



imPULSE

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CARNEGIE HERO REUNITED WITH LOST PURPLE HEART

Carnegie Medal awardee and long-time friend of the Hero Fund **George D. Hemphill**, 90, leads a quiet and unassuming life on his 500-acre family farm in Union Mills, N.C., about an hour west of Charlotte, but events conspired earlier this year to thrust him and his accomplishments into the spotlight.



Hemphill was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during World War II while serving with the U.S. Army in France in 1944, but the medal was lost in transit. It resurfaced at an antique store in 2000, and efforts to find its rightful owner culminated

in January when Hemphill was reunited with the medal at a patriotic ceremony. The medal's recovery and re-presentation were written up by The Associated Press in an account that received widespread distribution. The article is reprinted on page 2 of this issue of *imPULSE*.


After the war, Hemphill went on to become a civilian hero. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1955 to recognize his actions of July 22, 1954, when he and a co-rescuer, **W. Hugh Simpson**, both rural mail carriers, attempted to save the driver of a gasoline tanker that had been struck by a train in Union Mills. The truck's cargo of 5,200 gallons of gasoline burst into flames during the rescue attempt, seriously burning both men. Simpson was also awarded the medal.



Fire rescue rekindles career hopes

Tray Hughes Ross, 21, of Gainesville, Ga., had long wanted to be a professional firefighter. He started training for the job in 2009, but marriage and a baby caused him to put his plans on hold. Then came the night of Nov. 21, 2011. As Ross was at work as a line supervisor for a chicken processing plant in Gainesville, he was alerted to a fire that broke out in a house across the street. Believing that the house was occupied, he responded to the scene, where he heard yelling from inside. With no visibility in the smoke and darkness, Ross entered the house and found an elderly man lying on the floor at its opposite end. Using a fireman's carry, Ross retraced his path to take the man outside to safety. Both of them required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation.

"I am blessed and can only thank God for giving me the strength to help this man from dying," Ross told the Hero Fund, which awarded him the Carnegie Medal in April (see page 6). The rescue rekindled Ross's dreams of becoming a firefighter. He applied to Hall County, Ga., Fire Services within a few months and, after meeting the department's education requirements, he was accepted from among 200 applicants as one of 20 recruits. A 16-week firefighting training program that began in March is to be followed by a 16-week emergency medical technician training course.

Skip Heflin, the department's training officer, said that Hall County "wants people who care about other people." He said they also look for firefighting experience, "because then they know what they're getting into." For Ross, sounds like a good fit. 

Top photo, showing Ross at the scene of his rescue act, is by Tom Reed, and bottom photo is by Shannon Casas, both of The Gainesville Times, which provided the photos as a courtesy.





**VALOR BEYOND DUTY
FOR RESCUES BY PROS**

*By Mark Laskow, President
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission*



The criteria for the Carnegie Medal seem straightforward enough, but in the real world complications arise. Consider the case of police, firefighters, and lifeguards.

"A civilian who voluntarily risks his or her own life, knowingly, to an extraor-

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dinary degree while saving or attempting to save the life of another person is eligible..." is the basic requirement and in most cases is sufficiently clear, even when combined with the caveat that the rescuer be under no duty to rescue. This caveat means that the Commission will not award the medal to a firefighter for a rescue from a burning house or to a policewoman who rescues the victim of an assault. Nothing tricky there. But what happens when the firefighter breaks up an assault or a policeman rushes into a burning building...*while on duty*? For these cases there is another sensible rule: We may award the medal to a professional rescuer for an act "clearly *beyond* the line of duty."

To decide what is within or beyond the line of duty, we look to the rules and practices of the department which employs the rescuer. Police department procedures often require (or encourage) an officer arriving at a fire or other mishap to call in and wait for specialized help from firefighters or rescue squads. These procedures vary across organizations. In a very rural area, for example, a patrol deputy might be expected and even equipped to do some basic rescue work. Specialized help could be a long time coming. Expectations typically are very different in urban areas, where expert and specialized rescuers are closer at hand.

For our purposes, the more clearly department procedures prohibit an officer from intervening in these cases, the more likely the officer is eligible for the medal. This creates an interesting problem. Are we awarding the medal for rule-breaking, or at least rule-bending?

In actual practice, the Commission concentrates on the heroic act and our own criteria, leaving issues of command and discipline to others. The issue is not theoretical, though. I recently spoke with a senior officer of a law enforcement agency who has served on the agency's internal awards committee. She

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Carnegie hero's Purple Heart returned 69 years after it was lost in the mail

*By Martha Waggoner
The Associated Press*

When Army Cpl. George Hemphill returned to North Carolina from fighting in World War II, he tried to put the horrors of life as an infantryman behind him by not talking about what he had seen. That included not asking about the Purple Heart he had received and mailed home for safekeeping.

So imagine his confusion when he learned that a Florida man had purchased his medal in 2000 at an antique store in South Carolina with the hope of one day returning it to its rightful owner. And that a man in Vermont now had his Purple Heart and wanted to return it to him in a ceremony to honor his service.

"I'm just flabbergasted," said Hemphill, 90, of Union Mills. "I don't know what to think. They're just going out of their way to give it back to me. I'm just grateful to them for all the work they're doing. And the expense, it's just something. I don't know how to describe it."



Carnegie Medal awardee George D. Hemphill, right, was reunited with his long-lost Purple Heart after efforts were made to locate him by Capt. Zachariah Fike, Vermont Army National Guard, left. Photo, by Jean Gordon, is courtesy of The Daily Courier, Forest City, N.C. Related story on cover.

Hemphill's Purple Heart was returned in late January at a patriotic ceremony in Rutherfordton, N.C. Capt. Zachariah Fike of Burlington, Vt., who runs the nonprofit Purple Hearts Reunited, presented the award to Hemphill, along with a Bronze Star that Hemphill never knew the military had granted him. Fike has returned 20 of the awards since he started Purple Hearts Reunited in 2009, each time either to the family members of the recipient or to a museum if no family members survived. The Hemphill presentation marked the first time he reunited a Purple Heart with a living recipient.

"Returning these medals brings closure to the families. I absolutely love doing it," said Fike, noting that donations don't

nearly cover his expenses of buying the Purple Hearts and travel to present them. "I've spent quite a bit of money on this project. I would do it 10 times over because it's the right thing to do."

Hemphill received his Purple Heart after being hit by shrapnel Sept. 11, 1944, from enemy sniper fire that blinded him for three weeks. While still in a field hospital, he mailed the medal to his mother and didn't ask about it again. For decades, he thought it was in a box of medals that his mother kept. He later gave the box to his daughter, Donna Robbins, who didn't know what medals he had won because her father wouldn't discuss the war with his only child.

The Purple Heart, however, never got to Hemphill's mother. Its exact whereabouts are unknown until October 2000, when Robert Blum of Pensacola, Fla., paid about \$70 for it in an antique store in Columbia, S.C. He kept it safe for more than a decade when he couldn't find the owner. A friend told him about Fike, who tracked down Hemphill. Blum mailed it to Vermont—insured and registered to make sure history didn't repeat itself.

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Purple Heart returned

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“The best part of this story is that if I had found him right away, I would have just mailed it to him,” said Blum, who attended the ceremony. “It would have been over and done with. By going through Capt. Fike, he’s getting all the awards. Now the man is getting everything he really deserves.”

Hemphill also only began opening up about his time in combat last year with his daughter. Talking about his experience “brings out memories we try to forget,” Hemphill said. “When you’ve seen what I’ve seen ... I’m not the hero. The heroes are still over there — the ones that didn’t come back. They’re the real heroes.”

He didn’t want a ceremony — and when he lost that fight, he didn’t want anyone to know about it, said Robbins, Hemphill’s daughter. “He said people will think he’s putting on airs,” Robbins said. “But I told him the Purple Heart means the world to us. I have a son, and he wants to keep the medals forever.”

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Commission President Mark Laskow at presentation of the Carnegie Medal to Sedgwick County, Kan., Sheriff's Deputies Thomas Joseph Delgado, left, and Joseph C. Page. Photo, by Mike Hutmacher, is courtesy of The Wichita Eagle.

MEDAL PRESERVES MEMORY OF TEXAS TEEN'S HEROIC DEATH

A Carnegie Medal awarded 91 years ago to the parents of a high school student who died saving a friend from drowning remains in the family and is a reminder of the hero's sacrifice: A month shy of his 18th birthday, **Chester O. Cox** drowned on April 16, 1922, while saving a 14-year-old girl during a picnic along the banks of the Leon River near Belton, Texas.

Cox's nephew, Perry L. Cox of Arlington, Texas, said that the afternoon picnic of a group of friends suddenly turned from a pleasant outing to an act of heroism and then to tragedy. On that Sunday afternoon, Edith M. Goepfing attempted to swim across the river from a sandbar where the group was picnicking. She quickly began to struggle in the strong current of the river, which was swollen from heavy rain earlier in the day. Cox, who had warned Edith that the conditions were dangerous, immediately entered the swollen waters and swam to her. He took hold of her around the neck and attempted to swim back to the sandbar, and then he swam with the current as it took them downstream. He had gradually pushed Edith toward the opposite bank, enabling her to catch hold of tree roots there. She held to them until more help arrived, but Cox was swept farther downstream and drowned. His body was recovered from the river a week later.

Chester O. Cox, in photo taken about six weeks before his death

Scheduled to graduate from Belton High School the following month, Cox was popular with his classmates, according to his nephew, and Belton Tiger football fans admired his “clean tactics” and ability on the gridiron. A contemporary news account said that he was “beloved for his sterling traits and noble character.” The medal was presented to his parents, Perry S. and Lillie May Cox. Other survivors were his sister, Vera, and younger brother, Eldon, who was Perry's father. The family descended from pioneer farmers who migrated from Tennessee to frontier grasslands of Texas in the 1850s.

Cox's father owned and operated a barbershop in Belton, and his customers would frequently ask to see “the medal.” It was kept in the shop until Cox's father died in 1937. Next in line to hold the medal was Eldon, who, according to Perry, was “a smaller version of his big brother.” Eldon held the medal until his death in 1960. Perry said the family is hoping to return the medal to a location close to where it was earned, a public museum in Belton. He intends to have the medal refurbished before a decision is made on its final resting place.

Cox is buried in North Belton Cemetery. His nephew said a bronze Carnegie Hero Fund grave marker is proudly displayed on the gravestone.

RESCUE BY DEPUTIES DETAILED ON VIDEO

When members of the Commission consider a rescue act for the awarding of the Carnegie Medal, they rely almost exclusively on the investigator's two- or three-page detailed accounting of the act. The report is supplemented with a sketch of the scene and sometimes a photo if it helps in the understanding of the case.

If a picture is worth the proverbial thousand words, then the photographic documentation of the heroic act by **Thomas Joseph Delgado** and **Joseph C. Page** was worth volumes. Both deputies with the Sedgwick County, Kan., Sheriff's Department, Delgado and Page made real-time videos of the rescue available to the Hero Fund, thanks to a camera mounted on the dashboard of each of their patrol cars. The videos, several minutes in length, covered the entire rescue—and covered it from different vantage points, as the men responded from opposite directions.

The videos begin with tracking each deputy's course to the scene of a pickup truck that had crashed into a guide rail and broke into flames. It is an early morning in late August 2011. Delgado arrives first, exits his car, and approaches the burning truck. He proceeds cautiously as he decides how best to attempt the rescue. He soon acts, reaching through the open window of the driver's door and then retreating. Reaching in again, retreating again: Each time he is forced back by the intense heat. Page then arrives and, after using a fire extinguisher to minimal

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Mr. Spear

HERO RECALLS THOROUGHNESS OF 1938 CASE INVESTIGATION

At 98, Philip J. Spear of Gainesville, Fla., is among the oldest living awardees of the Carnegie Medal. While working on the second volume of his memoirs recently (copies available on request), he revisited his rescue of a man from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at York Harbor, Maine, on Sept. 1, 1938. Spear was awarded the medal in 1940 and, 73 years later, he still doesn't think he deserved it. In fact, he didn't think about his act much until he decided to write about it.

Spear now recalls, "I was walking the beach, probably thinking about my girlfriend, who was due to arrive later that day to have dinner with me. I came across a crowd watching a man who had gotten stranded out on a rock when the tide came in.

"I decided it should be easy," Spear said of a rescue attempt. Despite increasingly stormy conditions, he figured that, "If I found a rope I could swim out there and be pulled back to shore since there were several men standing around who looked capable." After tying a clothesline around his body and giving the other end to the men, Spear ran into the water and swam out to the man. He recalled attempting to tie the line around both of them, but the line became entangled and the men on the shore lost hold of their end. "Not a good omen," Spear said.

"The water continued to rise, became choppier, and covered most of the rock," Spear said. "By then, both of us were clinging to it." Luckily, the

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BOARD NOTES

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said that she herself had considered cases in which the officer could merit both an award for valor and a letter of reprimand for the same act. Happily, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission can concentrate on the valor, recognizing police who rescue victims from burning buildings, firefighters who intervene in assaults, and perhaps even a lifeguard on vacation in a distant state who makes a surf rescue as a pure volunteer. Bless them all.

6th President was heroic fighter pilot who then honored peacetime heroes

By Mary Brignano
Special to the Carnegie Hero Find Commission

"They were proud of what they accomplished," writes Tom Brokaw in *The Greatest Generation* about the Americans who served in World War II, "but they rarely discussed their experiences, even with each other." When they came home from the war, "they became once again ordinary people, the kind of men and women who have always been the foundation of the American way of life."

6 SIXTH
IN A
SERIES

Brokaw could well have been describing **Robert W. Off** (1919–2010), the quiet banker who led the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for longer than anyone since Thomas Arbuthnot, the Commission's third president, who served from 1932 to 1956. Born two months after the life of Andrew Carnegie ended, Off led the Fund into the 21st century in ways Carnegie would heartily have approved. He oversaw a 237 percent increase in the Commission's portfolio and the institution of asset allocation and spending limitation policies. He upgraded staff salaries and benefits and modernized operations, computerizing office procedures and records and reducing operating costs by streamlining case investigation procedures. He broadened public relations. Moreover, during Off's tenure the board gained 11 new members of decided expertise, enthusiasm, and commitment, including its first women.



Mr. Off

His daughter Augusta Moravec described Off as "a peach of a guy." He was born in Winnetka, Ill., to businessman and investor Clifford Off and Helen Willock Off. His mother was a Pittsburgher, the daughter of Samuel M. Willock, founder of the Waverly Oil Works Company. Off attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass.,

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Off was a respected amateur photographer whose subjects included his wife, Polly, shown here on a train "somewhere in Georgia," June 1946. Photo taken with a 35-millimeter Leica camera using Kodachrome film and natural light. Photo courtesy of the family.

Heroic fighter pilot

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and was graduated from The Hun School of Princeton in 1938 and the University of Virginia in 1942, with a degree in geology.

Immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force and served first as a flight instructor. He then reported to southern Italy to join the new 15th Air Force, created in 1943 to carry out strategic daytime bombing of precise targets in Germany and occupied Europe—exactly the kind of precision bombing that Stewart McClintic's intelligence work in London was helping to plan and assign. McClintic was Off's predecessor as Commission president, serving from 1968 to 1978.

Strategic bombing was designed to shorten the war by reducing the Nazis' ability to make weapons and wage war. Off, as a pilot of B-24 Liberators, found himself in the thick of combat. The 15th Air Force fought four principal campaigns: against enemy oil, air force, communications, and ground forces. Altogether, the combat personnel of the 15th made 148,955 heavy bomber sorties and 87,732 fighter sorties against the enemy and dropped 303,842 tons of bombs on enemy targets in 12 countries of Europe, including military installations, oil refineries, and Messerschmitt fighter plane production facilities.



A roadside marker commemorating the establishment of the Hero Fund was provided by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission during Bob Off's tenure as president.

lost to ground fire. His awards also included three Air Medals and two Presidential Citations, for the destruction of oil refineries in Budapest and of the Messerschmitt Aircraft Plant 27 miles south of Vienna, Austria. Of one such mission a gunner said, "The enemy fighters were very aggressive, coming in from every angle and trying to keep us away from the plant. I saw factories going up in clouds of smoke, dust, and flames. It was destruction on a huge scale." In addition, Off earned four battle star campaign ribbons for the D-Day invasion, the Battle of the Po Valley, and the defeat of the Luftwaffe.

And then the fighting was over, and Capt. Off, along with 12 million of his fellow Americans, took off his uniform and "became once again ordinary people." In 1946 he went to work at Mellon Bank as a loan officer and remained at Mellon for 33 years, retiring as a senior vice president in charge of commercial lending.

In 1946 he also married Mary Augusta "Polly" Bickel. The Offs lived in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh and had three children, Robert, Augusta, and Helen. They looked forward to summer visits to Beaumaris, Ont., and had a summer home at Hyannis Port, Mass., where Off enjoyed quiet sails with family. A modest and private person, he became even more devoted to his family when Polly contracted polio in the early 1950s and was in a wheelchair for the rest of her life. He cared for her until her death in 1990.

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OVERHEARD

If I hear the word "hero" again, Mark's face will always come to mind as a benchmark for the one they are giving this title to.—A witness to the actions of **Mark Kevin Breen, Jr.**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9578, who saved a girl from drowning.

I said, "I'm ready, Lord. If it's my time tonight, so be it."—**Michael F. Schiotis**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9581, who intervened in an assault.

You know what you're supposed to do, but...everything goes out the window when there's human life involved.—**Michael A. Pellegrino**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9588, who helped to save two occupants of a van after it knocked down a utility pole and caught fire amid downed power lines.

Most people probably have a hero in them. They just never encounter a situation where they're called to duty.—**Kevin Pratt**, Carnegie Medal nominee #84758, who saved a man from drowning.

Christopher DeFelice has some serious Popeye arms.—Dana DiFilippo of the *Philadelphia Daily News*, describing Carnegie Medal awardee #9592, who saved a man from drowning.

He was a hero to me, my brother and mom our whole lives. Yesterday he got to be someone else's hero.—**Julie Hall**, speaking of her father, **Alan B. Hall**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9595, who died saving a young girl from drowning.

RESCUE BY DEPUTIES

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effect, hands a knife to Delgado. Delgado cuts the victim's safety belt, but a sudden "pop" and a rush of flames force the rescuers away. They soon return and with difficulty pull the victim through the open window. Burning gasoline is flowing from the vehicle.

Both rescuers were taken to a hospital and treated for smoke inhalation. The victim suffered the same fate and was hospitalized for three days...but he survived.

Delgado and Page were selected as recipients of the Carnegie Medal in December, and in March they were personally given the medals during a ceremony at the sheriff's department in Wichita by Commission President Mark Laskow and Douglas R. Chambers, the Hero Fund's director of external affairs. Robert Hinshaw, who was the sheriff at the time of the rescue, had earlier told the Commission that the video "clearly demonstrates the dangers, yet these two law enforcement officers, (who are) not firefighters, would not give up."



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 9,598 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 18, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON JUNE 25.

Loren Earl Hazen, 21, a college student from Kalkaska, Mich., died helping to save Andrew J. Killingsworth from drowning in Torch Lake at Rapid City, Mich., on July 17, 2011. While wading atop the lake's sandbar, Hazen and Killingsworth, 18, intended to swim across a 10-foot deep depression at a point about 450 feet from the closer bank. Hazen crossed the depression without difficulty, but Killingsworth began to struggle in the deeper water, and he called for help. After attempts to save him by two other friends, Hazen re-entered the deeper water and swam to Killingsworth. Killingsworth grasped Hazen and pushed off him, enabling him to reach wadable water, but Hazen submerged and did not surface. Responding rescue personnel removed him from the water shortly and attempted without success to revive him. He had drowned.

Ironworker **Mark Kevin Breen**, Jr., 29, of Hudsonville, Mich., saved Delilah H. Perez, 13, from drowning in Lake Michigan at Pentwater, Mich., on Aug. 3, 2011. While swimming off a state park



Trucker Michael F. Schiotis of Spring Hill, Tenn., was driving through eastern Pennsylvania when he stopped at the scene of an assault. He stepped between the victim and the assailant, got the victim into his truck, and then drove from the scene, taking the victim to safety. The assailant pursued them but was apprehended by police.

beach, Delilah was pulled away from shore by a strong current. She was taken toward large rocks at the base of a concrete pier that extended into the water nearby as five-foot waves broke against the rocks and pier. From the adjacent swimming area, Breen swam about 300 feet to Delilah. Grasping her, he swam across the channel formed by a second pier, the waves washing over and submerging them repeatedly. Breen took Delilah to a ladder affixed to that pier, where others helped him remove her from

the water. He then worked to revive Delilah before she was taken to the hospital, where she died the next day. Breen was nearly exhausted but recovered in two days.

Tray Hughes Ross of Gainesville, Ga., saved Harold Johnson, Jr., from his burning house in Gainesville on Nov. 21, 2011. Johnson, 76, was inside the one-story structure after fire broke out in one of the bedrooms at night. At work in a plant across the street, Ross, 20, line supervisor, became aware of the fire. He ran to the scene and at the front door heard Johnson yelling for help. Ross opened the door but in the darkness and smoke could see nothing. He went to the floor and, following Johnson's voice, crawled through the living and dining rooms and entered the kitchen, which was adjacent the burning bedroom. He found Johnson lying on the kitchen floor. Ross pulled Johnson to his feet and then, carrying him, retraced his path back to the front door and exited the house to safety. Both Johnson and Ross needed hospital treatment for smoke inhalation. (See cover.)

Jonathan M. Nielsen, Sr., 32, a laborer from Morrisville, Vt., attempted to rescue Heather J. Manley, 48, from her burning apartment in Morrisville on Sept. 19, 2011. After fire broke out in the apartment's living room at night, Nielsen, a neighbor, responded to the unit and attempted entry, but its front door was locked. He then ran to the sliding glass door at the rear of the apartment and broke through it. Barefoot, he entered the burning living room to search for Manley but was unable to breathe in the deteriorating conditions, which included growing flames, dense smoke, and blistering heat. Nielsen exited, returned to the front door, and forced it open. Seeing Manley unresponsive on the floor, he crawled to her, grasped her, and dragged her outside. He



Ruby S. Monahan, 6, of Swanton, Ohio, was kept from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Dunedin, Fla., on Easter Sunday last year, but the man who saved her, Alan B. Hall, 65, of Land O'Lakes, Fla., died in the rescue. Ruby is shown with Hall's daughter, Julie Hall, at a celebration of Hall's life held in Cheshire, Conn., Hall's former home. Photo by Christopher Massa of The Republican-American, Waterbury, Conn.

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LATEST AWARDEES*(continued from page 6)*

attempted to revive her, but she had succumbed. Nielsen required hospital treatment for burns and smoke inhalation.

Truck driver **Michael F. Schiotis**, 44, of Spring Hill, Tenn., rescued Anna H. Trently, 41, from an assault by a gunman in Tobyhanna, Pa., on Nov. 1, 2011. Trently was being pursued by an armed man as she drove on an interstate highway at night. When she attempted to make a U-turn, the man approached her car on foot, opened its driver's door, and struck her in the head with a gun. Schiotis was approaching the scene, slowing his tractor-trailer to a stop for what he thought was a traffic accident. Bloodied, Trently ran toward his rig and screamed for help. Schiotis jumped from the cab, grasped Trently, and positioned himself between her and the assailant. He kept the assailant at bay as Trently climbed into the cab, Schiotis following. Pursued by the assailant, Schiotis drove from the scene for 12 miles, or until police caught up to them and apprehended the assailant. (See photo.)

William L. O'Connor helped to rescue Leslie K. Hislop from his burning pickup truck following an accident in Gold Beach, Ore., on Sept. 26, 2011. Hislop, 74, remained in the driver's seat, secured by his safety belt, after the truck overturned onto its passenger side on an embankment. Flames erupted in the engine compartment and spread. O'Connor, 64, of Gold Beach stopped at the scene, descended the embankment, and attempted to open the truck's driver's door. Obtaining a tool from another motorist, O'Connor then broke out the window of that door, leaned into the cab, and cut Hislop's shoulder

and lap belts. Freed of them, Hislop fell to the bottom of the cab. O'Connor and another man leaned inside the cab, grasped Hislop, and pulled him from the wreckage. Flames grew to destroy the vehicle. O'Connor recovered within a few days from exposure to smoke.

James W. Linthicum, 34, a maintenance worker from Wichita, Kan., rescued Edgar J. Arreola, 16, from a knife attack in Wichita on May 10, 2011. Edgar was outside his family's apartment with a man when, without provocation, the man produced a knife having a seven-inch blade and attacked him, stabbing and cutting him repeatedly. Edgar shouted for help. Inside the apartment building, Linthicum heard the shouting. He responded to the scene and saw the assailant standing over Edgar as he carried out the attack. Approaching from behind, Linthicum ran to the assailant, grasped him, and took him to the pavement, at some point the assailant discarding the knife. Freed, Edgar walked several feet away before collapsing to the ground. Linthicum secured the assailant until police arrived within minutes and arrested him. (See photo.)

Daniel G. R. Livingston, 22, a paving laborer from Courtenay, B.C., helped to save Jessie B. Vandergriendt from a burning sport utility vehicle in Courtenay on April 2, 2010. Unconscious, Vandergriendt, 22, remained in the overturned vehicle, secured by his safety belt, after the nighttime accident. Flames had broken out in the engine area and were spreading. Visiting nearby, Livingston responded to the scene. He opened one of the vehicle's doors, partially entered, and found Vandergriendt restrained by the belt. He exited the vehicle and obtained a pair of scissors and a knife that another responder had taken to the scene. Re-entering, Livingston cut the safety belt as flames

broke through the firewall and into the interior of the vehicle. He grasped Vandergriendt and dragged him from the vehicle, which was shortly engulfed by flames.

On vacation, **Nicholas Ray Dorken**, 28, a firefighter from Innerkip, Ont., saved a man from his burning car after a nighttime accident in Fort Myers, Fla., on Feb. 23 last year. Unconscious, a 33-year-old man remained in the driver's seat area of his car after it left the roadway, struck a light pole, and came to rest upright. The car's fuel tank ruptured in the accident, and escaping gasoline fed flames that issued from the rear of the vehicle and entered its interior. Driving in the vicinity, Dorken saw the flames. He approached the driver's side of the vehicle, where the man was visible through the opened front door. Despite overhead flames in the vehicle, Dorken stepped inside, grasped the man under his arms, and pulled him out. He dragged the man to safety as flames grew to engulf the vehicle, destroying it.

Wilfred L. Spencer III, 43, a contractor from Moundsville, W.Va., rescued Tiffany L. Aumick, 28, from a knife attack in Wheeling, W.Va., on Jan. 7 last year. Aumick was in a bus shelter along a city street when a man approached and held a knife to her throat. He cut her on the face when she struggled. Driving by about then, Spencer stopped, approached Aumick and the assailant, and, standing between them, asked Aumick if she wanted to leave the shelter with him. Spencer escorted her to his truck, which she boarded. The assailant then charged him from behind and stabbed him repeatedly. They went to the pavement and struggled, with Spencer pummeling the assailant until he overpowered him. Police arrived and arrested the assailant. Spencer was hospitalized overnight for treatment, including surgery, of multiple stab wounds.

Three Ewing Township, N.J., police officers, **Jeffrey W. Caldwell**, **Michael A. Pellegrino**, and **Frederick K. Dow**, saved Frances L. and Harris J. Kaplan from their burning van after an accident in Ewing on Jan. 18 last year. Injured, Frances, 81, and her son, Harris, 54, remained inside the van after it crashed into a wooden utility pole. The pole, which supported a transformer and high-voltage electric and other utility lines, broke off and fell along the passenger side of the van, blocking access to the passenger doors. Fallen lines draped over the driver's side of the vehicle and lay near it. Caldwell, 43, of Frenchtown, N.J., responded to the scene, as did Pellegrino, 37, of Brick, N.J., and Dow, 49, of Ewing, and concluded that the lines were live. When fire broke out at the rear of the vehicle, they concluded also that there was insufficient time to await power company response. Caldwell maneuvered among the fallen lines to the driver's side of the van and broke out the window of the driver's door to access the door's inside handle. He opened the door, leaned into the vehicle, and grasped Frances. As he pulled her from the van, Pellegrino and Dow, standing amid the



James W. Linthicum responded to the scene of an assault outside the apartment building where he was employed in Wichita, Kan. Stopping the attack, he pinned the heavier assailant to the ground and held him for police. Photo, by Fernando Salazar, is courtesy of The Wichita Eagle.

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LATEST AWARDEES

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lines adjacent the vehicle, also grasped her, and all three men took her from the van to safety. Despite growing flames on the vehicle, they returned to it and assisted Harris out and to safety. Flames shortly engulfed the van and burned intensely, destroying it. (See photos.)

Friends **Cody Lewis Decker** and **Luke Daniel Vaughn**, both 17-year-old high school students from DeWitt, Mich., saved Tracy D. Lopez and Carlos A. Adams from a burning car after a night-time accident in Palm Coast, Fla., on April 3 last year. Badly injured and unconscious, Lopez, 44, and Adams, 42, remained in the front seat of the car after it struck a tree and caught fire in its engine area. Cody and Luke were in the vicinity and heard the crash. Running to the scene, they found the driver's door of the car blocked and the front passenger door jammed shut. They bent down the window frame of the front passenger door to create access to the car and then leaned through the opening, grasped Lopez, and pulled her out. They leaned inside again as flames were entering the passenger compartment at the dashboard. The boys grasped Adams, whose legs were trapped by wreckage, and pulled on him, freeing him. They removed him through the window, flames growing shortly to engulf the vehicle. (See photo.)



Two occupants of a passenger van were trapped inside after the vehicle struck and broke off a utility pole in Ewing, N.J. High-voltage electrical and other utility lines were downed over the vehicle, and fire broke out at its rear and began to spread. First responders included Ewing Township police officers (from left in inset photo) Jeffrey W. Caldwell, Frederick K. Dow, and Michael A. Pellegrino. They teamed up to remove the victims before firefighters and power company personnel arrived. Said Dow, "There easily could have been three dead cops on the street."

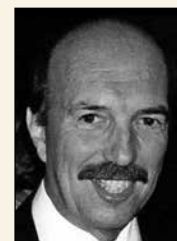
30 feet from the bank. Sculling nearby on the river, DeFelice saw the accident and rowed closer to the scene. With air temperature around 45 degrees and the water cold, DeFelice dived from his boat and swam to where the car had submerged. He swam under water, located Tejada, and took him to the surface. They struggled, causing both to submerge. Surfacing again, DeFelice calmed Tejada, secured a hold of him, and swam to the bank, where others pulled them from the water. DeFelice was cold but not significantly injured.

Telephone technician **Brandon M. Wemhoff**, 29, of Lincoln, Neb., saved Margaret E. Mullet, 54, from an attack by a man armed with a gun and a knife in Lincoln on May 29, 2011. Mullet, a pharmacist, was behind the counter at the store where she worked when the armed and masked man climbed over the counter and threatened her. Wemhoff, a customer in the store, witnessed the assault. He responded to the pharmacy, climbed over the counter, and confronted the assailant. A struggle between the two men broke out, with the assailant momentarily pinning Wemhoff against a counter. Wemhoff then overpowered the assailant and disarmed him, and he took him to the floor and pinned him there until police arrived shortly and arrested him. Mullet fled unharmed.

John A. Lais, a pipe fitter and draftsman from Burlington, Vt., died attempting to help save a boy from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Emerald Isle, N.C., on Aug. 20, 2011. The boy, 9, was playing in the ocean just off the beach when he began to drift farther from shore. His grandfather, Lais, 59, immediately responded from a house about 200 feet

away. Lais's wife, who was closer to the scene, entered the water and began to swim toward the boy, as did Lais's son. They reached him at a point about 100 feet from shore as Lais arrived at the scene, partially disrobed, and swam out toward them. He experienced difficulty in the breaking waves as his wife and son took the boy to shore. En route, his wife encountered Lais, who, exhausted, submerged. The others reached shore safely, but Lais, when recovered shortly, was unresponsive. He drowned.

Alan B. Hall, 65, a retired sales representative from Land O'Lakes, Fla., died April 8 last year saving Ruby S. Monahan, 5, from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Dunedin, Fla. Ruby and her siblings were in wad-



Mr. Hall

able water just off the beach when a strong tidal current pulled them into deeper water. Their parents went out after them but struggled to support them. On the beach nearby, Hall saw the situation develop. He immediately ran into the water and swam out to the family. Ruby's mother passed her off to Hall, who then took her parallel to shore to escape the current. Encountering difficulty himself, Hall became inert. Ruby made her way to safety at the beach as two men swam to Hall and secured him until a boater from nearby returned him to shore. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful, as Hall had drowned. Ruby's family reached shore safely. (See photo.)

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Michigan teens Cody Lewis Decker, center, and Luke Daniel Vaughn received heartfelt thanks from the relatives of the two victims they pulled from a burning car after an accident in Palm Coast, Fla., last year. Photo, by Julie Murphy, is courtesy of The Daytona Beach News-Journal.

Christopher DeFelice, 32, a web developer from Philadelphia, Pa., saved Enderson Tejada from drowning in the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia on April 7, 2011. Tejada, 20, was driving along the bank of the river when his vehicle left the roadway and entered the water. He shouted that he could not swim moments before the car submerged about

❁ FRIENDS REMEMBERED ❁



Mr. Brown

Richard L. Brown, 67, of Enfield, Conn., died March 16. Brown was awarded the Carnegie Medal in June 2011 for having saved an elderly, wheelchair-bound neighbor from his burning house a year earlier. Despite recovering from recent surgery and having difficulty with mobility himself, Brown entered the burning structure and found that his neighbor had become trapped when his wheelchair lodged in an interior doorway. Brown removed him to safety, and both required hospital treatment for inhaling smoke. Of his award, Brown wrote, "Not in my 66 years on this earth did I ever expect to be so honored."

Kenneth L. Hanke, 95, of Michigan City, Ind., died April 20. Hanke was awarded a silver Carnegie Medal in 1963 for his actions of May 26, 1961, by which he and another man, Theodore E. Smith, also of Michigan City, saved five men from drowning in Lake Michigan after their scow ran aground about 150 feet from shore during a heavy gale. Hanke, then 43, and Smith climbed a crane boom that extended from shore toward the scow, and Hanke lowered himself by line to the disabled craft. Over the course of four hours, he positioned the five men, securing them into a buoy suspended from the crane boom that then lifted them ashore. Hanke was removed from the scow in similar fashion, numbed, chilled, and very tired.



Mr. Hanke

Heroic fighter pilot

(continued from page 5)

Photography became his hobby. He rarely went anywhere without his Leica slung over his shoulder. Seventeen of his photographs are now in the collection of the Carnegie Museum of Art, where curator of photography Linda Benedict-Jones describes them as "fresh" and "remarkable in the way they evoke an era, and a way of living, that was rarely captured in color photography."

Off joined the Hero Fund Commission in 1973 and served first as treasurer. With his retirement from the bank, he became Commission president in 1979 and began the work of bringing the Hero Fund up to date. He worked on the staff payroll until 1990 (forgoing benefits) but continued without salary as president until the age of 82.

At Off's memorial service, the rector said, "There is a time to receive medals and a time to give medals." He was alluding not only to the familiar passage from Ecclesiastes 3 ("To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"), but also to two widely differing elements of Off's life: his heroic military service during World War II and his long oversight of a foundation that recognizes civilian heroism. Although he had demonstrated heroic courage in war, he loved the Hero Fund because it honored the heroes of peace.

"As well-suited as Bob was for the various disciplines of management," observed Commission President Mark Laskow, Off's successor, in 2001, "his greatest asset was his devotion to the ideals of the mission of the Hero Fund. His hallmarks were integrity, loyalty, and affability — certainly worthy to the task of honoring those who selflessly serve others." ❁

(Profiles of the presidents of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission were compiled by prominent Pittsburgh historian Mary Brignano in 2011 in honor of the 10th anniversary of the election of Mark Laskow, the Hero Fund's seventh and current president. The first five presidents were featured in previous issues of imPULSE, and the September 2013 issue will end the series with Laskow's profile. A booklet containing all seven profiles is available by contacting the Hero Fund: carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org.)

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 8)

Mount Pleasant, Pa., neighbors **Mark A. Garsteck**, 55, a sales representative, and **John E. Swartz**, 47, an automobile body technician, helped to constrain an armed assailant in Mount Pleasant on June 1, 2010. On hearing gunfire, Garsteck left his home to find that a neighbor had shot and wounded his wife and teenaged daughter and was pursuing them in their backyard. Garsteck immediately responded to the yard, where he talked to the assailant in an attempt to calm him. Meanwhile, the assailant's wife escaped from the yard and his daughter fled to Swartz's house, next door. Swartz immediately set out in his truck to get help, but the assailant intercepted him and shot at him twice, at close range, missing him. The assailant then chased Garsteck around a parked car and fired at him before running after his wife. Garsteck returned to his house and obtained a handgun. Seeing two minor boys in the assailant's backyard, he returned there and ushered them to safety. With the assailant at large, he returned to the scene again, to look for others who might need assistance. As he did so, the assailant's wife, bloodied, ran onto the highway on the other side of the property, flagged down an approaching car, and entered it. The assailant then walked up to the driver's door, opened it, and shot the driver, mortally wounding her, as his wife fled the vehicle to safety. The assailant returned to his house. Seeing that shooting, Swartz drove to the scene and parked his truck across the highway to block any oncoming traffic. He then responded to the car to tend to the driver, as did Garsteck, but the assailant fired at them. They sought refuge in Swartz's yard while maintaining verbal contact with the assailant, helping to keep him at his property. Police arrived shortly and arrested him.

Stacey Lynn Feiling, 42, an office assistant from Mount Pleasant, Pa., died rescuing Janet Piper from an armed assailant in Mount Pleasant on June 1, 2010. Bloodied, Piper, 37, fled from her home after her husband shot and wounded her. She ran onto the highway



Ms. Feiling

fronting their house and flagged down Feiling, who was driving home from work. Stopped at the scene, Feiling allowed Piper to enter her car, through its front passenger door. The assailant then walked up to the driver's side of the vehicle and repeatedly ordered Feiling out. Piper fled to safety. The assailant opened the driver's door and shot Feiling, mortally wounding her. He then walked back to his home, where neighbors maintained verbal contact with him to keep him on his property. Police arrived shortly and arrested him.



PART OF THE LEGACY

Words cannot express my emotions upon looking at the medal. I'm truly honored to be the recipient of Mr. Carnegie's legacy. May his spirit live within all of us.

Carl Casey Loando, Honolulu, Hawaii

Loando was awarded the Carnegie Medal in December to recognize his saving an elderly woman from her burning house in Honolulu on April 27, 2011. Both he and the victim required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation.

ANNUAL REPORT INSPIRATIONAL

Thank you for the copy of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission's annual report. Looking through it I realized it had great potential for inspiring many people and should be made available in our reference collection for all to examine.

Will we continue to receive the report in the coming years? We would appreciate it.

José Ruiz-Alvarez of the Elizabeth, N.J., Public Library

Ruiz-Alvarez is referring to the booklet containing the Hero Fund's annual reports for 2010-2012. Copies are available free of charge by emailing Gloria Barber: gloria@carnegiehero.org.

FAITH IN HUMANITY REGAINED

A few years back I received the Carnegie Medal for the rescue of a young boy. This was a wonderful, proud day, but I wasn't sure I was deserving of the medal. I grew up around war veterans, listening to war stories, and always believed that soldiers were the only ones deserving of a hero's medal. Then I received my first issue of *imPULSE*. Front to back I read the issue twice and soon realized that I was wrong—war veterans aren't the only ones deserving of a hero's medal. Every heroic act is extraordinary, as it shows courage, selflessness, and compassion for life.

I now know our soldiers are in good company with Carnegie Medal recipients. When I read of these heroes, I try to imagine their actions of courage, and the more you read the better it makes you feel. You know there's a place in heaven for such heroes. After reading *A Century of Heroes* and many issues of *imPULSE*, I've regained my faith in humanity. So many heroic actions and stories easily outweigh the negatives that loom over the world. I'm so proud and honored to be part of the Carnegie Hero family. I look forward to reading the next issue of *imPULSE*.

Marc Patterson, Kamloops, B.C.

Patterson was awarded the medal in 2008 for wrestling a cougar off a 12-year-old boy in Clinton, B.C. The Hero Fund's centennial publication, A Century of Heroes, is available through its website: www.carnegiehero.org.

(continued on page 11)

Texas teen's 1912 daring rescue of child commemorated with historical marker

"Elbert Gray's hero medal has been lost and his heroic deed lies obscured in newspaper microfilm. Our true heroes deserve much better treatment from us."

So read the application from the Van Zandt County, Texas, Historical Commission to the state in its application for a historical marker to commemorate the centennial of Gray's heroic lifesaving actions, for which he was awarded the Carnegie Medal. The application was approved by the Texas Historical Commission, and the marker was installed at Gray's gravesite in Greenwood Cemetery, Wills Point, Texas, just east of Dallas, on Dec. 8.

Never married, Gray left no descendants, but his extended family was represented at the marker's dedication ceremony by his nephew, John Watts, of Wills Point. A daughter of the victim who was rescued by Gray on Feb. 5, 1912, was also present.

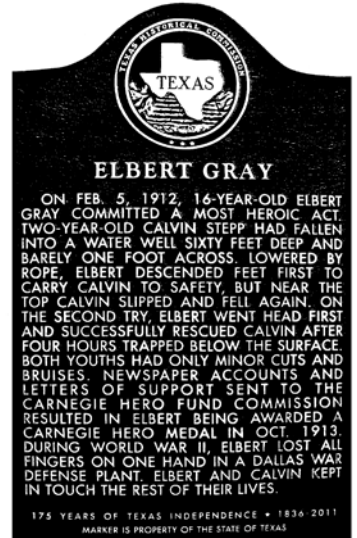
Jo Hacker of Point, Texas, knows "she would not be here today if Elbert had not saved her father," said Lawrence Greer, chairman of the county's historical commission.

Hacker's father, A. Calvin Stepp, was only 2 when Gray removed him from a well on residential property three miles out of Canton, the Van Zandt County seat. The well had been bored weeks earlier, but work on it stopped when solid rock was reached at a depth of about 60 feet. Although the abandoned well was covered with a box, young Calvin pushed the covering aside and fell feet first into the well, landing in water 18 inches deep at the bottom.



The Dallas Morning News carried coverage of a reunion of Elbert Gray, left, with A. Calvin Stepp in 1949.

In the complete darkness, he managed to grab one of Calvin's wrists and then called to be raised. After being lifted about 40 feet with Calvin, Gray lost his hold, and the child fell back to the bottom. He cried for his grandfather, indicating to those at the surface that he was unhurt.



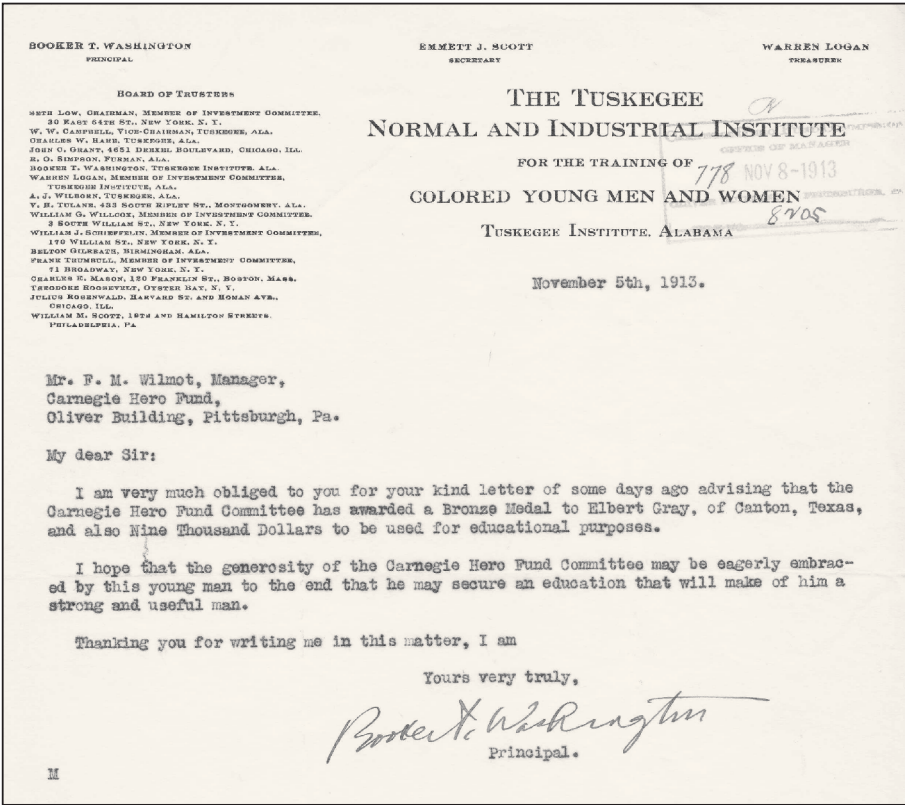
Hearing the child's cries, his relatives rushed to the well but found themselves powerless to rescue him. Hooks were lowered by rope in an attempt to snag Calvin's clothing, but those efforts failed, as did attempts to loop a rope around his body. At 13 inches in diameter, the well was too narrow to allow even the smallest of the adults to enter—frantic, Calvin's mother put on men's clothing and attempted to go into the well, but even though she was of fairly small stature, she was too large to fit.

Word of Calvin's plight reached Canton, where crowds were gathered for the county's monthly "trade day." Among the crowd was 16-year-old **Elbert Gray**, who at four-foot-six and 90 pounds was not only right sized for the task but had a reputation as "nervy." Volunteering to help, Gray was taken by buggy to the scene, where in his eagerness he removed his overalls as he ran to the well. With a rope looped under his arms, Gray was lowered feet first to the bottom of the

(continued on page 11)

Texas teen's 1912 daring rescue

(continued from page 10)



Gray was pulled from the well. Although his face and arms were bleeding from rubbing against its sides, he volunteered to enter again—this time, head first. A rope was tied around his legs, and he was handed a second line, with a loop at the end, to take with him. He told those at the top to lower him swiftly, and they did so, Gray descending with his hands clasped in front of him, as if diving. As he was lowered, he called out, “All right, Calvin. Grandpa is coming.” Reaching the boy, Gray secured the loop around him, and both of them were then pulled to the surface. Calvin was uninjured, and, other than his scratches, Gray was only chilled.



John Watts, nephew of Carnegie hero Elbert Gray, at Gray's grave in Wills Point, Texas.

A collection was taken up for the young hero with about \$50 raised, or more than \$1,000 today. Word of the rescue spread, and it became known in the community and state as an act of “great merit,” according to the Hero Fund investigator’s 1913 report. The Hero Fund itself had been notified by people throughout Texas and beyond, including Booker T. Washington of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. A Carnegie Medal was awarded to Gray in 1913, and a scholarship grant of \$2,000 was offered.

Gray lived out his life in Van Zandt County, working odd jobs and on the “extra gang” for the Texas and Pacific Railroad. He helped his sister run a grocery in Wills Point, where he played dominoes in the back of the store with other local men. Gray and Calvin kept in touch with each other, visiting from time to time until Gray’s death in 1961. Calvin, a Ford Motor Company foreman for 36 years, died at 74 in 1984.

HERO RECALLS

(continued from page 4)

men on the shore were able to throw another line out to the rock and pull both Spear and the victim to safety. Spear was “emotionally and profusely thanked” by the man’s wife.

By the time his girlfriend arrived later that afternoon, Spear, a salesman just four days shy of his 24th birthday, had become a local hero. When they went out to eat that night, Spear was not only recognized for his actions but also given complimentary dinners from the restaurant manager. He said that he lamented having very little chance for romance that evening because of the excitement, but, he admitted, “I thrived on the attention and the impression it made on my young lady.”

A couple of weeks later, Spear was in the thick of a career change and making plans to move across the country when he had a little more disruption. He had been nominated for the Carnegie Medal. Spear was not then eager to talk about the rescue, as he felt he did not deserve the recognition and publicity he had gotten. Still, he thought that the rescued victim’s wife must have made a considerable effort to nominate him for the award, and, after some hesitation, he agreed to the investigation, “not knowing what I had let myself in for.”

Spear described the Hero Fund’s “special agent,” as case investigators were called at the time, as “an old fuddy-dud with qualities of a bank examiner, a civil engineer, and a disgruntled FBI agent.” Although those qualities of a case investigator were as surely lauded then by the Hero Fund as they are today, Spear was overwhelmed by the thoroughness with which his act was investigated. More agreeable to be interviewed 75 years later, Spear said, “I’ve tempered quite a bit from those days.” —Lydia S. Morin, *Carnegie Hero Fund Commission*

II

TO THE HERO FUND

(continued from page 10)

TREASURED INITIATIVE

The Carnegie Hero Fund is an initiative that allowed my grandmother to attend Duke University, where she met my grandfather....and the rest is history! You will always be a treasure in my heart and the hearts of all whom you have recognized for their acts of heroism.

Karen Albert, Vienna, Va.

Albert is the great-granddaughter of **Thomas M. Christenbury**, who was awarded a silver medal for his heroic actions of August 9, 1909. A police chief, Christenbury, 38, descended a well 30 inches in diameter to free a man who was pinned by a cave-in of the well wall. Both men escaped to safety.



An exhibit of the works of Andy Warhol in Edinburgh, Scotland, was announced by, from left, Angus Hogg, chair of the Carnegie U.K. Trust, Dunfermline, Scotland; Eric Shiner, director of The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; and the Rt. Hon. Tricia Marwick, presiding officer of the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. Photo by Tom Fitzpatrick of Visual Perceptions, Inc., Pittsburgh.

EXHIBITS, EVENTS PLANNED FOR MEDAL OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Planning is in high gear for the seventh biennial awarding of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, which is to take place amid a week of festivities this October in Edinburgh, Scotland, Andrew Carnegie's homeland. The week starts a four-month celebration of the huge impact made by the Scots-American philanthropist and the global network of charitable organizations he endowed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The celebration — *Andrew Carnegie's International Legacy: Shaping the Future* — is to consist of exhibitions, seminars, and other activities and will extend through January 2014.

Highlight of the week is the Oct. 17 awarding of the prestigious medal of philanthropy. Established by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 2001 to mark the centennial of Carnegie's planned giving, the award goes to those modern-day philanthropists from around the world who give significantly of their private wealth to enhance mankind's common good. Past awardees include Ted Turner, George Soros, Irene Diamond, and the Gates, Rockefeller, Heinz, and Mellon families, to name a few. Awardees of the 2013 medal will be announced later this year.

Two major exhibitions opening in October in the main hall of the Scottish Parliament building will kick off the broader celebration. One of them, *Andrew Carnegie: The Legacy that Changed the World*, explores the history of Carnegie's original endowments, including the Hero Fund, and how

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Family cherishes century-old medal as reminder of grandfather's sacrifice

By Dr. J. B. Simmons, Asheville, N.C.

Grandson of awardee John H. Simmons, File #7325

Friday, Sept. 29, 1911, was a day that forever changed the lives of my grandfather, **John H. Simmons**, 40, my grandmother, Etta Jane Simmons, 26, and their only child—my father—Louis B. Simmons, 7. My grandfather was known to be a friendly and helpful man in his community, just outside Nebo, N.C., and in his church. There was an African-American community located a half-mile from his farm, and it was from that community that a child came around 9 a.m. informing of an emergency and asking my grandfather for help. My grandfather was doing chores around his 89-acre farm and was being followed by my father, watching and wanting to be helpful.



Louis B. Simmons, in photo taken shortly after his father's death

John A. Rhyne, 34, was also a respected, hard-working member of his community. He worked as a night watchman, and after coming home and sleeping for a few hours, he would work on digging a well near his house. At the time, the well was 50 feet deep—the bottom could not be seen from ground level—and Rhyne reached the bottom by being lowered by a rope that was attached to a crank wheel, or windlass, over the opening.

On that Friday, there was gas in the well and also smoke from a dynamite blast the evening before. When he reached the bottom, Rhyne called out to a man helping at the top that although it was "mighty heavy" in the well he would still work there. Thirty minutes later, he asked to be lifted out, but his helper received no response when he lowered a line. The helper and children who were nearby ran to alert others. When told of the emergency, my grandfather responded to the scene, my father naturally running after him to be part of the adventure.

At the well, my grandfather asked for a mirror so that light could be reflected to the bottom, but no mirrors were available. He then asked to be lowered into the well, and when he reached a point about 10 feet from the floor, he called to be drawn up. At the surface, he told the men assembled there that Rhyne appeared to be dead, and he sent for candles to test the well's atmosphere. Not waiting for the candles, my grandfather asked to be lowered again, as he thought it possible that Rhyne could be revived if quickly removed.

My grandfather was lowered into the well again, taking another rope with him. He tied that rope around Rhyne and called up for both to be lifted. He said nothing more. When he and Rhyne were drawn to about 10 feet of the top, the men there heard my grandfather gasping and then saw him fall back into the well. Rhyne was lifted out but was dead. Another runner was sent for my grandmother, and when she arrived, a crowd had already gathered. Word of such happenings spread fast in such a small and close-knit rural community.

As they discussed how to remove my grandfather, a young doctor—Dr. Mauser—arrived, surveyed the situation, and told those present that he suspected both Rhyne and my grandfather had succumbed to poisonous gas. Poisonous gas was not heard of in that community in 1911. Will Gibbs, a blacksmith who lived two miles away, fashioned a hook to attach to a rope to remove my grandfather, and



Carnegie Hero John H. Simmons and his wife, Etta Jane, in photo taken shortly before 1911 heroic act

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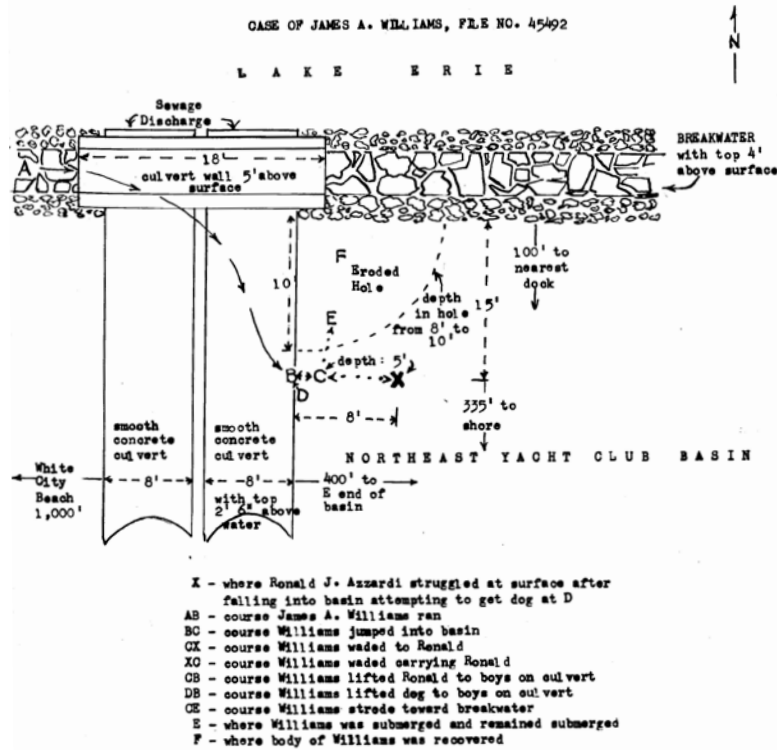
The art of rescue

Each heroic act that is submitted to the Commission for consideration includes a report that contains a sketch showing the components of the scene and the course of action taken by the rescuer to remove the victim from peril. Over the years these sketches have exhibited wide diversity in detail and artistic skill, but it cannot be argued that the sketches done by the Hero Fund's "special agent" Herbert W. Eyman reached the genre's pinnacle. Eyman's 20-year tenure with the Commission started in the late 1940s and took him throughout the United States and Canada doing case investigations on site.

Twelve of these drawings, by Eyman and others throughout the years, are among the thousands in our files and were recently exhibited in the Pennsylvania Department of the main branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Those shown here are samples of Eyman's work.

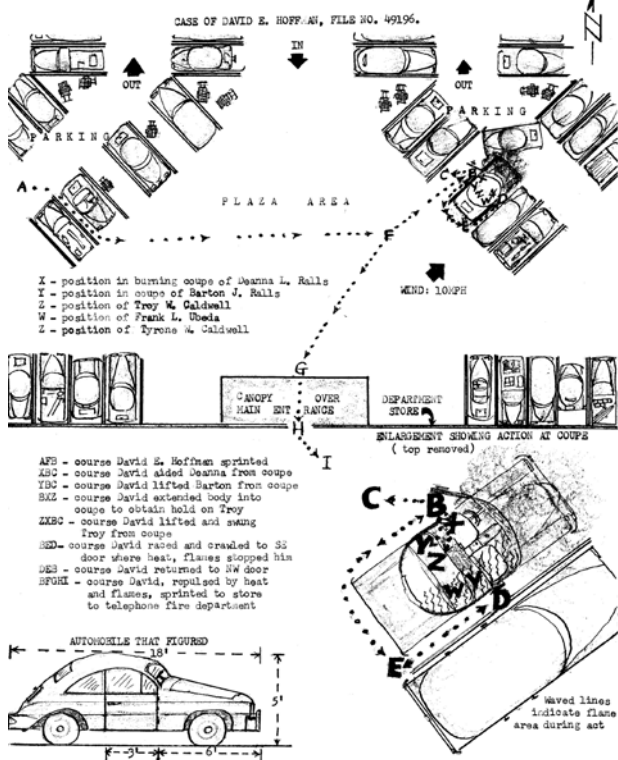


Mr. Eyman



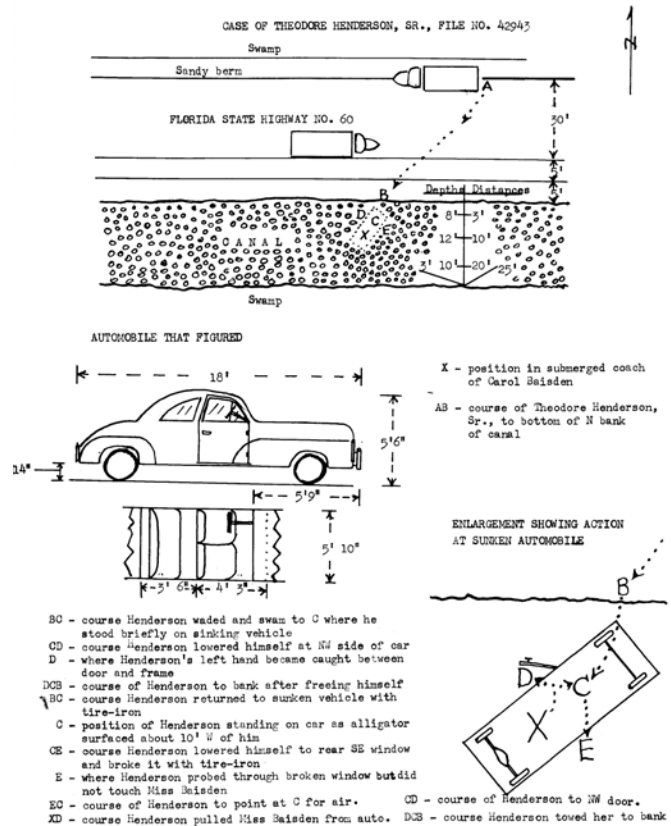
Case of James A. Williams, File 45492

Williams, 41, a truck driver from Cleveland, Ohio, died May 21, 1961, after saving a boy from drowning in a yacht club basin off Lake Erie at Cleveland.



Case of David E. Hoffman, File 49196

Hoffman, 18, of Phoenix, Ariz., saved two young boys from a car that caught fire in its interior in a department store parking lot in Phoenix on Nov. 1, 1966.



Case of Theodore Henderson, Sr., File 42943

Henderson, 39, a truck driver from Tampa, Fla., saved a woman from an inverted car at the bottom of a canal in Yeehaw, Fla., on Aug. 17, 1953, an alligator watching from 10 feet away.



EXHIBITS, EVENTS

(continued from page 12)

his worldview influenced his philanthropic decisions. Exhibitors include the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, The Hague Peace Palace of the Netherlands, Carnegie Hall of New York, and the National Archives of Scotland. Open to the public, the exhibition will run from Oct. 15 through Jan. 25, 2014.



Sybil P. Veeder, left, chair of the Hero Fund's executive committee, presented a commemorative Carnegie Medal to the Rt. Hon. Tricia Marwick, presiding officer of the Scottish Parliament, during Ms. Marwick's visit to Pittsburgh in April.

The second exhibition, from Oct. 4 to Nov. 3, will be of priceless works by Andy Warhol, the preeminent American pop artist of the latter half of the 20th century. Sponsored by the Carnegie U.K. Trust and the Scottish Parliament, the exhibition — *Andy Warhol: Pop, Power, and Politics* — is free to the public and will feature 40 pieces, mostly from the Andy Warhol Museum of Pittsburgh. To be displayed are

Warhol's sculptures, paintings, correspondence, and prints, including his pop-art portrayals of John F. Kennedy, Jimmy Carter, Richard Nixon, Vladimir Putin, Mao Tse-tung, and Queen Elizabeth.

The exhibit will also include one of two Warhol portraits of Carnegie that were commissioned by the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh in 1981. Laura Hoptman, former curator at the museum, described them: "Screened in screamingly vibrant complementary colors, the works give the rather buttoned-down aspect of the founder something akin to an electric charge. This humorous, updated version of the classic 'founder's portrait' is particularly apt for Carnegie, who was an adventurous patron of new art." The portrait's display in Edinburgh will mark only the second time that it has been shown outside of its Pittsburgh home.

Announcement of the Warhol exhibit was made in Pittsburgh in early April by the presiding officer of the Scottish Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Tricia Marwick, and Angus Hogg, chair of the Carnegie U.K. Trust. Ms. Marwick said the exhibition was appropriate for the Carnegie event, as Warhol benefitted personally from Carnegie's legacy. Warhol, a native of Pittsburgh, took classes as a child at Carnegie Museum of Art and received a degree in fine arts from Carnegie Institute of Technology, now Carnegie Mellon University, in 1949.

Family cherishes century-old medal

(continued from page 12)

he was recovered from the well around noon. "Quivers of the heart" were detected, but he could not be revived.

Certainly, my grandmother and father were devastated by this loss. In addition to the emotional pain, they had no way to make a living and did not know how they were going to survive. Dr. Mauser had heard of the newly formed Carnegie Hero Fund and contacted the commission on the family's behalf. The Hero Fund responded as an angel of mercy to this desperate family, not only by honoring my grandfather's sacrificial death by awarding a silver Carnegie Medal but by granting a \$35 monthly stipend to my grandmother to be used for living expenses. The Hero Fund also made it possible for my grandmother to attend Berea, Ky., College to be trained to be a nurse. Unfortunately, due to her lack of previous education, she was not able to complete the course and came back to the community, where she accepted any employment she could find to help put food on the table.

To my grandmother, the Carnegie Medal became the symbol of her beloved husband's presence. I remember how she would sit with it beside her chair and reminisce about the good times she and my grandfather had during their eight years of marriage. As a child, I considered the medal almost a sacred object of honor to my "hero" grandfather. This revered possession was always kept in a safe place in my grandmother's house.

In the years that followed, the medal seemed to take on a life of its own. In 1920, nine years after receiving the medal, my grandmother and father were mill workers. As my dad walked home from work one day, he saw the sky fill with black smoke and knew that someone's house was on fire. He arrived on the scene about the same time as my grandmother to see their house and all their possessions destroyed. They had only the clothes on their backs as their entire wealth. Days later as they sifted through the ashes, they found the medal.

Fast forward to 1971. My grandmother was then 86 and my father, 68. My grandmother was blind, deaf, and living alone. She became afraid that her beloved medal would be stolen, so one day she gave it to my father for safe keeping. That evening, he was late for work and did not have time to take the medal home, so he locked it in the glove box of his car. My father's car had never been broken into before, but that night it was. When he got off work close to midnight, he discovered that the side window had been smashed, the glove box broken into, and the medal taken. He was sickened.

Several months later, my father received a call from a stranger who said he had found a curious medal on a flea market table with the names "Nebo" and "Simmons" on it. After talking to this kind stranger, my dad concluded he would purchase the medal at any price. He secured it for \$35, and, needless to say, our whole family was thrilled.

I now possess this honored family memorial. It represents not only the life of my loving grandfather but that one good deed can give birth to many other good deeds. I have told this story many times to my two children, who in turn are preserving this heritage with their children. I will always feel gratitude, as will my children and grandchildren, to Andrew Carnegie for making possible the humanitarian kindness shown my family in 1911. We also feel a great debt to those many people who have had a part in preserving this symbol of heroism, kindness, and love for fellow strugglers in life. ☒



J. B. Simmons, has master's and doctor's degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Retired, he is a writer, artist, explorer, and student of theology, philosophy, and history.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Typhoid fever claimed rescuer's life three weeks after heroic act

A clear sky and warm air drew West Boston residents out of their homes and to the recreational facilities of Charlesbank Park, on the east bank of the Charles River, on Aug. 18, 1906. It was a Saturday evening around 9:30 and the sun had begun to set, but residents remained in the park. Earlier that day, three teenaged boys rented a 12-foot skiff from Gabriel Farrell, Sr., who operated a boat rental business near what is now the Longfellow Bridge. Despite their poor knowledge of boating, the boys completed their excursion without incident...until their approach to return the skiff.



Gabriel Farrell, Jr.

Farrell's business included a float, 80 feet by 25 feet, moored about 30 feet from the east bank. Foot traffic to and from the float was by a gangway connecting float and bank. When the boys reached the float, two of them stood, causing the skiff to rock and dump all three into the river

between the float and the bank. Only one of the boys was a good swimmer, and he swam easily to the float. The two other boys struggled in their attempts to return.

Swimming in the Charles was not something local residents would normally do. From personal experience, they would have known at least that the


Charles was filthy; those who read local medical journals and newspapers knew that raw sewage and industrial toxins were discharged into the river. That year, Boston would record 25 cases of typhoid fever, and neighboring Brookline would record 20 (as opposed to 12 the previous year). The river emptied into Boston Harbor and was therefore affected by the tides; in those days before the construction of the Charles River Dam, which would form the Charles River Basin, the river flats at low tide were both repulsive looking and smelly, but on that Saturday evening the banks were covered to a depth of 12 feet at the scene by the rising tide.

Two of Farrell's sons, James, 21, and Gabriel, Jr., 20, were on the east bank, about 100 feet away from the gangway. Excellent swimmers, both were members of the U.S. Volunteer Life Saving Corps, which provided lifesaving services along the coasts and

inland waters. Both, in fact, had already rescued several people from drowning in that stretch of the Charles.

Gabriel, followed by James, jumped into the water from the gangway. One of the two remaining boys had submerged, and Gabriel approached the one still visible. Suddenly, the boy who had submerged surfaced beneath Gabriel and grasped him. Despite Gabriel's efforts to free himself from the boy's grip, both submerged and lost consciousness.

James, meanwhile, pushed the other boy toward the float and then turned his attention to Gabriel and the second boy. He dived and located them. Positioning his legs around the boy and holding Gabriel by one arm, James drifted toward the float. Bystanders on the gangway pulled Gabriel and the boy out of the water. The two boys and Gabriel recovered, but within a week James was bed-ridden with symptoms of typhoid fever and died of it three weeks later.

The following year, the Commission recognized the heroism of both brothers, awarding a bronze medal to each, with their father accepting the medal in behalf of James. In addition, Gabriel was granted \$2,000 (the equivalent of \$51,280 in 2012) for educational purposes. Those funds paid for Gabriel's undergraduate education at Dartmouth College, after which he enrolled in an Episcopal Church seminary and was subsequently ordained. He served the church in several positions, but in 1931 accepted the post of director of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, Watertown, Mass., the oldest school for the blind in the U.S. He remained at the school's helm for 20 years and then retired and returned to church work in the Cambridge area. He died in 1968.  —Marlin Ross, Case Investigator

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DEATH OF YOUNG HERO.
Captain James T. Farrell, of the U. S. Volunteer Life Saving Crew, Dies from Typhoid Fever Following a Brave Rescue of Three from Drowning.

... Captain James T. Farrell, captain of the Charlesbank volunteer life-saving crew, died on Sunday at his home, 80 Avon street, from typhoid fever contracted directly from his last daring rescue of drowning boys in the river by the West Boston bridge. Captain Farrell

... Hites, Company B, boys' brigade; mass of mixed flowers, Captain and Mrs. Alfred Sorenson; asters, John R. Wilkinson; asters, Mrs. Goss; pink asters, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Wood; long mass of roses, with ribbon, marked "Captain," West End friends; mass of white asters, with ribbon marked "Our Friend," Ten of Us club; carnations, marked "Friend Jim," Mrs. Hunt, of Milton; asters, Mrs. "Poodle," Mrs. Sterna, Miss Morey, Mrs. Higgins, and Mrs. Wislora; asters, Mrs. J. J. Wilkinson; asters, Mrs. Donnan; white asters, Miss Bradson; white asters, Mr. and Mrs. Fred I. Farrow; asters, Miss Margaret Gordon; bunch of asters, Mrs. S. Grundy; bouquet, St. O. Engstrom; white asters, Miss Hils, Miss Marion Hils, Miss Thomas, and Miss White; pink and white asters, Miss Mabel Waters; large wreath of roses and mixed flowers, Mrs. Larson, Miss Anderson, and Mrs. Reynolds. Several other tributes were received from friends.

... Captain James T. Farrell leaves a father and mother and two brothers, Gabriel Farrell, Jr., who has himself saved many lives from drowning, and William C. Farrell, who has been ill at Hamilton since January. Dr. T. M. Durell brought him home for the funeral in his automobile. Although born in the West End of Boston, Captain Farrell lived most of his life in Somerville.

CAPTAIN JAMES T. FARRELL.

**Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

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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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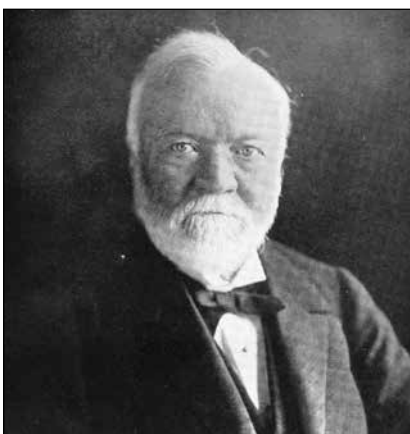
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A great business is seldom if ever built up except on the lines of strictest integrity. A reputation for "cuteness" and sharp dealing is fatal in great affairs. Not the letter of the law, but the spirit, must be the rule.

—The Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie, 1920, p. 172

✦ CONTINUUM ✦

GRAVE MARKERS Bronze grave markers (below), 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 Rizza (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 most recent annual reports (2010-2012) are available by contacting 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).

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