

TALES OF THE RIVERMAN 109 St Bernard's



This is a different tale than usual. It should be read in conjunction with the following short film. Hope you enjoy.

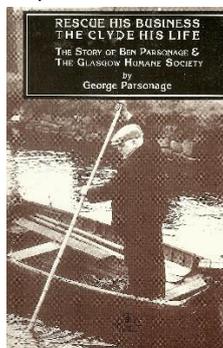
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A couple of months ago I was staggering about as I am prone to do now, trying to sweep the leaves etc away from the front drive of the house.

Some school children were passing and of course I got the usual question “Do you live here mister?”



But then they started to ask questions about the Humane Society, and the lifesaving work, really intelligent questions. A teacher ran up and said “Sorry about this sir, I hope they are not annoying you”. “Oh no” I said, and informed that that they were asking really intelligent and relevant questions that I was quite happy to answer. The children were so nice, polite and so keen to learn that I asked them to wait a minute, while I went into the house and got a copy of the book I had written about my father “Rescue his business, the Clyde his life”. I signed the book to the school and gave it to them for their library. Away they went, happily down the road, with the occasional wave back.



A few weeks later I received a phone call saying that the youngsters were doing film making in the month of June before they left Primary

School, and they had been so taken with my speaking to them and giving them the book, which many of them had read, they wondered if I would allow them to interview me on film. Always willing to help, I agreed. The youngsters drew up a series of questions which they sent to me. Great questions. They arrived at the house with a battery of cameras. Very professional. I sat just outside the gate and although I roughly knew the questions that I would be asked, it was really off the cuff. Cameras at different angles, no retakes, no time wasted. I gave permission for them to use any still photos that were on my Facebook or web site, and if you view the film, you will see that they did their homework. A few days ago, Mr Burns picked me up and I was taken to the school to view the finished film. After tea and biscuits with the head teachers, I was taken to the assembly hall where there were a couple of hundred children sitting. When I entered the hall, I received a standing ovation. I viewed the film which was excellent. Then there was a question-and-answer session which again showed how well disciplined, polite and educated these youngsters are.



The session ended with three cheers and a presentation to me of a framed certificate, and a cake in the shape of a lifebelt complete with gold rope around it and my name on it. The cake was and is a real work of art (I don't want to cut it).



These children have shown that there is hope for the world. Intelligent, hard working, thoughtful. And kind to an old man.