

imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 23 • SEPTEMBER 2010



SACRIFICE HONORED

Willard Van Fleet, above left, and his stepfather, Mark W. Keene, had a close relationship and died together in the rescue of a small girl from an ice-covered pond in Dalton, Pa., in February 2009. The men were posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal in June. Details of their heroic act, and those of the 21 other latest awardees of the medal, are on pages 6, 7, and 10. Keene was a life member of the Scott Township, Pa., Volunteer Fire Department, and his turnout gear was arrayed in silent testimony during a memorial service at the fire hall. (Bottom photo by Linda Morgan, staff photographer with the Scranton, Pa., Times-Tribune.)



Family of first Carnegie Medal awardee gathers on 106th anniversary of heroic act

One hundred and six years—to the day—that the first awardee of the Carnegie Medal performed his heroic act, on July 17, 1904, members of his extended family gathered at his gravesite to place a bronze marker signifying his distinction as a medal awardee. The markers, made in the likeness of the medal, are made available to the families of the deceased awardees by the Hero Fund.

(continued on page 2)



Cousins Ronald Hitchon, his brother Lawrence Hitchon, and Richard Bauman gather at the grave, foreground, of their uncle, Louis A. Baumann, Jr., in Homewood Cemetery, Pittsburgh. Baumann was the first awardee of the Carnegie Medal.



FAMILY OF FIRST AWARDEE GATHERS

(continued from cover)

Louis A. Baumann, Jr., 17, of Wilksburg, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburgh, became the first Carnegie Hero when he was cited in 1905 for saving a friend from drowning in a farm pond near their homes. He died March 14, 1925, at age 36 and is buried in Homewood Cemetery, Pittsburgh, where three of his four surviving nephews—the last of that generation of the family—met to reminisce and pay tribute to him.

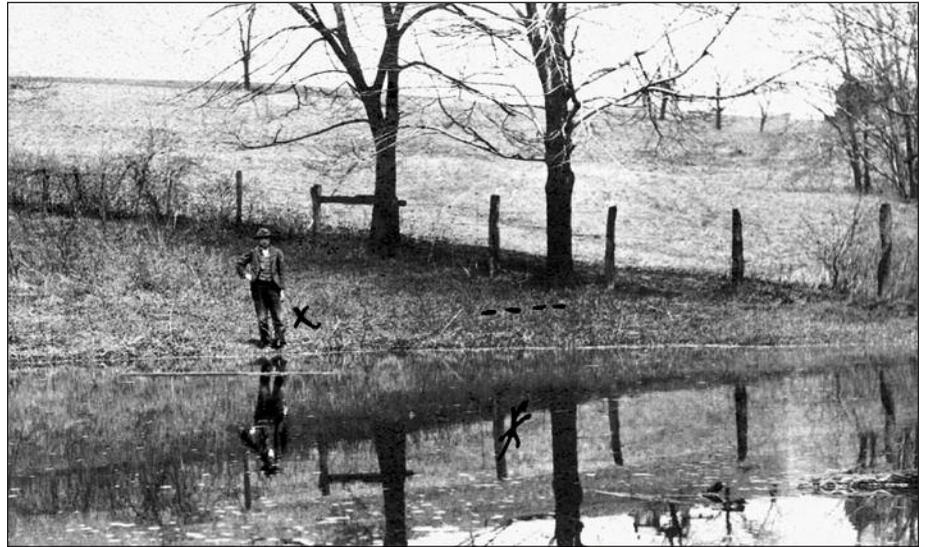
The informal event, attended also by members of the Wilksburg Historical Society and Hero Fund representatives Douglas R. Chambers and Walter F. Rutkowski, was put together by one of the nephews, Richard Bauman of Murrysville, Pa. The family dropped the second “n” from Baumann over the years.

“I first remember seeing the medal as a teenager,” Bauman said. “The inscription on the back of it impressed me, even at that age.” He was referring to the Bible verse from the New Testament, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13), that rims each medal. The other nephews speaking to their heritage were brothers Ronald Hitchon of Lewisville, Texas, and Lawrence Hitchon of Washington, Pa. The fourth nephew is Fred Williams of Santa Monica, Calif. Baumann, the awardee, and his wife Geraldine had one child, James David Bauman, now deceased.

In addition to Baumann’s, Homewood Cemetery contains the grave of Selwyn M. Taylor, one of the two men who entered a stricken coal mine in Harwick, Pa., to attempt the rescue of any survivors of a massive explosion in early 1904. Taylor and the other rescuer, Daniel A. Lyle, both died in their attempts, prompting Andrew Carnegie to issue medals privately to their families. Within two months, he acted on a desire to see civilian heroism more broadly recognized by writing the Hero Fund’s “Deed of Trust.” The document established a commission to oversee the work of the new fund, and it stipulated that recognition was to include a medal.

The medal “shall be given...(to) recite the heroic deed it commemorates,” Carnegie wrote, “that descendants may know and be proud of their descent.” Proving Carnegie’s prescience, members of Baumann’s family had his medal on display, propping it against his headstone for the ceremony. The grave marker, cast in bronze, had been set in a sunken granite post atop the grave. The Hero Fund began distributing grave markers, at no charge to the awardees’ families, in 2007 and to date has issued 200 of them (see page 11).

Making the markers available was the idea of Commission President Mark Laskow, who is the seventh to hold that office. Four of his predecessors, in addition to Baumann and Taylor, are buried at Homewood: Charles L. Taylor (president from 1904 to 1922), Dr. Thomas S. Arbuthnot (1933-1956), Charles A. McClintock (1957-1968), and Stewart McClintic (1968-1978). 



Louis A. Baumann, Jr., on the bank of the figuring pond in a photo taken during the Hero Fund’s investigation of his heroic act.

First Carnegie Medal given for rescue that took place in a farm pond in 1904

The Hero Fund’s attention was called to the lifesaving actions of **Louis A. Baumann, Jr.**, by his father, Louis A., Sr., in a handwritten letter of Sept. 15, 1904, that included signatures of six witnesses to the rescue. The nomination was the 201st to be received by the Hero Fund since its founding the previous April 15. To date, more than 83,000 nominations for the award have been made.

The penciled note survives in the Commission’s files, as does the case investigator’s typewritten report, which details the heroic act. According to the report, Baumann was one of 10 young men who on “an ideal summer day” in July 1904 set out for a farm pond near his home “for an afternoon’s sport in the water.”

One of the youths, Charles Stevick, 16, dived into the pond from a springboard, but he shouted for help when he surfaced and then sank. Twice Baumann entered the water for him but each time had to break away from him and return to the bank to catch his breath. On his third attempt, Baumann grabbed Stevick by the hand and dragged him along the bottom of the pond until the other boys, forming a chain, helped remove him from the water. Stevick was unconscious when taken from the pond but was revived on the bank.

Since the Baumann award, 9,371 Carnegie Medals have been given throughout the U.S. and Canada, with 3,383 of them—36%—recognizing acts of rescue from drowning. 



Baumann’s headstone, with grave marker cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal.

Adoptive father finds Carnegie Hero while tracing his son's family history

By the Rev. Larry A. Shelley • Pastor, Chattanooga, Okla., Church of Christ

At three weeks old, Jason became our son in 1976. The state shared only the scantiest of details about his birth and family background. After he graduated and served his country in the armed forces, he and I decided it was time to learn more. The state where he was born and where we adopted him allows records to be opened upon proper petitioning and working through an intermediary. His birth mother gladly opened communication, as did his grandparents.

Jason had no objection to my further researching his natural family history, a work in which I have had many years' experience. We began with the memories of the grandparents. After several phone interviews with the grandmother, she, as an afterthought, volunteered that she still had an uncle living in another state. Would I like his phone number? The uncle, it turned out, is more than 90 years old and quite weak. I interviewed him with his wife's help.

As we concluded the interview, he referred to a medal he would look at as boy. It always hung on a piece of furniture in a prominent place in the house. On it was a Bible verse, the first scripture passage that he learned: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). So, what was the medal? "Oh, my father was awarded the Carnegie Medal. He saved a girl from drowning. He died not long after that. The family always said he died of a broken heart because he wasn't able to save the second girl, too."



The only known photo, taken in about 1908, of Carnegie Medal awardee Thomas A. O'Brien. O'Brien was a telegraph operator for the Pennsylvania Railroad—the same job with the same company held by Andrew Carnegie 50 years earlier.

The packet I received was one of those treasure loads that family historians always want but rarely get. What was in it? My son's great-great-grandfather's address—the specific street address! His height, weight, occupation, relative health, and dress on that day. The date of the incident. The names of the girls involved, with their birthdates, physical descriptions and dress, and their home addresses. The report included a detailed account of what happened that day, down to



The writer, center, shown with his children, from left, Eric Shelley of Oklahoma City, Okla.; Andrea Shelley of San Francisco, Calif., and Jason Shelley.

Next day, I contacted the library in that town. The uncle was an infant at the time of his father's heroic act, and his father died in 1920, so I had a time frame. The librarian found a newspaper article on the rescue, but she couldn't find an article about the award. After a while, it came to me that, since the medal is still being awarded, maybe the Carnegie folks might have records. Finding the address online, I sent my inquiry.

The Hero Fund responded with copies of its 1922 "case minute" on the rescue and of four "account cards," which monitored the payment of a \$1,000 grant to the widow. So that's why we couldn't find the article. The award had been made *after* his death.

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(continued on page 4)

BOARD NOTES

WHAT WOULD ANDREW DO?

By Mark Laskow, President
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission



I began my column in the last issue of *imPULSE* with the words, "The Hero Fund is not a historical society." The column described Andrew Carnegie's connection to Cresson, Pa., and the colorful history of one of his business

associates, who was an original member of the Commission. While the Hero Fund never loses sight of its mission to recognize heroic acts, we do seem to spend a lot of time on our history. Does history have a role in the execution of our mission? It does. An understanding of it is *vital* to our mission—both today and in the future.

First, history and the insights it provides into Carnegie's intentions for the Hero Fund are vital to our contemporary work. His Deed of Trust establishing this institution is a thoughtful and thorough set of instructions, but Carnegie himself knew that it could hardly cover every issue the organization would encounter. As a result, when we face novel issues, our first question is "WWAD?"—What would Andrew do? We draw on our collective knowledge of his life and the events that lead to the creation of the Hero Fund to be consistent with his original intent.

We know, for example, about the memorial Carnegie helped to erect in his hometown of Dunfermline, Scotland, to honor a rescuer, about his creation of private pensions to benefit individuals he admired, and about the 1904 Harwick mine disaster, which propelled him to create the Hero Fund. We draw on that knowledge to "fill in the blanks" in the Deed of Trust.

It is worth mentioning that history did not end with Carnegie's death. In our deliberations we look to the wisdom and learning embedded in more than a century of decisions by Commission members. In this respect we are much like a court considering judicial precedents. We have the flexibility to change, of course, but experience has taught that the rules developed by the Commission over the last century represent a thoughtful and nuanced expression of Carnegie's broad mandate.

A second and equally important role of history involves the recipients of the Carnegie Medal. In our transitory, fast-changing society, the 106-year tradition of the medal can mean a lot to the awardees and their families. A rescue may make the

(continued on page 4)



BOARD NOTES

(continued from page 3)

news for a day or so, but the "judgment" that represents is based in large part on ratings, audience appeal, and the amount of other news. The Carnegie Medal, on the other hand, represents a considered judgment in which the heroic act was weighed against an exacting standard and found worthy. We work hard to convey this history to the awardees, their families, and even their descendants. Awardees receive a copy of our 2004 centennial book and its accompanying video history, both specifically designed to give them a sense of the long, glorious line of heroes in which they stand.

Finally, history steadies our course. When Commission members deliberate, they are well aware of the Hero Fund's history and of their own responsibility in adding to that history. We believe that carelessness or a slackening of standards will erode the value of the medal. Year by year we are building our next great century, confident that there will be no shortage of heroes, no shortage of those willing to act in the face of danger to aid others.

PERSONAL PRESENTATION 'ADDED SIGNIFICANCE'

Carnegie heroes **Samuel D. Gauss**, left, of Corning, N.Y., and **Scott Poley**, right, of Elmira, N.Y. received their medals from 2003 awardee **Chris A. Cole**, center, of Lewis Run, Pa., at an informal "ceremony" at Gauss's house. Gauss and Poley were cited by the Hero Fund in April for saving a woman from assault by a gunman on the campus of the vocational school in Painted Post, N.Y., where she was a student. Witnessing the March 14, 2008, attack, Poley, then 55, the school's internship coordinator, and Gauss, then 38, the school's principal, approached the assailant. Although he pointed an assault rifle at them, Poley rushed the assailant and tackled him and Gauss helped to subdue him until he was arrested by police. At Cole's suggestion earlier this year, select Carnegie Medals are personally delivered by past awardees who live in the area. Poley said that the personal touch "added significance" to the award.



Adoptive father finds Carnegie Hero

(continued from page 3)

how the rescuer happened to be there and how he felt as he was involved in the rescue.

From the reports we learned that, besides his regular occupation, he was also a photographer, the reason for his being at the popular swimming hole. We learned that he died of tuberculosis of the throat in November 1920. His regular wages had been \$125 a month, and his widow had already received an insurance settlement. In the report were also the financial status of the family left behind and an accounting of their assets. In the family? Five daughters, ages 23, 20, 17, 11, and 5, and three sons, ages 14, 10, and 3. That last one—there's the uncle I interviewed—just 3 years old. What a fortunate circumstance for my research that he still remembered!

I learned that the rescuer's oldest daughter was a bookkeeper. Two of the boys were in an institution because their mother could not care for them. Her debts already exceeded her assets. The four account cards indicated that the \$1,000 grant went into very practical stuff. The house needed a new roof. The new grave needed a marker. The rest went for medical services, funeral expenses, taxes, plumbing, carpentry work, and a water bill.

And the medal hung in a place of honor where a young boy marveled at the little he knew of his father. Decades later he is telling a stranger about the verse he remembered on the medal's back side.

My son? Jason's job title is writer/editor for the Office of the Federal Register, a division of the National Archives, in Washington, D.C. He lives in Baltimore, Md.

(Jason's great-great-grandfather was **Thomas A. O'Brien** of Latrobe, Pa. On Aug. 8, 1919, O'Brien saved a 16-year-old girl from drowning in Loyalhanna Creek at Darlington, Pa.)

THANK YOU...AGAIN AND AGAIN

The Hero Fund has had three reasons to be grateful over the past few months:



Mr. Kauffelt

• **Bill Few Associates** of Pittsburgh is a 23-year-old wealth management firm that has begun providing consulting services to participants in the Hero Fund's retirement plan. The Hero Fund makes monthly contributions to its employees' tax-deferred retirement accounts, but it's up to the employees to direct their accounts' investment activities. Associates from Bill Few volunteered to provide their expert advice on investing, and in June two of the company's principals—Michael K. Kauffelt II, president and chief investment officer, and Edward G. Snyder, senior vice president—spent the day with the staff to reviewing their accounts and other holdings.

Their work was donated to the Hero Fund. "We have been looking for an opportunity to provide some of our services on a *pro-bono* basis to an organization with an admirable mission that we feel is a right fit for us," Kauffelt said. "After conducting due diligence on the Hero Fund, we think we have found a good fit which matches our resources with your needs." He added, "Our contribution pales in comparison to the actual heroes."



Mr. Snyder

• **Mullen** is a Boston-based, full-service modern advertising agency whose Pittsburgh office has been handling the Hero Fund account for the past eight years. The firm designed the Hero Fund's website (www.carnegiehero.org), and it hosts and maintains the site, incorporating changes as needed, such as the addition of new awardees when announced. Alex Maurer, senior vice president and director of client services, recently informed the Hero Fund that Mullen's routine work on the site would also be done on a *pro-bono* basis.



• **Troika Entertainment** out of Gaithersburg, Md., produces shows—such as *The Sound of Music*, *Cats*, *42nd Street*, and *Chicago*—throughout the world for the touring, sit-down, casino, and leisure markets. In a recent promotion, the Hero Fund emerged as a favored charity, and Troika made a financial contribution toward the furtherance of its work. Gifts to the Hero Fund are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law, as the organization is classed as charitable under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.

Heroes' 1936 deaths off Oregon coast honored annually by 'Fleet of Flowers'

Depoe Bay, Ore., is a community of just over a thousand and in most respects is like the many other small towns dotting the state's northwest coast. But every Memorial Day it does something that distinguishes it from all the others, drawing hundreds, mostly its own citizens but also vacationers and residents from nearby towns.



Those attending the Fleet of Flowers ceremony included spectators atop the bridge spanning the entrance to the Depoe Bay harbor

The community sponsors the "Fleet of Flowers," a ceremony that originally honored those who were lost at sea but has grown over the years to include honoring members of the armed forces as well as all others who gave their lives in service. In Depoe Bay, where so much of the economy relies on fishing,



Flower-laden Coast Guard vessels at harbor await procession

those others include local fishermen such as **Ray Noel Bower** and **John Aldred Chambers**, who died attempting to save three other fishermen on Oct. 4, 1936.

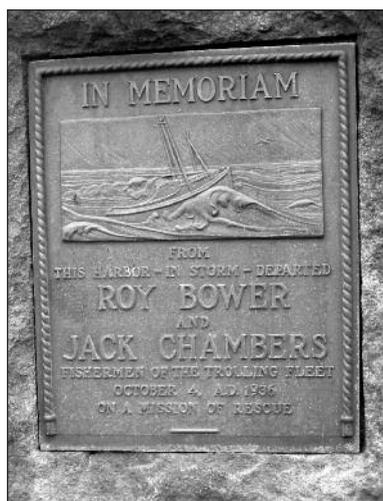
Rough seas and a dense fog hampered the three fishermen and their boat as they attempted to enter the harbor at Depoe Bay. Not wanting to risk entering the narrow passage into the harbor, the men set off for a whistle buoy nearly a mile from

the mouth of the bay. Meanwhile, Bower, 40, and Chambers, 21, who were alerted to the men's plight, feared that they would not be able to locate the buoy and went out to help them. It was nearly dark. When they reached the victims' boat, they instructed the three fishermen to follow them to the harbor.

The boats, 50 feet apart, passed through one line of breakers. From their boat, the victims saw another breaker strike Bower's and Chambers's boat, and it disappeared from their view. The three fishermen returned to the buoy and moored there, and the next morning they returned safely to the inner harbor. Later that morning Chambers was found three miles off shore and five miles from the bay, and Bower was found on the wrecked boat. The Hero Fund awarded the family of each man a Carnegie Medal in January 1938 to mark the heroic lifesaving attempt.

Nine years following the accident, the first Fleet of Flowers took place, prompted mainly by the actions of Bower and Chambers. As then, many of the boats moored in Depoe Bay are decorated with cedar boughs and flowers and, following a ceremony at the harbor, set out to sea.

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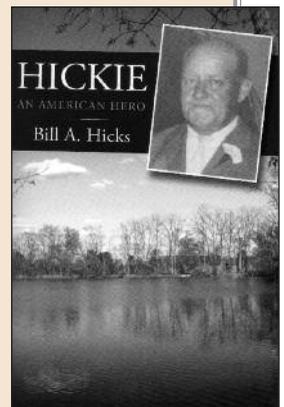


Harbor-side granite memorial honors Carnegie Medal awardees Ray Noel Bower and John Aldred Chambers

CARNEGIE HERO'S SON PENS HEARTFELT TRIBUTE

In his introduction to *Hickie, An American Hero*, author Bill A. Hicks, of Richmond, Ind., son of Carnegie Medal awardee **Edward Hicks**, admits that his effort is to honor the memory of his father—nicknamed "Hickie"—who was his hero. Describing his growing up in Cambridge City, Ind., in the 1940s and '50s, Hicks has penned a heartfelt tribute to his best friend, a man whose influence on him continues.

Blessed with the ability to recall his early life vividly, Hicks relates his humble beginnings in small-town America, where a respect for nature, a passion for the outdoors, and a healthy dose of hard work went a long way toward shaping the man he is today. The book, a self-published volume of 77 pages, contains memories of his father, grandparents, neighbors, and friends and descriptions of Cambridge City. In the end, the book turns out to be a tribute not only to his father but to an almost-vanished way of life where the quality of experiences matters more than material possessions.



There is plenty of practical advice in this book, published by iUniverse of Bloomington, Ind. Hicks describes how he learned to gather mushrooms (walk slowly and look around the trees, wild cherry and pine, where they might be) and how best to cook them (wash well, soak in salt water, roll in flour, and fry in butter). The author describes the nuts and bolts of how to trap and fish, lessons taught by his dad, and mixes these with folksy recollections of hunting for raccoon, squirrel, and, once, a skunk. All the while there is instilled in him, subtly, an appreciation for the beauty of the natural world (violets and bluebells in the springtime, fast-flowing streams) and how best to enjoy and respect the bounties available to him.

The Hero Fund came to know the elder Hicks through his heroic actions of Aug. 19, 1938. Then 25, Hicks and a coworker were caught by exploding crude oil vapor in the vicinity of storage tank. Aflame, Hicks retreated and extinguished the fire on his clothing, and then he ran back into the flames for his coworker and took him to safety. The coworker later died of his burns, and Hicks was disabled five months by burns. Accounts of the rescue and Hicks's subsequent awarding of the Carnegie Medal open the book.

Edward Hicks died Aug. 22, 1990, but in this modest tome the reader sees that his influence on his son was of great scale. Given the opportunity to read his son's work, no doubt Hicks would have been proud of him.—*Jeffrey A. Dooley, Investigations Manager*

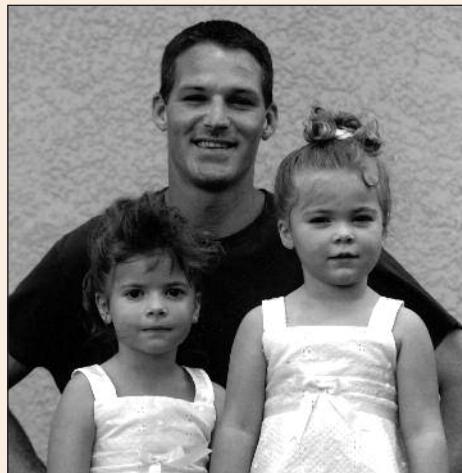


LATEST AWARDEES
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 23 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,372 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 24, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON SEPT. 23.

Timothy Lucas Gibson, 29, an air conditioning installer from Cape Coral, Fla., saved Kerrigan Lawhorn, 1, from her family's burning house in Cape Coral on Feb. 15 last year. Kerrigan was in a bedroom of the one-story house after fire broke out in the kitchen and filled the room with dense smoke. Across the street, Gibson was alerted to the fire. He climbed through a window into the bedroom and, despite there being no visibility in the smoke, searched the room. After returning for air, he again penetrated the room and found Kerrigan at its opposite side. He took her to the window, handed her out to others, and climbed through the window to safety. (See photo.)

Edward Russell Nye and **Michael Rangus**, both of Mechanicsville, Va., rescued Ronald A. Hairfield, Jr., from a burning pickup truck on June 13 last year. Hairfield, 37, was the sole occupant of the pickup, which left a rural road, turned onto its passenger side, and caught fire. The sound of the crash alerted Nye, 28, store clerk, and Rangus, 57, manager, both of whom lived nearby. They ran to the scene, where they saw Hairfield emerge through the driver's door window and shout for help. Despite high and growing flames



Timothy Lucas Gibson of Cape Coral, Fla., was visiting his father in February 2009 when a neighbor's house caught fire, trapping sisters Kerrigan, left, and Giana Lawhorn inside. After others rescued Giana, Gibson crawled through a window into a smoke-filled bedroom, found Kerrigan, and removed her to safety. (Photo by John David Emmett of the Fort Myers, Fla., News Press.)



The casket of the Rev. Frederick H. Winters is taken from the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of Maryville, Ill., on March 13, 2009, following his funeral service. Winters was gunned down by an assailant five days earlier while preaching at the church. Two congregants, Keith E. Melton and Terry L. Bullard, were stabbed by the assailant after they left their pews to end the attack. (Photo by the St. Louis, Mo., Post-Dispatch.)

issuing from the vehicle, they grasped Hairfield and pulled him out of the cab and to the ground. Burned, Hairfield died 18 days later.

Donald George Gough, 60, an environmental monitor contractor from Summerland, B.C., helped to save Gordon R. Kingston, 83, from drowning in the Similkameen River at Manning Park, B.C., on May 23, 2007. Kingston's car left the highway, entered the river, and was swept downstream by the very swift current. It came to rest at a point about 35 feet from the bank in water about four feet deep. Gough, a motorist, tied one end of a fire hose around his waist and entered the river as men on the bank held the other end. He swam with the current to the car and tied his end of the hose around Kingston. The men on the bank pulled Kingston to the edge of the river. Untethered, Gough swam from the car, the current taking him farther downstream as he made his way to the bank. Kingston was hospitalized for treatment of hypothermia.

Willard Van Fleet, 36, a general laborer from Factoryville, Pa., died helping to save a 5-year-old girl from drowning in a pond in Dalton, Pa., on Feb. 21, 2009, and his stepfather, **Mark W. Keene**, 55, a builder from Dalton, died attempting to help save the girl and her mother. The girl went onto ice covering the pond but broke through at a point about 15 feet from the bank into 12 feet of water. Van Fleet, her mother's friend, jumped into the water for her and held her up while Keene left to summon help. The girl's mother went onto the ice, but she too broke through. Van Fleet handed the girl over to her before submerging. Keene,

who had a history of significant heart disease, returned with an extension ladder. As a responding firefighter then used the ladder to remove both the girl and her mother from the pond, Keene suffered a fatal heart attack and collapsed. Van Fleet drowned. (See page 1.)

Retired mason **Edward Jay Fillingham**, 75, of Henderson, N.Y., saved Amanda L. Roberts, 22; Kiefer S. Hockey, 17; and Douglas Daury, 27, from drowning in Henderson Bay of Lake Ontario on April 17 last year. The paddleboat that the victims were operating overturned in water about 20 feet deep at a point about 1,500 feet from shore. They shouted for help as they struggled in the 41-degree water. At his home on the shore in that vicinity, Fillingham witnessed the accident. Despite suffering from Parkinson's disease, which compromised his swimming ability, he launched a 12-foot aluminum canoe and rowed through choppy water to the victims. They grasped the sides of the canoe as Fillingham retraced his course to shore, towing them. (See photo.)

Friends **Jared J. Champayne**, 23, of Chicago, Ill., and **Jeremy S. Cobb**, 27, of Muskegon, Mich., saved Catherine A. Hamlin, 41, from drowning in Lake Michigan at Muskegon on Aug. 3, 2009. Hamlin was wading in the lake when she was pulled away from shore by a very strong current. Struggling against the current and five-foot waves, she shouted for help. Champayne and Cobb were swimming closer to shore and heard her. They swam to her, Champayne reaching

(continued on page 7)

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 6)

her first at a point about 200 feet from shore. He grasped her by an arm and supported her until Cobb arrived soon and grasped her other arm. They struggled against the current and waves in their efforts to reach shore, Cobb submerging to push Hamlin from behind in their attempts. Once able to touch the lake bottom, they walked Hamlin to the beach, where she collapsed. (See photo, page 10.)

Monroe, Mich., police officers **Chad J. Tolstedt**, 33, and **Paul M. Marks**, 32, saved Timothy D. Kundrat, 54, from his burning apartment in Monroe on June 30 last year. Kundrat was in his living room after fire broke out there at night. Dispatched to the scene, Tolstedt kicked open the front door, entered, and, hearing Kundrat, started to crawl through a smoke-filled hall that extended to the living room. He took in too much smoke and retreated for air. He then re-entered and struggled against the smoke and intense heat to reach the living room. Marks responded at about that time and also made his way to the living room. Each grasping Kundrat by a hand, the officers dragged him to the front door and outside to safety.

Larry Brian Jordan, 48, a production operator from Poland, Maine, helped to save Robert G. Evans, Jr., 38, from a burning pickup truck in Poland on May 20, 2009. The pickup left the roadway, overturned in a ditch, and came to rest on its driver's side, flames breaking out on its exposed underside. Evans remained conscious but was trapped in the vehicle. Jordan drove upon the scene. He mounted the passenger side of the truck for better access and, using a pry bar, popped open the passenger door. He then opened the door farther, reached inside the truck, and, grasping Evans by the arms, pulled him from the vehicle with the help of another man.

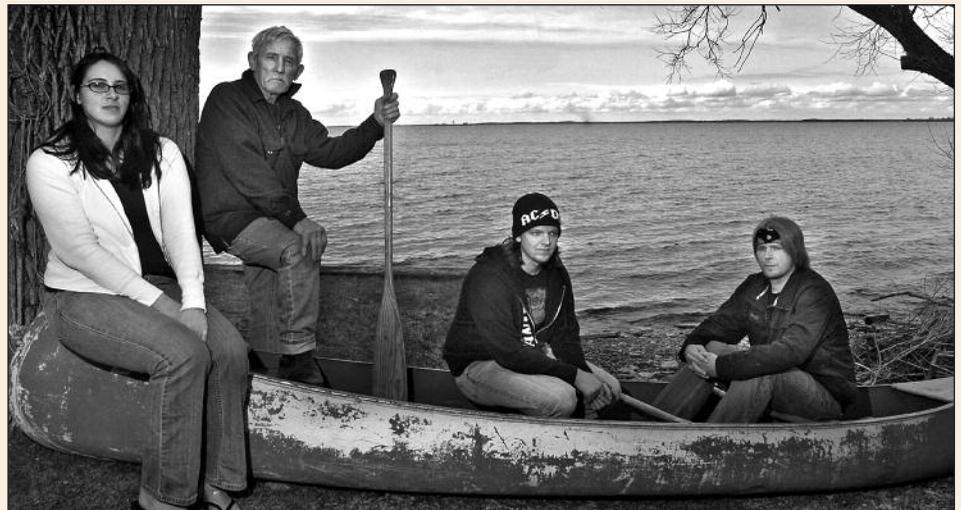
Keith E. Melton, 51, a programmer analyst from Troy, Ill., attempted to rescue Frederick H. Winters, 45, from an armed assault, and with **Terry L. Bullard**, 39, a repair shop manager from Worden, Ill., helped to save an indeterminate number of other persons from the assault in Maryville, Ill., on March 8 last year. Winters was preaching during a morning church service being attended by about 100 when a man entered the sanctuary, proceeded down the center aisle, and shot at him with a semiautomatic pistol. Melton, who was in the congregation, left his seat and ran to the men, who were then struggling on the floor. He reached them as the assailant fired again, mortally wounding Winters. When Melton grasped the assailant and struggled against him, the assailant produced a knife and stabbed Melton in the chest. Bullard, another congregant, charged the assailant and, blocking his path, grasped him to take him to the floor. The assailant stabbed him repeatedly in an ensuing struggle. Melton, Bullard, and other congregants subdued the assailant until police arrived and arrested him. Melton and Bullard required hospital treatment for their stab wounds. (See photo.)

Alexander G. Glass, 33, a teacher from Newport, N.C., saved sisters Karrissa N., 18, and SuAnna L. Willis, 23, from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Cape Lookout, N.C., on May 25, 2009. The women struggled to stay afloat after a strong current took them out from the beach and thwarted their efforts at returning. Glass was in another party on shore. He waded and swam about 250 feet out to SuAnna, who then directed him to Karrissa. Glass went about 50 feet farther out to Karrissa and then swam back to SuAnna with her. SuAnna held to Karrissa as Glass, outweighed by the women, towed them toward shore. They were aided to the beach from wadable water.

Branden L. Bonge saved Mallery and Megan Smith from a burning sport utility vehicle, and **Cody L. Clemmons** helped to rescue its driver, Lisa K. Bowdoin. In a highway accident in Waco, Texas, on March 25 last year, the vehicle left the roadway, overturned onto its roof, and started to burn at its front end. Bonge, 28, a general manager from Valley Mills, Texas, drove upon the scene and, despite flames entering the vehicle's front interior, kicked out a passenger-side window. Partially entering the vehicle head first, he pulled Mallery, 10, out. After taking her to safety, he returned and crawled inside again, farther, to grasp her sister,

the car's engine area. Nickolas drove upon the scene and attempted to gain access to the car through its passenger door but was unsuccessful. Despite growing flames at the front end of the car, he kicked the windshield repeatedly, creating a small hole. He then enlarged the hole, extended his arms inside, and grasped Destiny. He pulled her from the vehicle, flames growing to engulf much of it.

Cameron T. Andersen of Mill Valley, Calif., and **Gregory R. Thomson** of Corte Madera, Calif., helped to save a girl from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Stinson Beach, Calif., on May 16 last year. While swimming, a 16-year-old girl was pulled seaward by a very strong current and was unable to return against it. On the beach, Andersen, 23, a laborer, became aware of her situation and waded and swam out to her. He positioned himself beneath the girl, who was nearly exhausted, to keep her afloat. They were joined shortly by Thomson, 50, a tutor, who also swam out from the beach. The men attempted to return to shore with the girl but made no progress against the current. Supporting her, they were carried farther out as they awaited help. After several minutes, two lifeguards reached them. The girl was taken to the beach by one of the lifeguards, and the other remained with the men as



Edward Jay Fillingham, 75, of Henderson, N.Y., paddled a canoe 1,500 feet into the choppy, 41-degree water of Lake Ontario to rescue three young people whose paddleboat overturned. (Photo, by Justin Sorensen, is courtesy of the Watertown, N.Y., Daily Times.)

Megan, 9, who was unconscious. He removed her from the vehicle. Clemmons, 44, a business operator from Crawford, Texas, also drove upon the scene and stopped. Clemmons obtained a knife, partially entered the vehicle through a passenger-side window, and gave the knife to Bowdoin, who freed herself of her safety belt. Despite a rush of flames then occurring at the vehicle, Clemmons grasped Bowdoin, who outweighed him, and pulled her out, others helping to take her to safety. Flames grew to engulf the vehicle shortly.

Nickolas J. Edwards, 19, a high school student from Salem, Ore., saved Destiny E. Edwards, 21, from her burning car after an accident in Salem on Oct. 17 last year. Destiny's car left the roadway at night, overturned, and came to rest on its driver's side. Flames broke out in

they swam back to shore, resting en route with the aid of the lifeguard's flotation device.

Donald Arthur Morrison, 43, a diamond driller from Dutch Valley, N.B., rescued a woman from a burning helicopter out of Norman Wells, Northwest Territories, on May 24, 2008. A 27-year-old woman was the pilot of the helicopter transporting Morrison and a coworker to a remote work site. As the helicopter was descending to land, a mechanical failure sent it out of control, and it dropped 75 feet to the ground, crash landing on its side. The craft's fuel tank was punctured, and flames erupted immediately and grew quickly, entering the cabin. Morrison kicked out the windshield and stepped from

(continued on page 10)



MEMORIAL STANDARD

I am the grandson of (Carnegie Medal) recipient John H. Simmons, 41, who died from suffocation Sept. 29, 1911, while attempting to save the life of John A. Rhyne in Nebo, N.C.

The most kind benevolent award in 1911 is largely responsible for keeping alive the heroic memory of my grandfather. The scripture on the back, John 15:13, sets a wonderful memorial standard of behavior for my children and grandchildren.

James B. Simmons, Asheville, N.C.

OFTEN THE HUMBLE

Thank you so very much for your successful efforts in awarding Duane E. Vanlanham the distinguished Carnegie Medal for heroism. This man is certainly a hero. So often it is the ordinary, humble person who does selfless, brave acts of heroism.

Thanks again for your organization and especially for this tribute to this ordinary man who demonstrated extraordinary bravery and concern for his neighbor. Although I have never met him, I hold him and your organization in high esteem.

Margaret White, Saginaw, Mich.

Vanlanham was awarded the Carnegie Medal in April for helping to rescue his neighbor from attacking dogs on March 5 last year in Saginaw. He was severely injured in the rescue. White nominated him for the award.

MECHANICS OF THE MOMENT

A few months have passed since I was notified of your award, and I now realize that I have not taken the time to thank you and your staff. I am honored by your selection and humbled to be mentioned in the company of other award winners, both present and past.

I recently received a call from a local high school student who wanted to speak with me about heroism. I was at a loss to explain to him the mechanics of the moment since there is little consideration that takes place, save the attempt to save or rescue another.

I cannot express to you how important your award is to me, but I can only hope to share it in spirit with all those, both in uniform and out, who risk their lives every day to save and protect others. In my case most notably, the members of the Danbury Fire Department, the "cavalry" that worked so flawlessly to bring about our rescue.

Thank you once again. God bless you and God bless our country.

Rory Ahearn, Danbury, Conn.

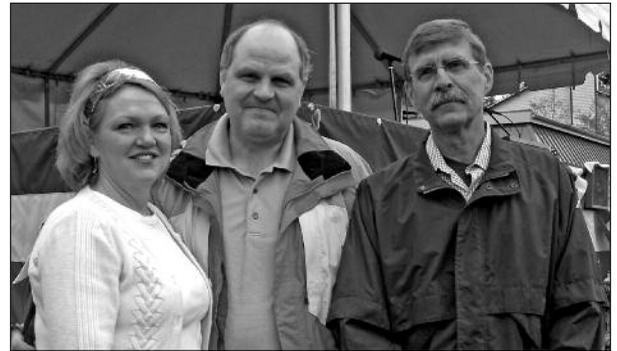
Ahearn was cited in April for his efforts in behalf of a cross-country skier who had broken through thin ice on a lake near Ahearn's home. He pulled the skier most of the way to the bank before he too broke through the ice. Arriving firefighters completed the rescue.

(continued on page 9)

'Fleet of Flowers' off Oregon coast

(continued from page 5)

They form a large circle near the location of the above buoy as a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter hovers in the center of the circle and lowers a wreath into the water. Those on the assembled vessels then cast the floral tributes into the sea.



Deanna and David Barfuss, parents of Carnegie Medal awardee Ross McKay Barfuss, with Douglas R. Chambers, right, the Hero Fund's director of external affairs

At this year's event, the 65th consecutive year it has been held, Chambers's family donated his Carnegie Medal to the

Chamber of Commerce for display, along with newspaper accounts of the rescue attempt and other material. Bower and Chambers are also honored for their rescue with a plaque set in a granite monument on the shore, and just beyond, those reading the plaque can see the whistle buoy still bobbing in the bay.



Ross McKay Barfuss

The Hero Fund was invited to participate in this year's ceremony and was represented by Douglas R. Chambers (no relation to the awardee), director of external affairs, who addressed the gathering. Also in attendance were David and Deanna Barfuss of Aloha, Ore., parents of Carnegie Medal awardee **Ross McKay Barfuss**. Ross drowned March 8, 2008, at age 16 while attempting the rescue of an 11-year-old boy from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Gleneden Beach, Ore., just a few miles north of Depoe Bay. He was posthumously awarded the medal a year later. His parents were on the Coast Guard boat that led the procession of boats out into the bay at last year's ceremony.

19 YEARS LATER, FIRE VICTIM REMAINS GRATEFUL TO RESCUER



Ms. Woods

Earlier this year the Hero Fund received an email with a one-line message: "I am Jacqueline Thompson (now Woods), the little girl James Auble saved from a house fire in Rochester (N.Y.) in 1991." As many emails come from awardees or their descendants, it is unusual to hear from someone who had been rescued. Woods was prompted to write in April, because that was the month 19 years ago that Auble helped to save her. She also was reminded of the event when her mother recently came across a letter that Auble had written to Woods a few years after the rescue.

Woods was four years old on April 27, 1991, when an early morning fire erupted in her family's one-story house. **James A. Auble**, then 36, who was nearby delivering newspapers, was alerted to the fire. Woods and her younger sister were in their bedroom, which adjoined the living room where the fire erupted. He entered the house, went through the burning living room and into the bedroom, and removed the girls from their beds. He then began to retrace his steps, but in the worsening fire and blistering heat he fell and lost his grip on the girls. He and Woods fled the house, but Woods's sister died in the fire. Woods and Auble both required hospital treatment for burns.

Woods and her family had no contact with Auble right after the fire, but a few years later an envelope arrived, and inside were letters from him to her parents and to Woods. That began a relationship between the family and Auble that lasted until Auble's death from cancer in October 2007. "He became a second dad to me," Woods said, "and I babysat his three children for several years." Auble's illness was diagnosed a few years before his death, and Woods recalled how difficult it was to visit him when he was in hospice care. Woods and her husband now live in Kansas City, Mo., where both are full-time members of the National Guard.

* OVERHEARD *

If I thought being with my family was precious before yesterday, it's a hundred times more precious today.—Catherine M. Hamlin of Muskegon, Mich., who was saved from drowning by Carnegie Medal Awardees **Jared J. Champayne**, #9357, and **Jeremy S. Cobb**, #9358

'Reach, throw, row, go' is the motto. It was too far to reach, there was no rope to throw, no boat to row, so I had to go. There's no way I could have lived with myself if I hadn't tried. I never considered not helping.—**Alexander G. Glass** of Newport, N.C., Carnegie Medal Awardee #9364

I have no way to explain it, except to cry.—Gordon R. Kingston of Chilliwack, B.C., who was saved from drowning at age 83 by **Donald George Gough**, Carnegie Medal Awardee #9353

I've been told that what I did was heroic and have also been told I was stupid for going in the (burning) house. I feel like I only did what I hope someone else would do if it were my child trapped in the house.—**Nathan Simpson** of Medina, Ohio, Carnegie Medal Nominee #82763

It's hard for me to put HERO in the same sentence as ME.—**Richard Shawn Harper** of Fort Worth, Texas, Carnegie Medal Awardee #9319

SINK OR SWIM

A pre-eminent figure in Pittsburgh's industrial, cultural, and educational history, Andrew Carnegie is also something of an icon in its pop culture. Latest iteration was a 20-foot inflatable sculpture displayed during the summer's annual Three Rivers Arts Festival. Shown floating in the Allegheny River against the city's skyline, the sculpture is the work of Carnegie Mellon University alumnus Stephen Antonson of New York. In discussing his work, he pointed out a quote from the subject as appearing in the 2006 biography, *Andrew Carnegie*, by David Nasaw. Referring to his investments in Pittsburgh-area industries, Carnegie said, "When Pittsburgh sinks, I sink with it, and when Pittsburgh swims, I shall swim with it." (Photo Copyright©, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 2010, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)

VETERINARY STUDENT:
LUCKY AND GRATEFUL

Hard to top glad tidings such as these from Carnegie Medal awardee **Hannah Lynn Goorsky** of Pomona, Calif.: "I received a Carnegie Hero award in 2004 and since then have been nothing but lucky and incredibly grateful for the opportunities the award has afforded me. By including the award on my veterinary school applications, I believe it had a great hand in helping to be selected as an admitted member of the Western University Veterinary School (Pomona) class of 2013.

As if that was not already enough, the Hero Fund also awarded me a scholarship toward the costs of my student loans—for this I am thankful beyond belief. You all do so many wonderful things for so many people, I can only hope that my future contribution as a veterinarian will come close to giving back for what you've given me."

Goorsky, shown here with one of her patients, received the medal for rescuing a zookeeper from a tiger attack in Sacramento, Calif., in 2003. Then 23, she had just started her third day as a volunteer at the zoo when the 320-pound tiger took the zookeeper to the floor and began to maul him. Goorsky struck the tiger on the head with a shovel until it retreated.

TO THE HERO FUND

(continued from page 8)

A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

I am overwhelmed with gratitude to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for considering and accepting me for one of your most prestigious awards.

The young man who needed my help has become a great friend. I honestly believe that this experience has changed his life, sending him in a positive direction. This experience has taken my life to a whole new level.

I thank you, the foundation, and all involved in this presentation.

Charles H. Monnier, Molalla, Ore.

On Christmas morning 2008, Monnier responded to aid a young man who was being attacked by two dogs outside Monnier's home. He was awarded the medal in April.

PART OF THE FAMILY

I am writing to express my ongoing appreciation for the wonderful spirit and work of the foundation as you continue to recognize those men and women who put the lives of others ahead of themselves. I hope you remember me as I will never forget your trip to Hampton Roads, Va., to present my medal a few years ago, and I am still so honored to reflect on my wife's father, **Strickler Mullins**, who was also an awardee. Further, I feel a very special honor to have been invited by you to participate in the Carnegie Hero Fund's 100th anniversary dinner, and to offer the invocation for that very special occasion. I truly feel as if I am a member of your Carnegie family and would love to do more for the foundation when opportunity permits.

With the above being said, I have been inspired to be an ambassador for the foundation and to participate in whatever manner might be possible. I read in the June *imPULSE* that you are developing a volunteer presenter program. I would be honored to volunteer to present the medal if an occasion arises that would be beneficial to both you and the recipient. With great respect and appreciation,

Glenn S. (Steve) Bingham, Williamsburg, Va.

Bingham received the medal in 2002 for saving a 10-year-old boy from drowning in the James River at Williamsburg a year earlier, and his father-in-law, Mullins, was cited in 1980 for helping to save a miner from suffocation in a coal mine in Dante, Va., in 1978. Mullins, then 60, was the mine superintendent and worked with other rescuers, also cited by the Hero Fund.

AID ACKNOWLEDGED

I want to thank you for the generous scholarship toward my son's education. It brings tears to my eyes because I know how wonderful it would make Mark feel to know he is, through you, contributing to John's education.

Bonnie Thanos, Chesterton, Ind.

Ms. Thanos's son, John, is a student at Purdue
(continued on page 10)



TO THE HERO FUND

(continued from page 9)

University, West Lafayette, Ind., majoring in English education. His father, Mark John Thanos, and paternal grandfather, John Mikel Thanos, were awarded the medal posthumously for attempting to save a boy from drowning in a flooded ditch near their home on Sept. 14, 2008.

CONTINUING EFFECTS

I just got through reading the March issue of imPULSE—I'm a little behind because of a fight up here to keep the Boston Public Library open in the neighborhoods that kept me occupied this spring and summer. Over the course of the fight I became very involved and only since the passing of the city budget on June 30 has it died down at all. Throughout the series of events this spring I did keep Mr. Carnegie and his commitment to the city of Pittsburgh in mind; in fact it was likely the recent issue with the Lawrenceville branch that pushed me to get involved. That and my mother was a school librarian for her second career.

In any case, the picture and caption you published of Mr. Carnegie at Princeton University reminded me of the broad mission of his philanthropy and that I am in some way helping to carry that out up here in Boston. Just another effect of the lives that were given for Adolph—it's a blessing to get to watch the effects of a single act.

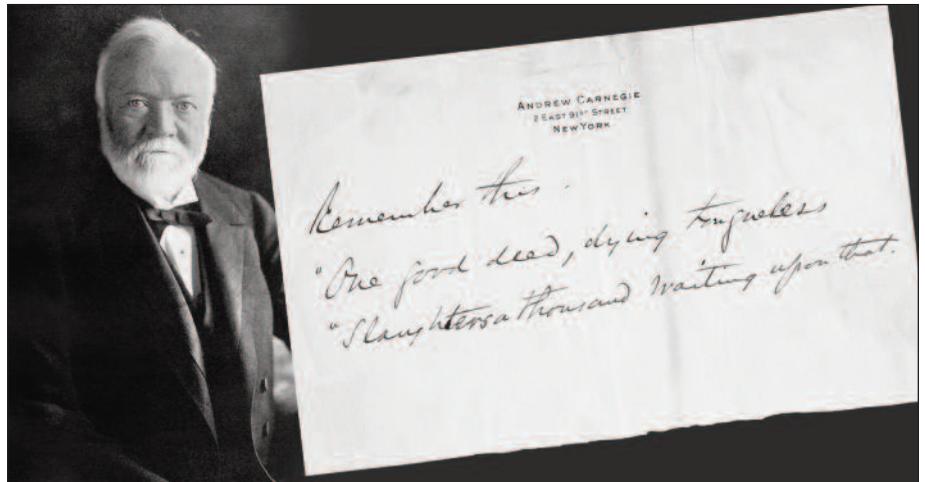
Brandon Abbs, Boston, Mass.

Abbs is the great-grandson of Adolph Gunia, who was the only person rescued from effects of the 1904 coal-mine explosion in Harwick, Pa. Accounts of heroism at the mine following the explosion prompted Andrew Carnegie to establish the Hero Fund.

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Harold E. Pulsifer, Jr., 81, of Falmouth, Maine, died May 4. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1944 for helping to save a 12-year-old boy from drowning in the Mousam River at Springvale, Maine, on Dec. 4, 1943. The boy had been skating on the river when the ice broke beneath him, and Pulsifer, then 15, broke through in a rescue attempt. He took the boy a distance toward safety, and both were aided from the water by others. Pulsifer ran a real estate management company in Portland and leaves three sons and five grandsons.

Ronald E. Swartzlander, 75, of Slippery Rock, Pa., died April 29. Swartzlander joined the Hero Fund as a field representative—the former title of case investigator—in 1962 and in 1968 was named to head the investigative unit, a position he held until 1981. Swartzlander was an eight-year member of the U.S. Army Reserves and served in Frankfurt, Germany, and at NATO Headquarters in Paris.



Remember this —“One good deed, dying tongueless, slaughters a thousand waiting upon that.” —Undated

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 7)

the helicopter. Although severely bruised, he turned and reached back inside. He grasped the pilot, pulled her from the helicopter, and dragged her away. Rapidly advancing flames that consumed the cabin precluded his attempt to rescue his coworker, who died at the scene.

Akasha Witchey Traver, 14, a student from Lexington, Va., rescued her niece, Willow W. Scorpius, 1, from the family's burning house in Hot Springs, Va., on Jan. 15, 2009. At night, Willow was in her crib in a bedroom on the first floor of the house after an accidental fire broke out in that room. After Akasha and other family members discovered the fire, Akasha entered the bedroom, in which dense smoke precluded visibility of everything except the flames. Repelled by deteriorating conditions, she left the bedroom but re-entered after a moment and went to the crib, which was by then aflame. Akasha took Willow from the crib and carried her outside. Flames spread throughout the structure, destroying it.

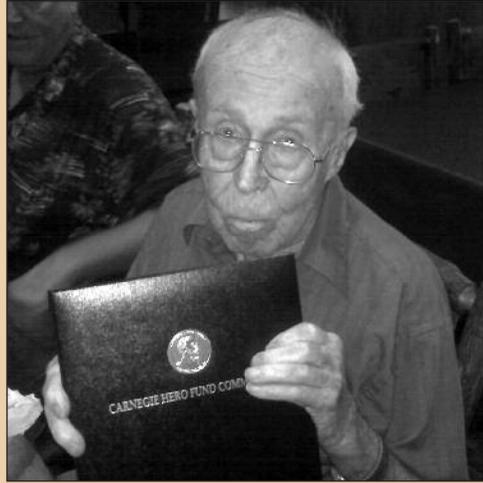
Gary DeWayne Vinson, Jr., 23, a business operator from Sylvester, Ga., died helping attempt to save Joshua Perry, 11, from drowning in the Flint River at Albany, Ga., on Aug. 3, 2008. Joshua and his brother had entered the swift water of the river while playing on the bank and were struggling against a man who then attempted to save them. In another party, Vinson responded to the scene with friends after being alerted to the incident. From the bank they first linked arms to try to aid the boys and their rescuer, and then they swam out when Joshua became separated from the man. As the man returned Joshua's brother to the bank, Joshua struggled against Vinson's friends, and he then struggled against Vinson and submerged him as Vinson attempted a rescue. They did not resurface, and their bodies were later recovered from the river.



Catherine A. Hamlin of Muskegon, Mich., thanks Jeremy S. Cobb, who with a co-rescuer saved her from drowning in Lake Michigan at Muskegon last summer. (Photo by Kendra Stanley-Mills of the Muskegon Chronicle.)

1935 AWARDEE CELEBRATES HIS 91ST

Carnegie Medal awardee Lowell E. Kayser of Quincy, Ill., is "officially the most difficult person to buy for," according to his daughter-in-law Kathy Kayser, but he received "the greatest gift of all" on his 91st birthday on Aug. 4. Ms. Kayser contacted the Hero Fund in June and secured some keepsake items pertaining to Kayser's heroic act in 1935, including a parchment certificate confirming that the award was made, a lapel pin, and a copy of the Hero Fund's centennial book. "Lowell is a man of few words," Ms. Kayser said, "but I could tell he appreciated his gifts." In the summer of 1935, Kayser saved one 15-year-old boy from drowning in a pond in Prairie du Rocher, Ill., and attempted to save another. Although he was a poor swimmer, Kayser, also 15, entered the pond and pulled one of the boys to the bank, and then he searched for the other one, who had sunk. Ms. Kayser said that her father-in-law is "still married to the love of his life and has raised seven wonderful children. I feel fortunate to be a part of his amazing family."



FROM THE ARCHIVES

NONSWIMMER OVERCAME FEAR IN RESCUE ATTEMPT

A Waterdown, Ont., man acted heroically on June 4, 1943, when he resisted his own fear of water to respond to cries of children struggling in a pond. **Antonio Benetti**, 43, a laborer at a sand and gravel pit near Aldershot, Ont., was at the work site when he heard the children screaming.



Sonja Benetti of London, Ont., daughter of Antonio Benetti, with her father's Carnegie medal, awarded posthumously in 1944.

Covering about a half-acre, the pond was shallow except for a 12-foot-wide hole in its center. With the temperature in late afternoon at 84 degrees, noticeably above the month's average, the idea of cooling off in the pond was compelling for the group of five girls and two boys. Children had waded into the pond on other occasions, but, because of its inherent dangers, officials at the sand and gravel pit ordered them away.

Three of the girls waded into the pond and unknowingly entered the hole, where they submerged and then surfaced and struggled. Their screams caught the attention of workers at the site, including Benetti, who was about 125 feet away. A known nonswimmer who had expressed a fear of deep water, Benetti was aware of the hole in the pond. He ran to the edge of the water and, without taking time to remove any of his clothing—despite the heat he was wearing a shirt, vest, pants, and bib overalls—waded into it.

Without stopping, Benetti approached the hole, where he submerged but then resurfaced. A coworker waded into the pond and reached out to Benetti. Benetti

(continued on back cover)

CONTINUUM



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

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

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

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual report (2008-2009) are available, as are those of the centennial report of 2004, which lists the names of all awardees from 1904 through 2004. Contact Gloria Barber (gloria@carnegiehero.org).

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

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

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

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

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

Address change? Please keep us posted!

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

NONSWIMMER OVERCAME FEAR (continued from page 11)



Pond at sand and gravel pit where Antonio Benetti was employed. Photograph was taken a few days after the tragedy, with the "X" at the right edge of photo indicating location of the hole.



grasped the coworker by the hands but lost his grip and fell backward into the hole. He surfaced and submerged more than once before disappearing a final time.

Other coworkers entered the water, and 10 minutes after the girls had fallen into the hole, they and Benetti were located and removed from the pond. None of the victims appeared conscious. Despite

resuscitation efforts by the coworkers, first-aid squads, and even local physicians, none of the girls or Benetti survived.

The following year, the Commission awarded a bronze medal and an on-going monthly grant to Benetti's widow, Anja. For the next 28 years, Hero Fund representatives visited her and the couple's two children, Sonja and Rino. Mrs. Benetti died in 2006. ☒

—Marlin Ross, Case Investigator