

**Las Vegas Book Signing
of
*Pestilence, Politics and
Pizazz***

Pestilence, Politics, and Pizazz: The Story of Public Health in Las Vegas by Annie Blachley is now available from statewide book stores, Greasewood Press, and the University of Nevada Press. The book is \$35 and can be purchased at a book signing by Dr. Otto Ravenholt, **March 27, 11:00 A.M. at the Clark County Health Department 625 Shadow Lane in Las Vegas.** The book about the history of public health in Clark County features Dr. Ravenholt's biography. He is "Mr. Public Health in Nevada" and has served since 1963.

Comment by the Editor

This past January three extraordinary doctors, who had great impact on medicine in Nevada, died. Dr. Fred Anderson, who was the prime mover to start the University of Nevada School of Medicine, died January 17; Dr. Tom Hood, who was the last of the

dynasty of Nevada's six Doctors Hood, died January 24; and Dr. Bob Locke, who was Nevada's first pulmonary physician and founder of Washoe Medical Center's tuberculosis ward, died January 26. This issue of *Greasewood Tablettes* is dedicated to their careers and accomplishments.

**Frederick M.
Anderson, M.D.,
Father of the Medical
School**

Fred Anderson was born in 1906 and raised in eastern Nevada on a ranch in the Ruby Mountains. He related that he was a cowboy before working in a pharmacy in the small town of Ruth. According to his oral history, recorded by the University of Nevada Oral History Program, he passed the state pharmacy board examination, "worked one day as a pharmacist" and then attended the University of Nevada in Reno. There, he came under the influence of Professor Peter Frandsen who persuaded Anderson to study medicine. After graduation in 1928, he was awarded a

Rhodes scholarship at Oxford University. Fred returned to the United States and medical school at Harvard where he graduated *cum laude*. Like Doctors Bob Locke and Tom Hood, he was a military veteran and returned after the war to his roots in Nevada to practice.

"There might have been others who earlier thought Nevada should have a medical school, but Fred had the vision and the position to make it happen. In the early 1960s, he was chairman of the University of Nevada Board of Regents and a member of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. The commission was composed of three representatives from each of the western states without a medical school. It initiated a feasibility study for a medical school in one of these states, and Nevada, under Dr. Anderson's leadership, was selected. The finished feasibility study was presented to the university's Board of Regents in a contentious meeting on February 11, 1967. Chairman Fred Anderson relinquished the gavel, stepped down, and fired the 'shot' heard around the state. His motion fueled the north-south fight that would haunt Nevada for years. It pitted the

surging growth of Las Vegas and Clark County against the established tradition of the north. He moved to 'form a two-year school of basic medi-



Frederick M. Anderson, M.D.

cal sciences, taking the first class in the fall of 1971 or 1972.' It passed six to two. Southern Regents Dick Ronzone and Dr. Juanita G. White expressed doubt whether the state could financially support the school and voted against it." (This quote is taken from *Better Medicine: The History of the University of Nevada School of Medicine*. The full story in *Better Medicine* will be published in the book later this year.)

For his role in the drama of creating the University of Nevada School of Medicine, Anderson was named the "Father of the Medical School." Furthermore, the first building in the School's complex is the Fred M. Anderson Building. In addition to his role in education, Fred had a sense of history that was uncommon. As he traveled around the state consulting on medical cases, he amassed a collection of nineteenth-century medical instruments, antique books, Indian artifacts, and items related to ranching.

Fred never forgot his ranching background and time in the saddle. His

extensive collection of Nevada branding irons is on exhibit at the Nugget in Sparks. It has been said that when Dr. Anderson asked for a branding iron to

be donated for historical preservation, it was not refused. The History of Medicine Library in the new Pennington Education Building on the Reno campus is also exhibiting some of Anderson's collection. Its museum is named in his honor. The exhibit case in the entrance of the building will be arranged this spring to house memorabilia related to Dr. Anderson's life. It would be incomplete

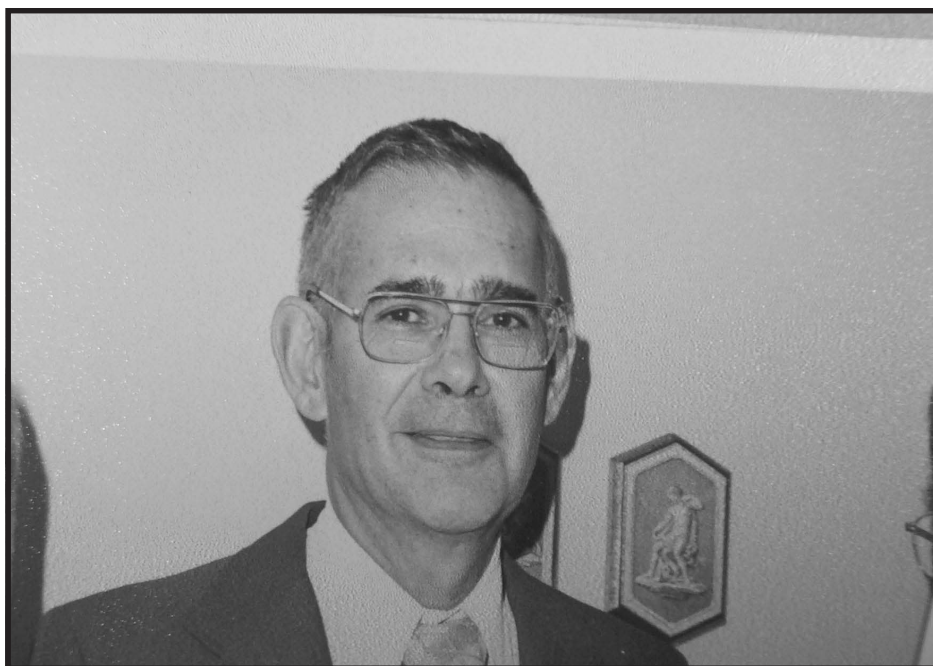
to relate the above information without saying something about Dr. Anderson as a physician. Attorney Ralph Denton who practices in Las Vegas and served on the advisory committee to the dean of the medical school was a good friend of Dr. Anderson. Mr. Denton recalled when his son had a fatal burn and Dr. Anderson heard of the accident, he immediately traveled to Las Vegas to comfort the family and treat the boy. He wouldn't take a penny in payment. Governor Mike O'Callaghan summed it by saying, "Anderson was extremely intelligent, but also compassionate."

Dr. Thomas Knight Hood The Last of the Hood Dynasty

Thomas K. Hood was born on May 13, 1921, in Elko into Nevada's most prominent family of physicians. His uncle, Dr. William Henry Hood, came to Battle Mountain in 1886, and in 1899, received the first medical license

from the state. He claimed that he got license #1 because he was the only doctor who had the \$1 fee. (The original license is on display in the office of the Nevada Board of Medical Examiners and a copy is in the Doctors Hood History of Medicine Library in the Pennington Building.) Another uncle, Dr. Charles John Hood, came to eastern Nevada in 1894. Tom's father, Dr. Arthur James Hood joined Charles John in Elko in 1903. He died in 1958. Completing the six Doctors Hood were Tom's two cousins, Arthur J. II "Bart" and Dwight L. "Dutch," who were leading physicians in Reno. Both Bart and Dutch graduated from the University of Nevada. There is a display honoring all six, in the Doctors Hood History of Medicine Library on the University of Nevada School of Medicine campus in Reno. The library was named to recognize their contributions to the state and was made possible by a donation from Chuck Charleton, Dr. Bart Hood's stepson.

After graduating from high school in Elko, Tom attended Pomona College in California and Washington University Medical School in St. Louis. Medical Officer Hood served in the U.S. Navy at the end of World War II, and then did a general surgery residence in San Francisco. Returning to Elko, Tom practiced for thirty years in the Elko Clinic before he retired. During his years of practice in Elko, Tom had a strong commitment to his profession (president of the Nevada State Medical Association), community (chairman of the Elko Civic Auditorium building committee), state (Distinguished Nevadan Award), and church (senior warden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church). He was a leader in each of these endeavors. He is credited by Dr. George Smith, founding dean of the Nevada School of Medicine, as being crucial to getting support to start the school. Dr. Smith noted that he was paid to establish the school, and he marveled that Dr. Hood



Dr. Thomas Knight Hood

was not paid, but nonetheless worked hard to make the school a success. Just as important was his devotion to his family and Irene his wife of 58 years.

Dr. Hood's obituary in the Reno paper states, "Tom will be remembered for his altruism." The editor of the *Greasewood Tablettes* has never known Tom to say "no" when asked to help others. He truly was dedicated to helping others. In 1993 when the editor was researching 19th century military medicine and Nevada's seven permanent forts, Dr. Hood volunteered to arrange visits to eastern Nevada's two forts, Ruby and Halleck. He accompanied us on the excursions and helped locate the ruins.

Dr. Robert Locke: Reno, Iwo Jima, and Back

Dr. Bob Locke was a quiet, modest man, who did not brag about or mention his bravery during World War II. Although it was known that he had been awarded the Navy Cross, his account of privation with honor on Iwo Jima was found after his death, and his involvement in the tuberculosis treatment is described in *People Make the Hospital: The History of Washoe Medical Center*. He never forgot his university and served as a full-time physician at the student health facilities.

Bob was born in Mt. Pleasant, Utah, in 1920. The family moved

to Reno ten years later. When he attended the University of Nevada, he came under the influence of famed Professor Peter Frandsen, who was responsible for many Nevada students pursuing careers in medicine and dentistry. While Bob was attending the University of McGill Medical School in Montreal, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. The following year, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and in 1943 after graduation, Ensign Locke reported for active duty at Treasure Island in the San Francisco Bay. He volunteered for Marine Corps duty, but further training was interrupted by the desperate situation in the Pacific.

Hurry-up exercises on Maui's beaches did not prepare Battalion Surgeon Locke for the horror that was to follow on Iwo Jima. He wrote, "Intensive education as to the exact landing location occupied the last two weeks prior to landing, along with DDT dusting and wax impregnation of all combat clothing to prevent typhus and other pest-borne disease." Then, what history would record as one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific ensued. The Japanese deliberately ignored the first wave of U.S. troops on the beach of Iwo Jima in order to trap them and the second wave on the narrow strip of sand.

Senior Officer Locke was placed in charge of the second wave of vehicles on the right flank, but as his lead vehicle reached its goal, "The radio fairly screamed us back to sea in that we were definitely in Japanese territory." As they regrouped, intense mortar fire erupted destroying all landing craft and pinning them down on 30 feet of beach. During the intense en-

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emy fire, Locke remembered, "I made a flying leap off the front of the vehicle and landed in neck high water and waded on in to my unit." A few seconds later his vehicle and the remaining occupants were annihilated.

"For the next 72 hours we were totally confined to the narrow beach strip." Locke's Navy Cross citations read, "An adjacent unit was in the center of the heaviest concentration of artillery and mortar fire and was suffering extreme casualties beyond the abilities of its depleted medical

sections. With total disregard for his own safety, Lt. J. G. Locke voluntarily left his covered position and entered the shelled area four times and helped carry wounded to the evacuation station." Locke: "almost every foxhole that I visited blew up within seconds of my leaving."

During the following 21 days, the Japanese continually killed Americans by creeping out of the tunnels at night and infiltrating their positions. Locke: "It was discovered that the Japanese were infiltrating in American uniforms during the night in small groups and were swimming to sea and coming

back in on the beach."

The second part of Locke's citation notes that under enemy fire Lt. J. G. Locke waded out to a small boat evacuating the wounded and forced the crew that refused to leave because of the intense fire to take the wounded off the island. At the end of the Iwo battle Dr. Locke wrote, "Actually, the flag raising on Iwo was very premature to those of us there and was far from the climax. Probably the true cli-

max was our cemetery trips, the last few days before final securing of the island, through the thousands of dead lined beside rows of crosses, attempting to identify and locate lost friends."

After Dr. Locke returned to Reno, he was appointed to the Washoe Medical Center medical staff on July 2, 1947. In 1951 the Washoe Trustees agreed with the medical staff's recommendation that he manage all patients on the TB ward. He practiced internal medicine for three decades before retiring. Dr. Locke died at the age of 82.

Footnote to Dr. T. Parry Tyson: A Serious Case of Over Study

A few days after we published the article on Dr. Tyson, we received a call from Dr. Ed Cantlon, a longtime Reno Surgeon. Ed remembers vividly the day Tyson was killed in February 1923 in the Nevada House. Ed was twelve at the time and living in Wadsworth on the family ranch. He was sent down to get the mail from the Columbus Hotel, which is across the railroad tracks from the Nevada House. Authorities would not let anyone cross the tracks because a "crazy man," in the Nevada House, wanted to kill white folks for what they did to the Indians. Joe Bazzini owned the Nevada House, also called the Bazzini Hotel. Ed was in the post office when Tyson was shot so he didn't hear the gunshots. According to Dr. Cantlon, the hotel was eventually sold to Joe Bianchini who became a longtime patient of his.

We are always glad to hear from our readers. We also got a call from Dr. Ralph Mabey from Las Vegas, and he enjoyed the story.