

Indiana Medical History Museum

Winter 2011 Newsletter

The Heat is On

As our members know, the Indiana Medical History Museum is housed in a splendid brick building erected in 1895 and opened in 1896 as the Pathology Department of the Central Indiana Hospital for the Insane, later known as Central State Hospital. For the past 40 years, the museum has made it a central part of its mission to preserve this architectural gem inside and out. And we are about to launch another historic preservation project, replacing worn out components of our heating and cooling system. The Indiana Medical History Museum is pleased to announce that it has received a grant to fund 50% of a heat pump replacement project. This project has been funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. It is a \$24,000 project, with \$12,000 being the grant funding. The



One of many radiators that provided heat for the new (1896) Pathology Department.

museum must provide the matching funds and is off to a good start thanks to the generosity of the Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis.

The Pathology Department was originally heated by a number of steam radiators located throughout the building. At that time a coal fired plant on the hospital grounds provided the steam heat for the hospital buildings. The museum now preserves its original radiators in place as important historic elements of the building and the story it tells. Presently, the building is heated and cooled by five split-system heat pumps. Three of them have been replaced in recent years. The remaining two systems have been in operation for about two decades, have been repaired over and over again, and are no longer efficient or reliable.

The new equipment will certainly help to maintain comfort levels for staff and visitors. Summer temperatures had become high enough to cause some guests to vacate the second floor during tours, and the staff and volunteers are looking forward to working in the offices without coats and scarves during the winter. A stable internal environment provided by an efficient heating,



Though once more efficient than the original radiators, this unit is no longer doing its job and will be replaced.

cooling, and air handling system is essential to the preservation of historic buildings and their furnishings. The ability to more closely regulate the effect of outdoor temperatures, both seasonally or daily, will also allow better control of the relative humidity in the building. Extreme and rapid changes in temperature and relative humidity are the enemy in our efforts to send The Old Pathology Building far into the future as an educational and cultural asset to our region.

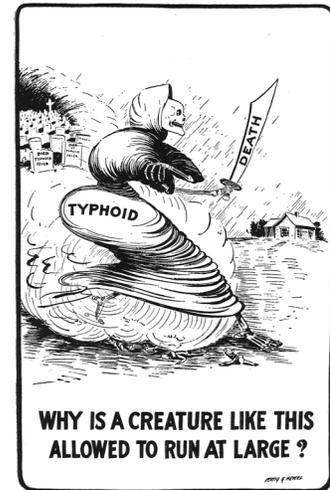
Special thanks are due to immediate past Executive Director Virginia Terpening, who initiated and wrote the grant application for this project just as she was retiring -and actually weeks beyond her retirement date. Her skill at writing a competitive and successful proposal to the state's Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology is much appreciated!

Spotlight On...

A Progressive Affair: The Threat of Unsafe Food in the Early 20th Century

In November, for the third year in a row, the Indiana Medical History Museum participated in the city-wide Spirit & Place Festival, a project of the Polis Center in the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Our event, *A Progressive Affair: The Threat of Unsafe Food in the Early 20th Century* was a great success thanks to our festival partners the Indiana Association of Pathologists; Jeff Bennett, a graduate student in IUPUI's School of Liberal Arts; and Stephen Jay, MD, professor of Medicine and Public Health in the Department of Public Health at Indiana University School of Medicine.

They informed, entertained, and even shocked the audience with tales of the history of food adulteration and the Indiana Pure Food & Drugs Act of 1899 and modern-day concerns over food adulteration and antibiotic resistance.



A typical Hurty health poster.

Food Fight! Dr. John Hurty's Battle for Public Health and the Indiana Pure Food and Drugs Act of 1899

The program was accompanied by an exhibit of public service cartoons commissioned by Dr. John Hurty to spread awareness about public health issues including the spread of disease, clean food and water, and regulation of medications. This exhibit can be seen now through Saturday, January 29, 2011 at the Indiana Medical History Museum.

Annual Campaign

The Annual Campaign at the Indiana Medical History Museum is in full swing! Please keep us in mind and know that every contribution helps. Your support is crucial to our continued success as a museum.

If you wish, you may make your contributions to the museum online at www.imhm.org.

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What do you think?

As a measure to save money and trees, the Indiana Medical History Museum is considering the use of e-newsletters to members who prefer that option, and we'd like to know what you think. Do you prefer to receive a paper newsletter or an e-newsletter via e-mail? Are you more or less likely to read a newsletter electronically? Please call us at 317-635-7329 or e-mail education@imhm.org with your thoughts. Thank You!

If you would like to be added to our current e-mail list to be informed of news, updates, and information about upcoming events at the museum electronically, please send an e-mail to education@imhm.org with your request.

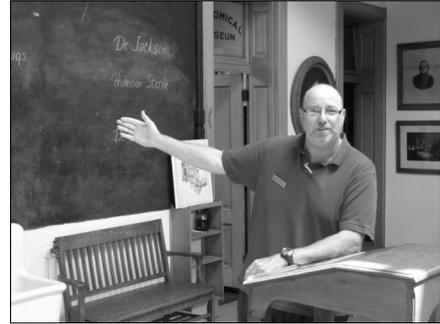
How Can You Help the Museum?

Volunteer Spotlight: Randy Duncan

We recently interviewed Randy Duncan, one of the museum's most active volunteers. Here is what he had to say about his experience as a docent.



Randy: My wife, Peggy, and I have been married for 35 years and we have 3 wonderful grown children, 2 beautiful daughters-in-law, and of course our grandson Liam. Most of my working career has been in sales, but as happened to so many people during the downward economy, I found myself unemployed. That event may have been a blessing because it led me to a decision to continue my education. So, I am currently a student at MedTech College pursuing a degree in Medical Laboratory Technology. It's been pretty tough going back to school at my age, but as "they" say, "if it were easy everyone would do it!"



Why did you decide to volunteer at the Indiana Medical History Museum?

When looking for a volunteer opportunity, I stumbled across IMHM on the internet. Since I am really interested in the medical field, as well as being a history enthusiast, it made sense that I should look further into what was going on here. After meeting with Sarah and having her give me the grand tour, the decision to volunteer at IMHM was pretty easy

What has been your favorite part of volunteering?

My favorite part of volunteering is getting to meet so many people of diverse backgrounds that come to visit. I learn something new on every tour because of questions that are asked for which I don't know the answer but look up, or from info the visitors share with me concerning the medical knowledge and history of the grounds as a whole. Because of that, my next tour is always better than the previous one.

What is your favorite room or artifact at the museum?

Tough question. Probably my favorite room is the library. I love the architecture with the high ceilings and the added window across the top of the east wall. Also, by discussing the painting of Dr. Pinel, we give the tourists an idea as to how far we have come in the treatment of patients with mental disorders. But mostly because it gives me the chance to bring the entire complex together. Most people are more familiar with "Seven Steeples", so when we talk about the aerial photo it puts everything into perspective and they have a better understanding as to what was going on here.

Interested in science, medicine, or history?

Then come use your interests and talents as a volunteer at the Indiana Medical History Museum! We're always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested, visit our website (www.imhm.org) to fill out a Volunteer Application (under the tab labeled "Opportunities"). Or, call the museum Wednesday through Friday at (317) 635-7329

Indiana Medical History Museum
3045 West Vermont St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222-4943

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Indiana Medical History Museum
3045 West Vermont St.
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Executive Director:
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Director of Public Programs:
Sarah Cole Halter

Officers, Board of Directors
President: Jeffrey Kellams, MD
Vice President: Guy Hansen
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Treasurer: Steven K. Stucky, CPA

Museum Hours
Wednesday - By appointment only
Thursday-Saturday - 10am - 4pm; last
tour starts at 3pm

Website: www.imhm.org
Email: Edenharter@imhm.org
Telephone: 317-635-7329

Upcoming Events...

Now through Saturday, January 29, 2011

Food Fight! Dr. John Hurty's Battle for Public Health & the Indiana Pure Food and Drugs Act of 1899

This exhibit will feature drawings commissioned by Dr. John Hurty for use in public health pamphlets and posters. Several of these works were created by Richmond, Indiana native Gaar Williams, a political cartoonist for the Indianapolis Star and the Chicago Tribune.

Friday, February 4 through Saturday, April 9, 2011

Rustic Remedies: Cures from Granny's Garden

This exhibit highlights a few of the many medicinal plants available in Pioneer Indiana. Learn more about these plants and their uses, and get a preview of IMHM's own Medicinal Garden which is maintained by board member Kathleen Hull, M.D. and the Purdue Master Gardeners of Marion County.

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Sherlock Holmes and the Beginning of Modern Forensic Science

David Zauner, of the Indianapolis Sherlock Holmes society, The Illustrious Clients, and a practicing forensic scientist, explores how the Holmes stories reflect applications of scientific principles to criminal investigations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and how forensic science has developed since that time to its present state.

This program is part of the Forensic Science Lecture Series.