ANATOMY OF A MURDER TIMELINE

1903 - John Voekler born in Ishpeming.
1922 - Attends Northern Normal School (NMU).
1934 - Elected as Marquette County Prosecutor, serves 16 years.
1953 - Voelker notes People v. Peters could be basis for a novel.
1956 - Completes first draft of.
1958 - Anatomy of a Murder published by St. Martin’s Press, sells over 300,000 copies.
1959 - Film production starts in March on Anatomy of a Murder, providing a boast to a stagnate local economy.

ABOUT US

The Beaumier Upper Peninsula Heritage Center is a historical museum and educational facility on the campus of Northern Michigan University. The mission of the U.P. Heritage Center is to promote and preserve the history and culture of the Upper Peninsula through an active slate of exhibitions and engaging public programs for the whole region. The center also collects and preserves artifacts related to the history of Northern Michigan University. The center maintains a gallery in 105 Cohodas Hall and several other displays throughout campus. It provides interdisciplinary programs and internships for students across the university spectrum.

Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center
1401 Presque Isle Ave.
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HOLLYWOOD COMES TO MARQUETTE COUNTY
THE MAKING OF ANATOMY OF A MURDER

AN EXHIBITION FROM THE BEAUMIER U.P.
HERITAGE CENTER

featuring
JOHN VOELKER
OTTO PREMINGER
JAMES STEWART
LEE REMICK
BEN GAZZARA
and
THE PEOPLE OF MARQUETTE COUNTY

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In 1952, former Marquette Prosecuting Attorney, John Voelker, won the legal case of his career when he successfully defended Lt. Coleman Peterson of murder. Though Peterson committed the shooting, Voelker had him acquitted through the claim that he was gripped by an “irresistible impulse.”

Six years later, Voelker (under the pen name Robert Traver) published the novel, Anatomy of a Murder, based on the case. It became the most popular book in the nation, topping the New York Times Best Sellers list for nearly six months.

In 1959, famed director Otto Preminger, brought a cast of stars including Jimmy Stewart, Lee Remick and Ben Gazzara, to Marquette County to begin making a film version of the novel. Over the next few months, the making of this film would be the focus of the community. The stars became fixtures in Ishpeming and Marquette.

Many people in the community had roles either in bit parts or as extras. Thousands of dollars were pumped into a sagging economy. The making of the film left an indelible mark on the community and film history.

Originally created in 2009 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the film, Anatomy of a Murder, this exhibition features twelve individual panels mounted in six banner stands. On the panels there are dozens of rare images from the making of the film, a time-line for the book, film and Voelker’s life and also links to oral history interviews with some of the participants. These banner stands are free standing, easy to assemble, and can either be spread throughout a facility or displayed together in a single room.

Rental periods vary between four and eight weeks, at a cost of $50 per week. If necessary, shipping is paid by the rental institution.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss bringing Hollywood Comes to Marquette: The Making of Anatomy of a Murder to your institution, feel free to contact the Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center at 906-227-3212.