route 22, in a rather unobtrusive enclave of cedar finished one-story buildings, just north of Suttons Bay on the Lelanau Peninsula, has been in existence since 1984.

It is operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians as a fund-raiser for the Indians who live on the Federal Indian Reservation, just north of Suttons Bay on the Lelanau Peninsula.

As such, it succeeds far beyond what any number of highly influential rain gods and sun gods could ever have done.

Indian bands in Mt. Pleasant and the Upper Peninsula and in other states run bingo games regulated by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act passed by Congress Oct. 17, 1988. The card and dice games, which were taking place at the Lelanau Sands Casino before the act was passed, were grandfathered in.

That cleared the way for the bigger action on the Lelanau Peninsula, seven nights a week during July and August and Wednesday-Sunday the rest of the year. Video poker is available 2-6 p.m. when the casino is open.

"THE VIDEO poker machines are real popular," said Greg Bailey, casino general manager. "We have 15 (lined along the back wall of the casino's main room) we could easily have 50-60."

On a week night summer evening, Bailey said there will be 125-250 people in and out and more than double that on weekends.

Dress is informal; the decor is clean, tidy, bunkhouse modern, the atmosphere is quiet, relatively businesslike; and the employees are pleasant, but not effusive. Not a single dealer looked up and said, "Good evening, my name is Ellen and I'm going to be your crapsier this evening."

The security guard by the door is moderately friend-

## Indians cash in with casino

By Corinne Abatt  
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The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, like its counterparts around the United States, is really a nation within a nation.

According to an annual report published by the Economic Development Authority (EDA) of the tribe, "The modern day era of the Grand Traverse Band began on May 27, 1980, when the federal government acknowledged its historical and legal obligations to the Tribe."

This included, according to the Tribe, a complex status as a sovereign "domestic dependent nation" within the federal and state system of government.

**JOHN PETOSKY**, EDA director, tribal member and attorney, first reminds his listener that 2,000 members of the Grand Traverse Band are the "children of the people who signed treaties with the federal government in 1836, 1855 and 1858."

"The Indians believe the non-Indians stole their lands," he said quietly, alluding briefly to these treaties.

He also mentions modern day animosity left from the fights over fishing rights.

He is business-like, but not secretive about the financial situation of the Grand Traverse Band. Casino gambling nets approximately \$1 million a year and Super-Bingo \$500,000 — that's above the cost of doing business and beyond what is funneled back into tribal programs. That's pure profit, money in the bank, so to speak.

**ACTUALLY, IT'S** becoming a trust fund. As stated in the annual report, "This trust fund is the beginnings of a permanent fund for tribal programs and purposes that will benefit the Tribe."

The jobs that the gambling provides for the 350 people presently living on the reservation is important, but obviously, secondary.

"There are 125 employees in the summer, 60 percent are Indian and all the management is Indian," said Greg Bailey, casino general manager.

Training programs for dealers are every spring for both Indians and non-Indians, Petosky said. Many of the dealers are college students who took the course, passed and return for several summers to be dealers. Current pay for dealers is approximately \$9 an hour.

No question about it, gambling proceeds are helping raise the standard of living for these Indians. The stated long-term goal is to raise it to that of the non-Indian population.

Granted the quality of life is gradually improving, Indian young people can now think in terms of college and careers. Yet, Petosky and Bailey are keenly aware that their house of cards and dice could collapse at any time.

They know laws can be amended, restrictions imposed, promises broken. This time, they want an ace in the hole — if and when the casino folds.

ly — pay your \$2 entry fee and choose your game. Drinks, for players, are on the house.

Just east of the casino, a long wooden outdoor stairway, with half a dozen or so landings for quick R and R, leads to the Indian-owned and operated GTB Motel. At night, it's dramatically accented by tall globe lights every few feet — the only concession to the nighttime drama of Monte Carlo or Reno.

**THE ATTRACTIVE**, 28-unit motel, built last year, is surrounded by tall trees and woods. The \$11 million price tag was completely covered with proceeds from the casino and Super-Bingo.

Rates are modest by area standards — \$45 for two people September-April; \$55, May-June; and \$55 July-August. And that comes with a \$5 complimentary gambling chit for the casino.

Rooms are attractively furnished, with two double beds and a VCR. There's a VCR library behind the lobby. Continental breakfast is included in the room rate. No pool, restaurant or bar, but it is handy to gambling, if you don't mind a hundred or so stairs.

"Everything's cash, but we do take Visa or MasterCard," said Bailey.

The casino, Super Bingo, the Peabackwestown Indian Art Store, the motel and all other enterprises on the Reservation are under the direction of a Tribal Council, the elected governing board of the tribe. As such, they are really community property. The council, in turn, appoints the board of directors of the Economic Development Authority, EDA, which acts as the administrative manager of these and other enterprises.

**WHILE THE Lelanau Sands** isn't into bringing in plane loads of gamblers at bargain air rates a La Las Vegas and Atlantic City, there are bus loads of optimists arriving regularly at the GTB Motel's door from downstate, arranged by the bus transport companies.

Nobody says you have to gamble if you stay at the GTB Motel, but if you do, be assured your picture won't show up on the pages of People Magazine, GQ, or the daily press.