



THUMBS UP

Joshua A. Peterson, right, of Brookings, Ore., owes his life to **Terry Brown**, a deputy with the Curry County, Ore., Sheriff's Department.

On June 2 last year, Joshua, then 14, was in the surf near shore at a state park beach along the Pacific Ocean at Brookings when he was swept farther out, into deeper water, by a strong current. He called for help. On duty, Brown, 33, was among the first responders and, although not trained or equipped for rescues of the type, donned a life jacket and entered the 54-degree water with one end of a 100-foot-long rope. Reaching the limit of the rope, Brown released it and continued to Joshua, who was then 240 feet out.

Unable to make progress in their return to shore, the two awaited help, Brown supporting Joshua as rescue efforts by the Coast Guard, firefighters, police, and the county's search and rescue team were effected. More than a half-hour after he entered the water, and by then considerably weakened himself, Brown was pulled to shore with Joshua by the rescue team. Suffering hypothermia, they required an overnight stay in the hospital, where this photo was taken, but each recovered. For his efforts, Brown was awarded the Carnegie Medal in March. Further details of his actions, and another photo, are on pages 11-12. Nineteen others from throughout the U.S. also received the medal for heroic acts. The photo is by Jill Peterson and is provided as a courtesy by the *Curry Coastal Pilot*.

imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 42 • JUNE 2015

Family's two Carnegie Medal awardees shared bonds of bravery and selflessness

*By Roberta Scholz
Edmonds, Wash.*

On Jan. 20, 2014, our son, **Philip Erich Scholz**, 35, died tragically while attempting to rescue a man who was trying to commit suicide by standing on a railroad track as a speeding commuter train was approaching. Both men were hit by the train. The man survived, but our son was killed on impact. For this selfless act, Philip was recently named a Carnegie Hero. We take great pride in our son's heroism and are grateful that it is being recognized in this way. He deserves it, without question.

There is an aspect to the award that makes it particularly meaningful to our family.

In 1929, Philip's great-uncle, **George Russell Blair** (my mother's brother), also was named a Carnegie Hero. At the age of 12 he rescued a 9-year-old boy who had fallen into open water while playing on floating cakes of ice on a lake in Cazenovia Park in Buffalo, N.Y. (See accompanying article, page 3.)



Mr. Scholz

Receiving the Carnegie Medal had a profound effect on my uncle's life, because it allowed him to attend college—he was the first in his family to do so. Later, he became an attorney and an FBI agent, and he also served honorably in World War II. He had a long career as an attorney in private practice and also served as acting district attorney for Erie County, N.Y. He died in 2007 at age 90.

Over the past year, I have pondered how these two men are linked by their bravery and selflessness. In George's case, circumstances allowed him the time to decide whether to risk his own life to save another human being. He did not hesitate, even at such a young age. By contrast, Philip did not have the luxury of time to think about what to do: He knew the train was speeding toward the station at 70 m.p.h. and that it would surely kill the man on the track. He reacted instinctively, much

(continued on page 2)



BOARD NOTES

A BROADENED CONTEXT SHARPENS THE THINKING

By Mark Laskow, Chair
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



imPULSE, which you are reading at this very moment, has had an interesting effect on the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

Before the newsletter made its debut in the spring of 2005, you might say that the Hero Fund led the "unexamined

life." It's not that no one ever noticed or wrote about our work. Calvin Trillin's 1970 *New Yorker* article on one of our field investigators is a delight, and *A Walk on the Crust of Hell*, a book written in 1973 by Pittsburgh business writer Jack Markowitz, presents captivating accounts of some of the rescue acts the Commission had recognized over the years. Our own privately published book, *A Century of Heroes*, was released in 2004 on the centennial of the Hero Fund. (See back cover for sales information.)

Publishing *imPULSE* over the past decade, however, has done two things. First, it has caused us to write about the Carnegie heroes and their rescues in a broader context than ever before. Second, it has engaged the Commission and staff in an ongoing description and interpretation of our work. The main mission of *imPULSE* is, of course, to provide further recognition of our awardees, doing so by informing and enlightening our readers, but in these two ways it has had an important effect on the Hero Fund itself.

On the first point, you might be surprised to find that the Commission judges heroic acts in a very narrow context. It relies on staff reports that follow a tight format carefully limited to the facts bearing on the requirements for the Carnegie Medal. As a result, the Commission knows little about the life history of the rescuer or victim, much less about what kind of day they were having before the rescue. The intent is to exclude information which would tempt the Commission members to act on emotion rather than the facts of the rescue.

Put another way, it gives a rescuer with a difficult personality an even chance to receive the Carnegie Medal. Equally, a very endearing Good Samaritan may be denied the medal if the act just doesn't meet the requirements. In our view, that is one of the things that make the award so special. If, one day, your name is embossed on the Carnegie Medal, you

(continued on page 7)



At a 1989 family reunion, 1929 Carnegie Medal awardee George Russell Blair is seated at center, beside his great-nephew, Philip Scholz, who was awarded the medal posthumously in March. Beside Philip is his older brother, Christian. The boys' parents, Friedrich-Wilhelm and Roberta Scholz, are at upper left.

Family's two Carnegie Medal awardees

(continued from cover)

like a soldier in combat who throws himself onto a grenade. An ardent baseball player since childhood, Philip loved base running and loved even more stealing bases; he knew what his body in motion could do and reacted accordingly. But in this case, it was not enough.

I've come to think that Philip's and George's heroism derives at least partially from their immigrant heritage. George's parents—Philip's great-grandparents—both grew up in Scotland, emigrating to Canada and later to the U.S. Philip's father grew up as a refugee in postwar Germany but carved a new life for himself in this country. It takes great determination and commitment to forsake family and home in order to start anew in a foreign land, and that is what George's parents and Philip's father did. It is what Andrew Carnegie and thousands of others did. They put their fears

on the back burner and forged ahead in pursuit of their goals—acting, not just wishing. It's not difficult to understand how these character traits influenced their children and later manifested themselves in acts of extreme courage.

George and Philip met for the first time in 1985 and bonded immediately—both liked to talk. Despite his proven courage, George was terrified of flying, but that year he steeled himself and flew to Seattle to celebrate his sister's golden wedding anniversary. A great tease, George asked Philip, then 6, if he'd like to join him on the flight back to Buffalo. Philip



Philip bonded with his great-uncle George in 1989.

(continued on page 3)


Family's two Carnegie Medal awardees

(continued from page 2)

responded with an enthusiastic “Yes!”, and George, teasing further, suggested he pack his bags. A few minutes later, Philip appeared with a small suitcase, packed and ready to depart for the airport. This was probably the only time in George’s adult life that he was completely flummoxed. He had clearly not expected to be taken seriously, and he apologized profusely. That was probably the last time he ever teased a child in that manner.

When our family did travel to Buffalo a few years later, George and his wife, Celia, took us to Niagara Falls and treated us to dinner at an elegant restaurant overlooking the falls. Philip ordered lobster tail, the most expensive item on the menu, and I tried to dissuade him. But George said, “If Philip wants lobster tail, he shall have lobster tail!” And so he did, in what I believe was another bonding moment for them.

Throughout their lives, both George and Philip gave generously of their time and resources to those less fortunate. George generally avoided any mention of his childhood bravery, and I am confident that Philip, had he survived, would not have spoken of his courageous act either. Sadly, he will never have the opportunity. His

legacy of giving is being strengthened by the establishment of the Philip Scholz Memorial Foundation, which continues his support of the charities and organizations he held dear. His wife, Emily, has directed that the Hero Fund’s grant accompanying the medal be given to the foundation. 



After several years of teaching German in high school and community college, Roberta Scholz worked in publishing and is now a freelance editor. She has been a competitive masters rower for 20 years.

NEITHER SNOW, NOR RAIN, NOR RUNAWAY CARS. . .



A bronze medallion cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal has been affixed to the memorial marking the grave of Carnegie Medal awardee **Anthony Montville** in Riverside Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio. The Hero Fund makes the markers available at no charge to the families of deceased awardees (see back page). Montville died in 1987 at age 68.

Boy in Runaway Car Saved by Mailman



Montville was awarded the medal in recognition of his actions of Oct. 17, 1969, in behalf of a 3-year-old boy who was the occupant of a runaway automobile in Cleveland. A letter carrier, Montville, then 50, was making his appointed rounds when the 1963 Pontiac two-door convertible passed him, the child alone in the vehicle, in the back seat. Toting his 15-pound mail bag, Montville chased after the car and grasped the handle of the driver’s door. Picking up speed, the car dragged him along before he was able to open the door, enter, and apply the vehicle’s brakes. Neither he nor the boy was injured.



George Russell Blair, with older sister, Elizabeth Blair Lewin, in photo taken in 2002.

RESCUE BY ‘UNCLE GEORGE’ RECALLED 67 YEARS LATER

In a letter to his daughter 67 years later, Carnegie Medal awardee **George Russell Blair** recalled his dramatic rescue of a 9-year-old boy from the icy waters of Cazenovia Lake in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1929. Blair was the great-uncle of **Philip Scholz**, who was awarded the medal posthumously in March.

“I recall that on Jan. 18, 1929, we had a similar ice jam and flood in South Buffalo,” Blair wrote, referring to ice floes and flooding in Ohio in 1996. “Cazenovia Lake flooded and had ice chunks floating in it.” A day later, Blair, then 12, and several other boys were playing about the lake, as was John Salley, 9, whom Blair did not know. “Salley slipped off a chunk and sank below the water,” Blair recalled. “I ran over, jumping from chunk to chunk, lay down on one, and reached into the water with a three-foot piece of tree limb about two inches in diameter. I felt him, pulled him up, and hauled him onto the ice cake I was on. It started to sink, and I leaped to another cake. I ran to shore.”

While Blair—reportedly a poor swimmer—was acting in behalf of Salley, **Walter F. Liddle**, 38, a carpenter who was the father of seven, was crossing the ice to them, but he fell into the water about 20 feet away. Two boys, **Charles Raymond Griffin** and **Wesley C. Patton**, both 15, attempted to save him but were unsuccessful. He drowned. Liddle, Griffin, and Patton were also awarded the Carnegie Medal.

“About 200 adults watched from the shore,” Blair wrote. “I stopped a car on Cazenovia Street and asked the man to get the police. He gave me a dirty look and said, ‘Get the hell out of my way.’ So I ran home to 311 Cumberland and told my father, who was angry because I’d gotten my clothes wet.”



Attending the medal presentation ceremony at the California Highway Patrol academy in West Sacramento were, from left, Chief Paul Fontana (Highway Patrol), Lora Navidad, Douglas Chambers (Carnegie Hero Fund), Donnie Navidad (medal awardee), Ryan Michael, Patrick Thompson, Stephen Hatcher, Gayle Clancy, Perry Hookey (awardee), Marilyn Manfredi, Cynthia McBride, Kristi Kendall, Sandra Whaley, Helen Pierson, Lance O'Pry (awardee), Bianca O'Pry, Valerie O'Pry, Max O'Pry, and Mike Claudill.

Medal presentation by Calif. Highway Patrol: Heroism 'necessary to stop and acknowledge'

4

FORMER MARINE REACTS, RESTORES LIFE TO VICTIM

By saving her life, **Donnie Navidad** enabled a young woman to commence restoring it.

It was Nov. 24, 2013, four days before Thanksgiving, and Navidad, 61, a government employee, and 46,000 other fans had just witnessed the Oakland Raiders fall to the Tennessee Titans, 23-19, at the Oakland County Coliseum. Navidad was preparing to leave the stadium when his attention was directed to a young woman sitting on a parapet at a point 67 feet above one of the coliseum's concrete decks, where Navidad was standing.

The woman, Brittany N. Bryan, 20, then dropped from the parapet. Without a fraction of a second to spare, Navidad, a former Marine, stepped three feet to a point beneath her, extended his arms to catch her, and bent at the knees to brace himself. Bryan struck Navidad, who absorbed a portion of her fall but was knocked to the pavement. Bryan struck the pavement nearby, critically injured but alive.

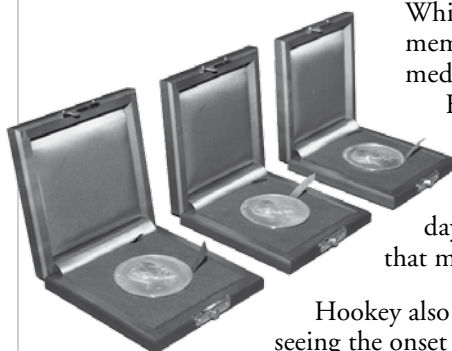
For his act of heroism, Navidad was named an awardee of the Carnegie Medal in September. In

(continued on page 5)

By Susan Winlow, Features Editor
Daily Republic, Fairfield, Calif.

Perry Hookey relives the horrific morning of Jan. 10, 2013, every morning he drives to work as a paramedic at Medic Ambulance Service. That morning he came across semi-truck driver William D. Ballard trapped in his burning rig, hanging upside down from his seat belt in the cab of the tractor.

The Vacaville, Calif., resident, who was standing on stage Feb. 20 with **Lance O'Pry** of Napa, Calif., bowed his head and wiped away tears as he relived it again—this time in front of an auditorium full of friends, family, and officers at the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Academy in West Sacramento. Hookey and O'Pry, plus Stockton, Calif., resident **Donnie Navidad**, received Carnegie Medals for acts of extraordinary civilian heroism that CHP Commissioner Joseph Farrow called "necessary to stop and acknowledge." Farrow called the three men humble and shy, and, he quipped, "They want this event to be over very quickly."



While the event was over in due time, the vivid memories of what sparked the earning of the medals will continue for each of the three men.

Hookey, in an earlier interview, said he cried at the time of the accident and he still cries to this day—and he knew he'd be crying at the CHP ceremony. "I remember it every day," he said. "I remember him driving by me that morning."

Hookey also remembered the shotgun blast-type sound and seeing the onset of a fire as he came across Ballard's 18-wheeler that had plummeted over the side of an overpass in Vallejo, Calif.

(continued on page 5)

Medal presentation

(continued from page 4)

Hookey, who was off-duty at the time, stopped his vehicle, and adrenaline kicked in. “Adrenaline is an amazing thing,” he said of the fateful morning that brought him and O’Pry together as they both worked to help Ballard.

Hookey remembered peeling back the fiberglass of the tractor and reaching in. Ballard’s shoe was burning and he was upside down. Hookey, who was burned during the rescue, couldn’t get Ballard’s seat belt to unlatch. They frantically searched for a knife but no one had one, he said. “I had to put my weight up into him to release the seat belt,” he said, as the fire began building and the fiberglass started melting.

Despite the heroic efforts of Hookey and O’Pry, Ballard died at the hospital. Hookey rode with him in the ambulance and said he still questions what he did, or what he could’ve done, to maybe save him. Ballard, whom Hookey calls Billy, lives on with Hookey. After the accident, he began getting Facebook requests from Ballard’s family. They met up with him at his Vallejo job location in what Hookey called a “tear-jerker” moment.

Ballard played guitar, and he was a cyclist, just like Hookey, who is heavily involved in cycling events that include the annual Tour de Cure bike ride for the American Diabetes Association. Ballard’s family brought Hookey one of his guitar picks. “I carry it with me when I ride,” Hookey said.



Perry Hookey, Lance O’Pry, and Donnie Navidad (from left), at Carnegie Medal presentation in February.

Like Hookey and O’Pry, Navidad still agonizes over the day that eventually brought him to the medal ceremony. Navidad was at the Oakland Coliseum during an Oakland Raiders game on Nov. 24, 2013. A woman caught his eye, and the eye of many others, as she was poised 67 feet above them. As the 100-pound woman began to fall, Navidad put himself directly underneath her in an attempt to break the fall.

“I didn’t get to hang on to her,” he told the audience. He paused to

wipe the tears away. “That was my sole (concern but) she bounced off me,” he said. “When they took her to (the hospital), they said she wasn’t going to make it.” But she did, Navidad said. (See accompanying article.)

Hookey, O’Pry, and Navidad are three of the 9,757 people from the U.S. and Canada who have won the award since its inception in 1904. Hookey and O’Pry are the second recipients of the Carnegie Medal in their respective cities.

The awards, said Douglas R. Chambers, the Hero Fund’s director of external affairs, are given to those who risk their lives in an extraordinary manner in an attempt to save another person. The Commission vets about 20 to 25 possibilities each quarter, taking a lengthy time to investigate the incident and the surrounding factors before making a decision, Chambers said after the ceremony. Presenting the medals in person is not the norm. “It’s unusual,” Chambers said. But when they can, they jump at the chance to meet the recipients.

(continued on page 9)

FORMER MARINE REACTS

(continued from page 4)

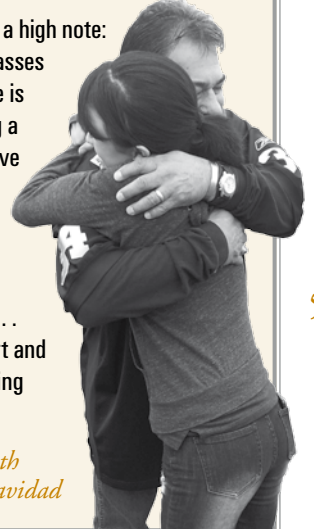
a 3,000-word *Sports Illustrated* article appearing online in February, Navidad told writer Michael Rosenberg, “You are trained (as a Marine) to act under those kind of conditions. It’s just a reaction. You are in civilian mode, you are enjoying life, and you see this body falling...are you going to let this human life splatter in front of you? Come on. Had I let that happen, I’m a wreck.”

Although she requested anonymity at the time of the award announcement, Bryan opened up to *Sports Illustrated* and was identified and pictured with Navidad. The article informed of great progress in her healing, Rosenberg reporting that doctors had given her “teaspoons of hope surrounded by piles of caveats: *We can’t promise this will work. Don’t get your hopes up.*” They ended up calling her “the miracle patient,” according to Rosenberg. Bryan consented to the use of her name in *imPULSE* in the “re-honoring of my hero.”

The article concluded on a high note:

“Brittany just started classes at San Juan College. She is thinking about becoming a nurse. She would not have considered that career before the accident because she was scared of administering shots. But some of the nurses... brought her such comfort and joy, and she wants to bring that to others.”

Brittany N. Bryan with “my hero,” Donnie Navidad



TO THE HERO FUND

GOOD COUNTERPUNCH

Learned about your fund for the first time today. It became immediately clear that this work—specifically the hosting of a clearinghouse of heroism—is exactly the kind of counterpunch I want in my life to fight back against the tidal wave of negative stories that pound me all day. I want my kids to know there are heroes as much, if not more, as I want them to be aware of realities such as terrorism, racism, environmental calamities, etc. We need to know that there is still plenty of good out there, or else we personally won’t feel a need to be good ourselves.

Eric Phillips, McLean, Va.



FRIENDS REMEMBERED



LONGEST-SERVING MEMBER OF HERO FUND'S BOARD

William Penn Snyder III, 96, of Sewickley, Pa.—the longest-serving member of the Hero Fund's board in its 111-year history—died Feb. 9. A descendant of a three-term Pennsylvania governor (Simon Snyder, 1808-1817), Snyder joined the Commission in 1951 and remained on its active roll for 60 years, retiring to honorary status in 2011. "I always felt my time on the Commission was an honor and a privilege," he said then. "I will always be proud to have been a part of this great organization." While with Hero Fund, Snyder served on its executive committee, which oversees the Commission's activities, including making awards, and for several years he chaired the membership committee. "Sixty years is an astounding measure of commitment to an organization," Commission Chair Mark Laskow said. He is pictured with Snyder in 2012, above.



John M. Beane, 59, of Sandwich, Mass., died Feb. 11. Beane was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1994 for saving a man from drowning in Cape Cod Bay at East Sandwich

Mr. Beane

on Aug. 2, 1992. Wearing chest-high waders, the man was fishing at the mouth of a creek when he stepped into deeper water and then was carried by the current into the bay. His waders filled with water and bogged him down. Beane, also fishing at the scene, entered the bay for the man and let the current carry him out. He and another fisherman who responded supported the victim for several minutes until a boater arrived and returned them to shore. "That was our Jack," his obituary reads.

(continued on page 7)

Badly burned in 2002 rescue attempt, hero persevered in return to normalcy

By Edward Heussler
Carnegie Medal Awardee #8652

A pleasant day was in progress on Jan. 22, 2002, as I was happily working my route as a courier for Fedex Express in Chesterfield, Va., a suburb of Richmond. I had a light post-holiday load of deliveries and was thinking about getting home early to take my dogs Chance and Jake to the park for a walk.

I turned a corner and noticed a small boy up ahead on the left, jumping up and down and waving at me. Surprised to say the least, I pulled over, slid open my door, and asked him what was wrong. This sweet 5-year-old boy simply said, "Please help. She's in there." That made no sense for a second, but then I looked over him and saw a house completely engulfed by flames with almost solid-black, angry smoke coming out the windows.

After an initial shock, I ran to the house and found both the outer and inner doors open, offering me a chance to peer inside. I saw a figure on the floor at the far end



of the room and knew the situation was dire. With no first responders on the scene yet, I knew I had to act. I ran into the house and tried to pick the victim up to carry her but was unsuccessful. There were flames roaring all around and smoke enveloping us—I had no idea how loud flames could be; it sounded like a train.

I grabbed the woman by the arm and started to drag her toward the front door, but the situation then took an even more nightmarish turn. As we made our way to the door, it slammed shut because of the air pressure from the fire. I ran to the door and tried to open it but could not—it was almost as if it was held shut by someone outside. I remember that moment of odd quiet in my head amidst this hell around me, thinking I had to do something or we would both quickly be burned alive because there was no way out.

Mr. Heussler, now of Neshanic Station, N.J.

Fearing we had little time to live, I backed up a step and hit the front door with my shoulder. Later discovering that the door opened in, I did not knock it down, but I did put a crack in what was thankfully a wooden door. I heard the unmistakable sound of what can be described only as a can of vacuum-packed coffee being opened. I turned the handle and the door easily opened.

Returning to the woman, I started to drag her towards the open door. Blue sky was visible to me.

I found out later that when I opened the door, I introduced new oxygen into the room, which then fed the flames. The room exploded in a ball of fire in what I was later told was called a flashover. I was at the front door when that happened; the flames blew me out the door and down the stairs. Engulfed by flames, I rolled on the ground, otherwise incapacitated. The woman died in the doorway. When I reached the hospital, I recall a group of doctors evaluating my condition and a chaplain asking in my ear if I wanted him to give me last rites. That quickly confirmed what my evaluation of my situation was.

(continued on page 7)

Badly burned

(continued from page 6)

After an induced coma of 40 days, I awoke in the burn unit, having suffered first-, second-, and third-degree burns over 48% of my body, all above the waist. Numerous skin grafts were required, and pneumonia, bouts of infection, and kidney problems presented themselves, all the while I was on a morphine drip to combat the pain.

I remember my friend Kevin Holmes, who was also my manager at Fedex, being bedside, and I asked him if I still had a job. He laughed and said I certainly did and that the response was directly from the founder and president of Fedex, Fred Smith, and senior vice president, Ken May.

Against the odds I survived and left the hospital in April—finally getting to go home and take the dogs for that walk, a very slow one. I was able to make it because I had been the beneficiary of a tremendous amount of love and support from my family, friends, and employer, not to mention perfect strangers from the Richmond area and across the country who heard of my story and sent messages of encouragement and support. I was determined to get back to work and have a normal existence again. It was a long road, and I could not have made it alone, but after years of skin grafts, physical and emotional therapy, and ups and downs I am healthy and remain happily employed with Fedex. I have the beautiful love of my life, Janice Ruggiero. I have made it. ☒

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

(continued from page 6)

"A man who always put others before himself, without hesitation, a man of his word. Very few men like him walk this earth, and even fewer have earned the love and respect of so many. Our Ripple in still water."

Ander L. Hopkins, 66, of Swainsboro, Ga., died March 20. In 1964, Hopkins and his three brothers, **Roger D., Delma L., and William D. Hopkins**, were awarded a medal jointly for preventing a Florida East Coast Railway train from triggering an explosion in Miami. The train track had been rigged with more than 40 sticks of dynamite in a union dispute that commenced a year earlier, and Ander, then 14, and his brothers came across the dynamite and its detonating mechanism while walking along the track after fishing. As the train was approaching, Ander and his brothers, ages 9, 12, and 18, removed the dynamite and detonator and then attempted to wave down the train, but the train passed them, without incident. The boys were rewarded by the railroad, the sheriff stating there was no doubt that their actions saved the train and its crew from disaster.



2015 MEDAL OF PHILANTHROPY

The eighth biennial presentation of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy will take place on Thursday, Oct. 15, in New York City. Given by the 20-plus institutions established by Andrew Carnegie to individuals who, like him, have dedicated

their private wealth to public good and who have sustained impressive careers as philanthropists, the award was inaugurated by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 2001 to mark the centennial of Carnegie's career in philanthropy. Representatives of the Hero Fund will attend the presentation, as will those of the eight surviving hero funds established in Western Europe, and they will take advantage of being together to discuss their similar work. Other events associated with the presentation include a wreath-laying ceremony at the Carnegie gravesite in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Tarrytown, N.Y., an informal meeting of all the Carnegie organizations, and a reception hosted by former New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, himself an awardee of the medal, in 2009. The 2015 awardees of the medal will be announced this summer.

BOARD NOTES

(continued from page 2)

can be sure you earned it on the day of the rescue itself, in the very minutes you put your life at risk to save another.

This tight focus is the right way to make the award, but you can be sure it frustrates the Commission members, who, as more-or-less normal human beings, want to know more about the heroes. It also frustrates the staff, who know more about the rescuers than they can include in their carefully structured reports. *imPULSE* has given us a special opportunity to expand our understanding of the heroes and their lives and to learn what they felt and feared as they decided to move toward the danger of a rescue attempt.

On the second point, the Commission and especially its staff go about our business in a very methodical way, paying careful attention to Andrew Carnegie's founding wishes and the rules and precedents we have followed over the last 111 years. Yet *imPULSE* has helped us to improve what we do. When we write in its pages to explain our history, our practices, and our philosophy, our thinking tends to be sharpened and we ourselves are reminded of our founding principles and have our commitment to them reinforced.

Maybe what I'm saying is, we publish *imPULSE* for you, but we kind of like it ourselves!



YOUNG FATHER ELECTROCUTED SAVING BOY FROM LIVE WIRE

Ignatius J. Raif, a blacksmith from Houston, Texas, was the young father of an 18-month-old boy, and on April 30, 1909, his wife Amelia was due to give birth to the couple's second child.

At 3:45 p.m. that day, which would be his last, Raif, 22, was entering the blacksmith shop when his attention was attracted by a screaming boy. While at play, the 5-year-old had grasped a telephone wire that had broken and extended to the ground but was in contact with an electrical line carrying 2,300 volts. The boy lay across the energized telephone wire, smoke issuing from his body.



Taking two oak boards with him, Raif went to the boy and attempted to move the live wire away from him with the boards. The poor condition of the wire caused it to snap in two, and the hanging end came into contact with Raif's arm, sending the full current into him. Another man struck the wire above Raif's head, breaking it. Raif reeled and fell to the ground, fatally injured. The boy sustained deep burns to his left hand and forearm, requiring the partial amputation of that arm, but he survived.

Raif's funeral was held the next day, May 1, the day his widow gave birth to a daughter.

For saving the boy's life, Raif was posthumously awarded a silver Carnegie Medal the following November, and his widow was given a monthly grant of \$50 to help make up Raif's lost wages of \$65 a month. The grant continued until 1936.

Of his father, Raif's son, Victor John Raif, knew only what his mother told him, which wasn't much, according to Victor's daughter, Linda Raif Gray, of Wills Point, Texas. Earlier this year the family made inquiry of the Hero Fund into the case and was supplied a copy of the investigator's 1909 report, which had been retained.

15:13 calls to mind those in the

(continued on page 9)



'ANGELS' GET MEDALS

When Deborah A. Johns, pictured, was reunited with the **Ronnie Lee Moore, Jr.**, left, and **John Shannon Gibson**, right, at Waynesville, Ga., Missionary Baptist Church on April 23, their meeting was much more relaxed than their first encounter on Oct. 10, 2013. On that day, Johns was trapped inside her burning car after a nighttime accident in Waverly, Ga., and passersby Moore and Gibson worked feverishly to free her. "I owe these men my life," Johns said, referring to them as angels. For their actions, Moore, a machinist from Hortense, Ga., and Gibson, a mechanic from Woodbine, Ga., were named recipients of the Carnegie Medal in December. The medals were presented to them at a ceremony at the church by Dr. **Mark C. Moore**, second from left, of Tallahassee, Fla., himself an awardee of the medal who also performed a burning-vehicle rescue, in 2008. Calling the presentation a highly emotional and genuinely moving experience, Dr. Moore gave these remarks: "Life is full of challenges, and at times we all need a hero. While the chance to save a life in a fiery crash is a rare occurrence, let us instead seek opportunity every day to help our fellowman—right here, right now, in our own town—for these simple acts will make the world a better place." Photo by Donna Stillinger of *The Brunswick News* and provided as a courtesy. The photo and an article on the presentation ran on the first page of the paper on April 24.

RAFT HEROES HONORED

Four boys from Schaumburg, Ill., turned a summer rafting trip on the Vermilion River at Oglesby, Ill., into a lifesaving mission on June 28, 2013. The boys came across a 45-year-old man and his son, 10, who were stranded in a raft that was caught in the rolling boil of water at the base of a low-head dam. Taking their raft into the rough water, the boys succeeded in pulling the man's son aboard, but then their raft became caught in the boil. Freed during the



transfer, the man went for help as two kayakers happened upon the scene and pulled the stranded raft to safety. The four rescuers were named awardees of the Carnegie Medal last September, and the medals were presented to them on April 14 at a Village of Schaumburg municipal meeting. From left, they are, **Tyler T. Fredrickson**,

Matthew I. Grammas, **Graham W. Fath**, and Graham's brother, **Colin D. Fath**. At 11, Graham was the youngest awardee of the medal in 2014. The Hero Fund's director of external affairs, Douglas R. Chambers, was on hand to assist in the presentation.

Medal presentation

(continued from page 5)

Hookey said earning the medal is a “humbling” experience—another experience to go along with the one that changed his life forever. “You’re never guaranteed tomorrow,” he said. “Appreciate what you have today . . . don’t assume you have tomorrow. It’s taught me (that) you really need to appreciate life.” He added: “My job actually teaches me that, but this highlighted and emphasized it.”

Reprinted with permission.



The tractor-trailer being driven by William D. Ballard plummeted 58 feet to the ground from an overpass in a highway accident in Vallejo, Calif. Ballard was trapped in the burning wreckage but was freed by passersby Perry Hookey and Lance O’Pry, each later awarded the Carnegie Medal.

15:13

(continued from page 8)

*Hero Fund’s 111-year history whose lives were sacrificed in the performance of their heroic acts. The name identifies the chapter and verse of the Gospel of John that appears on every medal: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Of the 9,757 medal awardees to date, 2,003, or 21% of the total, were recognized posthumously. **They are not forgotten.***



OVERHEARD



WHAT A DAY IT WAS: RAFTERS TURN RESCUERS

By Graham W. Fath

Carnegie Medal Awardee #9714

It was a beautiful summer day when my brother, mom, and I drove down to the river for a rafting trip with friends. The rental company gave us safety instructions along with life jackets, rafts, and paddles, saying, “When you hear rushing water, stay to the right.” What they didn’t include was that we could very well be in much danger ourselves. And that we were.

After about 45 minutes of being on the river, the four in our raft heard the rushing water and, following instructions, went to the right. We heard shouts as we turned a bend and saw two heads bobbing in the water. “Looks like those two are having fun,” I thought, not knowing at first that they were in danger despite all of the warning signs posted nearby. After shooting out past the boil, everyone in my raft realized the two we saw were indeed in danger: They were stranded in rough water against the face of a low-head dam.

“We have to do something!” came to mind. It was apparent that the others were thinking the same, as we turned the raft around together. We pulled up alongside the stranded raft holding James and Ryan, and James immediately called out, “Here, take my son!” as he picked Ryan up and placed him in our raft. We tried to paddle away before getting sucked in, but we were a moment too late. The undertow took us under the four-foot drop and held us there while knocking the original raft out, with only James in it.

We were stuck there for about 15 minutes. “To die a week before my birthday is not my idea of a present, but you take what you get,” I thought. The real gift, though, was when two off-duty policemen threw us a rope and pulled us to safety. More police came and tried to get us to go to the station to answer some questions, but my mother had other plans. “Graham, you have a baseball game to get to!”

“Mom, I just almost died! I’m not playing baseball today!” I said, trying to get out of it. “Well, you didn’t,” she responded, “so let’s go. Hurry up.” We all made our way down the river with the paddles we had left and finally reached our cars and drove home. My team won the game that day, and boy, what a day it was.

See photo, “Raft Heroes Honored,” facing page.

The best sight I’ve ever seen was the outline of the sliding glass door.—**Peter David Woit**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9751, on dragging his neighbor from a burning and smoke-filled house at night.

What neighbor would risk their life for you?—Wife of man rescued by Woit.

At that moment the police hat totally came off and I put on my motherly hat and ran toward the car.—Carnegie Medal awardee #9753 **Christine Alicia Wilson**, an off-duty police officer who rescued three children from a burning van.

No one from Idaho has been honored with a Carnegie Medal since 2013.... We can do so much better than that, Idaho! Many kind, selfless people live here.—“Community” item in the *Idaho Press-Tribune*, Nampa, Idaho.

Our ripple in still water.—A line from his obituary describing **John M. Beane**, Carnegie Medal awardee #7829 (see page 6).

He’s got good moral fiber. He’s a good guy. — Brother-in-law of **Michael Elgas**, Carnegie Medal awardee #9743.

I have a box full of medals. I don’t need recognition for what I did. It was survival...and now it’s time to put it behind us. Do what you do. This is months passed. Life has continued.—Carnegie Medal nominee #87246, who saved a woman from a knife assault.

He’s just a hero in every which way.—Witness to the actions of medal nominee #86251 **Lester J. Trafford III**, who took a boat through rough surf to save a man from drowning.



LATEST AWARDEES OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 20 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,757 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 31, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON JUNE 30.

Kyle Christensen, 30, of Perry, Utah, helped to rescue Paul E. Phillips, 50, from a burning house in Roy, Utah, on Jan. 11 last year. Phillips was in the basement of the house after a fire broke out there. Christensen, a police officer on duty, responded to the scene, where he heard ammunition that was stored in the basement going off. Learning that Phillips was in the basement, Christensen entered the house and saw Phillips lying on the floor at the bottom of the basement stairs, flames nearby. Despite dense smoke, and intense heat in the stairway that singed his hair, Christensen slid down the stairs and grasped Phillips underneath the arms. He then pulled himself backward, dragging Phillips, up the stairs. Another officer helped him carry Phillips outside to safety. Flames spread quickly, filling and destroying the structure. Christensen was treated at the hospital for smoke inhalation.

Patrick J. LaRose, 38, of Brooklyn, N.Y., saved a boy from drowning in Shelby Township, Mich., on Nov. 28, 2013. When an 11-year-old boy walked onto ice covering Crystal Lake, the ice gave way beneath him. He shouted for help. In a nearby



Michael Elgas of Henderson, Nev., suspected trouble when he watched a Las Vegas police officer escort a belligerent man from a restaurant. The man turned on the officer, took him hard to the pavement, and attempted to remove his gun. Elgas intervened, pulling the assailant off the officer, who then arrested him. "Mike is a great guy," the officer told the Hero Fund. "He put himself in harm's way to help me while numerous others watched. He is a true hero and a friend for life." Photo is by Sam Morris and provided as a courtesy by the Las Vegas Sun.

apartment, LaRose heard the boy. He ran to a point on the bank closest to the boy, taking a lawn rake with him. LaRose then stepped onto the ice and walked to the boy, who was about 40 feet out. As he extended one end of the rake to the boy, the ice gave way beneath him and he too fell into the water, which was beyond his depth. Telling the boy to hold to him, LaRose broke a path through the ice toward the opposite bank, 60 feet away, where others were assembling. They removed the boy from the water as LaRose neared, LaRose then leaving the lake. Both he and the boy were treated at the scene, the boy requiring hospitalization.

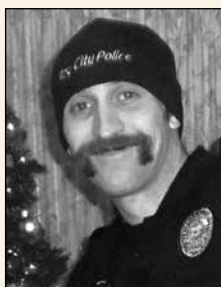
Charles David Jordan, 63, a retired telecommunications database manager from Houston, Texas, rescued Monica M. Garza, 34, from attacking dogs on March 5, 2014. Garza was jogging on a trail through a residential neighborhood when she was attacked by two pit bull dogs, weighing about 70 and 85 pounds. She screamed for help as the dogs took her to the ground and mauled her. Jordan responded from his nearby home and put himself between Garza and the dogs. He kicked and punched them and at one point twisted the collar of one of the dogs to choke it. Garza fled to a nearby electrical box and got on top of it, but the dogs continued their attack. Jordan again placed himself between her and the

dogs and from atop the box maintained kicking and hitting them until they left the scene. Garza sustained extensive bite wounds, and Jordan was treated for lesser injuries, to his face and a hand.

Dean Ronald Nelson, 31, of Gilmonton, Wis., rescued Molli R. Ellis, 5, from a house fire on Feb. 8, 2014. Molli was in a second-floor bedroom of Nelson's two-story house after fire broke out at night on the first floor, below her room. On the first floor, Nelson and Molli's mother were awakened by a smoke alarm and exited the structure, rapidly deteriorating conditions precluding access to the second floor from the inside. Nelson placed a stepladder against the house, beneath Molli's bedroom window. Molli's mother climbed to the window and broke it out, but escaping smoke repelled her. Nelson, already badly burned, then climbed to the window, entered the bedroom, and crawled through dense smoke to Molli's bed. He picked Molli up, returned to the window, and dropped through it to ground level. Molli and Nelson required hospitalization for treatment of smoke inhalation and burns.

Matthew R. Ward saved Tyler Stefan from drowning in Lake Erie at Westfield, N.Y., on July 9, 2014. While playing in the water off a beach, Tyler, 9, and a friend were carried by currents to

(continued on page 11)



Ms. Christensen



Ms. Portis



Mr. Hattaway



Ms. Jimenez

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 10)

an area of shore comprising steep cliffs. As they attempted to scale one of the cliffs, Tyler fell back into the water, which was rough with waves three to five feet in height. The friend ran for help as Tyler was swept back out into the lake. Ward, 22, a managerial assistant who lived in the vicinity, spotted Tyler. He made his way down the cliff to the waterline, entered the lake, and swam about 400 feet out to Tyler, the waves presenting him difficulty. Ward grasped Tyler, who was barely conscious, and sidestroked back toward shore, growing increasingly tired. As he approached, others helped him remove Tyler from the lake. Ward was nearly exhausted after the rescue, and he recovered.

Michael Elgas, 48, a delivery driver from Henderson, Nev., rescued a police officer from assault in Las Vegas, Nev., on March 21 last year. The 38-year-old officer had escorted a man from a restaurant and was trying to place him under arrest in the parking lot when the man became aggressive and turned on him. The man, who outsized the officer, took him hard to the pavement, punched him repeatedly, and attempted to remove his gun from its holster. Dazed, the officer fought back, but the assailant remained aggressive. Elgas, a customer at the restaurant, had followed the men outside. He approached the assailant and, shouting at him, helped to keep him from removing the officer's gun. Elgas then put the assailant in a choke hold and pulled him off the officer. Although he was significantly injured, the officer recovered his position immediately and secured the assailant.

Jonathan Michael Davis, 29, a sales associate from South Euclid, Ohio, died helping to save Christian J. Davis from drowning in Lake Erie at Cleveland, Ohio, on Aug. 25, 2013, and **Titiana L. Portis**, 22, from Cleveland, helped to save him. While fishing from a pedestrian causeway, Christian, 9, fell into an inlet off the lake and floundered in the 15-foot-deep water. Despite his limited swimming ability, his father, Davis, immediately jumped into the water after him. Davis grasped Christian and, although a struggle ensued, supported him at the surface of the water. Portis, who was on a break wall that extended into the lake at the scene, entered the water and swam about 100 feet to them although she was wearing an ankle-length dress. She took Christian from Davis, after which Davis submerged, and swam back to the break wall with him. En route, Christian became panicky and Portis was tiring. Others helped them from the water at the break wall. Davis was shortly removed from the lake by

(continued on page 12)



Molli R. Ellis, 6, survived a house fire on a bitter cold night in Gilmanton, Wis., last winter, thanks to the efforts of her mother, Gretchen Anderson, and her mother's long-time boyfriend, Dean Ronald Nelson. After escaping from the first floor of the house, Anderson broke out a window to Molli's second-floor bedroom, and Nelson entered the room, despite rapidly deteriorating conditions. He found Molli and fled the house with her. Both required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation and burns. Photo by Steve Kinderman and provided as a courtesy by the Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire, Wis.



Terry Brown, second from right, was nearly overcome during his participation in the rescue of a 14-year-old boy, left, from the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Oregon. Both were pulled to shore by a water rescue team. (See cover.) Photo, by Scott Graves, is provided as a courtesy by the Curry Coastal Pilot, Brookings, Ore



LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 11)



Every hero deserves a parade, and that's what Charles David Jordan got on the Fourth of July last year. Jordan, of Houston, Texas, rescued a woman from a savage attack by two large dogs on a recreational trail near his home. He is shown with his wife, Sharon, who also participated in the rescue. Photo by Marie Flickinger is provided as a courtesy by South Belt-Ellington Leader, Texas.

responding firefighters, but he could not be revived, as he had drowned.

Terry Brown, 33, a deputy sheriff from Brookings, Ore., helped to save Joshua A. Peterson from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Brookings on June 2 last year. Joshua, 14, was in the surf near shore when he was swept into deeper water by a strong current. He shouted for help. First responders included Brown, who, attached to a 100-foot length of rope, entered the 54-degree water and backstroked toward Joshua. Reaching the limit of the rope, Brown detached himself from it and continued to Joshua, who by then was

about 240 feet out. They attempted to swim back together but made no progress. As they waited for help, Brown supported Joshua, and they were pulled farther out. About 35 minutes after Brown entered the water, two members of a search and rescue team reached them; Brown by then was hypothermic and losing consciousness. The four held to each other as they were pulled by line to safety. Joshua and Brown were hospitalized overnight for treatment of hypothermia.

Farmhand **Michael D. Bates**, 20, of Durand, Ill., helped to save his grandfather, Roger W. Bates, 78, from suffocating in a grain bin in Rockton, Ill., on Jan. 31, 2014. While working atop corn in the nearly full bin, Roger became buried to his neck in corn kernels at a point about 16 feet from the wall of the bin. He could not extract himself as the settling corn was being removed by an auger from the base of the bin. Witnessing the accident, Michael descended an exterior ladder to ground level and turned off the auger. He then ascended the ladder with a sheet of plywood and entered the bin. Although he was not secured by a safety line, Michael walked on top of the corn along the wall of the bin to the point closest to Roger. He then advanced to Roger and sank the plywood

into the corn banked above him to keep it from falling on them. Michael moved corn away from Roger's chest, allowing him to free his hands. Rescuers arrived shortly, and Michael remained in the bin initially to direct them on the unstable corn. Extracting Roger from the corn was a tedious effort over five hours involving rotating teams of rescuers from numerous agencies. Once freed, Roger was able to leave the bin on his own.

Philip Scholz, 35, a technology marketer from Pleasanton, Calif., died attempting to save a man from being struck by a train in Santa Clara, Calif., on Jan. 20, 2014. The man went to a point between the rails of a track at a commuter train station, just off the raised platform, as an express train traveling at 70 m.p.h. approached the station on that track. Scholz, a commuter, was standing on the platform not far away. Scholz sprinted toward the man, advancing to a point at the edge of the platform opposite him as the man moved toward the platform. Scholz extended his arms around the man as the train, then in emergency braking, bore down on them. Both men were struck by the train. Scholz died at the scene, but the man, having sustained significant injury, survived. (See cover.)



When he became trapped by shifting corn while working in his 42-foot-high grain bin last year, farmer Roger W. Bates, 78, of Rockton, Ill., set an hours-long rescue in operation. First at the scene was his grandson, Michael D. Bates, then 20, who immediately entered the bin unsecured and worked to free him. The photo of both men is by Jenna Dooley of Northern Public Radio and provided as a courtesy. Photo of the rescue taking place by various responding agencies is by Brent Lewis of the Rockford Register Star and also provided as a courtesy.

(continued on page 13)

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 12)

Coworkers **John Reed, Jr.**, 35, and **Jason William Gingras**, 34, both boilermakers from Seminole, Fla., rescued Kevin R. Reed from a burning cargo van after an accident in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Feb. 11, 2014. Kevin, 46, was unconscious in the driver's seat of the van after it struck a tree head on. John and Gingras, his passenger, witnessed the accident. They ran to the scene as flames were filling the van, having spread from its rear to the driver's seat. John reached into the van through the opened driver's door and felt for Kevin's safety belt release, but flames caused him to withdraw. Gingras pulled Kevin's safety belt away from his left shoulder and cut it with a pocketknife. As Gingras then grasped Kevin, who was aflame, about the upper body, John extended his arms around Kevin's legs, and together the men lifted him from the van and carried him to safety as the van filled with flames. They used Gingras's shirt and their hands to extinguish the flames on Kevin. Kevin required lengthy hospitalization for treatment of burns.

Video producer **Peter David Woit** of Carlos, Minn., rescued his neighbor, Richard J. Klein, from a burning house on April 8, 2014. Klein, 70, was overcome in the kitchen of his house after fire broke out at night in the adjoining family room. At his home about 300 feet away, Woit, 54, saw flames issuing from Klein's house. He ran to the scene, going to the end of the house opposite the flames, and pounded on a door, screaming. Thus alerted to the fire, Klein's wife opened the door and escaped, informing Woit that Klein was still inside. Woit entered the house on his hands and knees and crawled toward the sound of Klein's voice. After going about 20 feet, Woit felt Klein's hand on the floor. He grasped Klein and, still crawling, dragged him back toward the door and aided him out of the house. Both men required hospital treatment for effects of the fire.

Matthew Ray Hattaway, 25, a construction supervisor from Bossier City, La., died after attempting to save Reid Richardson, 14, from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico at Fort Morgan, Ala., on June 9, 2013. While swimming, Reid was caught by a strong current that took him farther from shore and kept him from returning. A member of his party, Hattaway swam to him from wadable water on becoming aware of his situation. He instructed Reid to grasp him by the arm, and Reid did so, but they both submerged and were soon separated. Reid was able to make his way to wadable water and next saw Hattaway also in wadable water, where he then collapsed. Reid and others carried him to the beach, and from

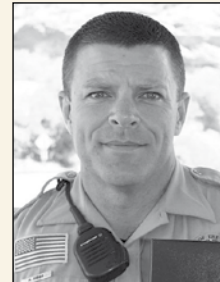
there he was taken to the hospital. Hattaway could not be revived, as he had drowned.

Christine Alicia Wilson, 42, a police officer from West Henrietta, N.Y., saved siblings Marianna S., 6; Annaleigh G., 6 months; and Maddox

N. Fontanez, 2, from a burning minivan after an accident in Henrietta, N.Y., on Nov. 23, 2013. The children were passengers in the van, which caught fire at its front end in the accident. Wilson, off-duty from another municipality, witnessed the accident. She approached the van, opened the sliding door on its driver's side, and entered. Stepping to the back row of seats in the vehicle, which was filling with smoke, she unbuckled Marianna's safety belt and removed her from the vehicle. She then re-entered and moved across the middle row of seats to Annaleigh. Attempting without success to release Annaleigh's car seat, Wilson pulled it free and carried it, with Annaleigh, outside to safety.



Ms. Wilson



Mr. Gibbs



Mr. Davis

Re-entering again, despite intensifying smoke and spreading flames, Wilson moved to the back row and worked to free Maddox. In the deteriorating conditions, she grasped him, pulled him from the seat, and left the vehicle with him, flames by then having entered the van, at its front. The van was quickly engulfed by flames.

Luz A. Jimenez of Hackettstown, N.J., helped to save Alyson B. Machigua, 3, from drowning in an abandoned cesspool in Hackettstown on June 16, 2014. While playing in the yard of a residence, Alyson broke through the ground atop the cesspool and dropped 11 feet into the dark pit, the bottom of

(continued on page 14)



Peter David Woit, left, crawled through a burning and smoke-filled house to save his neighbor, Richard J. Klein, last year. His award of the Carnegie Medal got marquee treatment at the Alexandria Area Arts Association Theater, Alexandria, Minn., where Woit is a volunteer. Marquee photo is by Lowell Anderson, and photo of Woit and Klein is by Annie Harman, both provided as a courtesy by the Echo Press, Alexandria.



AWARDEE ANNOUNCEMENTS MOST POPULAR ON FACEBOOK

The launch of the Hero Fund's Facebook page (facebook.com/carnegiehero) last December has allowed the Commission to shine more light on the heroic actions of the awardees of the Carnegie Medal, thereby reminding the public that we still are living in "a heroic age," just as Andrew Carnegie concluded in the organization's founding Deed of Trust more than a century ago.

The page garnered 428 likes in its first 20 weeks, with an average of three new likes each day. With a goal of 1,000 likes by the end of this year, the page saw a surge of new likes after each of the Hero Fund's quarterly award announcements. Each week, an average of 284 Facebook users like, comment, or share Commission posts, leading to the exposure of posts to an average of 2,330 people weekly. On its best day, 6,638 people saw Commission posts.



Hero Fund Facebook page fans are 62% female and mostly fall between the ages of 45 and 54. They hail from 27 countries, including the U.S., Canada, the Philippines, Nigeria, and Indonesia.

A total of 75 posts were seen 97,373 times, liked 2,597 times, shared 258 times, and yielded 228 comments. The posts included 27 individual award announcements, 19 links to *imPULSE* stories, 18 #ThrowbackThursday or #FlashbackFriday entries, five general announcements, four posts seeking nominations, and two sharing articles about the Commission published by other media outlets.

The most popular posts have been the awardee announcements, garnering a total of 2,519 likes, shares, and comments. Among those posts, those that got the most attention included high-quality photos and were shared by the awardee's family and friends.

Through the Facebook page the Commission hopes primarily to tell the world what our awardees have done. Secondary goals include providing a platform for users to interact with the Hero Fund and each other and bringing the work of the Commission to the public eye, resulting in more nominations for the Carnegie Medal. To achieve that, we ask readers to like the page, share the posts, and invite others to do the same, all toward advancing Carnegie's mission of recognizing civilian heroes, by using modern-day technology.

—Julia Panian, Social Media Coordinator

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 13)

which contained water 30 inches deep. Jimenez, 26, restaurant server, who had been inside a nearby house, looked through the small hole created by Alyson's fall but could not see her. At her request, a responding police officer lowered Jimenez into the pit, and then she dropped into the water, which was cold and muddy. Jimenez grasped Alyson and held her for several minutes until firefighters arrived and lowered a ladder into the pit. Jimenez climbed the ladder holding Alyson and handed her out to the officer. She was then assisted out of the opening to safety.

Harriman, Tenn., pastor **Neil Crass**, 43, and his son, **Hunter O'Neil Crass**, 19, a college student, helped to save three boys from drowning in the Emory River at Harriman on Feb. 1, 2014. Three boys, each 14, broke through ice covering the river at a point about 130 feet from the nearer bank. They held to a buoy in the frigid water and shouted for help. First responders promptly arrived, but their efforts to reach the boys were thwarted by the ice. Alerted at their home about two miles away, Neil and Hunter responded to the farther bank, their three-person, 15-foot, aluminum boat in tow. Placing the boat in a path of open water that was being made through the ice by a firefighter, they motored to the firefighter, took him aboard, and continued to the boys, breaking through ice, for a total of about 270 feet. At the boys, the men redistributed their weight, and Neil and Hunter worked together in taking them aboard. The boat's capacity then exceeded, Neil continued breaking through ice to reach the nearer bank, where medics and a helicopter were waiting.

Kyle V. Gibbs, 36, a deputy sheriff from Morenci, Ariz., helped to save Diane S. Baxter from her burning house in Duncan, Ariz., on Aug. 17, 2013. Baxter, 69, was in a bedroom at one end of the structure after fire broke out at the opposite end. Flames spread quickly and filled the house with dense smoke. On duty, Gibbs responded to the scene within minutes of being alerted; by then, flames had breached the roof of the house. Hearing Baxter scream, Gibbs and two other officers went to one of Baxter's bedroom windows but failed in their rescue attempts through it. Gibbs and one of the officers then broke another of the room's windows, and Gibbs climbed through it. Despite dense smoke that precluded visibility, Gibbs located Baxter, who was then unconscious, and lifted her from the bed. With difficulty, he dragged her to the window he had entered and maneuvered her through it to the other officers. Gibbs then went through the window to safety. Flames spread quickly to engulf the house. Baxter, Gibbs, and the other officers all required medical treatment for smoke inhalation.

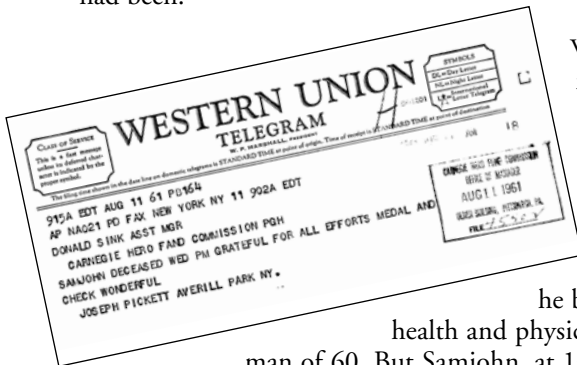


Neil Crass, left, and his son, Hunter O'Neil Crass, teamed up with a firefighter to save three teenaged boys who had fallen through the ice on the Emory River at Harriman, Tenn. The rescuers used Crass's 15-foot aluminum boat to break through ice to get the boys, haul them aboard—overloading it—and take them to the opposite bank. The boys required hospitalization for hypothermia, and they recovered.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

“Thank God for placing men like him on this earth”

One minute **William H. Samjohn** was seated at his bedroom window watching his neighbor girl, Polly Ann Pickett, 2, playing with other children in her family’s backyard, which bordered Old Thermo Mill Pond in Averill Park, in the Hudson Valley just out of Albany, N.Y. The next minute, he saw that she was gone. He then saw ripples in the water near where she had been.



What Samjohn did next to save Polly Ann from drowning, on May 25, 1961, would not have merited the Hero Fund’s

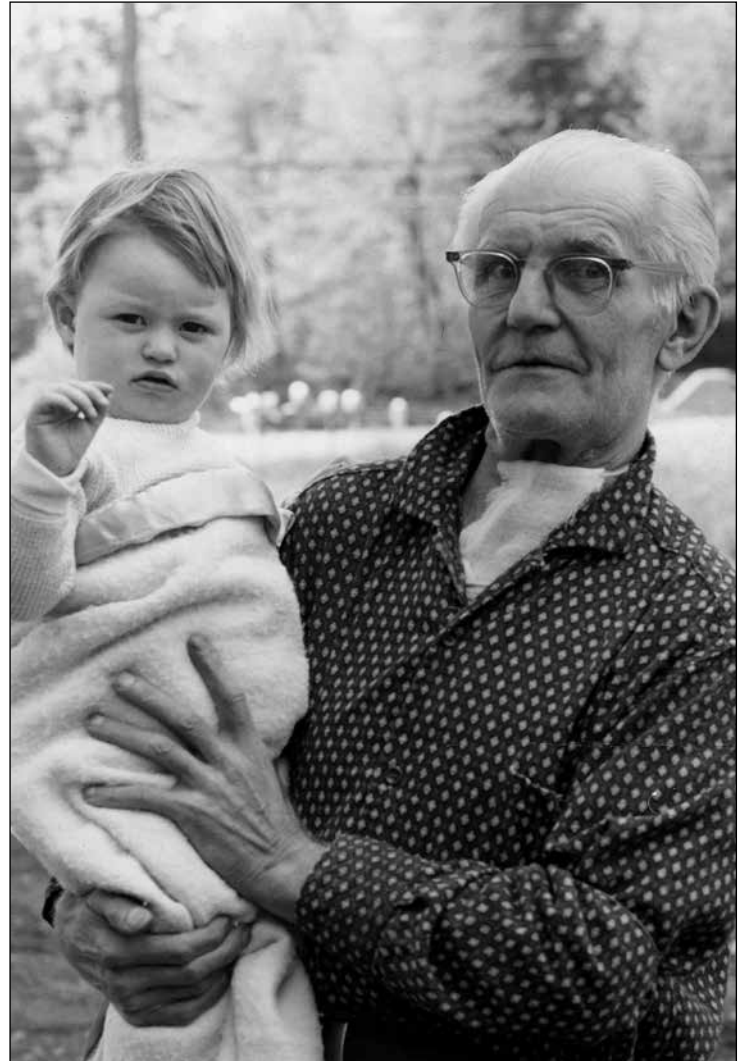
attention had he been in the typical

health and physical condition of a man of 60. But Samjohn, at 100 pounds, was an invalid who for the past year breathed through a surgical opening in his windpipe. Doctors had warned him that water entering the opening would go directly to his lungs and suffocate him.

Taking that risk, Samjohn, clad in pajamas and wearing slippers, communicated to his wife, Effie, that he believed Polly Ann was drowning and that he was going to get her. After running 150 feet to the pond, clapping his hands to attract attention, Samjohn saw bubbles in the water about 12 feet out. He waded into the pond toward them, sinking to his ankles in the pond’s muddy floor. In water that reached to within four inches of his throat, Samjohn probed beneath the surface with his hands but failed to locate the girl.

Later telling a Hero Fund investigator that he was prepared to cover his throat with his hands to submerge and look for her, Samjohn saw Polly Ann surface alongside him. He lifted her over his shoulder, expelled considerable water from her, and then handed her over to her mother, a nonswimmer, who had reached the scene and also waded into the pond. When Samjohn tried to wade back to the bank, he found that his feet were mired in the mud.

Polly Ann’s mother saw Samjohn motioning to her and, with Polly Ann in one hand, unconscious, she pulled hard on Samjohn with the other, freeing his feet of both his slippers and the mud.



Mr. Samjohn with Polly Ann a few hours after the rescue

They waded from the pond. Both Samjohn and Polly recovered within hours.

For his actions, Samjohn was awarded the Carnegie Medal on Aug. 3 of that year. Although word reached him of the award, Samjohn died Aug. 9 without getting to see the medal.

His wife wrote to the Hero Fund, “It is very gratifying to know that he was fully aware of the award. The medal arrived three days after his death.” The medal was presented to Mrs. Samjohn by Polly Ann’s father, Joseph F. Pickett, who had served as one of Samjohn’s pall bearers. Pickett earlier told the Hero Fund, “Every time I look at Polly Ann, every time I hear her laugh and watch her play, I shall think of William Samjohn and thank God for placing men like him on this earth.”

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1961

Medal Will Arrive Too Late

Hero Who Saved Child Dies

WEST SAND LAKE, N. Y., Aug. 9 (AP).—William Samjohn died today without seeing the Carnegie hero medal he was awarded last week for rescuing a child from drowning. Samjohn, 58, suffering throat cancer, had said he wanted to “hang on” until the

medal arrived. The medal and \$500 were due sometime this week from Pittsburgh. Samjohn had an incision in his throat through which he breathed.

But he never hesitated last May when he saw two-year-old Polly Ann Pickett, a neighbor’s daughter, swept down-

stream in surging Wynantskill Creek near his home in this Rensselaer County community.

Dressed in slippers and pajamas, he waded in, the water rushing to within inches of his throat, and grabbed the girl a few feet ahead of a 20-foot drop in the creek.

**Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

436 Seventh Ave., Ste. 1101 • Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841

412-281-1302 • 800-447-8900

www.carnegiehero.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 2461

Address Service Requested

NOTICES: © Carnegie Hero Fund Commission and/or its suppliers, 2014, U.S.A. All rights reserved. This newsletter is governed by our terms & conditions (see <http://carnegiehero.org/terms-conditions/>), including our privacy notice (see <http://carnegiehero.org/privacy-policy/>) (or direct an inquiry to us directly by using the above contact information).

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!

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

436 Seventh Ave., Ste. 1101 • Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841

Editor: Walter F. Rutkowski, President

Telephone: 412-281-1302 Toll-free: 800-447-8900

Fax: 412-281-5751

E-mail: carnegiehero@carnegiehero.orgimpulse@carnegiehero.orgWebsite: www.carnegiehero.org**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

A. H. Burchfield III

Robert J. Cindrich

David McL. Hillman

Linda T. Hills

Of the Carnegie Family

Peter J. Lambrou

Mark Laskow

Chair

Nathalie Lemieux

Christopher R. McCrady

Priscilla J. McCrady

Vice Chair

Ann M. McGuinn

Nancy L. Rackoff

Frank Brooks Robinson

Dan D. Sandman

Treasurer

Arthur M. Scully

Michael A. Thompson

Sybil P. Veeder

Chair, Executive Committee

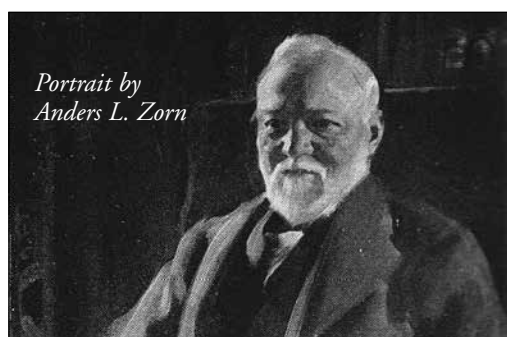
Joseph C. Walton

Susanne C. Wean

Thomas L. Wentling, Jr.

*Chair, Finance Committee***HONORARY MEMBER**

James M. Walton

THE QUOTABLE A.C.

Portrait by
Anders L. Zorn

Not one of us can feel his duty done, unless he can say as he approaches his end, that, because he has lived, some fellow-creature, or some little spot on earth or something upon it, has been made just a little bit better. Nor is this beyond the reach of the humblest, for all can at least render to others—

—Problems of To-day, 1908

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 Chris Foreman (chris@carnegiehero.org).

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (2013-2014) 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).

imPULSE ON LINE? Should you wish to receive imPULSE in PDF rather than in your mailbox, let us know: impulse@carnegiehero.org

CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1101, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1841

Telephone: (412) 281-1302 Toll free: (800) 447-8900

Fax: (412)-281-5751

E-mail: carnegiehero@carnegiehero.orgWebsite: www.carnegiehero.org