

Vegans Seek Hero Medal For O. Cowan

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A Carnegie hero's medal for a real hero is the plan of Las Vegas residents who have started a movement to secure recognition for the thrilling life-saving job done by Oliver Cowan, high scaler on the Boulder canyon project, two days ago when he literally plucked E. B. Rutledge, scaler inspector, from the jaws of death as he hurtled through the air toward the bottom of the canyon, 600 feet below.

While the definite procedure through which an application for the medal must go is not clear, as yet, there are several Las Vegas residents who are determined that Cowan's feat shall be brought to the attention of the foundation and his bravery rewarded.

To be eligible for the life-saving medal a man must risk his own life to save that of another, and local residents are convinced that Cowan not only risked his own life but did it with no hesitation whatever and kept his head while doing it.

The story of the rescue is one of the most thrilling that has been told in the series of life-saving acts performed on the project. Cowan, who was working on the face of the cliffs, scaling down the canyon walls, happened to see Rutledge start falling toward his death nearly 1,000 feet below the spot from which Rutledge fell, and without hesitation made up his mind what to do and did it.

Seeing that Rutledge would fall beyond his reach, Cowan, with the timing and precision of a high trapeze performer, swung himself out from the face of the cliff and, dangling there for a split second on the hempend strand that protected his own life, grabbed the falling man by a leg and held on.

That daring bit of bravery saved one man's life and turned another Boulder dam worker into a hero. Las Vegas residents are determined that Cowan shall not go unrewarded.