

## HAROLD EARL YOUNG

Harold Young was born in Portsmouth, Ohio, in 1901 and lived close to the Ohio River. As a young man of 16 and 17 he was a strong swimmer who could swim across the Ohio and back. This was no small feat. On three different occasions he saved someone from drowning. The Portsmouth Daily Times recorded these feats of bravery.

First, on August 11, 1916, Young, 15, was swimming with friends including Russell Soles, 16. Young had left the party to swim in the river. The lad had crossed the river which is an unusual feat by the best of swimmers and was on his way back when he heard the cries of distress of his companion, Russell Soles. At the time of the first cry, Harold had reached the swiftest part of the river channel. He doubled his efforts and swam straight for the drowning lad. The boy disappeared with a strangling cry. A moment or two later his head came up and he shouted again. Just as the boy was disappearing a second time, Young plunged under the surface and came up holding the drowning boy's head above the water. After getting Soles out to the bank the boys rolled him until he was revived.

A second Portsmouth Daily Times article on June 17, 1917, states, Alvin Hardin was swimming Sunday afternoon and was making the return trip from the Kentucky shore when he took a severe cramp and would have drowned had he not been heroically rescued by his companion, Harold Young, 16, as he was going down a third time. Young got Hardin near the shore when Thomas Pleasants came to the rescue of both, as Young himself was nearly exhausted. Young is the chap who last year rescued Russell Soles from drowning in about the same place.

Finally, on August 25, 1918, The Times led the article with HAROLD YOUNG REAL HERO: RESCUES FOUR COMPANIONS. It goes on to say, "Clifford Bear gave out while swimming in deep water and Young quickly realized his danger and swam out to him and then swam to shore with him. Melvin Huffman then gave out from sheer excitement and after going down once was rescued by Young who remained cool under most extraordinary circumstances. After these two boys were rescued, Elmer Dolmatch lost his strength and he, too, was going down the second time when rescued by Young, whose strength did not fail him despite the fact the Dolmatch kicked him in the stomach while he was being taken to shore. Young then started after Russell Soles who became excited and could not swim any further...a boat assisted Young and Soles to shore.

Persons who witnessed Young's remarkable feat claim that he is entitled to a Carnegie Medal.

When Harold was older, he married Gladys Marie Clark and moved to Lucasville. He was the Stationary Engineer for Valley Local Schools for forty years from 1932 to 1972.

The couple reared ten children. Five of these children became educators, Bessie, Betty, Loretta, Margaret, and James. James became a most beloved Superintendent of Schools and is a legend as well.

Harold bought two historic homes on the corner of US 23 and Scioto Street. One home had been the John Lucas tavern originally and updated over the years. The second was the home of Mary Belnap Moulton and her son Chandler. This was the Young home. There was a lot next to this house that Harold gardened raising vegetables and flowers.

