

Guide to the Public Health Survey of the City of Portland Records 2005-012

Finding aid prepared by Karen Lea Peterson

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May 23, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives
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3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, Oregon, LIB
503-494-3239
peterska@ohsu.edu

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Summary Information

Repository	Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives
Creator - Actor	Cohen, William, M.D., 1910-2004
Creator - Actor	Tegart, Richard Lloyd, M.D.
Title	Public Health Survey of the City of Portland Records
Date	1934
Extent	1.0 Linear feet 1 box 1 linear foot Volume II of two volumes, 11 X 8.5 X 2". The archives holds only Vol. II
Location	R440 Historical Collections & Archives, Oregon Health & Science University.
Language	English
Abstract	The collection is a variety of materials dealing with the Public Health surveys done by medical students William Cohen and Richard Lloyd Tegart in 1934 for the City of Portland.

Preferred Citation

Public Health Survey of the City of Portland Records Accession No. 2005-012, Historical Collections & Archives, Oregon Health & Science University

Biographical/Historical

Richard Lloyd Tegart and William Cohen were both 1935 graduates of the University of Oregon Medical School. William Cohen, Portland internist, died at the age of 94. He was born May 12, 1910 in New York City. He graduated from Reed College in Portland, Oregon with a B.A. in chemistry. He then received an M.D. from UOMS in 1935. He was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha medical honorary society. In 1940, he married physician, Stella Fisher. After serving a residency in New York City, they both returned to Portland where Cohen opened a private practice. He joined the Army during WWII, serving in Paris as a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine. After the War, he resumed his practice in Portland and taught classes at the medical school. He was president of the Oregon Heart Association and was elected to the American Physicians Fellowship, Inc. for the Israel Medical Association in 1969. He was a member of the Multnomah County Medical Society, the Oregon Trudeau Society, the Oregon Health Association and the Portland Academy of medicine, the Oregon Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He was chief of staff for the Medical Center Hospital of Portland in 1979. Stella died in 1970. He married his second wife, Blanche Rosencrantz, in 1971. He had two sons, Stuart and Stephen, and a stepson, Larry and stepdaughter, Sue and one grandchild at the time of his death. There was no biographical information for Richard Lloyd Tegart at the time of processing.

The city of Portland was founded in 1845; forty years after Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific Ocean. A charter was obtained in 1857 and in three short years the population had risen to 2,874. By 1862 articles were adopted into the charter concerning the public health. Portland's City Council was given the authority to make regulations to prevent the spread of contagious diseases and the city police were proclaimed as ex-officio health officers. By 1869 the population had grown to 8,293. To care for the city's poor and the indigent sick and to provide a home for the old, the Multnomah County Poor Farm was erected two miles from Portland. This was later sold to purchase land near Troutdale Oregon for the Poor Farm. Portland's first major disaster in 1873, a fire along the water-front and an ever increasing population, spurred the City Council to pass more city ordinances governing housing, and the burying of the dead to curb the spread of small-pox, diphtheria and other contagious diseases. By 1874, Portland boasted two hospitals, Good Samaritan and St. Vincent's. Physicians were ordered to report any patient with typhus, cerebro-spinal meningitis, measles or diphtheria within 12 hours of diagnosis. Those who were diagnosed with a contagious disease were heavily fined if they did not display the required green flag over their house for diphtheria or a yellow flag for all other types of contagious diseases. In 1873, the first sewer lines were laid at right angles to the Willamette River. Even though by 1885, 15.5 miles of sewer drains had been laid, they presented an enormous health threat to the city. The drains discharged sewage directly into the Willamette River. As the city grew, sewage was emptied also in the Columbia slough from the East side. The city was then surrounded with contaminated water. The Portland Water Company was formed in 1862. Looking for sources of pure water, a pumping station was built on the banks of the Willamette and two reservoirs were constructed. The cases of typhoid continued to increase. In 1885, the City Council, realizing that a municipal water company was needed to ensure a source of pure water, took the problem out of private hands. After intense chemical analysis, Bull Run, a clean source of water, 30 miles East of Portland was chosen as the city's permanent water source. Within the first year after the Bull Run Project was completed, cases of typhoid fever dropped by 25%. In 1878, the police commissioner reported a concern for citizens who were frequenting the many opium dens in Chinatown. It was reported

that smoking opium was prolific in all segments of society. An ordinance was finally passed in 1881 that all citizens were prohibited from smoking opium except in their own home. Public health education was a factor in increasing Portland's health. In 1878 the Willamette University Medical Department of Salem, Oregon moved to Portland initiating medical education in the city. A significant move for Portland was the establishment of the Board of Health in 1882. It consisted of the Mayor, J. A. Chapman, J.H. Lappeus, Chief of Police and three members of the Common Council on Health and Police, W. H. Adams, W. A. Scroggins and D. Mackay. By 1887, Portland became the health center of the Pacific Northwest and was relatively free from contagious diseases. However, in 1889, a smallpox epidemic broke out. It grew so rapidly that an all out effort was made to stamp it out with record speed. The first nurse's training school began in 1890 at the Good Samaritan Hospital with Miss Emily L. Loveridge in charge. In 1894 the office of city physician was established and a physician was hired to be the executive officer of the City Board of Health. Dr. C. H. Wheeler was Portland's first health officer. At this time, to further control of the spread of disease, children with contagious diseases were barred from attending school. Provisions were made for garbage disposal, as accumulated garbage was becoming overtly conspicuous. In 1897, David Beakey was appointed Health Commissioner. He drafted the first Milk Ordinance providing for the inspection of dairy cows and milk, and an ordinance for the inspection of meat, and the construction of a larger isolation hospital. Tuberculosis also became a concern as it was the leading cause of death in 1897, even though small pox remained a constant threat and unmanaged sewage continued to be a problem in the city even though many more miles of sewage lines were laid. J. F. Menefee succeeded Beakey as health commissioner. Continued efforts were made towards inspections of all food services to set a minimum standard for sanitation, though tuberculosis, cholera and typhoid fever were still claiming lives. On August 1898, a newly appointed Board of Health of Portland held its first meeting. The population had grown to 90,000 and railroads connected Portland to cities on the East and West coasts. Portland was planning the Lewis and Clark Exposition and yet was still drawing its water from the sewage contaminated Willamette River. Tuberculosis, typhoid fever and cholera infantum were still taking lives every year. In 1900, Dr. J. G. Zan was campaigning for the inspection of milk and dairy herds. The city health commissioner reported that Portland was the only city of its size without milk and meat inspection.

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programs and health services; reduction in infant death and maternal care; and finally, reorganization of the health system at the county level rather than on the city health system. By 1934, there were 1,080 practicing physicians, 833 dentists and 35 independent hospitals in the state. Listed in the Survey for Public Health, 45.9% of the hospitals were located in Portland: Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, Doernbecher Memorial Hospital, U.S. Veteran's Administration Hospital, Morningside Hospital for mental and nervous patients, Multnomah County Hospital, St. Vincent, Good Samaritan, Portland Open Air Sanitarium for tuberculosis, Multnomah County Tuberculosis Pavilion, Rivers Hospital, Portland Eye, Ear Nose and Throat Hospital, Waverleigh Sanitorium, Portland Convalescent Hospital, Louis Home and Juvenile Hospital for Girls and the Outpatient Clinic operated by the University of Oregon Medical School also treated the sick poor. The per capita cost of public health care had risen from 12.5 cents in 1910 to 64.9 cents in 1931. Even though the economy of the State suffered due to the Depression, it demonstrated a definite advancement in public health consciousness. Many more indicators of growth in public health care can be seen in the record. 1 The historical information was taken from *Sixty Years of Public Health in Portland, Oregon*, written by Donald B. Lucas. Read before the Medical History Club of the University of Oregon Medical School, February 23, 1942. The manuscript is located in the PNW Archives Collection, OHSU Historical Collections & Archives. 2 *Fifteenth Biennial Report of the State Board of Health of Oregon to the Governor of Oregon and the Thirty-Seventh Legislative Assembly 1933 for the Period July 1, 1930, to June 30, 1932. Annual Reports for the Years Ending December 31, 1930, 1931.* OHSU PNW Archives

Scope and Contents

The City of Portland survey reports on the general health of the City of Portland. It is divided into three sections: Cost of Public Health, Vital Statistics and Communicable and Venereal Diseases. W. Cohen reports on the first two sections and the last section is by R. L. Tegart. These include narratives, graphs, statistical reports and published reports, sample forms, news articles, pamphlets, booklets, fliers and notices. All have been glued into the volume.

Arrangement

The great quantity of newsclippings, official forms and reports, tables, graphs, charts, brochures, etc. have been collected, cut and pasted and made into a book entitled "Public Health Survey of the City of Portland, Ore. Part Two 1934" by William Cohen and given the call number RD447.0 C67 v2 1934.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives 2005

Conditions Governing Access

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Custodial History

The collection was created by W. [William] Cohen and R. [Richard] L. [Lloyd] Tegart. It was transferred from the OHSU Pacific Northwest Archives and accessioned into the OHSU Archives June 10, 2005. No other details of provenance were known at the time of processing.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Public Health Survey Records, 1930's-1950's Accession No. 2004-025 Harold Osterud Papers, Accession No. 2004-004

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Articles and Reprints
- Brochures
- Bulletins, News
- Correspondence
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Geographic Name(s)

- Oregon
- Portland

Subject(s)

- Communicable dIseases
- death - causes
- Disease (general)
- Medicine and Health
- Medicine, Preventive -- Oregon
- Portland (Or.). Dept. of Health.
- Public health

B1 Public Health Survey

Collection Inventory

B1 Public Health Survey

F1 Guide

Public Health Survey of the City of Portland 1934 (bound volume) 1934