

Sandy Ellis Carlson

Pauline has always been a person who was ready to give of her talents whenever she was asked. The story that comes to mind involved my dad, Charles Ellis. Dad always loved to sing and took every opportunity that came along to do just that. He formed a men's quartet at the First Baptist Church and asked Pauline if she would accompany them on the piano. Pauline accepted and made arrangements to rehearse with the quartet at my parent's house one evening.

My parent's house had two entry doors off the front porch area. One door led directly into the living room and one door led into a landing that housed the stairs to the basement and an inner door into the kitchen. The quartet was in the living room where the piano was located getting ready to rehearse before Pauline arrived. She decided to come on in and entered the door with the basement stair landing. It was evening and there wasn't much light in the entryway and she stepped off and fell all the way down the basement stairs.

My dad and the rest of the group came running when they heard the commotion and found her getting back up at the bottom of the stairs. Everyone was scared that Pauline had broken some bones or injured herself in some way as she was probably in her seventies when this occurred.

No way! She stood up, brushed herself off, and headed back up the stairs to get the rehearsal started. As far as my dad knew, she had no ill affects from the fall. However, I think it took my dad a good long time to get over the idea of what could have happened. It also precipitated my dad adding a half-door at the top of the stairs so that nothing like that would happen again.

I think Pauline has shown over and over her back bone and resiliency through her lifetime. She is a woman that all of us should emulate.

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