

*Murder! It was the talk of a small town.*

# Anatomy of a Murder



**Tour film locations and learn the history  
of this Academy Award-nominated and  
Grammy-winning film!**

*In 1958, the Upper Peninsula was home to international movie stars  
while they filmed one of the best trial movies of all time.*



The stately **Marquette County Courthouse**, with its commanding view of the city and Lake Superior, was the setting for two famous trials in the last century. One involved former president Theodore Roosevelt suing a small Upper Peninsula mining town publisher for libel.

The other famous case tried here inspired John D. Voelker's best-selling novel, *Anatomy of a Murder*. Courthouse scenes in the 1959 movie version of the novel were filmed here. Built in 1904 and on the National Register of

Historic Places, the courthouse is built almost entirely of local sandstone.

The second floor courtroom where the legal scenes were filmed still looks the same, with its elaborate stained glass dome and mahogany woodwork. As long as court is not in session, you're free to tour the actual courtroom. Displays in the lobby depict courtroom scenes that were filmed here.

Later, have dinner or enjoy a cocktail at the historic **Landmark Inn Hotel** in downtown Marquette, the same hotel the cast and crew stayed at while filming the courtroom scenes.

Restored to its original grandeur, the Landmark Inn is the crown jewel of Marquette. The hotel stood at the epicenter of the downtown Marquette social scene in the 1930s and 1960s. Rooms are named after famous guests, including author John Voelker. Other famous guests include Amelia Earhart and Abbott & Costello — even the Rolling Stones enjoyed the hotel's pub in 2002. Now you can, too.

## NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

**Presque Isle Park** is nestled along the shores of Lake Superior. It's surrounded by beautiful beaches, rugged shoreline cliffs, and spectacular views of

the Great Lake. Experience its natural beauty along the walking trail, ride a bike or drive your vehicle along the 324-acre park. The park offers spectacular views of the rugged Lake Superior shoreline so bring your camera.

Be sure to stop near the ore docks at the harbor near Presque Isle Park. The ore dock of the Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad in Marquette represents a historically significant engineering feat. It was the first dock of its type on the upper Great Lakes and is the only operating ore-loading dock in Marquette's harbors. Iron ore ships are loaded daily.

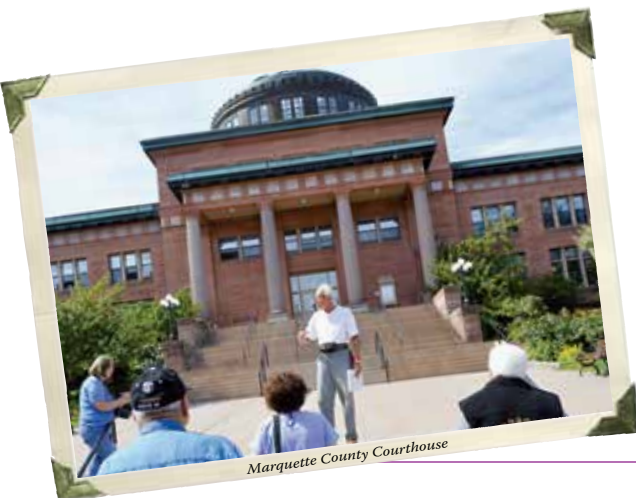
The **Marquette Harbor Lighthouse** offers guided lighthouse tours. Visitors learn the history of the lighthouse and may explore the grounds and the living quarters. The tour ends with a majestic walk down the front catwalk. The lighthouse offers great photo opportunities of the Lake Superior shoreline.

See the **Tomb of Bishop Baraga**, a missionary, at the historic **St. Peter Cathedral** in Marquette. In October 1853, Bishop Frederic Baraga started the construction of a new church. The cathedral has elaborate marble work and Romanesque columns, domes and steeples.



Bishop Baraga was nicknamed the "snowshoe priest" because he traveled hundreds of miles each year on snowshoes during the harsh winters. He worked to protect the Indians from forced relocation, and published an Ojibway language dictionary. Bishop Baraga is buried in the cathedral.

**Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore** is magnificent. Just 60 miles east of Marquette, it's one of the U.P.'s must see attractions. The **Pictured Rocks Boat Cruise** was voted by "Good Morning America" television viewers as Michigan's No. 1 adventure destination. The boat cruise travels along the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, home to stunning rock formations, waterfalls and sea caves.





Thunder Bay Inn

PHOTO: JENNIFER COSCO

Just 30 miles north of Marquette, the **Lumberjack Tavern** in Big Bay is the site of the original murder. The tavern was used for several bar room scenes, and it was the first time that a Hollywood film had been shot in the place of an actual murder.

There are photo display cases and newspaper clippings on several walls, along with scrapbooks filled with every sort of related item. There are even *Anatomy of a Murder* shot glasses for sale.

The movie logo cutout is on the tavern floor, marking the very spot where Chenoweth's body fell when a furious Peterson strode into the bar and fired six shots from his 9 mm automatic pistol. Insider tip: ask the owner to see the pistol. Even before these events, the tavern had a racy history and still has the gun of the murdered former owner-bartender. He kept the gun under the bar—unfortunately for him, he didn't have a chance to use it that fateful day.

Just down the road from the tavern enjoy a hearty meal at the **Thunder Bay Inn**. Once the home-away-from-home

for traveling Ford executives visiting the Big Bay automotive plant, Henry Ford's suite now plays host to tourists who wish to enjoy the tranquility of the wilderness and little village. Thunder Bay quickly became a pub and inn when the filming began in Big Bay, and several scenes were filmed inside the building.

Thunder Bay Inn is within walking distance of Lake Independence, a wonderful fishing lake, and just 1 mile from the beautiful sandy beaches of Lake Superior and the **Big Bay Lighthouse**.

The lighthouse, built in 1896, offers spectacular views of Lake Superior. Today, it's a bed and breakfast. The public is welcome to tour the grounds, oil house, privies and adjoining buildings. But beware—they say the lighthouse is haunted. It's whispered that red-haired William Prior, the first lighthouse keeper at Big Bay Point, was devastated when his son, Edward, died of a leg injury. The

keeper vanished in 1901 and his body was found a year later hanging from a tree about 1 mile from the lighthouse. He may have committed suicide... or was he murdered? His red-haired ghost has been seen in mirrors, and doors have a tendency to bang in the middle of the night.

### NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

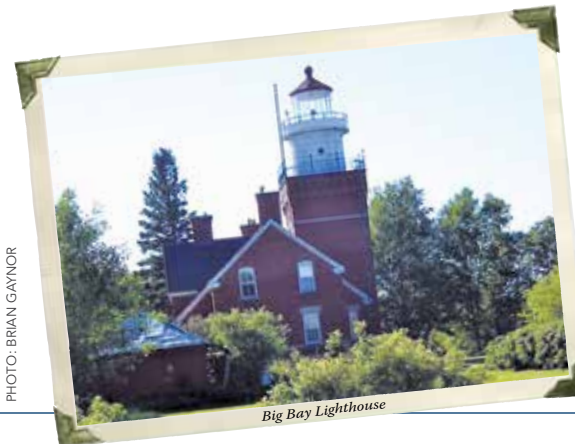
The old **Big Bay Jailhouse** was once a fully operating jail, township hall, and fire department. The jail cells are still there but now it is all part of **Big Bay Outfitters** and the **Jailhouse Gallery**. This is what's left of the original jail and Peterson, who murdered the

The Lumberjack Tavern in Big Bay is the site of the original murder.



Lumberjack Tavern

PHOTO: BRIAN GAYNOR



Big Bay Lighthouse

bar owner, was held here and questioned until Marquette authorities could pick him up. Pay a visit and talk to the owners to hear a few tall tales of Big Bay's saucy history. You can tour the two jail cells and even experience what it must have been like to be incarcerated.



## The opening scene is of the highway and Ishpeming's Cliffs Shaft Mine comes into view.

On a cold March day in 1959, half of the citizens of Ishpeming rushed to the local railroad station to greet the stars when they arrived by train. All were begging for autographs or fighting their way to the front to catch a glimpse of the famous movie stars. The local newspaper printed two articles a day on the stars — people were in a frenzy.

The door of the train opened and

legendary Hollywood actor Jimmy Stewart paused on the train step and then stepped out, leading an entourage of about 50 people. An article in *The Mining Journal* said the crowd along the tracks could only respond by saying, “O-o-o-o-o-h.”

*Anatomy of a Murder's* opening scene is of the highway, and one can see Ishpeming's Cliffs Shaft Mine coming into view. Now known as the **Cliffs Shaft Museum**, and on the National Register of Historic Places, the shaft was the nation's largest producer of hematite, a type of iron ore. The mine had 65 miles of tunnels running under most of Ishpeming, plunging to a depth of 1,358 feet. More than 26 million tons were mined, and since 1887, ore has shipped every year but one. It was also one of Michigan's largest iron mines. As late as the 1930s, there were eight iron mines in Ishpeming.

Take a guided tour of the tunnels where the miners walked to the base of the C-shaft. Follow up the stairs past old underground iron ore cars. Stop at the blacksmith shop. Go outside to view towers 97–174 feet high, used to lower miners 1,250 feet into the dark, cold ground. Stand beside a 170-ton iron ore

truck with tires 12 feet high. Listen to the history from those who worked the mines.

Step inside the signature landmark, the historic **Mather Inn**. After autograph seekers met the *Anatomy* stars at the train station, the cast met with the press at a noon cocktail reception at the inn and lunched with then Michigan governor G. Mennen Williams.

All of the stars stayed at the inn for the remainder of the filming. Not only did they stay here, they played here, too. Duke Ellington, who won a Grammy for the movie soundtrack, did a lot of composing on the piano in the pub. By midnight, Ellington would be at the piano and Jimmy Stewart and Otto Preminger would join him.

Although the Mather Inn is presently being renovated, there are four or five guest rooms available for nightly rentals. Visitors are welcome to visit the tap room in the hotel, the Cognition Brewery.

Just down the street from the Mather Inn, you'll find the **Ishpeming Carnegie Library**. This beautiful building was also used in the movie. The library opened in 1904 and the exterior remains unchanged. The library's interior houses a beautiful stained glass ceiling and original glass flooring. John Voelker was a lifelong patron of the library.

An interesting bit of editing in the film: Judge Weaver (Joseph Welch) is seen walking through the Marquette County Courthouse

and he opens a library door where he sees Biegler (Jimmy Stewart) and Parnell (Arthur O'Connell) going through the law books. In fact, they were actually in Ishpeming's Carnegie Library. The door Judge Weaver opens and looks through is the men's restroom of the courthouse.

Also, Jimmy Stewart is seen leaning over the railing from the second floor as he reviews actual law books which were shipped in from Northern Michigan College. It's fun to climb the stairs and see those railings up close and image the scene.

The **John Voelker Home**, located at 205 Barnum Street, is near the Mather Inn and the Carnegie Library. The house is still there so take a drive by it. His home was used as the location of the defense attorney's (Jimmy Stewart) law office. Voelker enjoying his hometown of Ishpeming and its fishing. When he died in 1991 at age 88, the Upper Peninsula lost a legend. He is buried in the **Ishpeming Cemetery**.

Take a walk over to Main Street and to the **Butler Theatre**, one of the venues

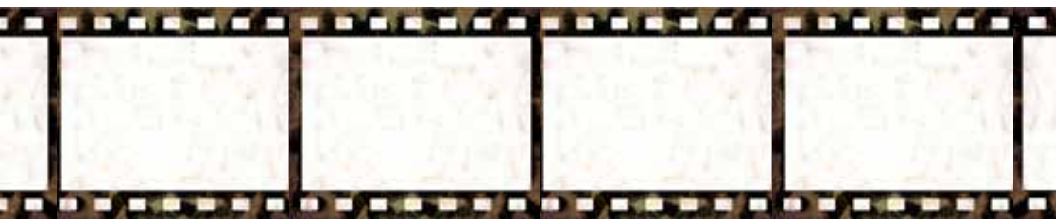


PHOTO: JONICA MCCARTHY

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Mather Inn



### ISHPEMING CONTINUED

for the world premier of *Anatomy of a Murder*. There are plans to restore the theater; at times, it's open and if you're lucky you may be able to get inside.

An iconic place to stop is **Congress Pizza**. John Voelker frequented this tavern, and the walls are adorned with memorabilia and photos from the movie. This is the local hangout for "Yoopers" in Ishpeming. And they have great pizza, too!

Nearby is **Jack's Teepee Bar**. The bar was originally called Nault's Bar, and provided the setting for the opening scene of the movie when Jimmy Stewart's character first learns about the murder.

Be sure to stop in at downtown's **Globe Printing**, formerly the **Roosevelt Night Club**. The cast visited the club, known for its famous dinners and hospitality. Duke Ellington even celebrated his 60th birthday at the supper club. Late one night after filming, every member of the *Anatomy* cast signed the Roosevelt's wall. The autographed wall has been preserved and visitors are welcome to see it.



Globe Printing/ Roosevelt Supper Club

### NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

The second day the movie stars were in town, they attended the 72nd Ski Jumping Tournament at **Suicide Hill**, where skiers come from around the world to jump in competitions.

The 90-meter hill has produced world ski champions and several members of Olympic teams. Ishpeming is also home of the **U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum**, a must-see for enthusiasts of all types of skiing.

The Cornish miners are long gone, but the food they brought into the mines still thrives in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It's the **pasty** (pronounced "past-ee"). Heck, even Jimmy Stewart, Ben Gazzara, George C. Scott, Eve Arden and Lee Remick tried them and liked them.

The pasty is a U.P. tradition. The meat pies were often eaten by hand and consisted of potatoes, onions, rutabagas, and a beef and pork mixture, always served hot. Most restaurants offer pasties on their menus and you can always find roadside pasty shops along the way.

Find out what it's like to work in an underground iron ore mine. The **Michigan Iron Industry Museum** is located about 6 miles east of Ishpeming just outside Negaunee. Located in the forested ravines of the Marquette Iron Range, the museum overlooks the Carp River and was the site of the first iron forge in the Lake Superior region.

PHOTO: JONICA MCCARTHY

Directed by Otto Preminger, this movie was Preminger's most successful film. After reading the book in 1958, he knew immediately he wanted to make a movie. He thought the story was a realistic portrayal of law in action and it reminded him of his years as a law student.

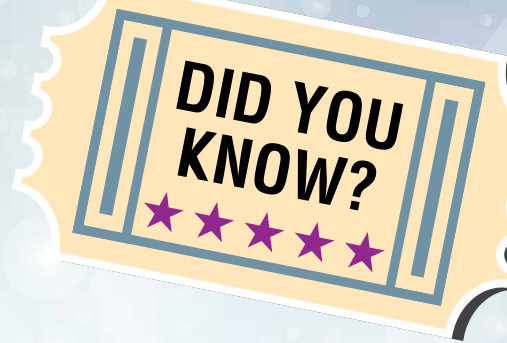
Preminger, John Voelker and Duke Ellington all agreed the most beautiful woman on the set was Hope Bryce, the costume designer. They referred to her as "Aphrodite," and Preminger married her shortly after the movie wrapped. He said not only was Hope Bryce the most beautiful and the most talented person on the set, but "she could fix anything except the crack of dawn and a broken heart."

**Marquette's distinctive sound of dumping iron ore into the lake and barge screeches and rumbles drowned out the actors' dialogue during filming. During the courthouse and jail scenes, Preminger asked the ore dumpers to halt operations until they finished shooting. The ore dumpers, fascinated with the filming of the movie and eager for its success, agreed to help out. But they had work to do, and every so often, Preminger received a message from dockside asking, "Can we dump some ore now?"**

The highest paid actor in the film wasn't even a professional actor. Joseph Welch was a real life attorney playing the part of the judge. He gained fame in 1954 when he was appointed chief counsel for the U.S. Army while it was under investigation for Communist activities by Senator Joseph McCarthy. Welch was famous for berating Senator McCarthy during the hearings, saying, "Have you no sense of decency, sir?" It became the headline in every newspaper across America the next day.

**John Voelker's drink of choice was bourbon and his brand was Cabin Still. He always kept a bottle under his desk. As Voelker was known to say, "Bourbon in a tin cup always tastes better in the woods."**

The actors' arrival in Ishpeming was filmed and broadcast on "The Ed Sullivan Show" a week later, along with scenes from the first day's shooting. Televising the images from Marquette County was Otto Preminger's idea for promoting the movie.



**One evening, author John Voelker and Jimmy Stewart went out fishing. Stewart wanted the fish he caught cooked for a late dinner. The cook at the Mather Inn was called in to prepare the fish—which she promptly did. Later, the cook would say she was disappointed that Stewart never left her a tip for coming in that night.**

More than 300 citizens of Marquette and neighboring towns had the opportunity to work as extras on the set. They were paid \$10 for a day's work.

**Lee Remick brought her three-month-old daughter, Baby Kate, for the eight weeks of filming. Baby Kate was the darling of the media and stole the show everywhere she went.**

Arthur O'Connell was treated for a viral infection at Bell Memorial Hospital in Ishpeming. When he was released from the hospital, he sent pretty gift packages to the nurses, thanking them for the good care he received.

**While filming on Third Street in Ishpeming, Preminger halted filming. He noticed a small bare tree and ordered his crew to go to the 10-cent store, purchase colored paper, cut out leaves, and paste them to the bare branches to make it look lush.**

Duke Ellington, who wrote part of the movie's award-winning score at the piano in Ishpeming's Mather Inn lounge, accepted an invitation to perform "Take the 'A' Train" at the annual spring dance of the Delta Sigma Nu Sorority of Northern Michigan University.





Duke Ellington appears in the movie as “Pie Eye,” playing at the **Mt. Shasta Road Roadhouse**, located in Michigamme, about 35 miles west of Ishpeming. Many of the nightclub and dancing scenes were filmed inside the iconic roadhouse. Today, it’s a restaurant that’s open intermittently.

Michigamme’s streets were used a few times in the film; the scene of Eve Arden getting her nails done in the beauty parlor was also shot in town.



## NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Stop at the **Michigamme Museum** to see the *Anatomy of a Murder* display. View original writings, photographs and memorabilia from the film. The exhibit includes life-size figures of Jimmy Stewart, Lee Remick and John Voelker.

Visit Henry Ford’s picturesque **Alberta Village**, 30 minutes west of Michigamme. Built in 1936 as a model self-sustaining sawmill town, Ford chose a site along Plumbago Creek, which he dammed. The resulting lake provided a water supply for the mill and a recreation area for the residents. You can tour the early 20th century sawmill and town from June 15 to October 15.

Just 12 miles further west of Alberta, stop in Baraga and see the unusual **Shrine of Bishop Baraga**, the Snowshoe Priest.

In nearby L’Anse, there are Indian burial grounds. Pay a visit to the ancient **Pinery Indian Cemetery**, an Ojibwa site that has been a tribal burial ground for centuries. It’s still used by the Zeba Indian Mission United Methodist Church and since 1840, people buried there have been memorialized by conventional stone monuments as well as traditional spirit houses, unmarked knee-high wooden structures that give departed souls shelter from the elements.

A little further north on U.S. Highway 41 you enter Michigan’s top of the world, the **Keweenaw Peninsula**. From sea to shore, Keweenaw Peninsula is a world of endless discoveries. Highlights include **Isle Royale National Park**, **Keweenaw National Historic Park**, **Ft. Wilkins State Historic Park**, downtown Calumet and Calumet Theatre, Delaware Copper Mine and Quincy Mine, lighthouses, **The Jampot**, and Brockway Mountain Drive, to name just a few.

*Anatomy of a Murder* had a powerful impact on the area, and still continues to be an iconic film and an important driving force for tourism in the Marquette region. It generated more than \$500,000 in revenue for the Marquette area and more than \$300,000 for the town of Big Bay.



*Anatomy of a Murder* previewed on June 29, 1959, at the Butler Theatre in Ishpeming. For the next several weeks the national spotlight was on the area because of the success of the film.

The film debuted nationally in 1959 to critical acclaim. Its national premier was in Detroit and, like the book, it became an instant hit. The movie was expected to gross \$250,000 but instead brought in more than \$5.5 million (that’s over \$45 million in today’s dollars.)

It brought author John Voelker financial security and he retired from the Michigan Supreme Court later that year. He returned to his beloved Upper Peninsula to continue writing and pursue his two other favorite activities — fishing and cribbage playing. John Voelker died near Ishpeming on March 18, 1991.



The Michigan Film and Digital Media Office (MFDMO) was created in 1979 to assist and attract incoming production companies and to promote the growth of Michigan's indigenous industry. Since its inception, the MFDMO commissioner has been responsible for implementing a program that lives within the parameters of Michigan law and works to ensure the program runs efficiently and effectively. Today, the MFDMO is working diligently to guarantee the film and digital media program accomplishes key results of private investment and workforce development by encouraging high wages, high-tech jobs and talent retention.

*Anatomy of a Murder tour is the sole property of the Michigan Film & Digital Media Office.  
Special thanks to Janet Kasic of Circle Michigan for content creation.*

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