

MANITOU ISLAND NATIVE PENS LELAND BOOK

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A Grand Haven man with family roots that are deep in Leelanau County history has written a novel about life in and around Leland.

Leland — a novel is the first work of fiction by Gene L. Warner of Grand Haven. He is a seasonal resident of Leland.

The story centers around a teen age boy, Jimmy, the grandson of a wealthy family from Indianapolis which summers in Leland.



Warner was born on Sept. 23, 1940, on South Manitou Island, the son of Lonzo and Myrtle Warner. "I am the son of a Coast Guardsman and a teacher," he said. His mother's maiden name was Kelderhouse, a family with deep roots in the Port Oneida area.

Not long after he was born, his father was assigned to Grand Haven as World War II was about to break. Then they were sent to the Traverse City station for the duration of the war.

"After that we went back to Grand Haven and stayed. That is where I live," Warner said.

His research of the history of both Manitou islands sparked Warner's interest in writing. He was involved with the Manitou Island Memorial Society.

"The story was originally set on S. Manitou Island. I didn't write with a story outline, so I moved the location to Leland," Warner said.

Most of his writings have been historical pieces based on research and fact finding. "It's what I've really enjoyed," Warner said. Writing fiction turned out to be something completely different. "I found once I really got into, I very much got involved with the characters," he said.

Warner said the book is being shipped this week, and will soon be available through Amazon and other on-line book sellers. For more information about Warner and his writing go to www.boysmindbooks.com.