



Salvage As a Family Affair

When old buildings come down, Steinbacher Enterprises saves pieces of the past

By Jennifer Cline

Newer isn't always better, and among those who help to preserve the craftsmanship of those who came before is Steinbacher Enterprises, in the Nippenose Valley near Collomsville.

The third-generation company demolishes houses and commercial properties throughout central and northern Pennsylvania, many of them historic buildings that have fallen into

deep disrepair and must be torn down. But when it does so, it salvages every piece that can be reused, from molding and lights down to hinges and stair treads.

The items are in demand.

"We have people come from all over the place," said Joslyn Dougherty, whose grandfather founded Steinbacher Enterprises. "You can't find these things anymore."

Things like hand-turned porch posts

that can't be equaled by their modern-day, mass-produced counterparts.

The Steinbacher salvage yard attracts attention from those interested in restoring historic homes, finding replacement parts for their own home, and antique dealers from across Pennsylvania and from surrounding states.

The practice not only helps to preserve slices of the past, but it also

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epitomizes the ideals of sustainable living and the “reduce, reuse, recycle” mantra, keeping tons of materials from the landfill.

Dougherty’s grandfather, who founded Steinbacher Enterprises in 1958 (the company was incorporated in 1971), ventured in several arenas, including trucking and coal.

“My pap had all sorts of different businesses...He dabbled into anything, because they were hard times in that era,” she said. “Then he got one big job that put him on the map in Williamsport.”

When her grandfather passed away, he left the business to Dougherty’s father, David, and one of her uncles. Several years ago, David bought sole ownership of Steinbacher Enterprises.

“He’s worked here his whole life,” Dougherty said.

Of David Steinbacher’s five children, three, including Dougherty, continue to work for Steinbacher Enterprises.

“It’s a really family affair,” Dougherty said.

Visit Steinbacher Enterprises at 8130 State Route 44 Highway, Williamsport. Call 570-745-7445 or e-mail steininc@ovalinternet.net.

Old Lycoming Township resident Jennifer Cline is an occasional contributor to Mountain Home.

