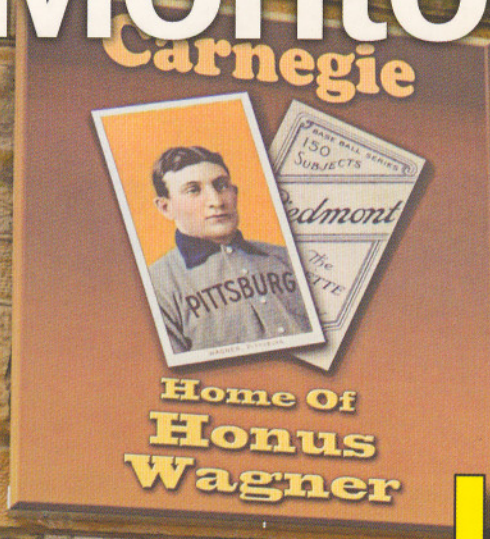


IN

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Carlynton-Montour

Hometown Legend Lives On



**HONUS WAGNER
MUSEUM**

**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF CARNEGIE**

HISTORY CENTER
&
HONUS WAGNER MUSEUM

**School
District News**

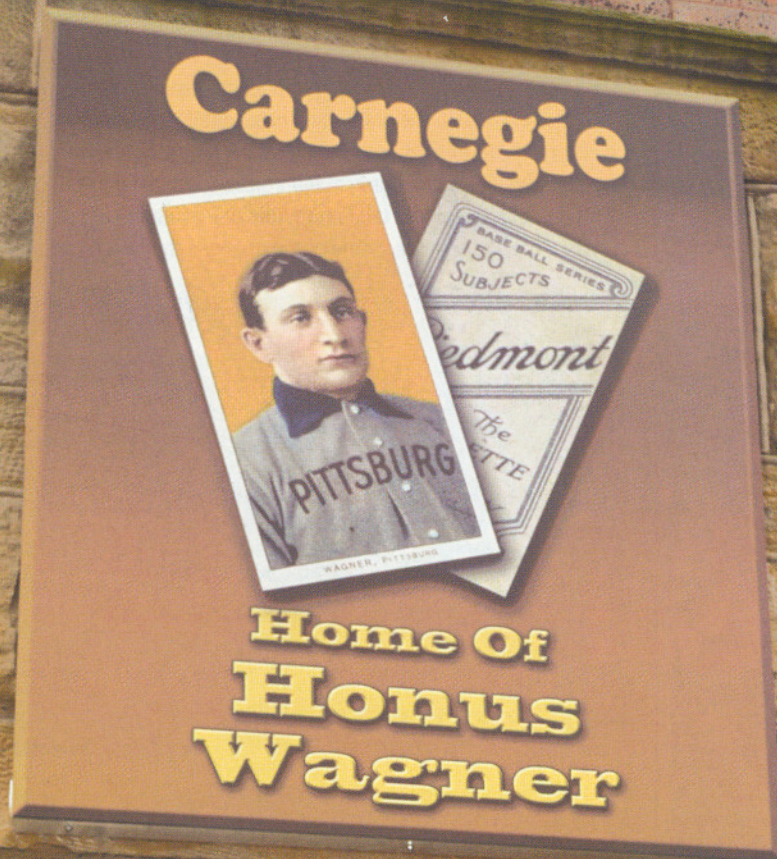
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Fall
Festivals**

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Barbara Wagner Ehland (great-grandniece of Honus Wager)

The Hometown Legacy of HONUS WAGNER

Pirates baseball legend lives on in Carnegie.



Carol Dlugos in the Honus Wagner Museum.

BY W. B. FRESA

Retired schoolteacher Carol Dlugos never knew the view from her classroom would come in handy one day. But, as curator of the Honus Wagner Museum, she can tell you — looking at the back yard of his daughter Betty Wagner Blair's house all of those years has helped garner

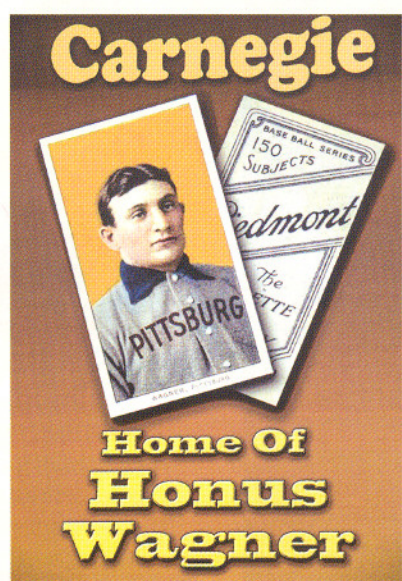
some new items for the Carnegie museum honoring the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball legend.

"When Betty moved from her home behind Carnegie Elementary School she had an estate sale," said

Dlugos. "I purchased a few collectibles for the museum, like a pillow with her father's likeness

on it and a plaque with some of his baseball statistics." These mementos, along with many others, are what keep the 10-year-old museum current and attractive to passersby and baseball enthusiasts. And, by moving the museum's space to the front of the 100-year-old Husler Building and dedicating a new sign above the museum entrance, The Historical Society of Carnegie is working to keep Mr. Wagner's spirit alive.

The sign, designed and created by Vital Signs, a local Carnegie business, was officially unveiled in early July. It is an enlarged version of Honus Wagner's rare T206 Series baseball card. Research on the card's production finds it was designed and issued by the American Tobacco Company in the early 1900s at the



“I’m happy to be a part of keeping Honus Wagner’s history preserved for their enjoyment. We’re here and we’re proud of our hometown hero.”

height of Honus's baseball career; however, production was halted because he did not want his picture to be associated with cigarettes. Therefore, the 57 to 100 copies of the card make it rare at best.

But visitors to the Honus Wagner Museum can now take their time staring at the sign adorning the museum entrance, which also includes memorabilia like sports books, donated pictures from the Elks club where he spent much of his time after retirement, a Honus Wagner Pirates bobblehead and a scrap book, made from newspaper clippings collected by Honus's wife, Bessie. The clippings were given to Dlugos by Honus's only grandchild, Leslie, specifically for the



museum. "I was able to get most of the clippings into a scrapbook," said Dlugos. "But flood waters several years ago destroyed what was left."

The Historical Society of Carnegie, located in the same building as the Honus Wagner Museum, at 1 W. Main Street in Carnegie, considers the museum-moving plan a success. "Before we relocated the museum to the front of the building, it did not get the foot traffic it does today," said Dlugos. "Now, we get about 20 visitors a week." And, since the historical society and museum are run by volunteers, they request donations as the price of admission to see the donated mementos. Fundraisers, like the one held on July 30 with the Washington Wild Things, also help support their efforts.

Dan McGrogan, president of the historical society, said the building renovations and enhancements to the museum, which have taken place over the past couple of years, are a slow process but one that is essential to the revitalization of Carnegie. "I have to applaud our former mayor of Carnegie, James Pascoe, for acquiring the rights to open a museum in honor of Honus. He knew we needed to acknowledge one of Carnegie's greats and we're doing our best to pay tribute to him." Dlugos thinks it's just the beginning for a town that has seen its fair share of flood damage and tough economic times. "The town is coming alive again and businesses are coming back. We have so many new restaurants and a Friday night crawl. It's exciting to see people staying out later and enjoying our town and its attractions. And, I'm happy to be a part of keeping Honus Wagner's history preserved for their enjoyment. We're here and we're proud of our hometown hero." ■



Mayor Jack Kobistek (l) and board member Harry Rieder.

For more information about the Historical Society of Carnegie and the Honus Wagner Museum, visit the Facebook page by searching "Historical Society of Carnegie."