

by Morris Buske





Dad, are we there yet?

Clad in cap and duster, Grace Hemingway settles in the back seat of the Model T with her two-year-old son, Leicester, on her lap. In the front seat behind the wheel, her husband, Dr. Clarence “Ed” Hemingway, lowers the gas lever on the steering column to give the engine plenty of fuel. He also raises the spark lever to retard the firing and prevent an engine backfire.

He signals his eldest son, seventeen-year-old Ernest, who stands at the front of the car. Ernest pulls the choke wire leading through the car radiator and engages the crank.

He spins the crank enthusiastically. The engine coughs and sputters into life. When Ernest releases the choke, all four cylinders fire in rhythm.

Ernest jumps into the front seat beside his father, who adjusts the spark and throttle levers, releases the hand brake and depresses the left foot pedal to put the car into low gear.

They are off to Michigan.

Ernest Hemingway spent the happiest days of his youth in northern Michigan. Each summer, as soon as the children were out of school, the Hemingways packed up and moved north to their cottage on Walloon Lake near Petoskey. By the time he was in high school Ernest had his own sleeping quarters, a tent near the cottage. Later he wrote nostalgically about his summers at Walloon Lake:

In the morning I was always hungry when I woke and I could smell the dew in the grass and hear the wind in the high branches of the hemlock trees, if there was a wind, and if there was no wind I could hear the quietness of the forest and the calmness of the lake and I would listen for the first noises of morning. Sometimes the first noise would be a kingfisher flying over the water that was so calm it mirrored his reflection and he made a clattering cry as he flew. Sometimes it was a squirrel chattering in one of the trees outside the house, his tail jerking each time he made a noise. Often it would be the plover calling on the hillside. But whenever I woke and heard the first morning noises and felt hungry and knew I would not have to go to school nor have to work, I was happier than I have ever been.

Near the end of the trip from Illinois to Michigan, Dr. Hemingway took this photo of his wife, Grace, and their sons, two-year-old Leicester and seventeen-year-old Ernest.



Construction of the Hemingways' cottage began in 1899, the year Ernest was born. That year and for the next sixteen seasons they traveled by boat across Lake Michigan from their home in Oak Park, Illinois, to Walloon Lake. In 1917 Dr. Hemingway decided to attempt the trip by land. He would drive his Model T around the southern tip of Lake Michigan and then generally follow the lake shore northward up to the cottage. He would take his wife and their sons; the family's four daughters would cross Lake Michigan by boat.

The doctor enjoyed overcoming challenges to his skills as an outdoorsman. For example, he used flint and steel to start an outdoor fire in the rain. He sought for his children the same mastery of skills, teaching them what he knew. He hired an Indian to

show them the best way to paddle a canoe. The doctor also passed on to Ernest his love of the outdoors. His love of fly-fishing for trout kindled Ernest's lifelong passion for the sport.

The doctor's auto trip from Oak Park to Walloon Lake could scarcely be compared with finding the source of the Nile River or with reaching the North Pole by foot—two famous pursuits of the day. But his endeavor was more difficult than one might imagine. Fast-food restaurants, motels and highway maps were yet to be invented, and few gasoline service stations existed. The heavily loaded car would take several days over some 450 miles of roads that were unpaved, unmarked and largely unknown to the doctor.

Thirty years earlier, the teenaged Ed had set out on somewhat similar excursions. He later liked to reminisce about the times when he and his three younger brothers drove the family horse and buggy on leisurely weekend outings through the countryside near Oak Park. During these youthful adventures they picked apples from trees beside the road, slept in haystacks and cooked their meals over open fires. "For these trips he devised a bent sheet iron reflector with which he baked an appetizing johnnycake," his daughter, Marcelline, recorded. At one stop the boys added to their menu by milking a cow in a pasture near their campsite. Years later, as a practicing physician, Ed treated the children of the cow's owner without charge, a delayed payment for the purloined milk.

The doctor also liked to recall a summer of "roughing it" after his freshman year at Oberlin College. He served as cook for a group studying the botany of North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains. He later spoke proudly of his culinary accomplishments under such primitive conditions.

Memories of these successful outings probably played a part in Dr. Hemingway's decision to attempt the car trip to Walloon Lake. Besides, he liked to drive his Model T. Although he had been one of the last doctors in Oak Park to replace his horse and buggy with an automobile, he soon enjoyed driving it.

Ed prepared for his 1917 road trip with characteristic thoroughness. His records make little mention of expenses for breakfasts or lunches; presumably he packed supplies for the family to eat meals at stops beside the road. He also took equipment for the Model T—tools, spare tires and a saw for cutting tree branches to place under the wheels for traction should the car get stuck in sand or mud.

Since the Model T had no trunk, the doctor faced a problem in finding room for all the luggage. He packed much of it inside the car, making it necessary for Leicester to sit on Grace's lap for most of the trip. The remaining gear was carried on the outside of the car. Two spare tires were lashed on the driver's side and other equipment



Although reluctant to give up his horse and buggy, Dr. Clarence "Ed" Hemingway enjoyed driving his car, which might explain his desire to undertake the 450-mile trip to the family's summer cottage at Walloon Lake in June 1917.



After an enjoyable first day's ride, the Hemingways spent the night at the Bay View Hotel (shown here in 1908). Located just outside the community of Watervliet, the hotel on Paw Paw Lake reminded Ed and Grace Hemingway of an earlier visit to the area.

before he owned an auto. In 1895, on an ocean liner bound for Europe, he wrote back to Oak Park that he was "Midocean, 1791 miles from New York."

In 1995, with a copy of Ed's diary in hand, my wife, Dot, and I attempted to follow the Hemingways' 1917 trail as closely as possible. We arranged to conclude our trip with a stay at the Walloon Lake cottage that had been owned by Ernest's sister Marcelline. Her son, Jim Sanford, rented us the cottage located only a short distance from the original Hemingway cottage. Dot and I set out intending to find and photograph places where the Hemingways had stayed during their odyssey nearly eighty years earlier.

Ed's diary names three towns where the Hemingways stopped overnight. We failed to locate any places where the family might have been housed, but each of these town's newspapers carried a "Hemingway Slept Here" article that shed light on the Hemingways' trip.

DAY 1

The first day's adventure could scarcely have been a happier one for the Hemingways. They traveled 137 miles and reached Watervliet, covering nearly a third of the distance to Petoskey without mishap. No luncheon is mentioned in the doctor's notes; he probably had prepared a picnic to be eaten beside the road. Entries for purchase of ice cream, crullers and milk, as well as gasoline, suggest an enjoyable drive.

A diary entry records that for four dollars the family stayed at "Bay View Hotel," with what appears to be "D. H. Good" as proprietor. No one we talked with in

packed on the running board.

Dr. Hemingway kept a sketchy diary during the 1917 trip, recording purchases, mileage from odometer readings and the cost and location of lodgings where the family stayed overnight. Parts of the diary are difficult to decipher, but the doctor's handwriting was more legible than that of many in his profession and his meaning is generally clear.

The diary's recorded odometer readings are an interesting feature, since odometers were not standard on Fords of that time. Evidently Dr. Hemingway installed one of the gadgets himself. His interest in exact mileage readings had begun long

Watervliet knew of a Bay View Hotel. A later search of census records and several telephone calls likewise turned up no clues. A November 1995 article in the *St. Joseph Herald-Palladium* supplied the answer. Feature writer William F. Ast III noted that a Bay View Hotel was the first of several resort hotels on Paw Paw Lake near Watervliet and that O. A. Dodd (not D. H. Good) was its proprietor for many years.

Bill Beverly of the North Berrien Historical Society provided additional information and pictures showing an attractive hotel. In the course of a delightful correspondence Beverly wrote that the Hemingways “would have enjoyed their overnight stay. The Bay View was about as upscale as resort hotels got around here in those days.”

How might Dr. Hemingway have known about the Bay View?

Discovering that it was located on Paw Paw Lake jogged my memory. I remembered seeing the mention of Paw Paw Lake in correspondence between the doctor and his wife. The letters were at the Ransom Humanities Center at the University of Texas in Austin. Charlotte Ponder, president of the Michigan Hemingway Society, checked on the correspondence when she visited the center. They included a card and a series of letters sent by Grace to Ed in 1897 from a resort on Paw Paw Lake. Grace’s warm and loving—even passionate—words make clear that she enjoyed her stay. Pregnant with their first child, she looked forward eagerly to her husband joining her at the lake.

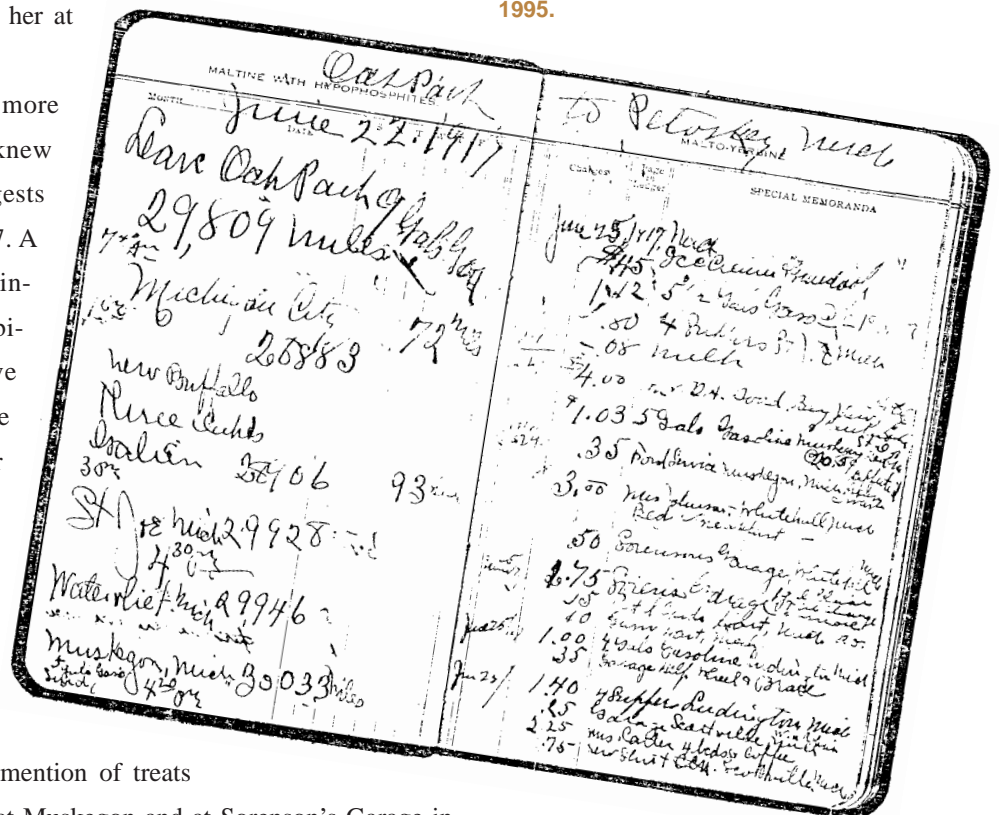
Their 1897 correspondence does more than explain how the Hemingways knew about the Bay View Hotel. It also suggests Grace and Ed’s mood on June 23, 1917. A pleasant day on the road ended with dinner and a stay at a fine hotel. The ambience of the lake region must have evoked for the doctor and his wife memories of a reunion on another Saturday twenty years earlier when they were newly wed and in love.

DAY 2

The family’s second day on the road was not as carefree as the first. They covered only 105 miles. There is no mention of treats

consumed along the way and the stops at Muskegon and at Sorenson’s Garage in Whitehall make clear that there was car trouble.

Dr. Hemingway’s brief diary of the 1917 trip greatly aided historian Morris Buske’s efforts to recreate the trip in 1995.





As his younger brother looked on, Ernest Hemingway prepared a skillet breakfast along the Michigan countryside on the third day of the trip to Walloon Lake.

were in for some of the most unpalatable food in Whitehall when they stopped there for the night.” One White Lake Historical Society member minced no words on Johnson’s culinary ability (rather, inability) when he said she was noted for “terrible” lemon pie and chocolate custard that local contractors used to “plaster walls.”

The *Beacon* article also located the station where Dr. Hemingway obtained gasoline and assistance. “Long-time Whitehall resident Everett Gee, whose family owned one of the first two [gasoline] pumping stations in Whitehall, recalled Sorenson’s as operating a Standard Oil station where Bells’s Furniture, 116 East Colby, now stands.”

DAY 3

The third day of their trip began badly for the Hemingways. Apparently one of the Model T’s tires went flat during the night while the car stood outside Mrs. Johnson’s tea room. Mechanical problems developed as well, delaying the family’s departure from Whitehall.

The Hemingways stopped in Hart about noon, buying postcards for fifteen cents and spending forty cents for gum and two other items not clearly named. Mechanical difficulties continued, for the family logged only sixty-five miles during an eight-hour day.

Mrs. Johnson’s lodging house at Whitehall, where the Hemingways spent the night, probably lacked the amenities of the Bay View Hotel. In a December 1995 article in Whitehall’s *White Lake Beacon*, Debra Carte-Ramthun wrote, “Yes, Hemingway slept here, too; but thank God, he didn’t eat the pie! Little did the late Mrs. Jenny Johnson, owner of a tea room in Whitehall, know that she was entertaining a future novelist when she took in the Hemingways on the night of June 24, 1917. Little did the poor, unsuspecting family of Ernest Hemingway know that they

**DAY
4**

The Hemingways' fourth day on the road was long and difficult. Dr. Hemingway's diary suggests that they left Scottville at 7:00 A.M. Gilbert Petersen of Flint, son of the garage owner at Scottville, remembers a gravel road leading north out of Scottville. But at some point the road (or one the Hemingways mistakenly took) became rutted and the overloaded Model T broke a spring. Not until 10:30 P.M. did the doctor and his weary family reach the home of his brother, George, at Ironton—the "Uncle George" of Ernest Hemingway's short stories.

**DAY
5**

"After a good night's sleep," as Grace Hemingway gratefully recorded, they had their picture taken along with members of the George Hemingway family and the Model T. That afternoon the family drove to Windemere, their cottage on Walloon Lake adjoining Bacon's farm. The Model T must have been performing poorly, for the drive of thirty-one miles took four hours. But they were home at last.

A review of the trip shows that the Hemingways spent a total \$11.95 for hotels and meals. The Model T consumed

When Getting There was So-o-o-o Different

Jim Sanford, Ernest Hemingway's nephew, offered the following excerpt of "directions" from Petoskey to Walloon Lake as they appeared in *King's Auto Routing*, published in 1919.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Petoskey to Walloon Lake, 8.9 miles
Fair gravel to Walloon Lake, rest hilly, some sand.
Route 121—Reverse Route 120</p> <p>.0 Leave the corner of State and Howard Sts., go south one block on Howard St.</p> <p>.1 Turn right on Mitchell St., continue to 4 corners</p> <p>.3 Turn left on Emmett St., go up easy grade</p> <p>.5 Pass frame church on right</p> <p>.6 Cross R.R.</p> <p>.7 Turn right on Washington St. (And just before crossing R.R.)</p> <p>.8 Turn left on Buckley Ave. along R.R. on right</p> <p>.9 Curve left on Standish St., pass</p> | <p>road on right</p> <p>1.1 Pass diagonal road on left</p> <p>1.4 Cross bridge over Bear Creek</p> <p>1.7 Cross R.R. and immediately beyond, turn left (avoiding road which goes straight ahead up hill) parallel with R.R. on left</p> <p>3.4 Pass road on left</p> <p>3.6 Pass frame school house on right (marked Dist. No. 10)</p> <p>4.5 Pass road on left (small hamlet with sawmill)</p> <p>4.9 Go up short grade</p> <p>5.9 Go up short grade</p> <p>6.0 Go down grade</p> <p>6.2 Go up and down grade</p> <p>6.5 Turn left, cross R.R., (leave R.R.)</p> <p>6.7 Turn right on narrow road through marsh</p> | <p>7.3 Pass road on right, running parallel with R.R. again on right, turn right, cross R.R.</p> <p>7.5 Clarion (depot on right), continue to 4 corners, postoffice on right</p> <p>7.6 Turn left one block</p> <p>7.7 Turn left, frame school house on left, go up grade to end of road, church in end</p> <p>7.8 Turn left</p> <p>7.9 Pass road on right, curve left, up grade</p> <p>8.2 Curve left, then right, down grade</p> <p>8.5 Curve right</p> <p>8.6 Pass church on left, go through crossroads, continue to forks</p> <p>8.8 Take left fork</p> <p>8.9 Walloon Lake, R.R. and depot on left</p> |
|--|--|---|



On the fourth day of the trip, the Hemingways arrived in Ironton. There, they posed with the family of Dr. Hemingway's brother, George. From left to right, George's daughter, Margaret, and wife, Anna, Dr. Hemingway, Leicester (foreground), Grace, George's daughter, Virginia, Ernest and George Jr.

twenty-two gallons of gasoline, averaging twenty miles per gallon. It used two gallons of oil. The total cost for gas and oil was \$8.32.

In notes for a future trip by car the doctor suggested a route from Chicago to Michigan City to St. Joseph to Muskegon to Manistee to Traverse City, and added the names of hotels recommended by "GRH," presumably his brother George.

Dr. Hemingway did not repeat the trip. Once was enough. In the fall of 1917 he shipped the Model T back home from Manistee aboard the S.S. *Missouri*. In following summers he spent increasing amounts of time in Oak Park and needed the car for making medical calls. But he must have felt satisfaction in knowing that he once had overcome the hazards of the roads from Oak Park to Petoskey.

Our experiences on the same route seventy-eight years later bring several observations. First, our odometer reading was thirty miles less than Dr. Hemingway's. This can be explained in part by today's throughways, which eliminate the zig-zag roads followed by Dr. Hemingway. It is also likely that part of the time he was on the wrong road or going in the wrong direction. Near the end of the diary we find "Take Compass," with "Compass" twice underlined for emphasis.

The Model T's use of two gallons of oil is remarkable. On average, the car needed a quart of oil every sixty-one miles. Something mechanical was definitely wrong. Perhaps the car, long used for short medical errands in Oak Park, simply wasn't ready for driving at higher speeds for extended hours.

After Walloon Lake

After motoring to Michigan in 1917, Ernest Hemingway spent the summer at his family's cottage on Walloon Lake, fishing and working on their farm. He chose not to attend college. Instead, in the fall, he took his first step toward the career of professional writer he long had dreamed of, becoming a reporter for the *Kansas City Star*.

Events unfolded quickly. In the spring he enlisted in the Red Cross Ambulance Corps and was posted to Italy, America's World War I ally. Badly wounded, he returned home early in 1919 as a hero. After a summer at the lake he stayed on in northern Michigan, writing stories that

A member of Gertrude Stein's "lost generation" in Paris, Hemingway developed a clear, deceptively simple style of writing that transformed English prose. ("You don't need a dictionary to read Hemingway.") He first won wide recognition with *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), followed by a major success with *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), based in part on his love affair with his nurse after his wounding in Italy. His *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940), equally popular, drew on Hemingway's experience in the Spanish Civil War.

Across the River and Into the Trees (1950) disappointed most critics and Hemingway's reputation suffered. But he scored a triumphant comeback with *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952), a short novel printed in full by *Life* magazine that won him the Pulitzer Prize. Since his death, three books excerpted from his manuscripts have been published: *A Moveable Feast*, *Islands in the Stream* and *The Garden of Eden*. A fourth, *True at First Light*, is scheduled for release this summer as part of the Hemingway birthday centennial celebration.

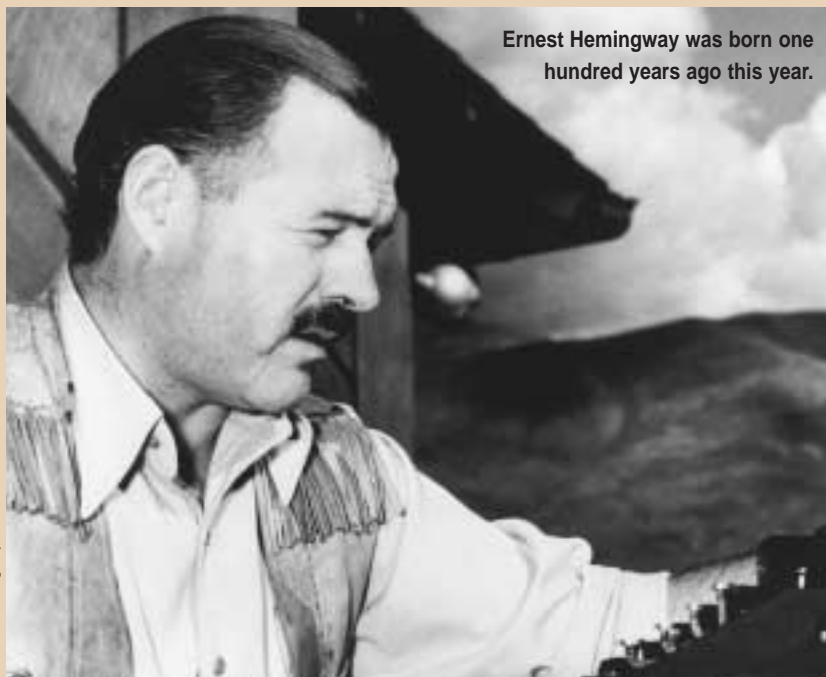
Hemingway's short stories best reveal his artistic skill. He followed an "iceberg principle" of keeping seven-eighths of a story submerged, with the written one-eighth drawing readers into the story. In 1954 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for his "powerful, style-making mastery of the art of modern narration."

Unlike his first three marriages (to Hadley, Pauline Pfeiffer and Martha Gelhorn), all ending in divorce, his fourth, to Mary Welsh, lasted. He fathered three sons:

Jack, Patrick and Gregory.

Excessive drinking and depression made him difficult to live with; on the other hand, life with Hemingway could be exciting. He reveled in the action of fisherman, hunter and bullfight aficionado, and owned homes in Key West, Florida; Sun Valley, Idaho; and Cuba. Despondent over inability to continue writing, Hemingway killed himself with a shotgun in Sun Valley on July 2, 1961, just nineteen days short of his sixty-second birthday.

—Morris Buske



Ernest Hemingway was born one hundred years ago this year.

Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park

publishers invariably rejected. A tutoring job in Toronto that winter opened the way to writing occasionally for the *Toronto Star*.

In late 1920 he began work for a minor magazine in Chicago. There, he met and fell in love with Hadley Richardson. After a marriage ceremony in Petoskey and a honeymoon at the family cottage in 1921, the couple settled in Paris, financed by a legacy left to Hadley and by Ernest's writing as foreign correspondent for the *Toronto Star*.



When the Hemingways reached Benzonia, they may have been entertained by the McConnoughys (seated at center and right). Grace and Ernest Hemingway are standing, while Leicester sits on the lap of Dr. Miles.

referred in his fiction to the 1917 trip, but he preserved memories of it. In 1919, writing from Boyne City to his friend, Howell Jenkins, on plans for a fishing trip, Ernest advised Jenkins on what route to take when driving north: “The best road to come up is the West Michigan Pike. It is pretty good. . . . It comes around through Michigan City and up the shore through Muskegon, Ludington, Manistee, Traverse City and then up to Charlevoix. You can drive it in less than three days. Probably in two days.”

Although the 1917 journey did not figure in Hemingway’s work, the destination certainly did. Some of his finest writings in his Nick Adams short stories, “Indian Camp,” “Big Two-Hearted River” and others, were placed in the north Michigan setting he loved while growing up. ■

A fuel problem is also indicated by the need to take four hours to limp the final thirty-one miles from Ironton to Walloon Lake. Perhaps one of the primitive filling stations on the way sold gasoline contaminated with rust or other material. Ernest referred to the difficulty in a letter he wrote on August 6 to his grandfather, Anson Hemingway, back in Oak Park. “Dad’s Ford is running fine now that the cylinders are clean and he wouldn’t think of selling it.”

Today’s travel is vastly different, thanks in large part to the influence of Detroit. Paved thoroughways carry us on direct routes, with easy access to food and to clean fuel for cars engineered to run for hours at high speeds.

Ernest Hemingway never

A retired history and humanities teacher at Oak Park (Illinois) High School, Morris Buske was founding chairman of The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park. He currently serves as its historian. Photos pages 18, 21, 22, 24, and 26, Jim Sanford; pages 19 and 20, The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park. Thanks to Bernard White for the use of his Model T that appears on pages 16-17.

TRIP TIPS

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 100TH YEAR of Ernest Hemingway's birth and never before have there been so many activities for the Hemingway enthusiast to enjoy. From Petoskey, Michigan, to Tokyo, Japan, there is something for everyone to see and do. For detailed information for any of the listed events, please call The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, Illinois, at (708) 848-2222.

**JULY
14**

100th Birthday Extravaganza Celebration Opening Gala, Four Seasons Hotel, Chicago

This lively evening will feature dancing to the music of the Stanley Paul Orchestra along with a full dinner and beverage selection. On hand will be members of Hemingway's family and other celebrities. Tickets are \$250 per person and can be purchased through the Foundation.

**JULY
16-18**

"Fiesta de Hemingway," Scoville Park, Oak Park

A lively outdoor festival that highlights Hemingway's love of Spain. The three-day fiesta will feature swing dance competitions, Spanish flamenco dancing, childrens' activities and a variety of local bands continually performing. Traditional Spanish food and drink will also be offered. Free admission, open from 5:00 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. July 16 and 17. Times to be announced for July 18.

**JULY
18**

"Picturing Hemingway: A Writer in His Time," The Hemingway Museum, Oak Park

A landmark exhibit on Hemingway's life will be unveiled at the museum and later travel nationally to other major Hemingway sites. The exhibit will feature over one hundred historic photographs from both public and private collections in addition to never before seen personal Hemingway memorabilia. Located at 200 North Oak Park Ave.

**JULY
18-21**

"The Hemingway Centennial Conference: Literacy and Historical Perspectives at 100," Oak Park

Major Hemingway scholars, Hemingway relatives, teachers, students and Hemingway enthusiasts gather for this three-day conference. For information, fees and registration call Scott Schwar at (708) 386-4363.

**JULY
21**

Hemingway Birthplace Rededication, Oak Park

The centennial week will culminate at the home where Hemingway was born. According to family history, Clarence Hemingway blew his cornet on the porch to announce his son's birth. The sounding of the cornet will be reenacted at 8:00 A.M. at the house. Hemingway family members will be present at the restored home, which is located at 339 North Oak Park Ave. A dinner that evening will close the Oak Park gala.

**JULY
22-25**

Motor coach tour from Oak Park to Petoskey, Michigan

Hemingway researcher Morris Buske retraces the Hemingway's annual trip from Oak Park to Petoskey in a modern-day motor coach. Buske will narrate the day-long trip, which will culminate with two days of Hemingway-related conferences and activities in Petoskey. The bus returns to Oak Park on July 25. Sponsored by the Michigan Hemingway Society. Tickets are \$75 per person; conference fees are \$185 per person, discounted to \$160 per person if paid before July 1, 1999. To reserve a place contact the society at (517)-684-0753 or e-mail at mhs@freeway.net.

Other centennial events taking place around the world include the opening of the Hemingway Museum and Literacy Conference Center at Arkansas State University in Piggott, Arkansas, (501) 972-3940; "Hemingway on the Great Gulf Stream" in Havana, Cuba, from June 8-12; a special Hemingway exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, from June 18-October 3; and, "Hemingway and War," at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado, from October 7-9, 1999.