

Biography of Dr. Dennis P. McIlnay

Dennis P. McIlnay is the author of five books, two on charitable foundations and three regional history books on Pennsylvania. His books on foundations are *Foundations and Higher Education: Dollars, Donors, and Scholars* (Kurian Publishing, 1991) and *How Foundations Work: What Every Grantseeker Needs to Know about the Many Faces of Foundations* (Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1998). His three regional history books are *Juniata, River of Sorrows: One Man's Journey into a River's Tragic Past* (Seven Oaks Press, 2003); *The Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in the Railroad City* (Seven Oaks Press, 2008); and *The Wreck of the Red Arrow: An American Train Tragedy* (Seven Oaks Press, 2010).

Juniata, River of Sorrows is a history of the Juniata River in central Pennsylvania in the 1600s and 1700s and a documentary of McIlnay's 15-day float trip down the 100-mile river. *The Horseshoe Curve* tells the story of the Nazi plot to destroy the Horseshoe Curve rail site near Altoona, Pennsylvania in 1942, a sabotage raid considered one of the first terrorist plots against the United States. *The Horseshoe Curve* won the Gold Medal as Best Regional Book in the Mid-Atlantic from the Independent Publishers Association of America. *The Wreck of the Red Arrow* tells the story of the worst passenger train wreck in the history of the Pennsylvania Railroad and one of the worst train wrecks in American history. In the accident on February 18, 1947, 24 people were killed and 140 injured, many grotesquely. *The Wreck of the Red Arrow* won the Silver Medal as Best Transportation Book in the United States from the Independent Publishers Association of America.

McIlnay is Professor Emeritus of Management at Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania where he held a joint, tenured appointment in the School of Business undergraduate Business Administration Department and the Master's Program in Business Administration. McIlnay retired from Saint Francis University in December 2009. At the University, McIlnay received the Distinguished Professor Award from the Alumni Association, the Distinguished Professor Award from the Honors Society, and the Outstanding Educator Award from the student body. He also received the Salute to Teaching Award from the Pennsylvania Academy for the Profession of Teaching.

Before joining the Saint Francis faculty in 1987, McIlnay served as Chief Development Officer at Seton Hall University near Manhattan where he was responsible for all public and private gifts and grants to the University. He also served as Dean of College Relations at Mount Aloysius College, Director of Community Service at Westmoreland Community College, and Assistant to the Director of the Westmoreland Conference for Economic Opportunity.

McIlnay was inducted into the United States Army in 1970 and served as a Legal Clerk in Schweinfurt, Germany. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

McIlnay holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English (1970) from Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, a Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration (1982) from The Pennsylvania State University, and a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration (1987) from Seton Hall University. His dissertation, *Foundations and Higher Education*, was nominated by Seton Hall for the Grenzsbach National Dissertation Award in philanthropy.

McIlnay lives with his wife Kathy in Hollidaysburg near Altoona and is President of Seven Oaks Press, a regional publishing company.