



# FORUM

## THE KOPPERS BUILDING

Autumn

2008

## Heroes walk among us

### Carnegie Hero Fund calls the Koppers Building home

At 8:15 a.m. on Jan. 25, 1904, a massive explosion occurred in a coal mine located in Harwick, Pa., 12 miles north of Pittsburgh. The dead included 121 people who were identified by name, 56 unidentified individuals and two people killed outside the mine. The youngest victim was 15 years old.

During rescue attempts, two men, including mining engineer Selwyn M. Taylor of Pittsburgh and Daniel A. Lyle of Castle Shannon, Pa., perished, bringing the total number of fatalities to 181.

Reading the story from his home in New York, Andrew Carnegie was moved, particularly by the deaths of Taylor and Lyle. He matched \$40,000 in public donations for relief efforts. He paid for gold medals to commemorate the two acts of heroism. He continued to contemplate the disaster.

Within three months, on April 15, Carnegie set aside a \$5 million grant under the care of a commission to recognize "civilization's heroes" and to offer financial assistance for people who are disabled and the dependents of individuals who are killed helping others.

One hundred and four years later, the Carnegie Hero Fund is still going strong and is relocating its headquarters to the Koppers Building. According to **Walter F. Rutkowski**, Executive Director and Secretary of the Commission, the private operating fund is essentially based on the Bible passage found in John 15:13: *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

"Andrew Carnegie founded the commission on pacifist principles," explains Walter. "He believed in the eradication of war and sought to



*The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2004 when board members gathered to mark the event.*

elevate the civilian hero with the same honor and decoration as a military hero receives."

Each Carnegie Hero Fund awardee is thoroughly investigated by **Susan L. Marcy, Marlin Ross** or **Melissa A. Spangler**, Case Investigators, under the supervision of Investigations Manager **Jeffrey A. Dooley**. A 21-member commission, each of whom serves in a volunteer capacity, reviews each case. **Mark Laskow** acts as the Commission's President. Other staff members include **Douglas R. Chambers**, Director of External Affairs, **Eileen J. White**, Financial Manager, and Administrative Assistants **Gloria A. Barber, Myrna J. Braun** and **Deonna M. Dreher**.



*The Carnegie Medal*

awarding agencies, including the American Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of America.

Since 1904, the fund has given away approximately \$31 million in the form of cash, scholarship assistance and disability grants. For every 100 nominees submitted, 11 are awarded the Carnegie Medal. Of the 11,

*continued on page 4*



*From the desk of Paul Georg*

## Spend a weekend at America's Resort

Continuing my review of wood-framed hotels of the Golden Age is the shining star — The Greenbrier, located in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, a five-hour drive from Pittsburgh.

I had heard about The Greenbrier for years, so when I arrived for my first visit, I was expecting to step into a formal, stuffy atmosphere. Instead, I received a warm handshake from the bellman who walked me to the front desk for a personal introduction to the check-in staff.



The Greenbrier is southern hospitality at its finest, including endless activities that include everything from a complete medical work up in a world-renowned facility to falconry to off-road driving.

In addition to its long list of activities and packages, The Greenbrier has defined luxury since it opened in 1778. Recent renovations keep the resort up to date on technology without comprising its old world charm.

Built on 6500 lush acres, people have visited the location for over 200 years to "take in the waters" of the ground's Sulphur springs, which many believe restores their health. In fact, during the first 125 years of its existence, The



Greenbrier was known by the name White Sulphur Springs. Today, the green dome of the white columned springhouse continues to serve as the resort's defining architectural centerpiece.

One of the resort's best-kept secrets is now its biggest calling card: "The Bunker Tour" offers a behind-the-scenes look at the Cold War era bomb shelter developed by the United States government as preparation for a nuclear attack.

Between 1959 and 1962, the classified, underground facility was built along with an above ground addition. For 30 years, The Greenbrier's owners and the federal government had a mutual understanding that the government would use the entire resort in the event of an international crisis. It would serve as the emergency headquarters for the legislative branch of Congress.

For more information about America's Resort, visit The Greenbrier's Web site at [www.greenbrier.com](http://www.greenbrier.com).

*Paul Georg*

Paul Georg  
Director of Operations  
The Koppers Building Conference Center  
[www.koppersconference.com](http://www.koppersconference.com) □

# Restaurant review Taken by Storms!



Pittsburgh's glitterati — including its mayor — are dining at Storms Restaurant located at 429 4th Avenue on the lower level of the Law & Finance Building.

The hot spot for the power lunch crowd, Storms specializes in Italian-American cuisine, including tasty favorites, such as chicken Romano; broiled Spots, English style, or stuffed with lump crabmeat; escarole and beans, and the city's thinnest, crispest fried zucchini.

Everything is made with care and the freshest ingredients, including soups and desserts. On a cold day, warm up with a cup of Storms' spicy stuffed banana pepper soup — then top off your meal with a generous portion of melt-in-your-mouth tiramisù.

Owners **Rob** and **Jennifer Storms** opened the restaurant in September 2007. Former partner and chef of *Jamie's On the Square* and *Jamie's* in Dormont, Rob, who's head chef, grew up outside New York City, where he started his career as a dishwasher at age 14.

Along the way, Rob honed his skills in local restaurants *Scoglio* and *Piccolina's*, as well as in fine-dining establishments throughout the country, including restaurants in Gettysburg, Pa., Albuquerque, N.M., and Jacksonville, Fla.



Open for lunch and dinner Monday through Friday, Storms offers live jazz twice a month on Thursdays and celebrates happy hour every Thursday, with a free buffet. The restaurant accommodates weekend private parties. Reservations for lunch and dinner are suggested.

For more information, call Storms at 412.288.4321.

RATING:

**Storms Restaurant**  
Law & Finance Building  
Lower Level  
429 4th Avenue  
412.288.4321  
Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



## Help us “go green” today

In 2009, the Koppers Building will step up its green efforts and communicate with tenants via e-mail, including distributing electronic copies of this publication. To get on our e-mailing list, please send your name and email address to **Paul Georg** at [georg@rubinoffcompany.com](mailto:georg@rubinoffcompany.com)

## Heroes walk among us continued from page 1



approximately two are honored with the medal posthumously.

"The heroic act must have occurred in the U.S. or Canada and be brought to the commission's attention within two years of the date it occurred," notes Walter. "The act must be one in which there is no full measure of responsibility between the rescuer and the rescued. In other words, a police officer who saves a life in the line of duty would not be eligible."

### **Andrew Carnegie**

As the fund was searching for new office space, they were impressed with the Koppers Building's competitive leasing rates, stateliness and maintenance. "Most impressive," says Walter, "are the building's staff members who've been friendly and accommodating."

For more information about the Carnegie Hero Fund — including inspiring profiles of awardees — **visit [www.carnegiehero.org](http://www.carnegiehero.org)**.



**The Carnegie Hero Fund staff celebrates Douglas R. Chambers' 65th birthday. Seated, Susan L. Marcy (foreground) and Myrna J. Braun, and standing, from left, Jeffrey A. Dooley, Deonna M. Dreher, Gloria A. Barber, Chambers, Marlin Ross, Eileen J. White, and Melissa A. Spangler.**

***"Life is partly what we make it,  
and partly what it is made by the  
friends we choose.***

*Tennessee Williams, playwright, 1911-1983*



*FORUM* is the newsletter of the Koppers Building Conference Center

Paul Georg, Editor

Please send all comments and/or questions to:

*FORUM*

Koppers Building

Ninth Floor, Oliver Room

436 Seventh Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Or email them to [georg@rubinoffcompany.com](mailto:georg@rubinoffcompany.com)

visit [www.koppersconference.com](http://www.koppersconference.com)

*A publication of The Rubinoff Company. Copyright 2008. All rights reserved.*