

People

***ERNEST HEMINGWAY***

***Television Mini-Series on life of Hemingway  
Film crew taping in Petoskey. 1987***

## Hemingway's Michigan Home Welcomes A Film Crew

September 13, 1987 | By Ann Carolan.

Shortly before Labor Day, the quiet resort town of Petoskey, Mich., was invaded by a film crew, which had come to town to tape scenes for a television mini-series on the life of Ernest Hemingway.

Rumors about the production had circulated for weeks, and seemed to have some validity.

Hemingway's family summered not far from Petoskey and the Northern Michigan area was the setting for some of Hemingway's fine, early short stories. Nevertheless, most residents greeted the idea with polite disbelief.

However, when the locals learned that casting directors had camped at the Perry Davis, Petoskey's turn-of-the-century hotel, and were hiring extras for an elaborate wedding scene that would be filmed in the Bayview neighborhood, they descended in droves.

The mini-series (now scheduled for six hours, with talk of extending it to eight hours) stars Stacy Keach as Ernest Hemingway, Priscilla Pointer

(Stephen Spielberg's mother-in-law) as Ernest's domineering mother, Josephine Chaplin as Hemingway's first wife, Stuart Whitman as the senior Hemingway, and Eric Elterman as young Ernest.

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The series, based on Carlos Baker's biography, has followed Hemingway's life through seven countries: Switzerland, Italy, France, Spain, Kenya, Puerto Rico and the United States.

Entire families were hired for the Petoskey filming. Young cherub-faced boys dressed in knickers and sailor shirts were instructed to act naturally, and they upstaged many older wedding guests with their antics: chasing the wedding car down the road or wrestling with each other as boys so often do at such affairs.

Ladies in their 40s were bedecked in antique lace, chiffon and glass beads, with turn-of-the-century, wide-brimmed flowered hats. Several neighborhood women watching in antique rockers from their gingerbread porches looked so Victorian-natural, they were included in the scene.

After casting, Petoskey residents lined up inside Hitchcock Hall for costume fitting and hairstyling. ("Hair was short in back in the '20s," said the hairstylist.)

"Did they hire any of the children for speaking parts?" whispered a shy parent.

"No," came the reply, "a 9-year-old was called up from Texas to play Hemingway as a 6-year-old, catching a 2-foot pike."

"But Hemingway was a trout fisherman!" retorted an indignant listener.

On it went throughout the steamy afternoon. Eager parents sat in folding chairs against the walls, sneaking an occasional picture or cautiously venturing forward to the dressing area, only to be turned back by a very tired wardrobe director. Rented wardrobe from the 1920s hung in racks throughout the huge room.

Throughout the production, the German designer, Barbara Baum, has insisted on authenticity. The period costumes are correct to the smallest detail. Many costumes for the wedding scene were found in London. The principal actor's clothing are all hand-made originals fashioned from 1900s materials and notions discovered by Baum at a small antique shop outside London.

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Hemingway lived an adventurous life. He drew from a deep well of experience to write such great works as ``The Sun Also Rises`` and ``The Old Man and the Sea``. To film such an extravagant life, the production company has staged bullfights and filmed lions on an African safari.

While in Petoskey, Stacy Keach seemed to exhibit some of Hemingway's gentle strength and good manners, greeting bystanders, posing for pictures and maintaining his poise amid the confusion of stalled Model T's and growing crowds of admirers.

Stuart Whitman, too, mixed with townsmen, exchanging fish stories with locals with no trace of Hollywood pretense.

Why such presence in little Petoskey? Producer Linda Marmelstein chose Bayview for its Victorian authenticity. Like Garrison Keillor's ``town that time forgot``, Bay View inhabitants seem to live in the past.

Victorian homes are carefully preserved and change is slow. The condominiums that line neighboring towns are few and far between.

Bayview is a community dedicated to historical preservation where Michigan Methodists get away from the ``stress and distress of the day``.

Queen Ann Victorian cottages line the winding streets circulating around a central hub of large, stately 3- and 4-story buildings, which house summer music, dance and theater classes.

Soaring violin strains harmonize with operatic arias from gingerbread Victorians that rival those in San Francisco. To walk through Bayview on a summer's eve is pass back in time to another, more graceful era.

Each of these buildings became central locations for the movie company, one for wardrobe, another for makeup. Epworth House, with its gracious wide porch, was used as a setting for the wedding.

It is no coincidence that Hemingway found spiritual and creative inspiration in Northern Michigan. The sublime, romantic characteristics of small-town ``Victoriana`` still permeate the air: sunsets cast golden threads across the horizon, the crystal waters teem with the trout Hemingway so loved to fish.

# 'Hemingway' crew comes to Petoskey

By **BOB CLOCK**  
News-Review staff writer

Producer Linda Marmelstein and the entire production crew of the upcoming TV miniseries "Hemingway" would like to keep a low profile while filming in Petoskey.

But that's pretty hard to do when your arrival is announced by a metropolitan newspaper, as it was in the *Detroit Free Press* on Friday and when numerous area residents have a part in the production.

Marmelstein, who is American producer of the miniseries, said the set will be closed to the public and the press during filming this week, including scenes at Bay View portraying novelist Ernest Hemingway's first wedding to Hadley Richardson of St. Louis 66 years ago this summer.

Hemingway spent his early summers at the family cottage on Walloon Lake and lived in a rented room on State Street in Petoskey when he returned to the United States after serving as an ambulance driver in Italy during World War II.

His marriage to Hadley Richardson actually took place in Horton Bay, where Hemingway had many friends. However the church is now gone and Marmelstein feels the village has changed significantly since Hemingway was a young man.

However she said she was delighted to find such an early-American setting as Bay View so close and still intact.

"When filming such period pieces, you always have to be on the lookout for such things as aluminum siding and TV antennas," she explained.

And Bay View, over the years, apparently has been largely untouched by the winds of change.

Marmelstein said she really shouldn't talk to the press until the local filming is completed, but agreed to answer a few questions about the film, which will be aired by independent TV stations next April.

Playing the title role will be Stacy Keach, star of the "New Mike Ham-

mer" TV show (8 p.m. Wednesdays on channels 9 and 10.) Marmelstein says Keach bears a striking resemblance to Hemingway even without makeup.

Also in starring roles are: youngest daughter of Charlie Chaplin, Josephine as Hadley Richardson; Marisa Berenson as Hemingway's second wife, Pauline; Lisa Banes as his third wife, Martha; and Pamela Reed as his fourth wife, Mary.

Based on Carlos Baker's biography of Hemingway, the film will cover the author's life from the time of his first marriage in 1921 until his death in 1961. This means that the opening scenes are the ones which are being shot at Bay View this week.

On this side of the Atlantic, the series is being filmed by Daniel Wil-

son Productions of New York City. The European segments are being handled by Alcor films of Munich, Germany.

Marmelstein says portions of the series already have been shot in Switzerland, Italy, France, Spain, Africa and Key West, Fla. The final scenes will be shot in Sun Valley, Ida., in September.

Marmelstein said a number of local extras have been hired for the Bay View footage, but declined to disclose names. She added that the extras were recruited by word of mouth and none has a speaking part.

During the height of the filming this week a crew of about 50 — including actors and actresses — will be in Petoskey.



**DAVID STEVENSON** of David's Place in Petoskey trims Terry Carolan's hair as Cheryl Stevenson works on another local "actor" in the background.

**MARY WILSON** (from left), Beverly Holden and Kathy Phelps, all local extras eat lunch on the set during a break in the filming of "Hemingway."

# Area residents fill out movie set

By L. SCOTT SWANSON  
News-Review staff writer

**BAY VIEW** — Northern Michigan viewers will be able to pick out familiar faces and props when the TV mini series "Hemingway" airs next spring.

Several area people, both adults and children, will be extras in a wedding scene filmed Tuesday and furniture and other items from local antique shops will be used as props.

"I think it's great," said Michelle Oom, who was a wedding scene extra with her 11- and 5-year-old daughters. "I think it'll just be fun."

The family got roles as extras after hearing that the producers were looking for help.

Oom's older daughter Maren appeared in a Bay View production of "The Music Man" earlier this summer. People affiliated with the mini-series told Carol Perkins of the Bay View Theatre Arts group they were going to need some young girls as extras. Perkins remembered Ma-

ren from "The Music Man."

There were no auditions. People who wanted to be extras provided photos and filled out forms which asked for name, address, phone number and clothing sizes.

Last week the extras were fit for clothing and told to be on site at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday. They weren't told much about what they would be doing.

Monday afternoon, another extra, 12-year-old Kelly Smith said, "We're just supposed to be extras for the wedding scene. We just have to get there. I think we just have to watch the wedding."

Asked if she had any prior acting experience, Kelly said she's done some ballet recitals and a little modeling, but that's about it.

Kelly will be an extra along with her mother, Sally, 5-year-old sister Angela and twin brother Bradley.

Extras each will be paid \$50 for their day on the set.

The mini series producers also have rented antiques for props from several area antique shops.

Longton Hall Antiques of Petos-



way) one of my favorite authors." Wentworth Antiques Limited also had items used in the movie.

Wentworth owner LaVerne Peterson said a young couple had been looking at a desk and trying to decide if they wanted to buy it. After they'd left, the movie people came in and rented the desk for the picture.

When the couple came back, the desk was gone but Peterson told them they could still purchase it after the filming was completed.

"It's kind of a delight for them," she said. "Now they can say their desk was used in the movie."

The Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce has been working with the mini series people since March, Andy Hayes, chamber executive director reported.

Hayes estimates the production will bring approximately \$100,000 to the local economy.

"One thing we've tried to do is just lay out the welcome mat," Hayes said. "They've been extremely good to work with and appreciative."

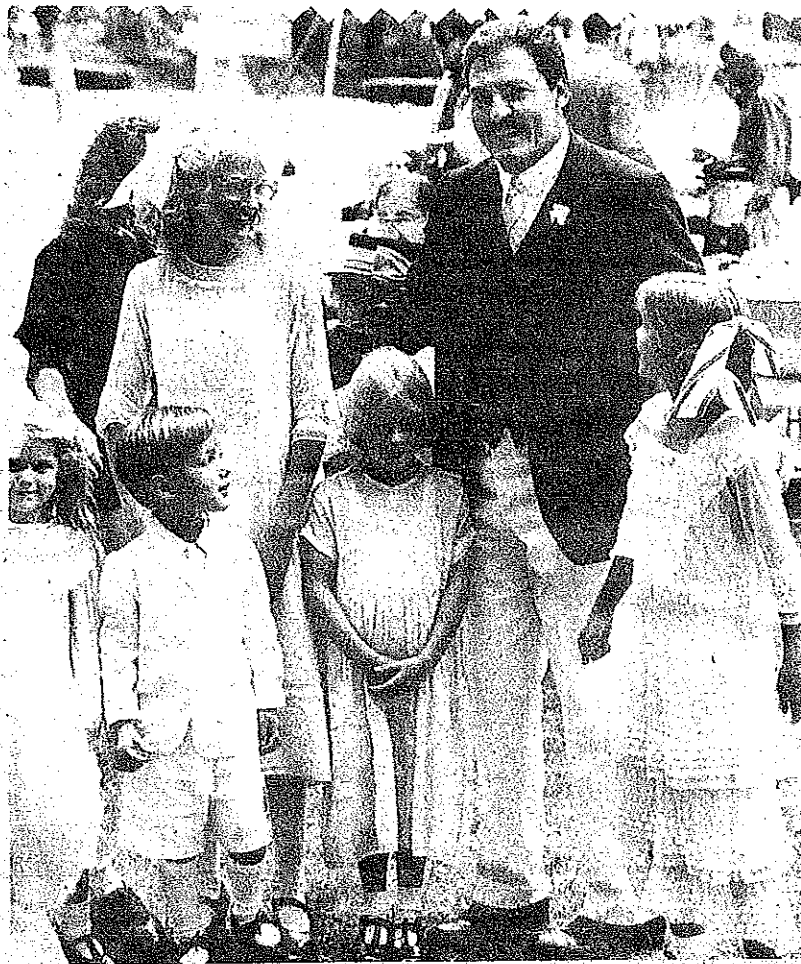
**SEAN RYAN** (left) and G.T. Long, both Charlevoix County residents, await in the wings with a "Just Married" sign, which was attached to the wedding car.

key is providing a gun cabinet, roll top desk, cupboard, hall trees for hats, a dental cabinet, plant stands, mahogany screens, dishes, a catcher's mitt, baseball bats and a cake server.

"It's very flattering," owner Jo Ann Birdzell said. "He's (Heming-



**LOCAL RESIDENTS** filled the wooden chairs at the wedding of Ernest Hemingway for a six-part miniseries on the author's life. Over 100 local residents were hired as extras for various scenes filmed in Bay View. (NEWS photos by G. Rant Goss)



**STACY KEACH** takes time out to pose with local children during a lunch break Tuesday. The extras included: Elly Oom (from left), Martin Chism, Kelly Smith, Angie Smith and Maren Oom.



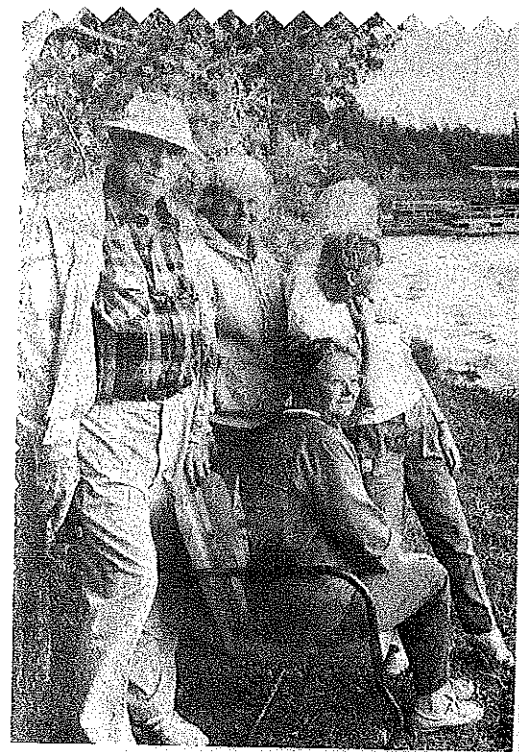
## Merry wedding party

**THE "HEMINGWAY"** wedding party shares a laugh during filming Tuesday. The Rev. Charlie Fulmer (center) of the United Methodist Church in Petoskey "officialiated" over the ceremony between leading actor Stacy Keach playing Ernest

Hemingway and Josephine Chaplin playing Hadley Richardson, his first wife. Also included in photo is Hillary August of Petoskey as maid of honor and Chet Jessick of Petoskey as best man. (NEWS photo by G. Randall Goss)



That's a wrap



**FILMING OF A** TV mini-series about Ernest Hemingway got under way in the Petoskey area Monday. Some area residents were able to watch right from their front yard (top left) as crews filmed Stuart Whitman in his role as Ernest Hemingway's father and Eric Elterman as young Ernest Hemingway (top right) in a fishing scene. Dennis Krithers of Petoskey (bottom left photo) retrieved Whitman's hat after a gust of wind sent it sailing. Heavy breezes complicated the shooting. (NEWS photos by G. Randall Goss)

