

imPULSE

A Periodic Newsletter of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission ISSUE 8 • DECEMBER 2006



TOUCHING TRIBUTE

When Keith and Amy Kabilian of Quincy, Mass., were married earlier this year, they honored the memory of Keith's good friend, Scott G. Portesi, in a tangible way. Scott was awarded the Carnegie Medal posthumously 10 years ago in recognition of his actions of Aug. 30, 1995, by which he attempted to save Keith from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean at Spring Lake, N.J. The couple opted to forego wedding favors in order to make a donation to the Hero Fund in Scott's memory. Scott's parents, David and Sharon Portesi of Quincy, have also kept their son's memory alive, by sponsoring the "Scott G. Portesi Memorial Scholarship Fund" at North Quincy High School, from which Scott and Keith were graduated.



Scott G. Portesi

Having used the Hero Fund's grant as seed money for the scholarship, the Portesis select two students every year to receive funds to aid in their continuing education. Scott was a 19-year-old college student at the time of his passing.

A Disarming Congressman

Long before the war on terror, a bloodbath was averted at Capitol

By Jack El-Hai • *Minnesota Monthly*

One afternoon in December 1932, Minnesota Congressman Melvin Maas, who was serving his third term as the state's Fourth District representative, crossed paths in Washington, D.C., with an agitated department store clerk named Marlin Kemmerer. As was his habit throughout his adult life, Maas recorded the day's events in his diary:

About 4 p.m. a young fellow appeared in (the congressional) gallery with a pistol & demanded the right to speak. The chamber & galleries emptied. Got him to toss his gun down to me, after he pointed it at me & demanded to be heard.

In just a few words, Maas put behind him an incident that electrified the country and filled the pages of newspapers. Kemmerer easily could have killed or injured a dozen government officials. But Maas was uniquely equipped to face the danger, disarm the gunman, and transform a tragedy-in-the-making into a scare with a happy ending. In the process, he became a national hero.

Having won his seat in 1926 at age 27, Maas—a blue-eyed man of 5-foot-6 who smoked 20 cigars a day—came to believe that the nation's capital was vulnerable to an enemy attack. "If anyone dropped just one bomb from a plane," he said, "it would be the end of our national government. This country needs better protection."

Other members of Congress ignored his warning, so in 1929, Maas found a more dramatic way to make his point. On a day when President Herbert Hoover was to



Melvin Maas (left, with medicine ball), works out at the St. Paul Athletic Club. Photo provided by Minnesota Historical Society.

address a joint session of the House and the Senate, Maas—the only licensed pilot in Congress—went to nearby Bolling Field, took the controls of a World War I-era pursuit plane, and flew the craft toward the Capitol complex. He had acquired dive-bombing skills during the war, and he aimed the nose of his plane at the skylight that illuminated the House chamber. At the last second, he pulled
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CARNEGIE'S LEGACY OF LEARNING: SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS FOR HEROES



By Mark Laskow, President Carnegie Hero Fund Commission

When Andrew Carnegie created his Hero Fund and its medal for heroism, he sought to recognize and honor heroes and their acts, rather than reward or

encourage them. He recognized, as we do, that the medal recipients do not act in hope of a reward.

Nevertheless, Carnegie was determined that the heroes not suffer economically for their acts, and he directed the Hero Fund to provide an array of financial support to the awardees. This support includes scholarships to further the education of the awardees and, in some cases, their dependents. During 2006, the Hero Fund will distribute more than \$115,000 in scholarships to 32 students. Fifteen of these are medal awardees, and 17 are children or other dependents of heroes who died as the result of their rescue acts.

Behind these statistics are real human stories of people studying hard to improve their lives. Consider some of our current recipients:

- A Florida dental student who won the medal for helping to rescue a drowning victim in the Atlantic Ocean off Palm Beach in 2003.
- A law student in California who was recognized for saving a friend under attack by a cougar in 2004.
- A college student whose father, professional football player Joe Delaney, died trying to save two boys from drowning in 1983. Delaney played for the Kansas City Chiefs.
- A Canadian graphics arts student who rescued a man from drowning in 1996.

Sometimes the scholarship grants support a particularly courageous and determined effort to build a better life for a hero's family. In 2004 Lori Michelle Abbott swam through a freezing Saskatchewan river to rescue an 11-year-old boy who had fallen through breaking ice. Abbott, then a 26-year-old mother of four, survived the rescue and is now earning her degree in social work at the University of Regina. The Hero Fund is proud to help Abbott, who is also working part time to help with college costs and to support her children.

Like so many of Andrew Carnegie's philanthropies, the Hero Fund's scholarship awards combine several of his interests. In this case, he combined his desire to reward heroes and his major focus on education. The latter was a grand effort in which he dedicated almost \$182 million to establish the Carnegie
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A Disarming Congressman *(continued from cover)*

away and headed back up into the blue. Inside the building, pieces of plaster fell from the ceiling, and lawmakers ran into the corridors for refuge.

Maas paid for this impetuous demonstration. An enraged Hoover ordered him banned from flying for life, but friends intervened, and the penalty was reduced to a mere two weeks on the ground. Washington lawmakers, however, never again felt invulnerable to enemy attack.

Three years after buzzing the Capitol, Maas found another chance to show his grit and determination. On Dec. 13, 1932, he arrived in the House chamber for a routine day of debate and voting. Late that afternoon, a disturbance erupted in the public gallery overlooking the floor.

Unbeknownst to the members of Congress down below, a lanky man wearing a suit with a bow tie was threatening the people around him. This was Marlin Kemmerer, a 25-year-old sporting-goods clerk who worked at a Sears store in Allentown, Pa. He waved a pistol at a lobbyist sitting near him, which sent a congressional page flying into the hallways, warning of a man with a gun. In his pocket, Kemmerer carried a manuscript that he intended to read aloud. It began, "Okay America! For the next 20 minutes you will listen to a speech which has the interest of the American people. The first man that tries to stop me will die. Is that understood?"

No one on the floor noticed the commotion until Kemmerer stood against the rail and shouted, "I want 20 minutes to address the House!" One of the representatives cried out that the man in the gallery had a gun. From that moment, pandemonium reigned in the vast room. Most of the representatives unceremoniously vacated the chamber. Chairs tumbled, tables overturned. Only a few people remained behind. Up in the gallery, Kemmerer stood with one leg over the rail and pointed his gun at the departing legislators.

Maas walked to a spot below the balcony. He looked up at Kemmerer, who aimed directly at the Minnesota congressman. "Come on, buddy," Maas said evenly. "Toss me the gun."

"I want to be heard. I demand my right of free speech," Kemmerer replied.

Maas worked hard to remain calm. "All right, son," he said, "I'll give you 20 minutes. But we have rules here. You can't speak with a gun. Come on, give me the gun." Kemmerer remained still as he pointed the pistol at Maas. Then he said, "I'll give it to you," and dropped the gun over the railing. When Maas caught the revolver, he noticed that it was loaded and cocked to fire.

Within seconds, several bystanders leapt at Kemmerer and subdued him. When police searched his hotel room, they found sticks of dynamite; Kemmerer admitted that he'd considered detonating them after forcing members of Congress to hear his speech, which, as it turned out, concerned grievances he had against the Post Office.

Outside the chamber, Maas received a round of applause from his congressional colleagues. Reporters and photographers crowded around him. Wire services quickly spread word of his heroism. Even after the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission gave him a silver medal for his valor, Maas tried to downplay the incident. "I wasn't a hero," he said. "That pistol looked like a 105 howitzer to me. When I heard afterwards that the fellow was a pistol instructor and an expert shot, I almost fainted."

Maas died in 1964—his 20 daily cigars helped cut short the life that a disturbed store clerk couldn't end. Kemmerer outlived him by more than 35 years. Although Washington police placed him in psychiatric care and announced plans to charge him with assault and battery, he did not remain in detention for long. Kemmerer, a lifelong contributor to Socialist causes, died in Philadelphia in 2000.

(Jack El-Haj, of Minneapolis, Minn., is the author of The Lobotomist: A Maverick Medical Genius and His Tragic Quest to Rid the World of Mental Illness, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2005. He is currently working on Ordinary Heroes, a series featuring Carnegie Medal awardees.)



Congressman Maas. Kenneth M. Wright Studios Photo, provided by Minnesota Historical Society.



Carnegie Hero John W. Blazek, Jr., with wife Selma

Heroic coal miner recalls rescue act of 50 years ago

By Jerry Storey • Tribune-Review

John W. Blazek says simply, "I had to do it." He crawled under a roof fall—97 feet in length and 15 feet thick—to reach another miner buried in the debris. The rescue at Robena Mine, near Carmichaels, Pa., on Jan. 31, 1956, earned Blazek a Carnegie Medal.

In the 50th anniversary year of the rescue, the lifelong Masontown, Pa., resident told his story. At 90 years of age, Blazek's memory is clear, and the firm handshake of a man used to hard work belies his advanced age.

He said the day started normal. Part of his job as a "jeep driver" of the mantrip that ran on a mine track was to respond to emergencies, such as a report of a piece of heavy machinery buried in a roof fall. On that day 50 years ago, Blazek got a message that "a man was covered up." Percy Hooper, then 33, was operating a coal loading machine when the roof came down. Blazek said that Hooper was in a stooped position trapped between the machine and the fall.

As other miners pumped compressed air into the debris, Blazek said he couldn't just stand around. "I got my shovel... I made a hole... then I started crawling," he said. He inched his way toward Hooper with tons of unstable rock overhead. When asked what had prevented the compromised mine roof from caving in again, Blazek responded, "The Lord."

He felt the trapped miner's leg about 10 feet into the fall and chipped away at surrounding rock with a hand ax in an attempt to free him. The battery cable from Hooper's headlamp was tangled in the debris, holding him fast. Miners slid a knife to Blazek and he cut the cable free.

A page on the Carnegie Hero Fund Web site describes what happened next: "The foreman inserted his body partially into the tunnel and grasped Blazek's ankles, and others then cautiously pulled all three from the tunnel in a human chain," it reads. The page goes on to note that "Hooper, who had been buried an hour and a half, was hospitalized for four days from shock and bruises." Blazek said his only injury was a "skinned belly."

Blazek, who spent 30 minutes in the tunnel, said he "got nervous" when he finally left it. But when he went home that day, he acted as if nothing had happened. "He didn't tell me about it," said Selma Blazek, his wife of 59 years. "I didn't want to work her up," he said.

Blazek worked both in the mines and in a series of other jobs, including a stint with Ford in Detroit. He said he's thought about what the miners killed in recent tragedies went through, but that that wouldn't stop him from working in the mines again.

"I'd go tomorrow if they'd let me," he said.  (Reprinted with permission.)

BOARD NOTES (continued from page 2)

Institute of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Institute of Technology, public and college libraries, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland. A grand effort indeed, of which there is no better evidence than his influence on the life of Lori Abbott.

VISIT BY KIN OF 1918 MEDAL AWARDEE YIELDS DETAILS OF HERO'S LIFE, DEATH

Last December the Commission received an email from Patricia Proctor Bradley of Marietta, Ga., saying she soon would be visiting the Pittsburgh area and that she was hoping to stop by the office to learn more about the actions of her uncle, Hugh F. Proctor. Proctor's May 7, 1917, rescue attempt merited the awarding of a silver Carnegie Medal a year later.

Bradley arrived within a few days, only to learn that her uncle's file contained little more than the account of his heroic act. The visit did result in the Commission securing more information about Proctor, as Bradley's son, Kirk, had copies of newspaper accounts of the rescue attempt as well as letters from several witnesses detailing the scene and Proctor's actions.

Proctor, 20 years old at the time, was an assistant foreman with The Western Union Telegraph Company. On the day of his act, he and others were straightening poles alongside the tracks of the Southern Railway near Clifton, Va. Proctor and the men were walking south on one of the tracks, which in that area were in a steep cut and on a curve. A freight train was traveling north on the other track at about 20 to 25 m.p.h., and, according to one witness, it was making "right much noise." The sound was loud enough to mask that of a southbound freight train fast approaching the workmen.

Just minutes earlier, Proctor had warned the men that they should get off the track in case a train approached. All but Floyd V. Shipe heeded him. When Proctor saw the southbound train, then just 120 feet away, he exclaimed "My God!" and ran toward Shipe. Just two feet from Shipe and with one foot over the rail, Proctor was struck by the locomotive and killed. Shipe also sustained fatal injuries.

Bradley's visit and subsequent correspondence with her and Kirk resulted also in the Hero Fund's learning more about Proctor's immediate family. Proctor's father, who

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Patricia Bradley with her son Kirk, center, and nephew Frank E. Proctor visited the grave of their relative, Carnegie Medal Awardee Hugh F. Proctor, in Cool Springs Baptist Church Cemetery, Sanford, N.C., last summer. According to Bradley, who is Proctor's niece, Proctor's mother could not bear the thought of her son being buried, so his grave is an aboveground brick and concrete tomb. Proctor's parents, long deceased, are also interred in the structure.



ANDREW CARNEGIE



DAVID NASAW

NEW BIO

Andrew Carnegie, the latest biography of the founder of the Hero Fund and other philanthropic institutions, has landed in bookstores this fall, the work of historian David Nasaw. Called by *The New York Times Book Review* "a meticulous researcher and a cool analyst," Nasaw brings new life to the story of one of America's most famous and successful businessmen and philanthropists, as he uses materials not available to any previous biographer.

Nasaw's book tour was launched in Pittsburgh late in October, when he gave a lecture at the main branch of the Carnegie Library. He told a rapt audience that he was never bored during his research and writing, such the intrigue that his subject held for him. Nasaw said he included a few "smoking guns" in the book, such as the evidence he found that Carnegie's philanthropy was not the result of late-life guilt. A "pre-nuptial" agreement by Carnegie and his wife clearly indicated Carnegie's intention of distributing his wealth.

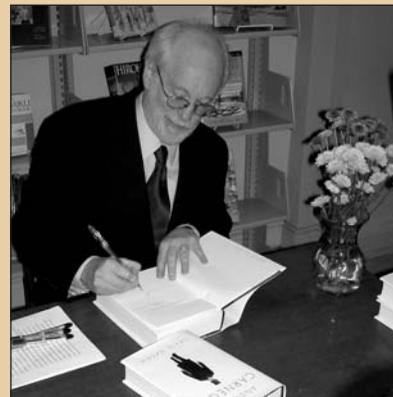
Born of modest origins in Scotland in 1835, Carnegie is best known as the founder of Carnegie Steel, and his rags-to-riches story is told dramatically and vividly in Nasaw's biography. Carnegie, the son of an impoverished linen weaver, moved to Pittsburgh at the age of 13, and, in the embodiment of the American dream, he pulled himself up from a cotton factory bobbin boy to become the richest man in the world. He spent the rest of his life giving away the fortune he had accumulated and crusading for international peace.

Nasaw says that for all that Carnegie accomplished and came to represent—a wildly successful businessman and capitalist, a self-educated writer, peace activist, philanthropist, man of letters, lover of culture, and unabashed enthusiast for American democracy and capitalism—he has remained an enigma.

The book, published by The Penguin Press, N.Y., contains a trove of new material—unpublished chapters of Carnegie's autobiography, personal letters between Carnegie and his future wife and other family members, the couple's prenuptial agreement, diaries of family and close friends, Carnegie's applications for citizenship, his extensive correspondence with Henry Clay Frick, and dozens of private letters to and from presidents Grant, Cleveland, McKinley, Roosevelt, and British prime ministers Gladstone and Balfour, as well as friends Herbert Spencer, Matthew Arnold, and Mark Twain. Nasaw plumbs the core of a fascinating and complex man, placing his life in cultural and political context.

Nasaw is also the author of the best-selling biography, *The Chief: The Life of William Randolph Hearst*. He is currently a professor of history and director for the humanities at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

David Nasaw



U.S. FOREST SERVICE RECOGNIZES RESCUE WITH HISTORICAL PLAQUE

By Maryland Wilson Shytle • Carnegie Medal Awardee

The historic hero of Highlands, N.C., Charles N. Wright, was again honored when his descendants gathered for a private ceremony by the U.S. Forest Service to dedicate a plaque in his memory on June 17.

The marker honors the May 14, 1911, rescue by Wright of a man nearly claimed by the perils of Whiteside Mountain. The dedication took place atop the mountain on "Fool's Rock"—the spot where the commemorated deed took place.

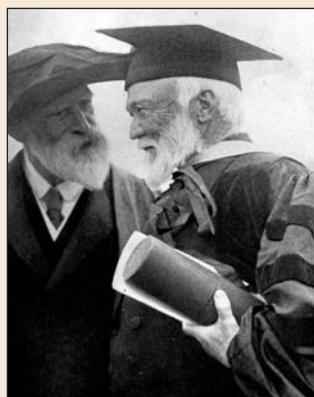
R. Augustus—"Gus"—Baty, 26, had fallen 150 feet down an almost vertical cliff and was lodged against a small bush two inches from the brink of a precipice 2,000 feet deep. Injured and unconscious, he lay with one arm and one leg hanging over the brink. Wright, 38, crawling inch-by-inch during the 2.5-hour ordeal, managed to drag Baty back to safety. Encountering several near-fatal slip-ups himself, he was aided by a companion, William L. Dillard, 33, in effecting the rescue.

In recognition of the men's phenomenal courage, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission awarded Wright its highest honor, a gold medal, and Dillard, a silver medal. Only 19 gold medals were ever awarded, and Wright was the only recipient in the Southeast. Each hero was given also a grant of \$2,000. Wright used his award funds to purchase a home and several acres of surrounding land in what today is downtown Highlands. Now known as Wright Square, this property is a permanent memorial to Highlands's historic hero.

(Dr. Shytle, of Greenville, S.C., writes of Carnegie Heroes from the Southeast for regional publications. She was awarded the Carnegie Medal as a schoolgirl in 1931 for saving a friend from drowning three years earlier. Plaque photo courtesy of The Highlander, Highlands, N.C.)



Representing the Charles N. Wright Family is Frances Wright, of Central, S.C. She is shown with Chad Boniface of the U.S. Forest Service at the plaque installation.



"Are there no ideals more stirring than those of martial glory? A patriot needs only to look about to find numberless causes that ought to warm the blood and stir the imagination. The dispelling of ignorance and the fostering of education, the investigation of disease and the searching out of remedies that will vanquish the giant ills that decimate the race, the inculcation of good feeling in the industrial world, the cause of the aged, the cause of men and women who had so little chance—tell me, has war anything that beckons as these things beckon with alluring and compelling power? Whoso wants to share the heroism of battle let him join the fight against ignorance and disease—and the mad idea that war is necessary."

— Andrew Carnegie, "A Plea for Peace," *New York Times*, April 7, 1907

Although Andrew Carnegie's formal education ended with his boyhood schooling in Scotland, he profoundly influenced higher education through the establishment of libraries, technical schools, scholarship and teacher pension funds, and scientific institutions.

LATEST AWARDEES
OF THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF *imPULSE*, THE FOLLOWING 16 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CARNEGIE MEDAL, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS TO 9,028 SINCE THE HERO FUND'S INCEPTION IN 1904.

THE LATEST AWARDS, WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON SEPT. 28, ARE FULLY DETAILED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CARNEGIEHERO.ORG

John H. Flanigan, 57, a bricklayer from Pittsburgh, Pa., saved Lindsey C. Stocke, 6, from her family's burning home in Pittsburgh on Aug. 15, 2005. Lindsey was sleeping in the basement after fire broke out there. Working nearby, Flanigan responded to the scene, where he kicked in the air conditioner that was in a basement window. He crawled through the window, found Lindsey in the dense smoke, then handed her outside to others before climbing out himself.

Christopher R. G. Mervin, 33, a laborer from Chatham, Ont., saved a man and woman from a burning house in Strathroy, Ont., on Nov. 7, 2004. The couple was in a first-floor apartment of a two-story house after fire broke out in the kitchen and filled that unit with smoke. Responding from nearby, Mervin crawled through the front door and found the man in the entry hall. After forcing him from the house, Mervin re-entered, found the woman in the adjacent living room, and dragged her outside to safety.

Foreman **Donald R. Gollwitzer**, 50, of Grafton, Wis., rescued Paul G. Hockerman, 11, from a burning van in Franklin Park, Ill., on July 31, 2005. Unconscious, Paul remained in his seat after an accident in which the van caught fire. Gollwitzer witnessed the accident and ran to the vehicle, where he broke out a window with his fist, then unlatched and opened a door. Despite rapidly spreading flames and intense heat, he reached inside for Paul, lifted him from the vehicle, and took him a safe distance away. Two others died in the accident.

Charles D. Hetrick, 54, a technical school student, rescued Martha J. Rich from her burning mobile home in Brookville, Pa., on Feb. 23 of this year. Rich, 58, who used a wheelchair, shouted for help after fire broke out in her kitchen. In his home nearby, Hetrick learned of the fire by radio and responded to the scene. He crawled into the burning structure and found Rich on the floor near the kitchen. Hetrick grasped Rich and dragged her to the front door, where a neighbor assisted in removing her from the home.

Retired interior designer **Elizabeth L. Darlington**, 77, of Columbia, S.C., helped to rescue her brother-in-law, William M. Koob, 85, from his burning house in Hickory, N.C., on Oct. 12, 2005. Koob was in the den of his ranch house when fire broke out at a heater in that room and spread. His wife responded to the den and alerted Darlington, her twin sister who was visiting. Her course to the den blocked by flames, Darlington entered the burning room through an outside door and helped her sister drag Koob to safety. (See photo.)

Benjamin Saks, 21, a student at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, helped to save a Pittsburgh police officer from assault on Feb. 25 of this year. The 24-year-old officer was trying to apprehend a man and ended up struggling with him on the street in front of Saks's residence. Saks approached and lay on the assailant's legs to help hold him down, but the assailant fired the officer's weapon, the bullet striking Saks in the left hand. Other officers who were approaching subdued the assailant. Saks required sutures for his wound.

Patrice Bélanger, 41, a forestry technician from Rivière-Héva, Que., rescued a 2-year-old boy from a burning house in Rivière-Héva on Nov. 26, 2004. The boy was in the basement of the house after fire erupted there. Bélanger was driving past the house when he saw smoke issuing from it and, stopping, learned that the boy was inside. He entered the house three times in search of the boy but was repulsed each time by smoke. On a fourth attempt, he crawled down the basement stairs, found the boy, and exited to safety with him.

Kerry D. Reardon of St. Petersburg, Fla., saved Amar Jakupovic, 7, from drowning in Tampa Bay at Tampa, Fla., on Nov. 5, 2005. Amar was trapped in the back seat of his family's sport utility vehicle after it dropped from a highway bridge and submerged in the 15-foot-deep water. A motorist, Reardon, 43, air and hydronics technician, stopped at the scene, then dived from the bridge and located the vehicle. On a second dive, he entered the vehicle through a window, freed Amar, and took him to the surface, where a boat picked them up.

Peter Edward Alley, 46, a maintenance supervisor from Bar Harbor, Maine, saved Gary C. Alley (no relation) from a burning pickup truck in Bar Harbor on Jan. 13 of this year. Gary, 52, remained in the pickup he had been driving, after an accident in which the vehicle slid on ice, left the highway, struck a tree, and broke into flames. A motorist, Peter, stopped and tried unsuccessfully to open the driver's door. He then reached through the window and with difficulty pulled Gary from the truck as flames spread to engulf the vehicle.

Plumber **Robert Rex Miller**, 45, of Lakeside, Calif., helped to rescue Silvestre O. Garcia, 31, from a burning automobile after an interstate highway accident in San Diego, Calif., on April 29, 2005. Semiconscious, Garcia was trapped in his burning car after the six-vehicle accident. Miller, the passenger in one of the other vehicles, took a hammer to Garcia's car and broke out a window. He then leaned inside, singeing his hair and clothing, cut Garcia's safety belt, then pulled him partially out. Another man helped to remove him from the car.

On a fishing expedition at Great Slave Lake in Canada's Northwest Territories, friends **David Gregory Kays**, 43, a circuit court judge, and **Jason E. Riggs**, 33, a state trooper, both from Lebanon, Mo., saved their guide, Jonathan M. Knickle, 23, from drowning on July 29, 2005. In a remote area, Knickle entered the 41-degree lake water and began to swim after men's boat, which was adrift. He experienced difficulty in the frigid water and shouted for help. Kays and Riggs removed their outer attire, entered the water, and swam about



Elizabeth L. Darlington, right, became the third oldest female ever to be awarded the Carnegie Medal when at age 77 she helped to save her brother-in-law, William M. Koob, left, from a fire in his home on Oct. 12, 2005. Koob was the husband of Darlington's twin sister, Ann, who is holding the couple's Russian wolfhound in their Hickory, N.C., home.

120 feet to him. They grasped him and swam back to shore, albeit with difficulty as they swam against a current, swallowed water, and experienced fatigue. About 35 minutes later, fishermen in another boat located the stranded party and provided aid.

Joseph Johnson, 41, a disabled mechanic from Morgantown, Ky., saved Joshua N. Woosley, 20, from a burning pickup truck in Morgantown on March 6 of this year. Woosley, severely injured, remained in the front passenger seat of the vehicle after an accident in which it struck two trees and broke into flames at its front end. Johnson responded from a nearby house. He opened the truck's passenger door and after repeated attempts pulled Woosley from the vehicle and dragged him away. Flames soon consumed the truck.

Friends **Richard J. Gallagher**, 54, the fire commissioner of Hyannis Port, Mass., and **L. Rodger Currie**, 81, a retired dentist from Palm Beach, Fla., saved Daniel R. Adams, 43, and five others from a burning yacht in Nantucket Sound off Hyannis Port on July 12, 2005. After fire broke out below deck on the 48-foot motor yacht, Adams dropped anchor and called for help. Growing flames broke through the deck. Gallagher and Currie were approaching the scene in Currie's 24-foot sport boat when they spotted the burning vessel. They took their craft alongside the yacht and transferred its occupants. Within a short time, the yacht was engulfed by flames, and it sank later that day.

Airline pilot **Robert L. Atkinson**, 40, of Argyle, Texas, helped to rescue a 14-year-old girl from an attacking shark in the Gulf of Mexico off Miramar Beach, Fla., on

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TO THE HERO FUND

Thank you very much for the monetary award and for the beautiful medallion. Before that moment in July I had no idea that there was an organization such as yours, and I am still in shock that Jerry and I are now a part of the history of such a unique and inspiring institution. I would not hesitate to nominate someone else for your award should I ever happen to witness or have firsthand knowledge of another incident such as this.

As much as I truly appreciate the award, I am glad that I knew nothing of it before Tim got stuck on those tracks so I never have to doubt the reasons that I did what I did. I don't think it would have mattered because it seemed to be instinctive and I don't remember having the time to weigh my options.

Since neither Jerry nor I know who it was that nominated us for the award, I wonder if you could forward our sincere thanks to them. Maybe if I'm ever passing through Pittsburgh, I could stop in thank you personally.

David Bragg • Parker City, Ind.



BONDED

In the words of George E. Rodgers, right, an "unbreakable connection" was formed between him and John R. "Bobby" Lane, left, on Feb. 15, 2005, when Lane freed Rodgers from an electrical charge in Woodlawn, Va. Rodgers, then 46, was repairing an elevator in Woodlawn Elementary School, where Lane, 57, was head custodian. Electricity arced to his hands, and he was unable to free himself. Standing nearby, Lane immediately grasped Rodgers by the shoulders and pulled him away, breaking the contact but receiving an electrical shock himself. Both men recovered quickly, Rodgers's doctor telling him he had only seconds to live. Lane was presented a Carnegie Medal to a standing ovation on Aug. 10 at an in-service day for teachers and other employees of the Carroll County, Va., School District.

1918 MEDAL AWARDEE

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had received \$1,000 from the Commission as a death benefit for his son, used the grant to help purchase a house, where Proctor's mother lived until her death in 1938. His father died in 1923. Douglas R. Chambers, Director of External Affairs

CHILDREN'S CLUB FACILITY RENOVATED IN HONOR OF TOWN'S CARNEGIE HERO

It was more than 10 years ago that Jonathan Mark Lane, then a physical education teacher, saved the lives of 16 students at the school where he taught, Frontier Junior High of Moses Lake, Wash.

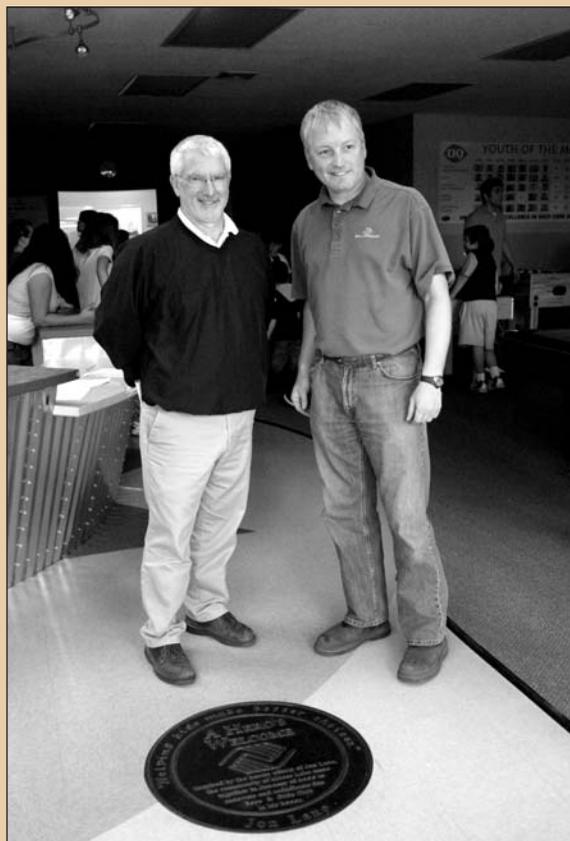
On Feb. 2, 1996, a 14-year-old student at the school, armed with a hunting rifle, had entered the students' classroom, shot three students and the teacher, and held the survivors at gunpoint. Hearing the shots, Lane, 48, responded to the room, where he secured the release of five students. He then charged the assailant and pinned him to the wall, allowing police to apprehend him. Lane was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1997 for his actions in the assault, which left his fellow teacher and two students dead.

Lane was featured on a CBS television show, "A Hero's Welcome," which aired July 4. The show's production company directed \$6,500 from the budget to be used in Lane's honor to paint the interior of the Boys and Girls Club of the Columbia Basin, which is in Moses Lake. The Boys and Girls Club of America, which celebrated its centennial this year, was created to "enable all young children to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens."

The citizens of Moses Lake had not forgotten Jon Lane. When they found out about the project, they provided additional donations to fund a wider-scale remodeling. Volunteers, including some of the students who were in the classroom in 1996, helped in the weeklong project last January. The entire facility was painted, desks and tables for the computer room were purchased, and an area was created for the kids to work on art projects. New flooring was installed, as were cubbyholes for the kids to store their belongings while at the club.

Jason McGowan, the local club's board president, said that the renovation also created a more welcoming reception area. A bronze medallion set into the floor at the entrance of the facility reads, "Inspired by the heroic efforts of Jon Lane, the community of Moses Lake came together to renovate and rededicate this Boys and Girls Club in his honor."

Although Lane, who is now in his second year as principal at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, is not actively involved with the club, he does contribute to the community by serving as a city councilman. He was feted statewide when Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire proclaimed Jan. 20, 2006, as "Jon Lane Day." Lane is a hero in his community, in his home state, and in the eyes of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. Susan L. Marcy, Case Investigator



Carnegie Medal Awardee Jon Lane, left, stands at the entrance to the Boys and Girls Club of the Columbia Basin, of Moses Lake, Wash., with club president Jason McGowan. The seal on the floor reads, "Helping Kids Make Better Choices." The facility was renovated recently in Lane's honor.

(Photo courtesy of the Columbia Basin Herald, Moses Lake.)

BEHIND THE SCENE

*Help from “the reporter in me”**By Melissa Spangler, Case Investigator • Carnegie Hero Fund Commission*

When I lost my newspaper-reporting job of almost four years after a company merger, I didn't know where life would lead me. I knew this happened for a reason, but then my career was going nowhere. Journalism was all I knew, and finding a job in that field locally is easier said than done.

Luckily, during an aggressive search for another job prior to the layoff, I came across an ad posted by the Hero Fund for an investigative position that required experience in journalism. I applied, thinking that investigating heroic acts could be very gratifying. And I was right—how many people can say they get to talk to heroes on a daily basis?

The reporter in me helps in this job. Like working in the media, knowing what questions to ask comes with experience. But this position is much different than a reporter's in covering a news story. Investigating an act of heroism requires digging deeply for pertinent facts and also for a clear understanding of the scene of the act. Further, you cannot rely on what one person says—vital information must be verified.

It's all done by telephone. As I am used to conducting interviews in person, I've found interviewing by phone something of a challenge. For this reason, I do investigations on-site whenever possible. Of the 60 cases I have investigated during my two-year tenure, six local ones were done “in the field.” The most recent of these occurred within Pittsburgh city limits, including a bricklayer's rescue of a six-year-old girl from a burning basement, and a drywall contractor's rescue of his sister's fiancé from their burning row house. In addition to meeting the rescuers and others involved, going on-site puts me at the scene of the act and helps me fit the various parts of the case together, like a puzzle.

A gratifying part of this job is presenting the hero with the award, which is often done in a local ceremony. Participating in these events gives me the chance to follow up with the rescuers and others who have assisted in the investigation. Also, the ceremonies give me a higher appreciation for my job, as seeing the faces of the rescuers and their loved ones shows that our work is respected. Likewise, I have the same respect for all the rescuers I interview, because they have this in common: They risked their lives to save another. Although we call these acts heroic, the awardees generally are humble, thinking what they did is what any person would do in the same situation. ☒

*Melissa “Missy” Spangler*

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Robert C. Clear, 82, of Vinton, Va., formerly of Edgeworth, Pa., died Aug. 7. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1980 for his actions of Nov. 7, 1979, by which he saved a coworker from electrocution. The men, both journeyman electricians, were working at a jobsite at Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, when Clear pulled his coworker from contact with an electrical cabinet that was charged with high voltage. Clear sustained minor injury but returned to work the next day.

William A. Dillon, 83, of Rome, N.Y., died Aug. 12. A native of Pittsburgh, Dillon worked for the Hero Fund after his discharge from the Army in 1945. As one of the Commission's “special agents,” he traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada to investigate acts of heroism. Before his retirement in 1985, he was director of the Jervis Public Library, Rome.

Marita M. Railsback, 81, of Cohasset, Mass., died Aug. 14. Born in Boston, she was described as “extremely ocean-oriented,” and it was in an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean that Railsback performed a heroic act in 1964 that merited her a Carnegie Medal. She entered the near-freezing water on March 2 and made her way 70 feet to a man who was drowning. With difficulty, Railsback took him back to shore, but he could not be revived. Her daughter said she didn't consider herself a hero—“She saw a person in need of help. It's what she had to do.”

Joe F. Timmons, Sr., 55, of Charlotte, N.C., died Aug. 15. Timmons was awarded the Carnegie Medal for his actions of Jan. 20, 1981, by which he saved two children from a burning house in Camden, N.J. Then a taxi driver, Timmons climbed onto the porch roof of the house and entered through a bedroom window to rescue one of the children.

Timothy J. Connolly, 65, of Pringle, Pa., and St. Petersburg, Fla., died May 26, 2002. He and his brother John A. Connolly, Jr., now deceased, were each awarded the Carnegie Medal in 1961 for their actions of March 13, 1961, by which they saved five women from a manufacturing plant explosion in Luzerne, Pa. A second explosion occurred during the rescue. The five women were burned, but they recovered.

OBITUARIES OF AWARDEES NEW ADDITION TO WEBSITE

The Hero Fund has begun posting obituaries of deceased awardees on its Website.

Commission President Mark Laskow said the obituaries, as they become available, will be a way for family members of deceased awardees to give visitors to the site an opportunity to learn about aspects of the awardees' lives in addition to their heroic acts. Awardees' involvement in civic organizations, military service, employment history, and volunteer activities are likely to be included.

Posted obituaries can be viewed by clicking on the “Obituary” button at the bottom of the page containing the summary of the awardee's heroic act. The summaries are found by using the “Search Awardees” function, which is on a pull-down menu under “Carnegie Medal Awardees” on the various pages of the site. Only when an obituary is posted will the button be displayed.

Family members of a deceased awardee, and others, are encouraged and invited to provide the Commission with obituaries. Please send them to the Hero Fund's office or email to doug@carnegiehero.org. When available, please include the name of the newspaper in which the obituary ran and the date it appeared. The Commission reserves the right to edit the obituary.

LATEST AWARDEES

(continued from page 5)

June 25, 2005. The girl was swimming when a large shark attacked her, inflicting severe wounds. Witnessing the attack from the beach, Atkinson swam out to the girl and, aided by two other men, placed her on an inflatable raft as the shark remained nearby, menacing them. The men took the raft to shore, where others from the beach helped remove it from the water. The girl could not be revived and died at the scene of her injuries. The two associated rescuers, **Jack Timothy Dicus** of Destin, Fla., and **Christopher N. White** of Lawrenceville, Ga., were recognized by the Hero Fund in May.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

HOMESTEAD TRAGEDY

One hundred years ago, a 20-year-old woman braved brutal cold and deep snow to rescue homesteading neighbors from exposure near Telma, Wash.

On the morning of Jan. 11, 1907, a two-room cedar cabin in a canyon of the Cascade Mountains caught fire, forcing its occupants, Sophie Jacques, 21, and her three children to flee. At least five feet of snow covered the ground and the air temperature was between eight and 14 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

Mother and children were scantily clad and shoeless. Jacques, carrying her youngest, began to walk toward the nearest cabin, inhabited by Marie V. B. Langdon and her husband, about three-fourths of a mile away by foot trail. Jacques urged her two other children, a four-year-old boy and two-year-old girl, to keep up with her, but the girl soon lay down in the snow and said she could go no farther. Her mother removed her own skirt and covered the girl with it.

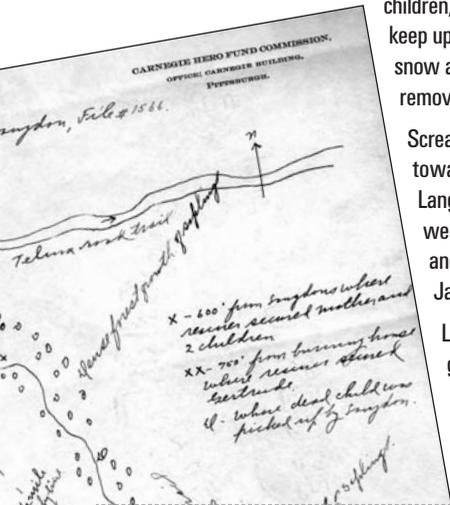
Screaming for help, Jacques resumed her march toward the Langdon cabin, her son in tow. Langdon, from inside her cabin, heard a cry and went outside to investigate. By then, Jacques and her son were 600 feet from the cabin, Jacques reduced to crawling.

Langdon—5'2" and only 103 pounds—struggled through the snow to reach Jacques and her son. She took the infant and carried her back to her cabin, with Jacques following. Langdon returned outside for Jacques's son,

who was falling asleep. Returning to the cabin, she started a fire and forced some brandy into Langdon and her son.

Having learned that Jacques's two-year-old daughter remained on the trail, Langdon went outside again and found her frozen body. Langdon struggled back toward her home, carrying the girl's body, but the exertion and frigidness were sapping her strength. She abandoned the body and continued homeward, at one point stopping to rest and catching herself falling asleep. Langdon reached her cabin and despite her shock at events and frostbite to some of her fingers, cared for Jacques and the two surviving children for three days. They were then taken by sled to Leavenworth, location of the nearest hospital, and remained there 11 days. They recovered.

For her actions, the Commission awarded Langdon a silver Carnegie Medal. Notified of same, she wrote, "It would be very gratifying to be the recipient of a Carnegie Medal although I may say it is superfluous to have anything to remind me of the few awful hours I spent." 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! **Carnegie Hero Fund Commission** 425 Sixth Avenue, Ste. 1640 • Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1823 Telephone: 412-281-1302 Toll-free: 800-447-8900 Fax: 412-281-5751 E-mail: carnegiehero@carnegiehero.org impulse@carnegiehero.org Website: www.carnegiehero.org

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