

Paterick donates time to worthy hometown causes, organizations

Volunteer webmaster hopes to help 'Save Our Porch'

By Sarah Wolford
of Mainline Newspapers

The saying 'home is where the heart is' rings especially true for someone like Carol Paterick. Although she may no longer live in the Portage area, Carol is more involved in life along the mainline than ever before. "It's almost like I never left," she laughed.

Carol, a Portage native, has been

the volunteer webmaster for the Cambria County Historical Society since 2002 and has been integral to the "Save Our Porch" campaign. The campaign is working to restore the porch of the A.W. Buck house on North Center Street in Ebensburg, the county historical society's home. "I've seen the porch, and it does need repair," said Carol. "It is an ideal purpose to provide future generations with the Victorian elegance of the A.W. Buck house."

"When I was contacted by Dave Huber, of the historical society, in April, I immediately said yes," Carol stated. "I could see in my head exactly how the website would look as soon as we talked about it." Within a week, Carol had the website up and running.

The site, which can be found at www.saveourporch.com, offers visitors information about the historic home and explains the details of the porch restoration.

The historical society estimates that the project will cost approximately \$20,000 and are hoping to fund the project through private donations along with a Keystone Preservation grant. On the website, those wishing to help the project along can choose a level of donation; plank, pillar, or foundation for \$100, \$500, and \$5,000, respectively. There is also a donation button to use for any amount a donor chooses.

In addition to her work on the website, Carol was the first "plank" donor, as well as making the first "pillar" donation in honor of the Sherman Moyer family, of Portage. "It gave me a great deal of pride and satisfaction to make such a personal contribution to the county," Carol said of not only her monetary donations but her work on the website, as well. "Dave and the others involved in the historical society are a nice group to work with and appreciate everything done on their behalf."

Carol said she first began working with the county historical society in 2002. "I actually had contacted them about adding something about Portage to their website," she explained. "Then, I realized they didn't know how to do it," she laughed. "I told them I would volunteer as their webmaster."

Along with doing whatever the county historical society needs, Carol serves as webmaster for various other area organizations including the Portage Area Historical Society, the Portage chapter of The Traditional

Anglers of Pennsylvania, Paul Noll Forestry in Loretto, and many others.

She said she provides services for many nonprofit organizations handling conference and event registrations, desktop publishing, and other services.

Carol also designed and maintained the county's bicentennial website in 2004. "It was an absolute labor of love," she said and explained it was for the "passion of Cambria County that lies in its rich history, courage, adventure and hope."

"Community involvement is important," said Carol. "We need to pay it forward and help these communities."

Carol is a 1965 graduate of Portage Area Junior-Senior High School and fondly recalls her small town days. She comes from a long line of residents who worked to make their town a better place.

"My grandfather was involved in the fire department, and my grandmother was a member of the fire department's ladies auxiliary," she said. Both of her parents were active in the community, as well, volunteering their time with organizations like the Summerfest committee and the Scouts.

Carol added that volunteerism is a natural extension of your personality when you see those you love donating their time from a young age. And, although she no longer lives in Portage, she finds herself more involved in area causes than ever before.

After her high school graduation, Carol moved with three friends to the Washington D.C. area to work. "In those days you took your civil service test while you were still in high school," she explained. "We took our typing tests and moved just a few weeks after graduation."

Although her friends eventually moved back to Portage to get married and start their families, Carol stayed in D.C. and enjoyed a long and lustrous career with the federal government. In 2001, she retired from Interpol-US after 36 years of service. She now resides in Bowie, Maryland.

Carol also owns the Pearce Building on the 600 block of Main Street in Portage and said she visits her hometown often. "I come up every four to six weeks to spend a day or so," she explained.

No matter where she lives, Carol said she thinks she will always be involved in life in Cambria County.

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