

Original Masthead Illustration by Will Bradley

**Ishpeming Area Historical Society • Newsletter • Summer 2021**

**SUMMER EVENTS**

**Garden Tour • Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Ishpeming Cemetery Tours • Aug.  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>**

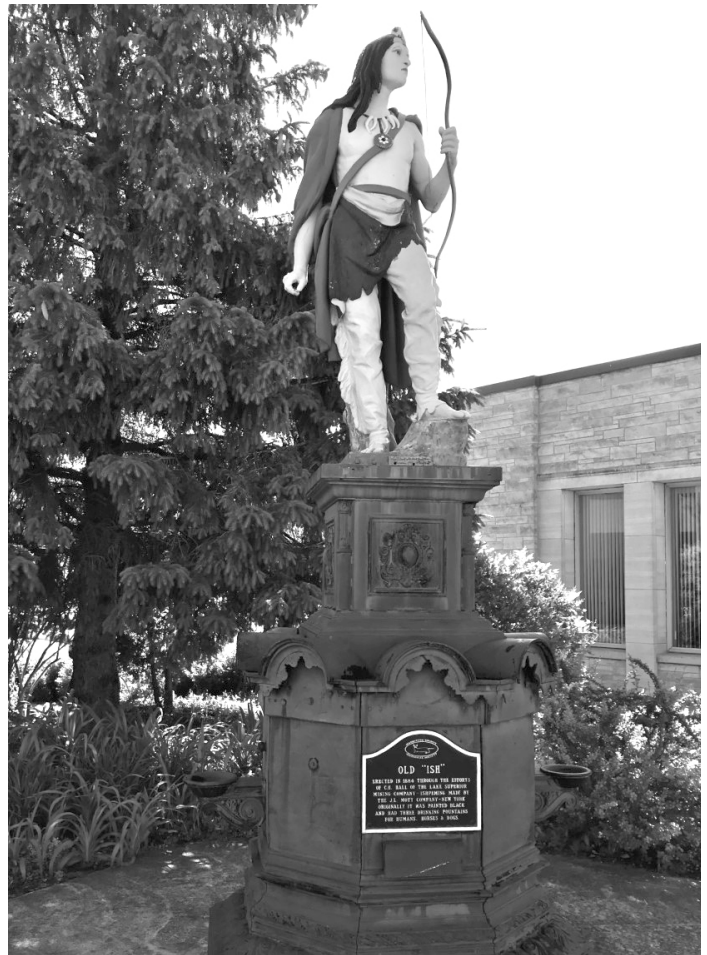
**Historic Main Street Tour • Sept.  
7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Ishpeming Garden Tour**

In place of our Historic Places and Interesting Spaces tour (due to Covid-19 concerns) we will be hosting a Garden Tour on Sunday July 25, 2021 from Noon to 4:00 pm. Featured will be the following:

- Old Ish garden (town square next to the old Miner’s National Bank and across from Congress Pizza on Main Street). Ishpeming historian Karen Kasper will be presenting a brief history of Ishpeming’s historic Ojibwa Indian statue which has stood guard over our city since 1887.
- The Plant Connection Nursery – 321 W. Division St. Master Gardener Linda Andriacchi will be available to answer gardening questions.
- The George Newett/Dulaney Home, 447 Oak Street (behind and shares the driveway with 443 Oak Street).
- The Sam Cohodas garden, 832 N. Main Street (N. Main Street and Arch Street).
- The Marietti garden (located on 3rd Street at North Street, across from the former Phelps School).

Tickets are a suggested donation of \$10 and can be purchased in advance approximately 1 week before the event from Main Street Antique Mall in Ishpeming or Midtown Bakery & Café in Negaunee or at any of the venues on the day of the event. The brochure provided as the ticket will describe the tour along with a map to the garden locations. For photos of the gardens and additional information please see the event post on our facebook page.



**Historical Society Board**

**President:** David Aeh

**Vice President:** Karen Kasper

**Secretary:** Chris Gleason

**Treasurer:** Sandee Smetana

**Trustees:** Jodi Firby, Elizabeth Firby,

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Email: [ishphistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:ishphistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

## Ishpeming Cemetery Tour



After a year's absence, the Ishpeming Area Historical Society will bring back its popular evening cemetery tour in August. Join us for one of our 2021 Ishpeming Cemetery tours hosted by Ishpeming historian Karen Kasper. Learn about H. O. Young, an Ishpeming citizen elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Find out why the tree trunk gravestone is in our cemetery and who it belongs to. Also on the tour will be a Civil War veteran, a miner killed in the Barnes Hecker disaster, and more.

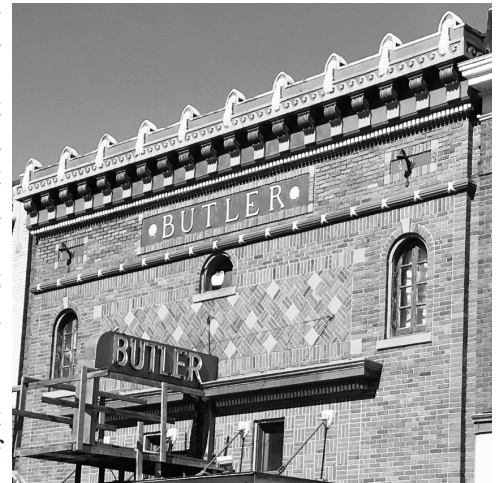
This year's cemetery tour kicks off on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by tours every Tuesday on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> with one additional tour on Thursday August 26<sup>th</sup>. All tours begin at 6:30 pm and will last approximately one hour. We will meet in the front of the cemetery at the sexton's office and there will be a \$10 suggested donation for the tour with children 12 and under free of charge. All proceeds from the tour will go to benefit the Ishpeming Area Historical Society. This is a walking tour and in case of inclement weather, the tour will be canceled.

## Ishpeming Historic Main Street Tour



New this year is a walk down Ishpeming's Historic Main Street in September. Join us for one of our 2021 evening Ishpeming historic Main Street tours hosted by Ishpeming Historian Karen Kasper. Many

of Main Street's historic buildings will be included, the Anderson Block, the Odd Fellows building, Main Street Antiques and more. Find out who designed the structures and who built them. Learn about the disastrous fire of 1874 that claimed much of the downtown.



This year's historic Main Street tour kicks off on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by tours every Tuesday on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> with one additional

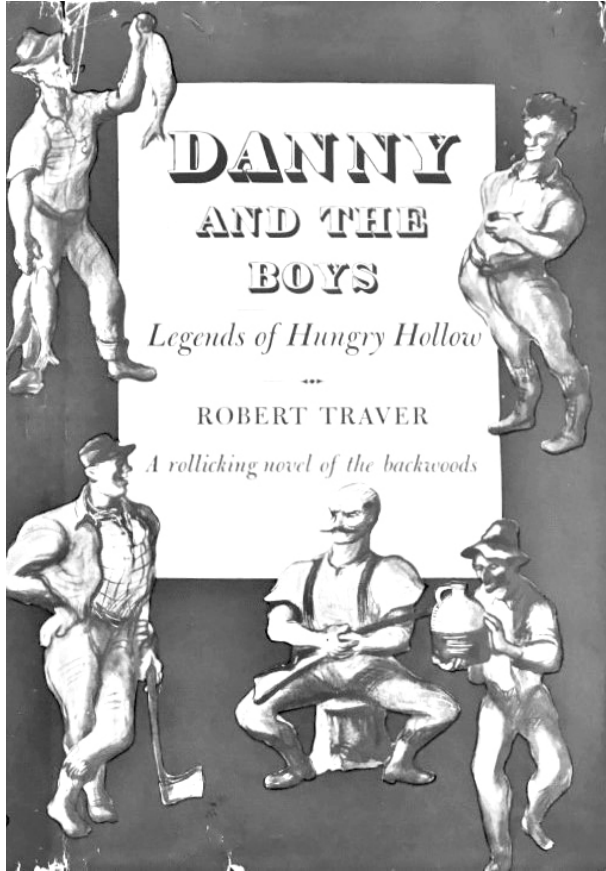
tour on Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup>. All tours begin at 6:30 pm. We will meet in the parking lot across Main Street from the Ishpeming City Hall and there will be a \$10 suggested donation for the tour with children 12 and under free of charge. All proceeds from the tour will go to benefit the Ishpeming Area Historical Society. This is a walking tour and in case of inclement weather, the tour will be canceled.



# The Fabulous Doings of Danny and the Boys of Hungry Hollow

By David Lee White, IAHS Board Member

Second in a series concerning Robert Traver's  
(John D. Voelker) books



After a relatively successful first book published in 1943, Trouble-Shooter, *The Story of a Northwood's Prosecutor*, John D. Voelker was anxious for a follow-up, especially after The Viking Press, the publisher of his first book had rejected two hopeful submissions for publication, the novels *Iron* and *The Burning Earth*. In January 1945, John introduced his editor, Marshall A. Best of Viking to the legends of Hungry Hollow with a story called "The Cow Jumped Over the Moon". A month later this first story was followed by "The Bourbon Bonanza", "Under the Spreading Banyan Tree" and "Daniel in the Lion's Den". By April 19, 1945 John had submitted 17 chapters and told Marshall A. Best that he had four more chapters "pretty well in mind, and all that remains is the exquisite drudgery of writing them."

The passenger train that left Ishpeming, bound for New York City on the morning of May 2, 1945, carried the remaining chapters of *Danny and the Boys* to his editor. John was somewhat confident that Viking

would publish his latest labor as they had sent John a requested advance, presumptively, based upon the collateral of future book sales. A letter from Best on May 11, 1945 informed John that they would need at least two more weeks to put the stories "together in the proper order and to have two or three new people read them through to decide on our course of action." Finally, John received a Western Union telegram dated June 17 (1945) with the following message; "**Danny and the Boys** are victims of manpower shortage as well as paper shortage. Book will require considerable work and we seem to lack enthusiasm to add it to our overcrowded list. It will surely find a home elsewhere soon if not immediately. Thanks, and deep regrets. Returning copy. Marshall Best."

The rejection came as a shock as it took John almost 3 weeks to reply to his editor. John wrote of his sadness and worry on July 3, 1945. The first sentence of the letter which was addressed to "Mr. Marshall A. Best, The Viking Press Inc.", began: "I have now recovered enough from my numbed surprise over your rejection of **Danny and the boys** to write you." If the rejection was not enough, John felt bad about owing Viking the large sum they had advanced him. John ended the letter by saying: "I guess I had relied too much on the notion that when people engaged in the jungle competition of publishing advance a grand on the strength of eight or so chapters, they mean to accept the finished script. I think I feel as badly over the fact that I owe you all this money, and somehow failed to measure up to your confidence in me, as I do over the rejection itself. It really bothers me. About all I can say now is that if you will have patience I will some day repay every penny of it. Right now I could not buy a bathing-suit for a tadpole. And I want to thank all of you once again for your generous treatment of me. I shall never forget the kindness and patience of Viking to one country lawyer during that intoxicating period of his life when he thought he might become a writer."

John's heartfelt expression of sadness over the rejection by The Viking Press was soon followed by his seemingly ever-present ambition. The manuscript with the stories of *Danny and the Boys* with the working title *On Native Wings* became very well-traveled. Between June 26, 1945 and December 17, 1946 John submitted the manuscript to publishers a total of eleven times. Each time the manuscript was returned with gentle words of rejection, as was written by the representative of The Vanguard Press in a letter dated January 15, 1947, "I found some of the material very enchanting, but I am afraid that I don't see any place for it on our forthcoming list."

On the same day John received the returned man-

# Deer Hunters

Don't Miss Reading the New Book

# Danny and the Boys

by Robert Traver of Ishpeming, Author of "Troubleshooter"

Chock Full of Upper Peninsula stories of  
Hunting and Fishing

More Fun than a Gallon of U. P. Moonshine

**Especially Don't Miss Reading Chapters 13 and 19:**

One the story of the most fabulous deer hunt in creation; the other the story of "Old Rocking Chair," the legendary buck.

#### WHAT THE REVIEWERS SAY:

"Brilliantly humorous"- *Detroit News*; "Hilarious"- *Boston Globe*; "A lusty U. P. book"- *Philadelphia Inquirer*; "Leaves a trail of wonder"- *New York Times*; "Fascinating"- *Bay City Times*; "A smart wife will keep her husband away from Danny and the boys"- *Milwaukee Journal*; "Traver is one of the best guides to Northwoods America now writing"- *Menominee Leader*.

Laugh Your Way Through Deer Season  
ON SALE HERE - \$3.00

uscript from The Vanguard Press, January 20, 1947, John submitted the manuscript for *On Native Wings* to D. Appleton-Century Company. The submission to D. Appleton-Century Company showed promise and John began communicating with editors at the publishing house. D. Appleton-Century editor Theodore R. Jaeckel wrote a long letter to John dated April 30, 1947 regarding the manuscript, Mr. Jaeckel introduced himself as John's new contact at the publishing house and stated "As you know, we like this very much and are most anxious to put it on our list once you have done some revising". Mr. Jaeckel made some recommendations for 11 chapters and offered some general advice concerning "earthy language" and the dialect used by *Danny and the Boys*. In a reply dated May 3, 1947, John expressed his delight that D. Appleton-Century Company wanted to publish *On Native Wings*. In part John wrote "I have gone over all your suggestions and, without going into detail at this time, I want you to know that I think that most of your suggestions are not only excellent, but most perceptive as well. You have put your finger on the weak spots that I somehow knew were present all along but hoped wouldn't show. I was like a lady at a dance who'd broken the strap to her slip....."

On April 4, 1947 John had written Helen Strauss with the William Morris Agency in Rockefeller Center,

New York and asked if she would consider representing him as his book agent. Helen was a bit slow responding, but after a few brief exchanged missives, on May 29, 1947 she wrote John to let him know she had just received the manuscript for *On Native Wings* from D. Appleton-Century and "Of course I'd be delighted to represent you for the book contract with Appleton Century." Through the months of June, July and August Helen Strauss met with the editors of D. Appleton-Century with the purpose of negotiating a book contract. In a letter dated July 25, 1947 Helen informed John that thus far she was unable to negotiate a contract for the book, but "I talked to Ted Purdy, who is editor-in-chief, and he told me that they're quite confident that they will take the book but that he, as well as another editor, have not read the revisions."

By early September Helen had word from Mr. Rapport, Mr. Purdy's superior, that was not good, he was not convinced D. Appleton-Century should take the book. Helen asked Mr. Rapport to reconsider, and they agreed that he would ask the president of D. Appleton-Century, Mr. Schuster to read the manuscript, and if he liked it, they would take it. John was on pins and needles waiting for a decision. In a letter dated August 28, 1947, John told Helen Strauss that he felt his writing career was "hanging in the balance". John was having a hard time moving on without a decision "And there are some other books I want to write." John received the final decision in a letter dated September 18, 1947 from Theodore Jaeckel who wrote "I have just heard that we are not going to do your book and I want to tell you how very sorry I am that all the excellent work you have put in on it has been fruitless, insofar as we are concerned." Mr. Jaeckel continued "But in any event, I have the satisfaction of knowing that the book is good enough to be published by someone else and that you are in the hands of a really excellent agent." After more than 7 months of working to get *On Native Wings* in shape for D. Appleton-Century to publish, in late September the heavily read, revised and dog-eared manuscript was back on John's desk.

John had a fresh copy manuscript typed and sent it back to his agent, Helen Strauss. Over the next year, Helen shopped the manuscript around to the likes of Whittlesey House, Dial Press, Simon & Schuster, Macmillan, Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Little Brown, and Doubleday. In a letter dated October 22, 1948, Helen Strauss informed John that she didn't think there was any point in submitting the manuscript any further and that "I'm sorry, of course, that we haven't had better luck with this, and I'm returning your manuscript herewith." Beginning in February of 1949 through April of 1950 John submitted the manuscript for *On Native*

**Wings** to another 10 publishing houses, all resulted in a return of the manuscript. Then on June 27, 1950, John submitted **On Native Wings** to The World Publishing Company.

After 5 years of trying to get “Danny” off the ground, John offered The World Publishing Company contract terms he hoped they would not refuse. While many of the publishers who read **On Native Wings** told John that they liked the stories, no one seemed to think it could be a commercial success. To this end, John’s letter dated June 27, 1950 offered the following:

*“If you like this script well enough to want to publish it (and only if) but are doubtful about its commercial success, I will contract with you as follows:*

- 1: *I will waive any advance royalties;*
- 2: *I will take 2,000 copies off your hands on publication date and pay for them in advance at book store rates;*
- 3: *If, within one year of publication date, you have not sold 10,000 copies of the book, I will waive any royalties to which I may then be entitled;*
- 4: *At my own expense I will arrange for and attend “autograph parties” at Hudson’s in Detroit and Field’s or Carson’s or Adolph Kroch’s in Chicago.”*

The World Publishing Company editor, William Targ replied to John’s letter on July 15, 1950. Mr. Targ told John that he and their sales manager had read the book, and then stated: *“It is, first, a good book, full of robust humor; excellent characterization and background color; and it possesses in part some of the flavor of two favorites of mine: (I hope comparisons aren’t odious to you) **Tobacco Road** and **Cannery Row**. It should appeal to male readers primarily. Some of the episodes are truly memorable; ‘Old Rocking Chair’ being one of the outstanding stories. Altogether, the book is publishable. Of this there is no doubt.”* Mr. Targ told John that they would suggest minor changes, edits that his staff would perform with John’s approval. Regarding John’s contract proposal, Mr. Targ told John that they would not allow John to waive royalties if the book did not sell 10,000 copies after one year, stating: *“This, in my opinion, is virtually immoral.”* Mr. Targ then asked John if he would be willing to purchase 3,000 copies of the first edition, instead of 2,000 copies. Mr. Targ added that with their 40% trade discount and John’s 10% royalty, John’s cost would be 50% of the \$3.00 list price for a total of \$4,500. Mr. Targ made one more sugges-

tion *“As for the title, it is my feeling that **Danny and the Boys**, or **Legends of Hungry Hollow** might be more appealing. What do you think?”* If John agreed to their requests, The World Publishing Company would be able to publish the book *“early next spring.”*

John had some thinking and planning to do, in a return letter dated July 21, 1950 he asked Mr. Targ how soon the money had to be paid and how long after the money was paid would the book be published. John admitted that *“While my income is fairly respectable,”* he would have to *“borrow the money to swing the deal.”* John agreed that his initial title, derived from a beautiful quotation by William Blake *“The pure soul, Shall mount on native wings, disdain little sport, And cut a path into the heaven of glory, Leaving a track of light for men to wonder at,”* was, *“a little on the esoteric side”* and agreed that **Danny and the Boys** was a good title.

John signed and returned the contract dated July 24, 1950 with The World Publishing Company which required a payment of *“\$4,500.00 upon presentation to him by the Publisher of the galley proofs of said book.”* In a letter dated August 1, 1950 Mr. Targ explained that a problem with their initial contract had come up, and in an effort *“to adhere to our formal bookkeeping system,”* he wished to revise the contract where John would agree to purchase the 3,000 copies at the standard trade discount of 40%, totaling \$5,400, John would pay \$3,000 partial payment upon presentation of the galley proofs, any and all royalties from advance sales, including his own purchase, would be credited to his account, with the balance payable to the publisher after the books had been shipped to John. John agreed, signed and returned the revised contract. John and his editors got to work on the revisions and by the end of the year galley proofs were produced and John paid the \$3,000 partial payment for his 3,000 copies of **Danny and the Boys**.

The midterm election held on November 7, 1950, during the second democratic administration under President Harry S. Truman resulted in republican gains in congress. The strong republican turnout resulted in John losing his reelection bid for Marquette County Prosecutor. In a letter dated November 13, 1950, to editor James Putnam, with The World Publishing Company, John lamented *“I was indeed caught in the draft for Taft, losing by 36 votes, by far the closest any Democrat came. Oddly enough, the only other time I was defeated was just before ‘Troubleshooter’ came out. Apparently, that is the price I must pay for giving birth to a book.”* Mr. Putnam replied with condolences and support regarding John’s election loss and stated *“I am sure you will be back again next election if you want to be.”*



In a letter dated November 27, 1950 addressed to Mr. Putnam, John wrote: *"Thanks for your words of election cheer, but I gravely doubt that I will ever again run for D. A. Now that the job is nearly over, my sense of relief to soon be rid of the endless parade of Trouble [sic] is nearly boundless. And despite this relief, between us I think I am more than a trifle teed off, as the expression doesn't go, that I should have been so casually dumped for an amiable young rookie who has yet to try his first case of any kind, and whose main qualifications for the office seem to have been that he lately found himself involved in the common accident to his generation that made him a war veteran, and that he once played varsity basketball at Michigan. Perhaps the further fact that I have lost but one felony case in ten years (surely some sort of record in D. A. circles) adds to my sense of pique."* John was "teed off", but fate had intervened. About a year and a half later, shortly after the shooting death of Maurice K. Chenoweth who was working behind the bar at the Lumberjack Tavern in Big Bay, Michigan, John D. Voelker, now in private practice, was asked to represent the man who shot and killed Mr. Chenoweth, Lt. Coleman A. Peterson. John's primary opponent during the trial was the young, inexperienced Marquette County prosecutor, Edmund J. Thomas. John would go on to base his fourth book, *Anatomy of a Murder*, on this same trial that found John successfully defending Lt. Peterson after the jury found the defendant *"not guilty by reason of insanity."*

The World Publishing Company announced that "Danny" would be published on March 26, 1951, with a print run of 5,000 copies in the first edition. John was preparing and planning to distribute the 3,000 copies he

had committed to purchase throughout the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In a letter dated January 29, 1951 to William Targ of The World Publishing Company, John stated: *"The prospect here in the Upper Peninsula looks encouraging. The only two book stores (really purveyors of aspirin and assorted rubber goods) I have approached have each agreed to take 200 autographed copies as a starter, and to pile 'em in the window on publication day."* John then continued *"I plan on shortly to write every library and so-called bookseller in the peninsula about the book. I am first waiting to learn when the books will be available to me."* This plea for information on the delivery date of the 3,000 copies of "Danny" would become more frequent and insistent as publication day approached. William Targ informed John that *"Bound copies of "Danny" are promised us on February 21,"* and requested shipping instructions on the copies due John. In a telegram dated March 3, 1951 from Jim Putnam, John was informed that his review copies were just sent to him and the other shipments were being made from the World Publishing Company's Cleveland, Ohio office.

On March 26, 1951 (publication day) 9:50 a.m. John sent World Cleveland a telegram *"Still no Danny Books. I'm slowly turning to stone. Any Clues? John D. Voelker."* This was followed by a telegram 20 minutes later *"Books just arrived. All is forgiven. Best regards. John D. Voelker."* In a letter dated April 2, 1951, John wrote to William Targ that he figured 500 of the copies of "Danny" he hurriedly distributed had sold in the Upper Peninsula, then added *"Look, Bill. Light a cigarette and sit down and write me a letter. I've just had a baby and the sutures are still in and I want to know how the offspring is doing."* In a letter dated April 5, 1951 William Targ informed John that it was too early to know how sales were going and that they had *"put through a second printing of the book and we already have books on hand. So, we're prepared for any onrush of sales from any quarter...."*

Both the first edition and the second printing of *Danny and the Boys* were published in March 1951. John had promised all the stores in the Upper Peninsula that he would supply signed copies of "Danny" at the discount price of \$2.00 each. Signing 3,000 copies would have been quite a task, especially in the tight time frame which resulted from the late freight shipment. The author of this narrative has found quite a few first edition copies of "Danny" with an ink stamp "signature", it appears John had planned a time saving measure.

The New York Times did not come through with what John considered a good review for "Danny" as they had for his first book, "Troubleshooter." In a let-

ter to William Targ dated April 9, 1951, John wrote “*Sometimes I have wondered how a writer must feel to get one of those niggardly, kiss-of-death reviews such as the “Times” gave Danny. Now I know. The feeling ain’t good. Oddly enough I feel more embarrassed than anything else.*” John was much happier and pleased with the review by August Derleth in the Madison Capital Times, “*...Fresh and original. Rollicking and sympathetic portraits of back woods people whose numbers are steadily decreasing. The book is a natural – easy to read, good fun, and genuine regional writing of the most robust kind. Written with gusto and relish and a fine sense of humor.*”

Later in the letter dated April 9, 1951, John reported “*The book is selling very well up here. One Marquette store sold 128 copies the first four days. I went to the Soo Friday and got three good dealers, dropped nearly 200 books, placed my little ads – and then vanished over the Canadian border.*” John was hoping to break into the Soo, Ontario market as Danny was Canadian-born and “*There are over 40,000 people in the Canadian Soo...*” but was disappointed when he found out “*the duty on repatriating Danny would run nearly fifty cents a book.*” On May 14, 1951 John reported to William Targ that he figured he had sold and been paid for approximately 500 books, at \$2.00 per copy. 4 days earlier he had received an invoice for the balance of what he owed The World Publishing Company for the 3,000 copies of Danny, \$2,400.79. John requested William Targ to subtract the royalties due him so far and let him know the balance. John was hoping that royalties alone would pay off the amount he owed World and requested more time to pay off his debt.

On May 17, 1951 John wrote to William Targ with a plan to sell more books “*My plan is to assault the Straits of Mackinac with every book I can lay my hands on in anticipation of the tourist rush which starts rolling approximately June 1. Every tourist has to stop at Mackinac [sic] City to wait for the ferry which deposits him an hour later in St. Ignace, where he again prowls the shops for hundred-year-old tomahawks made in Grand Rapids, copper bookends and all of the rest of the tourist junk. To this I plan to add **Danny and the boys**, making a summer bookstore out of every drug store, curiosity shop, restaurant, saloon, gas station and every place a tourist pauses.*” John further explained “*...from 5 to 10 thousand tourists a day stop cold in Mackinac [sic] City and again in St. Ignace. Quite a few of them detour to Mackinac Island, and I have my eye on that place too.*” On June 4, 1951 John reported to William Targ that he had spent 4 days and “*pushed out between 8 and 9 hundred books*” at the Straits and in the resort towns of Cheboygan, Charlev-

oix and Petoskey below the Straits.

On August 8, 1951 editor Jim Putnam asked “*how are the consignment books going.*” John replied on August 13, 1951 “*I have had no direct reports on how the consignment books are doing, but I am a little fearful that they are not doing too well. We have had an abominable summer, rainy and cool, and the tourists are not only avoiding the Peninsula in vast numbers, but those who venture into our frozen fastness are venting their wrath by refusing to spend a dime on books or anything else.*” In a letter dated September 14, 1951 written to William Targ, John admitted that “*I must reluctantly report that it looks like my great sales campaign of this summer (at the Straits) fell with a dull thud. ...the way the reports are coming in we will be lucky to have sold a hundred copies out of the whole mess. Some stores didn’t sell a single copy and most of them ran from 2 to 5.*”

While still hoping the sales of “Danny” would pick up, John planted the seed with William Targ for his prospective third book “*In view of the rather dismal results up here with the Danny book, perhaps this is a poor time to tell you that I am slowly hacking at the sequel to ‘Troubleshooter’ which I tentatively call ‘**Confessions of an ex-D. A.**’ I have four chapters done and about an equal number in the works and eight or ten more planned. Sometime late this winter I should have a script ready for you to shudder over.*” John eventually sent World Publishing Company 13 chapters of his proposed third book for review. In a letter dated November 30, 1951, John requested an answer if World was interested in his new endeavor, if yes, John was requesting a minimum of a \$1,000 advance. “*I suppose this thing has now resolved itself into a question of whether or not I continue with World. I greatly regret that the decision must be made under forced draft, but it was out of my hands. Losing my D. A. job on top of the big Danny book undertaking has left me on the financial ropes.*” “*It would be an act of charity to let me know very soon. The grand itself would merely be throwing a blanket to the wolf pack, but even that would help.*” On December 11, 1951, James Putnam, World Publishing Company editor called John and gave him the bad news, World would not be adding **Confessions of an ex-D. A.** to their list.

In a letter to The World Publishing Company written on January 11, 1952, John wrote “*I have never received a written royalty statement on **Danny and the Boys** which was published on March 21, 1951. When may I expect one.*” A month later John wrote to William Targ “*If there is any valid reason why I have not received a royalty statement on **Danny and the Boys**, or any reason why you people think I am not entitled to*

receive one, for God's sake let me know." "I still owe considerable dough at this end on the book, and I am anxious to receive from you whatever I am entitled to receive, or else learn from such a statement that I have nothing coming." William Targ wrote back on February 8, 1952 and let John know that he had requested the accounting department "to send you a complete, up-to-the-minute report on the status of **Danny and the Boys**..." Mr. Targ continued "I am sorry as hell to report that the book has come to a dead stop. There is still a likelihood of some copies being returned to us by the trade and jobbers, but if there is any money due you, Cleveland (office) will report to you promptly."

On February 13, 1952 John received a letter from World Sales Manager, T. J. Doran with an apology for not sending John the statement of royalties sooner. Mr. Doran continued (the statement) "does not show much of a balance in your favor. ...books are still being returned by the trade and, from January 1 to February 8 these totaled 102 copies. It is very likely that returns will exceed sales in future months. Under these conditions we think it is fair and reasonable to retain the balance due you as a reserve against returns..."

The royalty statement dated February 12, 1952 for the period March 1, 1951 to December 31, 1951 showed a bleak picture. The number of copies of **Danny and the Boys** sold, including the 3,000 copies John agreed to buy, totaled 6,028 copies. The royalties earned during this period totaled \$1,780.77. Subtracting the amount John still owed World for the 3,000-initial purchase, \$1,490.79, plus, subtracting a \$200 advance World had forwarded John resulted in a balance due John of \$89.98 which World thought prudent to hold onto to counter further book returns. During 1952 returns of **Danny and the Boys** from the trade kept coming in and by December 31, 1952 the total sales since publication was reduced to 5760 copies.

With the popularity of John's fourth published book, **Anatomy of a Murder**, The World Publishing Company decided to publish a third hardcover printing of **Danny and the Boys** in September 1958. The book itself being very similar in presentation to the first edition and the second printing. The dust wrapper for the third printing varies from the initial printings as the background color is a bright red instead of green, the front cover advertises "Author of **Anatomy of a Murder**", and the price was \$3.50 instead of \$3.00. Total sales of the World Publishing Company hardcover edition since publication rose to 6,493 by December 31, 1958. However, due to returns outnumbering sales, by December 31, 1960, the total hardcover edition sales since publication dropped to 6,216 copies.

John's communications with his publishers reveal his enthusiasm for the legends of **Danny and the Boys**. It's clear that John loved these stories. One gets a sense that John was sure, if he worked hard enough to get the "Danny" stories and the reading public acquainted, they too must love them. The many publishers who told John that they liked the stories of **Danny and the Boys** but would not take the book on as it would never be a commercial success were regrettably proven correct. But once again, John's ambition would not allow him to quit. John had the draft of "**Confessions of an ex-D. A.**," a sequel to Trouble-shooter completed by the end of 1951, a tedious effort that John admitted was only completed to make money. More to John's liking, a labor that he enjoyed, were writing stories for a fishing book. John began writing the fishing stories in earnest in early 1953, and by May 1953 had 20 chapters of "Trout Madness" completed. Late in 1953 John began thinking about writing a novel, a novel that he initially called "The Trial". In January 1954 John began writing chapter one.

## 100 Years Ago

### Elson's Plant in New Building

#### Bottling Works Now

#### One of Best in Upper Peninsula

What is probably the best equipped and most sanitary bottling works to be found in the upper peninsula has been completed by H. W. Elson, of this city, who has been operating the country's leading soft drink manufacturers for the past fifteen years. The new bottling works has been under construction since January and opened for business this week. While the building was being put up and equipment installed the firm's business was carried on from the old shop, which is too small to house the rapidly growing business. The old "pop shop" will be used for storage purposes.

The new building, which is seventy feet in length and twenty-four feet wide has two stories, the upper one being used for the mixing room is spotlessly clean and is entirely screened so that flies and dust are kept out.

Outside of the mixing room is space for the storage of several hundred cases, boxes of corks and other supplies. Mr. Elson buys his corks in 400 gross lots and always has a large supply on hand. The storeroom is reached by a freight elevator.

For the new building an equipment of new machin-





under pressure which removes all loose goods and later on in the machine, they receive three more fresh water washings and rinsings with warm and cold water.

The clean bottles are fed to the filling machines by a gravity conveyor and after being filled are transferred to a labeling machine which automatically labels them at a rate of forty-eight a minute.

A liquid carbonator, one of the newest makes, keeps the plant supplied with carbonated water, being able to make 300 gallons an hour. A stone filter plant, through which all fresh water used in the manufacture of drinks, is connected to two one-inch water lines.

Beverages made at Elson's plant are sold in all parts of the upper peninsula, large freight shipments being made regularly in outside points. For local delivery the firm has two trucks and a large crew is employed.

ery has been purchased and is now in operation. A new bottling machine which fills bottles and corks them has a capacity of fifty cases an hour. Besides this machine, two foot operated filling and corking machines are used. The owner has purchased another automatic machine to displace the foot machines and it is expected in a few days.

A hot water heating plant, with a self-regulating system, keeps the bottling works at the proper temperature at all times. The latest innovation in new bottling works machinery in form of a hydro-washing plant has been installed. The washing machine has a capacity of 2,500 bottles an hour, enough to operate three filling machines at full speed. It is operated by a five horse power motor.

With the hydro-washing machine the sterilization of every bottle is so thorough that all germs and traces of bacteria are absolutely removed. The machine is the only one of its kind in the upper peninsula. Each bottle receives a caustic bath for fifteen minutes at high pressure at a temperature of 130 degrees. In illustrating how powerful this caustic stream is, tight sticking labels in the old form of soaker, had to be removed by hand scraping, but with the new machine the labels are torn from the bottles before they pass half way through the caustic bath. Before a bottle reaches the bath it is drenched with a stream of water

INSIST ON GETTING  
**“ELSON’S”**  
**SOFT DRINKS**  
 The Most Delicious Beverage Made in  
 Michigan  
**WHY?**

**BECAUSE** We use the purest, choicest syrup and extracts, the kind with the most delicate, satisfying flavors, bottled under best sanitary conditions by men who thoroughly understand the art of making and bottling a beverage befitting for any occasion and for every home.

**A Trial Will Convince You**

Price \$1.75 for 1 Dozen Large Bottles in any of the Following Flavors:

- |            |             |                |
|------------|-------------|----------------|
| Whistle    | Cremo       | Pear Champagne |
| Orange     | Atlas Brew  | Orange Soda    |
| Cream Beer | Wild Cherry | Ginger Ale     |
| Strawberry | Lemon       | Root Beer      |
| Raspberry  | X Tre       | Lemon Sour     |

**WE SPECIALIZE IN HIGH CLASS FAMILY TRADE AND DELIVER PROMPTLY IN CASE LOTS**

**H. W. Elson's Bottling Works**  
 'PHONE 403

In order to keep the plant supplied with bottles they are purchased in carload lots and a car a year has been the average allotment of new bottles for the local plant. Each car holds about 1,500 cases of twenty-four bottles each.

Mr. Elson has the sole distribution of the celebrated "Whistle" drink in Marquette, Alger, Delta and Dickinson counties besides manufacturing the following other flavored drinks: Orange, Cream Soda, Strawberry, Raspberry, Cherry, Ginger Ale, Root Beer, Lemon, Snappy Lime, Creamo, Atlas Brew, Lemon Sour, Seltzer, Grape and Chocolate.

*(Mining Journal, June 16, 1921).*

## The IAHS Museum

The Ishpeming Area Historical Museum re-opened for visitors on Friday June 18, 2021 and will be open every Friday until the end of August. Hours of operation will be 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The museum is located on the third floor (can be reached by an elevator) of the historic Gossard building downtown Ishpeming. Please visit us and explore!

## Volunteers needed at the Museum

We find ourselves short of volunteers to serve as hosts for visitors at our museum this summer. Anyone interested in helping to preserve the history of our town is welcome. Our museum could use someone to help us keep our exhibits fresh and updated. Consider becoming a volunteer. We do offer training for those interested in becoming docents. If you are interested, please leave us a message on our facebook page.



***Ishpeming Bohemian Club – circa 1894”***

*From left to right: Top row - Sarah Wright, Mrs. O. R. Hardy, Larue Outhwaite*

*Middle row - Salome Dyson, Gertrude Bracelin, Olga Girzi, B. Sedgwick*

*Bottom row - Bessie LaLonde, Alice Swensen*

*Donated to the IAHS By Janet Oien*

## Please become a member or re-new 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, 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.

## IAHS newsletter editor steps away

Karen Kasper, longtime editor of this newsletter has decided to step down from that role. Karen's schedule has become quite full as she also volunteers at the Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives and the Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum. Karen also serves on the Advisory Board for the Michigan Iron Industry Museum and on the Board of Directors for the Marquette County Transit Authority. Karen still plans on being very active in the IAHS and hopefully, the present editor will be able to persuade Karen to contribute interesting historical articles for this newsletter in the future.

*Thank You!*

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

## 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     |

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Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

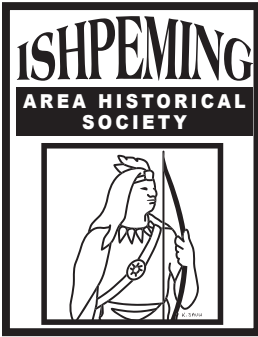
In memory/honor of (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://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  
(906) 236-0042  
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*Herman Elson Family*  
Donated to the IAHS By Marlene Paavo