

Indiana Medical History Museum

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2015

Perspectives on the Evans Building Demolition

Evans Building reduced to rubble, February 2015

Today Seven Steeples, or the Department for Women, is the best known of the former Central State Hospital buildings. Due to the building's [grandeur](#), its [demolition](#) in the 1970s is a source of fascination for many museum visitors. The loss of Seven Steeples is made palpable by [the open space it once occupied](#), across from the museum on the other side of the parking lot.

Less grand was the Evans Building, which sat on the other side of that open space until January 2015, when excavators began reducing the structure to rubble. This demolition is part of the multifaceted transformation of [the former Central State Hospital Grounds](#), now known as [Central Greens](#).

Along with the Bolton Building, which was torn down last year, the Evans Building opened in 1974 to replace Seven Steeples. Together the buildings housed around 800 adult psychiatric patients; the Evans building had a special treatment unit for the

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Free Admission for Military Personnel

The IMHM will be a Blue Star Museum once again this year! Active-duty military personnel and their immediate families will receive free admission from Memorial Day, May 25, 2015 through Labor Day, September 7, 2015

From the

developmentally disabled and the addiction service unit; Bolton housed special units for the deaf and the elderly.

The Evans building was named after Dr. John Evans (1814-1897), who lobbied for and oversaw the construction of Central State Hospital (which was originally called the Indiana Hospital for the Insane). He was the hospital's first superintendent.

For this reason, another former Central State structure has sometimes been referred to as "the Evans Building" -- the original hospital building that was constructed in the 1840-1850s and torn down nearly one hundred years later. This is the building that became the Department for Men after Seven Steeples was built in the 1870s-1880s.

The Department for Men in the course of demolition, c. 1940

John Evans later went on to become one of the founders of both Northwestern University and the University of Denver. As governor of Colorado he was implicated in the Sand Creek Massacre, a horrifying act of genocide against the Cheyenne and Arapaho. Evans's legacy has therefore been rather controversial, and views on Evans are still evolving. Northwestern University recently sponsored [an interesting inquiry](#) into Evans's role in the massacre.

Many thanks to Jordan Ryan for her summaries of the Central State Hospital annual reports (1845-1994), which were extremely helpful in writing this article.

Archives

For more about Dr. John Evans and the founding of Central State Hospital, read Charles A. Bonsett, MD, "[Medical Museum Notes](#)," The Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association, Vol. 70, no. 2, (February 1977), p. 49. Reprinted with the permission of the Indiana State Medical Association.

John Zwara Exhibit



Several paintings by John Zwara are still on display in the upstairs hall. Zwara was a patient at Central State Hospital in 1938; the paintings are of the hospital grounds. The exhibit will remain through early spring.

Looking Back Wizards Academy 2014

(Joel Vanderbush from Animalia entertains young visitors. Photo by Lindsay Kurbursky.)

The 10th annual Wizards Academy was a great success, as young wizards tricked their

taste buds, and explored chromatography, moving milk, and dry ice bubbles. The event was kicked off by an exciting presentation of exotic creatures from Animalia.

Looking Back

A Hearty Thanks to our 2014 Members and Volunteers

To our members: We'd like to thank all of you for your generous contributions in 2014 -- but there are far too many of you to list here! Please refer to the 2013-2014 annual report you received in the mail for a full listing of our contributing members.

To our volunteers: Whether you worked outdoors in the Medicinal Plant Garden or inside the Old Pathology Building, regularly or for special events, your efforts helped make 2014 a wonderful year at the Indiana Medical History Museum!!

Lois Allis
Patricia Angotti
Kathi Coon Badertscher
Craig Banning
JoAnna Bowen
Ann Blunk
Cliff Bush
Rhea Cain
Mary Ann Cates
Robert Catus
Shannon Cook
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