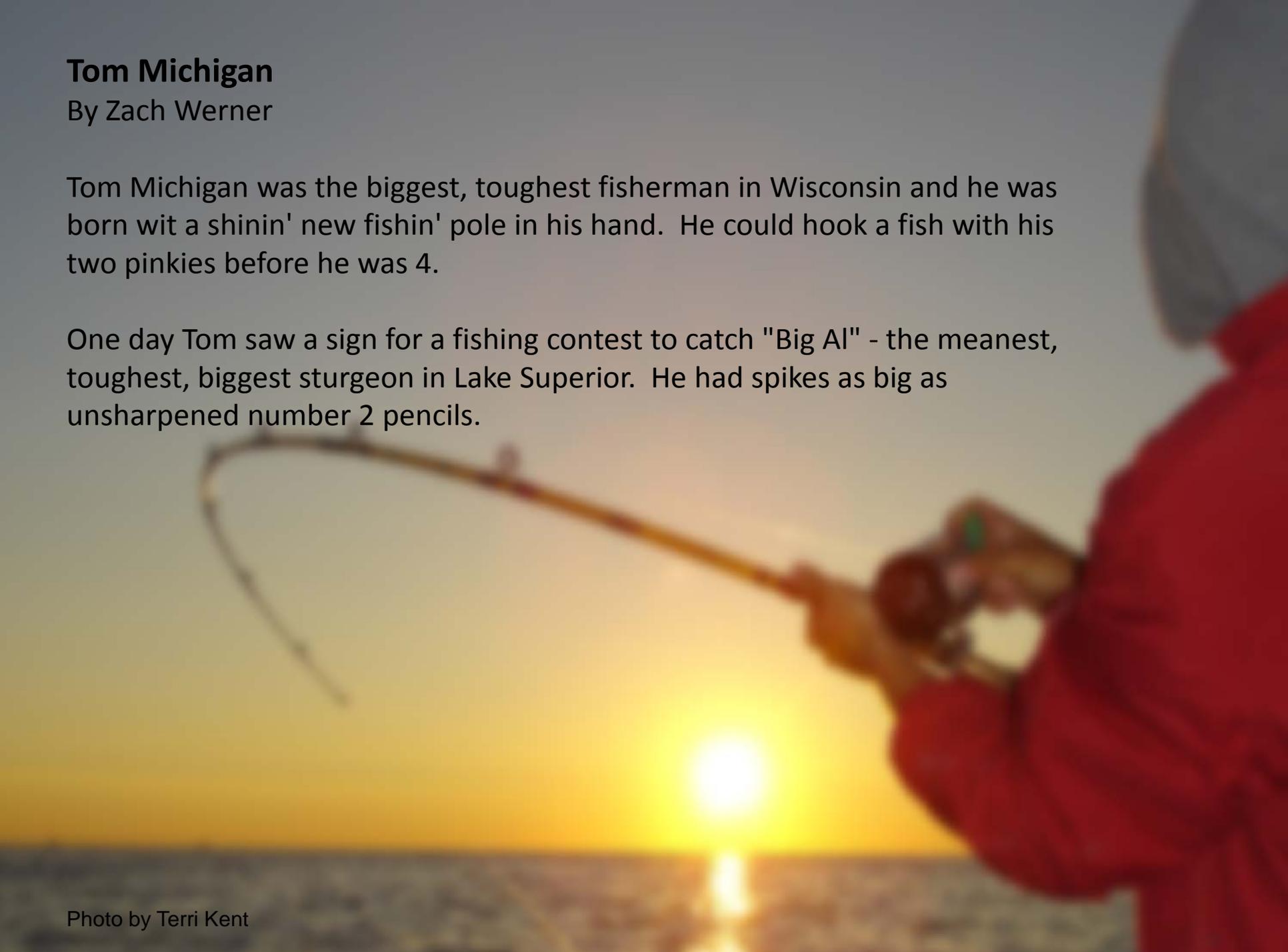


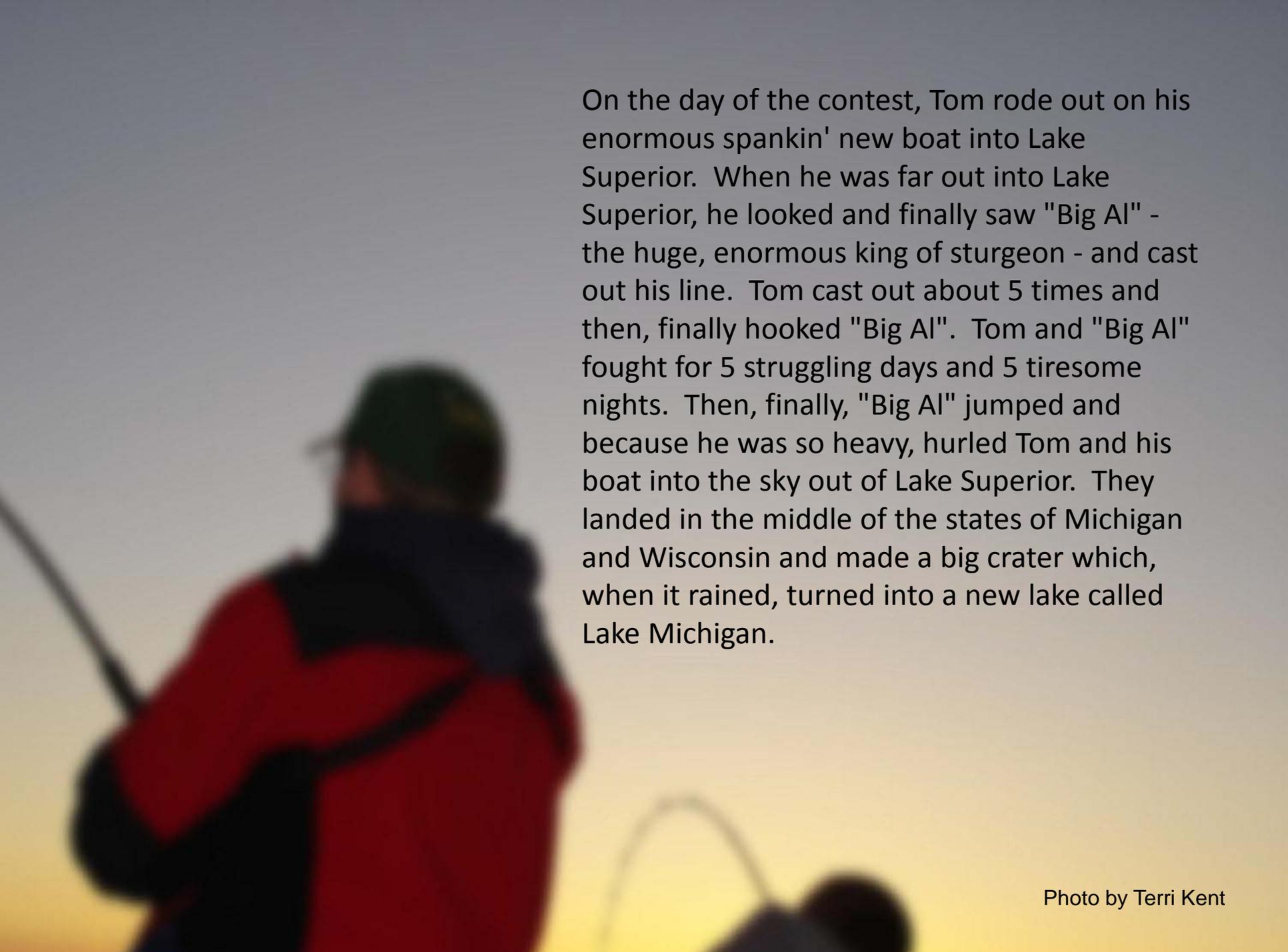
## Tom Michigan

By Zach Werner

Tom Michigan was the biggest, toughest fisherman in Wisconsin and he was born with a shiny new fishing pole in his hand. He could hook a fish with his two pinkies before he was 4.

One day Tom saw a sign for a fishing contest to catch "Big Al" - the meanest, toughest, biggest sturgeon in Lake Superior. He had spikes as big as unsharpened number 2 pencils.





On the day of the contest, Tom rode out on his enormous spankin' new boat into Lake Superior. When he was far out into Lake Superior, he looked and finally saw "Big Al" - the huge, enormous king of sturgeon - and cast out his line. Tom cast out about 5 times and then, finally hooked "Big Al". Tom and "Big Al" fought for 5 struggling days and 5 tiresome nights. Then, finally, "Big Al" jumped and because he was so heavy, hurled Tom and his boat into the sky out of Lake Superior. They landed in the middle of the states of Michigan and Wisconsin and made a big crater which, when it rained, turned into a new lake called Lake Michigan.

As for Tom and "Big Al", when "Big Al" smashed down, it gave Tom just enough time to pound "Big al" with his enormous club and bring "Big Al" into his huge boat.

When Tom got back to the shores of Lake Superior, hauling the huge king of sturgeon "Big Al" in his enormous boat, everyone cheered and they had a big feast of fish fillets, fish fries, and fish pies with just about everything else you could think of.

NOTE: “Tom Michigan” was submitted with permission of the writer, our son, who penned this when assigned to write a Tall Tale in grade school. He chose to write about his grandfather, Tom Werner, who began fishing on Lake Michigan in the 1950's. His grandfather turned 86 this past December and talk of fishing still puts a twinkle in his eyes.

- Liz Spaeth-Werner

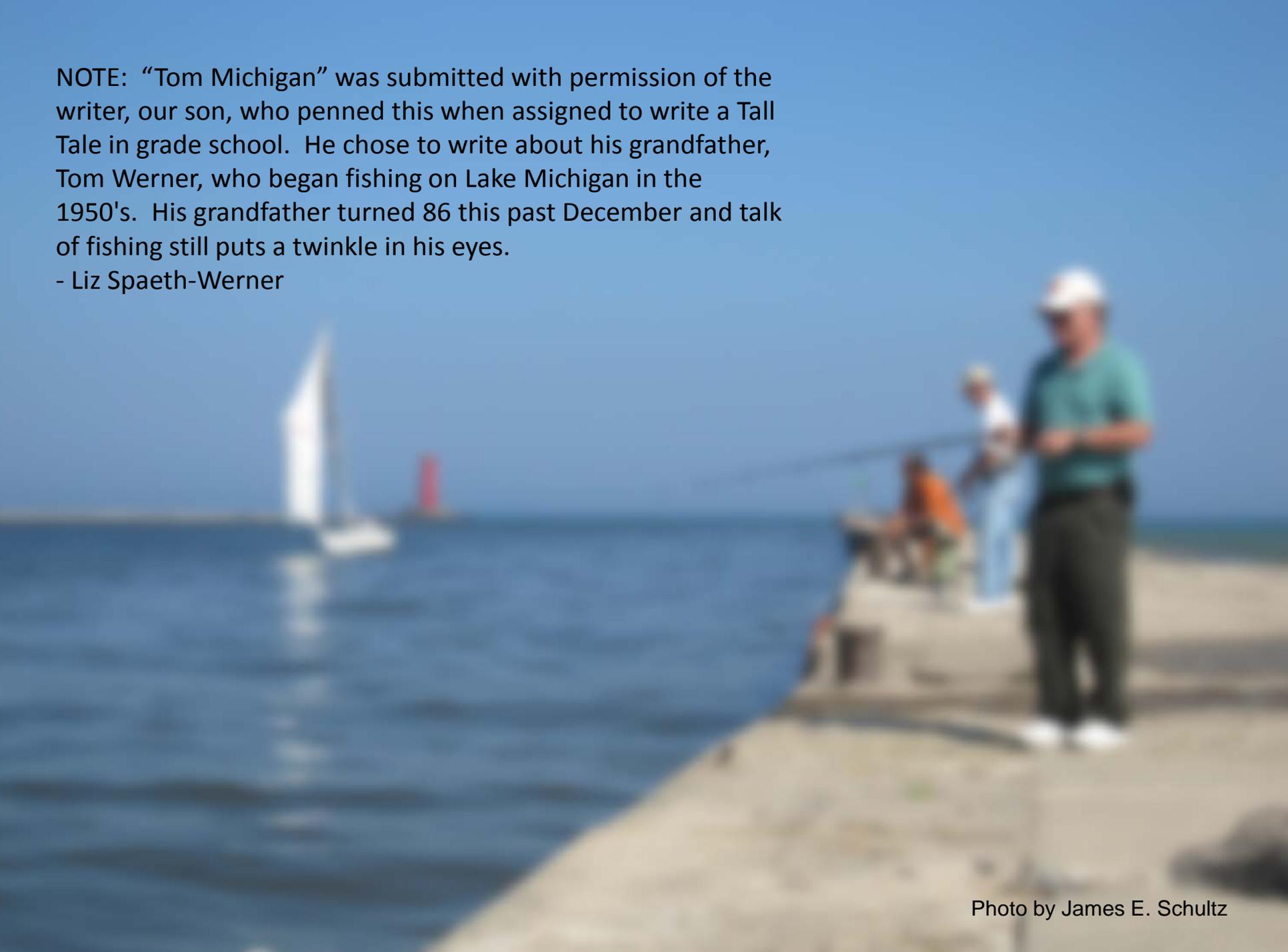


Photo by James E. Schultz