



CASCADE REGIONAL BLOOD SERVICES
1-877-24BLOOD



Tacoma-Pierce County Blood Bank

220 South "I" Street
Tacoma, WA 98405

**Dedicated
February 6, 1970**



Blood Bank History



Tacoma-Pierce County Blood Bank



Blood Bank History





Blood Bank History

*Since the writing of this article on January 5, 1968, a transfer of property was effected between the Tacoma General Hospital and the Tacoma-Pierce County Blood Bank, and the new Blood Bank was subsequently erected at 220 South I.

Blood Bank History



Tacoma-Pierce County Blood Bank

Board of Trustees

HAROLD J. DAVELAAR, Chairman

CHARLES P. LARSON, M.D., Vice Chairman

L.H. PEDERSEN, Treasurer

H.S. McILVAIGH

RAY L. RICH

EUGENE W. HANBSON, M.D.

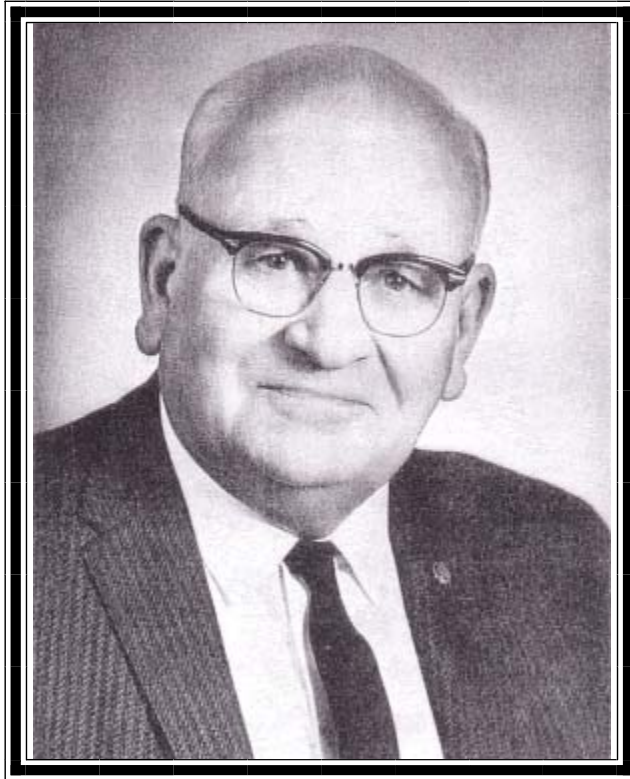
F.J. SCHWIND, M.D.

M.J. WICKS, Director

MRS. PATRICIA YOUNG, Assistant Director



Blood Bank History



H.S. McIlvaigh, Secretary-Treasurer
Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-
CIO
March 1933 to March 1963

Author of the Following "History of
The Tacoma-Pierce County Blood Bank," and

The Tacoma-Pierce County Blood Bank has been serving



Blood Bank History

Board of Trustees has purchased land on the Northwest corner of South 4th and I streets, * and it considering the erection of a new blood bank with adequate parking space to accommodate blood donors and our blood bank employees. Costs are being estimated and plans for the new building are being studied.

Over the years there have been a few changes in the personnel of the Board of Trustees. The present members of the Board are Dr. Chas. P. Larson, Eugene W. Hanson and F.J. Schwind, representing the medical profession, and Ray L. Rich, L.H. Pedersen, H.J. Dave-laar and H. S. McIlvaigh, representing the Central Labor Council. This Council and a handful of medical doctors are responsible for the bank's creation and its success. The bank is neither the property of the labor movement nor the medical profession. It is the property of community it serves, and under its laws must operate as a non-profit, self-supporting institution.

We have given only a sketchy review of the banks' origins and how it operates in order to dispel any false notions about its creation and its mission in the community. All statements herein can be verified by reference to the records on file in the office of the Central Labor Council.

~ H.S. McIlvaigh ~



Blood Bank History

created a special building fund to be used exclusively for new blood bank headquarters. Ground was broken at this site, December 30, 1950. Construction soon got under way and the building cost more than \$77,000.00 and was ready for occupancy on September 1, 1951. During construction our building fund was depleted, and in order to complete the construction a non-interested bearing loan of \$44,500.00 was negotiated between the Board of Trustees and the officers of our Council. This loan was completely paid off in July, 1953. Since its location at 1211 South 12th Street, the bank had inaugurated an additional service by way of the bloodmobile, which visits various industries and outlying districts from time to time to collect blood to be processed at the blood bank.

The bank is a member of the American Association of Blood Banks and is recognized as one of the outstanding blood banks in the country. It is unique in that it is the only blood bank in the United States sponsored by organized labor, but belonging to the whole community it serves, and cooperating with the medical profession in strict conformity with the blood banking policies approved by that profession. The bank occupied its original quarters for 5 years, and has been occupying its present quarters for more than 16 years. Over the years it has saved many lives, and has helped to restore the health of many persons.

Our number one problem right now seems to be lack of parking space for blood donors and blood bank employees at our present location. For some time traffic congestion in that area has been the cause of considerable complaint and dissatisfaction. To overcome this condition the

Blood Bank History



History of.....

The Tacoma-Pierce County Blood Bank

By H.S. McIlvaigh

The Tacoma-Pierce County Blood Bank has been serving this community for more than 21 years, having opened its doors in August 1946. At this writing we believe that certain misconceptions currently prevailing, regarding the founding and progress of the Blood Bank should be corrected for the benefit of all concerned. We believe it should be explained how and why the Central Labor Council became identified with the founding of the bank in the first place, and why our affiliated unions gave the Council's sponsorship of the bank their overwhelming support.

In order to give proper treatment to the subject, it is necessary to reach back to World War II. Following Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, our government called upon all communities to organize civilian defense programs to take care of their home front in case of enemy action. Responding to this call, Pierce County organized the Pierce County Civilian Defense, consisting of all segments of civilians in the county. It was designed so that every phase of protection could be offered in case of attack.

Included in the activities of the Civilian Defense was a program known as Pierce County Civilian Defense Wet Plasma Blood Bank. This program was headed by N.E.



Blood Bank History

Magnussen, M.D., at that time director of the Pierce County Department of Health. The Blood Plasma Bank was set up within the Civilian Defense organization as a joint operation of the Wet Plasma Blood Bank and the Pierce County Chapter of the American Red Cross. This joint operation was charged with the duty of collecting processing and storing blood plasma to be made available if and when needed. An appeal was made for blood donors, which said in part: "It is your responsibility, as a resident of this area to make available this precious fluid which is so effective in the treatment of shock and loss of blood. Remembering further, that it will be our disaster when it knocks at our door, and how well we handle it depends on how we are prepared in advance to handle the emergency."

Dr. Magnussen estimated that Pierce County should have 3,000 or 4,000 units of blood plasma in storage, ready to use in case of emergency. The plan provided that blood donors register with the Red Cross, so that appointments could be made for blood donors to give blood at the following hospitals, to be processed into blood plasma: Tacoma General Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital and the Pierce County Hospital. In September 1942, Dr. Magnussen indicated that 1,100 persons had registered with the Red Cross, signifying their willingness to donate blood, most of whom were members of organized labor. Because of limited hospital facilities, he advised that the hospitals could only accept, at most, 28 or 30 donors daily. The lack of hospital facilities, together with the shortage of doctors and medical technicians, because of the war, combined to defeat the full success of the blood plasma campaign. This was a bitter disappointment to



Blood Bank History

expended a portion of the \$1,000.00 previously appropriated to them by the Red Cross. When our Council assumed all financial responsibility, the doctors refunded the balance to the Red Cross. The Board of Trustees decided to retain this space and have it furnished and equipped to meet blood bank operation. The blood bank equipment, stored at the County Hospital, was transferred to the blood bank headquarters, the doors of which were opened in August 1946. It had been a long and difficult undertaking, but at last we had created an indispensable health institution designed to render its services to the whole community.

The sale of membership cards to the members of our affiliated unions staggered belief. More than 30,000 cards were sold, and in the meantime our Council had expended more than \$10,000.00 to help the bank to a successful start. The expenditure of the Council's funds was an outright donation to the cause. We encouraged our unions to establish blood pools at the blood bank, from which blood could be dispensed for their members and families in case of need. This feature was available also to any organized group in the community.

The bank was an amazing success from the day it opened its doors, and soon it had outgrown its quarters, which were in a building which has since been razed to make way for the building now occupied by the United Pacific Insurance Company. The original Board gave considerable thought to the fact that the bank had to have new and larger quarters. It was finally decided to purchase a lot at 1211 South 12th Street and erect a new building specifically designed for blood bank operation. We had already



Blood Bank History

operation. The original Board members were: Drs. Burton A. Brown, Chas. P. Larson, and Eugene W. Hanson, representing the medical profession, and A.J. Newton, H.S. McIlvaigh, Ted Hopkins, and H.J. Davelaar, representing our Council.

In order to help finance the bank, the Board of Trustees devised a membership plan, whereby the members of unions affiliated with the Central Labor Council could purchase membership cards in the bank for \$1.00 each. This card entitled the owner and minor dependents of his or her family free blood transfusions indefinitely. However, to get this free service, the owner was required to see that each unit of blood furnished in the name of his or her family membership was replaced at the bank by another unit of blood. Failure to meet this condition made the member subject to a penalty charge of \$25.00 for each unit of blood supplied by the bank in the name of his membership.

It was further decided that our Council would assume the financial responsibility of establishing the bank and upporting it until it had become a sound self-supporting institution. The money to meet this challenge had to come from the treasury of our Council, and from the sale of memberships in the bank. This required that all monetary bookkeeping would be performed by our Council gratis, which we are still doing. The plan was submitted to the delegates of our Council and unanimously approved.

Prior to the drafting of the above plan, the doctors had rented space at 7281/2 St. Helens Avenue, and had



Blood Bank History

organized labor, and had the effect of emphasizing more than ever before the crying need for a community blood bank for Pierce County.

The foregoing statements have been made to substantiate our previous statement that it was necessary to go back to World War II in order to explain how the Central Labor Council became identified with the Blood Bank, and why the members of our affiliated unions developed such an intense interest in the establishment of a blood bank. In other words we are trying to point out what it was that made the members of our affiliated unions so deeply conscious of the value of blood transfusions and the necessity of establishing an institution that could render this precious service to all persons in need of it. Further, we think it is important to emphasize that it was the experience gained in the wet plasma blood bank program that conditioned members of organized labor to cooperate with the medical profession and the Central Labor Council in the establishment of a self-supporting community blood bank to serve all persons in need in its services. We met with opposition, both inside and outside the labor movement, but it was so insignificant and silly that the better part of valor was to ignore it.

It should be emphasized also that certain medical doctors in Tacoma were just as concerned about the establishment of a community blood bank as was any other group, but their problem was inability to get the required financial support. For months, these doctors appealed to various civic and fraternal organizations endeavoring to induce them to sponsor a blood bank. The result of the doctors' appeals was promises of



Blood Bank History

support, but when the question of finances came up there was none forthcoming. Then the State Department of Health came forth and agreed to help. The State Department of Health consigned some blood bank equipment to the Pierce County Hospital, and stored it there with the understanding that the equipment would be used to start a blood bank within a reasonable period of time.

Then the Board of County Commissioners was prevailed upon to support the creation of a blood bank for the county. The Commissioners holding office at the time agreed to do so. They authorized the County Attorney to perform the necessary legal work, and this duty was assigned to Deputy County Attorney, Theodore DeBord. Attorney DeBord prepared the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to govern the operation of a blood bank. For some reason, which has never been fully explained, the County Commissioners discarded the entire program and refused to have anything to do with the establishment of a blood bank. This action was a serious let-down after all concerned had been assured that at last Pierce County was going to have a community blood bank.

The small group of medical doctors continued to pursue the discouraging task of creating a blood bank for this county. The Pierce County Chapter of the Red Cross appeared on the scene and appropriated \$1,000.00 for the doctors to use as a nucleus to accumulate more money to start a blood bank. The doctors rented space at 728 ½ St. Helens Ave., hoping to get more support to promote the project, but it failed to materialize. Refusing to lose faith, the doctors approached the Central Labor Council and told our officers about their efforts to start a blood bank,



Blood Bank History

all of which had ended in failure to get the required financial assistance. Our officers responded favorably to the doctor's appeal and assured them that the matter would be referred to the delegates of our Council with a recommendation authorizing the proper officers of our Council to cooperate with the doctors in devising a plan to establish a blood bank in Pierce County. On July 18, 1945, the delegates voted unanimously to give the Council officers full authority to cooperate with the doctors in devising ways and means of financing a community blood bank for Pierce County. For some time after our Council had officially acted to finance the establishment of the bank, nothing happened. All was dormant until the spring of 1946, when we were advised by the doctors that the manpower situation had improved to such an extent that it was possible to accept our offer to provide the finances necessary to start the bank.

Following this good news, the doctors and the officers of our Council assembled together and prepared a program of cooperation acceptable to both parties. Deputy County Attorney, Theodore DeBord, sat in all our meetings and gave legal advice, prepared Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws to govern the operation of the bank, and did all the legal work gratis. It was decided to select a Board of Trustees consisting of 7 members, 3 from the medical profession and 4 from the Central Labor Council. Those from the medical profession to be chosen from that profession, and those from our Council to be selected by the president of that Council. All Trustees to serve without compensation. The Board of Trustees were required to meet at regular intervals to take care of business of the bank and apply the rules and regulations governing its