

imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 26 • JUNE 2011



"Petie" Rumpf.
Tremont - Pa.
Hero of Rauch's Green
and
Carnegie Medal.
Ani-grave - Pa.
8.2.25.

86 YEARS LATER...

A 1925 photo of Carnegie Medal awardee **Peter G. Rumpf** came to light when it and several others from that era were purchased at a yard sale by Robert T. Dippel of Reading, Pa. Dippel's quest became to locate the sites photographed and any family members of the subjects. He was unsuccessful in Rumpf's case but did confirm Rumpf's award with the Hero Fund, whose files indicate that Rumpf had a wife and teenage boy at the time of his heroic act. Rumpf was awarded the medal and a grant of \$1,000 in 1922 for his role in the Jan. 21, 1921, rescue of two men who were overcome by dynamite fumes while building a drainage tunnel in Rausch Creek, Pa. Awards were made also to two co-rescuers, **Warren A. Hoy** (posthumous) of Tower City, Pa., and **Frank Carter** of Fort Lee, N.J.



'GOD SWIMS WITH YOU'

Lauren Winstead of Collierville, Tenn., became the youngest awardee of the Carnegie Medal in more than a decade when she was recognized in April for an act of heroism she performed at age 12 in 2009. She is receiving the award for helping to save a man from drowning in Choctawhatchee Bay, off the Gulf of Mexico, at Destin, Fla., over the Fourth of July weekend while on vacation with her family. Lauren is shown here with James K. Foster of Memphis, Tenn., who also went to the man's aid. "They say God walks with you," Lauren's mother, Carolyn M. Winstead, said. "Well, we learned that He swims with you too." Details of Lauren's actions, and those of the 19 other newly named medal recipients, are on pages 4-10. Photo by Brad Luttrell of Louisville, Ky.

Benefits of Hero Fund scholarship grant extend to 1918 awardee's grandchildren

By David Forrest Lusk
Collierville, Tenn.

My grandfather, **Bee H. Lusk**, was awarded the Carnegie Medal for his heroic act of 1918, and accompanying grant funds were used for the education of one of his children. In our family, the benefits of that grant manifested themselves well beyond the original recipient, and the lesson here is that the Hero Fund's scholarship program lives on.

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Benefits of Hero Fund scholarship grant

(continued from cover)

HOPE AND INSPIRATION

These (accounts of heroic acts) give me hope and inspiration against the deluge of gross selfishness and narcissism in our popular culture. This is a truly wonderful and important foundation.

John Cromwell, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Cromwell is acknowledging receipt of the Hero Fund's centennial book, *A Century of Heroes*, which is available by contacting its author, Douglas R. Chambers: doug@carnegiehero.org

APPRECIATIVE SON

James R. Barkley is the man I aspire to be. I am the third son of James and Sandra Barkley. I am 24 years old—nearly the age of my father when he put his life on the line for a friend. I can only hope that I could be the man my father was and is still today. I love you, Dad!

Jeremy R. Barkley, Texarkana, Ark.

At age 26, James R. Barkley was shot in the chest on Jan. 21, 1987, when he thwarted the abduction of a woman by a gunman in the restaurant where Barkley and the woman worked. The woman fled to safety, and Barkley required hospitalization for treatment of his wound. On receiving the Carnegie Medal for his heroic act, Barkley wrote, "The (incident) has changed my thinking about life itself. It has given me the knowledge that life is very short and the moments that you spend with your family are very precious. Also that people should care about their fellow man when they need help."

SON GREATLY MISSED

I received a letter telling of how the Commission would be able to reimburse funeral costs. My church helped, so I had nothing to pay on my son's funeral. My church is filled with warm, wonderful, caring individuals. They truly understand what T.J.'s life was all about. We miss him so much, as you can probably well understand. I know time heals, but in this case I wish time would speed up...it's still terribly hard.

Thank you for all you've done in the recognition of my oldest child. You make me feel like the Commission knows how really special and wonderful T.J. has always been.

Randi DeMeerleer, Cove, Ore.

DeMeeleer's son **Trevor Jordan Tally** was posthumously awarded the medal in December for his actions of June 18, 2009, by which he died attempting to save a woman and her 6-year-old grandson from drowning in Hells Canyon Reservoir, Hells Canyon Park, Idaho.



Grandfather Bee

"Grandfather Bee," who lived in Norton, Va., was given the medal for saving a woman and two children from being struck by a train in Bluefield, W.Va., on Feb. 9, 1918. Then 36, he was a railroad brakeman and was in a car of the train that the woman was about to board. Carrying a baby and a suitcase and followed by another child, the woman was attempting to cross the track on which another train was approaching. The older child was moving slowly and delayed them. Aware of the approaching train, Lusk ran 50 feet to them, pushed the woman aside, and carried the child off the track, clearing the oncoming train by only three feet.

Later that year, the Hero Fund awarded my grandfather a bronze medal and a grant of \$1,000. When he received the money, he knew that it was to be used for

educational purposes. Starting with the oldest of his six children, he asked each if they wanted the money to further their education. They all turned him down except for my father, Forrest. Dad applied to West Virginia University and was accepted. My grandfather gave him \$5, put him on the train for Morgantown, and told him, "Good luck."

Dad had to get a job to support himself while in school but found that he had to work too much to make ends meet. His grades suffered, and he dropped out of school and came back home. He then received a letter from the Hero Fund asking why he had dropped out. When he replied, the Hero Fund informed him of a cooperative program of the Ohio Mechanics Institute of Cincinnati: Students went to school for six weeks and then worked for six weeks. Dad enrolled in the program, moved to Cincinnati, and received a degree in industrial engineering from in 1936.

It was the Carnegie scholarship that provided my father the first step in furthering his education. The opportunity ingrained in him the importance of a college education, and he passed that fundamental belief on to his own four children. We lost our father to cancer at age 49 in 1961, but his strong belief in the value of higher education lives on.



David F. Lusk

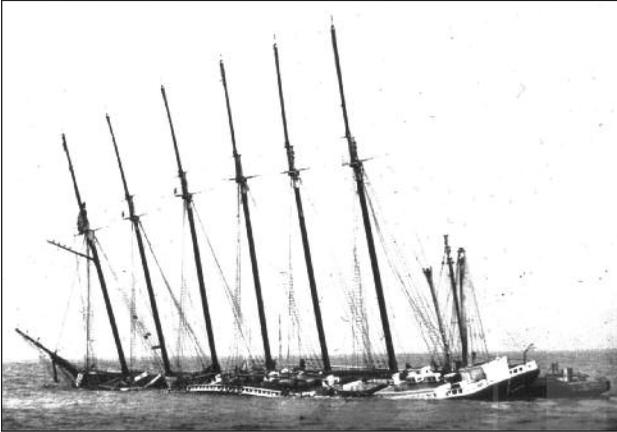
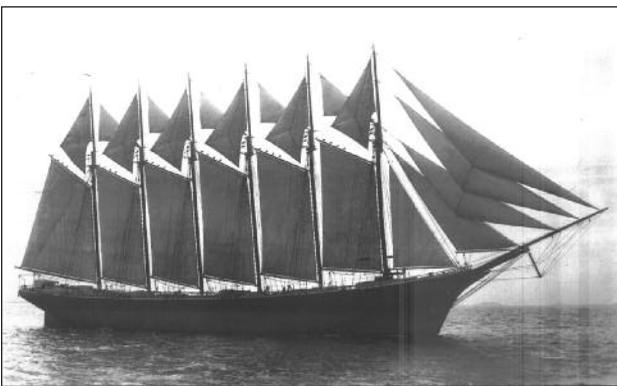
Of his children—the grandchildren of Bee H. Lusk—all four have earned undergraduate degrees, and two have graduate degrees. My older sister Barbara, now retired, was a registered nurse; my older brother Steve is an award-winning builder in San Diego, Calif.; my younger sister Susan is a software project manager at McDonald's Corp., and I am a mid-level executive at FedEx Express. None of us would be where we are without the actions of our grandfather all those many years ago, and we are grateful for the opportunity from the Hero Fund that kept on giving. ☒



Into the far reaches of time: Daring rescue part of fisherman's legacy

By Herbert R. Ward
Vineyard Haven, Mass.

In an era of six-masted schooners, with 10 having been built from 1900 to 1910, the *Mertie B. Crowley* was a majestic craft. Launched in 1907 as a transport along the north-eastern U.S. seaboard, the *Crowley* was 296 feet long at the waterline and overall an impressive 412 feet from tip to stern. Her masts were 122 feet high, and each supported a 58-foot-high topmast. From the top of the main mast to the deck below was the equivalent of a 10-story drop.



Mertie B. Crowley before and after being shipwrecked. Top photo by Nathaniel L. Stebbins and courtesy of Historic New England. Bottom photo courtesy of Martha's Vineyard Museum.

the *Crowley* had made more headway than the crew realized: It had reached the waters off the Vineyard, and at 5 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 23, it grounded on a shoal that extended south from the island. The vessel was then broadsided by mighty 10- to 12-foot waves, its stern turning 180 degrees in moments to face the island, at a point about four miles offshore, opposite the town of Edgartown. The waves broke over the deck of the *Crowley*, tearing away its lifeboats.

The crew's first priority was to get Mrs. Haskell up from below where she was sleeping. They took her to the deck and lashed her to the first mast. One of the crew climbed up to the topmast, where he tied off his shirt as a distress signal. The only other thing that crewmembers could do was to wait, in hope that local fishermen would come to their aid. About an hour after its grounding, the *Crowley* split at the middle into two pieces as breakers continued to smash into it. The masts became loosened and began to swing wildly but remained in place.

Carrying loads of coal to Maine with return loads of ice, the *Crowley* sailed the Atlantic Ocean past the island of Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Massachusetts on each leg of the route. On what would be its final voyage, in January 1910, the *Crowley* was bound for Boston with a full load of 4,796 tons of coal. Capt. William Haskell, his wife Ida, and a crew of 12 were aboard.

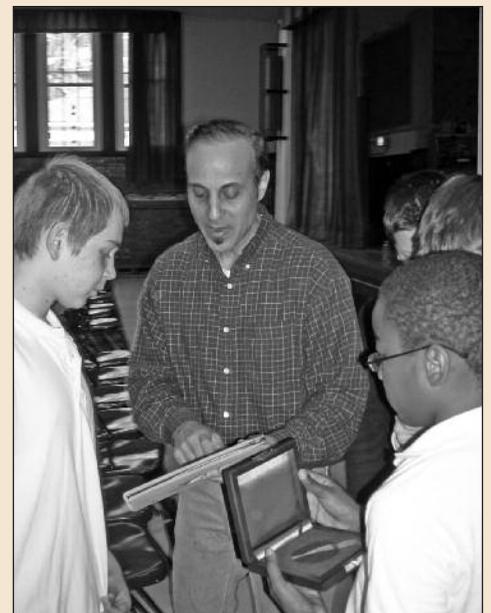
Weather conditions had deteriorated during the voyage to thick fog and rain followed by winds of 50-60 m.p.h. and rough seas. Visibility was very poor when the crew saw a lighthouse beam that they thought was on Long Island. However,

DOCTOR PRESCRIBES HELPING HANDS

Mark C. Moore, M.D., of Tallahassee, Fla., who was awarded the Carnegie Medal for helping to pull an elderly couple from their crashed and burning car in Tallahassee in 2008, used his example of freely offering aid as the focus of remarks he made recently to a group of middle-school students. Moore opened his talk by asking the students if any of them had helped anyone in any fashion that day. Several examples were offered, and Moore used them to explain how an act of helping, regardless of how simple or easy it is, can pay rewards far greater than the effort it takes. It was a discussion the students appeared to take to heart since the session went well beyond its allotted time.

Moore, along with Douglas R. Chambers, the Hero Fund's director of external affairs, spoke to the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade pupils at Christopher Columbus Elementary School, Chicago, in late February as part of a joint effort of the Hero Fund and the Heartwood Institute, a Pittsburgh-based provider of character education programs.

Moore has taken his efforts in behalf of others to great heights in spending two terms as a medical missionary. The first was for three months, when he served with the Missionary Sisters of Charity in East New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea. He cared for more than 1,000 people during his stay. His second term was spent in Tanzania, where he taught anesthesiology to nurses. Tanzania had only nine anesthesiologists for 30 million people, according to Moore, whereas the U.S. has 40,000 for 300 million people. "The cool thing is," he said, "I helped an exponentially greater number of people than I did on my first trip."



Dr. Mark C. Moore of Tallahassee, Fla., with Chicago school students

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LATEST AWARDEES
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *impULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 20 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,432 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 7, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON JUNE 29.

Michael S. Hatfield, 45, a training specialist from Richland, Wash., saved Alexandra C. Hatley, 12, from a burning automobile in Pasco, Wash., on Oct. 2, 2009, and **Scott J. Oak**, 34, an off-duty police officer from Tacoma, Wash., saved Taylor L. Tefft, 11, from the same car. Severely injured, the girls remained in the vehicle after it was involved in an accident on an interstate highway. Hatfield stopped at the scene, approached the driver's side of the car, and leaned through the rear door to work to free Alexandra from her safety belt. He then pulled her from the vehicle and carried her to the median as flames grew quickly to enter the car. Meanwhile, Oak had stopped at the scene, and from the passenger side of the car he leaned through the window of its front door and maneuvered Taylor to free her. He then pulled her through the window and carried her to safety. Flames spread to engulf the car. Alexandra died of her injuries the next day, and Taylor died the following day. Oak received hospital treatment for smoke inhalation and burns to his arms.



Carmen F. DeGregorio, Jr., died after rescuing a woman from assault in Millville, N.J., and was memorialized in a portrait, left in photo, that was sketched by Diane Roberts of Millville. DeGregorio was a retired officer of the Millville Police Dept. at the time of his heroic act. Photo by Craig Matthews, (c) copyright The Daily Journal, 2011, and is reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

Joseph W. Hughart, 39, of Fort Gibson, Okla., rescued Ray M. Williams, Jr., 33, from a burning pickup truck after an accident in Haskell, Okla., on March 19 last year. Severely injured, Williams was trapped in the wreckage of the truck, which came to rest in a ditch and caught fire, with flames entering the interior. Hughart, a sheriff's deputy, stopped at the scene. After failing to open the vehicle's driver's door, he

broke its window with a flashlight and pulled on Williams. As Williams remained trapped, Hughart mounted the truck and straddled him. Although Williams greatly outweighed him, Hughart pulled Williams free of the wreckage and then rolled him away from the truck, which was shortly engulfed by flames. Williams sustained third-degree burns, and Hughart required hospital treatment for a laceration to an arm.

Lauren Winstead, 12, a student from Collierville, Tenn., helped to save Eddie L. Torres, 53, from drowning in Choctawhatchee Bay at Destin, Fla., on July 5, 2009. When Torres left his party's boat to swim at a point about two miles from shore, a strong current pulled him away from it. A friend swam to him and supported him while shouting for help. Lauren, who also had entered the water to swim, returned against the current toward the boat, from which her mother threw flotation devices into the water. Retrieving one of the devices, Lauren swam a considerable distance to Torres and his friend. She helped Torres stay afloat as the distance increased between them and the boat, which was disabled. The Coast Guard sent a rescue boat to the scene, and Torres, his friend, and Lauren were taken aboard. (See photo, page 1.)

Kenneth M. Goss saved David S. Broadbent, 33, and his wife, Judi M., 32, and their sons, Silas D., 3, and Jachin S., 11 months, from drowning in the Colorado River at Moab, Utah, on April 9 last year. The family's raft overturned while going through a set of rapids, and they were thrown into the swift,



"I don't think of myself as a hero in any way," says Kenneth M. Goss of Grand Junction, Colo., but a family of four is alive because of his actions. Goss rescued them from the Colorado River after their raft overturned in rapids. Goss drives for Sentinel Express, a delivery service of The Daily Sentinel of Grand Junction. The Daily Sentinel/gsentinel.com. provided this photo as a courtesy.

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LATEST AWARDEES*(continued from page 4)*

54-degree water. Carried downstream, Judi held to the boys as David attempted to flip the raft over. Goss, 38, a delivery driver from Grand Junction, Colo., was driving along the river when he saw the overturned raft and the nearby victims. He entered the water and swam about 200 feet to Judi and the boys. Goss seized the nearby raft and made it available to Judi and then David, both of whom grasped it. They returned to the bank, Goss swimming with one arm while towing the raft. Goss, who had swallowed water, collapsed from exhaustion and required hospital treatment for hypothermia, as did Jachin. (See photo.)

Carmen F. DeGregorio, Jr., 51, of Millville, N.J., died after rescuing Shatora Jenkins-Thomas from an assault in Millville, N.J., on Nov. 27, 2007. In a domestic dispute, Jenkins-Thomas, 24, struggled against her boyfriend, who was attempting to force her into the trunk of a car in the parking lot of a convenience store. DeGregorio, towing dispatcher, who was nearby, intervened. A retired police officer, he struggled against the assailant, preventing him from shutting the trunk's lid on Jenkins-Thomas, and freed her from the trunk. Jenkins-Thomas and DeGregorio fled as the assailant pursued them in the car. Jenkins-Thomas ran to safety while DeGregorio ran in another direction. The assailant chased him and struck him with the car, knocking him to the pavement. DeGregorio was hospitalized but died two days later of his injuries. (See photo.)

Real estate developer **Robert T. Schmidt**, 64, of Eden Prairie, Minn., and business executive **Paul A. Ansolabehere**, 45, of Minnetonka, Minn., saved Robert Fiske, 66, from a burning airplane on Oct. 5, 2009. Fiske was the lone occupant of a twin-engine airplane that crash-landed in a wooded ravine near Schmidt's home. He was trapped in the wreckage as flames broke out at the right side of the fuselage. Schmidt heard the crash, ran to the scene, and, seeing Fiske inside the plane, mounted the left wing, where he tried without success to gain access to the smoke-filled cabin. Ansolabehere had followed the stricken plane's course while traveling in the vicinity. He ran into the ravine and joined Schmidt on the wing, where he too attempted to break into the cabin. The two men then obtained a metal bar from the plane's storage compartment and broke through a window, reached inside, and pulled Fiske out onto the wing. Flames breached the cabin from its right side. Schmidt and Ansolabehere lowered Fiske to the ground and, with the help of others who were responding, carried him from the ravine to safety.

Ryan P. Van Wave, 27, a police officer from Saint Charles, Mo., rescued Joshua A. Perkins, 23, from a burning car after an accident in O'Fallon, Mo., on March 8 last year. Perkins was the driver of a car



David L. Braga, on ground and in inset, collapsed from inhaling smoke after his rescue of a child from a burning apartment in Modesto, Calif. He required hospital treatment but recovered. Large photo by Marci Stenberg, and inset photo by Bea Abbeck, both of the Merced Sun-Star and provided as a courtesy.

that left the roadway, struck a traffic signal box, and came to rest on its passenger side. Flames broke out at the front end of the vehicle and began to spread inside. On patrol nearby, Van Wave responded to the scene. He opened the car's rear hatch door, entered partially, and extended an arm to Perkins, who remained at the front of the vehicle. When Perkins did not respond, Van Wave fully entered the car and moved toward him. He grasped Perkins and backed toward the hatch door, pulling him. They exited to safety as flames spread inside the vehicle.

A heating and cooling systems installer from North Wilkesboro, N.C., **Jason Mitchell Norman**, 28, rescued Linda J. Call from a burning house in North Wilkesboro on Oct. 26, 2009. Call, 61, was in a bed in the living room after fire erupted in the back of the house. Flames issuing from the structure attracted the attention of Norman, who was driving nearby. He stopped at the scene, kicked open the house's front door, and stepped into the living room, which was aflame. Repelled by smoke, he exited the house but then pulled his coat over his head and re-entered. Moving on his knees, he located Call's bed and pushed it closer to the front door. He then lifted Call and took her outside. Norman required hospital treatment for smoke inhalation.

Michael L. Noriega, 56, a county manager, helped to save his 92-year-old neighbor, Lucille Meistrell, from her burning house in Manhattan Beach, Calif., on Nov. 5, 2009. Meistrell was in her bedroom after fire broke out in that room late at night, and her caregiver was able to move her into the hall. Alerted to the fire, Noriega entered the house through its front door, proceeded through smoke to the hall, and located the women. He grasped Meistrell and with difficulty started to remove her. Needing air, he retreated to the front door, as did the caregiver. They shortly re-entered the house, grasped Meistrell, and maneuvered her to the front door and outside. Meistrell was taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation, and Noriega was treated at the scene for inhaling smoke.

Stationary engineer **John David Pearce**, 52, of Fort Erie, Ont., saved Mary C. Barnes, 57, from drowning in the Niagara River at Fort Erie on June 15, 2008. Barnes was fishing from the bank when she fell into the river and was swept away by the very swift current. In his nearby home, Pearce became aware of the situation. Knowing the strength of the current, he drove about 1,000 feet downstream and saw Barnes in that vicinity, at a point about 180 feet from the

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LATEST AWARDEES

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bank. Pearce waded and swam out to Barnes, grasped her around the chin with one arm, and with the other arm began to swim back to the bank. The current carried them about 400 feet farther downstream as Pearce swam. Near the bank, they were aided from the river by another man.

David L. Braga, 32, a window tinter, saved a 1-year-old girl from her family's burning apartment in Merced, Calif., on Feb. 18 last year. When fire broke out in the unit's bedroom, the girl's mother escaped and shouted for help. Braga, who lived nearby, saw smoke issuing from the building. Learning that the girl was inside, he kicked open the apartment door and entered, but dense smoke forced him out. He held his shirt to his face and entered again. Moving on his stomach, he passed the bedroom as flames extended through its doorway. Braga followed the sound of the girl's voice and found her on a couch in the living room. He cradled her in his arms and then turned and exited the apartment. Collapsing at the scene, he was given oxygen and then taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation. (See photo, page 5.)

Orville D. Clinton and **Jay S. Huscher** saved Tanner S. Porter from a burning car after a highway accident in Salina, Kan., on Feb. 20, 2010, and with **Troy Allen Reinert** saved Tyler L. B. Sunderlin from the car. Porter and Sunderlin, both 18, remained in the car after it left the roadway, entered a pasture, and caught fire at its front end. Clinton, 58, a production worker who lived nearby, drove upon the scene and ran to the car, and Huscher, 56, an aircraft worker, also responded, from his nearby house. Clinton worked to free Porter as Huscher attempted to fight the growing flames with a piece of the wreckage. They then opened the driver's door and pulled Porter out. After taking him to safety, they returned to the car and reached inside for Sunderlin, who was trapped. Reinert, 37, a business operator also from Salina, had arrived by then. He leaned through the window of the passenger door and worked to free Sunderlin as flames spread both toward the passenger side and inside the vehicle. After the men freed Sunderlin, Clinton and Huscher pulled him from the car and then, joined by Reinert, carried him to safety. Flames grew quickly to engulf and destroy the vehicle.

Timothy McCarthy, 22, a service technician from Overland Park, Kan., rescued Benjamin M. Denham, 18, from a burning car in Overland Park on March 16 last year. At night, Denham's automobile left the street and struck a pole and then the corner of a house before coming to a stop. Flames erupted on the car. At home nearby, McCarthy heard the crash and ran to the scene. Flames covered the back of the car and most of its interior, sparing only the

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Into the far reaches of time

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The wreck of the *Crowley* was first discovered by the pilot of a steamer anchored in Edgartown harbor. Word was relayed to Capt. **Levi Jackson**, another local fisherman, who at age 31 already had a successful track record of rescues at sea. It was a foregone conclusion that Jackson would risk his life once again, for the crew of the *Crowley*. What Jackson lacked in size, at 5' 6" and 145 pounds, he made up for in muscle, courage, and sheer determination. Perhaps it was in his blood: In 1893 his father Hiram had attempted to save the crew of a ship wrecked at Cuttyhunk Island. Sadly, he drowned in the effort.

Jackson responded from his home in Edgartown to the wharf, where his boat, the *Priscilla*, was tied up. The 37-foot, 10-ton craft was considered a large catboat, a type of vessel used primarily for recreation, but Jackson had it modified to be a fishing sloop that he used to work the waters from New Jersey to Newfoundland. In addition to its sail, the *Priscilla* had a 16-horsepower engine, and it was equipped with three dories, each 17 feet long and capable of holding five people. Crewmembers of the *Priscilla* would vary over the fishing season, but on that day, three of his regular crew were at the wharf: **Patrick Kelly**, his brother **Henry**, and **Louis Doucette**. Jackson devised a rescue



Jackson's catboat Priscilla, used in the rescue. Photo courtesy of the Martha's Vineyard Museum.

plan, and with his crew, including another man who happened to be at the wharf, **Eugene L. Benefito**, set off from the harbor at 8:30 a.m.

Able to travel only about 6 m.p.h., the men circled the east end of the island and eventually reached an area that had a good vantage point from which Jackson could assess the feasibility of his rescue plan. By 11 a.m., the men were in a position from which they could see the extent of the wreckage of the *Crowley*, whose crew was up in the rigging. The decision was made to proceed.

The tide had changed by then, and the seas were not as turbulent. Reducing sail and relying on the engine, Jackson maneuvered the *Priscilla* back and forth around the waves in a serpentine course, continually getting closer to the wreck. It took another hour until he had the *Priscilla* 150 feet to the lee side of the wreck, near its midsection. There Jackson dropped anchor. Winds were from the southeast, and waves striking the *Crowley* were broken up as they passed over its deck. It was then noon, and the *Crowley* crew had been stranded for seven hours, whipped by winds and freezing salt spray.

The crew of the *Priscilla* launched a dory, which Doucette took to the *Crowley* to set a line between the two vessels. The plan was to pull the dory back and forth between them to effect the rescue, but the seas tossed the unoccupied dory about and the attempt was abandoned. Jackson was left with no other option but to perform each rescue by manned dory, one person at a time. He and Benefito would stay aboard the *Priscilla* while the Kelly brothers and Doucette would each maneuver a dory single-handedly.

The Kellys were the first to go, but Patrick's attempt was thwarted by breaking waves, and he was forced to return to have his dory bailed out. Henry rowed to the *Crowley* successfully. Mrs. Haskell was unlashd from the mast but kept a rope tied around her



Capt. Jackson, 1910. Photo courtesy of the W. Howard Andrews Collection.

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Into the far reaches of time

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shoulders as a safety line. In January, the temperature of the water surrounding the Vineyard is generally in the upper 30s, and being in the water even for a short time could have fatal consequences. As a wave took the dory up toward the deck of the *Crowley*, Mrs. Haskell jumped at just the right moment and without hesitation and landed in the dory. Henry quickly rowed his passenger to the *Priscilla*, where Jackson and Benefito pulled her aboard. It was then one o'clock, and the first rescue had just been completed.

Patrick meanwhile was back out in his dory and picked up Capt. Haskell. Repeating the efforts of his brother, he took Haskell to the *Priscilla* before heading back out for the next rescue. And so it was a rescue by Henry, and then a rescue by Patrick, and then by Doucette, each man taking a turn to save one crewmember at a time. Henry made four trips and saved four lives. Doucette made seven trips altogether, including one in which he rescued Patrick, whose dory had again filled with water. In addition to Haskell, Patrick rescued three crewmembers.

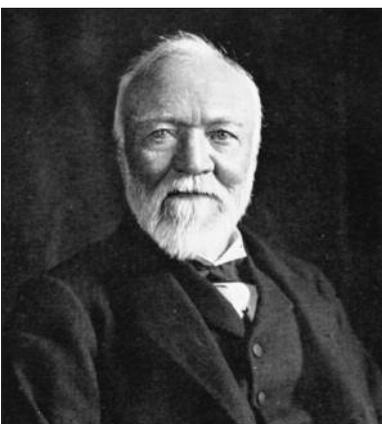
It was around 3 p.m., after two hours of grueling work, that all 14 souls had been saved from the *Crowley*. The *Priscilla* with her crew of five, plus the 14 from the *Crowley*, headed back to the safety of Edgartown harbor, taking another two hours to make the trip. From the time of the wreck until everyone was safe on shore, 12 hours had lapsed. The crowd that had formed on the wharf during the day cheered the return of the *Priscilla*. A week after wrecking on the shoal, the *Crowley* was battered to pieces. The final mast to go was the one to which Capt. and Mrs. Haskell had been lashed.

For their efforts, Jackson and his crew were each awarded the Carnegie Medal and a financial grant. Jackson's wife wanted to use his \$2,000 grant to purchase a home in Edgartown, but Jackson used it to pay off debts owed on the *Priscilla* and to have a new vessel built...the *Priscilla II*. Jackson retired from deep-sea fishing in the 1940s and died in 1962 at age 83, leaving six children, 20 grandchildren, and 38 great-grandchildren. The *Vineyard Gazette* eulogized him: "To have lived in the town, or on the island, or in a generation with Levi Jackson remains a privilege, something to be proud of...Levi Jackson's long career stands as his memorial, and so it will stand, into the far reaches of time." ❧



Herbert R. Ward, an amateur genealogist, is a great-grandson of Capt. Levi Jackson. Capt. Jackson's Carnegie Medal is part of the collection at Mystic, Conn., Seaport Museum.

❧ THE QUOTABLE A.C. ❧

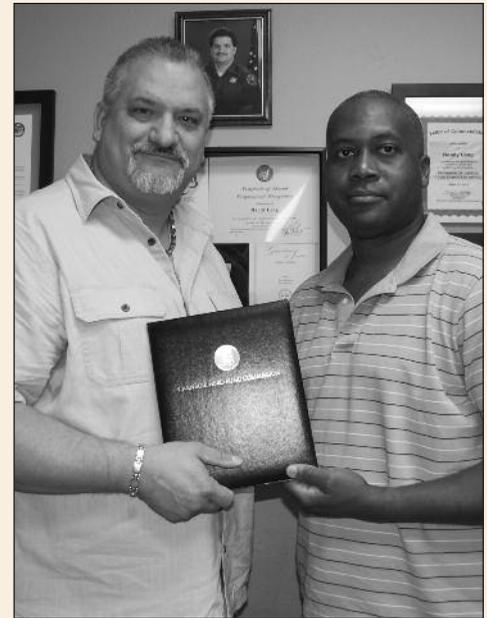


In looking back you never feel that upon any occasion you have acted too generously, but you often regret that you did not give enough, and sometimes that you did not give at all. The moral seems to be—always give the higher sum or do the most when in doubt.

—From *An American Four-in-Hand in Britain*, 1888, p. 259.

LATEST AWARDEES

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Roger Randolph Lang, left, is a tax preparer and was working with client Theophilus I. Joseph in his Norco, Calif., office when they heard a woman screaming in the office next door. They rescued the woman from assault by a man armed with a knife and held the assailant until police responded. Photo by Jerry Soifer of Corona, Calif., and provided as a courtesy.

driver's seat, where Denham remained, semiconscious. McCarthy reached through the broken window of the driver's door, grasped Denham, and pulled him out of the vehicle. Denham's clothing was aflame, and McCarthy, aided by another man, patted his clothing and rolled him on the ground to extinguish the flames. Denham sustained severe burns, and McCarthy required hospital treatment for burns to a hand.

Roger Randolph Lang, 47, a tax preparer from Corona, Calif., and one of his clients, **Theophilus I. Joseph**, 41, a police officer from San Bernardino, Calif., rescued a woman from assault on April 4, 2009. A 31-year-old woman was inside a tanning salon in Norco, Calif., when a man entered the business and, threatening her with a knife, forced her to the floor. She screamed, attracting the attention of Lang and Joseph, who were in Lang's office next door. Lang ran into the salon and grasped the assailant, who then turned on him. The men struggled for control of the weapon, Lang sustaining multiple knife wounds. Joseph, who was off duty, also responded, and he joined in the struggle. He ended up on the floor, the assailant atop him, as he too fought for control of the knife. The men disarmed the assailant, who then broke away and fled. Joseph pursued him through a parking lot, tackled

(continued on page 10)



A medal...



shall be given to the hero, or widow, or next of kin, which shall recite the heroic deed it commemorates, that descendants may know and be proud of their descent

Andrew Carnegie

March 12, 1904

CARNEGIE MEDAL AWARDED POLICE OFFICER WHO PAID HEAVY PRICE FOR HIS HEROISM

John M. Krahn of Muskego, Wis., has earned numerous awards for his rescue actions in behalf of a mother and her year-old son, and he is appreciative of them, but the fact remains that they will not enable him to return to the job he loved: Krahn was a police officer at the time of his heroic act, and the injuries he sustained while acting disabled him.



John M. Krahn, shown with his wife Cyndi, was awarded the Carnegie Medal at a ceremony in the Elm Grove, Wis., Village Hall. Douglas R. Chambers, the Hero Fund's director of external affairs, made the presentation.

Krahn was on duty that day, May 25, 2009, in Elm Grove, Wis., directing traffic at an intersection just prior to the town's Memorial Day Parade. About 150 feet away, the woman and her son found their minivan caught on a rail at a crossing as a 94-car freight train was bearing down at 43 m.p.h.

Krahn, then 41, ran to the crossing and approached and opened the driver's door of the vehicle, allowing the woman to escape. Then, seeing the child in the rear passenger seat, he worked feverishly to open the rear door on the driver's side. As the train continued its approach at undiminished speed, Krahn was joined by the woman's husband, who had been driving another vehicle. Both men were attempting to gain access to the boy when the train struck the minivan, knocking it some 200 feet from the crossing. Miraculously, the boy escaped unscathed, but both Krahn and the woman's husband were severely injured. For Krahn, months of hospitalization and rehabilitation followed, as did the realization that he could not return to the police force.

Among the many honors Krahn received were three awards from the police department, and he was named officer of the month by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. In September, he was announced as an awardee of the Carnegie Medal, and the medal was presented to him in February at a ceremony in the Elm Grove Village Hall. Hanging nearby on permanent display was a sober reminder of Krahn's heroism, the battered uniform he wore that day.

FIREFIGHTER BROTHERS TEAM UP FOR RESCUE

Brothers **John** and **Joel P. Rechlitz**, both of Milwaukee, Wis., and their families were enjoying a picnic at John's home on July 19, 2009, when they were alerted to a burning vehicle just a few blocks away. Both firefighters for the Milwaukee Fire Department, the two brothers took off for the scene, arriving to find an overturned sport utility vehicle being consumed by flames that were fed by leaking gasoline. The vehicle's driver and her two-year-old daughter had been removed to safety, but remaining inside was her four-year-old son, strapped in his booster seat in the rear passenger-seat area. Smoke inside the vehicle was heavy and the heat blistering.

John, then 44, joined others in gaining access to the vehicle through its broken windshield, and Joel, 29, entered through the windshield and attempted without success to release the boy. John also entered, but he too failed in an attempt. As flames spread toward the front of the vehicle's interior, the brothers re-entered it separately, yet again were unsuccessful. Joel then secured a knife and handed it to John, who entered the car a third time. He was able to cut the boy's safety belt, grasp him by the shoulders, and back through the windshield to safety.

The boy sustained burns to about 25 percent of his body and was hospitalized for eight weeks. John suffered second-degree burns to both hands and was off work for three weeks, while Joel, also treated for second-degree burns, was off



Brothers John and Joel P. Rechlitz, both firefighters for the Milwaukee, Wis., Fire Dept.

work for two months. Each of the brothers was awarded the Carnegie Medal in September for their rescue actions, and they received the medals in February at the fire department's training academy from Douglas R. Chambers, the Hero Fund's director of external affairs. Present were the department's chief and several fellow firefighters, as were many of the family members who were enjoying the picnic that July day.

Upon receiving the medal, we were overwhelmed with emotion. The medal is a beautiful treasure and has filled our hearts with pride. Larry's first grandchild was born on April 6. The Carnegie Medal will be passed down to him, and he too will be filled with pride as he learns about his grandfather.—The Larry Darrohn Family, Lansford, Pa. Larry G. Darrohn, Jr. (right), was awarded the medal posthumously in December in recognition of his attempted rescue of a woman from her burning apartment in Jim Thorpe, Pa., a year earlier. Age 46, he was a Marine veteran.



ALIVE AND WELL

Gary A. Kneeshaw, left, and **Scott M. Bligh**, both officers with the air unit of the San Diego County, Calif., Sheriff's Dept., were each awarded the Carnegie Medal in December for saving two mountain climbers from an advancing wildfire. They are shown here in early April after being presented their medals at a sheriff's department command staff meeting. The men were recognized for taking their unit's patrol helicopter to the scene of a wildfire on El Cajon Mountain near Lakeside, Calif., on Aug. 21, 2010, to rescue two climbers who were trapped by approaching flames. Despite the hostile environment, they executed a delicate landing maneuver to lift the hikers to safety one at a time. Kneeshaw remained on the mountain between rescues since the craft could not accommodate all four parties.

"We would like to thank you for recognizing our rescue efforts," the men wrote. "We are thrilled and humbled to be included in such an impressive roster of individuals who have given so much.

"We recognize the prestigious reputation of the Commission and appreciate the efforts you take in investigating instances of extraordinary deeds. After we learned more about the Hero Fund and the individuals who have been honored, it became apparent you are surely keeping Mr. Carnegie's vision alive and well."



Officer Hipple with wife Jessica and children Megan and James

UNIQUE FRATERNITY

Michael Earl Gay, Sr., left, of Bartow, Fla., might have received a Carnegie Medal for his heroic act of Nov. 11, 2009, but his real trophy was present when he was given the medal: **Jodi K. Oakes**, center, is the woman whose life he saved. Oakes was the driver of a car that left the roadway at night in Alturas, Fla., struck a tree, and caught fire. Driving nearby, Gay, then 43, stopped to investigate and heard Oakes scream. He bent the frame of the passenger-door window to get it out of the way and then leaned into the car for Oakes, who was aflame. He pulled her from the vehicle and patted out the flames on her, receiving second- and third-degree burns to his hands.

Gay's medal was presented by **Julian W. Fant**, 79, right, of Treasure Island, Fla., also a Carnegie Medal awardee. In 1958, Fant helped to save a father and son from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at South Ponte Vedra, Fla. "Our events took place more than 50 years apart," Fant told Gay, "but we have become members of a unique fraternity through unfathomable, unexplained, and unforeseen events." One of several past awardees who have volunteered to present the medal to newly named ones, Fant told the Hero Fund that, coupled with his 60th wedding anniversary, the presentation "easily makes 2011 a once-in-a-lifetime experience." The event was filmed by MSNBC for a forthcoming series, *First Responders*.



BACK ON THE JOB TWO YEARS LATER

Warren, Ohio, Police Officer **Douglas L. Hipple** doubted that he would be able to return to duty because of the severe burns he sustained to his head, left arm, and lower back during his attempted rescue of three women from a house fire. But almost two years after that event, he was cleared to resume his career.

Hipple, then 38, was on duty in the early morning hours of April 28, 2009, when he was alerted to the fire, which was in a two-story group home where the women, all mentally challenged, lived. After entering the house, he climbed the stairs to the second floor but then retreated from the heavy smoke. On his second ascent, he found the women and gathered them at the top of the stairs, but with conditions deteriorating rapidly he decided instead to attempt an escape through a bedroom window. All four were then overcome by the smoke. Quickly arriving firefighters removed them from the house and took them to the hospital, where one of the women later died from the effects of smoke inhalation. Burns covered 14 percent of Hipple's body, requiring him to spend more than a month in the hospital, with nearly all of that time in an induced coma.

For his actions, Hipple was awarded the Carnegie Medal last September, and the medal was delivered to him in April by Douglas R. Chambers, the Hero Fund's director of external affairs. Hipple told Chambers that while his recovery has been long and painful, he and his wife, Jessica, are grateful for all the help and support they have received, most especially from their neighbors. Jessica tells the story that some were so anxious to help that on one day three different neighbors mowed their yard!



LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 7)

him, and held him until police arrived. Lang needed hospital treatment, including sutures, for his wounds. (See photo, page 7.)

Reno, Nev., Police Officer **Carlos S. Valles** rescued a 54-year-old woman from her burning apartment in Reno on April 17 last year. After fire broke out in a bedroom of the apartment at night, the unit filled with dense smoke and flames breached a front window. First responders included Valles, 32, of Sparks, Nev., who learned that the woman was unaccounted for. Valles entered the apartment through its front door and despite the dense smoke, which severely limited visibility, crawled about 20 feet, or to where he found the woman lying on the floor near the burning bedroom. He stood and attempted to carry her, but the smoke forced him back to the floor. Grasping her by a wrist, Valles dragged her to the front door and then outside to safety.

THE 10% GOOD

Accomplished and award-winning documentary filmmaker Yoav Shamir, right, visited the offices of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in April to interview Douglas R. Chambers, center, the Hero Fund's director of external affairs, for his new film, *The 10%*. Camerawoman Tanya Aizikovitch, left, recorded the interview. The film, to be released in the fall, is Shamir's sixth feature film and intends to explore that segment of a population, estimated to be from 10 to 20 percent, who resist evil influences "to maintain their integrity, go against the grain, and fight for what is just." In looking at the Hero Fund's work—or more precisely, those whom the Hero Fund recognizes—Shamir hopes to learn if heroism is in the nature of "the 10 percent" or if it is a result of their environment. He'd like also to learn what compels people to act altruistically and how their example can influence others to benefit all of humanity. Films by Shamir, who is based in Tel Aviv, Israel, have screened at international film festivals and include award-winning *Marta and Luis* (2001), *Checkpoint* (2003), *5 Days* (2005), *Flipping Out* (2007) and *Defamation* (2009).



OVERHEARD

When Mr. Gilbert opened the door for me, it was like seeing God's face.—Dora M. Gonzalez, who was trapped in a burning car after an accident, speaking of Robert Leigh Gilbert III, Carnegie Medal Nominee #83234

I know it was selfish to completely disregard my family and put myself into that fire, but if the circumstances were opposite I could only pray someone would do the same for me and for the people that I love.—**Christopher Alan Sturgeon**, Carnegie Medal Awardee #9407

Heroism is found not only on the fields of battle...(it) does not require special training or physical strength. Heroism is here, all around us, in the hearts of so many of our fellow citizens, just waiting to be summoned.—President Barack Obama, in a memorial service for the victims of the Tuscon, Ariz., shooting in January

You're going to have to help, or we're both going to die.—**Joseph W. Hughart**, Carnegie Medal Awardee #9415, addressing the man he was trying to pull from a burning pickup truck

Not one day goes by that I don't thank God for Joe Hughart.—Ray M. Williams, driver of the truck

They said I was put on earth for two things. To help people out and to give them high blood pressure.—**Christopher M. Sigler**, Carnegie Medal Nominee #83679

It's not heroism, it's humanity. That's all.—Carnegie Medal Awardee #9413 **Michael S. Hatfield**

I fell through the water...A man, like God, came and got me out.—Heather M. Wolff, 3, who was rescued by **Brian W. Coblentz**, Carnegie Medal Awardee #9409, after she broke through ice on a pond while sledding



PRESIDENT HONORED

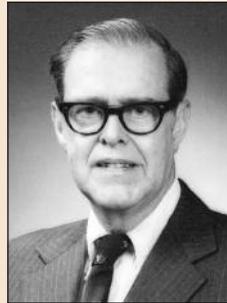
Since becoming president of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission 10 years ago, Mark Laskow, right, has overseen giving the Carnegie Medal to 897 awardees. In March it was his turn to receive an award: Laskow was cited by the Allegheny County, Pa., Medical Society for outstanding contributions to the betterment, health, and welfare of county citizens. Shown presenting him the Benjamin Rush Individual Public Health Award is John F. Delaney, M.D., chair of the board of directors of the society, which, founded in 1865, represents more than 3,200 physicians. In addition to his "day job" as chief executive officer of Greycourt & Co., Inc., which provides financial advisory services, Laskow is vice chair of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health System, chair of the UPMC Health Plan, and a trustee of UPMC Shadyside Hospital. The award, named after the 18th century physician who signed the Declaration of Independence, was given to Laskow for his work in eliminating hospital-borne infections and medication errors and improving efficiency and safety within hospitals by building consensus among hospital and health-plan administrators, physicians, business leaders, and health-care advocates. In other words, Laskow says, he was honored for being "an agitator."

FRIENDS REMEMBERED



Gerald L. Barcus, 69, of East Liverpool, Ohio, died Feb. 13. Barcus was 37 in 1979 when on June 16 he helped to pull two men from an overturned and burning pickup truck after an accident in East Liverpool. Both men were seriously burned in the accident, one of them dying. Barcus was a lieutenant with the East Liverpool Fire Department at the time of the rescue but was off duty when he drove upon the scene. He received the Carnegie Medal for his heroic act in 1981. In 1996, he was named chief of the fire department, retiring two years ago.

E. Bayley Buchanan, M.D., 87, of Pittsburgh, an honorary member of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, died April 23. Dr. Buchanan was elected to the Commission in 1975 and served faithfully for the next 27 years. During his time on the Executive Committee, which is the Hero Fund's awarding body, he freely shared his specialized knowledge of medicine, the product of his training and 38 years in practice, providing definitive assessment for the Committee's case evaluation process. Fellow board members found him both of good humor and stalwart in defending the Hero Fund's awarding requirements. Dr. Buchanan was of the last of four generations of surgeons from his family practicing in Pittsburgh from 1866 to 1993.



Lambert G. Eichner, 83, of Berwyn, Pa., died Feb. 15. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal for his actions of Sept. 21, 1947, when as a 19-year-old university student he attempted to save a teenage girl from drowning. The girl had fallen into a hollow shaft of a bridge pier that contained eight feet of stagnant water. Eichner lowered himself to the water, submerged to find the girl, and then worked with others in removing her from the shaft. She could not be revived. Eichner received his medical degree from Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa., and maintained a family practice in Broomall, Pa., for more than 40 years.

William J. Forbes, 86, of Charleston, W.Va., died Sept. 15. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal for his heroic act of Sept. 14, 1971, when at age 47 he saved a man from drowning in the Elk River at Charleston. The vice president of a building supply company, Forbes swam 70 feet from the bank to reach the man, but a strong current caused by heavy rains that had swollen the river diverted his return course to the bank with the man.

Thomas E. Lucore, 92, of Erie, Pa., died Feb. 21. He received the medal in 1961 for saving a woman from a burning house on Jan. 4, 1960. A security guard for a nearby paper plant, Lucore, then 41, responded to the house from the plant and crawled through intense heat and blinding smoke across the living room to reach the woman. He dragged her back toward the door, where another man pulled her from the house. Both the woman and Lucore sustained burns, but they recovered. Lucore retired from the plant in 1982.

Cecilia D. Washington, 55, of Springfield, Ill., died Dec. 31. She was the widow of **Kevin Alan Washington**, who died April 16, 1983, at age 27 while attempting to save a child from drowning in the Sangamon River at Petersburg, Ill. Washington received the Carnegie Medal posthumously, and Mrs. Washington became the beneficiary of a monthly grant from the Hero Fund that continued until the time of her death.

Fuller obituaries of Carnegie Medal awardees are on the Hero Fund's website, www.carnegiehero.org, under "Search Awardees."

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 reports (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

STRANDED BY OVERPASS COLLAPSE

As **Marie-Ève Renaud**, a 22-year-old university student, drove through downtown Montreal, Que., on the afternoon of July 30, 1996, she never expected that she was about to save the life of another motorist at the risk of her own.

*Ms. Renaud*

The other motorist, Gérard Gravel, 50, was driving behind Renaud when his vehicle stopped in traffic beneath a railroad overpass. Above, a work-crew dump truck, loaded with sand and gravel and weighing more than 25 tons, was backing across the overpass when it broke through the overpass deck. Slabs of concrete along with the gravel and sand rained down on Gravel's car, blocking its passenger door and jamming the driver's door. Trapped, Gravel yelled for help.

Renaud heard his cries and approached the car, despite the debris that continued to fall on and around it, and despite the truck itself, which was suspended overhead through the hole in the deck. She struggled to open the driver's door and eventually succeeded. Gravel,

stunned but not injured seriously, crawled out of the car, and he and Renaud ran to safety. Police arrived and blocked access to the scene, citing the continued danger of the entire overpass collapsing.

*Gravel's car, after collapse of overpass*

Then a student at Université du Québec à Montréal, Renaud was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1998 for her heroic act. She obtained a bachelor's degree in public relations with scholarship assistance from the Hero Fund and began to work for the Canada Border Services Agency.

Zoom to the present: Renaud, now the mother of two young boys, emailed the Commission in March to comment on an article she read in *imPULSE*. "Only the feeling of surprise and happiness remains in my mind when I think about the day I received the letter from the Carnegie Hero Fund," she wrote. "And of course I do remember my astonishment about the grant that came along with the award, a grant that was well spent on eye surgery, which has allowed me see better for all these years." As for Gravel, Renaud informs that about three years ago she learned that he was no longer living. ☒ —Marlin Ross, *Case Investigator*

*Suspended dump truck atop overpass*