

'Anatomy' Trivia

1. The Book was on the NY Times Best Seller list for how many weeks.
A. 55 B. 25 C. 65 D. 40
2. The book sold over how many million copies?
A. 5 B. 3 C. 4 D. 1
3. The Author John Voelker was a(n)
A. Attorney
B. Sportsman
C. State Supreme Court Judge
D. All of the above
4. In the movie, who played the part of the defense lawyer?
A. Ben Gazzara
B. Jimmy Stewart
C. George C. Scott
D. Otto Preminger
5. What Year did the actual Murder take place?
A. 1950 B. 1952 C. 1954 D. 1959
6. In which Big Bay establishment did the murder occur?
A. Hungry Hollow Café
B. North Shore Treasures
C. Thunder Bay Inn
D. Lumberjack Tavern

This brochure provided to you by the
Big Bay Visitor's Association

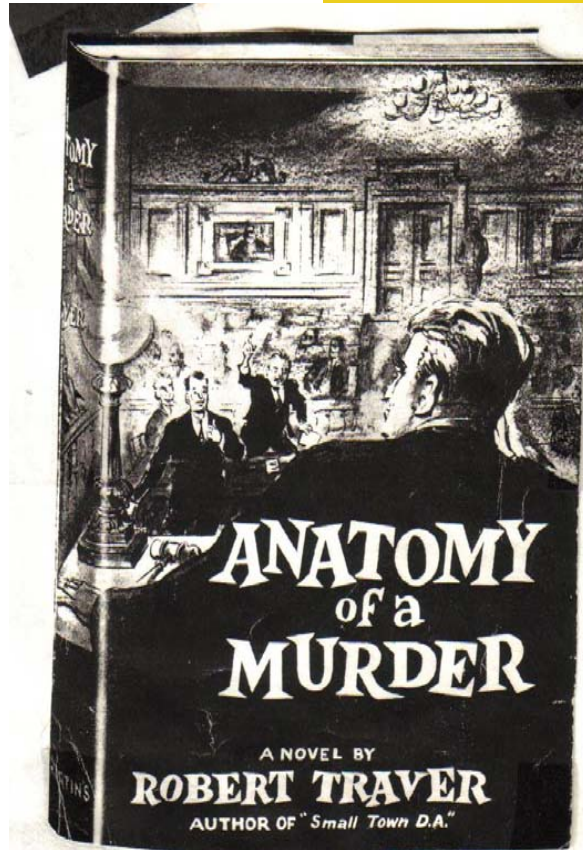
Anatomy of a Murder souvenirs—photographs of the stars, copies of the movie, t-shirts and sweatshirts, puzzles and shot glasses- are available at local businesses around Big Bay.

Shop locally!

For more information, call Linda at 345-9957.

Anatomy of a Murder

Big Bay Walking Tour



What happened in Big Bay?

The year was 1952 the US Army had leased the Lighthouse and surrounding land and established an anti aircraft artillery range. Soldiers were brought in for a two week training session on the 90 millimeter guns that had been placed along the cliff of Big Bay Point. Planes would fly out over the lake pulling yellow targets. The soldiers camped in the field below the Lighthouse. Married officers and their wives lived in trailers in nearby Perkins Park.

One of the officers went home one night only to find his wife not there. When she did return home, she was intoxicated after having spent the evening at the local tavern. They quarreled and to avoid a possible beating, the wife claimed she had been assaulted by the local bartender at the Lumberjack Tavern.

In a fit of rage the officer took his gun and walked up the hill to the tavern and shot the bartender dead. He was tried at the county courthouse in Marquette, defended by a local Ishpeming Lawyer (John Voelker aka Robert Traver) and was acquitted on the grounds of temporary insanity. This was the first time this plea was used successfully in Michigan. John Voelker then wrote the book, Anatomy of a Murder,

which remained on the New York Times Best Seller list for over a year. In 1959 the director Otto Preminger came to Marquette and Big Bay to film the movie. This was the first time a movie was filmed at the location where the story event actually happened. The movie was nominated for seven Academy Awards. Unfortunately it was up against Ben Hur and did not win any awards. Many scenes from the movie were filmed around Big Bay and a number of local residents were used as extras.



During the years of 1951-53, the Big Bay lighthouse building and land were leased to the US Army. National Guard and Army regulars were stationed at the lighthouse for two week periods of anti-aircraft artillery training.



1. Perkins Park

CR 550, across from Cram's Store

In 1952, Lt. Peterson and his wife Charlotte were living in a rented trailer at Perkin's Park in Big Bay. Other soldiers stationed in Big Bay camped out in the

meadow and woods at the Big Bay Lighthouse while married officers lived in trailers in Perkins Park. Pivotal testimony in the murder trial involved questions about a missing "undergarment" perhaps somewhere still in the park. Take a look around.

The closing scenes of the movie were filmed in the park.



4. Thunder Bay Inn

400 Bensinger

Although not the site of the actual murder, the bar/restaurant of the Thunder Bay Inn was

built in 1959 as an addition to the hotel by the Hollywood film crew and was used as the location of the murder in the film. Several scenes with Jimmy Stewart, Arthur O'Connell and Eve Arden were filmed here.

Look over the scrapbook and photographs located between the restaurant and the hotel lobby and reminisce with the new owners.

ANATOMY OF A MURDER Big Bay Walking Tour

2. Lumberjack



Located 202 Bensinger Rd. In 1952, Mike Chenoweth owned the local Tavern and had a reputation for being a tough guy as well as a ladies man. The young Lt. Peterson's wife accused the

barkeep of assault, and he died behind his bar from 6 gunshot wounds inflicted by the lieutenant. The outline of the body is drawn on the floor in the bar today. Look for the bullet holes in the wall and check out the scrapbook that is kept behind the bar, where Chenoweth always kept his own loaded gun, just in case.



Lt. Coleman Peterson and his wife Charlotte pose for a picture with their lawyer, John Voelker in 1952. Peterson pleaded 'temporary insanity' in his murder case and was acquitted by a jury in Marquette.

Photographs by Jack Deo at 'Superior View'



3. Old Township Hall

308 Bensinger Rd.

Originally, the old township hall boasted four jail cells capable of handling Big Bay's rowdiest lumberjacks. In 1952, Lt. Peterson surrendered peacefully to local authorities after pumping six rounds into barkeep

Mike Chenoweth. While the state police raced up CR 550 from Marquette to make the arrest, Peterson waited in a comfortable chair in the township office. According to Kelly Beerman, township clerk at the time, when the troopers arrived they were flabbergasted. Expecting to find the murderer behind bars, or at the very least hand-cuffed, they found the Lieutenant casually chatting and enjoying a cigarette and a cup of coffee.



5. Lighthouse

Follow signs to Lighthouse past Bay Cliff Health Camp, then 2 miles east along Lake Independence Watch for Lighthouse signs.

During the years of 1951-53, the Big Bay lighthouse building and land were leased to the US Army. National

Guard and Army regulars were stationed at the lighthouse for two week periods of anti-aircraft artillery training. Lt. Peterson (Ben Gazzara) was one of the soldiers stationed at the lighthouse and committed the murder that the book and movie Anatomy of a Murder are