

Program: Indiana's Central State Hospital

Speaker: Chuck Hazelrigg, R.Ph., D.D.S

Guests: Lee Peters, Dave Ry, Ginny Terpenney, David Zauer

Attendance: 129

Introduced and Sponsored By: Bob Yee

Scribe: Jerry Kurlander

Editor: Jim Willson

Dr. Hazelrigg is a graduate of Butler University in pharmacy with a degree R.Ph. He also has a D.D.S. degree in dentistry with special training in pediatric dentistry. He was an employee of the hospital for many years as a dentist and administrator, giving him an extensive background knowledge of the institution.

All of the neighboring states had one or more hospitals for the mentally ill except Indiana. John Evans MD from Ohio was a major influence in opening the first Indiana hospital for the insane in 1848. An ideal location was found 2 miles west of the city on 160 acres of farmland.. Three major buildings were constructed over time. The first was the department for men, the next the department for women and the third the sick hospital. Curiously the first five patients were all women.

The hospital for the insane was authorized by the state legislature in 1827 but construction was delayed for several years with the opening finally in November 1848. In 1889 the hospital was renamed Central Indiana Hospital for the Insane and after 1926 it was known as the Central State Hospital with nearly 3000 patients. The hospital was closed in 1994.

Dr. Hazelrigg proceeded to show many rare slides depicting the evolution of the hospital over many years. He began by showing images of the log cabins on the first proposed property in the early 1800s to the magnificent ornate buildings known as the "Seven Steeples." There was a farm colony used as occupational therapy for patients. There was also a chapel, amusement hall with an auditorium, billiards, bowling alleys, a bakery, fire station, a cannery manned by patients and a greenhouse growing vegetables and lovely flowers planted around the facility. He also showed images of the butcher shop, paint shop, cottages, power plant and catacombs. Most employees were required to live on the estate. The images of physician housing were beautiful.

In most areas the hospital was well-equipped. The dental clinic had two dentists and two hygienists. From July 1, 1934 to June 30, 1935 there were 96 surgical procedures performed. They varied from tonsillectomy to removal of the gallbladder. The mortality and complication rate was low. The death rate in this group was approximately 7%. Ether anesthesia was commonly utilized for general anesthesia.

By the time the lecture was complete we had seen more than 100 slides in the evolution and development of Central State Hospital. This was a rare collection probably available nowhere else. A favorite administrator who played a big role in the development of the institution was Max Bahr.



Chuck Hazelrigg, R.Ph., D.D.S.