

Daily Courier

Artist's work highlights Sheepskin Trail

By Mark Hofmann
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An integration of wood carving and the art of the Sheepskin Trail is on display at the Fayette County Courthouse Law Library.

In the past, the law library has displayed local artistic talent including everything from literature to watercolors.

Recently, Barbara Pasqua, assistant law librarian, talked with Arthur Cappella, chief community development specialist for the Fayette County Planning and Zoning Office, about the Sheepskin Trail and how the law library could reflect that local history.

The historic trail eventually will form a 32-mile link between Dunbar Township and the West Virginia border.

For an art medium to match the history of the trail, Pasqua looked to her husband, Peter Pasqua, and his wood-carving creations.

Eight years ago, Peter Pasqua purchased a knife set and attempted a relief carving.

"I always thought it was neat to take a block of wood and make something appear from it," Peter Pasqua said. "I thought, 'I could do this.' "

Through searches on the Internet and study of the craft, he started getting better and soon was going beyond carving reliefs to carving busts, complete figures, a nativity scene and walking sticks with faces carved into them.

He said his inspiration is Greek art, which appears alive with flowing hair, wrinkled clothes and a great appreciation of detail.

"I strive for detail," Peter Pasqua said. "It's very important to give it life."

Barbara Pasqua said her husband's artwork -- including walking sticks, a horse head relief, sheep, and a house relief -- will be on display at the library until Oct. 1.

She said there are plans to include local artists with local historic events and attractions for future exhibits, but nothing has been named.

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