

To: My Lake & Stream Friends of Benzie County and Beyond

From: Stacy Leroy Daniels, 999 Crystal Drive, Frankfort, MI 49635, 231/352-7043, [stacydan@chartermi.net](mailto:stacydan@chartermi.net)

Re: ***“The Comedy of Crystal Lake”*** (2015, 496pp) - sequel to the classic ***“The Tragedy of Crystal Lake”*** (1922, 28pp).

I wanted to tell you about certain features of my new self-published book which elaborates on the well-known true story of the attempt at canal building in 1873 that insured the future Crystal Lake and Benzie County. As a factual compendium of our local heritage, it is intended to provide an enjoyable reading and learning experience for both young adults and mature readers, who have surmised that a special and unique "spirit of place" exists for Crystal Lake and its Watershed, and the surrounding County. It contains sidelights and vignettes of myriad viewpoints of its diverse characters and sundry locales.

I am available on demand to offer short presentations on selected aspects of the story tailored to the particular interests of any group. As the alter ego of “Archibald Jones”, President of the Benzie Co. River Improvement Co., I’ve given talks to lake associations, historical societies, civic groups, and schools, describing a myriad of subtopics: history, biography, genealogy, geology, canal and dam building, and impacts of lake level on water quality, land use and development, and recreation. I encourage you to visit the new historical marker dedicated this past summer at the Crystal Lake Outlet.

Being a local “townie”- “lakie”, it is my intention to give something back to Benzie County. I’ve distributed ~ 350 copies to schools, libraries, universities, historical societies, and individuals. It is my intention to continue to donate proceeds (derived from my direct sales) to local nonprofit organizations if so requested.

Please visit my website, <http://www.CrystalLakeComedy.com>, which contains more information. Revelations from new research and serendipitous discoveries of historical materials have transformed the story. The epochal event with its unintended consequences has now evolved from perceived “failure” of an “ill-conceived” project by an apparent scapegoat, to unqualified “success” of a “well-engineered” project by a visionary entrepreneur celebrated as a local hero!

Since we share common interests in inland lakes and watersheds, I’ve linked my website to your websites where available. I hope you will reciprocate and consider linking from your websites and newsletters!

Please feel free to use any of the descriptive materials in this letter or at the website as appropriate. I can be reached at either 231/352-7043 or 989/835-5593. I would be pleased to show you the book (no obligation), answer any questions, discuss local history, and participate in a game of “Crystal Lake Trivial (or not-so-trivial) Pursuit” if you are so inclined.

Sincerely yours, “Archie”