



AN UNSINKABLE HERO

by Dennis Denenberg



Can a hero also be a celebrity, and vice versa? Well, this month's mystery hero easily fits in both categories. The *Titanic* made this month's person an instant hero who became a celebrity of her times—and today, her heroic deed has made her story the subject of books, a Broadway show, and movies. So modern-day celebrities are playing the part of her all the time!

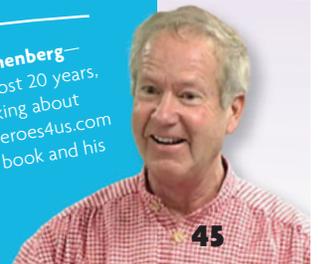
Born in Missouri, our hero went to grammar school but also worked to help the family. As a teenager, she stripped tobacco leaves from their stalks—a very dirty job. When she was 18, she moved to Leadville, Colorado.

Her difficult childhood years had made her determined to marry a wealthy man. Love won out, however, and she married a poor man. But guess what? Her husband, James Joseph Brown, struck it rich by inventing a way to prevent mine cave-ins, for which he was awarded a share in a successful mine. Wealth enabled our hero to pursue charitable causes important to her.

In 1912, she booked passage on the *Titanic*. On that dreadful April night, circumstances turned her into a hero as she helped women and children get into lifeboats until she was told she had to leave the ship. Her knowledge of other languages enabled her to guide non-English-speaking passengers to safety. She organized the women in lifeboat 6 to row together and supposedly tried to return to look for survivors once the *Titanic* sank.

Her actions that night were considered so heroic that, 20 years later in 1932, the French bestowed on her the Legion of Honor—the country's highest award. She was dubbed “unsinkable,” and so that is how we know this month's mystery hero today: “The Unsinkable _____.” Answer on page 48.

“Dr. D.”—also known as **Dr. Dennis Denenberg**—loves history and real heroes. For almost 20 years, he's been writing, teaching, and speaking about heroes all over America. Visit www.heroes4us.com to learn all about his award-winning book and his Hero-Virtue trading cards.



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