

Trainman Saves Baby

A remarkable story of courage by a trainman was reported by newspapers across the country in May 1998.

A train was rolling down the rails of Lafayette, Indiana, at 24 miles-per-hour. Suddenly, the conductor, Robert Mohr, spotted an object on the tracks roughly a city block away.

Initially, the engineer, Rod Lindley, thought it was a dog on the tracks. When the whistle sounded, the blonde toddler sat up and Mohr screamed, "That's a baby!"

The baby was Emily Marshall, a 19-month-old child who had wandered away from home while her mother planted flowers in her yard.

Lindley hit the brakes on the train. Mohr bolted out the door and raced along a catwalk to the front of the engine. Realizing there was no time to jump ahead of the train and grab the baby, he ran down some steps, squatted at the bottom of the grill of the engine, and hung on.

As the train drew close to Emily, Mohr stretched out his leg and pushed her out of harm's way. Mohr then jumped off the train, picked up the little girl, and cradled her in his arms.

Little Emily ended up with just a cut on her head and a swollen lip.



"I don't even remember going out the door and down the steps," Mohr said. "I don't even remember the engineer blowing the whistle. Everything was on that baby."

Mohr, a Vietnam veteran who has four children of his own, said the little girl clung to his shirt when paramedics tried to take her away.

What Mohr did was an amazing demonstration of discipline and rescue that saved the life of a child.

What associates in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home do every day may not be as dramatic as snatching someone from certain death from the front of a train engine.

But they nevertheless are involved in lifesaving and life-preserving deeds for men and women who find themselves in perilous situations. Their rescue requires skill and discipline.

– Beecher Hunter