



imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 14 • JUNE 2008

CEO OF PITTSBURGH PENGUINS NEWEST COMMISSION MEMBER

Montreal-born Kenneth G. Sawyer, chief executive officer of the Pittsburgh Penguins, has been elected to the board of the Carnegie Hero Fund. In announcing the election, Commission President Mark Laskow said that Sawyer would serve also on the Fund's Executive Committee, which is the Hero Fund's awarding body.



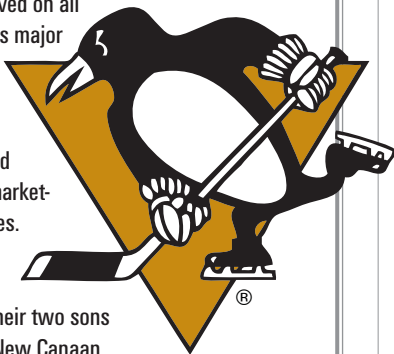
Mr. Sawyer

Formerly the chief financial officer of the National Hockey League, Sawyer joined the Penguins in 1999 as executive vice president and chief financial officer. He was named president of the franchise in 2003 and then chief executive officer three years later. In addition to

overseeing all operations of the team, Sawyer serves on the NHL's Board of Governors.

Sawyer was raised in Montreal and is a 1971 graduate of McGill University there. After seven years in public practice with Ernst & Ernst in Montreal, Sawyer spent 14 years with the NHL, where he served on all of the league's major committees, including the collective bargaining and finance and marketing committees.

In 1991, he and his wife Shirley and their two sons relocated to New Canaan,



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Wesley James Autrey, Sr., New York's subway hero. Photo reprinted with permission from Josh Haner/The New York Times/Redux.

A year in the life of a hero: 'Subway Superman' enjoys the ride

By Larry McShane, Staff Writer • New York Daily News

Wesley Autrey didn't hesitate last January, and he doesn't hesitate now: The hero of the No. 1 train says he'd put his life on the subway line one more time for a total stranger.

"Sure, I would do it all over again," says the fearless construction worker, sitting in a coffee shop just two blocks from the Harlem station where the "Subway Superman" saved a seizure victim from death beneath the wheels of a downtown train.

While Autrey's resolve remains unchanged, his selfless, split-second decision dramatically altered his life. The father of two, to his surprise and delight, was catapulted to instant celebrity and international acclaim in the last year. Autrey was welcomed twice at the White House. He hung with Kanye West at a Super Bowl bash. He was honored by Mayor Bloomberg, hosted by David Letterman, hailed by Donald Trump.

Oh, and one more thing, he confesses with a wide grin: Autrey received a lifetime subscription to Playboy, courtesy of Hugh Hefner. Autrey was wearing a bunny logo cap

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DESERVED ATTENTION

By Mark Laskow, President
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



During a meeting of the Hero Fund before our centennial in 2004, we were discussing “outreach” activities, which, inspired by the centennial, we expected to continue after the celebration. In the course of the discussion, one of

the Commission members asked why we would seek publicity. It was a good question, because the Hero Fund had historically been a very quiet organization.

There were cultural and practical reasons we were quiet. The deeds of the heroes instill considerable humility in the Hero Fund Commission members and staff. It just did not seem right to blow our own horn, so to speak. On the practical side, the United States and Canada are vast countries, and the Hero Fund staff is small and very busy. Personal presentations of the medals generate more public interest than our press releases, but it would be impossible to arrange a presentation for every award.

Our centennial activities gave us confidence that we could raise the public profile of the Carnegie Medal and those who receive it. But, as that Commission member asked in 2004, why *should* we?

There are several reasons. It is hard to rank them, so, in no particular order:

- We think it is useful to remind our countries of the extraordinarily creative philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie. He didn’t just give money away, he invented exemplary civic activities as part of the process.
- The heroes deserve the attention and gratitude of their communities. Very few of them seek that attention, and most are eager to return to their normal, everyday activities. We think their modesty makes it all the more important for us to call some attention to what they did.
- Finally, the deeds of these heroes are a needed inspiration to our society. No, we do not mean to encourage new heroic acts—Andrew Carnegie was very plain on that point. Rather, their acts remind all who hear of them that altruism, selflessness, sacrifice, and a willingness to care for strangers are essential binding elements in the civil society we enjoy.

This good news we *should* spread.

‘Subway Superman’

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—it still bears a grease stain from the train that barely missed him—when he rescued Cameron Hollopeter. “It’s been an incredible year,” says the 51-year-old Harlem man.


The genial “Superman” is hardly more powerful than a locomotive, but he and Hollopeter, 20, survived 370 tons of screeching subway car rattling one inch above their heads. Autrey jumped from the platform at 137th Street after the disoriented young man pinwheelled to the tracks as a Broadway local hurtled toward the station last Jan. 2.

Autrey bear-hugged Hollopeter in the grimy trough between the rails. After avoiding death by less than the length of a MetroCard, Autrey recalls, “I went to work.”

While he is a hero to the entire city, the stretch of Broadway near the subway stop is Autrey’s personal “Canyon of Heroes.” Friends and fans greet him with hearty handshakes and hellos. He rides the train each day to work from the station, where the token booth clerk greets him by name.

Autrey arrives at the Bus Stop coffee shop straight from a Manhattan construction site, clad in Army fatigue pants with a matching shirt and a white hard hat. His goatee, flecked with gray, frames a ready smile. A small diamond earring is the lone sign of his recent good fortune, although he carries a business card reading “Wesley Autrey Sr., Subway Hero.”

While Autrey embraced his celebrity, Hollopeter has never spoken publicly about the incident. His last words on the subject came to Autrey after the train stopped. “Am I dead?” Hollopeter asked. Autrey pinched him to prove he wasn’t. Autrey remains in contact with Hollopeter, whose family sent a Thanksgiving bouquet of roses. The two clans intend to have dinner in 2008.

“We have Superman and Batman, all these fictional characters,” Autrey says. “It’s very good when you can find a real-life hero.” Autrey, hard hat in hand, can be found most mornings at the 137th Street station. 

(Reprinted with permission from the Dec. 16, 2007, edition of the Daily News. Autrey was awarded the Carnegie Medal in April for his rescue act, which is detailed on page 9.)

TREASURER HONORED

Forty years of service on the board of the Hero Fund by James M. Walton, right, was acknowledged by Mark Laskow, president, earlier this year. Walton was elected to the board on Jan. 30, 1968, and since that time has served terms on its executive, finance, and membership committees. In 1979, he was elected treasurer of the Commission, an office he still holds. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Graduate School of Business, Walton is former president of Carnegie Institute and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, and he is vice chairman of The Heinz Endowments, Pittsburgh. Laskow gave Walton a certificate thanking him for his dedication at a luncheon at the Flagler Museum, Palm Beach, Fla., in March. Walton joins three others of the Commission’s current 21-member board who have served at least 40 years.





Preacher held the Carnegie Medal awarded to the man who saved his father from drowning in 1924.

Families of hero and boy he saved re-unite 84 years after the rescue

By Hugh J. Preacher, Jr., Frisco, Texas

I have had an interest in my family's history for many years and two years ago made an inquiry to the Hero Fund to see what records might be kept of past medal awardees. I would not exist today if not for the actions of Edward J. Ward, who saved my father Hugh James Preacher from drowning in Perth Amboy, N.J., on March 30, 1924. Ward was awarded the Carnegie Medal for the rescue.



Hugh and Barbara Preacher met Ward Westhafer, right, at Westhafer's home in Newbury, Mass., earlier this year. Westhafer's grandfather saved Hugh Preacher's father from drowning 84 years ago.

The Hero Fund's first response was that records on its medal winners beyond the time of the award were generally not kept, especially for acts that occurred more than 75 years ago. Shortly afterward, however, the Hero Fund sent me a follow-up email informing that the office had recalled an inquiry about the same recipient two years earlier. I was given the address of the rescuer's grandson, Ward Westhafer. It seems that the interest of the rescuer's grandson and that of the rescued person's son in this case happened to coincide with the interests of Hero Fund staff, who must deal with countless names and communications.

I sent Westhafer this email: *I would love to make contact with you. Your grandfather saved my father's life. I live and work in England right now so email is great, or I can call you.*

Within days, he replied: *I am thrilled and surprised to hear from you. I had no idea the folks at the Carnegie Hero Fund were so organized and thorough. I am sending a copy of this email to them also, as thanks for their work.*

My grandfather, Edward Ward, was always my hero. He never spoke of his rescue of your father and, I'm sure, thought anybody in his position would have done the same thing. I heard about his medal only after his death in 1959 when I was 10 years old. My mother and grandmother told me the story and showed me the medal, which he left to me.

In the months that passed, Westhafer and I exchanged lots of information through

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FAMILIES RE-UNITE

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the mail. I told my father that I had made the connection with his rescuer's descendents, and when my father turned 90 on Nov. 22, 2006, Westhafer sent him a card. My father responded with copies of newspaper articles about the rescue and a heartfelt acknowledgement that if not for Ward's rescue act, the Preacher Family genealogy would have ended some 82 years earlier.

My father was only 7 at the time of the rescue. He fell from a rowboat into Staten Island Sound at a point about a quarter-mile from shore. The boat drifted away. Ward dived from the deck of a passing ferryboat and, heavily clothed, swam to him. My



Hugh J. Preacher, Sr., of Deland, Fla., on his 90th birthday.

father grabbed Ward, and both submerged. Ward freed himself when they surfaced and took hold of my father, who by then was unconscious. Several minutes later, a man arrived in a rowboat from shore. Ward was approaching exhaustion and at times had released

his hold on my father to rest. The man helped Ward into the boat and then went to my father, who was nearby, and took him aboard. Ward and my father needed hospital care, but they recovered. My grandfather, David C. Preacher, gave Ward a reward and in time Ward took a position in the Perth Amboy Dry Dock, where my grandfather was superintendent for many years.

This past March 10, Westhafer and I met for the first time, near Newbury, Mass. Getting a chance to hold the medal awarded to his grandfather brought me very special feelings.

My father, now 91, lives in Florida, and on Feb. 7 he and my mother Florence Elizabeth Eymundsson Preacher celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. I believe Edward J. Ward did a really good thing on March 30, 1924, and the Preachers—Hugh Sr., Florence, my brother Larry and I, and my children Stephany and Hugh Michael—will always consider the Ward families a part of our family. ☒



GREAT PEOPLE

I really enjoy reading the newsletter and learning about all these great people—it certainly offsets the daily news.

Judy Hunt, Aardvark Indexing, Ventura, Calif.

(And read she does! Hunt does the indexing for imPULSE. The newsletter's index appears on the "Resources" page of the Hero Fund's website, www.carnegiehero.org.)

GRATEFUL HEROES

I want to express my gratitude for the assistance that the Commission has provided me during my enrollment in pharmacy school. During those years, I continued to help out fellow students who struggled through various classes by tutoring them individually, conducting review sessions, and developing a tutoring program. I am currently working at Florida Hospital as a full-time pharmacist but intend to pursue a residency program to allow me to better provide patient care and have an opportunity to accept a teaching position after obtaining a few years of clinical experience. If there is anything I can do for the Commission, please let me know.

Joseph A. Alaimo, Orlando, Fla.

(Alaimo helped to save a 10-year-old girl from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Palm Beach, Fla., when a university student in 2004, and he subsequently received scholarship aid from the Hero Fund.)

I was recently awarded with a beautiful Carnegie Medal. It looks better than I could have ever imagined and is just the thing I need to keep this experience in my memories forever. The Carnegie Hero Fund and the people who run it have been so generous to me and I cannot begin to thank everyone enough. In addition to the amazing medal, you have given me something this year that has really helped me a lot; a scholarship to cover my books and fees. Any financial aid goes a long way while I am in school, and I would like to thank you personally for helping me with such a generous contribution.

Hooman Nourparvar, Roswell, Ga.

(Nourparvar was cited by the Hero Fund last September for saving a 9-year-old boy from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Miramar Beach, Fla., on April 1, 2006. He is studying exercise and sport science at the University of Georgia, Athens.)

A REALLY GOOD GUY

George W. Masters was a generous man who befriended people from many different walks of life and differing economic means. He was married to his wife Marge, whom he loved dearly always, for 39 years and raised five children along the way, devoting significant time and love to his family and always putting us first.

He was an avid golfer and in his younger years also played professional baseball in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. He was an entrepreneurial spirit and business leader in the community who owned several successful enterprises while also serving on the board of directors of several southeastern Virginia community

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Hero Fund board member, Princess Anne attend Carnegie U.K. headquarters opening

By Christopher R. McCrady • Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

On Feb. 13, my wife Jen and I were privileged to attend the grand opening of the Andrew Carnegie House in Dunfermline, Scotland. The building, newly erected to serve as headquarters for the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, the Carnegie Dunfermline and Hero Fund trusts, and the Carnegie U.K. Trust, is appropriately located in the town of Carnegie's birth.

The day was sunny and unseasonably warm, fit for the occasion. We were picked up early in Edinburgh along with our travel partners, Kathleen Cheek-Milby, representing the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, and Hans and Agneta Lagerhorn, representing Carnegiestiftelsen, the Swedish hero fund. On arrival at the Andrew Carnegie House, we were given a tour, and I was awestruck by the building's architecture. It is a modern edifice—which resembles a vessel in shape—and is flooded with natural light. Its most striking feature is the Tiffany window that Carnegie commissioned as a family memorial for Dunfermline Abbey. The window now shines brilliantly on the ground floor of the building.

Notable about the location of the new structure is that it sits at a corner of Pittencrieff Park. The park was a private estate during Carnegie's childhood, and he was prohibited from playing there due to his "unscheduled visits." In 1903, he purchased the 76-acre property and gave it to the town of Dunfermline to be enjoyed by all citizens.

After the tour, we were honored by a very special visitor, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, who declared the Andrew Carnegie House officially open with the unveiling of a plaque in the boardroom. She was introduced by Angus Hogg, who chairs both the Carnegie Dunfermline and Hero Fund trusts, and by William Thomson, Carnegie's great-grandson who is also honorary president of the Carnegie U.K. Trust. Princess Anne was extremely gracious, spending time with each member of the represented trusts. We found her to be engaging, warm, and inquisitive, and meeting her was an honor and the highlight of the trip.

Attendees then proceeded along a beautiful pathway connecting the building to the Glen Pavilion, where the Dunfermline Junior Chorus serenaded the Princess. She



The British Royal Family and the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission were both represented at the dedication of Andrew Carnegie House, headquarters for Carnegie's four U.K.-based trusts. Her Royal Highness Princess Anne is shown above being escorted on the grounds by Angus Hogg, chair of Carnegie's U.K. Hero Fund Trust. Below, the other attendees included, from left, Kathleen Cheek Milby, Hogg; Hans and Agneta Lagerhorn, and Christopher and Jennifer McCrady of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. The group is posed in front of a Tiffany window, which was commissioned by Carnegie as a family memorial for Dunfermline Abbey.



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Carnegie Heroes, family members meet at Florida medal presentation

Five awardees of the Carnegie Medal and family members of three posthumous awardees formed a distinguished group as they met in Palm Beach, Fla., on a bright Sunday afternoon in early March. Guests of the Hero Fund, they attended a luncheon and a lecture at the ornate Flagler Museum, during which the medal was presented to two newly named awardees.

The gathering, organized by the Commission's director of external affairs, Douglas R. Chambers, was the first of what might become a series of regional events for medal awardees and their families, giving them the opportunity to meet other Carnegie Heroes and share accounts touching on their acts of bravery. The idea was conceived by Commission President Mark Laskow, who observed that awardees attending the Hero Fund's centennial banquet in 2004 seemed to enjoy rubbing shoulders with each other.

Laskow participated in the Palm Beach event, as did the Hero Fund's other officers: Priscilla J. McCrady, vice president; James M. Walton, treasurer; and Walter F. Rutkowski, secretary. Laskow took advantage of the opportunity to acknowledge Walton's 40 years' service on the Commission board by giving him a framed certificate at the luncheon. (See photo on page 2.)

Highlight of the get-together was Laskow's presentation of the Carnegie Medal to Floridians Paul D. Meeks of Port Orange and Charles T. Carbonell, Sr., of Tampa, who were announced as awardees last December. Meeks, 64, attending with his wife Linda and son Eric, was cited for his actions of Nov. 1, 2006, by which he pulled the pilot of a small airplane from its burning wreckage after the plane crashed near Meeks's home. Carbonell, 51, who was accompanied by his wife Fonda and sons Chas and Coby, saved a Tampa police officer who was struggling for control of his gun with the man he was trying to detain. Carbonell and his wife were passing by when they observed the roadside assault on Feb. 12, 2007.

Witnessing the medal presentation were Carnegie Heroes L. Rodger Currie (2006 awardee) of Palm Beach, Alvan C. Hirshberg (1962) of Palm Beach Gardens, and Johnathan P. Burbea (2007) of Brookline, Mass. At age 81, Currie helped to save six people from a burning yacht in Nantucket Sound in 2005 and is only one of seven persons 80 or older to have earned the award in the Hero Fund's 104-year history.

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The Beaux-Arts-style Flagler Museum of Palm Beach, Fla., was site of a gathering of Carnegie Medal awardees and family members. First row, from left: Johnson and Tiffany Joseph; Kimberly Wright, holding Kimelina Joseph; and L. Rodger and Patricia Currie. Second row, from left: Chas, Charles, Fonda, and Coby Carbonell; Kearn Wright; Stephen Finn; Paul and Linda Meeks; Alvan C. Hirshberg; and Eric Meeks.

TO THE HERO FUND

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organizations. If a person's funeral is any indication of what he gave during his lifetime, then my father gave much. Hundreds of people came from near and far to pay their respects and share heartfelt best wishes with his family. In the end, he was a really good guy who loved, and was loved by, many. Twenty years since his death we still miss him tremendously.

Jimmy Masters, Virginia Beach, Va.

(George W. Masters, Jr., then of Roslindale, Mass., was awarded the medal for his actions of Sept. 10, 1951, by which he saved two boys from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Ocean Bluff, Mass. This account of his life was supplied by the family at the Hero Fund's request and is posted on the page of the Commission's website that contains a fuller description of the heroic act. Families of deceased awardees are invited to share similar accounts. Hero Fund contact is Douglas R. Chambers: doug@carnegiehero.org.)

REUNITED

God bless each and every one there at the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. I've personally kissed, shaken hands, hugged, and shared special moments with Leon Walker and John Hamilton, Jr., and their family. (The third youth rescued) is presently incarcerated but will be released this year. I'm planning a trip to his present institution soon.

I must be the happiest person in the entire world and even as I cry big tears of joy I want to once again say "thank you" to those who prayed for this special moment for 34 long years. God blessed me to finally meet face to face with two of the three men saved on Feb. 27, 1974. We are taking pictures and like little children getting to know each other for the first time (smile).

Victor Carl Edwards, Calumet City, Ill.

(At age 17, Edwards pulled three teenagers from a lagoon in a Chicago park after they broke through the ice on it. He also broke through but managed to extract himself to perform the rescue, for which he was awarded the Carnegie Medal.)

GENEROUS LEGACY

I recently had the opportunity to read the September 2007 issue of *imPULSE*...and thought of my friend and client Maryland Waller Wilson Shytles. Enclosed is a copy of her obituary, which accurately chronicles her full and interesting life. It does not, however, quite capture her independent spirit, intellectual curiosity, and compassion for others. Mrs. Shytles was awarded the Carnegie Medal...for rescuing a drowning child from a nearby lake. The Hero Fund, though, did much more for her. Her family lost everything during the Depression, and times were extremely hard for them. Had it not been for a Carnegie scholarship, as Mrs. Shytles told me on numerous occasions, she would not have gone to college. That opportunity led her to a lifelong career of teaching, writing, and editing.

Not only did she live a life of service to others, she left the bulk of her estate to charities, including a local hospice and men's and women's shelters, Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, Southeastern

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HEROES PROFILED

Daniel William Bailey (top photo) of Fort Frances, Ont., and James P. Hood of Alpine, Wyo., are the two latest awardees of the Carnegie Medal to be profiled on the Hero Fund's website, www.carnegiehero.org. The feature is an effort to provide a view of the awardee that is broader than the recounting of the heroic act for which the medal was given.

Any profile of Bailey would have to include a description of the relationship this Ontario Provincial Police officer, 45, has with his work partner, Tyson, a 4-year-old, 80-pound German Shepherd. Bailey was awarded the medal last September for his actions of Aug. 1, 2006, by which he helped to pull two women from their overturned and burning sport utility vehicle in Central Elgin, Ont. He was off duty at the time and visiting family in another part of the province, where the accident took place. One of the women died of her injuries, and the other was severely burned but survived. Bailey too sustained burns in the rescue, to his forearms.

Hood's work partner? An Aerospatiale Lama helicopter that he used on May 27-28, 2005, to effect the rescue of three mountain climbers stranded on Mount Logan in Yukon Territory. Done at an elevation of about 18,000 feet, the rescue was the highest ever performed by helicopter in Canada. Hood, then 47, was working out of Denali National Park in Alaska when he volunteered his services on learning of the situation. The rescue was not without considerable risk to this otherwise experienced pilot: It took place in unfamiliar territory in diminishing daylight and in thin atmosphere, which imposed on the helicopter's performance and required Hood to use supplemental oxygen.



Florida medal presentation

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Burbea was cited for pulling a man from the path of a commuter trolley in Brookline in 2006. See the article below for details of Hirshberg's and Meeks's heroic acts.

The event was undoubtedly bitter-sweet for the attending family members—including parents—of three awardees who died in the performance of their heroic acts. Stephen Finn of Lake Helen, Fla., represented his daughter Raimie, who died at age 12 in 1984 while attempting to save a boy from being struck by a train. The children were in their school bus when it became stranded on a railroad track, and Raimie forfeited her safety to get the boy off the bus as a train approached. Both children died in the accident.

Also present was Claire Slade, mother of Kenneth H. Slade, a 48-year old attorney from Wellesley, Mass., who drowned in the Atlantic Ocean at Palm Beach in 2004 while helping to save his niece. Mrs. Slade, of Boynton Beach, Fla., had attended previous Carnegie Hero lectures at the museum. Awardee Del'Trone D. Gomillia was represented by his mother and her husband, Kimberly and Keark Wright of Punta Gorda, Fla., and by his sister and her husband, Tiffany and Johnson Joseph. At age 21 in 2004, Gomillia drowned in the Atlantic at Wilbur by the Sea, Fla., while attempting to save a man and his son who were taken out from shore by a strong current. Gomillia is survived also by his young daughter.

The Flagler Museum is housed in the 55-room mansion—"Whitehall"—of Gilded Age entrepreneur Henry M. Flagler (1830-1913), a contemporary of Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919). Flagler, a partner of John D. Rockefeller in the formation of Standard Oil, was the developer of the Florida East Coast Railway, which, stretching to Key West, is largely responsible for establishing the state's tourism. ☒



Charles T. Carbonell, Sr., center, of Tampa, Fla., received his Carnegie Medal from Commission President Mark Laskow and Vice President Priscilla J. McCrady.



Two Florida men cited for heroism following aircraft crashes met at the Hero Fund's lecture in Palm Beach in March. Following the crash of a twin-engine airplane near his home in Port Orange in 2006, Paul D. Meeks (left), a retired service technician, responded from his garage to find the pilot unconscious and strapped to his seat in the burning wreckage. Seeing him move, Meeks reached inside in an attempt to free his safety belt and then withdrew for a knife. With flames by then having spread to the pilot's clothing, Meeks reached in again, cut him free, and dragged him to safety. The pilot was hospitalized but died a few hours later.

Seeing Meeks receive his Carnegie Medal was another air-crash hero, Alvan C. Hirshberg (right) of Palm Beach Gardens. In 1960, Hirshberg, then 34 and of Haverhill, Mass., a company president, survived the crash of an airliner at LaGuardia Airport. He and the 73 other passengers escaped the overturned and burning plane, but its four-man crew was trapped in the cockpit. After running from the plane, Hirshberg returned to it and tried to break a cockpit window. Working furiously, finally using a quarter from his pocket as a prying tool, he dislodged the window and pulled the first officer out. The two men then pulled out the three remaining crewmembers.

2006 Carnegie Hero receives Medal of Honor Society award

Carnegie Medal awardee **Jencie Regina Fagan** of Reno, Nev., was named one of the three 2008 recipients of the "Above & Beyond Citizen Honor," an award given annually in Washington, D.C., by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. She was one of 51 nominees for this year's award, representing each state and the District of Columbia. A teacher, Fagan was selected for her heroic actions of March 14, 2006, by which she stopped an armed assault at her school.

Three other Carnegie Medal awardees were also among the nominees: **Marc J. Ellison** of American Fork, Utah, who helped to save a child from falling from a steep canyon wall in 2006; **David S. Parks** of Weston, W.Va., who helped to save a couple from their burning house in 2005; and **Donald R. Gollwitzer** of Grafton, Wis., who saved a boy from a burning van in 2005.



Carnegie Medal awardee Jencie Regina Fagan received a Congressional Medal of Honor Society award from Gen. Colin Powell, former Secretary of State.

The award was presented by Gen. Colin Powell, former Secretary of State, at a ceremony on March 25 at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. In attendance at the ceremony, which was hosted by Bryan Williams of NBC News, were more than 30 of the 105 living recipients of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor in combat. The Medal of Honor has gone to 3,465 since its inception by Abraham Lincoln in 1861. Fagan was notified of the civilian award two weeks prior to the event. "I was in awe," she said.

Fagan's heroism took place early on a school day when a 14-year-old boy entered Pine Middle School, Reno, where Fagan is a gym teacher, and fired shots, injuring two classmates. Her instincts took over as she approached the boy and convinced him to put the gun down. Fagan then detained the boy until police arrived. "There was no other choice but to do what I did," she said.

Along with the Carnegie Medal and the Above & Beyond Citizen Honor, Fagan was named the Red Cross Hero of the Year for Northern Nevada and had her picture on a Wheaties cereal box.

The two other awardees of the 2008 Above & Beyond honor are Don Schoendorfer of Orange County, Calif., who is an advocate for the disabled and the disadvantaged, and Matthew Miller of Fridley, Minn., who rescued survivors of a bridge collapse in Minneapolis last summer.

The Above & Beyond award is given to U.S. civilians who demonstrate "service over self" by having made a difference in the lives of others through extraordinary heroism or extensive commitment. More information is available on www.aboveandbeyond365.com or through the Congressional Medal of Honor Society at 843-884-8862. ☒

— Melissa A. Spangler Case Investigator

TO THE HERO FUND

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Firefighters Burn Fund, Salvation Army and Ronald McDonald House. Many people, including myself, were touched by Mrs. Shytles, and many more will share in the generous legacy of this hero.

Lesley R. Moore, Greenville, S.C.

HE DID THE RIGHT THING

Thank you for honoring my grandfather so many years ago. The Commission set off many wonderful achievements in my family that are too numerous to list. My grandfather became a great engineer and continued learning and achieving many things, thirsting for knowledge all his life—Carnegie assisting with his education all those years planted that seed. All of us are deeply proud of him and learned from him and have always attempted to do the right thing, just as he did. My brother follows in his footsteps and is always at the ready for anyone in need, and he is the honored holder of our precious grandfather's silver Carnegie Medal. My grandfather was and remains a great source of family pride and forever remains a man of honor, and the Hero Fund is part of our family heritage and pride also. Thank you for your good works, for it plants seeds "to do the right thing" in ways that can never be imagined or counted.

Cathy S. Wilson, Jacksonville, Fla.

(Grandfather Fleming C. Bower, then of Lewisburg, Pa., received a silver Carnegie Medal and subsequent scholarship assistance for saving a boy from drowning after the boy skated into a hole in the ice on the Susquehanna River at Milton, Pa., on Jan. 21, 1909. Bower read a set of encyclopedias in retirement and died at age 91 in 1972.)

BENEFITS BEYOND EXPECTATION

My 96-year-old mother's father, William M. Orr, was a Carnegie Medal winner in 1913 for saving a young boy from drowning in Glade Spring, Va. Grandfather used the thousand-dollar award grant to buy land on which he established the Orr home place. Without the award, I very much doubt that he and my grandmother would have ever amassed a sufficient amount to do so.

Their home was a working farm that sustained his widow and 11 children after his death, to appendicitis, at age 42. It fed and sheltered his family through the Great Depression, two world wars, and all the other hardships a large, fatherless family of that era had to endure. Each summer of our "city mouse" childhood, my siblings and I joined our cousins at grandmother's for three months of "country mouse" shenanigans—the memories of which still delight me. The farm was his daughter's home until her recent death, after which it was sold outside the family.

Based on the foregoing, I would observe that the award of the medal in this instance surely surpassed Mr. Carnegie's intent and expectations. As I have utilized Carnegie-funded libraries throughout the United States, it seems that Carnegie foundations have played an important role in my own life.

Sandra Horton, Dallas, Texas



LATEST AWARDEES
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 22 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,173 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 10, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON JULY 2.

Kenneth D. Gurnon, 48, of Newport News, Va., died July 17, 2006, attempting to save Corey A. Tewalt, 11, from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Narragansett, R.I. Corey was walking on large rocks along the shore when she slipped, fell into the water, and was pulled out. A member of her party, Gurnon, a transportation security supervisor, immediately entered the water and swam to her. He made it almost to shore with her before they were separated and pulled back out. Arriving rescue personnel returned them to shore. Corey survived, but Gurnon drowned.

School principal and district administrator **John A. Klang**, 49, of Cazenovia, Wis., died after saving school personnel and students from assault on Sept. 29, 2006. A 15-year-old boy armed with a loaded shotgun and handgun entered the school in Cazenovia and pointed the handgun at two teachers. When Klang confronted and struggled with him in a hallway, the boy fired repeatedly. Although he was struck and mortally wounded, Klang disarmed the boy, casting the gun away, and detained him. Klang died several hours later of his gunshot wounds.

Neil Maycock, 40, a company president from Centerport, N.Y., saved Michael C. Johnston from drowning in Centerport Harbor, off Long Island Sound, on Feb. 25 of last year. While walking on ice atop the harbor, Johnston, 23, broke through and was unable to free himself. Walking with two dogs on shore, Maycock entered the harbor in open water that was clogged with sheets of ice. Pushing the ice from his path, he swam to Johnston. Joined by one of the dogs, Maycock swam Johnston toward shore, again pushing sheets of ice away. Both left the water safely. (See photo.)

Ex-Marine **Jonathan H. Johnson**, 34, a sales manager from Colorado Springs, Colo., rescued Michael A. Strauch from a knife-wielding assailant in Colorado Springs on Jan. 1, 2007. While walking along a street late at night, Strauch, 25, was stabbed in the back and chest by the assailant. Johnson witnessed the attack and approached. He struggled against the assailant, who threw him into a wall of a building, causing him to hit his head hard. Recovering, Johnson disarmed the assailant and held him for police. Strauch and Johnson required hospitalization for their wounds.

Los Angeles Police Officers **Mark Mireles**, 38, of Burbank, Calif., and **Edwin Marron**, 25, of Reseda,

Calif., helped to keep a 52-year-old woman from falling from a sixth-floor balcony in Encino, Calif., on Jan. 5, 2006. In a suicide attempt, the woman threatened to drop from the balcony to a paved parking lot. Responding, Mireles and Marron entered the balcony and saw the woman lying along its open edge. Although she greatly outweighed him, Mireles lay atop the woman, who then took her and Mireles's upper bodies over the edge. Going to the floor, Marron grasped Mireles by a leg and attempted to pull him back. A firefighter then entered the balcony, grasped Mireles by the belt, and pulled him and the woman away from the edge.

Theodore Lidgett, 59, a retail associate from Redding, Calif., rescued his coworker Judith R. L. Schmidt, 19, from a knife assault on Feb. 16, 2007. At night, Schmidt had just entered her vehicle in a store parking lot in Redding when a masked man approached and held a knife to her throat. Seeing the assault occur, Lidgett reached inside the car and pulled on Schmidt with one hand, freeing her, while pushing the assailant's knife hand away with the other. When the assailant followed Schmidt from the car, Lidgett slammed the door against him repeatedly.

Katie M. Corrado, **Gachino Galante**, and **Michael H. Schreiber** teamed up to help to save Gregory A. Steirer from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Beach Haven, N.J., on May 28, 2006. While swimming, Steirer, 26, called for help when caught by a strong current in the very cold water. Hearing him from the beach, Corrado, 23, a marketing assistant from Lansdale, Pa., and her friend, Galante, also 23, a college student from Rydal, Pa., immediately swam out to him, but they too became caught by the current. Schreiber, a 50-year-old attorney

from Linwood, N.J., swam out to them with two short surfboards. Steirer and Galante each lay atop the boards, which Schreiber started to tow in as Corrado swam to a nearby jetty, where she was aided from the water. Galante gave up his board to Schreiber, allowing Schreiber the use of both hands to paddle as they continued in. Emergency responders returned them to the safety of shore.

Systems engineer **Jean Patrick Policape**, 44, of Skokie, Ill., rescued his neighbor Joy V. Kora, 54, from his burning house on Dec. 26, 2006. Kora lay unconscious on his living room floor after fire broke out in a bedroom and filled the structure with dense smoke. Policape responded to the house, where he entered through the front door and, below the smoke, saw Kora. Despite nearby flames that issued outside the structure to a point above it, Policape crawled to Kora, grasped him by a leg and his torso, and dragged him to the front door. Kora was severely burned but survived.

Norman Jeffery Ringseth, 44, died attempting to rescue his neighbors Edwin A. and Iris M. Pike from their burning mobile home in Reno, Nev., on Aug. 11 last year. At night, Pike, 71, and his wife, 72, were at home after fire broke out there. Ringseth, a disabled sales clerk who lived across the street, saw the flames and responded to the scene although he was recovering from a broken leg. He was last seen running to the side of the structure as flames spread quickly, abetted by high wind. Firefighters found Ringseth's body in the Pikes' master bedroom, along with those of Pike and his wife. All had died of asphyxiation.

Automobile mechanic **Shawn M. McLean**, 37, of Newark Valley, N.Y., saved Deanna R. Hanyon, 17, from her burning car after a highway accident in Maine, N.Y., on Dec. 20, 2006. Restrained by her safety belt, Deanna was suspended upside down in the driver's seat of the car, which was overturned in a ditch and aflame. McLean stopped at the scene, broke out a window on the passenger side, and crawled into the vehicle. He maneuvered to a point below Deanna, unfastened her safety belt, and then pulled her with him as he moved back to the window and out of the car.

Timothy Michael Barry, 54, an assistant cameraman from Ventura, Calif., died while helping to save his grandniece Priscilla L. Yothers, 4, from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Ventura on Dec. 26, 2006. Priscilla was carried into rough surf by the backwash of a wave. Responding from a nearby house just off the beach, Barry ran onto a rock jetty at the scene and then, fully attired, entered the water, swam to Priscilla, and supported her. Another man swam out to them and returned Priscilla to safety. Arriving rescue personnel recovered Barry but could not revive him.

Cristina Carrera Chavez, 21, a caretaker from Thousand Palms, Calif., and **Katherine M. Dumas**, 44, of Cathedral City, Calif., saved Jack Brownstone, 87, from drowning in the lake of a condominium complex in Rancho Mirage, Calif., on May 4 last year. Brownstone remained in his car after it entered the lake and began

(continued on page 9)



Awardee Neil Maycock of Centerport, N.Y., saved a man from drowning in the icy waters of a harbor with the aid of his Golden Retriever, Alfie. At the age of 3, Maycock himself was saved from drowning by a man...and his dog, a Labrador Retriever. Photo, by Steve Silverman, courtesy of Newsday.

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 8)

to submerge. After witnessing the accident, Chavez waded into the water and, although she could not swim, paddled out to the car. She pulled Brownstone through the window of the driver's door, but they then struggled, submerging. Meanwhile, Dumas, director of security at the complex, arrived and, although not fully recovered from recent surgery, swam out. She grasped Brownstone and with Chavez returned him to wadable water. All left the lake safely.

Jon R. Sallee of Nicholasville, Ky., helped to save James M. Polehinke, 44, from the cockpit of a regional jet that crashed and burned after takeoff in Lexington, Ky., on Aug. 27, 2006. Severely injured, Polehinke, the jet's co-pilot, remained restrained to his seat. Sallee, 26, an airport public safety officer, approached the wreckage and saw a man inside attempting to free Polehinke. Sallee also entered the cockpit, through a gap at the nose of the jet. He and the other man freed Polehinke, but with difficulty, flames just feet away. They pulled him from the cockpit to safety. The 49 other passengers and crewmembers of the jet died in the accident.

Ross P. Moore, 40, of Dwight, Ont., saved a man from drowning in the Oxtongue River at Dwight on March 15 last year. While attempting to cross the ice on the river with his snowmobile, a 23-year-old man broke through thin ice at a point about midway across. The vehicle sank in water seven feet deep. Moore responded from his nearby home and walked across the ice to the man. He then removed his sweatshirt, extended one of its sleeves to the man, and pulled him atop the ice, which was cracking beneath them. They walked safely to the bank.

Wesley James Autrey, Sr., a 50-year-old construction worker from New York City, saved Cameron P. Hollopeter, 20, from being struck by a subway train in that city on Jan. 2 last year. Hollopeter, 20, fell from the platform and lay on the track on which a train was approaching. Autrey jumped to the track and tried to move him back to the platform. The train bore down on them as Autrey then positioned Hollopeter between the rails and lay atop him. The front of the train passed over them before the train stopped. Uninjured by the train, the men were removed after power to the track was shut down.

Truck driver **Columbus Cook**, 49, of Jacksonville, Texas, saved Darrion D. High, 38, from his grandmother's burning house in Jacksonville on April 13 last year. High was in a bedroom of the one-story house after fire broke out in a room across the hall and filled the structure with dense smoke. Cook responded from a residence nearby and twice entered the burning house, but heavy smoke forced him out. He entered a third time, found High, and picked him up and carried him to safety.

Steelworker **Michael J. Carney** died Aug. 24, 2004, saving John L. Ressani from being struck by a falling temper mill roll in the Vandergrift, Pa., plant where the men were coworkers. Changing the two stacked rolls of the mill with another man, Ressani, 48, and Carney, 50, of Freeport, Pa., were rigging the top roll to an overhead crane for repositioning. The crane began to move unexpectedly, taking the 14-ton roll toward Ressani by its secured end. Carney shouted a warning and then approached and pushed him hard from the roll's path. Before Carney could reach safety, the unsecured end of the roll dropped, pinning him to the floor and killing him.

Conrad Fourney, 48, of Boise, Idaho, saved Sarah R. Cox from drowning after a kayaking accident on the Payette River in Banks, Idaho, on Nov. 26, 2006. Cox, 57, was navigating rapids in the river when the bow of her kayak became pinned by rocks, trapping her in the rushing water. Others, including her husband and members of a responding rescue squad, made repeated attempts to reach her. An expert kayaker, Fourney, who was a flooring contractor by trade, was alerted. Responding, he borrowed a kayak and backed to the rock at which Cox was stranded. He then leapt to the rock and pulled Cox free. A rescue boat took them to safety.

(See photo.)



Carnegie Medal awardee Conrad Fourney of Boise, Idaho, was an expert kayaker who gave of his time and skill to save another kayaker from drowning. Sadly, Fourney himself died in a kayaking accident nine months later. He is survived by his son, Noah J. Bader-Fourney, shown here, who witnessed his father's heroic act. Fourney kayaked in Costa Rica, Chile, and Zambia before owning a rafting company in Idaho, and he passed on his love of the outdoors to Noah, 10. Photo submitted by the family.

Bear And Man Grapple In Battle For Life; Axe Dispatches Beast



'28 ATTACK BY PET BEAR SPURRED HEROIC RESCUE

Eighty years ago last month, Archie G. Lennon, 24, and Earl W. Norman, 19, were part of a crew working in a remote, forested area west of Olympia, Wash. They shared a cabin near the work site, and after midnight on May 21, 1928, a 400-pound male bear, kept as a pet by a couple living nearby, entered the cabin and began to attack Norman in his cot as he slept.

Lennon awoke but, seeing only a "dark form," did not immediately know what was attacking Norman. He struck the bear with a pair of boots but to no effect, and, likewise, a butcher knife he used against the bear also proved to be useless. After leaving the cabin for a weapon and returning with an ax, Lennon struck the bear repeatedly. The bear turned on Lennon briefly before succumbing to the ax blows. Norman was seriously injured but recovered after hospitalization. The photograph above was taken the day after the attack and shows Lennon with the body of the bear and the ax.

For his actions, Lennon was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1930 and a grant of \$1,000 with which he started an electrical business. Lennon died in 1986, and earlier this year, the Hero Fund provided his grandson, Robert Lennon of Cottontown, Tenn., a bronze grave marker in the likeness of the medal. The insignias (see photo, page 11) are available at no cost to families of deceased Carnegie Medals awardees.



FRIENDS REMEMBERED

CEO OF PENGUINS

(continued from cover)

Conn., where Sawyer began working in the NHL's New York offices. In 1993, he launched his own consulting firm specializing in the sports industry.

The opportunity to be part of a franchise turnaround brought Sawyer to Pittsburgh, where he joined Mario Lemieux and his new ownership group. The Penguins had just emerged from bankruptcy and had the chance to bring stability and a long-term future to the storied but troubled franchise.

During Sawyer's tenure with the team, it survived a year-long work stoppage, resulting in a new partnership with the players that includes long-sought features such as a salary cap and revenue sharing. The team emerged with a roster that is considered to have the best young players in the league. Its games are consistently sold out.

Sawyer led efforts to secure financing for a new arena, construction of which is underway, with the facility to open in 2010. The future of the Penguins as a healthy member of the NHL and international ambassador for the Pittsburgh region is now assured.

HEADQUARTERS OPENING

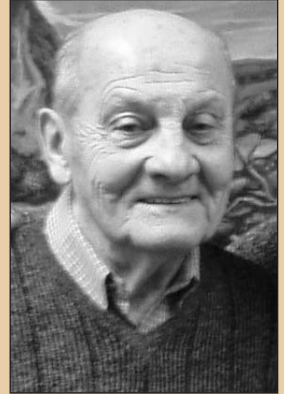
(continued from page 4)

seemed to be overjoyed by seeing the children and spoke to each one. Chief Executive Nora Rundell of the Carnegie Dunfermline and Hero Fund trusts did a wonderful job organizing the day's festivities, which for us included a tour of the Dunfermline City Council building by the Councilor of Dunfermline District Council, Joe Rosiejak. Joe also gave us a quick tour of Pittencrieff House, the childhood home of General John Forbes, founder of Pittsburgh.



The newly constructed building is a vessel-shaped structure that was designed to fit into its park-like setting, and it features sustainable design elements, such as carbon-neutral heating. "I think Carnegie would approve of the new building," was the assessment of William Thomson, Carnegie's great-grandson. The photos of the building and the Princess were taken by Jessie Spittal, former trustee of the Hero Fund and Dunfermline trusts.

John W. Blazek, Jr., 91, of Masontown, Pa., died April 6. Blazek was awarded the medal in 1957 for his actions of a year earlier by which he saved a fellow coal miner who was pinned after a roof fall in a mine at Carmichaels, Pa. Blazek crawled under tons of unstable debris to rescue the man, Percy A. Hooper, who yet survives. As testament to his humility and selflessness, his obituary reads, Blazek did not even mention the rescue to his family on the day it occurred. An account of the rescue in its 50th anniversary year was featured in the December 2006 issue of imPULSE. "I'd go tomorrow if they'd let me," Blazek said at the time, about returning to work in the mines.



John W. Blazek, Jr.

John F. Erjavec, 90, of Euclid, Ohio, died March 30. Erjavec was a security guard in 1981 when at age 63 he attempted to save a coworker from being struck by a car. The men were working in a church parking lot in Euclid when the stolen car, which was being pursued by police, entered the lot at high speed. Erjavec pulled his coworker partially from the path of the car, but the car struck the coworker and pinned him against another vehicle, causing injury that led to a leg amputation. Erjavec recovered from minor injuries and received the Carnegie Medal the following year.



Carolyn M. Kelly

Carolyn M. Kelly, 86, of Shreveport, La., died Feb. 17. Kelly was awarded the medal at age 81 in 2003 for helping to save a woman from drowning in a pond, after the car in which the woman was a passenger began to sink about 50 feet from the bank. Kelly, a retired medical technologist, responded from her nearby home, swam out to the woman, and supported her at the car until an arriving firefighter took her to safety. At the time of her act, Kelly was the oldest woman ever to earn the medal, and she remains only one of seven who became Carnegie Heroes after the age of 80. She and her daughter Caroline K. Tait were guests of the Hero Fund at its centennial banquet in 2004, and a profile of her is featured on the Commission's website (www.carnegiehero.org), which also includes her obituary.

THE HEIGHTS OF DELIGHT



For the past four years, Dr. Frances L. Boyd, left, an assistant professor of education at St. Francis College in Loretto, Pa., has brought teachers and teachers in training to the campus from surrounding schools and universities to participate in a daylong program designed to inspire and foster a love of reading among children. This year's event, titled "The Heights of Delight," was held in April, and the Hero Fund was asked to provide one of its awardees to relate the account of his rescue. Craig Allen Cross, right, of Cumberland, Md., who was awarded the Carnegie Medal for his 2002 rescue of an elderly man from his burning home, agreed to participate.

Cross, who recently earned a master's degree in education at Frostburg, Md., State University, with tuition aid from the Commission, not only related his harrowing act to a rapt audience, but he then spent several minutes discussing his philosophy of teaching. Many of the teachers in training thanked him for his inspiring words, and Dr. Boyd, who was equally impressed, immediately booked him to participate in another project at the college. Cross assisted the Hero Fund in a similar program in March of 2006, when he spoke to an assembly of more than 800 students of Indiana, Pa., Junior High School. Details of that appearance are in issue No. 6 of imPULSE (March 2006).

THE QUOTABLE



Nature has not provided a means by which any man can use riches for selfish purposes without suffering therefrom. There is only one source of true blessedness in wealth, and that comes from giving it away for ends that tend to elevate our brothers and enable them to share it with us.

— Andrew Carnegie, 1879, "Round the World," p. 356

CONTINUUM



GRAVE MARKERS Bronze grave markers (above), cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal, are available at no cost to the families of deceased awardees. They are designed for mounting on stone or bronze memorials. Contact Susan Marcy (susan@carnegiehero.org) or write her at the address given below.

MEDAL REFINISHING The Hero Fund will refinish Carnegie Medals at no cost to the owner. The medals are to be sent to the Hero Fund's office by insured, registered mail. Allow a month for the process. The contact is Myrna Braun (myrna@carnegiehero.org).

OBITUARIES Written accounts of the awardee's life, such as contained in an obituary, are sought for addition to the awardee's page on the Commission's website. Contact Doug Chambers (doug@carnegiehero.org).

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund's 2007 annual report are available, as are those of the centennial report of 2004, which lists the names of all awardees from 1904 through 2004. Contact Gloria Barber (gloria@carnegiehero.org).

"A CENTURY OF HEROES" The centennial book describing the first 100 years of the Hero Fund is available through the Commission's website (www.carnegiehero.org).

COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL A silver medal struck in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal to commemorate the 2004 centennial of the Hero Fund is available for purchase through the Commission's website.

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WELL "ABOVE AND BEYOND"



Two public safety officers from the Lexington, Ky., area were cited by the Hero Fund for going well above and beyond the call of their respective duties following the crash of a regional jet in Lexington on August 27, 2006. The jet, carrying 50 passengers and crew, crashed on taking off from Blue Grass Airport and burned in an adjacent field. On duty nearby, Bryan Thomas Jared (second from right), 30, an officer with the Lexington Division of Police, was the first to arrive at the scene. Despite intense flames consuming the wreckage, Jared crawled through a hole in the jet's nose to find the co-pilot, unconscious and severely injured, still in his seat. While Jared struggled to free him, Jon R. Sallee (left), 28, an officer with the airport's department of public safety, arrived at the scene and joined Jared in the cockpit. With great difficulty, they freed the co-pilot and dragged him from the wreckage. The other 49 persons aboard the craft were killed. Jared and Sallee each received the Carnegie Medal for their rescue, at a meeting of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Council in late April. The medals were presented by Walter F. Rutkowski (right), the Hero Fund's executive director, and Chief Ronnie Bastin (second from left) of the Lexington Division of Police. Sallee is now a deputy with the Jessamine County, Ky., Sheriff's Department.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

WELL DONE

People may think “adult” when they hear the word “hero,” but, as the Hero Fund has shown over the course of its 104 years, heroism is not a monopoly of any age group.

Twelve-year-old Henry T. Mathews exemplified that on March 26, 1912, in Dothan, Ala. At 10 o’clock that morning, 2-year-old Benjamin J. Grant, Jr.—“Little Ben”—was playing beneath a back porch when he fell into an abandoned water well. At least 25 feet deep, the well was only 13 inches in diameter. Ben, uninjured, began to cry.

Because of the narrowness of the well, none of the adults who gathered at the scene dared attempt to enter it. Each young boy who was asked to go into the well, including “the most daring boy in town” according to the Hero Fund agent’s 1915 report, also refused. Three blocks away, Henry learned of the incident, and, when asked if he would attempt to rescue the boy, he agreed.

At the scene, many of the men could not hide their desperation and many of the women were crying openly, joining Ben’s continued crying. Henry, however, showed neither emotion nor hesitation when some men tied a rope around him and then lowered him head first into the well. Ben had been trapped for more than an hour.

Despite an electric light that had been lowered into the well, conditions were not hospitable: The walls were slimy; the air, foul; and the bottom appeared to be mud. Henry reached down and grasped Ben’s hands and yelled to the men to pull them up. Before they had been pulled half way, however, Henry lost his grip on Ben’s slimy hands, and the boy fell back to the bottom. The electric light had broken, and he was immersed in darkness.

Scrambling to locate another length of rope, the men formed a loop and gave it to Henry to wrap around Ben. Lowered a second time, Henry struggled in the darkness

to arrange the rope around Ben, whose straw hat had a brim that was almost as wide as the well. Henry pulled the hat off and yelled to be lifted. After tossing the straw hat aside, Henry told the men to lower him a third time. They did so. Henry put the rope around Ben and again yelled to be lifted. The two boys were removed safely from the well.

Henry was recognized immediately as a hero by the residents of Dothan, and three years later the Commission awarded him a bronze medal and an offer of \$2,000 for educational purposes. After service in the Alabama National Guard, he attended the Georgia-Alabama Business College and eventually obtained a degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law, Atlanta. He practiced law until his death in 1969.

“Little Ben,” who grew up to be managing editor of U.S. News & World Report, never forgot his rescuer. According to Henry’s daughter, Joyce M. Pattillo of Harrisonburg, Va., Ben and his family sent him a Christmas card every year.

—Marlin Ross, *Case Investigator*



Henry T. Mathews (left), with Benjamin J. Grant, Jr., in a photograph that appeared in the Montgomery Advertiser after Henry was awarded the Carnegie Medal

imPULSE is a periodic newsletter of the CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION, a private operating foundation established in 1904 by Andrew Carnegie. • The Hero Fund awards the CARNEGIE MEDAL to those throughout the United States and Canada who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. • The Commission also provides financial assistance, which may include scholarship aid and continuing grants, to the heroes and to the dependents of those awardees who are disabled or die as the result of their heroic acts.

Further information is available on-line or by contacting the Commission.

Any ideas? *imPULSE* welcomes your submissions for publication, and your ideas for consideration. Be in touch!

Address change? Please keep us posted!

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