Canadian Examples of Heroism

THE MOUNTBATTEN MEDAL

The Mountbatten Medal was instituted in 1951 by the Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth and named after the Society's then Grand President, The Earl Mountbatten of Burma. The Mountbatten Medal is given annually for the most gallant rescue or rescue attempt undertaken throughout the Commonwealth by the holder of a Royal Life Saving Society Award.

LYNDA RUTH DANN
of Vulcan, Alberta, Canada
1964

On the afternoon of July 26, 1964, a 12 year old boy and a 10 year old girl were wadding in Racehorse Creek, Alberta, and suddenly slipped into deep water. The boy's father, a non-swimmer, went to their assistance and was able to push the boy towards a bystander by whom he was pulled to safety. The father and the girl disappeared below the surface of the water.

Lynda Dann, aged 15, who had been called to the scene, removed her shoes and swam out into the river. At a point indicated from the shore she dived, and after two attempts, found the girl floating unconscious a foot or so below the surface. After towing her about then yards to the shore Lynda handed the girl over to a man, who successfully applied artificial respiration, and returned to search for the boy's father.

The search was made difficult by a strong current, and there was a risk of her being swept into a nearby whirlpool formed by the junction of Racehorse Creek and Vicary Creek. After searching for approximately 45 minutes in the cold water, which might have induced a cramp, Lynda recovered the dead body of the man from a depth of eight feet of water.

Lynda Dann gained her Bronze Medallion on July 27th, 1963, exactly a year before the accident, as a member of the Vulcan Lions Club. From the report she appears to have been the only one of some thirty people present who was capable of going to the assistance of the man and girl in deep water.

"Whomsoever you see in distress, recognize in him a fellow man." **Lifesaving Society Motto**