“…that descendants may know and be proud of their descent”

By Mark Laskow, President
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

The words were by Andrew Carnegie in 1904 in proposing that medals be struck by the Hero Fund to commemorate those who risk their lives to save others. Carnegie was prescient in his thinking, as Hero Fund staffers routinely accommodate inquiries by descendants of medal recipients, including those from the Hero Fund’s earliest days. Their pride is evident.

To further honor those who have been awarded the Carnegie Medal, the Commission is offering a bronze grave insignia to the families of deceased awardees. Shown below in its actual size of 3.75 inches in diameter, the insignia is designed to replicate the look of the medal and is intended to be displayed on the awardee’s stone or bronze grave marker or (continued on page 4)
PITTSBURGH A LOGICAL CHOICE FOR ’07 MEDAL PRESENTATION

The Hero Fund is one of Andrew Carnegie’s four Pittsburgh-based institutions that are hosting next month’s presentation of the 2007 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, an award given every two years to those who share the founder’s vision for dedicating their private wealth for the public good. That vision helped to create the four institutions, which also include Carnegie Mellon University, the Carnegie Libraries, and the Carnegie Museums.

Pittsburgh was chosen as the presentation site because of Carnegie’s roots in the city and his deep impact on its businesses, education, and culture. Carnegie was 13 when he and his family immigrated to Pittsburgh in 1848 from their native Dunfermline, Scotland, and the city became home to the first library in the U.S. built by him. Pittsburgh is also known nationally as a philanthropic city. With more than $9 billion in foundation assets, it is fourth among major metropolitan areas in total giving per capita.

Most funding for the presentation is being supplied by Pittsburgh-based United States Steel Corporation, descendant of Carnegie’s steel company, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). In its early days, one of the UPMC hospitals, Shadyside, received support from Carnegie and his wife, who were named life trustees of the hospital.

The presentation ceremony will be held Wednesday, Oct. 17, in Carnegie Music Hall, and will be emceed by Tom Brokaw, former NBC News anchor. Representatives of Carnegie’s institutions worldwide are expected to attend, as are leaders of international business, government, media, and philanthropy. Members of Carnegie’s family will also be present, including great-grandchildren Linda Thorell Hills of Littleton, Colo., who is a member of the Hero Fund’s board, and William Thomson of Scotland, a member of the awardee selection committee. The “fifth generation” will be represented by Hills’s son, Scott Roswell Hills.

Ancillary events include a symposium, “News from the future,” which will describe emerging possibilities in learning, collaboration, and synergies of technology with culture and the quality of life. Visitors will also encounter Carnegie’s legacy, with visits to his Pittsburgh institutions and historical sites of his life.

Philanthropic leaders whose long-term support has contributed to beneficial change in the lives of millions of people worldwide have been named recipients of the 2007 Andrew Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy. The awardees were announced in June by Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and chair of the award’s selection committee.

The Mellon Family, originally of Pittsburgh, is being honored for philanthropy that has had a profound effect on some of Pennsylvania’s and the nation’s most valued institutions, with the medal being received by Richard Mellon, Seward Prosser Mellon, and Tim Mellon. The family’s philanthropy began in the 1930s when Andrew W. Mellon—banker, venture capitalist, and Secretary of the U.S. Treasury under three presidents—donated an extensive art collection to provide the beginnings of the National Gallery of Art and the National Portrait Gallery.

In 1969, Mellon’s children established the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which supports museums and art conservation, higher education and scholarship, information technology research, performing arts, and conservation and the environment. By merging their scientific research institute with Carnegie Tech, the Mellon Family helped to create Carnegie Mellon University in 1967.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation helped launch the university’s Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, and it provided extensive support for computer science, public policy, and laboratory sciences. The foundation also funded the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse, and it supports schools, hospitals, and other causes throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania. Nationally, the foundation has led in land preservation, purchasing more than one million acres in 50 states, assuring that the acquisitions remain undeveloped and available for public enjoyment.

The Heinz Family of Pittsburgh is being honored for sustained philanthropic giving in support of the environment, education, economic opportunity, and the arts as well as efforts to enhance the lives of women. Accepting the award for the family is Teresa Heinz, who chairs the Heinz Family Philanthropies and The Heinz Endowments. She assumed direction of the family’s philanthropy after the 1991 death of her husband, U.S. Sen. John Heinz. The mother of three sons, she is now married to U.S. Sen. John Kerry.

In 1995, the Heinz Family made one of the largest grants ever to benefit the environment—$20 million to establish the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment. The Heinz Family Philanthropies also funds the Teresa Heinz Scholars for Environmental Research. Since 1995, Heinz has sponsored annual conferences on women’s health and the environment, and she has endowed a professorship in environmental management at the Harvard University Business School and a chair in environmental policy at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Heinz is also the creator of the prestigious Heinz Awards, which annually recognize outstanding vision and achievement in the arts, public policy, the environment, the human condition, technology, the economy, and employment.

The Tata Family of India is receiving the medal in recognition of its longstanding commitment to philanthropic causes. The award will be accepted by Ratan Tata, chair of the for-profit Tata Group, an industrial conglomerate. Tata also chairs the group’s

(continued on page 3)
Baumann is shown on the bank of the pond in a century-old photograph. Affairs, gave the talk to an appreciative and attentive audience. At the time, the society’s book had been on the market for just two months, and nearly 1,000 copies had been sold, exceeding expectations. At right, Baumann is shown on the bank of the pond in a century-old photograph.

**Medals of Philanthropy (continued from page 2)**

trusts, which include two of the oldest and largest private grantmakers in India. The trusts’ philosophy of “constructive philanthropy” is embedded in the group’s values and has helped to change India’s traditional concept of charity.

The Tata trusts, originally endowed by sons of the company’s founder, Jamsetji Tata, hold nearly two-thirds of the equity of the group’s parent firm. Through these trusts, the firm gives away between eight and 14 percent of its net profit every year. Since their donation of land for the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore in 1898, the family and its trusts have supported science, medicine, social services, health, civil society and governance, rural welfare, performing arts, education, and the needs of children.

A strong proponent of corporate social responsibility, Ratan Tata strives to give his company’s philanthropic initiatives focus and to build awareness of literacy, microfinance, and water conservation. Tata also serves on the board of numerous medical and arts organizations, including the India AIDS initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Philanthropist and businessman Eli Broad of Los Angeles is the founder and chair of two Fortune 500 companies, SunAmerica, Inc., and KB Home. He will accept the medal for his dedication to art, education, science, and civic development, through the $2.5 billion Broad foundations. Striving to make Los Angeles one of the world’s greatest cities, Broad has recently focused on revitalizing its downtown to enhance offerings in culture, architecture, housing, business, and entertainment.

In education, the Broad Foundation has committed more than $500 million during its first five years to improve governance, management, labor relations, and competition in urban schools. Education initiatives also include the Eli Broad College of Business and the Broad Center for the Biological Sciences. In science, the Eli and Edythe Broad Institute for biomedical research was launched in 2003, and the Broads’ gift of $200 million aims to realize the promise of the human genome.

In art, Broad’s activities extend to more than 25 major museums and institutions nationwide, from the Museum of Modern Art in New York to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. To encourage appreciation of the visual arts, the Broad Art Foundation is a “lending library” of more than 1,200 artworks available to museum and university galleries worldwide.

**Carnegie Hero Funds To Gather At Ceremony**

Representatives of Andrew Carnegie’s hero funds who are attending the presentation of the 2007 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy ceremony in Pittsburgh next month are being offered a set of special events of their own.

Mark Laskov, president of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, said that delegates will be invited to a dinner honoring the re-establishment of the German hero fund, the “Carnegie Stiftung fuer Lebensretter,” based in Karlsruhe. That organization was one of 11 hero funds established by Carnegie a century ago, but it met a demise in the 1930s during the Nazi regime. It was restarted last year largely through the efforts of private citizen Andreas Huber, who now serves as its president.

The dinner will be held Oct. 17 in the Founder’s Room of the Carnegie library/museum complex in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. The room has special significance, as Carnegie used it to entertain dignitaries. A reception before the dinner will be open to a broader list of guests, including representatives of the local German business, education, non-profit, and cultural communities.

Sybil P. Veeder, who chairs the Hero Fund’s executive committee, is coordinating the event, with help from David Murdoch, honorary consul for Germany in Pittsburgh.

The following day, hero fund delegates are being invited to the Commission’s offices, where they will meet the staff and learn of its operations. Plans are then for the group to tour the home of Henry Clay Frick, Carnegie’s business partner. The home, “Clayton,” is a restored Victorian mansion that is part of the Frick estate, which includes an art museum, car and carriage museum, café, greenhouse, and gift shop.

After lunch, visitors will have the opportunity to view the site of the Jan. 25, 1904, Harwick mine explosion, which prompted Carnegie to establish the Commission two months later. Within a few years, he extended the concept of recognizing civilian heroism to his native Scotland and to nine other European nations.
NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Latest “subscribers” to imPULSE are octogenarian twins Marion Feeny (left) of Midland, Mich., and Margaret Hamel of Farmington Hills, Mich. They are the daughters and surviving children of Carnegie Medal awardee James B. Haggerty, who on Christmas Eve in 1926 attempted to save a coworker from suffocating in a railroad tank car that contained deadly fumes. Both men died in the accident, the 43-year-old Haggerty leaving four children, including the twins, then 5, and a pregnant wife. For the next 50 years, or until her death in 1977, Haggerty’s widow, Mary, received a monthly grant from the Hero Fund to help her meet living expenses. The twins are shown at their 85th birthday party last year.

VISIT BY SCOTTISH KIN

Claire Gemmell, left, convener of Andrew Carnegie’s U. K. Hero Fund Trust, visited her American “cousins” last month during a stopover at the Commission’s offices in Pittsburgh. She is shown with Sybil P. Veeder, chair of the executive committee of the U.S.-based Hero Fund, who presented her with one of the limited-edition silver medals that the U.S. fund had struck to commemorate its centennial in 2004. The U.K. Hero Fund, established in 1908, is based in Dunfermline, Scotland, where Gemmell’s trustee duties extend to the work of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, founded in 1903 to benefit the lives of those living in that city. Although Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, lived there as a child before emigrating to the U.S., and returned often to visit, Gemmell said she learned more about him during her stay in Pittsburgh than she had back in Scotland.

HALLOWEEN NIGHTMARE

Jamie D. W. Robertson of Calgary, Alta., will probably never experience another Halloween night without thinking of the one in 2005 when he rescued a neighbor from a knife-wielding intruder. Robertson, then 43, and his wife were putting away their holiday candy and decorations when a man about 5-foot-10 wearing a gruesome mask rang their doorbell. Robertson’s wife gave him a treat, thinking it odd that someone that tall would be trick or treating. Moments later, they heard fighting noises from their neighbor’s apartment. When Robertson immediately responded, he found that the same trick-or-treater was attacking the neighbor and had already stabbed her repeatedly with a knife that had a six-inch blade. In an ensuing struggle between Robertson and the assailant, the assailant raised his knife hand, and Robertson grabbed him by that wrist to keep from being stabbed. He then forced the intruder from the apartment. The assailant, who fled the scene, was not apprehended. Robertson’s neighbor was hospitalized two weeks for treatment of serious stab wounds.

The Calgary Police Service brought Robertson’s act to the attention of the Commission, and Robertson was awarded the Carnegie Medal in December. On May 24 of this year, he was formally presented the medal by Douglas R. Chambers, Hero Fund director of external affairs, at the police service’s Chief’s Awards dinner, held annually to honor police officers and citizens of Calgary for courage, leadership, and dedication in helping those in need and preserving the quality of life in the community. Robertson, left, is shown with (from left) Chambers and Jack Beaton, chief.

...that descendants may know

(on continued from cover)

on a flat-faced urn. The insignia is cast by Matthews International Bronze Corp. of Pittsburgh, America’s largest provider of bronze memorials.

The Commission has a secondary purpose for this program. In most cases, we do not have records of the lives of the awardees subsequent to their receiving the medal. It is our hope, but by no means a requirement, that families of deceased awardees who request a grave insignia will favor us with the awardee’s obituary or similar short summary of his or her life. We have begun including these accounts in our database and are linking them to the online description of the awardee’s actions. We think this will add to the reader’s appreciation of both the hero and the heroic act.

We are offering the insignia to the awardee’s family at no cost. It will be sent with a packet containing mounting supplies and directions for application on a flat, upright, or slanted surface, either of stone or metal. To order an insignia, contact the Hero Fund by email at carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org, or call, toll free, 1-800-447-8900. The insignia may also be specified for addition to a bronze memorial tablet at the time that the memorial is ordered, a transaction usually done through the cemetery.

The insignia is a visible reminder to the generations of a hero’s family and all others who view it that the awardee offered a great sacrifice while acting in behalf of another. The offering should not be forgotten, nor should the distinction of the award.
**Off-duty firefighters cited for Virginia bridge rescues**

Two off-duty Virginia firefighters, Brian D. Rothell of Richmond and James J. Blount III of Chesapeake, were each awarded the Carnegie Medal in late June for acts of heroism that took place on bridges in southeastern Virginia in 2006. There the similarities end.

Rothell, of the Chesterfield County Fire and EMS Dept., was biking across the 2,000-foot-long Nickel Bridge in Richmond on March 26, when he saw a mentally ill man climb over the bridge railing at a point 50 feet above the shallow James River. Although the man outweighed him by 85 pounds, Rothell, then 42, immediately grasped one of his arms and, joined by others in the attempt, tried unsuccessfully to haul the dangling man back to the bridge deck.

Rothell himself then climbed over the railing and secured a hold to the bridge by hooking one of his legs through the railing’s balusters. He was able to pull the struggling man up enough so that those on the deck could get a better grasp on him. They pulled the victim over the railing to safety and then did the same for Rothell. Rothell received his medal at a meeting of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors.

Blount, who is a professional firefighter and medic with York County Dept. of Fire and Life Safety and a volunteer firefighter for the Wythe Fire Co. and Rescue Squad, was cited for rescuing two men from their burning trucks after a highway accident four months later, on July 19. The accident happened in Suffolk, on the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel and involved a tractor-trailer and a utility truck carrying welding supplies and equipment. On his way home after a 24-hour work shift, Blount, then 32, witnessed the accident and reported it.

Still wearing his firefighting pants, Blount donned other work gear and attempted to douse the flames on the tractor with fire extinguishers. They had little effect. He then went under the trailer to approach the driver’s side of the tractor, which was against the wall of the bridge. Blount helped the driver from the cab and took him across the highway to safety—less than a minute before flames engulfed the cab. Blount then turned his attention to the driver of the welding truck but found the only accessible door jammed. With his helmet he broke out the door window, then went under the trailer to approach the driver's side of the tractor, which was still on fire. With his extinguishers he doused the flames on the tractor with fire extinguishers. They had little effect. He then went under the trailer to approach the driver’s side of the tractor, which was against the wall of the bridge. Blount helped the driver from the cab and took him across the highway to safety—less than a minute before flames engulfed the cab. Blount then turned his attention to the driver of the welding truck but found the only accessible door jammed. With his helmet he broke out the door window, then he maneuvered headfirst partially through the window opening, grasped the driver, and pulled him from the vehicle to safety.

Blount’s medal was presented at a luncheon in the presence of his superiors and fellow firefighters from both the fire companies that he serves. That presentation, and Rothell’s on the previous day, was made by Hero Fund representatives Douglas R. Chambers, director of external affairs, and Susan L. Marcy, who investigated both cases.
Carnegie’s great idea

By Dan D. Sandman, Board Member
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

“What a great idea!” Commonly, that is how friends react when I tell them about the Carnegie Hero Fund and the award that Andrew Carnegie conceived in 1904 to recognize the everyday heroes who risk their lives saving, or attempting to save, those in imminent danger.

Carnegie’s writings make clear that, of all the many philanthropic organizations he founded, it was the Hero Fund of which he was most proud, saying: “It is the fund that may be considered my pet. I don’t believe there’s a nobler fund in the world. I love the Hero Fund because it is my ‘ain bairn’ [own child]…I cherish a fatherly regard for it, since no one suggested it to me, and as far as I know, it has never been thought of.”

As a representative of the Commission, I was proud to quote Carnegie’s words to an overflow crowd of family, friends, and coworkers of four Carnegie Medal awardees who gathered at C&C Marine Maintenance’s dockyard in Georgetown, Pa., on May 23. (The actions of the honorees are vividly detailed elsewhere in this issue of imPULSE.)

It was my privilege to witness firsthand the full expression of Carnegie’s great idea—being acted out for nearly the 10,000th time in the last 100-plus years and to see in the heroes’ faces both the pride and the humility with which they received their medals. They and the victims they rescued, grown men all, embraced and cried, thanking each other and thanking God that they were alive to see their children grow, to return to the maritime work they loved, and to go about their daily lives—now made more precious than ever before.

Ideas have power, and some ideas are more powerful than others. The most powerful ideas have the ability to endure through the years and bring men to tears. And, to provide the recognition and thanks that a grateful community wishes to express. Such it is with the award of the Carnegie Medal, Carnegie’s great idea.

HOLOCAUST RESCUERS HONORED

Gold medals were presented in June by Andrew Carnegie’s German hero fund—Carnegie Stiftung fuer Lebensretter—to Mietek Pemper, center, and posthumously to Oskar Schindler for their efforts in rescuing Jews from the Nazi labor camp Plaszów, near Krakow, Poland. The rescue was documented in Steven Spielberg’s movie Schindler’s List, which was based on the book of the same name by Thomas Keneally. A prisoner of the camp for 500 days in 1943–1944, Pemper worked as a stenographer for the sadistic camp commandant Amon Göth, and he later served as a key witness at the war crimes trials of Göth and other high-ranking Nazi officers. Now 87, Pemper has recorded an astonishing and compelling memoir in his 2005 book, The Road to Rescue—Schindler’s List—The True Story, which will be published in the United States next year.

“Don’t thank me for your survival,” Schindler told the released Jewish workers in 1945. “Thank your valiant…Pemper, who stared death in the face constantly.” Shown with Pemper are Andreas Huber, left, president of the German hero fund, and H. E. Shimon Stein, Israel’s ambassador to Germany.

MEDAL REFINISHING AVAILABLE

Carnegie Medals as old as a century remain on display, with some developing a desirable metallic patina and others showing their age in less graceful ways. The Hero Fund recently had the opportunity to refinish a 15-year-old medal that was showing the effects of wear-and-tear (left). Its original luster was restored by the Hero Fund’s current medal manufacturer (right), and it was then returned to its owner, of Mobile, Ala. Medal holders wishing to have similar refinishing work done—at no cost—are invited to send their medals to “Myrna” of the Hero Fund’s office by insured, registered mail. Allow about a month for the medal’s return.

PROVING HIS METTLE: MAN RETURNS MEDAL

By Jeff Jardine, Columnist
Modesto (Calif.) Bee

Four years ago, Steve Montelongo received a Carnegie award for saving the lives of two people trapped when a home in Modesto caught fire. Montelongo has since moved to Lodi, where he is the minister at Iglesia Nueva Esperanza church. “There were no more people to save down there, so I moved up here,” he joked.

A year ago, his was one of a half-dozen churches burglarized in Lodi. “They were hitting the churches pretty good at that time,” Montelongo said. The thieves took some guitars. They took a projector used for Power Point presentations. And they took his Carnegie Medal, presented by the Carnegie Hero (continued on page 10)
Four towboat crewmen cited as heroes for dramatic winter Ohio River rescue

Charles Lee Montgomery’s stature as “skillful mariner” was solidly established Jan. 9, 2005, when he piloted a towboat into the boil of water at the base of a dam in the Ohio River at Industry, Pa., near Pittsburgh. His mission, and that of his three-man crew, was to rescue two crewmembers of another towboat, which was lodged, and mostly submerged, in the ice-cold river at the dam.

In a nighttime accident that claimed the lives of four of its crew, the victims’ 108-foot towboat Elizabeth M., pushing six coal-laden barges upriver, was forced through an open gate of Montgomery Dam by a strong current. Although the river was navigable, it was higher and faster than normal—the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported that the current above the dam was four times its normal speed.

Below the dam, water conditions were very turbulent, as repeatedly described by witnesses. A strong current back toward the face of the dam threatened to take any approaching craft sideways and in. Breakaway barges and other debris littered the water, and the exact positioning of the Elizabeth M. below the dam was not immediately apparent to Montgomery. Further, it was dark and cold; according to the U.S. Coast Guard, air and water temperatures were both in the lower 30s.

“Had you ever encountered conditions like that?” Montgomery was asked during an investigation of the accident. He replied simply, “No.”

It was in those conditions that George Zappone, 44, and John Thomas, 35, were in the fight for their lives as they hung on to what little part of the Elizabeth M.—the top of its pilothouse—was exposed. Their ordeal was made all the worse, for Zappone, by a serious hand injury, and for Thomas, by his willingness to support Zappone and even give him some of his own clothing to wear.

Montgomery and his crew entered those conditions aboard their 66-foot craft, the Rocket. Although in safe harbor several miles downstream, they responded to the U.S. Coast Guard, air and water temperatures were both in the lower 30s. Further, it was dark and cold; according to the U.S. Coast Guard, air and water temperatures were both in the lower 30s. Montgomery replied simply, “No.”

It was in those conditions that George Zappone, 44, and John Thomas, 35, were in the fight for their lives as they hung on to what little part of the Elizabeth M.—the top of its pilothouse—was exposed. Their ordeal was made all the worse, for Zappone, by a serious hand injury, and for Thomas, by his willingness to support Zappone and even give him some of his own clothing to wear.

Montgomery and his crew entered those conditions aboard their 66-foot craft, the Rocket. Although in safe harbor several miles downstream, they responded
Clifford R. Boyd, 30, a sheriff’s deputy from Queens, N.Y., died of an accident in Seminole, Okla., on June 5, 2006. Brandon W. McClure, 23, was unconscious in the driver’s seat of the car as flames entered its back-seat area. Despite the blistering heat, Hickman, a truck driver, and Morgan, an aircraft maintenance technician, reached through the window of the driver’s door and pulled McClure out. Both rescuers sustained burns, but they recovered.

Adam Hughes, 27, a logger from Richwood, W. Va., attempted to rescue Suzanne Kettler from a burning cabin in Richwood on March 12 last year. Hughes discovered the fire and opened a side door to the two-room cabin, but smoke precluded his entering. He then kicked in the front door, entered, and found Kettler, 49, on a couch. Sustaining burns to his arms and neck area, Hughes carried her from the structure. She did not survive. Hughes required hospital treatment and missed a week’s work but fully recovered.

Matthew B. Vizbulis of Fonthill, Ont., saved Shailesh H. Shah, 41, and his sons Smit S., 14, and Hasya S., 11, from drowning in the Niagara River at Niagara Falls, Ont., on July 29, 2006. The three victims, unconscious, were caught in an eddy off the bank of the river in a remote area where the river was narrowed, extremely swift, and turbulent. Rock climbing nearby, Vizbulis, 28, an artist, responded to the scene. He entered the river and with difficulty swam three times to the eddy, retrieving a victim each time. All three recovered, Hasya after hospital treatment.

Christopher J. Lyons, 40, of Queens, N.Y., died attempting to save Tyshon H. Hawkins from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Asbury Park, N.J., on July 31, 2006. While swimming, Tyshon, 13, was taken seaward by a strong current, and he called for help. Lyons entered the water from the beach and swam toward him, but both were carried farther out. Tyshon made his way to shore. Lyons was recovered by rescue personnel but could not be revived.

Tommy L. Barbee, a police officer from Chandler, Okla., helped to save a 34-year-old man from his burning apartment in Tulsa, Okla., on Feb. 16, 2006. On duty nearby, Barbee, 34, was alerted to the fire. He kicked in the door to the second-floor unit, then entered, despite blinding smoke. Hearing the man moan, Barbee crawled to him and began to drag him to the door. He lost his bearings in the smoke and shouted for help. A second officer guided him to the door by voice, then with another man helped Barbee pull the victim to safety.

Nursing assistant Fatmata M. Kabba, 37, of Alexandria, Va., helped to rescue two persons from a man attacking them with a knife in an office of an Alexandria retirement home on Jan. 9, 2005. Hearing screaming, Kabba responded to the office, where she grabbed one of the victims and pulled her from the room. Kabba then returned to the office and yelled at the assailant to stop his attack on the second victim. Distracted, the assailant turned to Kabba and, threatening her with the knife, chased her through the corridor. He was subdued by others.

(continued on page 9)
Four towboat crewmen
(continued from page 7)

immediately on hearing of the accident. “I asked my crew if anyone wanted to get off the boat, because I was going to try a rescue,” Montgomery said later. “I didn’t want to risk their lives against their will. All three replied, ‘Let’s go.’

“They put their lives into my hands,” Montgomery said of his crew. “They are my heroes.” Making up the crew that night were Donald LeRoy Brown, 24, lead deckhand, of Aliquippa, Pa.; Robert F. M. Cornman, 36, deckhand, of East Liverpool, Ohio; and Thomas W. Siegler, 47, lead deckhand, of Washington, Pa.

Montgomery, 41, of East Liverpool, maneuvered the Rocket into the boil and held it in position while his crew worked below, out of his sight. Using great resourcefulness and some acrobatics, they fished Zappone and Thomas aboard the Rocket with lines, rings, and a ladder. Cornman later said, “It was the worst thing I had ever experienced. All I did was what my Pap used to tell me: ‘Do what’s right, boy.’”

For their actions, Montgomery and his crew were each awarded the Carnegie Medal. Their employer, C&C Marine Maintenance, Inc., sponsored a presentation ceremony at its Ohio River-side facility in Georgetown, Pa., not far from the dam. Family members and fellow workers of the heroes were on hand to see the medals awarded and to witness the emotional reunion of rescuers and victims.

Presenting the medals were Hero Fund board member Dan D. Sandman, just-retired vice chairman of U.S. Steel Corporation, and Commission staff members Susan L. Marcy, who investigated the case; Douglas R. Chambers, director of external affairs; and Walter F. Rutkowski, executive director. Sandman gave a brief history of the Commission, citing it as the “pet” of the philanthropic institutions founded by Andrew Carnegie.

Six weeks after the medal presentation, Brown again acted heroically when he helped a woman escape flash flooding in their neighborhood. After attempting to drive her car on a flooded street, the woman got out to push it from deep water, but she was swept off her feet and carried away.

Outside his house, Brown braced himself in the current, intercepted the woman, and pulled her to her feet. “A lot of people don’t respect the water,” Brown said. “I have a healthy respect for Mother Nature.”

The crew of the towboat Rocket at a worksite ceremony during which they were each presented the Carnegie Medal: From left, Thomas W. Siegler, Robert F. M. Cornman, Donald LeRoy Brown, and Capt. Charles Lee Montgomery.

LATEST Awardees
(continued from page 8)

Off-duty police officer Mark Fisher, 51, of Miller Place, N.Y., and Matthew J. Shackle, 23, a university student and waiter from Mount Sinai, N.Y., rescued a woman from a burning sports car after a highway accident at night in Coram, N.Y. Jacqueline G. Rathjen, 20, was trapped in the passenger seat as flames began to spread throughout the vehicle. Fisher stopped at the scene, as did Shackle. They went to the car’s passenger side, leaned through its exposed top, and with difficulty worked to free Rathjen. Flames grew quickly to consume the vehicle as the men carried her to safety.

Vitaly Tsikoza, 41, a project manager from Novosibirsk, Russia, was visiting friends in the U.S. when he died Sept. 24, 2006, while attempting to save a young girl from falling. Paulina A. Filipova, 3, had fallen about 75 feet from a trail on the face of American Fork Canyon in American Fork, Utah, and was stranded on a narrow ledge just inches from a much higher and steeper drop. Tsikoza descended to her level, then fell 400 feet to his death. Mickey D. Horak, 36, an electrician from Corpus Christi, Texas, and Marc J. Ellison, 34, a clerk and seasonal park ranger from American Fork, descended over a different course to Paulina. They secured her but then could not climb unaided from the ledge because of unstable footing and the steep slope of the canyon. They waited 90 minutes on the ledge until a search and rescue team member rappelled to them. Paulina was airlifted to safety, and Horak and Ellison were aided back to the trail.

Frank R. Hicks, 23, a boat mechanic from Oroville, Calif., saved Dylan T. Beebe, 2, and his mother, Lisa S. Long, 25, and grandmother, Debra S. Long, 51, from a burning sport utility vehicle after an accident on July 28 last year in Oroville. Hicks witnessed the accident, in which the vehicle over-turned in a ravine and caught fire at its front end. He responded to the scene, where Lisa handed Dylan through a window to him, and then he aided Lisa through the window. Debra climbed from the vehicle but, injured, could not move away from it. With flames spreading to the dry vegetation, Hicks returned for her and dragged her to safety.

(See photo.)

Randall K. L. McConnell, 41, of Ottawa, Ont., helped to rescue Guy J. A. Clairoux, 39, from three attacking dogs in Ottawa on Feb. 24, 2005. Clairoux was rescuing his young son from the dogs, which were part pit bull, when they turned on him, taking him to ground and mauling him. Alerted to the attack, McConnell ran to the scene, where, screaming, he pulled at the dogs and punched and kicked them. The dogs turned on him, biting him on the foot and right arm. The dogs’ owner arrived shortly and removed them from the scene. Clairoux and his son and McConnell needed hospital treatment for their bite wounds.
Awardees of the Carnegie Medal will be honored in the “Hall of Patriots” of the National Museum of Patriotism, alongside awardees of the Medal of Honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal. The display is to be unveiled this fall in the three-year-old museum, located in downtown Atlanta, Ga.

Museum education director Patrick Smith said that the Hero Fund’s portion of the exhibit will feature pictures and stories of selected medal recipients, an informational video, a computer kiosk to access all awardee case summaries, and an actual Carnegie Medal, which the Hero Fund had struck specifically for the purpose. A similar display on the Hero Fund was installed in the Senator H. John Heinz Regional Pittsburgh History Center at the time of the Commission’s centennial in 2004.

“As with our relationship with the Medal of Honor Society,” Smith said, “we seek to inform the public about the recipients of the Carnegie Medal and the Commission as an entity separate from the museum but embodying the same values and principles.” About 500,000 are expected to tour the museum annually when it relocates to the Centennial Park area of Atlanta, near the Georgia Aquarium, later this fall. The facility will expand to 60,000 square feet from its current 17,000.

The museum, which explores aspects of patriotism through videos, exhibits, and keepsakes, houses the world’s largest collection of “sweetheart jewelry,” or mementos either machine-made or fashioned in the trenches of armament detritus by members of the military during both world wars. Wearing such a piece of jewelry was a way to show patriotism and to indicate which branch of the service a sweetheart, son, or brother was representing. Other museum offerings include a 9-11 memorial, a tribute to the “Tuskegee Airmen,” the first black unit of World War II, and a display on America’s immigrant experience that starts at a replica of the Brooklyn Bridge and ends at a replica of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Goals of the museum include having visitors appreciate core values that inspire love of country and recognize the sacrifices for their country that were made by both civilians and members of the military. The museum has the support of Jimmy Carter: “Patriotism is the inexplicable bond that unites us as Americans,” the 39th President of the United States said. “The museum will allow us to celebrate our heritage for many years to come.”
52 years later, heroic brakeman reunited with “toddler” pushed from path of train

A reunion of Carnegie Medal awardee Aloysius A. Russell and the toddler he saved 52 years ago, William W. Mattson, took place in April and gave the “toddler,” now 54, the opportunity to thank his hero.

Russell was a brakeman for the Reading, Pa., Railroad Co. when on June 12, 1955, he was on a train run through a remote area of Chester County in eastern Pennsylvania. Mattson, then 2, lived in the nearby village of Suplee. Unnoticed by his mother, Mattson wandered almost a half-mile from his house, accompanied by his dog Lassie, and climbed onto the railroad track. In the lead engine of the approaching freight train, Russell, then 26, spotted him there as the train bore down at about 30 m.p.h.

Russell immediately descended the steps at the front of the locomotive, held to a handrail, and leaned toward the track. As the front of the train reached Mattson, Russell struck him on the shoulder, knocking him away. Russell then fell from the train, sustaining a fractured toe and bruises. For his heroic act, Russell was awarded the Carnegie Medal and a grant of $500 in October of that year.

Today, Russell, 79, is living in Stevens, Pa., having retired in 1991 after 40 years with the railroad. Mattson grew up, moved to Philadelphia in 1970, and enjoyed a 20-year musical career, during which he was the lead singer for a band that opened for Bon Jovi, Cinderella, and Molly Hatchet in the 1980s. He eventually moved to Morgantown, Pa.—just a few miles from Suplee—where he now works as a painting contractor and occasionally performs at the American Legion.

The men’s reunion was arranged by the Reading Eagle, which reported that the moment they made eye contact, “a half-century of separation faded into an embrace.” They are shown to the right, near a locomotive similar to the figuring one, with Russell, left, holding an award he received from the state citing him for his heroism. They are also shown in an Associated Press Wirephoto, taken at the time of the rescue.

By Susan L. Marcy, Case Investigator, with thanks to Ron Devlin and Jeremy Drey of the Reading Eagle. The contemporary photo of the men was taken by Drey and is reprinted here with the paper’s permission.
John Giampapa, 7, was playing on a wooden sawhorse that was left in a flood-control channel when a surge of water took him on the ride of his life. Luckily for him, Horace Raymond Greeley, a college athlete, was nearby.

Heavy rain had fallen in the San Gabriel Valley, east of Los Angeles, on Oct. 18, 1936, and the normally dry Alhambra Wash was filling with runoff. About 50 feet wide and 13 feet deep, the open, concrete-lined channel had no easy means of exit or egress.

John and his older brother had climbed into the channel to play on the sawhorse, which was standing in about six inches of water. Suddenly, a surge of muddy water, about three feet high, moved toward them. John’s brother climbed to safety, but John, still holding to the sawhorse, was knocked off his feet and swept away. From a bridge 900 feet downstream, three men extended a plank to him, but the turbulent water knocked it from their hands. They sped by car to another bridge for another rescue attempt.

Meanwhile, first-year college student Horace Raymond Greeley, 19, was at his father’s pharmacy near the second bridge, shoveling gravel that had been washed loose by the rains. He heard shouting from the bridge and went to investigate, then saw John being swept toward him. The boy had been carried about 4,200 feet by then.

Greeley jumped feet first into the channel, the current immediately taking John to him. He grasped the boy with one arm but then lost his footing, and the two were pulled downstream. Despite Greeley’s youth and physical fitness—he had been a high school athlete and was a star baseball player at college—he could not overcome the current to get to the side of the channel. Rescuer and victim continued downstream. A rope was thrown toward Greeley, but it missed its mark. When Greeley saw barbed wire in the debris against one of the channel walls, he clutched it but released his hold after cutting his finger.

Finally, Greeley and John were fished from the wash by a man who waded into it, a rope tied around him. Greeley and the man held to each other as those on the bank pulled them in, at a point 4,760 feet from where Greeley entered the water. John was taken to the hospital, where he was treated and released that day.

For his extraordinary heroism, Greeley was awarded the Carnegie Medal and an education grant of $500. He was graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1940.

By Marlin Ross, Case Investigator

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

A. H. Burchfield III
Elizabeth H. Genter
Thomas J. Hilliard, Jr.
David Mcl. Hillman
Linda T. Hills
Mark Laskow
President
Peter F. Mathiessen
Christopher R. McCrady
Priscilla J. McCrady
Vice President
Ann M. McGann

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission
425 Sixth Avenue, Ste. 1640 • Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1823
412-281-1302 • 800-447-8900
www.carnegiehero.org

Address Service Requested