



THE BAYFIELD COURIER

WINTER 2024



BHA Celebrates 50 Years!

2024 marks a special year for BHA - the 50th Anniversary of an organization which began in 1974 as the Bayfield Historical Society. The impact of this organization on Bayfield and the surrounding area can be found in its various projects undertaken over the years. This includes: saving the Old Bayfield County Courthouse on Washington Avenue from demolition, playing a major role in establishing the Bayfield Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the ownership and continued maintenance of Fountain Garden Park at Bayfield's Hwy. 13 south entrance, the construction of the Broad Street Museum building, raising funds and restoring Bayfield's Old City Jail, and along the way receiving two major awards from the Wisconsin Historical Society: in 2010 for the Flood of '42 Exhibit and in 2021 the Society's Public Programming Award.

Thanks and gratitude to all of the volunteers and supporters who have been a part of this organization over the years. We look forward to the years ahead as we continue to live up to our motto "Bringing History to Life" and invite you to stay tuned to our Facebook and web-site as we finalize plans for a grand celebration during the upcoming summer months.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bayfield, Wis. State Fish Hatchery, main building.

Restoring History: 'Friends of R.D. Pike Building' Launch Ambitious Preservation

The historic R. D. Pike Building (the old brownstone Bayfield Fish Hatchery), located within the Les Voight State Fish Hatchery on Hwy. 13, is set to undergo a remarkable transformation, thanks to the dedicated efforts of a newly formed organization, Friends of the R.D. Pike Building Inc.

Initially placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981 and later on the State of Wisconsin Register of Historic Places in 1989, the R.D. Pike Building stands as a testament to the region's rich heritage. Its restoration will not only breathe new life into the structure but also serve as a beacon of cultural significance for generations to come.

Individuals interested in following the project's progress or offering their support can reach out to Mary Gruhl via email at mary.gruhl@gmail.com or by mail to Friends of the R.D. Pike Building Inc., P.O. Box 511, Washburn, WI 54891.



HISTORY QUIZ

Mike Gordon served in the United States Army during World War I and was a member of the American Legion Post 49 of Bayfield. What feat did he desire to do in 1934?



The 50 Year Thing

When Mary and I bought a house in Bayfield in 1973, we never thought about that house becoming the Rittenhouse Inn. It was our summer "escape house." Fifty years later we're thrilled to have our son carry on a long tradition of hospitality.

Likewise, when we were part of BHA's beginning, we did not know about what fifty years would bring. Again, we are in awe of the growth of this wonderful organization. From buying the Old Bayfield Courthouse to BHA's collections and programs, we are delighted to still be an admirer and participant in the role BHA plays in the vibrant history and culture of the Bayfield region.

It is perfect that we should take some time to celebrate both institutions and the roles they have played for fifty amazing years!

Jerry Phillips

John Matthew Black Lecture Series Recap

A huge thank you goes out to both those who present and those who attend our winter JMB Series! Videos of these programs can be viewed online from our website: bayfieldheritage.org. A thank you goes to the Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Conservancy for sponsoring these excellent programs!



In December, Dean Rau presented “The Viking Way”, about his high seas adventures sailing across the Atlantic, mixed in with some Viking history. Dean gave in depth experiences of his Norway to Bayfield crossings.



In February, Darren Miller gave a fascinating program depicting the history of the Bayfield Fish Hatchery. Slides included a look inside the handsome State Fish Hatchery building, constructed in 1897 and still stands today.



We Welcome Dr. Michael A. Miller to the Board

Mike is a retired college professor and administrator. He served as the president of Northland College 2010-2018 located in Ashland, Wisconsin on beautiful Lake Superior. Prior posts were at Gustavus Adolphus College and Minnesota State University Mankato. Mike’s professional involvements have included serving on several local and national boards.

Mike and his wife, Dr. Mary Trettin, live near Bayfield with their Labrador Retriever, Beau. They enjoy a variety of outdoor and cultural activities and events. The couple has three adult children, Rachel, Erin, Mallory, one granddaughter, Dara.

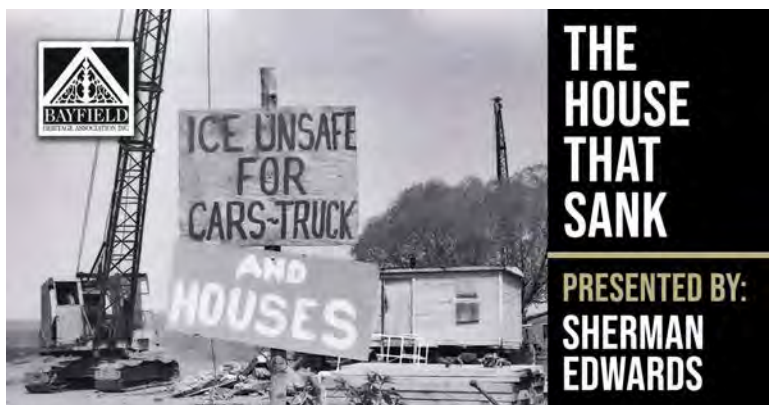
HISTORY QUIZ ANSWER

Mike Gordon wanted to paddle his canoe from Bayfield to Miami, Florida. On July 26, 1934, with the sponsorship of the American Legion Post 49, he put his canoe in Lake Superior and began his journey, wearing the native Anishinaabe garments. On October 20, 1934 he paddled into Miami’s harbor. All along his route, Mike made an abundance of friends and admirers for his courage and determination.



Pictured: Mike Gordon in Memorial Park showing his regalia and paddle during the 1959 Boy Scout Camporee.

Up Next



Sunday March 3 at 2 PM

In March of 1977, a 10-ton truck and a 20-ton trailer carrying a fully furnished 2-story townhouse started their trek across 16 inches of ice, above 90 feet of Lake Superior water. What could go wrong?!

Sherman Edwards will join us at BHA to present "The House That Sank" and talk about this remarkable event in our community's history. Light refreshments served afterwards.

Stay Tuned:

We are excited to host several more programs and events, dates to be announced, in the coming months:

- History of the Bayfield Civic League
- History of Dalrymple presented by Mary Carlson
- Celebration of Bayfield Heritage Association's 50 years

Yours in Gratitude - Thank You!

DONATIONS

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Yours in Gratitude (continued)

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MEMORIALS AND HONORS

Judy and Jerome Bird -*In Memory of
Vermont and Harriet Johnson*
Jim Bryan and Dee Johnson -*In Memory
of Don Albrecht*

Kristin and Gary Connell
-*In Memory of Frances "Denny"
Edwards and Shirley Anderson*
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-*In Memory of Mary H. Rice*
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-*In Memory of Mary H. Rice*
Richard G Thompson
-*In Memory of Max Paap*
Bert Zimmer
-*In Memory of Betsy Iverson Zimmer*
Richard G Thompson
-*In Honor of Howard and Marlene Paap*
Carolyn Sneed
-*In Honor of Jerry and Mary Phillips*

GRANTS

Duluth Superior Area Community
Foundation -*Mary H Rice Designated Fund*

IN KIND DONATIONS

Jeff Rasdosevich
-*Model Railroad Materials*
Marilyn Van Sant
-*Dell Laptop Computer*

ANNUAL APPEAL

BHA's Annual Appeal was launched in November, and we count ourselves lucky and honored to have your support! If you still plan to give, donations can be mailed to:
Bayfield Heritage Association, PO Box 137, Bayfield, WI 54814
Giving online is easy by clicking the QR code below or by visiting
bayfieldheritage.org



Bayfield Heritage Association

30 N. Broad St, PO Box 137, Bayfield, WI 54814
(715) 779-5958 | info@bayfieldheritage.org

www.bayfieldheritage.org

