



the

COOK-WITTER REPORT

Volume 25, Number 2

February 2010

The Science Lab in the Statehouse

Lawmakers haven't been the only ones who conduct business at the state Capitol; scientists have, too. For more than fifty years, the Statehouse was home to the Illinois Department of Public Health's main diagnostic laboratory, where bacteriologists and physicians examined spit, blood, and bodily excretions for signs of contagious disease.

Today it's hard to imagine not having a lab like this, it seems crucial to the public health. If people are showing signs of a contagious disease, everyone needs to know about it. While that's readily accepted today, it wasn't always.

During the last half of the nineteenth century, scientists learned a great deal about what caused certain diseases, according to *The Rise and Fall of Disease in Illinois*, Vol. I (State Department of Public Health, 1927). They identified bacteria and discovered it caused many of the communicable diseases that were common at the time, like tuberculosis, typhoid fever, diphtheria, malaria, and dysentery. They also

learned how other contagious diseases spread. Scientists had basic knowledge about how to control and help prevent certain diseases, they merely needed the opportunity to use that knowledge.

But fear and ignorance stood in the way, according to the book. "The public still clung to its traditional idea about disease(s)," fearing some and tolerating others as a necessary evil. "Those who heard about the new scientific procedures were skeptical. Otherwise funds for... applying preventive measures would have flown more quickly and more freely from the appropriating agencies."

In the summer of 1904, Dr. James A. Egan, the

head of the State Board of Health (which preceded the State Department of Public Health or DPH), saw the need for using some of those relatively new preventive measures by creating a state laboratory. He explained his actions to the State Board: "Despite the fact that there is no available appropriation for lab purposes, the necessity for a bacteriologic lab for the prompt diagnosis of tuberculosis, diphtheria, and typhoid fever has become so urgent that the Secretary (Egan) has diverted sufficient funds... for investigation of contagious diseases, to equip a lab which is now in operation."



Equipment and personnel for setting up a field diagnostic laboratory. Photo from "The Rise and Fall of Disease in Illinois" - published by the State Department of Public Health - 1927.

Officials first tried to locate the lab in the Statehouse, but it didn't have "suitable quarters," so they located it in one room of the Odd Fellows Building in Springfield, a few blocks from the Statehouse. Egan said it was "the best equipped building in the city and convenient to the offices of the Springfield physicians." The lab diagnosed specimens for Illinois physicians for free.

In 1905, DPH got money for a bacteriologist and for lab expenses. The lab soon outgrew its one room facility and in November, 1906 moved to "an apartment house located within one block of the Statehouse and directly opposite the site of the Illinois Supreme Court building."

At some point (the date couldn't be confirmed), the lab moved to the second floor of the Statehouse, and then to the sixth floor's north wing in 1917, according to the January 1918, "Illinois Health News." At that time the lab tested specimens for tuberculosis, typhoid, malaria, venereal disease, diphtheria, meningitis, and rabies.

continued on page 4

Illinois Primary Election *Unofficial* Winners

The Illinois State Board of Elections will list verified winners of the Illinois 2010 Primary Election on its web site (www.elections.state.il.us) beginning March 5.

Illinois Constitutional Officers

	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>
Governor:	Patrick Quinn	Kirk Dillard/Bill Brady *
Lt. Governor (open):	TBA**	Jason Plummer
Attorney General:	Lisa Madigan	Steve Kim
Secretary of State:	Jesse White	Robert Enriquez
Comptroller (open):	David Miller	Judy Baar Topinka
Treasurer (open):	Robin Kelly	Dan Rutherford

U.S. Senate

<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>
Alexi Giannoulias	Mark Kirk

U.S. House of Representatives

<i>District</i>	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>
1	Bobby Rush	
2	Jesse L. Jackson Jr.	Isaac C. Hayes
3	Daniel William Lipinski	Michael Bendas
4	Luis V. Gutierrez	
5	Mike Quigley	David Ratowitz
6	Benjamin S. Lowe	Peter J. Roskam
7	Danny K. Davis	Mark M. Weiman
8	Melissa Bean	Joe Walsh
9	Janice D. Schakowsky	Joel Barry Pollak
10	Dan Seals	Robert Dold
11	Deborah Halvorson	Adam Kinzinger
12	Jerry F. Costello	Teri Newman
13	Scott Harper	Judy Biggert
14	Bill Foster	Randall M. Hultgren
15	David Gill	Timothy V. Johnson
16	George W. Gaulrapp	Donald A. Manzullo
17	Phil Hare	Bobby Schilling
18	Deirdre "DK" Hirner	Aaron Schock
19	Tim Bagwell	John Shimkus

Illinois Senate Primary Winners

<i>District</i>	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>
1	Anthony "Tony" Munoz	
4	Kimberly Lightford	

<i>District</i>	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>
7	Heather Steans	Adam Robinson
10	John Mulroe	Brian Doherty
13	Kwame Raoul	
16	Jacqueline "Jacqui" Collins	
19	M. Maggie Crotty	
22	Michael Noland	Steven J. Rauschenberger
25	Leslie N. Juby	Chris Lauzen
28	Corinne Michelle Pierog	John J. Millner
31	Michael Bond	Suzi Schmidt
34	Jennifer Cacciapaglia	Dave Syverson
37		Dale Risinger
40	Toi W. Hutchinson	Adam Baumgartner
43	Arthur "AJ" Wilhelmi	
46	David Koehler	
49	Deanna DeMuzio	William "Sam" McCann
51***	Tim Dudley	Kyle McCarter (named to replace Watson)
52	Michael Frerichs	
55	Dale A. Righter	
58	Jeremy Randal Walker	David Luechtefeld

Illinois House of Representatives

<i>District</i>	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>
1	Susana Mendoza	
2	Edward J. Acevedo	
3	Luis Arroyo	
4	Cynthia Soto	
5	Kenneth "Ken" Dunkin	
6	Esther Golar	
7	Karen Yarbough	
8	La Shawn K. Ford	
9	Arthur Turner	
10	Annazette R. Collins	
11	Ann Williams	Scott Tucker
12	Sara Feigenholtz	
13	Gregory Harris	
14	Harry Osterman	
15	John C. D'Amico	

* Ballots are still being counted for this race.

** The Democratic winner, Scott Cohen, stepped down; the Democrats had not named a new candidate at press time.

*** Unexpired 2 year term

Bold indicates incumbent

For more information, check the Illinois State Board of Elections for official Primary Election results after March 5:
www.elections.state.il.us.

Illinois Primary Election *Unofficial* Winners

Illinois House of Representatives (con't.)

District	Democrat	Republican
16	Lou Lang	
17	Daniel K. Biss	Hamilton Chang
18	Robyn Gabel	
19	Joseph M. Lyons	David J. Anderson
20		Michael P. McAuliffe
21	Michael J. Zalewski	
22	Michael J. Madigan	Patrick John Ryan
23	Daniel J. Burke	
24	Lisa Hernandez	
25	Barbara Flynn Currie	
26	William D. Burns	Sylvester Hendricks
27	Monique D. Davis	
28	Robert "Bob" Rita	
29	Thaddeus Jones	
30	William "Will" Davis	
31	Mary E. Flowers	
32	Andre' Thapedi	
33	Marlow Colvin	
34	Constance A. Howard	
35	Kevin Carey Joyce	Barbara Ruth Bellar
36	Kelly Burke	Richard L. Grabowski
37	Kevin A. McCarthy	Jeffrey L. Junkas
38	Al Riley	
39	Maria Antonia Berrios	
40	Deborah L. Mell	
41	Brian J. Stephenson	Chris Nybo
42	Kathryn F. Vlahos	Sandra M. Pihos
43	Keith Farnham	Ruth Munson
44	Fred Crespo	Billie D. Roth
45	Jim Hagerty	Franco Coladipietro
46	Deborah O'Keefe Conroy	Dennis M. Reboletti
47	James F. "Jim" Speta	Patricia R. "Patti" Bellock
48	Barbara Green	Michael G. Connelly
49	Jennifer Barconi	Timothy L. Schmitz
50	Linda Healy	Kay Hatcher
51	Steve Riess	Ed Sullivan, Jr.
52		Mark H. Beaubien
53	Linda Birnbaum	Sidney H. Mathias
54	Matt Flamm	Thomas "Tom" Morrison
55	Gregory C. Brownfield	Randy Ramey
56	Michelle Mussman	Ryan Higgins
57	Elaine Nekritz	Richard G. Hamen
58	Karen May	Lauren G. Turelli
59	Carol Sente	Dan Sugrue
60	Eddie Washington	
61	Scott Pollak	JoAnn D. Osmond
62	Rich Voltair	Sandy Cole
63	Jack D. Franks	John O'Neill
64	Robert Kaempfe	Michael W. Tryon
65		Rosemary Mulligan
66	Mark Walker	David Harris
67	Charles E. Jefferson	Robert E. Brokish, Jr.
68	Marla Jean Wilson	Dave Winters
69	Ray Pendzinski	Joe Sosnowski

District	Democrat	Republican
70		Robert W. Pritchard
71	Dennis Ahern	Richard Morthland
72	Patrick Verschoore	Mark Lioen
73		David R. Leitch
74	Elizabeth Double	Donald L. Moffitt
75	Caren M. Gordon	Sue Rezin
76	Frank J. Mautino	
77		Angelo "Skip" Saviano
78	Deborah L. Graham	
79	Lisa M. Dugan	Nick Been
80	Anthony DeLuca	
81	John F. Unhoch	Renee Kosel
82	Matthew T. Mostowik	Jim Durkin
83	Linda Chapa LaVia	
84	Dennis Grosskopf	Tom Cross
85	Emily McAsey	Maripat Oliver
86	Jack McGuire	
87	George H. Wissmiller	Bill Mitchell
88		Dan Brady
89		Jim Sacia
90	Kenneth J. Novak	Jerry L. Mitchell
91	Michael K. Smith	Michael D. Unes
92	Jehan Gordon	Jim Montelongo
93		Jil Tracy
94	Earl W. Godt II	Richard P. Myers
95		Mike Fortner
96	Dawn DeSart	Darlene Senger
97		Jim Watson
98	Charles Landers	Wayne Arthur Rosenthal
99	Kent E. DeLay	Raymond Poe
100		Rich Brauer
101	Bob Flider	Mark Scranton
102		Ron Stephens
103	Naomi D. Jakobsson	Norman E. Davis
104	Michale Puhr	Chad Hays
105		Shane Cultra
106		Keith P. Sommer
107	Joshua Qualls	John Cavaletto
108		David B. Reis
109	Tim Cyr	Roger L. Eddy
110	Dennis Malak	Chapin Rose
111	Daniel V. Beiser	
112	Jay C. Hoffman	Dwight D. Kay
113	Thomas Holbrook	Joseph F. Avellone
114	Eddie Lee Jackson	
115		Mike Bost
116	Dan Reitz	Glenn C. Farley
117	John Bradley	
118	Brandon W. Phelps	



The Science Lab in the Statehouse

Continued from page 1

Today, it seems hard to believe that a lab that worked with communicable diseases would be located in a building often used by the public. Yet, “it may not always be fair to judge the past by today’s standards,” says IDPH spokeswoman Melaney Arnold. “It is probably safe to assume that the lab employees treated specimens with considerable respect since they understood what they were working with. However; (today) we would isolate a lab for safety reasons from the general public. While a lab often shares a public building (university, office space), there are procedural and engineering controls to reduce the threat of exposures.”

Back in the early 1900s, DPH’s lab was doing fine at the Statehouse and business was booming. “So rapid was the increase of lab exams, however, that the space soon became cramped and an attempt was made to relieve congestion by moving some of the work to the former plant of the hog cholera serum five miles north of the State House,” says *The Rise and Fall of Disease in Illinois*. But that didn’t work and the lab got additional space on the sixth floor of the Capitol in 1926.

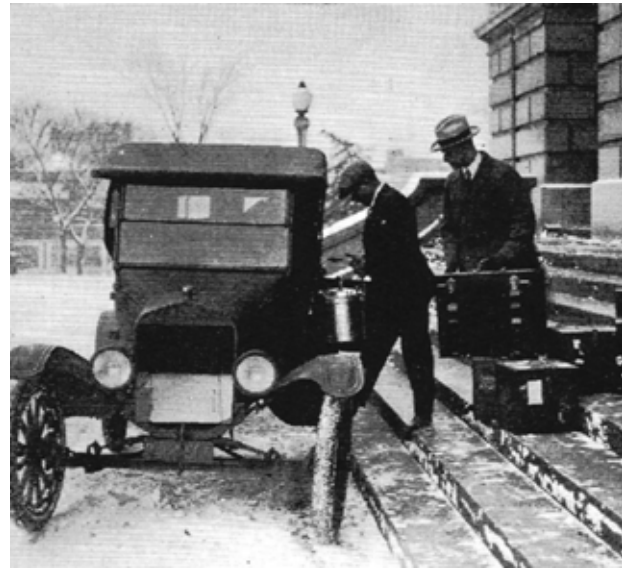
As science progressed and new diagnostic tests, like the ones for fungal disease and German measles, were developed, the lab added them to its repertoire. But on August 24, 1965 a fire erupted in the Statehouse DPH lab which shut it down for several months.

Five years later, the lab permanently moved out of the Capitol and into its current Springfield home on the campus of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. IDPH also has labs in Carbondale and Chicago.



A section of the main laboratory at Springfield where general diagnostic service was done free for the citizens of Illinois (1924). Photo from “The Rise and Fall of Disease in Illinois” - published by the State Department of Public Health - 1927.

Hit the Road Jack!



IDPH lab workers prepare for a road trip to set up an emergency lab. Photo from “The Rise and Fall of Disease in Illinois” - published by the State Department of Public Health - 1927.

The state diagnostics lab’s scientists didn’t just hole up in the Capitol. They hit the road when “field labs” were required. In 1915 DPH began setting up temporary labs in towns that needed lab services but were too far away to send specimens to Springfield. “A chest was built combining the minimum necessities for making diphtheria, typhoid, and meningitis cultures,” says *The Rise and Fall of Disease in Illinois*. “Several trips each year were made with this equipment...not only were typhoid, diphtheria, and meningitis epidemics solved, but also other work such as glanders (a disease in horses, donkeys, and mules) and venereal disease diagnosis, milk bacteriology and general lab work taken care of.”

Just before Christmas in 1923, two bacteriologists from the Capitol lab drove through the night to reach Rockford the next morning and help control a diphtheria outbreak. In 1925 staff traveled to Carbondale to help after the devastating Tri-State Tornado hit. To meet the statewide need for lab services, branch laboratories were established at various cities across Illinois in the 1920s.

