



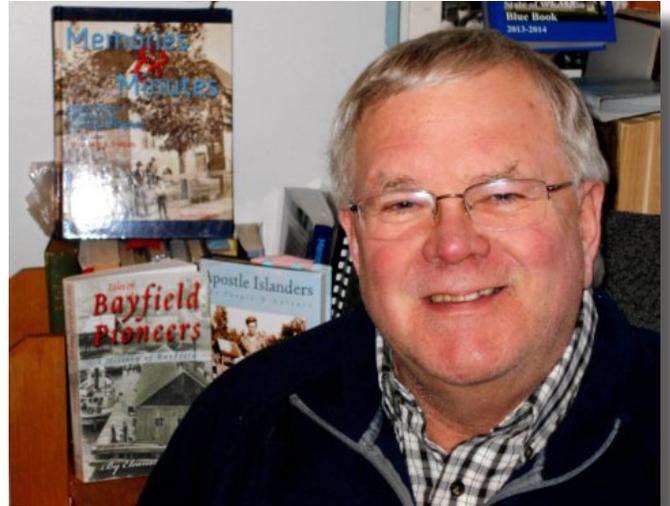
# THE BAYFIELD COURIER

Summer Edition, August 2022

## 2022 JERRY & MARY PHILLIPS BAYFIELD AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERISM RECOGNIZES LOCAL AUTHOR-HISTORIAN BOB NELSON

Robert J. Nelson, author and local history buff known to many as Bob or Bobby, has been awarded the 2022 Jerry & Mary Phillips Bayfield Award for Volunteerism. Bob has been nominated several times over the years, and it's no surprise, since he has been a long-time area volunteer serving multiple organizations.

Bob is a lifelong resident of Bayfield, born to a commercial fishing family operating from the docks of Bayfield, Stockton and Rocky Islands from the 1890s to mid-1960s. His professional experience spans multiple facets of the fishing industry. He spent nearly a decade employed in the local fishery on gill, pound, and trap nets. He also worked with biologists on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources research vessel Hack Noyes and with propagation teams at the State Fish Hatchery.



### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Apostle Islanders: The People and Culture*

*Memories and Minutes: School District #1 - Bayfield Township*

*Harbor City Chronicles: A Journalistic History with Photos*

Below, PLOW BOY Sunk, one of a growing series of paintings:



As a volunteer, Bob has dedicated countless hours. He retired from the Bayfield Maritime Museum board of directors after twelve years of service, and from the Bayfield Heritage Association board of directors after seventeen years of service. During his time with BHA, he poured over the newspaper archives, digitizing articles of interest on a range of topics and compiling them into booklets. His work in this regard continues to support BHA today, both through the sales of his publications and as important resources for Pike Research Center.

His true passion as a volunteer has been the Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Conservancy. Bob is both a board member and co-founder of this organization, focusing on the preservation and interpretation of historic sites throughout the Apostle Islands region. Bob's depth of knowledge and multi-generational ties to the islands is a key asset in furthering the goals of AIHPC.

Not one to slow down, Bob has kept himself busy recently with a new pursuit: documenting and creating folk art paintings of the schooners, ships, and vessels that plied the waterways of the region. See the sidebar at left for an example of his artwork.

Bob is honored to join the ranks of past award recipients: Jerry & Mary Phillips, Dr. John Telford, Shirley Bodin, Don Albrecht, Mary Hepner, Shirley Johnson, Bill Gover, Mary Rice, Bayfield Community Essential Workers, and Nancy Bussey. This annual award was established by an anonymous donor in 2014.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry Phillips, President | Marilyn Van Sant, Vice President | Sue Gerzina, Secretary | Marti Peterson, Treasurer  
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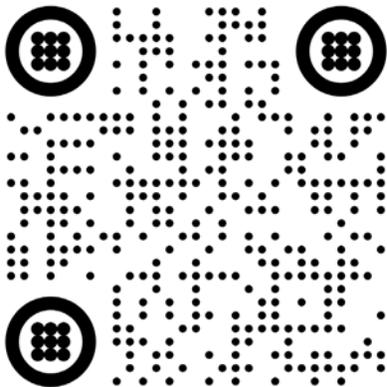


*BHA board member and life-long Bayfield resident Kristin Edwards Connell drew many laughs and warm applause from the hometown crowd at the July 24 premier.*



*The documentary can be found by visiting our website [bayfieldheritage.org](http://bayfieldheritage.org) or our YouTube channel! Our YouTube channel includes a vast collection of oral history videos, past John Matthew Black presentations, and virtual exhibits.*

*Scan the QR code below with your smartphone's camera and click the link to open the video.*



## **“FLOOD OF ‘42” DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES AT BIG TOP CHAUTAUQUA**

The Bayfield Flood of '42 documentary premiered at Big Top Chautauqua on Sunday, July 24 to a crowd of 350+ and has since had an on-line presence of nearly 1000 viewers to date.

This 41-minute historic documentary of a pivotal event in Bayfield, which happened 80 years ago, was made possible by the first-hand written account by Bayfield native Harriet Haugen Johnson, BHA's Wisconsin Historical Society 2010 award-winning exhibit, recorded videos in the BHA archives of other Bayfielders who recalled the incident, and the technical expertise of Tony Jeanette of TJoseph Media.

Introduced by BHA Board Member and Bayfielder Kristin Connell, the event was well received by those in attendance and, for dramatic effect, included a sudden, unexpected cloudburst midway into the showing.

To view the documentary, visit our website, [bayfieldheritage.org](http://bayfieldheritage.org), or our YouTube channel!

## **STARS OF THE SHOW**

### **THE VOICES THAT BROUGHT THE STORIES TO LIFE IN THE BAYFIELD FLOOD OF '42 DOCUMENTARY**

Dave Cooper  
Sara Duke  
Barb Gover  
Bill Gover  
Neil Howk  
Tony Jeannette  
John Klungness  
Kristen Sandstrom  
Nancy Sandstrom

**FUNDED IN PART BY DULUTH SUPERIOR AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S COVID-19 NORTHWEST WISCONSIN RESPONSE FUND**

**FILM PREMIER AT BIG TOP CHAUTAUQUA GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY BILL AND MARILYN VAN SANT**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Fruit, Flowers, and Festivals: The Hauser Story**

Sunday, September 11, 1:00 pm (virtual)

This program will be hosted by BHA board member Ellen Hauser in collaboration with TJoseph Media, with a live Q&A session immediately following the presentation.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88615652414>

### **Volunteer of the Year reception**

Honoring Bob Nelson

Wednesday, September 21, 6:00 pm at BHA

### **Volunteer Appreciation Night**

Recognizing BHA volunteers

At the home of Bill and Marilyn Van Sant

Saturday, September 24, 5:30 pm

## **HISTORY BRIEF: AN EXCERPT FROM “OUR FRUIT INDUSTRY” BY NATHAN CARVER PUBLISHED IN THE BAYFIELD COUNTY PRESS, MARCH 29, 1907**

Fruit growing is getting to be quite an industry in the district tributary of Bayfield. Probably there are some people in Duluth who will find it hard to believe, but it's a fact that large crops of remarkably fine apples can be raised down there, a little way back from the lake. We have earlier springs, and the frosts are later in the fall, than is the case with the region surrounding Duluth and Superior. None of the orchards are very old, but they are all in fine shape and producing the goods.

The farmers have only been coming into Bayfield County in any considerable numbers during the last two or three years. I have been established in business there for four years, and in that time there has been a very great development. The land is fertile and may be had at a price which seems surprisingly low to outside investors. Men who come from a farming country where land sells for \$125 an acre are astonished when they can find land up in this country in a wild state, for \$5-\$10 an acre, which is just as fertile as higher priced lands in older communities.

The Bayfield district is also a great place for grass, which makes it a fine stock raising and dairy country. It'll be only a matter of time until dairy and stock raising become important industries there. Excellent grass is to be found growing in the wild state all over the county, particularly along the old logging roads.

That the vicinity of Bayfield is becoming known as the best fruit region in the country there is no doubt. Some of the best-known fruit growers in the state are evidencing their faith in this vicinity by moving to this region and engaging in the fruit business. Among the latest arrivals in the Harbor City, here for the purpose of obtaining land for the fruit raising business, are Carl Vollenweider of LaCrescent; William Hickel of La Crosse; and Albert Engler of Spring Green, Wisconsin.

*History Briefs prepared through the volunteer efforts of Bob Nelson.*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - A TRIBUTE TO WALT POMEROY, 1947 - 2022

Walt Pomeroy arrived in Bayfield in 1973, a few years before Mary and I arrived from Madison. He first worked for the Northern Environmental Council and later the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. Before long, we began working on a project together.

The 1970s were a most interesting time to live in Bayfield. Hit by one industry after another folding, from lumber to quarrying and then commercial fishing, the city was shrinking. The population decline resulted in an oversupply of housing, creating opportunity that brought many newcomers like us.

We came together over Marjorie Benton's quest to save the Old Bayfield County Courthouse. This was a massive undertaking - to buy and restore the building and find the right tenant. Our study revealed that this was to be no small task, with a \$700,000 price tag. It was obvious that we needed some serious help!

Walt answered our ad for a fundraiser. Armed with his quintessential optimism, the "Save the Courthouse" campaign was off and running. He worked out of a donated office in the basement of the Bayfield Inn with little more than a phone.

Walt's attitude was simply irrepressible. It was as if it never occurred to him that he could fail. He carried all of us in the wake, meeting goal after goal.

After little more than a year, he had done it. With the lease from the National Park Service, this historic landmark became the home for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and the dream was realized.

As I look back forty-plus years later, I am as astounded now as I was then. With Walt's leadership and fundraising talents, the historic courthouse is thriving. Thousands of people come through the building every year as they begin a journey to explore the Apostle Islands and fall under the spell of this special place we call home.

I know that Walt Pomeroy was one of the many who carried Bayfield in his heart the rest of his life. He remained a friend of the Bayfield Heritage Association and contributed much needed support through gifts from his family foundation and himself. Walt's name is forever woven into the fabric of Bayfield and the Old Bayfield County Courthouse he worked to save.

*Jerry Phillips*

## YOURS IN GRATITUDE - THANK YOU DONORS!

### DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS

Amazon Smile  
Suzie Arn  
Marilyn Nourse  
John and Bette DeMars  
Pomeroy Family Foundation  
Fred Wahlquist  
Many generous museum visitors!

### IN-KIND GIFTS

Judith Ahlberg  
Cindy Arbiture  
Tony Jeannette  
Darlene Kirchdoerfer  
Warren Nelson  
Jerry Phillips  
Jeff Rennie  
Robert Stark  
Suzy Stenzel of Frank Utpadal Estate  
Marilyn and Bill Van Sant  
Walstad Family



*Descendants of former Booth Fishery manager Justin Walstad presenting two John Matthew Black paintings to BHA. We look forward to sharing these and other recent acquisitions with you, including paintings by local artists H. P. Cooper and Bessie Nourse, donated by Robert Stark along with a large collection of artifacts.*