

Now & Then

STILL NATIONAL OSTEOPATHIC MUSEUM

NATIONAL CENTER FOR OSTEOPATHIC HISTORY

LAUGHLIN BOWL

Park to Parking Lot

Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery's President George Laughlin's, D.O. plans for a shrine park to Dr. A. T. Still, M.D., D.O. were just beginning. With the move of Dr. Still's cabin to Kirksville and its placement in the area north of the ASO Infirmary Building, the idea for a park dedicated to Dr. Still and osteopathy was born.¹ The fortieth anniversary of the founding of osteopathy was coming up and Dr. Laughlin wanted to hold a pageant for this affair. In order to accommodate the foreseen crowds, he contracted William Dodd Chenery and Donald Stanford to oversee the project. Both men had worked on completing a historical pageant for Buffalo, New York. Dr. Laughlin intended to build an amphitheater - "the bowl," as we have come to call the natural ravine behind the school and next to the cabin.

Stanford created a plaster of paris model of the amphitheater, with rows of seating built into the natural bowl of the ravine, an elevated stage at the open end to the north, and an orchestra pit in front of the stage. The wooded area surrounding the bowl would provide a natural background for the planned capacity of 4,000 persons. However, while the bowl was primarily built for the pageant, it was also to be kept as a permanent outdoor theater for public use.²

Work on the bowl started with the removal of the brush and trees in the area. During the blasting, a stump was blown so forcefully that it crashed through the roof of the ASO Bookstore a block away.

Fortunately it did not injure the owner, Charles Gahan, D.O., '27, but it was reported that he did have trouble with his speech for several days.



Laughlin Bowl [Museum Collection, PH 988]

Next, contractors installed grading and drain pipes during the summer, and a road was constructed which ran down the valley, across the stage, and up a wooded slope, making possible the use of wagons, carriages, and horses in the pageant.³ The stage was to measure 55 by 80 feet to accommodate the size of the pageant and any other public performance that might subsequently be held there.

On the production front, the script for the pageant was written by Chenery, and included the story of Dr. Still's life as well as the growth of the osteopathic profession. Announcements went out and the "Pageant of Progress" was to be held October 5-6, 1932, prior to the Annual Convention of the Missouri Osteopathic Association. Casting for the play was primarily from the KCOS student body, Kirksville State Teachers College (KSTC/Truman State University), and junior and senior high school students. The orchestra, conducted by John L. Biggerstaff, head of the music department at KSTC, consisted of the KCOS Band, KSTC Band,



Stanley Ratcliff
Journal of Osteopathy,
Vol. 39, 1932 May

and a 200-voice chorus directed by Barrett Stout, also a faculty member of KSTC.⁴ Stanley Ratcliff of Bradford, England, portrayed Dr. Still. (A synopsis of the play can be found in the *Journal of Osteopathy* 1932.)

On returning to the school the day of the pageant, Chenery was met by the head grounds keeper who said to him, "I have prepared a wonderful surprise for you." On the hillside of the ravine, he had constructed in large letters of stone the name of Dr. Still; Chenery was not happy with this scene, later noting; "My heart went down when I saw those big and ugly rocks." According to Chenery, work by the grounds keeper had destroyed the scenic effect of the pageant. How to hide this grotesque display before the pageant started was a major concern. "I tried to collect my wits," stated Chenery, "and then the idea struck me that the only thing to do was to cover the rocks with branches and the green things of nature. This I did."⁵

"The Spirit of Healing: A Pageant of Progress" was considered a great success for the school. Seven thousand people crowded into the arena, with crowds standing four to five rows deep outside the bowl. The dedication of the amphitheater was held after the pageant. A.C. Hardy, D.O., '11, was in charge. Chenery and other dignitaries were introduced and Judge Walter Higbee gave a speech. Dr. A.T. Still's granddaughter, Mary Jane Laughlin, completed the dedication by reciting a poem:

"In the name of the God of nature,
Spirit of the Field and forest,
To the cause of music, and of art,
To drama and to play,
This shrine we dedicate
And Christen.
O Laughlin Bowl."

In May of the following year, officials decided to make additional improvements to the Laughlin Bowl. The shale and sand, which were spread over the clay surface for the pageant, were removed, and the bowl and ledges areas were seeded with grass. Shrubbery and trees were planted around the bowl's mouth to serve as backdrops for future stage productions, and a number of Japanese elms, honeysuckle, and privet hedges were planted.

In July 1933, the Laughlin Bowl was used for a civic activity. The Kirksville State Teachers College staged an opera in the amphitheater, providing an opportunity to test out the acoustics of the bowl without using loudspeakers. Later that fall the city held its first annual Fall Festival.⁶ Also in 1934 Sigma

Phi sponsored a wrestling match in the bowl, which consisted of four professional bouts with the proceeds going to the fraternity's student loan fund.⁷

In January of 1940, the Laughlin Bowl and the land around it was deeded to the City of Kirksville to be turned into a city park. During this time the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was contacted by the City to complete the work on the bowl. A grant was awarded to the City from the WPA for \$30,000 to provide concrete steps and foundations for redwood seats.⁸ Due to the lack of money and the start of World War II, however, the work was never completed.

On June 10, 1950, the Laughlin Bowl was once again part of a large gala event. The cornerstone for the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery was laid and commencement exercises were held for the 41 members of the graduating class.⁹

When work began on the Timken-Burnett Building in 1961, neither the city nor the school was using the Laughlin Bowl. It had become the area where the waste from construction and other items no longer needed by the school were dumped. Patrons have told stories of taxidermy and other items that were placed in the bowl over the years. One of these stories claims that the larger-than-life statue of Dr. Still, which was once housed in the Old North Lecture Hall, was thrown into the bowl right before it was completely covered with rock. The bowl and everything in it was covered with rock and asphalt to create a parking lot for the new building.

At the time of this news article, ATSU has plans to place the new Institutional Technology Center (ITC) building in the area of the parking lot that was once near the Laughlin Bowl. We hope that when ground is broken for this project, the museum will be able to answer some of the many questions regarding what was or was not dumped into the bowl.

Debra Loguda-Summers
Curator

¹ *Journal of Osteopathy*, Vol.33, 1926 October, p 612

² *J. Ost.*, Vol.39, 1932 May, p 291

³ *J. Ost.*, Vol.39, 1932 July, pp 420-422

⁴ *J. Ost.*, Vol.39, 1932 Oct, p 584

⁵ *J. Ost.*, Vol.40, 1933 Apr, p 94

⁶ *J. Ost.*, Vol.40, 1933 Nov, pp 414, 498

⁷ *J. Ost.*, Vol.41, 1934 May, p 223

⁸ *J. Ost.*, Vol.47, 1940 Jan, p 23

⁹ *J. Ost.*, Vol.57, 1950 July, p 19

FROM KIRKSVILLE TO NIGERIA – STUDENTS EXPERIENCE AFRICAN CULTURE AND ART

The Museum, in conjunction with the Kirksville Arts Association and Mary Immaculate School, presented an educational program entitled “Into Africa.” This weeklong workshop created by Jason Haxton, director, and Penny Rott, education coordinator, showcased art and culture from Africa. During the summer of 2002, Rott had the unique opportunity to travel to Malawi, Southern Africa. Much of the curriculum and visuals were based on her experiences. Not only did the students learn about art, but also various museum exhibits were incorporated in the workshop. The students spent one day learning about the medical garden since in various remote places in Africa, the people do not have access to health care, including medicine and they have to create their own. The medical garden served as the model for understanding medical plant use. The climax of the week for the students

happened when the students created artwork that was sent with KCOM students providing medical mission support to people of Nigeria. Then Nigeria students created artwork that was returned to American students. Plans are in the making for an art show at the Wooden Nickel.



Students display items from Africa, which helped them learn about the culture and art.

THE HEALER WITHIN GOES INTERNATIONAL

From the beginning when the idea for The Healer Within® was first conceived almost six years ago, the Museum has taken an active role in supporting and improving this exceptional teaching exhibit that travels throughout the United States and soon to Canada.

That’s right! The Museum is pleased to inform our membership that The Healer Within® exhibit has received its first international booking. Starting this October 27 and running through February 20, 2005, The Healer Within® will be featured at Science World British Columbia in the city of Vancouver. With a population of two million and growing, Vancouver is one of Canada’s largest Cities.

Kevin Kearns, Director of Exhibits & Programs at Science World, saw The Healer Within® during its venue at the Smithsonian last year and was determined to book it for Science World-BC. Mr. Kearns related that the exhibit would appeal to a large segment of their student visitors in grades K-12. The Healer exhibit is fresh, colorful, and interactive. Furthermore, this exhibit invites students to traverse the systems of the whole body and see the connectivity of how the body functions and learn about the body’s amazing healing processes.

A major component of The Healer Within® exhibit was actually created by a business in Ontario, Canada called: Jestertek - Vivid Group. In creating the

exhibit, ATSU faculty and Museum personnel wanted to show the role of the white blood cell in preventing the spread of disease. Creating an interactive game relating to this process was a task given to a design team from Jestertek. The Canadian design team created software and computer components that let visitors take a virtual ride through the body as a white blood cell to fight infections. It has proven to be one of the most popular pieces in the exhibit.

Since its debut in fall of 2000, over two-and-a-half million visitors have benefited from The Healer Within®, which was created as a good will gift to the world in the name of osteopathic medicine. The exhibit continues to share its positive message about osteopathic health care at major science and health museums many of which have timed openings to coincide with state osteopathic conventions which include: Washington D.C., Oklahoma, Ohio, and this spring Indiana.

Vancouver receives a wide range of international tourists, who will get to learn about the Museum and A.T. Still University through this engaging exhibit that teaches young and old alike how the body works and steps one can take to have a healthier and longer life.

www.scienceworld.bc.ca

ADOPT-A-DOCUMENT PROGRAM

The Museum has been actively involved in the preservation of its paper holdings for many years. A stable environment, along with the use of archival folders and boxes provide the basic needs for most items. However, other paper materials require more care to prolong their life. Our "Adopt-A-Document" program has been setup so that concerned individuals can help with the mission to preserve, protect, and make available original historical documents related to the history of osteopathy and the teachings of Dr. Still. In 2002 the Museum received a grant from the Missouri Historical Records Grant to preserve the personal papers of Dr. Still. This grant allowed us to preserve 114 individual pieces of paper from this collection. Over the past few years other contributions, and grants have assisted with our preservation efforts. Conservation cost can run from \$200 to \$500 per item, depending on the damage.

If you would like to lend support and Adopt-A-Document we need your help. At right is a list of possibilities for documents or a collection you may wish to adopt. All contributors will be acknowledged in our newsletter and on our web site. A certificate of appreciation will be included alongside the item or collection that was adopted. Additionally, all contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Donations for the program can be made payable to the "Still National Osteopathic Museum" and mailed to 800 West Jefferson, Kirksville, MO, 63501-1497. **Please indicate payment is for the Adopt-A-Document program.**

Andrew Taylor Still Papers: 1864-1917 (bulk 1891-1917) The collection includes Still's original writings (essays, speeches, letters); letters to Still; military records and other personal documents; other materials relating to Still's death in 1917. The collection includes handwritten, typed, and printed material.

Littlejohn Papers: Founders of the Chicago and British School of Osteopathy: 1899-1913 Correspondence between the Littlejohns (David, James, and J. Martin) and the American School of Osteopathy and others, mostly having to do with ASO contract controversy (1899-1902).

Charles E. Still Jr. Collection: Son of Charles E. Still Sr. eldest son of A.T. Still; 1882-1992 (bulk ca. 1900-1940) Reminiscences of A.T. Still by people who knew him, collected by Charles E. Still, Sr.; some photocopies; ca. 1924-1938.

Wilbur Bohm Collection: ca. 1914-1991 (bulk 1920s-1960s) Books, photographs, documents, and memorabilia of Dr. Bohm's undergraduate days and career in sports medicine. Wilbur Harrison Smith Bohm (ASO 1921) was a pioneer in the field of sports medicine. He then turned to professional sports and served a number of teams in football, baseball, and basketball. He was also a member of the U.S. Olympic Team training staff in 1932 and 1936.

WISH LIST:

Workshop Equipment – Since 1999, the Museum has operated a small exhibit-production workshop stocked with several basic pieces of woodworking equipment. However, we lost all but two pieces in October, 2003 due to the fact that they were on indefinite loan from an area citizen who has since left the area. We hope to replace these pieces of equipment over the next twelve months to get the shop in operating order once again.

Table saw roller-support stand	\$ 35
Drill Press	180
Scroll Saw	150
Reciprocating saw	100
Band saw	140
Table-mounted planer & knife kit	325
Jointer unit and knife kit	425

Gallery Lighting (\$6,000) – Good lighting is important both for the comfort of our visitors and the well-being of our artifacts (which can deteriorate when exposed to harmful types and levels of light.)

Vacuum for Museum Main Gallery (\$250) – For the safety of the artifacts, all cleaning in our exhibit areas is done by Museum staff and volunteers. The vacuum currently being used for this task is a hand-me-down at least 16 years old.

Color printer (\$200) – In the past several years the museum has been asked to produce colored reproductions of artifacts and images from our collection for exhibits and patrons. A colored printer would allow us to fill these requests.

DINERS FIND OSTEOPATHIC “ARTIFACT” AT RESTAURANT

Adair County Associate Commissioner Ray Klinginsmith and wife Judie were passing through O’Fallon, Mo. one morning late last month and were enjoying breakfast at the newly opened Cracker Barrel restaurant, when Judie spotted a certificate from the American School of Osteopathy hanging on the wall. Ray upon closer inspection saw the signature of A.T. Still and realized this was an original historic artifact. Judie relayed, “Ray hopped up and went over to the certificate several times confirming his belief that this was something from Kirksville’s earliest years. I am pretty sure he made those dining near the item a little bit nervous.” But Ray was delighted with the find and wrote Still National Osteopathic Museum Director Jason Haxton about their unique discovery.

It took little time to confirm that the artifact was indeed a dissection certificate from 1906 and the person named on it was Julian C. Foster, D.O. of Butler, Pa. Nearly 100 years ago Dr. Foster graduated from the ASO and then moved back to his hometown. He was married in 1919 to Miss Harriet Martha Jolliffee of Pittsburgh, and we presume that they led a quite life until his death in 1942.

The museum curator Debra Loguda-Summers used the Klinginsmith’s information to contact Cracker Barrel headquarters. Jim Taylor, spokesman for Cracker Barrel, based in Lebanon, Tenn., was very instrumental in making sure this artifact was returned to the museum. He said that they have over 504 restaurants and track a total of 600,000 artifacts dis-

played in the various eating establishments, many items hung relate to the region where the restaurant is located.

“We thought this [artifact] would mean more to these guests than us, in a way,” Mr. Taylor said. “You want to do the right thing.” So he agreed to give the certificate to the museum. The museum will create a computer generated duplicate for the restaurant’s wall and provide a framed image of A.T. Still, M.D., D.O. with a little background information on Osteopathic history to compliment the replaced document.

Loguda-Summers, traveled to the O’Fallon restaurant to pick up the artifact from the manager, John Girardi, and it is now at the museum being conserved and readied for display.

Excerpts from the St. Louis Post Dispatch
August 24, 2004
Reporter Valerie Schremp Hahn



Mr. and Mrs. Ray Klinginsmith with
Museum Curator Debra Loguda-Summers

VISIT YOUR FRIENDLY MUSEUM GIFT SHOP



The museum gift shop is always changing and searching for new items. If you haven’t dropped by, or visited the website in a while (<http://www.atsu.edu/museum>), please do. We have just produced a new shirt featuring the father of Osteopathy himself . . . A.T. Still. In that same line of pioneering Osteopaths, is a new poster highlighting William Garner Sutherland, D.O. who led the way in the cranial field of osteopathy. The poster chronicles Dr. Sutherland’s life, and provides some photos of him, and some of his experiments.

A new book, *Uncover the Human Body*, takes you through different bodily systems, with the assistance of a three-dimensional body model, providing fun and important information. This book is colorful and fun, great for children, and filled with enough information that medical students might learn a thing or two. New chrome and pearl pens featuring the D.O. caduceus have also arrived. They make the perfect gift for a medical student, or practicing osteopath. Keep checking back with the museum from time to time, for new merchandise.



PLANNING STRONG EXHIBITS: THERE ARE ALWAYS NEW STORIES TO BE TOLD

As mentioned in previous newsletters, exhibit development is a fluid, ongoing process that is never entered into lightly. As the only national museum of osteopathy, we're charged with the responsibility of relating our history and development, as well as preserving its heritage for the professional and layperson alike. There are no other entities that have this mission. With this in mind, we always plan and execute exhibits with professionalism, the utmost attention to detail, and devotion to a broader vision.

EXHIBIT UPDATES:

2004 has been—and will continue to be—an important year for the development of our museum exhibits. Interestingly, much of our work this year has been focused outside of the main galleries and on non-traditional exhibit activities. Starting this year, we've been increasing visitor awareness of the Museum through a couple of means. During the winter, we re-created our full-color general Museum brochure—the first since 1999. Since April (and continuing through the fall) we've been distributing them to various locations throughout the area, including the ATSU campus, hospital lobbies, Truman State University, the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses.

In addition to creating new promotional literature, we're just now completing a new historic photomontage in the cafeteria lobby of Northeast Regional Medical Center. The thirty-foot-long montage includes images of the earliest years of the school and hospital facilities, personnel, and activities up to the present. NRMC and ATSU have a long, shared history; our new 'exhibit'—scheduled to open in late September—will remind people of our common heritage, as well of the physical evolution of the Kirksville landscape.



Next came another non-exhibit endeavor. This past March the Museum was presented with the opportunity to expand its visibility in a new way. With the assistance of some museum staff and an outside consultant,

Rob Clement, exhibit preparator, architecturally-documented the Charles Still House located on Osteopathy Street. The fieldwork included photographing and measuring both the exterior and interior of the four-level structure. Clement then created detailed floor plans of the entire building and a catalogue of architectural images. Since no known architectural records of the last significant freestanding Kirksville structure directly related to the early days of osteopathy exist,

this project was pursued merely as a recordation for posterity. As a Museum, we are compelled, if not obligated, to perform such acts of historic preservation, even if only as a chronicler of history.



As spring arrived, we were back to work in the Historic Medicinal Plant Garden. This year we added over twenty new species, as well as some more practical items,

such as trash receptacles and exhibit catalogues. The new catalogues—the first produced in over four years—explain the history of medicinal plant gardens and the common uses of the exhibited plants. We plan to develop two additional sections of the garden in 2005 and the final two sections in 2006, expanding the catalogue as needed. The garden is maturing nicely into a modest but inviting transition between the east and west campuses. (As anyone who gardens will know, patience truly is a virtue when it comes to developing a landscape!)

Indoors, a new exhibit, scheduled to open this upcoming winter, will most likely be our best and most talked about exhibit in years. Although yet to be titled, this new exhibit on the human body will trace and examine the origins and early development of osteopathy's theoretical approach to anatomy. It will include early osteopathic textbooks, information on the development of the anatomy faculty, class drawings and photos, anatomical specimens, and one of our newest additions to the collection—a life-sized transparent anatomical mannequin named Ceres. Although the forty-year-old Ceres needs quite a bit of work on her technical components (electrical system, etc.), once up and running she will definitely be one of the main highlights of our museum tours for visitors of all ages. Make sure to stop in or check out our updated exhibits website.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

The major project for the National Center of Osteopathic History this past summer was to initiate a computerized inventory of the museum's collection. This is a very tedious task, which involves the merging of three different collections into one. Throughout the years many people have worked and volunteered at the museum. Each of them has had different ideas on how to accession and keep records of the artifacts that the museum possesses. The goal is to gather all of the information about an artifact and enter it into a museum-oriented computer program, Past Perfect.

Past Perfect allows the staff to easily search and keep records of museum information. Researchers can also use it to view digital images of artifacts in the collection, without physically going through the closed stacks.

The process of inventorying the collection involves many steps for each artifact. First, the artifact must be located; then a detailed description of the artifact's condition is recorded. Next, the original information cards are pulled and attached to the inventory sheet. Digital pictures or scans of the artifact are then taken and downloaded onto the computer. The images are then adjusted on the computer and saved. Additional information about each artifact can then be gathered from the accession books. All of the data is combined with the pictures and entered into Past Perfect. Finally each item is given a new accession number to keep the records uniform.

The museum is estimated to have about 25,000 artifacts in its collection. Over 1,400 artifacts and 1,200 images have been entered into Past Perfect so far. By no means was the museum expecting to get all 25,000 artifacts done in one summer; however, it was the goal to get a good start, and this was accomplished.

"OUR SECRET GARDEN"

This fall the Museum presented "Our Secret Garden." This event, which served as a trial for the level of interest in a similar yearly event, featured a short 15-20 minutes presentation by a master gardener, Sherri Corlett. In addition, exhibit preparator, Rob Clement gave a detailed tour of the garden. Recognition was given to Julia Ousterhout, assistant professor of pharmacology, for helping to coordinate this program. Light appetizers and refreshments were served to patrons.

RECIPE FOR DR. A.T. STILL'S LINIMENT

(Spelling and grammar from original letter)

August 28, 1972

President Morris Thompson, Kirksville, MO

"Dear Sir:-

Thank you for your letter of July 22 accepting the copy of autobiography of Dr. A.T. Still given by him to my grandparents Thos. A. Baher and wife. I am sure they would be happy to know it is now among materials for the Museum. Thank you and Mrs. Tilbrith for attending to this matter. Among the pages of my grandmothers' cookbook was this recipe for Dr. Stills Liniment with the notation always keep a bottle on hand."

Chloroform 1/2 oz.

Oil of Cedar 1 oz.

Oil of Sassafras 1/2 oz.

Spirits of Camphor 2 oz.

Alcohol 4 oz.

"Mr. and Mrs. Baher were my grandparents who lived in Palmyra, Mo. The following information was given by them to our family. Dr. Still came to Palmyra, Mo. To establish an office and begin a practice. He lived for a while in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Baher Mrs. Baher could neither walk nor talk, the Dr offered treatments and assured her it would not harm her if it did not help. As he told her it did help, The people of Palmyra changed their opinion [sic] of him but not enough to aid him to open an office. He then went to Hannibal and was not aided. He then went to Kirksville, Mo. I wanted this book placed in proper [sic] hands. It was valued highly by my Grandparents and their family."

Miss Mary Milton

Museum Collection [D 323]

GRANT AWARDS

- Missouri State Historical Grant, \$4586 "Inventory and Computerization of Still National Osteopathic Museum Artifacts"
- State Historical Society of Missouri Richard S. Brownlee Fund, \$500 "Ongoing Inventory and Computerization of Museum Artifacts"
- Institute for Museums and Library Services - Museums for America Grant, \$208,000 "The Healer Within You"

MEMBER REGISTRATION

- \$5 Student
- \$15 Resident/Intern
- \$25 Associate
- \$50 Friend
- \$100 Patron
- \$500 Sponsor
- \$1000 Benefactor
- \$5000 Donor Laureate

I would like to make an additional donation to the following Fund(s)

\$ _____ Collections
\$ _____ Education
\$ _____ Exhibition

If you are a D.O., please include your school and graduation year.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Would you want to receive the Museum newsletter by email? Yes No

Payment by Check # _____ or MC V AE Discover

Acct. # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Tax deductible to the extent of the law.

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday – Wednesday
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thursday
10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday
noon – 4 p.m.

Closed on major holidays,
during exhibit installations,
and for special campus events.

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MUSEUM STAFF

Director Jason Haxton
Curator Debra Loguda-Summers
Exhibits Preparator..... Rob Clement
Education Coordinator..... Penny Rott
Office Manager..... Brian Grubbs
Summer Intern Brian Schneider

The Mission of the Still National Osteopathic Museum is: to collect, preserve, and make available for research artifacts that tell the national history of the osteopathic profession, from its beginning in 1874 as a rural, Midwestern, alternative medical practice to its full acceptance one hundred years later as a medical profession practiced world-wide; and to educate the public by providing informational exhibits and educational programs about osteopathic history and principles including the science behind the body's natural ability of self-healing.

National Center for Osteopathic History



Still National Osteopathic Museum
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