

**Former Fay-West columnist writes from heart**  
**By Marilyn Forbes For The TRIBUNE-REVIEW**

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Some authors pen from true life and some report straight facts, but other writers draw their words from deep within, writing from their hearts. Lois Shroyer of Connellsville is one who falls into the latter category.

The Fayette County Law Library is featuring a display of Shroyer's work and memorabilia that spotlight her family, the subject of much of her writing.

Although Shroyer has worked in the newspaper industry since the late 1950s, it was almost 40 years later that she actually tried her hand at putting pen to paper. "I started in the newspaper business in 1957," Shroyer said, adding that over the years, she has worked with the Tribune-Review and the Connellsville Daily Courier as a typist and secretary.

"I was at work one day and Bob Broderick stopped by my desk," Shroyer said of the Tribune-Review's zones editor. "He said that I'd been with the paper for so long and he asked me if I ever thought about writing." Shroyer, who had indeed thought of writing, was shy about her work, and decided to contemplate the notion for a time before submitting any of her ideas.

In 1994, the Tribune-Review's Fay-West Sunday section began to publish Shroyer's "On My Mind" columns about her life experiences. "I wrote my first piece, 'Poppie's Christmas Star,' while I was sitting in church one Sunday," Shroyer said of the published piece that told of the sudden passing of her husband and her desire to carry on the family's traditions that he had started. "I just sat there and started to think about it and I started to write it down. I wrote on the bulletin and I kept writing around the outside of it."

Shroyer had 37 short pieces published from 1994 through 2003. She created a small booklet that is the compilation of all of her work. "I gave them as gifts to my family," Shroyer said of the booklets that she had printed.

Shroyer's stories include pieces on trail walking, family birthdays, childhood memories, wildlife and her family. It was one such piece, a story on her sister who worked at the Union Supply Store in Juniata that caught the interest of Barbara Pasqua of the Fayette Law library. "She had stopped in one day to tell me that she had typed one of the stories about one of the artists featured here," Pasqua said of meeting Shroyer, "and we started to talk. I mentioned that I wanted to do something on coal-era stories and then she mentioned the story on the Union Supply Store." But Pasqua was astounded when Shroyer returned with her booklet and showed her all the different types of stories she had written. "I really had wanted to do a story on older Fayette County and area patches," Pasqua said of the area's smaller coal-mining towns. "And then she brought in her booklet and there were so many stories to choose from." Pasqua took family photos, drawings, personal memorabilia and Shroyer's stories and formed a display that features Shroyer's writing and her family.

The display is located in the front display case at the Fayette Law Library and will be there through January.

"I owe everything to Bob Broderick and Ed Cope," Shroyer said. Cope is a former Tribune-Review Fay-West Sunday section coordinator.

"I write what I feel," Shroyer added. "I sometimes get emotional, but I think that's because I feel my writing. I truly feel everything that I write."