

**In Friday's Style — Home & Garden:**  
In Sow There! One woman's quest to spread joy through daffodils hit the mark with our opportunistic garden columnist.

# Style

2B . . . . . Bridge  
4B . . . . . Obituaries  
6B . . . . . Weather

# B

COMMUNITY

Thursday, February 18, 2010

## Helping hospice help others

**InnerView: Pat Carver draws on her father's life to train others**

**By MARY NUGENT**  
Staff Writer

CHICO — Pat Carver grew up watching her father face unending difficulties from serving in a war.

"My dad was a civil engineer, and a World War II veteran. After the war he had mental health issues and he lived with a bullet that was never removed. He spent a lot of time at VA hospitals. So I spent time there, too. The hospitals were full of WWI and WWII veterans, and then as the years went by, there were Vietnam War veterans — guys my age."

Time brought change for veterans. "As he got older, my father went from the hospital to a group home, which let him be more a part of a community."

Carver grew up in the South, and has other memories of an era gone by. "It was the '50s and '60s, and I remember 'whites only' water fountains. I was there when the first African American teacher and student came to my high school. It was a time of transition."

Carver went to college, married and had a family, and worked as a professional photographer. Her interest in photography began when she was young with a camera she still has today — a Kodak Swinger.

Carver had received a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation, but more than two decades later when she decided to get a master's, she changed



Ty Barbour/Staff Photo

**Pat Carver and her dog Jessie get ready for an afternoon walk Feb. 3 at Carver's Chico home. Carver's Hospice Volunteer Training Series is now used by hospice programs in 46 states.**

her focus.

She had been volunteering at Peg Taylor Center for Adult Day Health Care in Chico. She remembered her father, who died in 1995, and his difficulties with aging. She got a master's in social gerontology.

At first, she used the degree to assist a nonprofit retirement community in Missouri establish its own hospice. She later combined her education and experience to start her own business, and put together a hospice

training manual.

Hospice provides special care for people who are near the end of life, and their families.

"The idea is that hospice programs would have their volunteers use my program first, as a precursor to their own. I didn't want it to be just a class. I thought independent study is a good idea for a lot of people."

Her program includes DVDs, for those who would rather not use a manual. It's based on Medicare requirements and is

presented in a conversational way. Carver's Hospice Volunteer Training Series is now used by hospice programs in 46 states, she said.

It covers topics such as death and dying, infection control, and grief and loss. "People must be trained and prepared to work in hospice. There are things like ethics and spirituality to consider ... That means relationships, not religion ... it's very individual. My program is really a 'niche' kind of thing."

### In a nutshell

**Name:** Pat Carver  
**Hails from:** Alabama  
**Age:** 57  
**Occupation:** Owner of Pat Carver Media, president of Peg Taylor Center for Adult Day Health Care board of directors  
**Education:** bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation from University of Missouri-Columbia, master's in social gerontology from Central Missouri State University.

**Family:** Husband Michael, son Ryan.

**For fun:** Photography, especially scenery; travel.

**Down the road:** "I do plan to use my gerontology, photography and computer skills to offer life story video to senior adults — helping them leave a visual/audible legacy. I have not pursued it, other than some simple pieces of deceased family members. The life story video was my plan if the hospice materials had not worked out. I think it will be fun to do them one day."

Her husband's work took the family to Missouri, West Virginia and Iowa. They first lived in Chico in 1986, and returned a few years ago.

Once back in Chico, Carver became reacquainted with Peg Taylor Center and is board president. "It's a wonderful group of people, very caring. The clients are diverse, and the center is a place where they can begin to get their lives back. They can socialize, but there is also nursing, and physical and occupational therapy. The Peg Taylor Center is a reason to get up and get going. We also have dementia care. We want to educate



# CARVER

From 1B

people that we are here.” Carver, who designed the center’s brochure, said the services of Peg Taylor Center fill another, less obvious need. “The center gives caregivers a break. It’s a little relief for them. Some of them work, and they wouldn’t be able to work without the center.”

She said families can have assessments done for loved ones, and while Medicare is accepted, there is also a sliding

scale for payment.

The need for services offered by Peg Taylor Center will increase, said Carver, as baby boomers age.

Carver finds her hospice program also fills a need. “I am pleased with it, and I can chat with volunteers online from all over the country. Even when I’m away, I can keep it going. It’s an inspiring project.”

---

**Staff writer Mary Nugent can be reached at 896-7764 or [mnu-gent@chicoer.com](mailto:mnu-gent@chicoer.com).**