



imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 29 • MARCH 2012

FRIENDS REMEMBERED



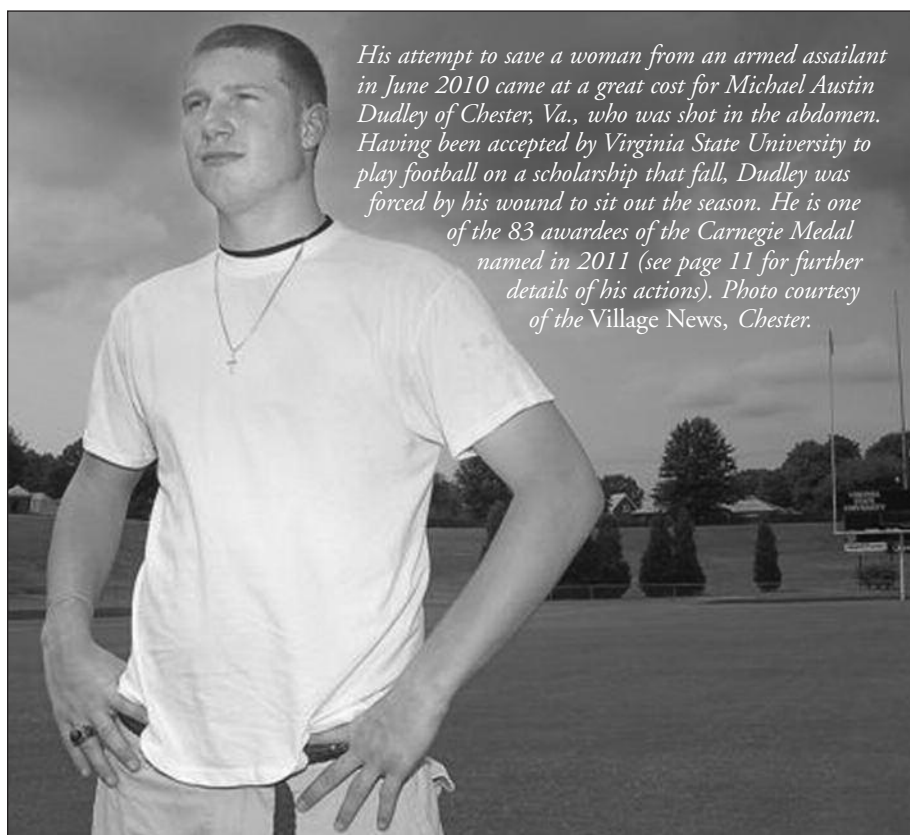
Mrs. Herrington

NONAGENARIAN HEROINES IN A CLASS OF THEIR OWN

They were two women from adjoining states in the South who were each awarded the Carnegie Medal for saving a teenager from drowning in separate heroic acts in 1930. Both cherished the award, which included scholarship grants that sent them through the university during the Great Depression. Each lived into her mid-90s and died recently, two months apart.

Margaret Williams Herrington, 95, of Atlanta, Ga., who informed the Hero Fund a few years ago that she kept the medal "dusted and on display" in her home, died Jan. 7. **Jane Isbell Frazier Conley**, 94, of Scottsboro, Ala., who wrote in 2008 that she was "truly proud and honored" to be associated with the Hero Fund, died Nov. 21. The nonagenarian heroines were undoubtedly in a class of their own, females already being in the minority at 8.9 percent of the total number of awardees from 1904 to date.

(continued on page 2)



His attempt to save a woman from an armed assailant in June 2010 came at a great cost for Michael Austin Dudley of Chester, Va., who was shot in the abdomen. Having been accepted by Virginia State University to play football on a scholarship that fall, Dudley was forced by his wound to sit out the season. He is one of the 83 awardees of the Carnegie Medal named in 2011 (see page 11 for further details of his actions). Photo courtesy of the Village News, Chester.

2011 in review: Ethicists and altruists found at grassroots, one hero at a time

By Sybil P. Veeder, Chair, Executive Committee
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

Many of Carnegie's institutions pursue themes of ethics and altruism at a broad societal and international level. The Hero Fund finds its ethicists and altruists at the grassroots, one hero at a time.

The quote, by Mark Laskow, Hero Fund president, was taken from remarks he made recently at a meeting of representatives of Andrew Carnegie's endowed trusts and institutions. His observation underscores the work of the hero funds (nine existing from the original 11) as they operate within the greater context of Carnegie's legacy, and it also underscores the vibrancy and importance of the funds.

(continued on page 2)



FRIENDS REMEMBERED

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Herrington's heroism took place in Conyers, Ga., on May 24, 1930. Then a 14-year-old schoolgirl, she saved a 15-year-old boy from drowning in a creek after he became distressed in 10-foot-



Mrs. Conley

deep water while swimming. Herrington went after him and got him close to the bank, where they were reeled to safety by a fisherman. The financial grant that accompanied the award helped put Herrington through Emory University at Oxford, Ga., and the University of Georgia, from which she was graduated in 1936 with a degree in teaching.

In 1970, Herrington was reunited with the "boy" she rescued, and every Sunday for the next 15 years he and his wife brought her produce from their garden.

On July 14, 1930, two months after Herrington's rescue act, Conley, then a 13-year-old schoolgirl, saved a female friend, 16, from drowning in the Tennessee River at Guntersville, Ala., where Conley's father had been the mayor. After Conley supported her friend for a considerable time, they too were aided to safety by a fisherman. Conley used her financial grant to attend the University of Alabama, graduating with a degree in English in 1939. In 1976, the university named her a distinguished alumna.

Conley was viewed as one of Scottsboro's "most endearing citizens" and a "a great friend and asset to the city," according to the local newspaper, *The Daily Sentinel*. In 2008, Scottsboro mayor Dan Deason proclaimed a day in Conley's honor to recognize her civic achievements.

James Hopkins Berger, 71, of Mays Chapel, Md., died Dec. 15. Berger was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1959 for saving his infant cousin from a house fire on Nov. 15, 1958. After fire broke out

in the kitchen of the house, Berger, then an 18-year-old high school senior who had overcome polio as a child,

(continued on page 3)

2011 in review

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The Executive Committee's role in all of the above was at the "grassroots" level in 2011 as it attended to the specifics of having general supervision of the affairs of the Hero Fund. The committee's primary duties remained the evaluation of heroic acts submitted for consideration. Of the 84 cases brought to our attention (850 nominations were recorded during the year), the Carnegie Medal was awarded in 83 of them.

The new heroes included three from Canada (3.6% of the total, as compared with 7.8% of the total figure of 738 since 1904) and 80 from a wide geographical range in the U.S. Twenty-eight states were represented, with top honors going to California and Michigan, at 10 and 8 heroes, respectively. Eight states had only one awardee. The Canadian heroes were from Ontario (two) and Nova Scotia (one).

Ages of the awardees ranged from 12 to 75, the youngest being Lauren Winstead of Collierville, Tenn., who helped to save a man twice her weight and four times her age from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico. Oldest was one of three septuagenarians, Gerald A. LaMonica, of Dearborn Heights, Mich., who saved a girl from being mauled by a 45-pound pit bull. The dog turned on LaMonica, inflicting gashes on his leg that required suturing. Six of the year's heroes were in their teens, nine in their 20s, 19 in their 30s, 21 in their 40s, 16 in their 50s, and eight in their 60s.

Including Winstead, awards went to five females, or 6% of the year's total; the ratio of female awardees over the life of the fund is 8.9%. Death cases numbered 10, or 12%, as compared with 20.7% over the life of the fund. Categories of the acts followed traditional lines, with 39 cases being fire-related, including burning-vehicle rescues, 26, and burning-building rescues, 13. Water-related cases numbered 33, including three ice cases. The remaining categories were assault by humans (eight) and animals (three), the latter including the rescue of a farmer from a battering by his 1,800-pound bull by his 200-pound neighbor, Timothy Lee Rostar, 46, who had stopped by the barn to chat. "The bull kinda looked at me like I was next," Rostar said.

In a program very much in keeping with Mr. Carnegie's high view of education, each of the year's pre-retirement awardees became eligible for scholarship assistance, as are the dependents of those heroes who are killed or disabled in the performance of their heroic acts. Forty-one grants totaling \$142,887 were made during 2011.

The dependents of posthumous awardees, as well as disabled heroes, are also eligible for continuing aid: During 2011, the Commission gave monthly grants totaling \$294,734 to 68 beneficiaries. From a beneficiary of many years' association, Gladys Wright of Philadelphia: *Your program is a beacon of light to those who have lost a loved one and I am eternally grateful for your assistance.* Also, from a relatively new beneficiary, Victoria Thanos of Valparaiso, Ind.: *(The) Commission's thoughtfulness never ceases to amaze me... Thank you for your determination to make our lives easier.* Other giving included \$24,852 in nine grants to help pay for the costs of the deceased hero's burial.

Outreach efforts continued through 2011 by Douglas R. Chambers, the Commission's director of external affairs, largely through personal presentations of the medal and school assemblies. He took part in five school assemblies in the Chicago area and one in Livingston, N.J., aided in a few of them by medal awardees. The medal presentations included visits to Wisconsin, Ohio, Kansas, New Jersey, and Michigan, and visits by past awardees living near newly named ones, a program that was suggested by a Carnegie Hero a few years ago.

Outreach of a different sort was done by Peter J. Lambrou and Carol A. Word of the board, who with Walter F. Rutkowski of the staff traveled to Switzerland at the invitation of the Swiss hero fund to participate in that fund's annual "Rescuer's Day" in May. Observing the 100th anniversary of receipt of its founding gift from Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Rescuers Foundation was presented a commemorative medal along with a resolution from this Commission, and a similar presentation was made a few months later to the Swedish hero fund, *Carnegiestiftelsen*, in Stockholm, by Commission member Linda T. Hills. Loyal friendships with the leadership of those two funds have developed over the past decade, both funds having sent representatives to the U.S. for Commission and other Carnegie-related functions.

(continued on page 3)



James Hopkins Berger, left, received his Carnegie Medal during an assembly at Loyola College, Baltimore, Md., in 1959. He was a 1963 graduate of the school.

in the kitchen of the house, Berger, then an 18-year-old high school senior who had overcome polio as a child,

(continued on page 3)

2011 in review

(continued from page 2)

One such function in 2011 was the sixth presentation of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, a program launched in 2001 by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The event, marking not only the 10th anniversary of the medal program but the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Carnegie Corporation, was an elegant one, and the Commission was well represented, by Laskow, Hills, Word, Rutkowski, Ann M. McGuinn, Nancy L. Rackoff, Dan D. Sandman, and Susanne C. Wean.

Five of the hero funds were represented and four of them (U.S., U.K., Sweden, and Switzerland, with Belgium a late arrival) took the opportunity of being together to discuss mutual activities and concerns. The meeting was chaired by William Thomson, great-grandson of the Founder, who has expressed great interest in the funds' work. Concerns centered largely on shrinking portfolios/funding as the result of the global economic turndown, seeking greater awareness of the work of the hero funds, and spurring interest among the remaining funds in fraternal association. At a meeting the following day of representatives of all of Carnegie's institutions, Laskow provided a review of the hero funds' scope and activities. He will be a major force in the 2013 presentation of the Medal of Philanthropy, to be held in Scotland, having been asked by Carnegie Corporation President Vartan Gregorian to be on the selection committee.

Laskow's contributions here at home were formally recognized in December with the presentation of a specially published booklet containing the biographies of all seven Hero Fund presidents (see page 5) and a botanical print featuring the medal's flora: ivy, oak, thistle, and laurel (page 12). The book was an eye-opener, revealing the significant accomplishments of these distinguished gentlemen, and it serves as well as a reminder that keeping this trust functioning is a responsibility we all bear.

I am indebted to committee members for taking that responsibility seriously. New members welcomed during the year are Arthur M. Scully III, Susanne C. Wean, and Joseph C. Walton, and we anticipate a long and fruitful association with them. William P. Snyder III was elected honorary member in recognition of an outstanding commitment to the Commission over a record-setting 60 years on the board. We appreciate his continuing interest in the Hero Fund. Thanks too to the staff, whose technical assistance, expertise, and enthusiasm make our work possible. ☒



A member of the Commission since 1992, Dr. Veeder has chaired the Executive Committee since 2002.

HERO A NEW LAWYER

Carnegie Medal awardee **McKenzie Anne Perry**, right, became Massachusetts's newest attorney on Nov. 15 when she was sworn in by Maura S. Doyle, left, clerk of court for the Supreme Judicial Court of Suffolk County, Boston. Perry was graduated by Charleston, S.C., School of Law earlier in



the year, having received tuition aid from the Hero Fund during all three years of her law schooling. She was awarded the medal in 2007 in recognition of her actions of June 25, 2006, by which she helped to save a woman from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean off Sullivan's Island, S.C. A first-person account of the rescue was written by the woman, Betty R. Kindley, then a 55-year-old teacher from Asheville, N.C., and was published in the February 2009 issue of Oprah Winfrey's magazine, *O*. Perry was joined in the rescue by another woman, **Kary L. Hodge**, 28, of Willimantic, Conn., who also received the medal. "Adrift in a vast, merciless ocean," Kindley wrote, "I was not alone."

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

(continued from page 2)

ascended burning stairs to reach his cousin's third-floor bedroom. With flames blocking the stairway, he jumped from a window 30 feet to the ground, sustaining broken bones in his ankle and wrist, and he and his cousin were also burned. Both recovered. Berger retired in 2000 from Environmental Elements Corp., where he was manager of purchasing and transportation.

Daisy Mae Clark, 86, of Livingston, Ala., died Dec. 16. She was the widow of Carnegie Medal awardee **Joseph Clark**, who at age 29 died on March 26, 1948, attempting to save a 3-year-old boy from drowning in the Livingston city reservoir. Left with a 6-year-old son, who died in 2005, Mrs. Clark received a monthly grant from the Hero Fund from 1948 until the time of her death.



Mrs. Clark, in 1982

OVERHEARD

He said that I would have done the same for him. I'd like to think that's true, but I hope I never have to find out.—Kevin B. Gladhill, speaking of **Dennis Fleming**, Carnegie Medal Awardee #9488, who helped to save him from drowning.

I had tunnel vision. I felt nothing, heard nothing, and saw nothing but the boy.—Carnegie Medal Nominee #83661 **Daniel Harrison Haley**, who crawled across thin ice to rescue a 10-year-old boy.

One last thing. I'm not a hero, I'm just your neighbor.—Carnegie Medal Nominee #84305 **Timothy K. Swanson**, who helped to save a man from his burning pickup truck.

We are darned proud of Jones.—From an editorial in the *Post Independent*, Glenwood Springs, Colo., speaking of Carnegie Medal Awardee #9487 **David Richmond Jones**.

My experience has been that I got more accolades for taking a life in Vietnam than I've gotten for saving a life at Glacier.—**Felipe Red Garcia**, Carnegie Medal Nominee #84564, who helped to save a woman from drowning at Glacier National Park.

I watch too much TV, and it seemed like the right thing to do.—**Keenia Williams**, Carnegie Medal Nominee #84451, who pulled a trucker away from his burning rig.



**BOARD-MEMBER LONGEVITY
SERVES HERO FUND WELL**

*By Mark Laskow, President
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission*



In these pages we don't write much about the members of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, as our focus is on those who have earned the Carnegie Medal and, of course, on Andrew Carnegie himself. January brought two notable retirements

from the Commission that demand recognition.

Jim Walton joined the Commission in 1968 but is but a pup compared to Bill Snyder, who has served since 1951! Since our centennial in 2004, we tend to think of the Hero Fund as an older, more mature institution, one with a long history, yet the service of these two men spans a huge portion of the organization's history. For our statistically minded readers, Jim served for 41% of the Hero Fund's history and Bill an astonishing 57%.

What about term limits, you might ask? These are hot topics not just in political circles, but among nonprofit organizations as well. The current thinking is that nonprofit boards benefit from the periodic infusion of fresh blood and new thinking that term limits can provide. We certainly considered this, but two factors weighed heavily in our decision. First, we do have a reasonable rate of turnover on the Commission, and we try to select new members to maintain a spectrum of ages, backgrounds, and experiences. Second, we saw real value in the living link to our history that long-serving members can provide.

Another factor was the nature of the Commission's duties. Naturally, the members perform the governance functions expected of any board of directors, such as hiring management and overseeing the investment of our capital. In the case of the Hero Fund, however, we ask more. The Commission itself acts as the jury that makes the final decision to award the Carnegie Medal. The staff identifies, develops, and evaluates cases, and then presents to the Commission those that they believe meet the criteria for the award. Their written presentation follows a standard format, worked out over the years, which allows Commission members to focus quickly and clearly on key factors affecting each case. When the Commission meets, it discusses each case, often asking the staff for additional details about the facts of the case or the staff's logic in dealing with issues that arise. Given the talent, experience, and professionalism, almost all cases presented are approved, but not all. These decisions are not made lightly, and

(continued on page 6)

21 years later, Carnegie Hero shares how one action influenced his life

*By Jacob A. Greving
Carnegie Medal Awardee #7526*

Reflect upon your blessings—of which every man has many.—Charles Dickens

One night last summer, while we sat around the fire pit on the back patio, my five-year-old daughter, Ella, asked me to tell a story. I started to scan the dozens of stories in my head when my greatest story started spewing from my mouth. It is amazing how the human mind can recall actions of 21 years ago with such vivid detail. I would venture to say that it had been years since the last time I sat down and told the story of July 7, 1990, and everything that happened thereafter.

In the minutes that followed, I told Ella, my three-year-old son, Nate, and my then-pregnant wife, Valerie, the story of how an "imPULSEive" action changed my life, or how I went in one summer from being a normal teenager to a nationally recognized hero, becoming commonly known around town as "the kid who saved that girl on the river." Recapping what I explained to my family sounds like this:

I went from walking along the south point of an island in the Mississippi River at Quincy, Ill., which I had every Saturday that summer, to struggling to stay afloat while carrying an eight-year-old 'human backpack.' Erin, 8, had been wading in the water, without a life jacket, when it suddenly got deeper and the swift current pulled her off her feet. She screamed for help. Hearing her plea, I immediately jumped in and swam to her. I told her to grab my neck, and I tried to swim back to the bank. The current was too strong and quickly moved us down the river.

Keep in mind I was only 13 at the time. My parents, along with a gathering crowd, watched as Erin and I became two blips of blonde hair as the current swept us further and further away. By the grace of God, we were spotted 1,200 feet from the bank and dragged onto a passing boat. My dad carried me—exhausted—to a waiting lawn chair where I recovered while shyly saying, 'You're welcome,' and accepting handshakes and hugs from those who witnessed the rescue.



The writer, with wife, Valerie, and children: Nicholas, four months old; Ella, and Nate.

Within a week I was standing in front of the Quincy City Council being presented with the mayor's humanitarian award. Later that summer I was contacted and interviewed by the Carnegie Hero Fund and was eventually awarded the Carnegie Medal.

I realize that as I grew older, two constants remained the same: I was proud of my rescue and I enjoyed helping people. Those feelings remained with me through high school and into college. During my senior year at the University of Kansas, with my future uncertain, I concluded that I truly loved teaching. This realization led to phone calls and research, and I soon set my sights on graduate school at Quincy University. I also learned that graduate school at a private university can be quite costly. Knowing that I had been helping people since I was a kid and that I now needed help, financially, I called the Hero Fund on a whim to see if there were any scholarships available. That same day a scholarship application was mailed to me.

Everything fell perfectly into place and, with the assistance of the Hero Fund, I enrolled in the master of science in education program at Quincy University one week after graduation from the University of Kansas. Had it not been for the financial assistance from the Hero Fund, my transition into graduate school would have been difficult, if not impossible. The Hero Fund helped set my professional career in motion.

My actions on July 7, 1990, and the vision of the Hero Fund have shaped my life forever. I am truly blessed.

I currently teach general and college preparatory English at Hannibal, Mo., High School and have also had the opportunities to teach courses at Quincy Notre Dame High School and John Wood Community College, both in Quincy. Valerie, whom I met in graduate school, and I will be celebrating our 10th wedding anniversary in 2012. We have three wonderful children: Ella, Nate, and Nicholas, who was born late last year. The girl I helped to save, Erin—we remain friends—currently works as a registered nurse for Blessing Hospital in Quincy. She and her husband have a six-year-old son. ☒

Carnegie tapped efficient steelmaker to head new Hero Fund

By Mary Brignano
Special to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

Andrew Carnegie sent a clear signal in 1904 when he appointed Charles L. Taylor to be the first president of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission: He wanted his unique philanthropic venture to be administered as efficiently, systematically, and scientifically as his steel plants had been.

A metallurgical chemist, Taylor had helped turn steel-making into a science rather than a craft. *The Iron Age* wrote that “probably no single individual connected with the steel industry between 1880 and 1890 did more in the practical direction of supplanting wrought iron with soft steel than he did.” Taylor generated not only new alloys but also new markets for steel. He designed steel railroad cars and developed steel for their manufacture. He played a leading role in the establishment of process control, standardizing steelmaking so that customers received a uniform product—on time and on budget. He was one of the first industrial engineers anywhere.

1 *FIRST
IN A
SERIES*



Charles L. Taylor, in portrait by Cecilia Beaux. Courtesy of Special Collections, Lehigh University Libraries, Bethlehem, Pa.

Charles Lewis Taylor (1857–1922) was born in Philadelphia and educated at the new Lehigh University, where he studied mining engineering and graduated first in his class in 1876. He went to work as assistant chemist in the first chemical laboratory associated with an iron and steel firm in America—the Cambria Iron Works of Johnstown, Pa. In 1880 he moved to Pittsburgh to be chemist, then superintendent, of the state-of-the-art Bessemer Steel Company at Homestead. When Carnegie Steel took over this huge plant in 1883, Taylor stayed as superintendent and helped make the world-famous Homestead Steel Works one of the most technologically advanced and efficient in the world.

The rest of his career would be spent with Carnegie. After managing Hartman Steel Company, he was

(continued on page 6)



HERO FUND'S PRESIDENT MARKS 10 YEARS IN OFFICE

The 10th anniversary of Mark Laskow's election to the office of Hero Fund president in December was observed by the Commission with the publication of a collection of biographies of all seven men who have served in that capacity since 1904.

The biographies, written by prominent Pittsburgh historian Mary Brignano, are being published in *imPULSE*, commencing with the accompanying account of the first president, Charles L. Taylor, who served from the date of the Hero Fund's inception, April 15, 1904, until his death in 1922.

The booklet was dedicated to Laskow in appreciation for his commitment to the Commission. As noted in the work's dedication, Laskow gets, “at his request, no compensation, only a parking space, an occasional free lunch, and a business club membership.” A lawyer by training and a financial advisor by profession, Laskow joined the Hero Fund board in 1992 and subsequently became chair of its Executive Committee. He was elected president on Dec. 7, 2001, upon the retirement of Robert W. Off, who was president for the previous 22 years.

Laskow is shown here on January 25, 2004, the 100th anniversary of the Harwick, Pa., coal-mine disaster, placing a wreath at the mass grave of many of the disaster's victims. The victims included two men who entered the mine in rescue attempts but succumbed to poisonous gas. Their sacrifice in behalf of others prompted Andrew Carnegie to establish the Hero Fund within a few months.



AUTHENTIC HEROES

You folks are absolutely unique in your continuing quest for true heroes. Thank you for not compromising or playing the popular media game of awarding the title of 'hero' to people who were simply doing their jobs. The word "hero" is constantly misused by the media to describe people...(who) save lives—including their own. Those people are not heroes but are doing their paid jobs in a superb and commendable manner. Keep up the strict and authentic definition of what a hero is.

Dave Kryzanowski, Harrisburg, Pa.

Kryzanowski has nominated two cases for consideration, both of which were recognized by the Hero Fund.

PLANS CHANGED MYSTERIOUSLY

I would like to thank the Carnegie Hero Commission for selecting me to receive such a prestigious award. I was not planning on being home the day the Knights' house caught fire. I was planning on going to work out, but my plans changed at the last minute. I think the good Lord was working in mysterious ways on April 7, 2010. The medal that I received is beautiful and I will cherish it and pass it on to my son. My son is in the Air Force, stationed in Belgium. We will use the financial grant to go see him. We would not have been able to do this if had not been for the Carnegie Hero Commission.

Frederick T. Smith, Daleville, Va.

Smith was awarded the Carnegie Medal in June for saving his neighbor from a burning house.

OTHERS FIRST

Inspiring! Keep up the great work recognizing those who think of themselves second in the face of emergency.

Johanna Corcoran, Johnston, R.I.

BLESSINGS

Thank you so much for what your fund does, especially for helping the families that have lost a member helping others. May the Lord keep blessing y'all and the Fund in helping people in need.

Shane Ward, Amarillo, Texas

Ward was awarded the Carnegie Medal in December. See pages 10 and 11.

BOARD NOTES

(continued from page 4)

issues of individual fairness and the long-term integrity of the Carnegie Medal must be weighed in the balance.

Given what we ask of Commission members, it is no wonder that we have been reluctant to part with the accumulated experience and wisdom of Bill Snyder and Jim Walton. To the new members who will replace them we can only say, "You are walking in very big footsteps."

Efficient steelmaker

(continued from page 5)

elected assistant secretary of Carnegie, Phipps & Company and in 1893 became assist ant to two successive Carnegie Steel presidents, John G. A. Leishman and Charles M. Schwab. In this job he was responsible for the general supervision of operations for all the works.

Ideas for improving and selling steel were never far from Taylor's orderly thoughts. During a trip to Europe in the 1890s, he observed that thousands of railroad cars were framed in metal rather than wood, and he immediately recognized a new need for steel. Orders for steel rails had peaked in the 1880s—but he believed the railroads would now want to improve service and efficiency by carrying passengers and freight in cars that were stronger, safer, and more durable. Returning home, he began working on adapting steel to the requirements of car construction. At first the railroads were reluctant to change. But Taylor persisted. He designed a large steel hopper car and had it built at Carnegie's Keystone Bridge Works—and it created a sensation when it was introduced at the Master Car Builder's Convention in 1896. New companies evolved to manufacture steel cars, and railroads adopted them, discovering that they did indeed cost less to operate and did increase profits. . . just as Taylor had predicted.

As a Carnegie partner, Taylor became a rich man when a group headed by Elbert H. Gary and J. P. Morgan bought Carnegie Steel and created the United States Steel Corporation in 1901. He retired from the steel business and, at Carnegie's request, took on the oversight of the \$4 million Carnegie Relief Fund, Carnegie's "first use of surplus wealth." Taylor in 1911 became a founding board member of the \$125 million Carnegie Corporation of New York, the largest single philanthropic trust established up to that time.

What Taylor most contributed in his work with the Carnegie Hero Fund was the objective, scientific approach that had characterized his work with steel. He and his fellow Commissioners had been handed the difficult, complex job of defining, evaluating, and codifying the nature of a heroic act. Taylor took it upon himself "to so plan the work that in future years the far-seeing wisdom and the genuine beneficence of the Founder should be vindicated." Within a few months his "administrative sagacity" had helped build a methodology around an ideal—and had created the first road map for modern philanthropy.

In addition to his work with the Hero Fund, Taylor served as a trustee of the Western Pennsylvania Institute for the Blind, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Institute of Technology, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "One of the best men that ever lived" is how Carnegie described his silver-haired friend—despite the fact that Taylor was not afraid to stand up to his former employer. In 1906, when the two men had a friendly difference of opinion about whether or not to send money to victims of the San Francisco earthquake, Taylor announced to Carnegie, "You are not a member of the Commission. You have parted with your money and left it in the care of your friends, and the decision in this case will have to rest with them."

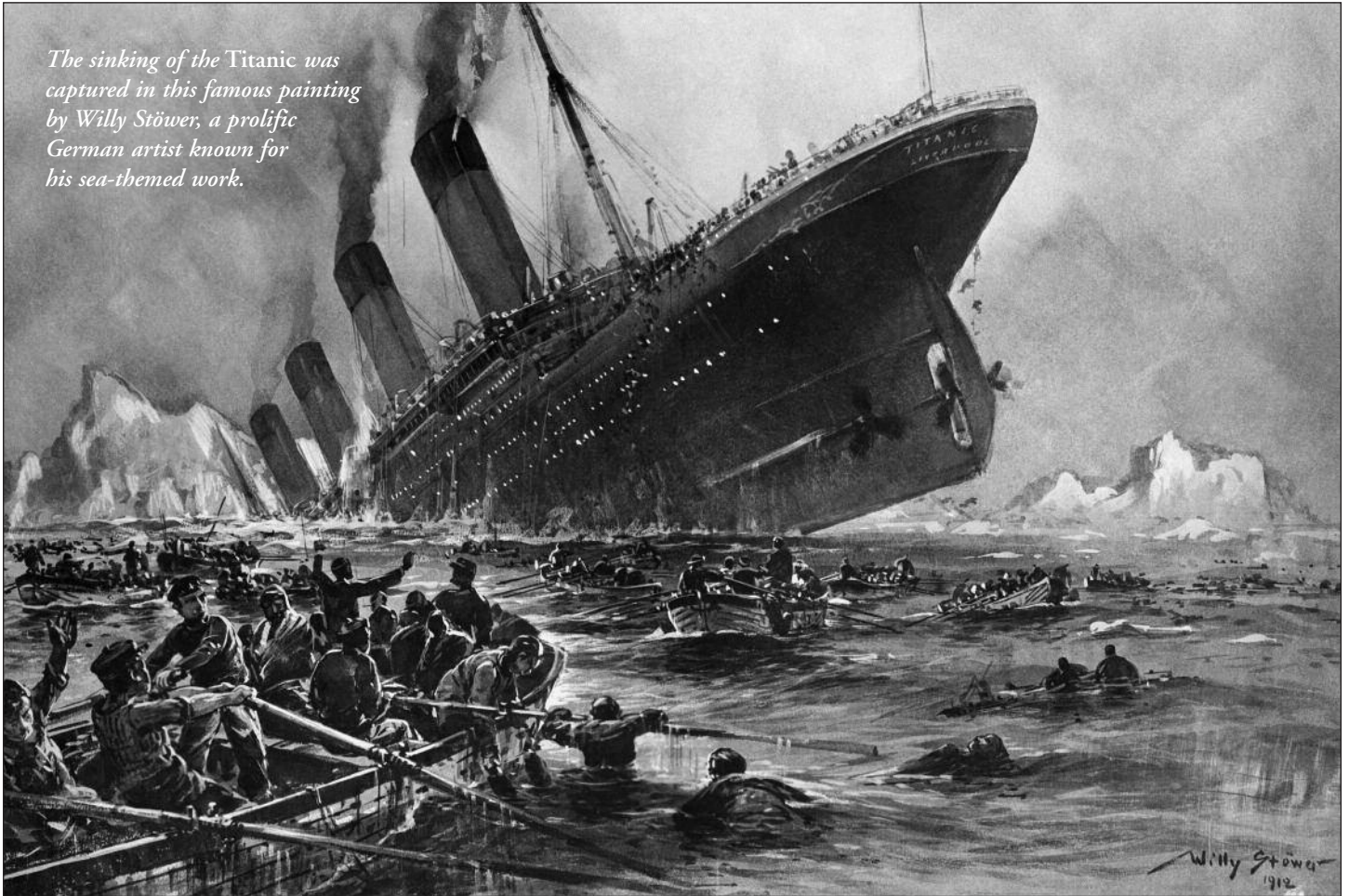
Taylor also was a board member of Kingsley House, a human-service organization for the thousands of new immigrants who poured into Pittsburgh to work in the mills. In 1903 he gave Kingsley land for a summer camp, naming it Lillian Fresh Air Home in honor of his wife. She was a daughter of Robert Pitcairn, the railroad executive who had started out as a telegraph messenger boy with Andrew Carnegie—and who was an original Hero Fund Commissioner.

Active with the Lehigh University Alumni Association throughout his career, Taylor served as a Lehigh trustee for many years. During a capital campaign in 1905, he approached Carnegie with a request for a gift for a large dormitory.

(continued on page 9)

Hero Fund cited ‘chivalrous conduct’

The sinking of the Titanic was captured in this famous painting by Willy Stöwer, a prolific German artist known for his sea-themed work.



7

Within two weeks of the sinking of the *Titanic* in the North Atlantic on April 15, 1912—one hundred years ago next month—the president of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, Charles L. Taylor, appointed a committee of three to explore what action the Commission might take to recognize acts of heroism performed in the rescue of the tragedy’s survivors.

Of the 2,224 people on board the vessel, 1,514 were lost, the 710 lucky ones having been plucked from lifeboats in the 28-degree water by the responding passenger steamship *Carpathia*, which was 58 miles or four hours away when alerted. Many of the victims were men, as “women and children first” was the imperative for loading the lifeboats.

Among those who helped in the sinking ship’s evacuation was first-class passenger Margaret Brown, an American socialite and activist. Convinced to leave in a lifeboat herself, Brown protested for the boat to return to the site in search of other survivors. After her death at age 65 in 1932, historians dubbed her “the unsinkable Molly Brown” for her actions.

Providing recognition for individual heroes was not within the scope of the eight-year-old Hero Fund, whose awarding requirements limited consideration to acts of heroism occurring “in the United States of America, the Dominion of Canada, the Colony of Newfoundland, or the waters thereof.” Four hundred miles off the Great Banks of Newfoundland could not be considered “the waters thereof.”

The special committee reported on their thinking to the Hero Fund’s standing Executive Committee on April 30. From the minutes of that meeting: “A general discussion followed as to whether any action should be taken...and many views were expressed on both sides of the question. Finally, a motion was offered that the Executive Committee, having been

during Titanic sinking 100 years ago

The gold medal was inscribed, "In memory of the heroines and heroes of the Steamship Titanic, lost off the Banks of Newfoundland, April 15, 1912."

authorized to act for the Commission in this matter, decide to recognize the acts of heroism performed by members of the ship's company of the S.S. *Titanic*. Motion carried." The motion, which was later adopted by the full Commission, is as follows:

"WHEREAS, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, under the terms of its foundation, being unable adequately to recognize the sublime self-sacrifice displayed by passengers, officers, and crew of the Steamship *Titanic*, lost off the Banks of Newfoundland, April 15, 1912, nevertheless desires to record its admiration for their acts of heroism, and to commemorate these great and inspiring examples of exalted womanhood and manhood; therefore be it


"RESOLVED, that a gold medal be issued by this Commission, appropriately inscribed to the heroines and heroes of the Steamship *Titanic* and deposited in the United States National Museum at Washington, and that a record thereof be placed on the Roll of Honor of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, as a lasting memorial of those whose chivalrous conduct and self-sacrifice have profoundly moved the civilized world."



The Hero Fund's Titanic memorial, which comprises a gold medal mounted on a bronze tablet, was given to the Smithsonian Institution for display in its Museum of American History.

The gold medal was inscribed, "In memory of the heroines and heroes of the Steamship *Titanic*, lost off the Banks of Newfoundland, April 15, 1912." It was mounted on a bronze plaque that was designed and made by J.E. Caldwell & Co. of Philadelphia, which a few years earlier designed the Carnegie Medal and was awarded the contract to produce it. According to the Hero Fund's records, the cost of the memorial was \$575, including the \$275 cost of the gold medal. With gold prices today (\$1,663 as of this writing) about 80 times the price in 1912 (\$20.67 at year-end), a replacement medal weighing nine troy ounces would cost \$15,000.

The memorial's design was endorsed by Charles D. Walcott of the Smithsonian Institution's U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., in a visit to the Hero Fund's offices in 1912. He acknowledged receipt of the memorial in a letter dated Dec. 19: "The medal, with the tablet and an appropriate label, will be placed on exhibition at once in the Hall of History of the National Museum where it will constitute a permanent monument to the self-sacrificing chivalry exhibited by those who voluntarily yielded up their lives for others."

Dr. Paul F. Johnston, present curator of maritime history for the National Museum of American History, recently informed that although the museum has *Titanic* material on permanent display in its maritime hall, it is not planning anything special to mark the centennial of the *Titanic's* sinking and that the Hero Fund's memorial is not available for public viewing. 



Efficient steelmaker

(continued from page 6)

Carnegie agreed, on one condition—that it be named Taylor Hall. “When Charlie discovered this,” Carnegie recounts in his autobiography, “he came and protested that ... he had only been a modest graduate, and was not entitled to have his name publicly honored, and so on.” But Carnegie was adamant: “No Taylor, no Hall,” adding that “visitors who may look upon that structure in after days and wonder who Taylor was may rest assured that he was a loyal son of Lehigh, a working, not merely a preaching, apostle of the gospel of service to his fellow-men.” At Lehigh, Taylor provided the funding and an endowment for Taylor Gymnasium and Field House in 1913, and he headed the fundraising effort for Taylor Stadium. He received an honorary doctorate in 1919.

Charles Taylor died two months before his 65th birthday at his winter home in Santa Barbara, Calif. Just as he had changed an industry by making steel on the largest scale ever seen and distributing it systematically, so he brought to life Carnegie’s hope of changing the world with large-scale, systematically distributed philanthropy. He was indeed “the right man wanted.”



Ms. Brignano has authored and co-authored more than 40 histories for foundations, cultural organizations, businesses, hospitals, and schools, most recently the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. She was a contributing writer to the Hero Fund’s A Century of Heroes in 2004.

GERMAN FUND RAISING

Efforts to help Carnegie’s hero fund in Germany received a boost in January with a charity opera concert produced by WICOM Germany GmbH, a high-tech medical equipment manufacturing company in Heppenheim, and the Heppenheim branch of Soroptimist International, a service organization for business and professional woman. WICOM’s chief executive officer, Dr. Brian Fera, is shown here with organizers and a performer at the concert, which raised funds for Carnegie Stiftung fuer Lebensretter, which Fera heads. The German hero fund was established in 1911 by Andrew Carnegie but ceased operating mid-century. Efforts have been underway over the past several years by private citizens to continue its work.



HERO TAUGHT FAMILY LESSONS IN LIFE, SURF

By Laurie Bernhard
Los Angeles, Calif.

“If you wouldn’t have been there, I wouldn’t be here” was the beginning of a letter my father received in 1980. This introduction was the first step in an extraordinary meeting between **Lazare Fred Bernhard** and Bob Blake, the son of the man whom Dad saved from drowning on March 20, 1927.



On that blustery day, my father, 19, a sophomore at Stanford University, was visiting his family. He was picnicking on the beach in Santa Monica, Calif., when a woman’s screams alerted him to her son’s peril—he had been swept into the Pacific by a riptide. Another man had already attempted the rescue but turned back because the surf was too heavy and the tide too strong.

Mr. Bernhard

An experienced ocean swimmer, Dad caught the riptide that rapidly carried him out to the drowning man, who was Carl H. Blake, a 30-year-old salesman. Dad’s training taught him to assess the situation before taking action. He wanted to know whether Blake was unconscious or going to fight to stay afloat. As Dad approached, Blake panicked and grabbed him around the neck. Fortunately, Dad was able to subdue the large and desperate victim and swim him in around the riptide. Once on shore, he administered artificial respiration and revived him.

Two years later, the Carnegie Medal arrived along with a generous monetary award of \$1,500. Dad later found out that Blake’s mother had secretly submitted the award nomination. Dad used the money to pay for his Stanford Law School tuition of \$98 a quarter.

During their meeting many years later, Blake’s son Bob said that among the varied jobs he had held, one of the most important was as a night school recreation lifeguard at a local high school. He’d heard the story of his father’s rescue at various family gatherings and impressed upon his children the importance of water safety.

Growing up in Southern California, we were a beach-going family. Dad taught my two brothers and me a deep respect for the power of the ocean, how to identify a riptide, and what to do if we should ever get caught in one. I can still hear him saying, *Never attempt to swim to shore through it. Riptides are too powerful. You’ll never make it unless you swim to the side and around riptides.*

Dad was a modest man who used his experience to teach us about the importance of helping others in both small and large ways. He rarely talked about his heroic act unless one of us took the medal from its velvet-lined case and, proudly caressing it, asked him to tell the story, again. Dad died just short of his 97th birthday in 2005.

LATEST AWARDEES
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 18 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,495 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON DEC. 14, ARE DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG. THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES WILL BE MADE ON MARCH 21.

Gerald A. LaMonica, 75, of Dearborn Heights, Mich., rescued Madison P. Boljesic, 10, from an attack by a 45-pound pit bull dog in Dearborn Heights on Sept. 25, 2010. Madison was on the sidewalk in a residential neighborhood when the dog charged her without provocation. It took her to the ground and bit her repeatedly. Approaching the scene on foot, LaMonica, a retired merchandiser, ran toward Madison and the dog, yelling at the dog to distract it. When the dog turned to LaMonica and charged him, LaMonica landed a hard kick against the dog's chest, but it recovered and charged him again, biting him forcefully on the right calf. The dog shortly left the scene. Both Madison and LaMonica were treated at the hospital, their bite wounds requiring sutures.

Chiropractor **John Conley**, 54, of Barrington, R.I., helped to save an 86-year-old woman from drowning



Frank Shane Ward of Amarillo, Texas, owner of a construction company, pulled three people from an overturned and burning pickup truck after an interstate highway accident. Photo, by Roberto Rodriguez, is courtesy of the Amarillo Globe-News.

after her car entered the water at a New Bedford, Mass., marina on Aug. 7, 2010. After witnessing the accident, Conley jumped into the 10-foot-deep water and swam about 60 feet to the car. He broke out the car's back window, incurring cuts to his hands and arms, but water entering the car caused it to sink quickly. Conley twice submerged in attempts to pull the woman through the window of the driver's door. On a third attempt, he pulled the woman out of the car, and they surfaced. Conley and others swam her to a dock and hoisted her from the water. The woman was hospitalized, and she recovered. Conley also required hospital treatment, for cuts.

Bank customers **Richard Joseph Camp** of Long Beach, Calif., and **David Richmond Jones**, now of Glenwood Springs, Colo., saved a number of people from assault at the Long Beach bank on March 5, 2010. A man armed with a revolver approached a teller window and demanded money. Camp, 39, a general contractor, was nearby but remained present, as did other customers and bank employees. When the assailant started to mount the counter, Camp rushed him from behind and took him to the floor. During a struggle for the gun, the assailant fired it, striking Camp in a leg. Despite his wound, Camp disarmed the assailant and threw the revolver aside. After the shots were fired, Jones, 48, a carpenter who was seated at a desk about 25 feet away, immediately ran toward Camp. Securing the weapon, he too struggled to subdue the assailant, and as he was pinning the assailant's legs, he and Camp discovered that the assailant was armed with a second gun. Camp seized it and sent it

across the floor. Police arrived shortly and arrested the assailant. Camp needed hospital treatment, including surgery, for his gunshot wound. (See photo.)

William E. Longmore IV, 38, a supervisor from Adairsville, Ga., rescued Robert M. Jones, 72, from his burning sport utility vehicle after an accident in Rome, Ga., on Aug. 16, 2010. Jones remained in the driver's seat of the vehicle, which was overturned onto its passenger side, as flames broke out at the front of the vehicle and began to spread inside. Driving upon the scene, Longmore used a fire extinguisher to break out the vehicle's hatch window and entered but was forced out by dense smoke. When his wife broke out windows with a hammer, allowing the smoke to clear somewhat, Longmore fully entered the vehicle, grasped Jones, and dragged him to the rear of the vehicle. With help from his wife, Longmore pulled Jones to safety.

Three boys from Okeechobee, Fla., **Travis James Mauldin**, **Cody Alan Beasley**, and **Brandon M. Smith**, saved a woman from drowning in the Indian River at Fort Pierce, Fla., on Aug. 17, 2010. At night, the woman, 41, jumped from a bridge into the river and was swept away by a strong tidal current. Travis, 17; Cody, 17; and Brandon, 16, all high school students, were fishing from a catwalk below the bridge when they heard the woman hit the water and then saw her being carried into the darkness. They jumped from the catwalk and swam about 350 feet to the woman, who was then about 385 feet from the closer bank. They grasped her and together swam with difficulty against the current toward the bank, where emergency person-

(continued on page 11)

IO



Richard Joseph Camp displays an X-ray of his right thigh, showing shrapnel from being shot during his heroic act. Camp was one of two men who subdued an armed assailant during a bank robbery. Photo, by Jeff Gritchen, is courtesy of the Press-Telegram of Long Beach, Calif.

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 10)

nel were responding. Pulled from the river, the woman was hospitalized for treatment of broken ribs and other injuries, and she recovered. Travis, Cody, and Brandon sustained minor lacerations and were tired, and they too recovered.

Attorney **Matthew Jason McCune**, 36, of Denver, Colo., rescued Erin Lucero, 23, from an assault in Denver on Oct. 13, 2010. At night, Lucero, screaming and bloodied, fell from a vehicle after her boyfriend struck her. McCune witnessed the incident from 120 feet away and ran to Lucero, after which her boyfriend drove off. Rather than await police, Lucero began to walk away, McCune following closely to ensure her safety. After they had gone about 775 feet, the boyfriend approached them on foot. Lucero positioned herself behind McCune as the boyfriend, armed with a knife, charged McCune and stabbed him repeatedly. Lucero fled as the two men struggled. When they broke apart, the assailant fled, but he was shortly apprehended. McCune was hospitalized two days for treatment, including surgery, of multiple knife wounds. (See photo.)

Michael Austin Dudley of Chester, Va., attempted to save Cindy M. Parker, 45, from an assault in Chester on June 23, 2010. Parker was attacked by a man in the entryway of a restaurant. Dudley, 18, store employee, saw the attack from the parking lot. He ran to the entryway, grasped the assailant, and, pulling him off Parker, forced him outside and to the sidewalk. The assailant stood, produced a handgun from his pocket, and pointed it at Dudley. He then turned and fired it at Parker, mortally wounding her. The assailant next shot Dudley in the abdomen, felling him to the pavement, before fleeing. He was apprehended shortly by police. Dudley required six days' hospitalization for treatment, including surgery, of his wound, from which he recovered in six months.

Friends **Dennis Fleming**, 51, of Mechanicsville, Md., and **Grady Terry Warhurst**, 64, of Upper Marlboro, Md., saved Kevin L. Gladhill, Michael G. Krall, and Russell U. Neff III from drowning in the Chesapeake Bay at Lusby, Md., on Feb. 10 last year. Gladhill, 32; Krall, 35; and Neff, 55, were fishing from a boat in the vicinity of turbulence created by the discharge of water from a power plant nearby on the bank. Opposing winds amplified the turbulence, creating standing waves five feet high. Waves swamped and capsized the boat, sending the men into the 34-degree water. Fleming, an environmental resources administrator, and Warhurst, a landfill supervisor, were fishing from Fleming's 21-foot boat nearby and witnessed the accident. Fleming immediately took his boat into the turbulent water and approached the three men. He and Warhurst grasped them one at a time and hauled them with difficulty into the stern of their boat and then took them to the safety of a harbor, from which



Matthew Jason McCune, center, received an award from Denver, Colo., Police Sgt. Scott Murphy for rescuing Erin Lucero, right, from an assailant armed with a knife. McCune was stabbed repeatedly while fighting off the assailant and required hospitalization. "He is my angel," Lucero told reporters. Photo, by Judy DeHaas, is courtesy of The Denver Post and used by permission.

they were transferred to the hospital for treatment of hypothermia.

Frank Shane Ward of Amarillo, Texas, rescued Judy W. Jett, 61; Sylvia L. Highers, 12; and Barbara J. Fail, 48, from a burning pickup truck after a highway accident in Hydro, Okla., on July 11, 2010. Jett, Sylvia, and Fail were trapped in the wreckage of the truck after it rolled down an embankment and caught fire. Flames spread alongside the passenger side of the inverted vehicle and entered its interior. Traveling nearby, Ward, 35, a business operator, witnessed the accident. He ran to the pickup and reached through the compressed window of the driver's door, grasped Jett, and then pulled her from the vehicle. Despite growing flames, Ward reached inside again and pulled Sylvia out. A third time Ward extended his arms into the truck, for Fail. Seconds after pulling her from the pickup, flames grew quickly to engulf it. Jett, Sylvia, and Fail all required hospitalization for treatment of their burns, up to third-degree, and other injuries. (See photo.)

Friends **Ronald D. Curry**, 50, a painting contractor from Pacific Grove, Calif., and **Harold T. Leach**, 51, a financial service company executive from Danville, Calif., saved Margarito Garcia from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Pacific Grove on Nov. 8, 2009. Garcia and another man were in a 15-foot aluminum boat off Point Pinos on Monterey Bay when the boat capsized in rough surf. They shouted for help, drawing the attention of Curry and Leach, who were on a golf course on the shore in that area. Curry and Leach ran into the water and waded and swam toward the men, their course made difficult by high waves breaking among large rocks near shore and the coldness of the water. Garcia was floating face down about 300 feet from shore. Curry and Leach reached him, positioned him on his back, and then with difficulty retraced their course

to shore, pulling him. Lifeguards arrived and rescued Garcia's companion.

Off-duty police officer **Peter Boterenbrood**, 44, of Norton Shores, Mich., rescued Christopher F. Porter from a burning airplane after it crash-landed in a wooded area of Norton Shores on July 24, 2010. As tree limbs blocked the door on the left side of the fuselage and flames broke out on its right side, Porter, 39, was trapped in the wreckage. Boterenbrood, who lived nearby, was alerted to the crash. Responding immediately, he approached the plane, moved the branches that were blocking its left side, and then opened the door. Finding flames entering the cockpit, he reached inside, grasped Porter, and, pulling hard on him, freed him from the wreckage. They fell to the ground. Boterenbrood dragged Porter away from the plane as the cockpit became engulfed by flames.

Darryl F. Starnes and **Curtis W. Combs, Sr.**, both of Mechanicsville, Va., rescued Kelley B. Peele from her burning sport utility vehicle after an accident in Mechanicsville on Feb. 15 last year. Conscious but badly injured, Peele, 48, remained in the driver's seat, trapped by wreckage, as flames issued from the front of the vehicle. Starnes, 70, a retired insurance examiner, stopped at the scene. He extended his upper body through the window of the driver's door and worked to release Peele's safety belt. Another motorist, Combs, 49, collision technician, stopped and joined in the rescue effort. He entered the vehicle through the window of the front passenger door. Despite flames by then entering the passenger compartment, the men worked to free Peele, whose legs were trapped. Starnes began to pull Peele through the window of the driver's door as Combs withdrew from the vehicle. The men took Peele to safety as flames grew quickly to engulf the vehicle's interior.



GIVING IS 'SWEET OBLIGATION' THAT ALSO BENEFITS THE GIVER

By Paul J. Lessard
Carnegie Medal Awardee #7796



A dear friend of mine passed away recently and took a significant piece of my heart with her.

Ella Mae Bowman and I first met at 6 a.m. on April 16, 1993, in the tumult and confusion of a driving rainstorm and flash flood that had swept across the Oak Hallow neighborhood of High Point, N.C. She was the driver of a station wagon that had slid off the roadway, entered the floodwaters of a creek, and began to sink in the creek's channel. Our initial meeting took place as another man and I removed her from the vehicle, but we later had a chance to get better acquainted, in the emergency room. She was then 62 and over the next 17 years would become a cherished friend and constant reminder of God's presence and grace. April of 2010 was the first anniversary of the rescue that I did not take flowers to her to celebrate her life and acknowledge the joy she had brought into mine.

Ella Mae was a woman of strong faith who loved her family and adored her friends. She was always meticulous in her appearance, never missing her weekly appointment at the hairdresser, and she kept an immaculate home. She cherished her daughter and the life-long love affair she shared with her husband, a gentle carpenter who had eyes only for his sweetheart.

Like many in her generation, Ella Mae had worked hard, and together she and her family built a fine life for themselves. Over the years she would rise to the position of floor manager at a local hosiery mill, where she supervised the first shift, hence the early-morning time of her accident. Ella Mae was "old school," believing in the sanctity of hard work, the blessing of caring for family and friends, and the sweet obligation we all have to give to those in need.

I could always count on her checking in with me every couple weeks to make sure I was eating my vegetables and getting enough sleep. In many respects the rescue that brought us together was the beginning of a relationship that would teach me about the true value of giving. I learned that when we give without reservation and with goodwill, we form a union that not only enriches the life of the recipient but changes the life of the giver.

We all have a sacred responsibility to bear witness to a life well-lived and to celebrate those who have run the good race. Ella Mae was one of these special people, and even at the end when her memory was clouded by the fog of dementia she never failed to thank me for what she called her gift of life. I, in turn, would always remind her that this gift went both ways. Giving is like that: When done right, it touches everyone around.

(Lessard, president of the High Point Community Foundation, was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1994, along with a co-rescuer, John P. Kavanagh III, then of New Canaan, Conn.)

ATTRIBUTES OF A HERO

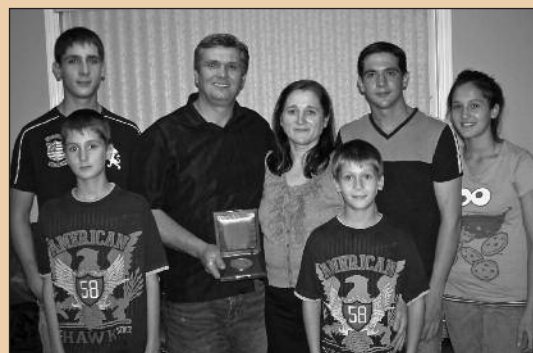
A botanical sketch illustrating flora that represents attributes of a hero was commissioned by the Hero Fund as a way of commemorating the 10th anniversary, in December, of the election of its president, Mark Laskow (see page 5). The watercolor was painted by Carol Saunders of Gibsonia, Pa., who teaches calligraphy and botanical illustration for the American Society of Botanical Arts. The subject matter came from the Carnegie Medal itself, which was designed in 1906 to include ivy, representing friendship; oak leaves, representing strength; laurel, representing glory; and thistle, representing not only persistency but Andrew Carnegie's native Scotland.



I 2

HERO STILL STRICKEN BY RESCUE

Liviu (Lee) Talos was unable on his first two attempts to enter a neighbor's burning house to reach a 9-year-old girl trapped in her first-floor bedroom. He was successful on the third attempt, after donning the mask he uses when painting and working with insulation. When he found the girl, he handed her outside to others. She was alive but, exposed too long to the smoky conditions, died the next day. Talos recounted the July 15, 2010, experience in early November when Douglas R. Chambers, the Hero Fund's director of external affairs, went to his Detroit, Mich., home to personally present him the Carnegie Medal that was awarded in June. The house where the rescue took place is directly across the street from the Talos home, and on a short, emotion-filled visit to it, Talos relived the experience of his before-dawn rescue. The fire-damaged house has now been



repaired, and the girl's family has returned to it. They are seldom seen, and Talos understands that, but it is also to him a near-constant reminder of what might have been had he gotten to the girl sooner. Talos is shown holding the medal with his wife, Lidia, and their children, from left: David (front), Jason, Nathan, Joshua, and Dania.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

HERO FUND GRANT AIDED AWARDEE'S WIDOW FOR 60 YEARS

On the cloudy but warm morning of June 7, 1915, **Irving H. Ziegler**, 26, left his home in Allentown, Pa., to begin the workweek with Harry Fatzinger, also 26, in their job as cesspit cleaners. Ziegler and his wife, Clara, had a 15-month-old daughter, Iris, and were awaiting the birth of their second child.

The cesspit that the two were to clean was the cistern for an outhouse in the backyard of a house within sight of the L. F. Neuweiler and Sons brewery. Twenty-five feet deep, the pit was four feet square at ground level but became circular just below the surface. To empty the pit, the outhouse had been moved, and a windlass had been positioned over the opening. In addition to a rope attached to the windlass, a rope had been tied to a fence in the yard. The closest ladder was at the brewery.

Fatzinger was to work inside the pit, and Ziegler at ground level. The possible danger from "cesspool gases" (as one newspaper called them) was not unknown. Safety precautions of the day included dropping burning paper into pits of the type to test for gas.

Fatzinger, holding to a rope, descended about 15 feet into the cistern. At that level, the wall of the pit was of rough stone and mortar, allowing for footholds. Straddling the muck that was about 10 feet deep, he would fill the bucket tied to the rope of the windlass, and then Ziegler would haul the bucket to the surface and empty it into a wagon for disposal later.

The two continued their work, with Fatzinger remaining inside the pit. Suddenly, he could no longer hear. He recalled later wanting to call to Ziegler, but he lost consciousness and fell into the muck.

Ziegler must have seen Fatzinger partially submerged in the muck, for he alerted a man in the yard and another at the figuring residence and then returned to the cistern. The first man went to the cistern,

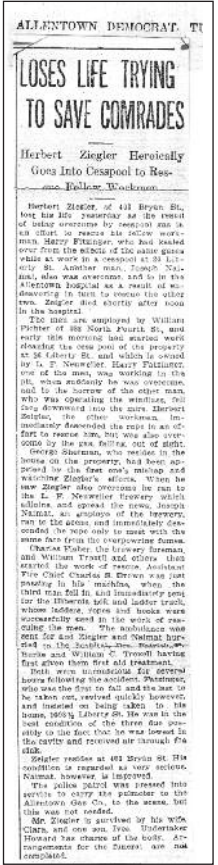
and the second ran to the brewery for assistance.

Without a word, Ziegler grasped the rope tied to the fence and climbed down the cistern to the muck. He released his hold on the rope and grasped Fatzinger by his right arm and tried to pull him upward, the whole time urging him to get out of the muck. After only a minute, Ziegler made a brief attempt to climb the rope to the opening but fell into the muck atop Fatzinger. He showed no sign of consciousness.

Responding from the brewery was **Joseph Nemeth**, 28, a laborer. Despite his admitted fear, he held to a rope and climbed down into the pit to rescue Fatzinger and Ziegler, but he too lost consciousness and fell into the muck. The assistant chief of the volunteer fire department happened to be in the vicinity, and his attention was drawn to the scene. Learning that three men were unconscious inside the pit, he summoned a hook and ladder truck. Firefighters removed the three men, and physicians treated them at the scene until the arrival of an ambulance. Fatzinger had revived at the scene, but Ziegler and Nemeth were taken to the hospital, where Ziegler died that afternoon. Nemeth recovered. Ziegler's widow

bore a son, Irwin H., 10 days later.

Ziegler and Nemeth were each awarded a Carnegie Medal the following October, and Nemeth was given \$500 to be applied toward the cost of a house. Ziegler's widow and children were awarded a monthly grant of \$50 (equivalent buying power in 2011 would have been about \$1,100) to help them meet living expenses. The grant continued until the widow's death 60 years later. The medal remains in Ziegler's family, a granddaughter informing *imPULSE* that Hero Fund aid was appreciated "more than the Commission can ever know." — *Marlin Ross, Case Investigator*



FATHER'S HONOR

Helen C. Thedford Parrigin, 96, of Houston, Texas, was "absolutely thrilled," says her family, when a bronze marker in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal was installed on her father's grave stone recently. Her father, **Larkin Thedford**, died at age 43 on May 20, 1916, while attempting to save a boy from drowning in the Navidad River at Lolita, Texas, and the Carnegie Medal that was posthumously awarded to him is Parrigin's "total remembrance" of him, since she was only 13 months old at the time. The medal itself had been mounted on the grave stone, in Edna, Texas, until its recent restoration by the Hero Fund and its replacement with the bronze marker. The Hero Fund makes the markers available to families of deceased awardees at no charge. See page 14.

**Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

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

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

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

Address change? Please keep us posted!

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

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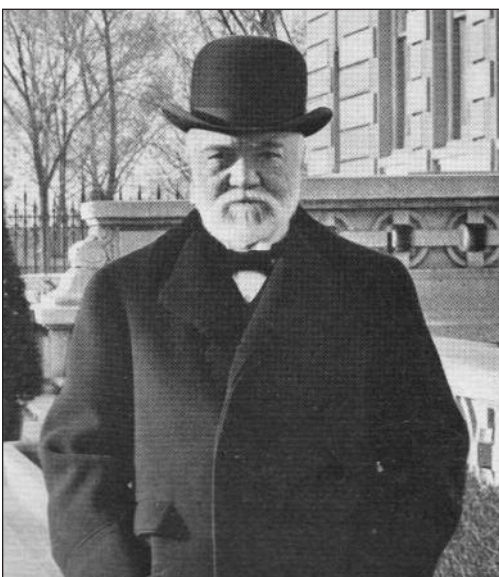
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✧ THE QUOTABLE A.C. ✧



*True heroes think not of reward.
They are inspired and think only
of their fellows endangered; never
of themselves.*

—Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie, p. 265

✧ CONTINUUM ✧

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

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

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

ANNUAL REPORTS Copies of the Hero Fund's most recent annual reports (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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