

Do Women Lack Emergency Judgment?---Question Answered



MARY GUINAN, decorated by the President for a brave railroad rescue.

BY JOHN ELLIOTT WATKINS.

DO WOMEN lack emergency judgment? In moments of sudden peril are they as cool-headed in their courage as men? A hot controversy over this question has been precipitated by the Chicago coroner's jury which, after investigating the recent Burlington railroad wreck, recommended that no more women be employed in switch towers, one having operated the tower governing the train which killed thirteen people. A sequel to the controversy has been a protest against the Federal Government's recent innovation in the matter of licensing a woman to operate the wireless telegraph aboard an ocean steamer.

The old feud of sex against sex is thus being fought from a new angle and feudists upon both sides are indulging in much speculative psychology. Inasmuch as there are several agencies now engaged upon the interesting task of skinning from the milk of human kindness the very cream of human heroism, it has occurred to your correspondent to attempt an analysis of this material, with the hope of throwing some further light upon the vexed controversy in question.

What lovely woman would do in dangerous emergencies can, of course, be judged only by what she has done when faced by sudden peril involving the safety of others. And this is not the opening wedge of a historical dissertation on the heroic accomplishments of Joan of Arc, Molly Pitcher, Grace Darling, et al. Not the women of the past, but our wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of the living present, are being examined for symptoms of cool-headed courage by the agencies referred to, whose data I have been permitted to peruse with considerable pains.

Commission Studying Heroism. Within the past seven years every known act of heroism performed within our boundaries by non-professional life-savers has been sifted to the bottom by the Carnegie hero commission, whose energies in this line are supported by the income of \$250,000.

Within the brief period mentioned this body has awarded "hero medals" and in deserving cases, grants of money or annuities to 883 people. A considerable proportion (138) of these heroes were engaged in occupations which demanded their presence at the scene of the rescue and possessed special training that gave them advantages for accomplishing these feats of heroism. When these individuals are eliminated, we have left 427 persons who merely, as casual witnesses to the peril of several days, after which they will return to the home of the groom at Bristol.

Among these 42, or about 11 per cent, are women and girls—a proportion which will be acknowledged vastly in favor of the gentler sex, when



MAUDE KING, girl heroine of Charleston harbor.

It is considered that probably a less percentage of the persons who witness the character of accidents occurring in these cases are of the gentler sex. Most of these catastrophes have occurred on the water, on railroad tracks or in industrial plants utilizing poisonous fumes, or dangerous electric currents—phenomena which are in a very small minority. Upon the water, perhaps, women would be found in greater proportion than in the other places named, but in a country of all the size of this, it is highly probable that the proportion of women would be considerably less than this ratio of 11 per cent. So, when all is said, our women, considering their opportunities for heroism, are fully holding their own.

As a matter of fact 30 per cent of these heroines risked their lives to struggle with full-grown men, in some cases older than themselves, or able-bodied boys of about their own age.

Emergency Judgment Compared. Getting nearer to the main point of issue—emergency judgment—as we attack the hero commission's data from another angle, its reports show that 27 per cent of its heroines, failed in their brave attempts to rescue.

If these heroines have any weight at all, they point to greater emergency judgment on the part of the men, for it cannot be denied that power and success in such heroic work would follow power rather than better judgment.

Our forty-two heroines upon this roll of honor range in age from nine to sixty-six years. From black to white, they have received their medals and grants of money for risking their lives to save others from drowning, fire, railroad accidents, runaway horses, snakebites, freezing, electric shock, murder and suicide. All of these acts of heroism have been performed since April 15, 1904, and more than half of them have been in the aid of drowning persons. The next greatest numbers have been performed in the rescue of victims of fire and railroad accidents.

Emergency judgment was displayed in the rescue of both the oldest and youngest heroines on the list. The former, who is Sarah Hutchins Killikelly, the author, was in her sixty-ninth year when, lately she saved her maid from fire in her Pittsburgh home.

Our youngest heroine on the list is Marie Young Trevor, who, at the age of nine, jumped from a bridge recently



MARY E. WALKER, only woman recipient of United States medal of honor.

ly at Marlon, Ill., and saved a boy from drowning. This little girl risked her life although she could not swim, but after reaching the uncertain current, which was deep and swift, she exercised coolness, instead of giving way to fright. After grasping the boy, who was a lad near her own age, she caught hold of the bridge structure, and with her charge, worked her way toward the bank.

And here follows some brief accounts of rescues by typical heroines, whose names have lately been added to this roll of honor:

At North Beach, N. Y., Mrs. Rosa P. Schaller swam out 100 feet into Long Island Sound to rescue a drowning man, during a struggle in which the latter endeavored to deathlock her rescuer. Mrs. Schaller knocked her unconscious and then supported her in the water until assistance arrived.

Crouching down between two trains only a yard apart, Mrs. Della R. Powers similarly rescued a child of three years, at Rockdale, Ill. The train was already on one track, when Mrs. Powers saw the child on the adjoining track upon which a train was rapidly approaching. Just as the onrushing engine was about to crush the little one, this brave woman bent forward and rolled him beyond the rail, neither of them being hurt by the train.

Courage of a Trained Nurse. With equal coolness a trained nurse, Miss Mary R. Brown, of Washington, D. C., saved the lives of the family of a delirious typhoid patient armed with a revolver. Although she had been courtly and through the breast, this heroine grasped the temporary intruder from behind as he started for his family, in another room, and, after a desperate struggle, secured the weapon. Miss Brown died seventeen days after being shot, and in addition to conferring a posthumous medal upon her, the commission has granted her mother an annuity of \$50 a month for life.

Despite the torture of a rib broken during her struggles to rescue them, Mrs. Lulu J. Small, wife of a florist, of New York and Washington, saved two women in the ocean at Sea Gate, N. Y., after a remarkable display of coolness and determination. After having been deathlocked and dragged to the bottom by one woman, Mrs. Small overcame her and with holding on to the other hand swim with one hand, to the top of the water, at the same time pushing to safety the other woman, who managed to float. Later Mrs. Small lay in a hospital several months recovering from her injuries.

Rescues of Men by Girls. Rescues of grown men by young girls, forming the commission's catalogue of heroism and throw some light



IDA LEWIS, the famous Newport Lighthouse keeper.

on treacherously thin ice and pulled him out with a short pole.

Contrasts of Courage. Many sharp contrasts stripe these records of woman's heroism. Thus we find Mrs. Sadie Crabbe, a white woman, of Avalon, Va., losing her life by breaking through treacherous ice in an attempt to rescue a colored boy, and Mrs. Martha General, a colored woman, risking her life at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., to save a white lad. In the latter case, the lad had taken hold of a live electric wire carrying 2,200 volts, and Mrs. General, seeing him jerk convulsively while unable to let go, seized him by the neck and received a shock which paralyzed her arm.

Next she appealed to bystanders for aid, but as none responded she grasped the lad again and succeeded in pulling him free from the wire and saving his life, her hand being disabled for a week afterward. The commission has put her on a life pension of \$25 a month in addition to conferring upon her a hero medal.

The national government has been conferring hero medals upon civilians since the centennial year 1876, but until a few years ago they were given only for life-saving upon Federal waters. Inasmuch as the possible area of such acts has thus been limited, and as a greater proportion of the heroes thus honored have been members of life-saving crews, policemen or other men specially trained for rescue work, it is a significant fact that fourteen women and girls have been given this coveted medal.

A Heroine of Ten Years. The youngest heroine on Uncle Sam's official list is Marie D. Parsons, of Fireplace, L. I. While on shore near that village she saw another girl pushed from a boat by the jolting of the soil and witnessed the struggle which ensued, when the latter's father jumped overboard to rescue her. While the victim clung to her father's arms, thus rendering him helpless as the yacht drifted farther and farther away, little Marie, instead of running for help, launched a nearby skiff and rowed it a quarter mile, saving both father and daughter just as they were going under the last time.

A similar act of heroism, rewarded by a government medal, was that of Maude King, the thirteen-year-old granddaughter of the master of a lighthouse tender, in Charleston harbor, S. C. While in the lighthouse station during a heavy squall, this child heard a cry from the water and discovered out at sea an upturned yawl, beside which four men struggled in the waves, rushing to the davits, Maude lowered a boat and while her mother cried for her to desist put out for the rescue. A brave young aunt jumped in with her at the last moment, and the two girls, after a desperate pull, picked up the scattered men, barely in time.



IDA LEWIS, the famous Newport Lighthouse keeper.

Still another little girl heroine given a government medal was Mary McCann, an Irish immigrant of fifteen, who, while convalescing from measles and scarlet fever at the hospital on North Brothers Island, N. Y., heard the shrieks of the victims of the burning excursion steamer General Slocum, and without thought of her illness or fear of the strong tide plunged five times under the burning ship and rescued three children. After being helped back to the hospital by a nurse, she contracted diphtheria, and on recovering from this illness completed a course in professional nursing.

Courage Man Can't Criticize. For rescuing men the government has conferred the marine life-saving medal on five other women and girls besides Maude King. These are Edith Morgan, of Hamlin, Mich., who saved two fishermen whose boat had capsized in Lake Michigan, and who during a blinding snow-storm later, at the same point, rescued a man from the shore to the crew of the wrecked steamer City of Toledo, thereby helping to rescue all on board, Mabel Mason, who risked her life to rescue a man thrown from his boat, into the Detroit River by the swash of a passing steamer, Mrs. Martha White, who at the imminent peril of her life, plunged into the icy breakers of the Pacific Ocean and rescued three sailors from a bark wrecked off the coast of Washington, Steffie Bartholomew, of Occidental, Cal., who upon seeing a man sink for the third time while swimming across the Russian River plunged in and saved him, and Mrs. Ida Lewis, of Newport, R. I., who at various times rescued thirteen men.

The last named, better known to our generation as Ida Lewis, was the daughter of the keeper of Lime Rock Lighthouse, Newport harbor, and by early youth became a skilled swimmer and oarsman. When eighteen she rescued a man from a boat which had capsized, and at subsequent dates she has saved nine other men, including two soldiers, who broke through the harbor ice. Her father having become a paralytic, she was appointed to succeed him, and after serving as lighthouse keeper for over forty years, she died quite recently.

Many Honors for Bravery. At the Newport custom house, in the presence of hundreds of people, General Grant formally presented her with a ribbon as a gift from the people of Newport, and for the craft James Fleck, Jr., built her a handsome boat-house. She received medals from six different governments and associations, also some handsome testimonials in silver and gold. Four years ago the Cross of Honor announced that in her estimation she had rendered more valiant service in saving life than any other American of her sex.

In the last few years the Federal



MAUDE KING, girl heroine of Charleston harbor.

government has established a new hero medal to be conferred by the President on persons making heroic rescues on railroads engaged in interstate commerce. This, like the marine hero medal, would appear to be only within the reach of men. So it is quite significant that out of the thirteen persons who have received it to date, two (15 per cent) are of the fairer sex. The first of these to receive it was Miss Mary Guinan, of Middletown, N. Y., who recently jumped into the narrow clearance between two railroad tracks and saved the life of a tottering old man, whom she held in safety while two trains, going in opposite directions, whizzed past them simultaneously.

Railway Life-Saver of Sixteen. A girl of sixteen, Nettie Caskey, of Fairmont, Ind., was the other heroine receiving this prized decoration, which President Taft conferred upon her last Christmas Eve. While a child of three she was toddling upon the track in front of a fast train, this girl rushed in front of the engine, seized the youngster, and holding it in her arms, rolled with it down an embankment out of danger.

The most generally coveted decoration conferred by our government is the military medal of honor, given only in reward for distinguished conduct in war. One American woman has received this, and she still lives among us, although a severe illness nearly claimed her last spring. This is the celebrated Dr. Mary Walker, who when the Civil War broke out, left her practice at Oswego, N. Y., to earn an assistant surgeon's commission in the Union Army, to whose wounded she ministered upon the firing line, while shot and shell were flying thick and fast about her. In addition to these risks she suffered as a prisoner of war in a Confederate prison, and at one time, while mounted on her horse, she craftily outwitted a guerrilla leader in order to pass on to the Union lines, to reach a Southern family needing medical attention. During these services she found trousers more convenient than skirts, and since the war, as is generally known, she has persisted in wearing full masculine attire. Recently she has given to the writer the accompanying photograph, showing her in the costume which she wore during the war.

If the emergency judgment displayed by such women as these does not satisfy those who would eliminate women from switch towers along railroads, they might journey to Dubuque and there view the memorial fountain erected in honor of Kate Shelly, an Iowa farmer's daughter, who bravely saved a railroad train from destruction in the days before the railway medal of honor was conferred on our heroines. (Copyright, 1912, by John Elliott Watkins.)

ASHEVILLE

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Asheville, N. C., August 24.—Miss Mildred Carter entertained a number of friends Tuesday afternoon at her home on North French Broad Avenue, in honor of Miss Mary de Sausure, of Charleston, and Miss Virginia Peole, of Union, S. C. The home of Miss Carter was tastefully decorated for the occasion, refreshments were served and the affair proved a most delightful one.

An interesting wedding was that of Miss Ruth Hendricks and Rev. Charles Hawk, which was solemnized Tuesday morning, by Rev. John C. Hawk, a brother of the groom. The wedding was witnessed by a few of the friends and relatives of the contracting parties, and after the ceremony, Rev. and Mrs. Hawk left for a Northern tour of several days, after which they will return to the home of the groom at Bristol.

Mrs. Willis Collins entertained a number of friends Tuesday afternoon at her home on Montford Avenue. The party was an informal one and proved a very enjoyable event.

One of the most enjoyable affairs of the season was the Leap Year dance which was given by a number of the young women of the Asheville Country Club Saturday morning, in honor of some of the Asheville young men. The hop was held in the clubhouse, and at the conclusion of the dancing, refreshments were served on the veranda of the clubhouse. Mrs. Richmond Pea-

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son chaperoned, and punch was served by Mrs. Henry Phipps, of Charleston, and Mrs. D. W. Waddell, Jr.

Miss Caroline Reynolds entertained at a picnic Friday evening. The guests of Miss Reynolds gathered at her home and were driven to the summit of Sunset Mountain, where a delightful dinner was served and a couple of hours were spent very pleasantly.

In honor of Miss Eloise Beck, of Monticello, who is visiting here, Miss Genevieve Theobald entertained a number of the girls of the younger set at a very enjoyable and happy party Wednesday afternoon. The house was tastefully decorated with cut-flowers and potted plants, and at the conclusion of the playing, refreshments were served.

Miss Sarah Leish and Carrington Jordan returned this week from Newport, where they have been camping this summer with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kelly, of Richmond.

Miss Irene Thornton and Miss Evelyn Lovelace, of Rodden, are visiting Mrs. Charles Lacy.

Miss Oley Cunningham, of Durham, N. C., spent last Thursday and Friday with Miss Emma Edmunds.

Mrs. Lou Banister, who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. David Webb, left here Tuesday for her home in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was accompanied as far as Lynchburg by Mr. Webb.

Miss Phoebe Edmunds, of Lynchburg, has been visiting Miss Florence Easley for a few days.

Miss Laura Noel, of Danville, and Miss Josephine Thornhill, of Lynchburg, who have been the guests of Miss Emma Edmunds, have returned home.

Mrs. R. Holt Easley left for Washington, D. C., last Saturday.

The Misses Katharine Lawson and Louisa Traynham, of South Boston, and Mrs. Craddock, of Cluster Springs, are the guests of Mrs. Granville Craddock.

James Peole and four children, of Greensboro, N. C., have also been visiting Mrs. Craddock.

Miss Patty Johnson has returned from Creole, where she was the guest of Miss Lila Luck.

The Misses Margaret Edmunds and Frances Jordan are at home again, after their visit to Miss Ruth Anderson, of Lexington.

Robert and Page Nelson, of "Hantsville," of Southburg, are the guests of Lorin Carrington.

Mrs. Robert Watkins and Mrs. Philip Lipscomb are visiting Mrs. W. P. de Sausure, of New York.

HOUSTON

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Houston, Va., August 24.—Mrs. Henry Sackett and little son, of Lynchburg, are visiting Mrs. Paul Edmunds.

Mrs. John Reilly has returned from a visit to her home in Richmond, where she was the guest of Mrs. Charles Hutcherson.

Last Thursday night a delightful dance was given by Mrs. Paul Edmunds to her nephew, Paul Edmunds, and other members of the younger set.

Lorin Carrington has returned from his recent visit to the Messrs. Nelson, of "Bannister Lodge," Scottsburg, and the house party given by Mrs. C. H. Wimbush of Cluster Springs.

Mr. Benjamin Rose, of Richmond, has been spending a few days in town. Howerton Kasey, of South Boston, spent Sunday with Mrs. L. P. Kasey.

Miss Grace Edmunds returned Tuesday from Williamsburg.

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Prominent in U. D. C. Work



MRS. J. M. WILLIAMS.

Rocky Mount, Va., August 21.—Mrs. J. M. Williams, of Rocky Mount, is prominent in U. D. C. work and in church and social circles. She is the wife of Dr. J. M. Williams, and before her marriage was Miss Lullie Scott, daughter of Captain Robert E. Scott, one of the early settlers of Rocky Mount, and for thirty years clerk of the county court.

Mrs. Williams is a woman of bright mind and gracious manner, and a graceful, pleasing speaker. She is serving her second term as president of the Jubal A. Early Chapter, U. D. C., and for years has been chairman of Scott Memorial Church, which was named for her father, who with his wife, founded the first Sunday school

ONANCOCK

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Onancock, Va., August 24.—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hopkins left Monday for a two weeks' sojourn at Atlantic City.

Miss E. Virginia Hopkins returned Tuesday from Martinsville, accompanied by her mother, Mr. and Mrs. Sadie Mullin. She also has as her guest, Miss Bigelow, of Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Emerson, of Norfolk, were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Leatherberry.

Miss S. A. Langsdale and Miss Margaret N. Groton left for Orkney Springs Wednesday.

Mrs. Dorothy Bratten came home from Snow Hill Monday, bringing with her Miss Edna Jones, Miss Anna Dalby, of Norfolk, is also a visitor at the Bratten home.

Mr. Drummond Parkes is back from Virginia Beach and Ocean View. Miss Catherine A. Parker is spending two weeks with her cousins, the Misses Bishop, of Snow Hill.

Miss Lois M. Bunkoff, of Nelsonia, is with Miss Nannie Watson.

Miss Virginia Watson is visiting the family of George Mear, at Craddockville.

Miss Blanche N. Joyes is home from Baltimore, where she took a course in teaching methods at the Johns Hopkins University.

Little Miss Mary Douglas Wilkins is with her aunt, Mrs. Joseph L. Cahall, of Onancock, Del.

Arthur B. Parker is at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Parker. From here he will go to Chicago, having accepted a position there.

Miss Eva Townsend, after a visit to her sister, Miss Mary Townsend, has returned to Snow Hill.

Rev. Curtis Fletcher, of Temple, Tex.; Mallory Fletcher, of Miss Lella Martin, of Hackettsville, N. J., who have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. E. Fletcher, have one to their respective homes.

Mrs. H. L. Shield and Mrs. B. M. Curtis are home from a two weeks' stay at Massanutta Springs.

Misses Grace and Hyla Bagley, of Danville, are with Misses Miriam and Sarah N. DeLoach, of Onancock.

Miss Dorothy E. Wise has as her guest, her roommate at Hollins College, Miss Julia Blanka, of Clarksville.

Misses Hamie and Pearl McMath are at Atlantic City.

Rev. and Mrs. Charles Friend, of Hillsboro, are with former parishioners, James C. Daughtry, who went to New York for a special course in medicine, is home. He had as his guest a classmate, Dr. H. H. Raleigh, N. C., for several days this week.

Dr. H. Spencer Pitts, of St. Joseph, Mo., arrived Wednesday for his annual visit to relatives here.

E. O. F. Curtis is back from Baltimore.

Miss Elizabeth A. Titlow is home from a two months' stay with relatives in Pennsylvania.

L. W. Groton, of Newport News, was the week-end guest of his sister, Miss Margaret N. Groton.

Mrs. W. T. Wise and Miss Elizabeth H. Wise are sojourning at Cape Henry, where they are attending the Virginia Theological Seminary, at the rectory.

Miss Sadie E. Parker left Thursday

WELDON

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Weldon, N. C., August 24.—Ida Wilkins is visiting relatives in Norfolk.

Miss Louise Young, of Dun, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Lillie Gay Shaw.

Mrs. C. P. Bounds and children are visiting in Rocky Mount.

Misses May Cheek and Little Taylor returned home from a visit to Ocean View.

Miss Frances Llewellyn, of Hampton, Va., is visiting Mrs. A. M. Inge.

Miss Mary Blanche, of London, Bridge, Va., who has been the guest of Miss Mary Blinford Sledge, has returned home.

Misses Tona Harris, of Louisaburg, and Mita Gully, of Rocky Mount, are the guests of Miss May Cheek.

Misses Blanche and Gladys Bullock, of Richmond, are the guests of Mrs. W. W. Junkin.

Mrs. J. W. Sledge and two children are visiting relatives in Norfolk.

Invitations have been issued for the wedding of Miss Mary Virginia Hale and John W. House at Halifax on September 4, in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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