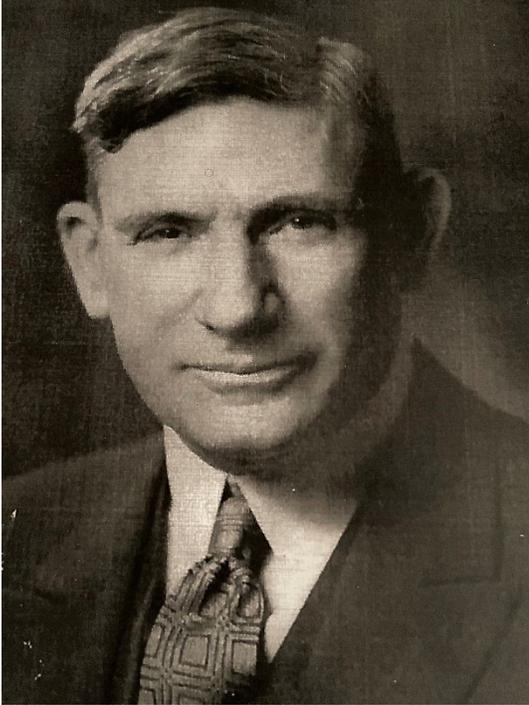


William F. Carey



William F. Carey rose from being a poor boy in Hoosick Falls to become a millionaire and industrial leader in the United States and throughout the world. Born the son of William and Catherine Ryan Carey on September 14, 1878, the Careys lived on River Road where his father was a stone mason and raised pigs.

Carey's work building the original electric car tracks to Bennington when he was 16 is believed to have inspired his interest in railroad construction. In 1894, with little money in his pocket, Carey left for Colorado to become a mule skinner in railroad construction camps. He was earning thirty cents per hour when he met Ocean K. Dailey, a college professor from Nebraska. They were married on October 29, 1904.

Six weeks later, they left for the Panama Canal Zone where Carey was a general superintendent while his wife became a teacher in the first American School in the Canal Zone. In 1906, the Careys returned to the United States where he went into business as a railroad contractor. He started building sections of track linking Northwestern United States with Canada. Although he never received an engineering degree, Carey led a company that ran railroad and bridge construction projects throughout the country. He turned to canals as well as other construction projects.

During the Great Depression, Carey turned to strip coal mining in Pennsylvania and recouped resources left in the area. By now he had become well known among the most influential men of the country. One of these men was Tex Rickard, the famed sports promoter. They worked together to construct a new Madison Square Garden in New York City. Carey's construction company also built the Boston Gardens

On May 27, 1936, Mayor Fiorella H. LaGuardia of New York City appointed William F. Carey Commissioner of Sanitation for the City of New York, a position he held for 10 years. He was promised a free hand to reorganize the department, and he had many disagreements with various civic and community groups but still accomplished his mission by boosting the morale of the workers and developing enhanced street cleaning procedures.

Mr. Carey was director and head of many several corporations during his lifetime. He died on his ranch in Indio, California on February 23, 1951.