

Bayfield Museum

The museum was primarily the dream and vision of one person, James Frahm, born and raised Pine River Valley resident. He spent his whole life in the Valley except for his time at college and in the service to his country in the U.S. Navy.

In the late 1990's he started enlisting followers and supporters for his vision. Some of the individuals he drafted was Dennis Hillyer, Debbie Janus and Jack Carmack. The dream became a reality in 2004 when *Pine River Valley Historical Society* became a reality at the barn of Grace Sossaman at the Bay house.

The Vision statement of the Society was written:

To collect, preserve, protect and interpret the history and heritage of the Pine River Valley.

A lot of contributions were obtained from relatives, friends and anyone who was willing to part with family history. All the artifacts were catalogued and appropriately displayed. A couple of years later the museum moved to SWAG property in Gem Village.

A search for a better home for the museum was begun and became reality in 2008 when the old Bayfield city hall was vacant. The city was gracious enough to rent the property to the Society while the Society started a fundraiser and grant search to help purchase the building. Several key players in raising funds and getting a grant are now deceased, namely: Marvin Conrad and Bob Cooper, both former Presidents of the Society.

All their efforts resulted in the Heritage Society taking ownership of the building in October 2010 thanks to several local businesses helping with the cash.

Jim can now proudly look at the organization and museum he envisioned to preserve the history of the Pine River Valley and the current board as they manage the future direction of the society.

The future of the Society and the museum is to fulfill our visions statement and work to promote our valley heritage to museum visitors. This can only be accomplished through increased membership, financial support from the business community and continued annual fundraising events. Museum work and staffing is provided solely by our volunteers.