

Blood

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The retired Shavertown resident has also been a Red Cross volunteer for the past six years. Chadwick's first blood donation was a direct transfusion to an aunt with cancer during the early 1940s.

"In a direct transfusion, you lie on a high bed and the patient is on a lower one. They keep you hooked up until you turn white and the patient turns red," he joked.

Chadwick said that giving blood

"Nancy must have good blood. Maybe someone who gets it will inherit a smile from her."

Sy Chadwick
Red Cross volunteer

is very safe because the Red Cross has the latest tests and an excellent screening process for blood-borne diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis.

"You have to be careful, though, that if you have had a flu shot, that you wait a good two months to give blood. Sometimes the flu shot makes the AIDS test give a false positive reading," he said. "People get angry when we tell them this, but we have to. If you have a false positive AIDS test, you can never give blood again."

The next community blood drive will be August 2, from 1-6 p.m. at the Fellowship Free Evangelical Church on Hildebrand Road near Dallas High School.

"It's our first time there," Chadwick said. "We chose that site because it's air conditioned."

Local employers have also joined forces to help make sure that there's enough blood to go around, forming the Back Mountain Business/Industry Blood Services Council, which organizes blood drives every six weeks.

"Many large local employers - C-Tec, ENCON, Offset Paperback and American Asphalt - send people down," said member JoAnn M. Eckrote. "We'd like to see more employers participate - there's always a need."

Summer and holidays are times when blood supplies can run low, while demand remains the same or increases slightly, according to Nancy Carmon, director of communications for the Red Cross Blood Services center.

"Nearly 20 percent of our blood collections come from high school and college students, who aren't in town during these times," she said.

Because blood products have a relatively short shelf life, they must be constantly replenished or replaced, Carmon said.

While frozen plasma can last up to a year, red cells are good for only 35 days and platelets for five days.

The Red Cross presently has limited supplies of five of the eight blood types, because of the summer slow season, Carmon said.

Types O positive and O negative are in greatest demand. O negative may be given to nearly anyone, while O positive can be given to anyone with a positive blood type.

The Red Cross also stocks the rarer types of A negative, B negative and AB negative, but there isn't a great demand for them, Carmon said.

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which he found in a travel folder. Sharpe was surprised but pleased when Barney called and asked, "Where the heck is Frances Slocum?"

Other crew members anxious to make the scene (and talk and talk) were Lt. John Byrne, navigator from the Jersey shore and an ex-VP of Lipton Tea; Capt. C.D. Adams, pilot from Houston; and Claude Smith, radio operator, Gunnerville, Alabama.

Lamar Sharpe, then flight engineer and now a virile, white-haired 70, spent 15 years in sales for the Blue Ribbon Cake Company and then was district sales manager for Interstate Brands when they bought Blue Ribbon. He retired early and ran his own service garage in Nanticoke. Then seven years ago he sold the business and retired again, but it's impossible to tell that because he has kept busy ever since, managing a number of properties.

Sharpe was married 43 years ago to Mary Catherine McGuire of Edwardsville - she is called "Kate" - and they have one son, Chris, who at 38 just received his degree from LCCC where he was named "Outstanding Student of the Year."

Chris is a Psychiatric Technician for the Northeast Counseling Service and has twin daughters, Rachel and Beth, 3 1/2.

Their grandma Kate has "had it up to here with this reunion." One day recently when she was going out Lamar asked her when she would be back. "In about a week," she replied. "When this thing is over!"

There would have been no shortage of subjects to hash over at this momentous reunion. Sharpe, who was on 35 missions - equal to 250 combat hours - remembers a time when their plane was shot up so badly they had to crash land it. Fortunately there was a tiny emergency field on an equally tiny island. They barely made it, landing safely except for Lt. Byrne who was hit in the leg and had to be hospitalized.

Another time when they were based at Foggia, they were hit so badly they could tell the plane was about to go out of control. They couldn't bail out because although the damaged bomb bay doors hung open, undelivered bombs were in the way. "This was nothing," Sharpe says. "Several crew members lay down and kicked

Membership Certificate
This is to certify that
Sgt. Lamar B. Sharpe
Is a member of the Caterpillar Club whose life was spared the 27th day of February, 1945 because of an emergency parachute jump from an aircraft. This certificate is bestowed to the end that this safety medium in the art of flying may be furthered.

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the bombs free. These were kids, reckless kids at that. But they made the best gunners because they didn't give a hoot for anything." (Sharpe does not say anything about himself.)

Everyone bailed out of that crisis okay, only to land in a plowed field in enemy-occupied Yugoslavia. However, they

were quickly rescued by partisan women and hidden on a nearby farm. Then, because their opened chutes had been spotted by a passing C-47, and reported, they were rescued and back in action with another plane in only two days.

That bailout made Sharpe and the others honorary members of the "Caterpillar

Club." Their certificates read, "whose life was spared because of an emergency parachute jump from an aircraft, it is bestowed to the end that this safety medium in the art of flying may be furthered."

Their certificates were signed by none other than the president of Switlick Parachute Company, Mr. Harold L. Foster, and it goes without saying that all of Sharpe's crew members, without exception, agreed most fervently that Switlick made an excellent product.

Another memento Sharpe prizes is from the place he and his crewmen spent a week, soaking up coveted "R&R." All G.I.s pray for R&R but all don't manage to get any. It means "Rest and Recuperation. And since the Air Force always did know how to do things right, their rest center just happened to be on the Isle of Capri.

And so the 830th Bomb Squadron, of the 485th Bomber Group, of the 15th Air Force of the United States, Lt. General Ira C. Eaker, commanding, graced the Back Mountain with their presence last week, and guys, we know you had a ball.

Come back again.

Nearly everyone can give blood

Many people who want to donate blood mistakenly think that they can't because of medication or health conditions.

Generally anyone in good health - even those on medications - may give blood, as long as they're 17 years old and weigh at least 105 lbs.

Even persons diagnosed with diabetes may give blood, as long as their sugar levels are stable, according to the Red Cross Regional Blood Services Center.

The only basic restriction is that a person can give only one unit (pint) of blood every 8 weeks.

The greatest myth is that blood donors can catch AIDS or other blood-borne diseases at a blood drive, according to Nancy Carmon, director of communications at the blood services center.

"Statistics show that 25 percent of the population still mistakenly believes that you can catch AIDS by donating blood," she said. "That's impossible. All of our needles, bags and tubes are disposed of after use. Nothing is recycled."

Donating blood is easy, free and relatively painless; however certain people may not donate blood.

Blood donations from people with the following conditions are refused:

- Anyone who has had radiation or chemotherapy treatments for cancer within the past five years.
- Anyone who has had hepatitis, which can be passed through the blood.
- Anyone taking antibiotics.
- Anyone who has donated blood within the past 8 weeks.
- Anyone who has had a tattoo or blood transfusion within the past year.

Also, wait at least two months after receiving a flu shot, which can sometimes give a false positive test for disease.

Potential donors with questions may ask their family doctors or call the Red Cross Regional Blood Services Center at 823-7164 for more information.

"I'd recommend it to anyone. It's easy. And they give you goodies afterwards."

Nancy Gruver
5 gallon blood donor

The Red Cross Blood Services Center must collect more than 325 pints of blood every day just to keep up with the demand for whole blood, plasma, platelets and red blood cells used by surgery,

cancer, hemophilia and trauma patients.

The center supplies blood to 41 hospitals in 19 northeastern Pennsylvania counties and two counties in New York's southern tier.

"Thinking that just once you may have helped a sick baby or someone who needed blood by giving blood - maybe you did your part," Nancy said.

"Nancy must have good blood," Chadwick kidded. "Maybe someone who gets it will inherit a smile from her."

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A: Only in The Dallas Post

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