



imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 7 • SEPTEMBER 2006

PITTSBURGH TO HOST PRESENTATION OF 2007 MEDAL OF PHILANTHROPY

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—Andrew Carnegie’s adopted hometown and the city in which his steel empire created his fortune—has been selected as the site of ceremonies for presentation of the 2007 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy.

A consortium of Pittsburgh-based institutions founded by Carnegie is arranging the event, which is to be held in late fall. Representatives of Carnegie Mellon University, the Carnegie Museums, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, and the Hero Fund are spearheading efforts, working with the medal’s secretariat in New York and the awardee selection committee, which is chaired by William Thomson, Carnegie’s great-grandson.

The ceremonies will dovetail with celebratory events commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of Pittsburgh in 2008.

“Just as Andrew Carnegie was a citizen of the world, he was a son of Pittsburgh,” Commission Mark Laskow said. “He would be proud of the Medal of Philanthropy and proud to see Pittsburgh host this event in his honor on the eve of the city’s 250th birthday.”

The medal is presented every two years to honor those who understand how modern philanthropy plays a critical role in building and sustaining democratic institutions, according to Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which established the award in 2001.

Previous presentations were in New York City (2001), Washington, D.C. (2003), and Edinburgh, Scotland (2005), all sites home to Carnegie institutions. Awardees of the medal include the Gates Family, Ted Turner, the Rockefeller Family, the Aga Khan, and the Hewlett and Packard families.



Germany’s hero fund re-instituted after falling to Nazis 70 years ago

The number of Andrew Carnegie’s hero funds, established a century ago, has been restored to 11 with the resurrection of the German fund, the Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter (CSL). Victim of the Nazi government in the 1930s, the fund was brought back to life within the past year and formally introduced at ceremonies in Mannheim, Germany, on July 13.

Welcoming their sister fund back into the fold were representatives of hero funds in the United States, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland. Also on hand was Carnegie’s great-grandson, William Thomson, who is honorary *(continued on page 2)*



Pictured at the ruins of the Heidelberg, Germany, Castle are representatives of five hero funds established by Andrew Carnegie. The group gathered in nearby Mannheim in July to attend ceremonies marking the re-establishment of the German fund, Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter. Pictured from left are: Jan-Olov Andersson (Carnegiastiftelsen, Sweden); David Gemmell; Martia Wadensjö (Carnegiastiftelsen); Christina Andersson; Claire Gemmell (Carnegie Hero Fund Trust, U.K.); Angus M. Hogg (Carnegie Hero Fund Trust); Rachel Hogg; Sybil P. Veeder (Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, U.S.); Hans-Ruedi Huebscher (Fondation Carnegie Pour les Sauveteurs, Switzerland); Andreas Huber (Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter, Germany); Josef Hoffmann (Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter); Klaus Wilkens (German Lifesaving Federation); William Thomson (Carnegie U.K. Trust); Giuseppina Huebscher, and Walter F. Rutkowski (Carnegie Hero Fund Commission). Photo by Hillary V. Dietz.



UNITED BY COMMON PRINCIPLE

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

The ceremony marking the re-establishment of the German hero fund – Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter – was a wonderful event, as it reconfirmed a connection to all the organizations that Andrew Carnegie had established so long ago. Representatives from the Swiss, Swedish, U.K., and U.S. hero funds were present, as was William Thomson, Carnegie’s great-grandson. Thomson serves on the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy selection committee and is honorary president of the Carnegie U.K. Trust.

The program included many speeches by various German officials, representatives of the hero funds, and Thomson, who spoke about all the Carnegie organizations. The offers of organizing help and the good wishes of all created a community of support and good will.

I was impressed by Andreas Huber, the president of the German hero fund and organizer of the event, as his dedication and enthusiasm affected us all. Marita Wadensjö of the Swedish fund called him a “flaming soul,” in that he was dedicated to a purpose and determined to do everything possible to make it happen. Indeed he was. Although he had just spent two weeks in the hospital, Huber directed the celebration and participated fully. His joy was contagious and energized everyone. When presented with a resolution from the Commission and a replica of our medal, “Herr Huber” was overcome with emotion.

After the ceremony, Huber and his organization’s treasurer, Josef Hoffmann, hosted the visitors on a tour of nearby Heidelberg to see the castle and have dinner. The evening was hot and muggy, but there was no lack of cheer and conversation. In fact, the waitress at the restaurant remarked that she was pleased to have waited on us: “So many countries and getting along so well together.”

The camaraderie continued the next morning on a tour to Worms, during which we had a most unusual dramatic presentation by Arn Ulf, “the last herald of the Nibelungen.” His performance included costumes for the participants drafted from our group.

It was with regret that we had to say goodbye to each other. I am looking forward to next year’s Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy ceremony in Pittsburgh and hopefully a reunion with some of those who were in Germany. The trip reinforced for me that the principles on which Andrew Carnegie founded his organizations are timeless and that the people who carry out his vision are united in purposes that cross cultural boundaries. I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated.

Germany’s hero fund re-instituted

(continued from cover)

president of the Carnegie U.K. Trust, of Dunfermline, Scotland, Carnegie’s birthplace. Thomson told the gathering that while philanthropy has been around “ever since people started caring for each other,” Carnegie was the first “global philanthropist” with his gifts of 3,000 free libraries, the hero funds, concert halls, and a peace foundation.

Carnegie, in fact, established 22 trusts and institutions worldwide, including the 11 hero funds. The re-institution of the CSL is significant in that all 22 organizations are now functioning, a century after their births. “No longer do we have to hear that all of the hero funds but the German one are in operation,” said Andreas Huber, president of CSL.

CSL’s motivating force, Huber, 36, a private citizen working in police administration in Mannheim, did not even know who Andrew Carnegie was until fairly recently. A volunteer in a fire brigade, he came across reference to the awarding works of the early CSL and had his interest piqued, soon to the extent that re-starting the CSL became his driving mission. Huber secured the assistance of Hans-Ruedi Hübscher, executive director of the Swiss hero fund, located in Bern.

As Huber did not intend to start a new organization but rather to breathe life into an existing one, he began to track down documentation pertaining to the early CSL. Writing to 16 state archives throughout the country, he received a reply from the archives in Gotha, Germany, alerting him to the existence of CSL’s constitution, issued by Kaiser Wilhelm II on Dec. 31, 1910. Word was then received of the existence of Carnegie’s original Deed of Trust in the emperor’s archives in Berlin.

The documents, Huber said, will be of great assistance in re-forming the CSL, as he wants the organization to remain true to the vision and goals of its founder.

By early October 2005, Huber and Hübscher were in Edinburgh, Scotland, for the presentation of the biennial Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy. Huber got to meet representatives of the other hero funds and shared with them his plans, and later that month he formed a charity in Germany to support the work (continued on page 4)



Those meeting in Mannheim, Germany, in July to take part in ceremonies re-establishing Carnegie’s German hero fund are, from left, William Thomson, honorary president of the Carnegie U.K. Trust, Dunfermline, Scotland; Andreas Huber, president of the German hero fund, Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter; Sybil P. Veeder, chair of the executive committee of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, and Walter F. Rutkowski, executive director of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. (Photo by Hillary V. Dietz.)



Carnegie Medal Awardee James B. Stack, who is spearheading efforts to secure a hovercraft for Whitefish Lake, Mont., rescues, stands near the garage that will house the vessel. Costs of the building and the hovercraft itself were largely donated, Stack using his award funds as seed money.

Making a difference, twice

Carnegie Hero buys rescue equipment after heroic act

As any emergency responder knows, time is of the essence when human lives hang in the balance. It is not unusual, therefore, for ordinary individuals to become involved before rescue personnel arrive at the scene, at times risking their lives to save the lives of others.

That is exactly what happened on April 11, 1999. A midnight boating mishap on Whitefish Lake, a glacial body of water in northwest Montana, left Randall T. Bruckner, 30, and Julia Cassidy, 22, in frigid waters calling for help.

At his lakeside home, James B. Stack, 47, was alerted to the accident. Knowing he had to act fast, Stack launched a whitewater kayak and, holding a flashlight in his mouth, paddled about 600 feet to the victims. As they held to his unstable craft, Stack paddled back to shore, Cassidy losing her grip at some point after being overcome by exposure.

After towing Bruckner to safety, Stack turned around and returned to Cassidy. Finding her again in the darkness, he held her partway out of the water and called to arriving rescue personnel for help. Firefighters, wearing insulated suits, swam out and attempted to revive Cassidy as Stack paddled to shore with them in tow. Bruckner was hospitalized and survived the ordeal, but Cassidy succumbed to its effects.

A year later, Stack was awarded the Carnegie Medal and its accompanying monetary grant, the latter of which he placed in the bank, hoping to use it someday for a "special" cause. In the years since, others have died in the lake's cold waters, and Stack, believing that better equipment might make a difference in saving lives, organized an effort to secure a hovercraft for the town's rescue personnel.

(continued on page 4)



A hovercraft of the type to be given to the Whitefish community

TO THE HERO FUND

I called the Hero Fund a few weeks ago regarding the very worn and poor condition of the original display case that housed the medal awarded to my late aunt, Louise Griffin, who helped to save two girls from drowning in West Gloucester, Mass., in 1910. The case was really unfit to hold such a valued treasure. Informed of this predicament, you immediately responded with a gorgeous replacement case, for which I am most appreciative.

The medal itself was very tarnished, but with the aid of some terrific polish and a lot of arm and hand work, it has been restored to a most fitting appearance and I am thrilled about that, also.

While having 24 grandchildren, one granddaughter just graduated from high school, where she starred on the swim team. She is truly a championship swimmer and won the state finals in her category, something about which my wife and I are most proud. She is also a very gutsy young lady and I can visualize her now responding exactly as my aunt did in attempting to save the lives of those two young swimmers in trouble. She is that type of young lady.

It is fitting, therefore, that I intend to present this polished medallion in its new and beautiful case to this young granddaughter of mine. So the Carnegie Hero award to my late and much-loved aunt lives on and will continue to do so.

Paul J. Russell • Marshfield, Mass.

I can't thank you enough for my Carnegie Medal. It has truly been an honor and I feel very blessed. I think it is a wonderful thing that you do and it's nice to know there is such as thing as the Carnegie foundation.

When I received my first Carnegie newsletter, I realized that I had received more than just an award, but also an acceptance into a new family. I look forward to being part of the Carnegie family and I thank all of you for your hard work. It really means a lot.

Raymond J. Desadier • Colmesneil, Texas

The feeling of having saved a life is difficult to describe with words, but it is something I hold deep inside me. I would have never thought that I would receive such an important award as the Carnegie Medal from such a respected organization as the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

Coming from another country, this prize is unbelievable, especially the medal, which will always remind me of something good. And when my son is old enough to understand, I will share with him how special the award is.

Be sure that I am very proud, and I would like to thank you for making it possible to live this incredible moment.

Richard Lemieux • Montreal, Que.



COMMISSION RESOLUTION HONORS GERMAN FUND

Whereas, The Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter shares with the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission a heritage of patronage and ideals as the bequest of Andrew Carnegie, and

Whereas, These express ideals, that selfless service to their fellows is effected and exulted by civilized peoples, form the bedrock of their endeavor by the eleven Hero Funds established a century ago by Mr. Carnegie, and

Whereas, A resumption of the life and light of the Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter on April 15, 2006, after seventy years, attests to the prevalence of this good, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission heartily welcome the re-established Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter back into the fold of Mr. Carnegie's benefactions worldwide; that it extend its every best wish for success of each worthy endeavor by the Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter; that it pledge to form, in the words of our Founder on January 16, 1911, "a bond of fellowship...firmly establish;" and, finally, that it laud the vision and effort of Andreas Huber, President of Carnegie Stiftung für Lebensretter, in the re-forming of an institution committed to the good of the German people.

Germany's hero fund re-instituted

(continued from page 2)

of the CSL. By April 2006, the new CSL had its organizational meeting, on the date — the 15th — that is the anniversary of the establishment of the first hero fund, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission of Pittsburgh.

Next on CSL's agenda is a board meeting in September to write the organization's bylaws and awarding requirements, with the recognition of individual acts of heroism to start in 2007.

Accolades for Huber and the resurrected CSL were plentiful in Mannheim, CSL's headquarters. Sybil P. Veeder, chair of the Commission's executive committee, presented Huber with a framed resolution of the board and a replica of the Carnegie Medal, and

Walter F. Rutkowski, the Commission's executive director, gave him a centennial commemorative medal. Deeply touched, Huber joked that he now has "more medals than the German football team." Germany had just lost in World Cup competition.



ANDREW CARNEGIE

1965 MEDAL AWARDEE HONORED BY NAMING OF RECREATION CENTER

Forty-one years after his Jan. 16, 1965, sacrificial act, Carnegie Medal Awardee James A. Huie of Jonesboro, Ga., was honored with the naming of a recreation center after him.

The \$13.5 million Jim Huie Park and Recreation Center, Jonesboro, opened its doors on May 19 after a ceremony attended by Huie's mother, Lucy Huie. In 1998 the Huie Family donated the land on which the center was constructed. The complex includes a 28,000-square-foot aquatic center named after Olympic gold-medal champion and Jonesboro High School graduate Steve Lundquist.

James was 14 at the time of his heroic act, by which he attempted to prevent the rider of a horse, Judy Ann Cash, also 14, from entering a highway from the driveway of her home in Jonesboro. Described as a skilled rider for his age, James had assisted Judy onto her horse and then mounted his own, as the two friends had planned to take an afternoon ride.

When Judy's horse began to trot at a brisk pace toward the highway, Judy screamed and James gave chase. Catching up with Judy near the driveway's intersection with the highway, James briefly grasped the bridle of Judy's horse before his own horse continued straight onto the highway and into the path of a car. The car struck James and his horse, killing both. Judy's horse cleared the car by several feet, and she sustained only minor injuries. *Jeffrey A. Dooley, Investigations Manager*




Lucy Huie, second from right, mother of posthumous medal awardee James A. Huie, joins dignitaries at the opening of a recreation center in Jonesboro, Ga., that was named after her son. The center includes an Olympic-sized swimming pool, named after 1984 Olympics gold-medalist Steve Lundquist, left, a graduate of Jonesboro High School. *Photo by Justin Baron of The News-Daily, Jonesboro.*

Making a difference, twice

(continued from page 3)

Using the Carnegie grant as seed money and supplementing it with his own funds and funds donated by friends, Stack was instrumental in the purchase of a \$33,000 hovercraft. Other funds are being donated by Cassidy's family.

The four-person craft, riding on a cushion of air and able to travel at a top speed of 50 m.p.h., is to be stored and launched from a building now under construction on the lake's shore. The goal of the project is to reduce the time it takes emergency personnel to reach the scene of an accident on the lake.

Stack, frequently mindful of the events of April 11, 1999, said it feels good "to re-invest the Carnegie money in something that will undoubtedly save lives." 

Jeffrey A. Dooley, Investigations Manager

LATEST AWARDEES
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *impULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 15 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,012 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904. THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON JULY 6, ARE FULLY DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG

Stephen M. Foster, 43, a contractor from Indianapolis, Ind., saved his next-door neighbors, Robert S. Leech, 92, and his wife Hilda A. Frazier, 79, from a fire in their house on Dec. 26, 2004. After fire broke out in the attached garage and spread, sending dense smoke throughout the house, Foster responded and found Leech in the kitchen. He dragged him to the front door, then found Frazier, badly burned, and removed her. Frazier died two days later, and Foster required overnight hospitalization for treatment of smoke inhalation.

Kenton William Boyden and **James Trevor Scott**, both of Niagara Falls, Ont., rescued Edward A. Bednarowski, 38, from assault in Niagara Falls on Feb. 18, 2004. Bednarowski, a police officer, was attempting to question a suspect when the man fired a handgun at him at close range. They struggled for control of the gun. Boyden, 33, disabled contractor, and Scott, 38, laborer, who lived near the scene, witnessed the assault and responded. They pinned the assailant and held him until other officers arrived and arrested him.

Lori Michelle Abbott, 26, a contract service provider from Regina, Sask., saved a boy from drowning in Lumsden, Sask., on April 4, 2004. An 11-year-old boy fell through breaking ice on the Qu'Appelle River and shouted for help. Driving nearby, Abbott responded to the riverbank, then entered the frigid water and swam to the ice sheet to which the boy was clinging. She crawled across the ice to him, pulled him from the water, and assisted him to safety on the bank.

Mark Wayne Hebrink, 45, a truck driver, rescued Charles F. Kayser, 33, from a burning pickup truck in Dunkerton, Iowa, on Aug. 12, 2005. Kayser was trapped in the cab of his pickup truck after it was involved in a highway accident then struck the tractor-trailer that Hebrink was driving and burst into flame. Exiting his truck uninjured, Hebrink reached through the driver's window of the pickup, grasped Kayser, and pulled him from the vehicle. Kayser was severely burned, and Hebrink sustained second-degree burns to his right arm.

Deputy sheriff **Todd M. Gore**, 37, of Stockton, Calif., and police officer **Randall S. Paulson, Jr.**, 36, of Livermore, Calif., saved a suicidal woman from falling in Pleasanton, Calif., on March 16, 2005. The woman, 26, climbed to the outside of an interstate highway



Medal awardee Brandon Cashen of Orlando, Fla., is barely visible in the cockpit of this downed single-engine airplane, suspended by electric lines. After the Jan. 11, 2005, crash in Orlando, Cashen climbed up and into the plane before the arrival of firefighters and power company crews and aided in the rescue of the two men who were aboard. Photo by Judy Watson Tracy, who lives near the scene.

overpass and sat about 28 feet above the roadway. As Paulson talked to her, she suddenly fell but grasped the top of a large sign affixed to the overpass. Gore lowered himself to a point atop the sign and grasped the woman but could not pull her up. Paulson joined him there and with Gore pulled the woman to safety.

Virginia D. Buhrow and **Dean Roggenkamp** helped to save a woman from drowning in Lake Hamilton at Hot Springs, Ark., on May 19, 2005. In a suicide attempt, a 65-year-old woman dropped from a bridge spanning the lake at a point about 300 feet from the closer bank. Passersby Buhrow, 40, business operator, of Hot Springs, and Roggenkamp, 51, salesman, of Crestwood, Ill., together jumped from the bridge feet first into the water, Roggenkamp hitting its surface hard. They began to swim to the bank with the woman, en route being met by others, including two men in a boat who towed them to safety. Roggenkamp sustained a contusion to his lung.

Brandon Cashen, 26, a project manager from Orlando, Fla., saved Steven Scheiber, 26, and Daniel F. M. Lawlor, 33, from effects of an airplane crash in Orlando on Jan. 11, 2005. A light airplane carrying Scheiber and Lawlor crashed while attempting an emergency landing and came to rest suspended by downed power lines. Not knowing the status of the electricity in the lines, Cashen climbed atop the wreckage, opened the cockpit door, then cut the men's safety belts. He lowered each to others on the ground. Lawlor died later that day of his injuries. (See photo.)

David W. Bragg and **Jerry L. Hale**, both of Parker City, Ind., saved Timothy H. Hammer, 42, from being struck by a train in Parker City on July 7, 2005. Hammer was attempting to cross a railroad track in his wheelchair when its front wheels got stuck and he fell onto the track. A train was approaching at 55 m.p.h. Bragg, 47, manager, and Hale, 50, agricultural worker, were working within view of the scene. They immediately ran to Hammer, grasped him about the arms, and dragged him from the track just seconds before the train arrived and struck Hammer's wheelchair, destroying it. (See photos, page 6.)

Justin Paul Faur, 23, of Teeds Grove, Iowa, died after attempting to save Dwight R. Johnson, 52, from suffocating in a manure pit on his farm in Andover, Iowa, on April 16, 2005. After Johnson was overcome by fumes in the pit, his farmhand, Faur, 23, found him there and alerted help. Faur then descended into the pit. Responding firefighters found both men unconscious there and removed them. They both died of inhaling manure gases in the days following the accident.

Paul Thomas Labella, 39, an insurance investigator from Chatsworth, Calif., saved two boys from drowning in San Fernando, Calif., on March 12, 2005. Two brothers, ages 11 and 13, entered the water of the Pacoima Wash and were swept away by the very swift current. Labella, 39, a volunteer reserve police officer, responded to the channel and saw them approach. He threw a flotation device to them, but they failed to grasp it.

(continued on page 6)



IN OTHER WORKS

Speling wudnt be same

Karnege's plan wud hav brot big changes

By Dan Majors • Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh's own Andrew Carnegie tried to shake up the language with his Simplified Spelling Board 100 years ago this summer. If he had had his way, the English language would be based on phonetics and, therefore, spelling would be much simpler.

"Carnegie was convinced that English would become the world language of the future," said Marilyn Cocchiola Holt, of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. "He thought that spreading a simplified form of the language would unify the world and help to bring about universal peace."

Besides, the steel baron reasoned, the printing industry would save millions of dollars by eliminating "useless letters."

The idea of a Simplified Spelling Board was first proposed by Melvil Dewey, creator of the Dewey decimal system used by libraries. Carnegie embraced it and agreed to put up the money: an endowment of \$170,000 and \$25,000 a year. The board of 1906 was quite a collection of intellectuals, including university presidents, professors, publishers, business leaders and even a Supreme Court justice. Mark Twain signed on, as did President Theodore Roosevelt.

"Changes 100 years earlier were denounced as degrading to literature," Carnegie said laying out the board's agenda. "The editors of the next century will, in turn, marvel at the uncouth spelling of our present scribes."

The rules that the board proposed were spelled out in widely circulated pamphlets. Some of the ideas took hold. The letter "u" was dropped from colour, honour, and labour. The "me" was lopped off of programme. The "e" was chopped off axe and "ue" was clipped from catalogue. Draught became draft. The endings of words such as centre and theatre were tweaked.

But, for the most part, the effort was rejected. Teachers preferred to pass along the spellings that they had been taught. Writers clung to the rules that they knew.

"Besides," Holt said, "some of the words were just ugly." For instance: Imagin a paragraf bilt with words from this campaign. No dout, most scholars wud be angered and agast. There wud, instead, be a hostil corus from those who believ the spellings are bizar. Peopl wud laf.

"Many scholars simply felt it was removing a lot of the beauty of the language," Holt said.

The New York Times was among those to editorialize against the "fonetic alphabet," saying "the Bored of Speling should start with their own names... Androo Karnege."

President Roosevelt tried to boost the new rules by ordering the Government Printing Office to adopt the revised spelling of 300 words in official publications. "It is not an attack on the language of Shakespeare and Milton," he reasoned. "It is merely an attempt ... to make our spelling a little less foolish and fantastic."

Congress, however, did not agree. The House of Representatives voted 142-25 to ban the new spellings from federal documents. The president, who was lampooned in a Collier's Magazine cartoon depicting the Rough Rider shooting holes in a giant dictionary, eventually agreed that the effort should be "dropt."

Carnegie continued to use simplified spelling in all his personal correspondence and kept his board at it for several more years, but eventually even he had to accept the truth. "I think I hav been patient long enuf," he wrote in a 1915 letter pulling the plug on his funding. "I hav a much better use for twenty-five thousand dollars a year."

Carnegie died in 1919, but perhaps his simplified spelling was just ahead of its time. Typing out the letters on a telephone pad isn't as simple as doing it on a keyboard. The result is a number of handy phonetic shortcuts such as "tho" and "thru." A lot of it is simply eliminating vowels. Y? Its fstr.

(continued on page 9)

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 5)

Labella then entered the water but was knocked off his feet. He caught up to the boys and held to them as all three were swept about three-quarters of a mile downstream. Rescue personnel removed them to safety.

Off-duty firefighter **Richard Lemieux**, 46, of Montreal, Que., rescued a boy, 16, from a burning apartment in Montreal on April 30, 2005. Late at night, the boy was trapped by fire in an apartment on the top floor of a four-story building. He stood at an open window and screamed for help, attracting the attention of Lemieux, who lived nearby. Lemieux entered the building and made his way to an adjoining apartment, where he sat on the windowsill, reached over to the boy, and helped him into that apartment, even though the boy outweighed him by 70 pounds.



Carnegie Heroes David W. Bragg, left, and Jerry L. Hale, both of Parker City, Ind., are shown with their wives at the scene of their July 7, 2005, heroic act in Parker City. Working near the railroad tracks, the men saw Timothy H. Hammer, visiting from Cheyenne, Wyo., stranded in his wheelchair on the track on which a train was bearing down at 55 m.p.h. They pulled Hammer from the track with only seconds to spare. Below, Parker City's civic thank-you to its heroes.



Actions of awardee Robert B. Connelly prompted Kiwanis hero medal 40 years ago

It was early in the morning on Friday, Sept. 23, 1966—40 years ago—when members of the Kiwanis Club of Lisle, Ill., set up to sell peanuts at the Lisle train station. The club was conducting its annual fundraiser, and the station provided heavy commuter traffic from the suburban Chicago community.

Once such commuter was Nancy Notto, 20, a secretary. Requiring a cane to walk on two artificial feet, she was crossing the tracks at the station when an approaching train sounded its whistle. Notto, appearing rigid with fright, remained standing in its path.


Among the Kiwanis volunteers was Robert B. Connelly, 34, the head of a Chicago engineering firm, a former Marine, a village trustee of Lisle, and a married man with a teenage daughter. He saw the situation develop and immediately sprinted to Notto from about 25 feet away. Connelly put an arm around Notto and appeared as if to pick her up, but both of them were struck and killed by the train.

Connelly's sacrificial act was honored by the Hero Fund with a silver Carnegie Medal, which was presented in April 1967 to his widow, Marjorie, and their daughter, Colleen, who was 13 at the time of her father's death. Mrs. Connelly was also given a monthly grant to assist with living expenses. She died at age 72 in 2004.

Of enduring significance is the response of the Kiwanis International, a worldwide service organization involved with humanitarian and civic projects. At its 52nd annual convention, held in 1967 in Houston, Texas, the organization's board of trustees instituted the Robert B. Connelly Medal of Heroism and issued the first medal to Connelly's family. Established to recognize "service beyond the call of duty," the medal is given to those who risk death or physical harm for the benefit of others when "they might just as well have passed along the way."

Forty years later, the award is still being made, and over the course of its life it has gone to 578 individuals, several of whom have also received the Carnegie Medal (see related story).

Nominees for the Connelly medal need not be a member of the Kiwanis. Other requirements: The nomination must be made by a Kiwanis Club within five years of the rescue; the nominee must have faced actual risk of death or physical harm by accepting self-imposed personal responsibility in the effort to save the life of another; the nominee must have had no official responsibility for the person rescued and must have performed the act of heroism in a non-official capacity; and the rescuer and victim must not have been closely related.

Submitted cases are reviewed three times a year, and recipients are given a bronze medal bearing Connelly's likeness mounted on a walnut board. 



Valerie Shaw of Ellsworth, Kans., holds the Robert B. Connelly Medal awarded posthumously in 2005 to her husband, Kevin D. Shaw, who died after rescuing a woman from a burning pickup truck in 2004. Also awarded the Carnegie Medal in 2005, Shaw is the most recent recipient of both medals.

RECENT AWARDEES OF BOTH CONNELLY, CARNEGIE MEDALS

2005

Kevin D. Shaw, 48, a corrections officer from Ellsworth, Kans., died after saving a woman from a burning pickup truck on Aug. 15, 2004. Shaw pulled the woman from the vehicle and took her to a point of safety, where he then collapsed. He suffered a heart attack and could not be revived.

Michael Bennett, 36, a teacher from Castleton, N.Y., and **John P. Sawchuk**, 41, an assistant principal from Clifton Park, N.Y., disarmed a student after he fired shots in a hallway of the high school in East Greenbush, N.Y., where the men were employed, on Feb. 9, 2004. Sawchuk ran to the student and struggled with him for control of the gun, which the student fired again, striking Bennett as he approached.

Domenic G. Giunta, 55, a retired educator from Lutz, Fla., died after helping to save a young boy from drowning in the Gulf of Mexico on July 21, 2004. Giunta was fishing when the boy was pulled from a sandbar into deeper water by a strong current. Giunta reached the boy but submerged while supporting him. Both were removed by others, but Giunta could not be revived.

2004

Douglas Robert Peterson, 59, a disabled machinist from Maple Park, Ill., saved a 90-year-old woman from being struck by a train after her car became stuck on a railroad track on which a train was approaching, on March 22, 2004. Peterson opened the driver's door, pulled the woman out of the car, and took her to an adjacent track as the train struck the car.

John Lane, 50, a logging contractor from Brunswick, Ga., saved a couple from their burning car after it was struck by a tractor-trailer on March 17, 2004. Witnessing the accident, Lane ran to the car, where he opened the passenger door and removed first the man and then his wife, taking them both to safety.

James W. Eakle, 66, a retired mechanic from Fairmont, W. Va., died after helping to save an 8-year-old boy from drowning in a flooded creek on June 14, 2003. Eakle, who could not swim, entered the creek and removed both the boy and a man who also had entered the creek to save him. Eakle shortly suffered a heart attack and died seven weeks later.

2003

Bruce A. Hornecker, 45, an off-duty firefighter from Millburn, N.J., rescued a 92-year-old woman from a burning apartment house on Nov. 29, 2002. Hornecker entered the building and went to the second-floor apartment, where he found the woman standing in her kitchen. He carried her through thick smoke downstairs and outside to safety.

Nathan Michael Grube, 23, a chef from Wind Gap, Pa., helped to rescue a man from a single-engine airplane after it crashed on an airport runway on Sept. 21, 2002. With flames covering the nose and wings of the plane and entering the cockpit, Grube and the pilot, who had escaped on his own, pulled the passenger from the plane and took him to safety.

(continued on page 9)



ROOTS

Visitors to the Hero Fund offices in Pittsburgh this summer included Earl Gunia of Littleton, Colo., and his wife Jan, who were in western Pennsylvania to visit relatives and research Gunia family history. Gunia's grandfather, Charles Gunia, Sr., and uncle, Charles, Jr., were among the 179 victims of a massive explosion at a coal mine in Harwick, Pa., on January 25, 1904. Another uncle, Adolph, was rescued from the mine and was the disaster's sole survivor. It was that disaster—two more men died in rescue attempts—that prompted Andrew Carnegie to found the Hero Fund within the following months. Gunia is standing by a framed page from the February 6, 1904, issue of Collier's, a news-feature magazine that covered the disaster.



THE PASSING OF FRIENDS

Ralph Allen Kelley, 85, of Hudson, N.H., died June 24. Kelley was awarded the Carnegie Medal at age 16 in 1940 for his actions of Jan. 14, 1938, by which he helped to save two women from a burning manufacturing plant in Nashua, N.H. Disabled by his actions, Kelley was confined to a wheelchair but managed to run a business-services company from his home for a half-century.

Elizabeth E. Ghear McHugh, 92, of Greenville, S.C., died July 18. As an 11-year-old schoolgirl, McHugh saved a 13-year-old girl from drowning in a creek in Pleasant Valley, N.Y., on Aug. 1, 1925. She was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1928.

Walter F. Ward, 67, of Independence, Kans., died June 28. Ward was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1960 for having saved a woman from a burning truck in Dunning, Neb., on June 29, 1957. He was a 19-year-old farm laborer at the time and sustained disabling burns.



MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

The mayor's office, council chambers, and a construction site were all venues for presentations of the Carnegie Medal this summer.

Above, Harrisburg, Pa., Mayor Stephen R. Reed, left, presented the medal on July 12 to Randy A. Nolen, center, of New Cumberland, Pa., and Nicolas E. Barrelet, right, of Harrisburg. The men were cited for their Jan. 28, 2005, rescue of a man from a second-floor bedroom of a burning row house in Harrisburg. Barrelet, then 39, and Nolen, 43, who worked in the same office building but knew each other only by sight, were each passing the scene when they came upon the burning house. They teamed up to carry the badly burned victim downstairs to safety, each requiring oxygen after the rescue. Representing the Hero Fund at the ceremony were Douglas R. Chambers, Director of External Affairs, and Marlin Ross, Case Investigator.

Commission President Mark Laskow, below left, presented the medal to Robert H. Blasko of North Huntingdon, Pa., on July 17 at a meeting of White Oak, Pa., Borough Council. Blasko was recognized for his actions of Nov. 11, 2003, by which he went to the aid of a woman being assaulted by her boyfriend in the parking lot of a shopping plaza in White Oak. The assailant turned on Blasko, then 71, a retired tool designer, and sent him hard to the pavement. Suffering life-threatening injury, Blasko required extensive hospitalization and rehabilitation, eventually recovering his mobility and speech. "I did what my heart told me to," he said. Accompanying Laskow at the ceremony was the Hero Fund investigator Melissa A. Spangler.

In what was by far the most informal of the presentations, Hero Fund representatives Chambers and Spangler presented a medal on July 6 to Jarrett Michael CheroK, below right, at a house under construction in suburban Pittsburgh. CheroK, a drywall contractor from Whitaker, Pa., was unable to accept the Hero Fund's invitation to the more formal setting of a board meeting in downtown Pittsburgh, so the "ceremony" took place at a jobsite with one co-worker as the audience. A year earlier, on June 8, 2005, CheroK, 23, removed his sister and her boyfriend from the second floor of a burning house.



BEHIND THE SCENE

Rewarded by awarding

By Douglas R. Chambers, Director of External Affairs • Carnegie Hero Fund Commission


I joined the Hero Fund four years ago, after having spent much of the previous 36 years of my career working in the public relations departments of various for-profit companies.

The switch to a not-for-profit organization was full of changes. One of the most significant was how different it was to deal with the media. In my other jobs, interacting with the press was often a contentious affair, and there were many times I dreaded fielding reporters' phone calls. So, when quite early in my employment with the Commission I got a call from a reporter, I was more than a little anxious. It proved to be anxiety without basis. I've since fielded hundreds of reporters' calls—one of my responsibilities—but contrary to my earlier encounters these have been universally friendly, pleasant, and rewarding. And so it is with everyone I talk with about the Hero Fund. How couldn't it be?

I have the honor of recounting the extraordinary bravery of our rescuers and the wonder of their altruistic behavior. I get to relate the rich history of a remarkable organization. I have the privilege of telling the story of an extraordinary man, Andrew Carnegie, and reveal a side of him few know. I also regularly reap the reward of hearing people say, "Wow, that's amazing," when I explain that the Commission provides thousands of dollars annually to deceased awardees' families and that we often provide financial support to their children for their post-high school tuition needs.

An equally rewarding, but more personally enriching, experience is witnessing the presentation of the Carnegie Medal to our heroes. By way of explanation to the majority of awardees who receive their medals by mail, the Commission on occasion does make personal presentations of the medal.

For example, we presented the medal to two awardees in front of just a few family members in an informal ceremony in a small, rural town's volunteer fire hall (the ceremony was interrupted by an alarm for a fire), and to a hero who was joined by hundreds of her colleagues, top government officials, and community leaders in a regal ceremony featuring bagpipers and a color guard. At both, and at the others, the emotions are the same. Family members are bursting with pride over their loved one's act and the recognition they are receiving, associates are in awe of their fellow worker's heroism, and friends and others beam over their good fortune to know and to be in the presence of someone recognized for extraordinary heroic behavior.

To be a party to that, to watch the tears of pride, the smiles of joy, the looks of wonder, the handshakes and the hugs, the clicks and flashes of cameras, to hear the applause, yes, I have a rewarding job. 



Douglas R. Chambers, the Commission's director of external affairs, is flanked by two Carnegie Medal awardees at a recent presentation. At left is John William Oplinger of Wapwallopen, Pa., and at right is Robert W. Aigeldinger of Mountain Top, Pa. (See "Fateful Coincidence," this page.)

FATEFUL COINCIDENCE

Robert W. Aigeldinger, of Mountain Top, Pa., and John William Oplinger, of Wapwallopen, Pa., work miles apart and for different employers in northeastern Pennsylvania. Each finished his workday late on Feb. 27, 2004, and, rather than leaving for home right away, they lingered to chat with coworkers for a few minutes.

The delays were fateful. Not much later, both were traveling on the same remote two-lane road, just moments apart, when they came across a highway accident. A pickup truck with six teenagers aboard had left the roadway, crashed into some trees, and caught fire.

Aigeldinger, then 34, and Oplinger, 56, stopped at the scene, approached the vehicle, and quickly removed the driver and other occupants from the truck. The remaining passenger, a 15-year-old boy, was trapped in the front seat, his legs stuck under the dashboard. Flames soon reached two to three feet in height, smoke was dense, and the heat intense, but both men worked the young man into a position from which they pulled him through the driver's side moments before the interior of the truck was engulfed by fire. The victim sustained burns to his legs but survived.

Awarded Carnegie Medals earlier this year, the heroes related their rescue acts to a gathering of family members and fellow employees at a mid-June presentation of the medals in the barracks of the Fern Ridge Post of the Pennsylvania State Police in Blakeslee, where Aigeldinger is employed as a dispatch officer. Those in attendance included Oplinger's two sons, John, 13, and Matthew, 11, and Douglas R. Chambers, director of external affairs, represented the Commission.

9

RECENT AWARDEES OF BOTH MEDALS

(continued from page 7)

Edward Heussler, 42, an express mail courier from Richmond, Va., attempted to rescue a 79-year-old woman from a burning house on Jan. 22, 2002. Heussler saw the woman lying on the living room floor amidst flames. He grasped her and was dragging her to the door when a flashover occurred, engulfing the room. Heussler left the house and fell to the ground to extinguish the flames on his body. He required lengthy hospitalized for extensive burns.

Susan L. Marcy, Case Investigator

SPELING WUDNT BE SAME

(continued from page 6)

"Think how pleased Carnegie would be," Holt said. "You know, he embraced technology. I can imagine him text-messaging his secretary and the people at the mill, text-messaging and arguing with Henry Clay Frick. I can just see him saying, 'This is the greatest thing.' And simplified spelling becomes a hit."

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

TROUBLE SHOOTER

Forest W. McNeir figured prominently in the sport of trapshooting: He was a member of the U.S. trapshooting team at the 1920 Olympic Games and the winner of 17 Grand American trophies and four Texas State championships. In 1981 he was inducted posthumously into the National Trapshooting Hall of Fame.

But the award of which he was most proud was his gold Carnegie Medal, given to him in 1912 for saving the life of a Houston firefighter injured in a bizarre incident two years earlier.

On Feb. 10, 1910, the firefighter, 25, responded to a fire in a three-story building downtown that housed a hardware store. Electric, telephone, and telegraph wires were strung in front of the building, and after being assured that power was shut off to the area, firefighters raised an extension ladder to the building from a horse-drawn fire truck that had iron wheels. Secured to the top of the ladder was a hose.

Excited spectators, including McNeir, 34, who operated a contracting and building business in the city, gathered nearby while the fire bells sounded from the city hall tower.

The firefighter climbed the ladder to its top, but when the water to the hose was turned on, the ladder swayed toward the building and connected with the electric lines, which were live. An extension of the ladder dropped, knocking the firefighter off balance. His left foot became pinned between rungs of the ladder, and he hung upside down, 35 feet from the ground, while flames issued from the windows of the building. Cartridges and shotgun shells stored on the building's second floor exploded.

McNeir ran to the fire truck. At least two firefighters had attempted to climb the ladder to aid their comrade but after receiving an electric shock ceased their efforts. It was discovered that not only the iron side rails of the ladder were energized, but the iron parts of the truck were, as well. McNeir jumped upward and caught hold of one of the ladder's

wooden rungs. He began to climb the ladder, avoiding contact with its side rails. He could not, however, avoid the scorching heat radiating from the burning building.

McNeir's intention was to amputate the firefighter's left leg at the knee with a small pocketknife, then carry him down to the ground. Reaching the firefighter, who was conscious, McNeir grasped him by his left leg, but the firefighter himself was conducting electricity, and McNeir was shocked. He lost his balance and dropped to the ground, striking the ladder and the truck as he fell. The fall jostled the ladder enough so that the firefighter's foot came free. He slid down the ladder to the ground.

The firefighter suffered a broken left ankle and burns, and McNeir likewise sustained burns and various other injuries. The men occupied adjoining beds at a hospital and recovered.

McNeir was awarded the Carnegie Medal and \$1,000. In his 1956 autobiography, he wrote, "I'm prouder of my Carnegie gold medal than I am of all the gold and silver trophies I've won in competition shooting." McNeir died in 1957 at age 81 in Houston.

The medal is still in the family's possession. Granddaughter Stella Mary Taylor, of Cypress, Texas, recalls McNeir as a "wonderful story teller" but not someone who boasted of his heroism. In that, McNeir resembles most other Carnegie Medal awardees.

Marlin Ross, Case Investigator



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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