Garage-sale medal returned to Hero Fund by family’s wanting to ‘do the right thing’

Lessons in history and ethics were learned by four siblings from Wheaton, Ill., over the summer months after their grandparents returned from Gulfport, Fla., with an 88-year-old Carnegie Medal that they found at a garage sale.

Paying one dollar for the medal, Yura and Edward Gruenwald took it home and made it into a learning project for their grandchildren, Kristine, Tommy, Danny, and Katherine Anderson. The children researched the medal and its original owner and, after a family meeting, decided to return it to the Hero Fund. “We feel that this medal was not ours to own in the first place,” they wrote. “We also feel that it would not be right to benefit from another person’s accomplishment. In the end, we are all happy to be doing the right thing and glad that the medal will be on display and never lost again.”

The Hero Fund gratefully received the medal and commenced attempts at finding descendants of the woman to whom it was given in 1925. Failing that, a proper venue for display of the medal will be determined. The Hero Fund’s position is that medals belong with the awardees or their descendants and not be viewed as collectors’ items for trade or sale. In establishing the Commission in 1904, Andrew Carnegie wrote, “A medal shall be given to the hero, widow, or next of kin…that descendants may know and be proud of their descent.”

Part of the honors for Gregorian’s 16 years’ service to the Carnegie Corporation was the dedication of a plaque naming the park’s main entry walk as “Vartan’s Way.” Gregorian said that if he ever fell out of favor with Scotland or the Carnegie interests, the plaque could be changed to “Tartan’s Way” without incurring much expense. In a video tribute, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said “Vartan’s way” is how things get done in New York. Bloomberg was a recipient of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy in 2009.

Kristine, Tommy, Katherine, and Danny Anderson of Wheaton, Ill., display the Carnegie Medal that their grandmother found at a garage sale. The siblings returned the medal to the Hero Fund after researching its history and concluding that it was not theirs to keep.
SPIRIT OF ANDREW CARNEGIE ENLIVENS GATHERING CLANS

By Mark Laskow, President
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

It was a “gathering of the clans” in Edinburgh, Scotland, as Carnegie organizations and Carnegie Family members from both sides of the Atlantic convened in October for the biennial Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy awards. The gathering, as usual, brought with it an intense upwelling of the spirit of Andrew Carnegie, always a source of fresh energy for each of the Carnegie organizations present. Although the Medal of Philanthropy provides the occasion for meetings among the “clans,” the meetings themselves have become a significant force in the life of the Carnegie community and the hero funds in particular.

Since the first Medal of Philanthropy ceremony in Edinburgh in 2005, the hero funds have used these biennial events as a forum to discuss their mission and the problems they face in preparing for the next 100 years. During the last year in particular, the hero funds took two very significant steps. First, they established contact with all nine hero funds surviving from the 11 established by Andrew Carnegie. Second, at Edinburgh the funds resolved to establish the Carnegie Hero Funds World Committee to support the funds in their work. The funds plan to meet again in the spring to complete the organization of the committee and discuss substantive issues.

What kind of issues? The national hero funds vary greatly in their financial resources and in the ways in which they are organized. The North American and United Kingdom funds are organized as private

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Garage-sale medal returned

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Hero Fund records show that the bronze medal and $1,000 were awarded to Ruth Lysle Justice of Pittsburgh for saving two young women from drowning in French Creek at Venango, Pa., on July 21, 1924. Justice, 18, was in her third year at Pennsylvania College for Women, Pittsburgh, now Chatham University. On the day of the act, she was in a cottage on the bank of the creek when she was alerted to the plight of the other women. One of them, 14, was a nonswimmer who had entered deep water while wading, and the other, 21, a fair swimmer, had attempted to rescue her. The women struggled against each other, submerged, and did not resurface.

Justice was a good swimmer but, according to the Hero Fund investigator’s report, was dressed in wool knickers and stockings. Although she did not know the victims, she entered the creek and located them moving about under the surface of the water. One of the victims kicked Justice in the stomach, but she was able to grasp the older woman and take her to the surface, finding that the younger woman was holding on to her. Justice struggled to tow both women toward bank, where others in wadable water aided them to safety.

The older woman, Helen E. Mason of Venango, was also cited by the Hero Fund for her rescue actions. A nursing student at Johns Hopkins Hospital, she was given a bronze medal and $1,000 to help with educational expenses.

To help locate Justice’s family members, the Hero Fund turned to the library and archives of the Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, and within two days volunteer researchers learned that Justice died at age 88 in Pinellas Park, Fla., in 1994. She was the mother of two daughters, both now deceased, and the grandmother of three, and she left also great- and great-great-grandchildren. Justice’s husband, David G. Walt, died in 1999.

“We were all surprised that such a treasure could be found at a carport sale,” the Anderson siblings wrote. The Fund will inform them when the medal finds a rightful home.

The Justice medal was not the only one that made it back to the Hero Fund over the summer. In June, a woman from Munfordville, Ky., wrote that she had acquired a silver medal from an acquaintance who had moved to Kentucky from Florida. She offered the medal to the Hero Fund on learning “that it would be treated the way it should.” The medal was originally awarded in 1911 to William H. Edwards of New York City in a case that received great notoriety.

In 1910 Edwards was the city’s commissioner of street cleaning, and on the morning of Aug. 9 he and other city officials boarded the steamship Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, docked in Hoboken, N.J., to bid farewell to New York’s mayor, William J. Gaynor, who was about to depart for Europe on vacation. As they stood on the promenade deck, a man later found to be a discharged city employee approached the mayor and shot him in the head at close range with a .38-caliber revolver. The mayor stumbled but did not fall.

Edwards, 33, hefty at 300 pounds, “threw his large bulk” on the would-be assassin and took him to the deck. The gun discharged again during that action, the bullet grazing Edwards’s left forearm. As the assailant lay pinned, the gun fired a third time. Others disarmed the assailant and with Edwards kept him subdued until

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Charitable organizations in which their governments have no active role. Some of the funds in continental Europe, on the other hand, are virtually departments in a government ministry, such as Justice or Interior. As a first step, the World Committee will gather and share information on the organizational structure, endowment, and awarding activities of each fund. It will also present the numerical information in relation to the host country’s population. (For example, the North American Hero Fund has the largest endowment but it serves more than 348 million people in the U.S. and Canada.) Both the form of organization and size of financial resources have a lot to say about the ability of the various funds to carry the mission forward.

Finally, technicalities aside, whenever we gather we talk about the heroes and their acts. That is what inspired Andrew Carnegie and what inspires us today.

**Garage-sale medal returned**

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he was handcuffed and rushed from the ship to the Hoboken Police Station. The mayor, who did not lose consciousness, was taken to the hospital for treatment, but the bullet, lodged in his throat, was not removed. According to his obituary, he died unexpectedly on Sept. 10, 1913, “from lingering effects of the shooting.”

Edwards died Jan. 4, 1943, at age 66. He was proud of his award, writing to the Hero Fund in 1911: “(The medal) will always be highly treasured by me. With it a great deal of satisfaction comes from knowing that I did not shrink from a duty which at the time seemed to me the only natural thing to do….To be called upon suddenly to assist in saving the life of Mayor W. J. Gaynor, I deem a sacred privilege.” Edwards was last in touch with the Hero Fund in 1929, a year after his marriage, to...
NEWLYWED DROWNED IN 1917 LIFESAVING ACT

Charles B. Hamilton, Jr., 26, of Oconomowoc, Wis., had been married only two months when he gave his life helping to save a young man from drowning. An assistant chemist whose wife was pregnant, Hamilton was swimming in Silver Lake, Oconomowoc, on July 25, 1917, when a fellow swimmer, 19, experienced difficulty at a point about 180 feet from the bank. Hamilton swam to him and grasped him, but the man held Hamilton by the shoulders and submerged him. A second rescuer joined them and towed the victim, holding to Hamilton, toward shore. The second rescuer and the victim made it to safety, but Hamilton drowned.

Hamilton was posthumously awarded a silver Carnegie Medal in 1919 by the Hero Fund, and his wife, Edna, was given a grant of $80 monthly ($1,081 today) to help raise their daughter, Elizabeth, who was born March 24, 1918. Mrs. Hamilton did not remarry and died in early 1941. Hamilton's niece, Pat Long of Fort Bragg, Calif., and great-niece, Marcia Fetherston of Gilbert, Ariz., provided photos of Hamilton, including the one above, taken when Hamilton was 21.

15:13 is a new feature of imPULSE, designed to remember those in the Hero Fund's 109-year history whose lives were sacrificed in the performance of their heroic acts. The name identifies the chapter and verse of the Biblical quote from the Gospel of John that appears on every medal: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Of the 9,633 medal awardees to date, 1,986, or 21% of the total, were recognized posthumously. They are not to be forgotten.

Willem-Alexander, newly crowned king of the Netherlands, left, greets Hero Fund board member Linda T. Hills and her cousin, William Thomson, second from right.

Hero Fund board member plays role in Peace Palace centennial observance

A member of the Hero Fund's board, Linda Thorell Hills of Littleton, Colo., took part recently in the centennial observance of the Peace Palace, located in The Hague, the Netherlands. Known as the seat of international law, the magnificent edifice is home to the International Court of Justice, which is the highest judicial body of the United Nations. The structure was built with a $1.5 million gift in 1903 from Andrew Carnegie—adjusted for inflation, the contribution would have a current value of $40 million.

On the Commission since 2007, Hills and her cousin, William Thomson of Bonar Bridge, Scotland, represented Carnegie, their great-grandfather, at the observance, held exactly 100 years after the building's Aug. 28, 1913, inauguration ceremony that was attended by Carnegie himself and his wife, Louise. The Carnegie Foundation of The Hague, which owns and maintains the Palace, observed its centennial in 2004.

Hills's role in the centennial events was to dedicate a bronze bust of Bertha von Suttner (1843-1914), an Austrian novelist and pacifist who was the second recipient—and first female awardee—of the Nobel Peace Prize, which was given to her in 1905. “The greatest of all national blessings is peace,” Hills quoted her great-grandfather. “One hundred years ago, Andrew Carnegie (wove) the forces of philanthropy into the pursuit of peace. He stated that with peace, nations can achieve ‘astounding programs, educationally, industrially, and commercially.’”

Hills said that von Suttner “marched in lockstep” with Carnegie, as she believed that society would progress significantly further within the embrace of peace than in expending its resources in armed conflict.
Peace Palace centennial
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In addition to the International Court of Justice, the Peace Palace houses the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Hague Academy of International Law, and the extensive Peace Palace Library, and it is also a regular venue for special events in international policy and law. The building was originally intended to be a symbolic home for the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which was created by treaty at the 1899 Hague Peace Conference, convened at the initiative of Czar Nicolas II of Russia to seek “the most objective means of ensuring to all peoples the benefits of a real and lasting peace, and above all, of limiting the progressive development of existing armaments.”

Dedicated in 1913, the Peace Palace of The Hague, the Netherlands, was constructed with a gift from Andrew Carnegie. Photo by Bart Maat.

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request a new case for the medal, as the original one was “worn and dilapidated.”

In September, the Hero Fund directed an inquiry to the current mayor of New York, Michael R. Bloomberg, to request the city’s assistance in finding any family members of Edwards. When word was returned that there were apparently no direct descendants, the Hero Fund took under consideration the city’s request to display the medal in the visitor center of the city’s Department of Records and Information Services, a public venue at 31 Chambers Street, Manhattan. The proposal is currently under review by the Hero Fund’s board.

PART OF THE FAMILY
I can’t tell you how proud I am to be a part of the Carnegie Hero family. As I continue to advance in years, I have come to realize there are certain affiliations in our lives whose values continue to grow with age. For me, these have included my family, church, college soccer program, the Marine Corps, and the Carnegie Hero Fund. As I read about the brave men and women you honor each year, I continue to be inspired by their willingness to sacrifice for others and display what Abraham Lincoln once called “the better angels of our nature.”

Paul Lessard, High Point, N.C.

Lessard was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1994 for helping to save a woman from drowning in her submerged station wagon in High Point a year earlier. With his Hero Fund grant, he launched the “Lighthouse Project,” which brings speakers to Guilford County, N.C., schools for presentations on character, faith, and moral courage. Lighthouse student-of-the-year scholarships have been awarded to 10 individuals, all of whom have graduated. Professionally, Lessard is president of the High Point Community Foundation.

CASTING POINTS OF LIGHT
I am writing to express my thanks to your Commission, the staff that support this endeavor, and of course (posthumously) to the benefactor that endowed the award. The Carnegie Hero award is one of the few undertakings that consistently puts forward that which is best within us and among us. Our culture and our media are infatuated with the sordid, the demeaning, and the catastrophic. Underscoring our common humanity and the virtue of courage in an overt manner is a sorely needed backstop. Your work casts a thousand points of light where there otherwise would be darkness. Thank you for your work to do this.

Steven Tucker, Fort Washington, Md.

SENSE OF REVERENCE
I am truly honored to have been nominated and chosen to receive the Carnegie Medal. The award is a great blessing to me and my family. As I was reading the many stories that were included with mine, I felt a deep sense of reverence for the other men and women who were recognized for their heroic deeds. It is hard to imagine a world without heroes, and that is what I aspired to become very early in childhood. I am very proud to be included into the history of your organization. I think it would be appropriate for the media to cover more stories such as these than what we typically see on the evening news.

Bradley A. Bowman, Mablevale, Ark.

Bowman was awarded the medal in September. See page 6.
Thomas St. John Harding, 51, a private investigator from Mays Landing, N.J., rescued Steve J. Felice, 44, from an assault in Eimer, N.J., on April 8, 2011. Felice, a police officer, was attempting to arrest a man at night along a rural highway. Resisting, the man struggled against him, taking them to the pavement, where the man removed Felice’s handgun from its holster. Flames by then were spreading in the vehicle. Learning from Felice that the assailant had his gun, Harding approached the men, knelt, and pried the assailant’s hand from the weapon. Felice returned the gun to its holster and with Harding continued to struggle against the assailant until they were able to handcuff him. (See photo.)

William Smith, 31, employed by a retail shop in Hackensack, N.J., saved Staniuslav J. Kavalsky from a burning car outside the store on Feb. 28 of last year. Stopped at an intersection while driving, Kavalsky, 82, remained in the driver’s seat of his car after fire broke out inside the vehicle and filled it with dense smoke. Seeing the smoke, Smith, of Fairview, N.J., went to investigate. He told Kavalsky to exit the vehicle, and when he did not, Smith opened the driver’s door, leaned inside, and freed Kavalsky of his safety belt. Flames by then were spreading in the vehicle. Having to pry Kavalsky’s hands from the steering wheel, Smith lifted him from the vehicle and walked him quickly to safety. Within seconds, oxygen cylinders in the car started to explode, damaging vehicles and a building in the vicinity and injuring responding police and a firefighter. (See photo.)

Warren L. Wood, Jr., 45, a facilities manager from Crozet, Va., rescued Jessica M. Lewis and Amber L. Johnson and attempted to save Michael W. Johnson from a burning car after an accident near his home on Nov. 10, 2011. Lewis, 36, was the driver of an automobile that struck a tree and caught fire at its front end. She was trapped in the wreckage, as were her daughter, Amber, 20, and Michael, 40. Wood responded to the scene on being alerted to the accident. He reached through the opened driver’s door, freed Lewis, and lifted her from the car. He then re-entered and, kneeling on the driver’s seat, freed Amber from the wreckage. Backing, he pulled her from the vehicle. Despite flames spreading into the interior of the vehicle from the dashboard and igniting the front seat, Wood re-entered the car again, through a rear door. He grasped Michael and pulled him out. Flames grew shortly to engulf the car. Lewis was hospitalized for treatment of burns, but neither Amber nor Michael survived.

Bradley A. Bowman, 35, a security officer now from Mablevale, Ark., helped to save Cynthia L. Brady, 60, from her burning car after an accident in Dallas, Tex., on Feb. 7, 2012. Unconscious, Brady remained in the car after it struck a pickup truck, which then burst into flame. Bowman kicked out the car’s front passenger window, as shown in the photo, and, aided by others, pulled the driver to safety. See “To the Hero Fund,” page 5. Photo by passerby Don Hoover.
Kevin Pratt, of Milwaukie, Ore., saved Wayne L. Howe from drowning in the Willamette River in Portland, Ore., on March 4 last year. Fully clothed, Howe, 37, struggled to stay afloat while attempting to swim from the bank of the river to a dock about 100 feet out. Bicycling, Pratt, 31, care provider and college student, was on the bank in the vicinity and saw Howe’s difficulty. He ran to the river, removed his outer attire, and dived into the 42-degree water. Pratt swam to Howe, reaching him at a point about 75 feet from the bank, grasped him, and stroked back to the bank, towing him. He dragged Howe, who was unconscious by then, from the water and worked to revive him. Howe was hospitalized for treatment of nearly drowning, and he recovered.

Jeffery Scott Dinkins, 41, a college student from Lewisville, N.C., died after helping to save a girl from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Myrtle Beach, S.C., on July 7, 2011. A 6-year-old girl and her father were wading in the ocean when they were caught in a current that took them into deeper water. With them were family friends, Dinkins and his young son. Dinkins was able to take his son to the beach, but the girl and her father made no progress against the current. Dinkins returned to them, reaching them at a point about 150 feet from shore. He took the girl from her father and started to swim to shore with her but en route encountered difficulty and began to struggle. Others took the girl to safety, and her father also reached shore safely. Dinkins, who had lost consciousness, was returned to shore, but resuscitation efforts were not successful.

James Philip Snider of Clarksville, Tenn., saved Tyler J. Farrow, Matthew S. Williams, and Amy R. Stringer from a burning car on Aug. 28, 2011, and with Peter Weatherford, also of Clarksville, attempted to rescue Jackson H. Amos. Tyler, 17; Williams, 18; Amy, 17; and Amos, 18, remained inside the car after it left a rural road in Clarksville, crashed in a field, and broke into flames in its engine compartment. Snider, 50, teacher and coach, stopped at the scene, opened the car’s rear passenger-side door, and pulled Tyler out. He then aided Williams to safety and, fully entering the vehicle, dislodged Amy and pulled her out. With flames starting to enter the car at the dashboard, Snider opened the rear door on the driver’s side, returned inside, and attempted to pull Amos, the driver, into the back seat, but Amos also was trapped. Weatherford, 52, who lived nearby, had responded, and he opened the driver’s door and leaned inside. Despite the nearby flames, which were growing, he freed Amos and then helped Snider pull him out. Tyler and Williams required hospital treatment for their injuries, but Amy and Amos died at the scene.

Mortgage banker John Nash Hale, 59, attempted to rescue Jeffrey E. Lenox, 45, from attacking dogs on Jan. 14 this year. Lenox was taking a pre-dawn walk in Toms River, N.J., when two adult pit bull dogs, weighing 85 and 65 pounds, charged and attacked him. They bit him repeatedly as he screamed for help and attempted to fight them off. His screams alerted Hale, who lived at the scene. Lenox continued to fight the dogs as he made his way to another house in the neighborhood and gained entry. Hale, meanwhile, exited his house and, with visibility limited

In addition to a Carnegie Medal, Brian D. Lozier, left, was given a Good Neighbor award at the Real Heroes breakfast of the Central New York chapter of the American Red Cross. Presenting the latter award is Joseph Serbun, an officer of the bank that sponsored the award. Lozier earned the awards for saving a man under attack by a 1,100-pound Jersey bull. Photo by Gene Gisson, Red Cross event photographer.
Day responded to the scene, and when flames with another vehicle, was trapped in the wreckage. Of an automobile that was in a head-on collision in Maine, on Nov. 15, 2012. The girl, 17, the passenger of the vehicle, was helped to save a girl Day, 38, of Sidney, Maine, helped to save a girl and with Felice subdued the man. Photo, by Craig Matthews, is copyright and courtesy of

At night, Thomas St. John Harding, left, came upon Elmer, N.J., Police Officer Steve J. Felice struggling against a man who was attempting to get control of his handgun. Harding intervened and with Felice subdued the man. Photo, by Craig Matthews, is copyright and courtesy of The Daily Journal, Vineland, N.J.

Nicholas A. Hays of East Wenatchee, Wash., saved Quennia S. Calixto-Negrette from drowning in the Columbia River at Wenatchee, Wash., on May 28 last year. In a group of friends, Quennia, 13, jumped from a dock into the river and was pulled downstream by the swift current. Unable to return to safety, she shouted for help. Nicholas, 16, student, was in another party on the bank at the scene. Becoming aware of the situation, he ran several hundred feet along the river to a point opposite Quennia and then removed his shirt and entered the 52-degree water. Nicholas waded and swam to Quennia, who was about 75 feet from the bank. He grabbed her by the wrist and then pulled her to himself and wrapped his left arm around hers. Stroking with his free arm, Nicholas towed Quennia to the bank.

Kennebec County, Maine, Sheriff’s Deputy Jeremy Day, 38, of Sidney, Maine, helped to save a girl from a burning car after an accident in Windsor, Maine, on Nov. 15, 2012. The girl, 17, the passenger of an automobile that was in a head-on collision with another vehicle, was trapped in the wreckage. Day responded to the scene, and when flames that had erupted on the car intensified, he climbed through the vehicle’s back window into the rear of the passenger compartment. Despite flames by then entering the car at the dashboard, Day positioned himself between the front seats and battered out the flames that were threatening the girl. Freeing her from her safety belt, Day dislodged her legs from the wreckage and then pulled her to the rear compartment. Others pulled the girl through the rear window to safety, Day also leaving the vehicle through the window.

Patrick J. Rimoshytus, 43, a retired firefighter from Warren, R.I., helped to rescue Carolyn Corbett, 68, from her burning car after an accident in Warren on Dec. 19 last year. Corbett, 68, remained in the driver’s seat of the car after it struck the vehicle stopped in front of it. Her car remained in acceleration, causing its spinning front wheels to erode to their rims, dig into the asphalt, and start a fire in the undercarriage. Flames spread into the passenger compartment. Rimoshytus stopped at the scene and, donning a firefighter helmet and jacket that he had been transporting, went to the front passenger door and leaned inside. After withdrawing for a knife, he re-entered the car, that time kneeling on the front seat. By then, flames had grown and spread to Corbett’s attire. Rimoshytus grasped Corbett and pulled her toward him. Others at the scene then grasped and pulled him with Corbett out of the car and to the ground. Flames grew quickly to engulf the interior of the car. Corbett died two days later. Rimoshytus was hospitalized overnight for treatment of burns to his legs and right hand.

High school student John Cody Clark, 17, of Vancouver, Wash., helped to save a boy from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Rockaway Beach, Ore., on July 1 last year. Shortly after arriving at the beach, John was alerted to a 12-year-old boy struggling in the ocean at a point about 150 feet from shore. John removed his shirt and shoes, entered the 55-degree water, and swam to the boy. Panicky, the boy grasped and submerged him. They resurfaced, and John calmed him. Establishing a hold of the boy, John attempted to swim back to shore with him but could not make progress against a strong current and buffeting waves, which submerged them repeatedly. They were pulled farther out. After several minutes, rescue personnel reached them on a personal watercraft and returned them to safety. Both John and the boy were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Christopher E. Williams, 35, of Gallipolis, Ohio, saved Samuel L. Dust, 3, from his family’s burning mobile home in Gallipolis on Oct. 10 last year. Samuel was asleep in the bedroom in one end of the home after a fire broke out at the opposite end. A neighbor, Williams saw smoke issuing from the structure and responded to it. He pounded on the home’s back door, alerting Samuel’s mother, who also had been asleep. Hearing her at the door, Williams pried it open and pulled her out. Williams then entered the structure in search of Samuel but was repulsed by smoke, which precluded visibility. On a second entry, he found Samuel in the bedroom doorway. He...
picked Samuel up and carried him outside to safety. Believing another child was in the home, Williams re-entered it repeatedly, making his way toward the fire, but he was repulsed by deteriorating conditions each time and then learned that everyone was out of the structure. Flames soon engulfed the mobile home, destroying it.

Thomas R. Nielsen, 43, a groundskeeper from Louisville, Ky., and James B. Terry, 51, of Jeffersonville, Ind., saved Irmagene S. Lambert, 70, from her burning car after a nighttime accident on an interstate highway in Louisville on Jan. 6 last year. Lambert remained in the driver’s seat after the car entered the grassy median, struck a cable barrier and, its engine running, broke into flames in its engine compartment. Flames spread beneath the vehicle. Motorists, including Nielsen and Terry, stopped at the scene. Finding the car’s doors locked, Terry pulled one of the barrier’s posts from the ground, and with it the men broke out the window of the car’s front passenger door and opened the door. Nielsen then crawled onto the front seat and with Terry, who leaned into the car beside him, started to pull Lambert from her seat. With difficulty, they moved her closer to the passenger side, but flames spreading from beneath the vehicle caused them to withdraw. After Nielsen used two fire extinguishers against the flames, he and Terry re-entered the vehicle and pulled on Lambert until she was free. Aided by others, they carried her to safety just before flames entered the car’s interior. (See photo.)

Pierre Johnson, 33, saved Audrey A. Stewart, 91, from her family’s burning house in Brooklyn Park, Minn., on May 17, 2012. Stewart was in a second-floor bedroom at one end of the house after fire broke out in an attached garage at the other end. Winds drove the flames into the residence, blocking entry through the front door. Johnson, who lived nearby, responded to the scene, where he learned that Stewart was still inside the house. He punched through the screen and glass of a living room window and climbed inside. Crossing the smoke-filled living room to the stairway, he ascended to the second floor, where he looked for Stewart in one bedroom and the bathroom before finding her in another bedroom. Johnson picked Stewart up, carried her to the stairs, and descended to the first floor. He handed her through the living room window to others and then exited to safety himself.

A carpenter, Brian D. Lozier, 23, of Sterling, N.Y., used a two-by-four to rescue John A. Crandon from an attacking bull in Cato, N.Y., on Aug. 19, 2012. When Crandon, 43, entered a pasture to tend one of his cows, his 1,100-pound Jersey bull charged and attacked him, taking him to the ground and ramming him in the chest repeatedly with its head. Unable to escape, he screamed for help. Lozier, who was about 1,200 feet away, heard him. He started on foot toward the scene and about halfway there saw the attack. He then ran to a wire fence along the edge of the pasture, picked up a few rocks, and threw them at the bull, but to no effect. Grasping the four-foot board from nearby, Lozier stepped over the fence and approached Crandon and the bull. He threw the board at the bull, striking it on the back. The bull went to the barn, and Crandon crawled from the pasture, Lozier joining him to drag him farther away. Crandon was hospitalized for treatment of significant injuries. (See photo.)

David B. Mayo, a teacher from Tecumseh, Ont., helped to save Marcian G. Cotter from drowning in Georgian Bay at Penetanguishene, Ont., on Aug. 11, 2011. Cotter, 45, became distressed while swimming off a provincial park beach. He shouted for help, attracting the attention of other beachgoers, including Mayo, 45. The beach and that part of the bay were rocky, and high winds fostered three-foot waves. Mayo picked up a short surfboard and entered the water. He paddled over the submerged rocks and then swam toward Cotter, who was about 300 feet from shore. Reaching Cotter, he extended the board to him, and Cotter grasped and held to it. Also holding to the board, Mayo swam a backstroke toward shore, towing Cotter. In wadable water, Mayo was aided by others in removing Cotter, who was exhausted, to the beach.

Steven M. Enns, 28, a constable for Estevan, Sask., Police Service, saved Brent A. Mortimer, 24, and a 2-year-old boy from a burning house in Estevan on May 18 last year. Mortimer and the boy were asleep in second-floor bedrooms of a two-story house after a fire broke out at night on the structure’s rear exterior and spread into the walls. On duty, Enns saw smoke issuing from the scene and responded. His banging on the front door awakened the boy’s mother, who told him that the boy and Mortimer were upstairs. Enns entered the house, located the staircase, and ascended. By then, flames had broken into the rear of the structure and smoke was intensifying throughout it. Enns entered the boy’s bedroom, picked him up from his crib, and, shielding the boy’s face, entered the next bedroom, carrying him. He awakened Mortimer and fled with him and the boy downstairs and outside to safety, the smoke by then precluding visibility.

Marcelino M. Orozco, 44, of Long Beach, Calif., rescued a coworker, Apolinia Correa, 54, from an assault by a gunman in Bellflower, Calif., on Aug. 19, 2011. Correa was working at a desk in the front office of a business when a man entered and, pointing a loaded 12-gauge shotgun at him, demanded money. Correa stepped to the cash register and opened it, the assailant following, keeping him at gunpoint. As the assailant removed money from the register, Correa grasped the barrel of the gun and tried to wrest it from him. A struggle ensued, during which the assailant went to the floor, still in possession of the gun. About then, Orozco, a delivery driver for the establishment, entered the office. He advanced to Correa and the assailant, grasped the assailant by the head, and put his knee into the assailant’s back to immobilize him. Correa succeeded in disarming the assailant and then with Orozco kept him to the floor until police arrived shortly and arrested him.
PREVIOUS Awardees of MEDAL OF PHILANTHROPY

2001
Walter and Leonore Annenberg
Brooke Astor
Irene Diamond
The Gates Family
The Rockefeller Family
George Soros
Ted Turner

2003
Kazuo Inamori
The Sainsbury Family

2005
The Cadbury Family
Sir Tom Farmer
Agnes Gund
The Hewlett Family
His Highness the Aga Khan
The Packard Family

2007
Eli Broad
The Heinz Family
The Mellon Family
The Tata Family

2009
Michael R. Bloomberg
The Koc Family
Gordon and Betty Moore
Sanford and Joan Weill

2011
The Crown Family
The Danforth Family
Fiona and Stanley Druckenmiller
Fred Kavli
Evelyn and Leonard Lauder
Jo Carole and Ronald Lauder
Li Ka-shing
Pamela and Pierre Umsiyar
The Pew Family
The Pritzker Family

2013 awardees of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy are shown in the chambers of the Scottish Parliament. From left: Dr. Dmitry Borisovich, Dame Janet Wolfson de Botton, Sir Thomas B. Hunter, Dr. James H. Simons, and Dr. Marilyn H. Simons.

Why wait till you’re dead and give someone else all the fun of giving your money away?

That’s the philosophy of Sir Thomas B. Hunter, Scotland’s first-ever, home-grown billionaire, who recently became one of the newest recipients of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy.

Board and staff members of Andrew Carnegie’s 20-plus foundations and institutions gathered in Edinburgh, Scotland, in October to recognize such world-class philanthropists who, as did Carnegie, use their private wealth for the common good. The philanthropic activities of the 2013 medalists include support for education, science, entrepreneurship, and the arts—or in Carnegie’s words, “real and permanent good in this world.”

Popularly referred to as the Nobel Prize for philanthropy, the medal was inaugurated in 2001 by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and is given biennially. The 2013 awarding is only the second time that the ceremony has been held outside the U.S.—as in 2005, the medals were presented in the Scottish Parliament, which hosted the 2013 event in conjunction with the Carnegie U.K. Trust. Observing its centennial this year, that trust was established by Carnegie in 1913 with a grant of $10 million “for the improvement of the well-being of the masses of the people of Great Britain and Ireland.”

Vartan Gregorian, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, said that Carnegie was Scotland’s greatest export to America. “We are delighted he did not forget his beloved Scotland as he helped lay the foundation for modern philanthropy,” Gregorian said. “As we of the Carnegie institutions celebrate his legacy, we all remember his admonition that with wealth comes responsibility. Our honorees have embraced that philosophy. The legacies of Andrew Carnegie and our honorees can be found in science, education, libraries, museums, and universities all over the world. They are a great tribute to humanity and its potential.”

The 2013 medalists were chosen by an international selection committee comprising representatives from six major Carnegie institutions, including the Hero Fund, who was represented by its president, Mark Laskow. Hero Fund board and staff ac—

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permanent good in this world’

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companying Laskow to Edinburgh for the ceremony were Ann M. McGuinn, Linda T. Hills, Susanne C. Wean, Nancy L. Rackoff, Dan D. Sandman, and Walter F. Rutkowski. It was a homecoming of sorts for Hills, who is the great-granddaughter of Andrew and Louise Carnegie, as she had the opportunity to visit with other descendants present: great-grandchildren William Thomson, Margaret Thomson, and Gail Boggs, all of Scotland, and their families. William Thomson, also a member of the selection committee and the honorary president of the host Carnegie U.K. Trust, participated in the presentation ceremony along with the Scottish Parliament’s Presiding Officer, the Rt. Hon. Tricia Marwick.

The 2013 awardees:

Sir Thomas B. Hunter, who was knighted in 2005 for services to entrepreneur- ship and philanthropy, is a long-term advocate of “giving back.” He started his first business selling sports shoes from the back of a van with a loan from his father and built it into Europe’s largest independent sports retailer. After selling the business, Hunter went on to establish The Hunter Foundation, which has at its core the principles that philanthropy is not a substitute for government investment and that the poorest of the poor require a “hand up, not a handout.” In 2000, the foundation endowed the Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship to support the study, research, and encouragement of entrepreneurship across Scotland, and it works actively to support enterprise and entrepreneurship throughout the education system. The foundation has also invested in initiatives on major global issues, having underwritten the Make Poverty History campaign and the related Live 8 concerts, and internationally it has partnered with the Clinton Foundation to develop, with government, innovative solutions to support country growth.

Dr. James H. and Dr. Marilyn H. Simons of Long Island, N.Y., whose Simons Foundation is dedicated to advancing research in mathematics and the basic sciences. Chaired by James with Marilyn as its president, the foundation is involved with research into the causes of autism, and research in mathematics and theoretical physics. It has established and endowed such research programs at universities and institutions both in the U.S. and abroad. James is chair of Renaissance Technologies LLC, an investment firm from which he retired in 2009, having founded the company and serving as its chief executive officer. Previously he chaired the mathematics department at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He is also the founder and chair of Math for America, whose mission is to improve math education in public schools. Marilyn has actively championed many nonprofit organizations in New York City and Long Island, and she is currently vice-chair of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. In addition, she has been involved in improving academic options for children with special needs and youth in underserved communities.

Carnegie’s legacy is being featured in a three-month exhibit in the Scottish Parliament that includes a sketch of Carnegie by Pittsburgh’s “other Andy,” Andy Warhol. Ann M. McGuinn, a board member of both the Hero Fund and the Andy Warhol Museum, was instrumental in arranging a complementary exhibit of Warhol’s works, which were also displayed in the Parliament building, Edinburgh. Warhol was a gradu- ate of Carnegie Institute of Technology, now Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh.

By Sir Thomas B. Hunter
Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy Awardee

I don’t think there’s a prouder man in Scotland today. I’m absolutely chuffed to bits.

In truth, I am only here thanks to the fantastic guidance of two wonderful men: My father, who taught me from an early age that I had an obligation to give at least as much back to this world that it has given me, and the second, Vartan Gregorian.

If I can take you back to 1998, I had just sold my business, which was started in the back of a van, for a great deal of money. So I had money but no idea what to do next. I was 37. I had heard of Andrew Carnegie, but not at school— and my plea to this Parliament today is, let’s teach Carnegie’s history in our schools to inspire future generations, please, because I became inspired and wanted to learn more. I got on a plane to the United States and knocked on the Carnegie Corporation of New York’s door.

“What can I say to the president?”

“No, but I can wait.” President Gregorian didn’t keep me waiting too long.

What happened next was the most important meeting I have ever had in my philanthropic journey. Vartan listened to my story and then explained to me that this great wealth I now had was in fact not mine—I was merely a custodian and had to figure out how to invest the wealth for the common good.

“I thought he was stark raving mad. I had worked 18-hour days, seven days a week to earn this, and it wasn’t mine? We chatted some more, and I left confused but kept coming back to his words. Slowly I began to get it, and today I really get it. I understand what Vartan and Andrew Carnegie were saying, that once you have taken care of your family, then put your wealth to work for the common good.

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MONEY DOES BUY HAPPINESS
(continued from page 11)

I get it, and I would add, do it while you’re still alive because: 1) It’s great fun. Why wait till you’re dead and give someone else all the fun? And 2) The fulfillment we get investing through our foundation gives us a bigger buzz and greater happiness than any business deal I have ever done.

Can money buy you happiness, I’m often asked. Yes, if you give it away for the common good. Our true wealth is not in how much we give, but in how much we do for our fellow man. We believe people need a hand up, not a hand out. As importantly, we need to treat causes, not fund sticking plasters.

Philanthropy is an incredible power for good but we need to lead, we need to disrupt, we need to challenge the norm, take the risks, do what others fear to do and never fear failure. Partner with, not pander to, governments, non-government organizations, the third sector. Challenge, create, catalyze change for the common good. We are all born equal, we all die equal. We should all share equal opportunity in between.

Carnegie marked his life out by trying to change the world for the common good. It may have been one step on a thousand-mile journey, but it’s a journey we should all be on: A journey for equity, equality, and emancipation from the shackles of poverty.

Medals of philanthropy
(continued from page 11)

Dmitry Borisovich Zimin of Russia is honorary president of VimpelCom, a telecommunications company. He played the leading role in organizing the company as an efficient and rapidly developing enterprise and the first Russian Federation company to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Dr. Zimin is a graduate of the Moscow Aviation Institute and for over 35 years occupied leading scientific positions in one of the USSR military-industrial establishment institutes. He is a winner of the Scientific Prize of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the Russian Federation State Prize. The founder of VimpelCom, he served as president and chief executive officer from 1992 until 2001. In 2001, he established the Dynasty Foundation, whose principal purpose is the backing and popularization of Russian academic fundamental science.

Dame Janet Wolfson de Botton of the U.K. received the medal on behalf of the Wolfson Family. She is chair of the Wolfson Foundation, which was established by her father and his parents in 1955 to support and promote excellence in the fields of science and medicine, health, education, and the arts and humanities. All funding is based on expert peer review by a board comprising family members and academic experts. Over £750 million (some £1.25 billion in real terms) has been awarded in grants to 10,000 projects over the last 58 years, including £110 million in the last three years alone. Wolfson de Botton is a collector of contemporary art and was a director of Christie’s International, a trustee of Tate, and the chair of council for Tate Modern. In 1996 she donated 60 contemporary works of art to Tate, a gift described as being crucial to the development of Tate Modern.

Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser of the middle-eastern country of Qatar, who plays a key role in efforts to transform Qatar into a thriving, knowledge-based society. She is a driving force behind education and social reforms aimed to prepare Qataris to compete in the global economy while building strong families and communities at home, and she spearheads projects throughout the world to promote peace and human development. Sheikha Mozah chairs the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development, a private non-profit organization founded in 1995, and she serves also as the vice chair of the Supreme Council of Health and chair of the Sidra Medical and Research Centre, a training and research hospital. She launched the International Fund for Higher Education in Iraq, the Silatech initiative to address the growing challenge of youth employment in the Middle East and North Africa, and Education Above All, which is concerned with protecting the right to education in conflict-affected areas.

Nora T. C. Rundell is the chief executive of both the Carnegie Hero Fund and Carnegie Dunfermline trusts, two of Carnegie’s four U.K. trusts, all based in Dunfermline, Scotland. She played a role in preparing the Carnegie legacy exhibit that is on display in the Scottish Parliament until Jan. 25, and she arranged a meeting of representatives of Carnegie’s hero funds who were attending the Medal of Philanthropy festivities in October.
The last individual awardee of a gold Carnegie Medal from the Hero Fund was memorialized in late September with the placement of a historical marker issued by the Texas Historical Commission. The marker was placed in Burkburnett, Texas, where the awardee, Charles L. Coe, died 90 years ago after saving one child and attempting to save a second from their family’s burning home. Burkburnett is on the Texas-Oklahoma line, about 140 miles northwest of Dallas.

Coe, 30, was an oil-field driller. On the morning of Feb. 6, 1923, he rushed into his neighbor’s house—a small, two-room structure described as a shack—after discovering that it was aflame. The children, boys ages 1 and 3, had been left in bed by their mother, who was visiting in the neighborhood. Gas was burning in the cooking stove in the other room.

Coe and three other men were standing about 200 feet away, talking, when Coe discovered the fire. The men immediately ran to the burning house, Coe reaching it first and flinging open one of its doors. He and another of the men entered the structure and were blinded by the smoke. They proceeded to the adjoining room, where the children could be heard crying. Nearly overwhelming conditions forced the other man out of the house, his hands and face scorched and eyebrows burned off, but Coe persisted and located the older boy. He thrust the boy outside through a door in that room. The boy was badly burned but survived.

A burst of flames from the door immediately followed the boy. The other men went to the door that Coe had entered and called for him but received no response. Shortly, parts of the structure’s roof and walls fell in. Coe’s body was found next to the door, his arms cradling the body of the younger boy.

Coe was praised in a newspaper editorial that appeared a few days after his death: “A true man died in Burkburnett Tuesday…Coe died following the blind impulse of the truly courageous. His is the sort of courage that does not calculate, that does not hesitate, that does not count the cost when the helpless call.”

The young hero left a wife, Helen, and three small daughters, Dorothy, 7; Frances, 6; and Margaret, 3. A year after the rescue, the Hero Fund awarded Coe a gold medal and a $1,000 cash prize.

Dorothy Coe Evans, shown in 1993, stayed in touch with the Hero Fund over the years since her father’s death in 1923.
Late summer visitors to the Hero Fund’s offices included Mickie and Lawrence Greer, above left, shown with Marlin Ross, Hero Fund case investigator. Below, Carnegie Medal awardee Terry E. George is shown with his wife, Marsha, center, and their daughter, Markelle Willison.

In September, the Greers, of Canton, Tex., circled through Pittsburgh, on their first-ever visit, at the end of a motor loop of the Northeast. Lawrence is the chairman of the Van Zandt County, Tex., Historical Commission and as such was instrumental in getting the state’s historical commission to place a marker commemorating the Feb. 5, 1912, heroic actions of Elbert Gray in Canton. Elbert was only 16 at the time of his heroic act, for which he was awarded the Carnegie Medal. The June 2013 issue of imPULSE, archived online, carries an account of the rescue and the placement of the historical marker. Ross, incidentally, (continued on page 15)

“Whatever happened to the baby I saved?”
60 years later, 1923 hero and victim meet

By Marjorie M. Christensen Singleton
McLean, Va.

In 1983, my brother, Paul, learned from friends in Bountiful, Utah, that the “Dr. Robinson” who had saved me from drowning in a flash flood 60 years earlier had been interviewed on television. I could not believe what he was telling me! Dr. Robinson was still alive! I knew immediately that I had to go there and meet him.

On Sept. 3 of that year, my husband and I, accompanied by Paul and our sister, Beth, and their spouses, drove to Farmington, Utah, and found the doctor’s home. I went to the door alone, and Dr. Robinson, then 96, and his daughter, Ruth Brown, answered. We embraced. It was a very touching moment for us both. His comment was, “I always wondered whatever happened to the baby I saved.”

Ruth invited us all in the house, and we asked Dr. Robinson to tell us what happened the night of the flood. He told us that he had been in bed with the flu when about seven o’clock it became very black. “You couldn’t see anything except when the lightning flashed,” he said. “Lights went out and the rain was pouring down. I heard a woman screaming, and I put on my boots and went down to the back of my lot. I kept calling to her to shout so that I could find where she was and then swam on my back and found her hanging on to the branch of a tree. I pulled her to high ground, and she said that another woman and her child needed to be rescued.

“Taka me, taka me.” I reached out my hand, and this was the miracle of it, it brushed by a bit of hair. A second later and I would have missed you, and you would have been washed all the way to the lake.”

Dr. Robinson brought me up out of the water, and his brother and others helped us into the house. Ruth remembered that they brought me into the kitchen wrapped in a blanket and placed me on the kitchen table. I was covered with mud, and they used table-spoons of water to clean out my eyes and ears. Several times Dr. Robinson showed us with his hands to his lips how I had been breathing through my mouth through a hole in the mud that was covering me. Neither Ruth nor the doctor remembered when I was taken from their home to my uncle’s home a few blocks away.

After the rescue, Dr. Robinson was put to bed again. He continued to be very ill not only from the flu, but also from the tetanus which he contracted that night. He said, “Two times they thought I was going to die from it, and I was bothered by it all of my life.”

Dr. Robinson asked Ruth to get his Carnegie Medal, which he received for his rescue (continued on page 15)
efforts. It was a beautiful bronze medal, and it said, “To Dr. R. Clarence Robinson for saving Mrs. Nettie Pebley and Marjorie M. Christensen from drowning, August 13, 1923.” He was obviously and justifiably very proud of it. He repeated that he had always wondered what had become of the baby he saved. I told him that I had graduated from the University of Utah, taught school at Delta, Utah, been in the Navy three years, married my husband, Knox, had two children, been a school principal, and had two grandchildren.

This account seemed to please Dr. Robinson, and he said that it sounded as though I had had a good life. Knox, Beth, and Paul all expressed their thanks to him. While I was very touched by the whole visit, in some ways it was an even more emotional experience for Beth and Paul, who remembered their experiences the night of the flood, while I have no recollection of it at all.

Altogether our visit lasted a little over an hour, but it seemed much longer, as Paul, Beth, and I were emotionally spent. The visit had been so rewarding, a beautiful experience for all of us. And a life-long desire of mine had been fulfilled—to meet the man who saved my life.

Dr. R. Clarence Robinson died April 26, 1984, having practiced dentistry in Layton, Utah, for 50 years. He was 36 at the time of his heroic act, which occurred after a heavy rain caused Big Creek in Farmington to flood adjacent lowland, trapping Ms. Singleton and her mother and sister, Beth. Now 93, Ms. Singleton, left, was 2. She, Beth, and their brother, Paul, lost their father the night of the flood after he saved their mother and Beth from drowning.

A bronze medallion cast in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal helps to mark the grave of awardee Clifford J. Baker, who died March 10, 1994, attempting to save a man from drowning in Wolf Creek, Mont. While riding a snowmobile across an ice-covered lake, the man broke through, and Baker, a member of his party who had been fishing closer to the bank, broke through the ice during a rescue attempt. A driller, Baker, then 48, left a widow, Sharon Jo, and a daughter, 8. “It has been 19 years,” Mrs. Baker recently wrote the Hero Fund, “and we miss him so much.” Grave markers are made available free of charge to the families of deceased medal awardees (see back page).
MEDAL OF HONOR, HERO FUND DIRECTORS TO MEET IN 2014

By Perry Smith, Ph.D., Secretary
Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

There are three iconic American institutions that represent the values of valor, selflessness, compassion, and altruism especially well: The Congressional Medal of Honor Society, the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, and the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. Although there has been a close relationship between the two Medal of Honor organizations, their leaders have not had the opportunity to meet with leaders of the Carnegie Hero Fund.

Such a meeting will take place in Augusta, Ga., on Jan. 9. Although the missions of each of the organizations are somewhat different, the leaders will share areas of common interest and look for ways that they can support each other in order to enhance their respective missions. But what are these institutions, and why should their work be of interest?

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was established in 1904 by America’s most creative philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie. Its mission is a simple one: To recognize those who perform acts of heroism in civilian life in the U.S. and Canada and to provide financial assistance to those disabled and the dependents of those killed helping others. To date 9,633 Carnegie Medals have been awarded and $35.4 million given in one-time grants, continuing assistance, and scholarships.

Congressional Medal of Honor Society

On Aug. 5, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation sent to him by Congress chartering the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. The purposes of the organization include the creation of a bond among all living medal recipients; maintaining memory of and respect for those who died receiving the medal as well as those who have died since receiving it; the protection of the dignity of the medal; protecting the medal’s name as well as its recipients from exploitation; providing aid to needy recipients and their dependents; promoting patriotism and allegiance to the U.S.

Last awardee of gold medal
(continued from page 13)

Fund awarded him a gold medal posthumously and gave his widow a monthly grant of $80 to help with the family’s living costs. The grant continued until Mrs. Coe remarried, in 1928. Coe’s gold medal turned out to be the last one of that grade ever awarded by the Commission to an individual, as a change in policy restricted medal grades to silver and bronze, and then in 1980, to bronze only.

Her father’s death left a deep and lasting impression on daughter Dorothy, then a first-grader. She recalled being excited that day, as she and her father were to take a load of chickens to the Wichita County, Tex., Fair. Instead, she was called to the school office and then driven home to be given the awful news. Dorothy, who died in 2006, maintained a strong devotion to her father throughout her life and came to treasure his medal and the Commission’s interest in her family’s well being. She communicated regularly with the Hero Fund’s staff, and in 1989 she visited its offices in Pittsburgh with her husband, Howard Evans. In 1993, on the 70th anniversary of her father’s death, she wrote, “I became a member of the Carnegie Hero Fund the day I lost my brave father…a day I will never forget, and I don’t want anyone else to forget.”

Dorothy had earlier said that she would show her father’s medal, which she kept in a bank vault, “to anyone who will stop long enough for me to show it.” The medal remains in the family, now kept by one of the awardee’s grandsons, Charles K. Walker, of California.

The Coe family was represented at the Sept. 27 marker dedication by Dorothy’s and Howard’s granddaughter, Terri Coe Evans Barner, and her husband and son. Texas maintains the largest historical marker program in the U.S., with about 15,000 markers placed and more than 300 applications for markers received each year. Seventeen states have used the Texas program as a model.
Loving the grandfather they never knew possible through Hero Fund recognition

By David A. Newton, Pinehurst, N.C.
Grandson of Ernest Newton, Awardee #2010

A family journey culminated on July 8 of this year with the placing of one of the Hero Fund’s bronze grave markers on the headstone of my paternal grandfather, the Rev. Ernest Newton, who was awarded the Carnegie Medal posthumously in 1926. I had requested the marker 18 months ago, as my sister, Sandra O’Hare of Columbia Station, Ohio, and I inherited the medal when our mother passed away.

We knew very little of the story of our father’s father and how the honor had been bestowed. We knew that he drowned helping to save two young parishioners on a church picnic in Crystal Lake, in Andover, Ohio, but not much more than that. He was only 30 and left behind a wife and two young children, 6 and 2.

Information that I obtained from the Hero Fund was invaluable and enabled me to further research our grandfather’s life and how the Commission gave his surviving family a life-sustaining monetary grant in addition to the medal. His young widow, Nellie, and their son, Kenneth, and daughter, Jean (our aunt), had their circum-

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Siblings David A. Newton and Sandra O’Hare at the grave of their paternal grandfather, the Rev. Ernest Newton.
Aug. 17 was bright, sunny, and warm in Burlington, Vt., and in the backyard of the home of June A. Lais, above, it was enhanced by the stunning view of Lake Champlain. The house sits on a bluff overlooking the lake and, in the distance, the high peaks of New York’s Adirondack Mountains. Sailboats and other watercraft seemingly by the hundreds dotted the lake.

The day, however, was saddened by June having to call to mind the death of her husband, John A. Lais, two years earlier, on Aug. 20, 2011. June was being presented with her husband’s Carnegie Medal, awarded posthumously to recognize his heroic actions in attempting to save his grandson, Timothy J. Lais, also pictured, from drowning. Timothy, two siblings, and other family members had arrived in Emerald Isle, N.C., on vacation, and, anxious to get into the water, the children soon went wading and swimming.

Asking them to return to the beach, June noticed Timothy drifting farther out. She and Timothy’s uncle entered the water, reached him within moments of each other, and commenced efforts in returning him to shore. Meanwhile, John, who had been on the deck of their party’s beach house nearby, ran to the water and also swam out. Shortly after encountering his wife, he told her he was having difficulty in the water, and then he submerged. Despite June’s exhausting efforts in his behalf, John drowned.

The backyard gathering two years later included Timothy and his siblings, their parents, and other family members. It was the first time since John died that they all had been re-united. Timothy, who had difficulty dealing with his grandfather’s death, was at first reluctant to participate in any part of the medal presentation, but when June pinned the lapel pin in the likeness of the Carnegie Medal on his shirt, his smile matched the beauty of the day. The presentation was made by Douglas R. Chambers, the Hero Fund’s director of external affairs.

Sandy and I traveled to the Johnston, Ohio, Federated United Methodist Church and the Johnston Cemetery. We met the current pastor of the church—our grandfather was its first pastor—and were given a tour of the building and a history of the church. We saw a plaque that had been installed in the vestibule that relates the story of the Rev. Newton’s sacrifice. That sacrifice was made on August 13, 1925, when my grandfather, who had been playing ball with the boys of the church, entered the lake to help two teenage girls on the outing who were struggling to stay afloat in the lake after stepping into deep water while wading. Another of the girls, Evelyn Marie Wertz, 16, also joined in the rescue attempt, and she too was awarded the medal. All but our grandfather survived.

Recognition of our grandfather’s giving his ultimate gift, his own life, is a wonderful legacy to have received. Sandy and I are grateful for the opportunity of placing the marker on his headstone and letting us connect to a grandfather that we never had the honor to know. We have a feeling of deep love and pride for him.
Not for all of Carnegie’s money

Many a mariner have gone to the grave below the fickle waters of southern Lake Superior, and on April 10, 1910, Andrew Anderson almost joined them.

Anderson, a 51-year-old carpenter from Duluth, Minn., was piloting his sailboat about two miles from Superior, Wis., when he became caught in a storm. As he attempted to guide the boat toward Superior Bay, the wind caught its sail, causing the craft to capsize, and its mast broke off. Anderson was able to right the boat, but it was filled with water. He placed the mast across the boat and sat on it. The lake there was at least 15 feet deep, and its temperature only a few degrees above freezing. A northeast wind fostered four- to eight-foot waves but also a surface current that permitted the boat to drift toward shore.

The bay was protected by two sand spits—Wisconsin Point and Minnesota Point—with the separation between them the entry channel to the bay. A man living on Wisconsin Point had seen Anderson’s craft capsize, and he sought assistance, first at a tugboat inside the bay and then at the home of Samuel A. Wetton, also on Wisconsin Point. The federal government was undertaking work at the entry channel, and Wetton was employed as a foreman on the project.

With binoculars, Wetton spotted Anderson and his boat and without delay ran to the bay side of the point to enlist other men in an attempt to rescue him. As others learned of Anderson’s plight, a crowd formed on the point. Someone suggested using a rowboat that was secured in the bay and owned by John Conley. Men dragged Conley’s boat across the narrow spit to the lake. By then, Anderson and his capsized boat had been drifting for almost 90 minutes.

Wetton was no stranger to the lake or its moods. He had captained a boat on the lake and operated a ferry between Superior and Duluth. Accompanied by two men, Wetton boarded the boat and others pushed the craft into the lake. While the two men rowed, Wetton, using a board, steered from the stern. The rough water made it difficult to proceed over the breakers, and when the crew was less than 100 feet from shore, one of the oars broke. The boat capsized, and the three men fell into the water. Fortunately for them, the water, although rough, was still flowing toward shore, and the men regained safety.

Wetton was not about to abandon his effort to rescue Anderson. Before setting out a second time, he told his wife, who had arrived at the scene, “I don’t have to come back, but I have to try again.” He was joined by Conley, 36, blacksmith, and 17-year-old William J. Munnings, a blacksmith’s helper. The three set off, Conley and William rowing and Wetton still steering from the stern, albeit with an oar that time. Making progress against the breakers proved no easier on that second attempt, but after 40 minutes they reached Anderson, who was then about 500 feet from shore. With difficulty Anderson was pulled into the rescue boat, and the four men returned safely to the point.

Afterward, Wetton was asked about the rescue and its risk, to which he responded: “I wouldn’t do it again for all of Carnegie’s money.” As it were, an official of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, which was undertaking the work at the entry of the bay, wrote to the Commission to nominate the rescuers, and after a thorough, on-site investigation, the Hero Fund awarded a silver medal to Wetton and bronze medals to Conley and William, as well as a grant of $1,000 to each of the men. The U.S. Coast Guard, for its part, awarded Wetton its gold lifesaving medal.

Unfortunately, Wetton did not live long enough to benefit from the grant. Three years later he died at age 57, leaving a widow, three daughters, and an infant son, Edward. In 1977, The Mining Journal of Marquette, Mich., revisited the rescue and the awarding of the medals to Wetton. Both medals are now housed in the Marquette Regional History Center.

Edward Wetton in 1977 photograph, showing his late father’s U.S. Coast Guard and Carnegie Medals. Photo courtesy of Tom Buchkoe.

Samuel A. Wetton (at right) with his wife and children. Courtesy of the Marquette Regional History Center.

Wetton and bronze medals to Conley and William, as well as a grant of $1,000 to each of the men. The U.S. Coast Guard, for its part, awarded Wetton its gold lifesaving medal.
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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A noble ideal here presents itself for the future of man—no nation laboring solely for itself, but all for each other, thus becoming a brotherhood under the reign of peace.

—From an address given at the Peace Palace, The Hague, 1913