donors and is used to search for rare blood when needed. Currently, REGCI is used by the American Rare Donor Program, which is the result of the merger of the two major rare donor lists in the United States, the American Red Cross Rare Donor Registry and the American Association of Blood Banks Rare Donor File. Ms. Malamut was the recipient of an American Red Cross Tiffany Award.

She came to the American Red Cross in 1974 from New York City where she had worked in several blood transfusion services. After retiring from the American Red Cross in 1994, she became a foster parent and worked with Welcome Wagon. She had just started a similar business, 'Hi-Neighbor,' when she became ill.

Dorothy Malamut will long be remembered for her care and concern for all patients in need of rare blood and for the rare donors who gave this blood.

Delores Mallory
Editor-in-Chief
Mary McGinniss
Managing Editor

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter to the Editors

"Those Were the Days"

After graduating in the mid-80s from SBB school, I was fortunate enough to be employed by the antibody laboratory at the New York Blood Center. Laurie Marsh had taken pity on me and hired me as a junior reference technologist.

I had been used to working in a hospital blood bank filled with automated cell washers, table top centrifuges, and blood bank refrigerators. At the New York Blood Center, things were set up English style. Kitchen refrigerators stored our rare reagents. A circa-1960s hair dryer was hooked up to an ancient serofuge to create a heated centrifuge in which to spin the very volatile ether eluate. Phosphate-buffered saline was reconstituted in big jugs. Huge floor centrifuges the size of washing machines spun down our 10 × 75mm test tubes. We washed and filled our tubes with a metal pipette hooked up to a pump. The speed on the pump could be adjusted by rotating a dial numbered 1 to 10, 1 being the slowest fill and 9 set for the super tech. Not being very coordinated, it took me a few weeks to stop spraying my fellow techs and actually wash my tubes. Tubes were incubated in a water bath located near a 50-gallon tank. On a few occasions, I nearly incubated my panels along with the guppies.

Equipment aside, I learned so much, regained my confidence, and developed a love for immunohematology, thanks to Mr. Marsh, Rock, and Janet.

Although I have been away from the New York Blood Center for a long time, I still love the folks I worked with. They were so generous with their knowledge.

Monique Thuriere Mohammed, MS(SBB)ASCP
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Letter From the Editors

1999 Review

We thank the authors of the outstanding articles published in 1999. The 1999 index, published in this issue, gives you an overview of the scope of the material published in these articles and lists those authors.

We thank our editorial board whose names are published in the front of each issue. The board members offer important suggestions for improving the journal and constantly support our efforts. Board members also serve as peer reviewers as requested.

We also thank the following individuals who assisted us in reviewing and selecting papers for publication.

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