

OAK PARK OAK LEAVES

A PIONEER PRESS NEWSPAPER



Anthony Caciopo/Pioneer Press

It's a boy!

Michael Goode reenacts the scene which took place 100 years ago when Dr. Clarence Hemingway played the cornet on the front porch to announce the birth of his son Ernest. Page 8.

This Week

Ready to move

The Oak Park couple who purchased the Hemingway Interim House is preparing to move the building in August.

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Diversions



Play around

Oak Park director/playwright John Biser directs his play about Langston Hughes at Court Theatre.

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Inside

Winging it

Two monarch butterflies released from InterCultura Foreign Language Immersion Montessori School traveled 1,701 miles.

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Inside!

Today's New Homes

Birthday party caps off celebration

By **CHRIS LAPORTUNE**
STAFF WRITER

To celebrate its work and the Ernest Hemingway 100th Birthday Celebration, The Ernest Hemingway Foundation held a rededication of the Hemingway Birthplace July 21.

The rededication was the third ceremony to be held at the house since the foundation purchased it in 1992, said Virginia Cassin, chairwoman for the foundation's board of directors.

The first ceremony was held July, 1993, when a dedication was held to celebrate the purchase of the house. In November of that year, the group held another ceremony when the Hemingway birth room was opened.

"I think this time we were able to dedicate a house that is, to all intents and purposes, taken on the appearance of the original home," Cassin said.

Hemingway's three sons were at the rededication of the house, which was sponsored by **Oak Leaves**, as were other Hemingway family

members, Cassin said. It was the first time such a gathering was possible.

Much work was done leading up to the rededication July 21. Completed work includes the replacement of the front porch to its original wraparound structure; the restoration of light fixtures to their original design; and the placement of kitchen appliances, including the sink, stove and ice box.

Modern heating, cooling and plumbing systems have also been installed.

"We are really in mid-stream here," Cassin said. "We've just brought the house back to a presentable level, clean enough so people could walk through."

Further work on the physical aspects of the home will continue until about the end of the year, Cassin said. Later work will involve putting in furniture from when the Hemingway's lived in the home, including any originals the family might still have, and the placement of custom-made carpeting to match the original.

"All of the house was

carpeted, we believe," Cassin said. "The oak floors you see now were laid sometime after the turn of the century, after the Hemingways had left."

The group also hopes to have handicap washrooms placed in the basement and an elevator installed by the end of the year, Cassin added.

After the rededication ceremony, participants walked to the Scoville Park War Memorial for a second ceremony. There, a presentation was held outlining Hemingway's war record and literary career.

Redd Griffin helped coordinate the presentation, which included Hemingway quotes and excerpts from his books that were shared by Tim Gamble, Mary Jo Griffin, Tim Griffin, Lanny Lutz and classical guitarist Paul Henry.

The Grace Episcopal Church children's choir provided music, and Col. Tom Day trumpeted the call to colors.

Later that evening, a birthday banquet was held to close off the Hemingway celebrations at Mar-Lac Banquets.



Anthony Caciopo/Pioneer Press

The birthplace is decorated in preparation for the rededication.

Ernest Hemingway's sons (from left) Jack, Patrick and Gregory visit the birthplace of their father during the rededication ceremony.



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Volunteer Deborah Preiser, dressed in period costume, greets visitors at the Hemingway birthplace.



Anthony Caciopo/Pioneer Press

The lawn in front of Ernest Hemingway's birthplace is packed with visitors attending the rededication ceremony.