Morgue

October 31, 2005 - The current University Hospital morgue is located in the basement level of the Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute and holds around 15 bodies. Information per Jack, Chief Investigator in the Franklin County Coroner’s office (462-5290), and staff at the Davis Morgue (247-7485).

The Anatomy Department has its own morgue, which is located in Hamilton Hall. It holds four bodies.

The Franklin County Coroner’s morgue is still located in Evans Hall. OSU leased the land that Evans Hall is on to the county for $1.00. Coroner’s offices are there.

NOTE: Articles on the remains of 600 American Indians can be found in the folder entitled: "Native Americans: Skeletal Remains."
Site for morgue sought at OSU

By HARRY FRANKEN
Citizen-Journal Staff Writer

County Commissioner Harold M. Cooper asked Ohio State University Monday for a long-term lease on university property for the construction of a county morgue and crime laboratory.

The proposed two-story building would be built at an estimated cost of $1.2 million. County commissioners would finance building of the structure and its operation.

COOPER, in a letter to OSU President Dr. Harold Enarson, said Dr. Robert A. Evans, county coroner, would like to locate the facility at the northeast corner of King and Cannon dr.

Cooper said the plan has the support of the university's vice president for Medical Affairs and of the director of Hospital Administration for University Hospitals.

FRANKLIN COUNTY had a cooperative program with University Hospital more than 30 years for the use of the hospital’s facilities.

The University asked the county find new facilities in March, 1972, because of the rigidity of new federal legislation involving hospital accounting.

COOPER suggested the university might lease the land to the county for a nominal amount. He said in exchange for this, facilities could be used for programs of the College of Medicine, College of Law, and other related departments of the university.

The facilities would also be available to surrounding counties on a contract basis for necessary medical-legal services.

Cooper said the building could be constructed on a lot 200 by 225 feet and this would provide ample space for parking facilities without interfering with university parking.

THERE WOULD be 8,600 square feet in each floor of the building. The lower floor would contain the morgue unit and autopsy rooms, an X-ray unit, photographic laboratory, a garage and storage space.

The upper floor would contain the coroner's office and offices for a chief pathologist, a deputy coroner, and two staff pathologists.

There would also be a chemistry laboratory, histology laboratory, toxicology laboratory, and a conference room.

COOPER SAID the build-
OSU Property Proposed As Morgue Site

Franklin County commissioners have proposed building a $1.2 million county morgue and crime laboratory on Ohio State University property at the northeast corner of King Ave. and Cannon Dr.

In a letter Monday to OSU President Dr. Harold Einarson, Commissioner Harold M. Cooper asked for a long-term lease at a nominal fee on university property for a morgue site.

COOPER SAID the county would finance construction of the proposed two-story building and its operation.

He suggested that in exchange for the low-cost lease the university could use the facilities for teaching programs at the College of Medicine, College of Law and other departments.

Cooper said the plan was worked out by Dr. Richard Meiling, vice president for Medical Affairs at OSU, and County Coroner Dr. Richard Evans. Commissioners are asking Einarson to present the proposal to OSU trustees.

COOPER SAID he hopes for early approval and construction.

The county coroner has used morgue facilities at University Hospital for more than 30 years.

In March, 1972, the university asked the county to find new facilities because of the rigidity of new federal legislation involving hospital accounting.

SINCE THAT time, commissioners have visited Cincinnati, Cleveland and University Hospital coroner's facilities. At one time, they considered locating a morgue at the Columbus Technical Institute, but Cooper said officials of the school were not interested in the venture.

Cooper said commissioners had concluded the morgue should be located near the university where specialized and sophisticated medical and scientific services would be readily available.

He suggested the facilities would also be available to surrounding counties on a contract basis.

COOPER SAID the proposed building could be constructed on a lot 200 by 225 feet with ample parking space for emergency vehicles.

Cooper said the building size is based on a work load of up to 800 autopsies a year. He said similar facilities in Cleveland are located adjacent to the University Hospital and medical center at Case Western Reserve University.

New morgue to be built at OSU

Final approval by the Ohio State Board of Trustees is expected soon for the construction of a county morgue on the Ohio State campus by Ohio State and Franklin County.

The University will provide without cost to taxpayers about one acre of land for the building, according to Franklin County Commissioner Robert Southwick.

The joint project, which is projected to cost the county $1.5 million, is tentatively planned to be built on the northeast corner of Cannon Drive and King Avenue and will be available to both the University and the county, Southwick said.

If the building is not in good condition at the end of that period, "it will be leveled," Southwick added.

The proposal, which was taken before the Board of Trustees over a year ago, will again go before the board July 12.

However, the location presently agreed upon is preferable because of its proximity to the medical center and its location near the edge of the campus, Southwick added.
By Roslyn Hierholzer
3 Oct '74

Ohio State has often been called a city within a city, but what city is complete without a morgue?

IF A MORGUE is what it takes, Ohio State will soon have one, according to Edward Q. Moulton, vice president of business administration and secretary of the Board of Trustees.

The morgue, which will be built by Franklin County, will be located on an acre of land southeast of King Avenue and Cannon Drive. Moulton said this site was chosen because of its nearness to University Hospital and the College of Medicine.

The morgue will serve Ohio State, all branches of law enforcement, and approximately 30 surrounding counties, he said.

MOULTON SAID that for the past 25 years morgue services were provided for Franklin County by Ohio State's College of Medicine. As the amount of service required grew, a question was raised about the value of continuing it, he said.

Moulton said several years ago the county was asked to move their facilities to a new location.

AFTER LOOKING for a new site, the City Commission came back to Ohio State and proposed that the city would build a new morgue and finance the total cost of operating the facility if the University would provide the land. Moulton said.

Moulton said the proposal was submitted to the Board of Trustees and it was agreed to lease the land to Franklin County for 40 years.

AT THE END of 40 years the building will be kept as the property of the University or the site will be returned to its original state, he said.

Moulton said the University chose the land to be used and reserved the right to pick the shape and architectural style of the building.

ROBERT T. Southwick, city commissioner in charge of the building project, said the county has $1.5 million to cover the cost of the building, but is in the process of raising more money.

“We also expect to receive federal grants which will help to furnish and equip the building,” Southwick said.

Besides a morgue, the building will be equipped with a coroner's office, a pathology lab, a history lab, a toxicology lab, a criminology lab, teaching facilities, and a library.
Student parking spaces killed; county morgue takes over area

By Bob Gibson

The construction of a Franklin County morgue on the northeast corner of King Avenue and Cannon Drive will cut into Ohio State parking spaces in the lot south of Dodd Hall.

A section of the parking lot, along with land south of the parking lot will be used for development of the morgue. The morgue will occupy an acre of land.

William J. Griffith, director of campus planning and space utilization, said “less than an acre” of the five-acre parking lot will be used for the morgue.

“THERE WILL be parking spaces lost,” Griffith said, but said he would not know how many until plans for the layout of the morgue were settled. The southern part of the parking lot, part of which will be eliminated, is a ‘C’ (student) sticker area.

Griffith said his office was “trying to develop some additional parking in the southwest area of campus” and had given Francis Gardner, director of traffic and parking, alternatives (sites for parking development) to study.

GARDNER SAID he was reviewing possible sites but did not say where the sites were or how many parking spaces might be developed.

He said “hopefully” no parking spaces would be lost and also said he expects to have something definite on development of a parking site “in a couple of weeks.”

Construction of a new parking lot should begin before work on the morgue is started, Gardner said. Griffith said he does not expect construction of the morgue to begin until some time next year.

EDWARD Q. MOULTON, vice president of business and administration, said the University picked the location of the morgue. He said this location was chosen rather than the recreational field across Cannon Drive from the parking lot because “we’re trying to preserve recreational space.”

Another reason given for choosing this location for the morgue was because of its “readiness to University Hospital and the College of Medicine.”

OHIO STATE University property was picked as a site for the new morgue after the City Commission proposed a plan to the University where the city would pay for building and operating the morgue.

The land will be leased to Franklin County for 40 years after which time the building will be kept as University property.

Funding found for morgue crime laboratory at OSU

By Tom Loftus

Franklin County Commissioner Robert Southwick announced Thursday that funding has been found for the construction of the new county morgue and crime laboratory to be located near the southwest end of campus.

Southwick said $1.5 million in federal revenue sharing money will finance most of the construction. He said the remaining $600,000 will be provided by the city of Columbus.

The $600,000 which the city is contributing for the construction will pay for its rent of the facility from the county for the first twenty years it is in use, Southwick said.

FOR THE PAST 25 years morgue services for Franklin County were provided by Ohio State’s College of Medicine, but a new facility became necessary as the amount of service required grew, said Edward Q. Moulton, vice president of business administration.

Southwick said construction of the two-story building should begin in the spring and should be complete about a year.

The facility will be located on the northeast corner of King Ave. and Cannon Drive, Southwick said.

SOUTHwick said the building be named Evans Hall, after Robert Evans who was Franklin County commish from 1949 to 1974. Evans died last year still holding office this past summer.
Parking area need cited for morgue

County Commissioners will probably ask Ohio State University for more land for a county morgue and crime laboratory.

The county originally asked for two acres to build the structure and was granted a single acre on the south edge of the campus.

Commissioner Robert T. Southwick told persons interested in the morgue Tuesday he feels at least 50 parking spaces should be provided in connection with the facility.

This would include parking space for the estimated 30 employees and five of the 23 police agencies that will be taking evidence to and from the morgue and laboratory.

Persons involved have submitted their space requirements and architect Dan Carmichael has been instructed to prepare a working plan for the new building.

A university official noted "parking is a problem all over the campus and "parking space is second in importance only to football players."

If you think OSU's 'dead' now...

By Ed McGaraghan

For those of you who think things are pretty dead on campus, the worst may be yet to come.

Administration officials are looking into the possibility of having a county morgue and crime laboratory built on University property.

In a recent letter to President Harold L. Enarson, County Commissioner Harold M. Cooper said the county coroner would like to build the $1.2 million facility at the northeast corner of King Avenue and Cannon Drive.

The two-story building would include a morgue unit, autopsy rooms, X-ray unit, chemistry laboratory and office space.

Cooper suggested that the University might lease the land to the county. He said building facilities could be used for programs of the Colleges of Medicine and Law and other related departments.

He said it is desirable to have the morgue near University Hospital "where the many specialized and sophisticated medical and scientific services needed to support such a facility would be readily available."

Cooper asked Enarson to present the proposal to each of the Ohio State Board of Trustees, and said he hoped for early approval and construction.

Eric Gilbertson, special assistant to Enarson, said the president is "generally favorable to the idea," but "there are a lot of legal implications involved."

One of the legal tangles, according to Gilbertson, is that "almost all" University land is owned by the state and the matter has to go through the Department of Public Works.

Cooper said the legal implications would probably cause some delay, and the proposed site was not definite.

In the letter, Cooper suggested that qualified personnel on the coroner's staff would be given academic appointments to participate in Ohio State's faculty programs.

"Most of the people on the coroner's staff now are professors at Ohio State."
Life begins for county’s morgue, crime laboratory

By Jack Brady

Groundbreaking for a new county morgue and crime lab which will also house teaching facilities for students from both Ohio State and Capital Universities will take place next week.

Robert Southwick, Franklin County commissioner, said the new structure will be constructed on University owned land at the northeast corner of the Drummond Court and King Ave. intersection.

The building will take approximately 18 months to build, Southwick said.

Southwick said the decision to build the new morgue was made last year at a meeting of officials from the county commissioner’s office and University Hospital. At the meeting it was revealed that the morgue, which is presently housed at the hospital, cost the county $150,000 annually. The commissioners decided that a new morgue was economically feasible.

SOUTHWICK SAID the first floor of the new structure will house three pathology labs, the county coroner’s office, administration and staff offices, a refrigeration unit and a large multi-purpose room.

The second floor will house Columbus Division of Police laboratories for criminology, chemistry and ballistics. It will also have labs for forensic chemistry, a process which studies cause and time of death through chemical means.

Thomas Smith, director of the University physical facilities plant said the land the new morgue will be constructed on is being leased to the county by the University.

LEO S. ROVTAR, an architect for the Dan A. Carmichael architectural firm, 5 E. Long St., which drew the plans for the new morgue, said the general construction contract for the $2.1 million project was awarded to Miller Construction Company.
More than autopsies performed at morgue

By Nancy Hanus
[0-29-8]

People who envision a morgue as a morbid and depressing place might be disappointed if they visit Robert A. Evans Hall, where the offices and laboratories of the Franklin County Morgue, the county coroner's office, and the county's forensic sciences laboratory are located.

Both inside and out the facility resembles an ordinary office building with glassed-in offices, a reception area and a conference room.

The two-story structure, which is located at 520 King Ave. across from Battelle Memorial Institute, is a cooperative venture involving Franklin County, the city of Columbus and OSU.

In addition to providing services to Franklin and surrounding counties, the morgue serves as a teaching facility for some OSU medical students who observe the morgue's staff at work.

The facility houses its own X-Ray division, a photography department, an ID section to identify wounds and tattoos, and chemical analysis and toxicology laboratories. Pathology laboratories, at which autopsies are performed, are also found in Evans Hall.

So far this year, the morgue has handled 2,232 bodies.

Any deaths involving violence must be reported to the county coroner. The morgue, therefore, handles homicides, suicides, drug overdoses, automobile and industrial accidents and fire deaths if arson is suspected.

Also, when a person in presumably good health dies, or when someone dies in surgery, the emergency room or within 24 hours of being admitted to a hospital, the coroner is contacted and an autopsy is usually scheduled.

According to Suzanne Cozad, administrator to William R. Adron, Franklin County Coroner, a body cannot even be touched or removed from the scene of a suspected homicide until Adron has arrived and has authorized its removal.

Adron must be at the scene of a homicide, Cozad explained, so he can see the body in its original position and note circumstances surrounding the death. Important factors might be room temperature, open or closed windows and the body's position.

After the body is removed from the scene it is transferred to the morgue, where tests are conducted to discover the cause of death and to establish the specific circumstances surrounding the death.

Such tests must be conducted, Cozad said, because without them there is not enough proof to convict the victim's assailant in court.

Records kept by the coroner's office indicate the holiday season brings out the worst in people — last year the highest monthly homicide rate, 17, occurred in December.

The coroner has subpoena power to records and people, she said. But more often he conducts informal inquests since some people would rather talk to him than to police. The coroner's office also receives some anonymous calls which are sometimes important in determining the cause of death.

Cozad said the autopsy is a delicate surgical procedure during which the body is handled with care and all organs are replaced. In addition to its pathological facilities, the morgue houses some of the most modern laboratories in the state.

The toxicology lab, for example, is one of the best in the area, Cozad said. New methodology allows the morgue's staff to check drugs found in bodies more efficiently.

Since very few facilities can do thorough autopsies which provide evidence that will stand up in court cases, about 23 state counties send bodies of homicide victims to the Franklin County Morgue, Cozad said.

The City of Columbus Crime Laboratory is located on the second floor of the facility. When bullets are retrieved from bodies undergoing autopsies or when evidence such as clothing, hair or fingernails is removed, an officer from the crime laboratory is present and able to take the evidence directly to the second floor.
10-29-81
The Lantern/Amy Chivington
Franklin County Morgue at King Avenue and Cannon Drive.
Evans Award winner to speak Oct. 5, 6

Peter G. Schultz, professor of chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, will speak at 3:30-4:45 p.m. Oct. 5 and 6 in 100 McPherson Lab. As the Evans Award Winner for 1995, Schultz will discuss "Probing Protein Structure and Function with an Expanded Genetic Code" on Oct. 5, and "Lesson from the Immune System: From Catalysis to Superconductors" on Oct. 6.

Reservations are not necessary. For more information, call Ruth S. Cogley at 292-8917.
Class offers students look at crime lab in Evans Hall

By Charley H. Gillespie
Lantern staff writer

Three shots were fired on the second floor of Evans Hall Thursday and 11 bodies covered in white cloth crowded a small room on the ground level.

A huddled group of students found that negotiating their way past the dead without accidentally touching them was no field trip.

Then again it was a field trip. This was Dr. Richard Pfau's anthropology class visiting not a crime scene but a crime lab. The shots were from a ballistics test and the bodies were in the morgue.

"The purpose of the field trip is to give the class an idea of what goes on in a real forensic laboratory," Pfau said.

Evans Hall houses the Columbus police department's crime lab and the Franklin County Morgue.

Pfau began the field trip describing the benefits the police enjoy having their crime lab on campus.

"This is a full service laboratory, criminalists don't need to send evidence to other labs," Pfau said. He said with all the different departments at Ohio State the investigators have a wealth of knowledge here on campus. He said that when the lab lacks the knowledge or equipment, we "ask our friends on campus."

Pfau gave a rather macabre example:

"Dope dealers killed other dealers, they then tried to get rid of the bodies by dismembering them in a bathtub with a chainsaw. Anyone who has ever used a chainsaw knows they jump. Well, this chain saw jumped and chipped the tile around the tub."

"We never found the bodies but we found bits of bone in the drain trap," Pfau said. "We also found shards of what appeared to be tile on the suspect's clothes. We took the tile to the OSU Department of Ceramic Engineering and had a platoon of Ph.D. engineers available to help us. They told us the tile from the suspect's clothes was tile from the murder scene."

The 40 students who took the tour seemed used to Pfau's explicit descriptions of the crime scene.

"Dr. Pfau is very interesting and always has a good story," said Christine Paine, an anthropology student in Pfau's class. She said that throughout the quarter Dr. Pfau has given the class graphic details of murders and then the class tries to solve them.

"It's totally different from other classes I have taken because we're learning to investigate a crime scene," Paine said.

Pfau, adjunct assistant professor of anthropology, had been director of the Columbus police crime lab for more than 20 years. Now he teaches Anthropology 640: The Con- See MORGUE/Page 2
temporary Concepts of Forensics.

"It is a very worthwhile course for students in many fields. Students taking law, criminology, journalism, nursing and anthropology could all benefit by taking this course," Pfau said.

As the tour continued, Mark Shaw, a criminalist employed by the Columbus police department, guided the group through the different departments of the crime lab. Shaw explained that when an officer confiscates possible evidence from a crime scene it is taken to the property room, from there it goes to either the firearms, drug analysis, trace evidence or DNA analysis departments of the crime lab.

Each department had a criminalist that explained to the group different methods of investigating evidence from crime scenes.

The criminalist in the firearms department explained ways of using chemicals to reveal serial numbers from guns that have had the numbers scratched off. A couple of people in the group jumped when a detective fired three shots into a ballistics tank to determine whether a certain gun was used in a crime.

In the trace evidence department the students in the tour were able to see the different tools used to find even the smallest of clues. A vacuum with a fine screen was used to collect hair and carpet fibers. One room had a table covered in black paper under an assortment of different colored lights that enable an investigator to see evidence others might have missed. Shaw also explained how they use the fumes from Super glue to highlight fingerprints.

The drug analysis and DNA analysis departments displayed technical equipment the criminalists use to collect evidence. The group was shown an example of a DNA sample from blood taken from a suspect in a shooting last year at an Odd Lots store.

"The field trip helped me understand things we talked about in class better, to see the actual equipment and how it is used was very informative," Paine said.

After all this knowledge it was time to tour the morgue. Pfau reminded the class that this part of the tour is voluntary. He advised the group to take five deep breaths before entering and not breathe through their noses.

After explaining how the bodies are examined, Pfau guided the group through the body storage room. Perhaps expecting to see bodies stored in drawers, some seemed surprised to see 11 bodies on gurneys lining the small room.

Only the toes gave clue to the reality of the moment. On the right foot of each there was a name tag identifying a face that many were glad they could not see.

There was a separate room for the next of kin to identify a body through a window. Some in the group noticed the pink painted toenails on one of the many pairs of feet in the room. The nametag indicated it was the woman who jumped Tuesday from the Broad Street bridge onto Interstate 71.

The autopsy room filled quickly with students anxious to be out of the closed confines of the body storage room. Some seemed relieved that the autopsy table was empty.

"I have worked with dead mice in laboratories before," Paine said. "Although it wasn't that bad, I made sure I didn't touch any of the bodies."

The warm sun greeted the students after the tour was completed and perhaps more than a few students were glad to be out of the air conditioning in that particular room. Pfau was one person completely unaffected by the tour.

"Once you're used to the smell you can stay there all day," Pfau said. "On hot days I will eat my lunch in there."

Anthropology 640 is available to any junior or senior OSU students in Winter and Summer quarters.