



A museum in all its GLORE

"Help me . . . I just want to be loved." Lines of zigzag embroidery fills a cloth sheet hanging on the wall at the Glore (rhymes with lore) Psychiatric Museum in St. Joseph. A shudder ran down my spine as I recognized wedding vows and lines from songs stitched haphazardly in multiple colors and sizes.

The schizophrenic woman who sewed this creation was just one of the thousands of former occupants once housed in the State Lunatic Asylum No. 2.

The museum was named in honor of George Glore, the founder. In 1968, Glore built replica treatment devices for an exhibit during Mental Health Awareness Week. Because it was so well received by the public, the superintendent of the hospital asked Glore to keep collecting items relating to the treatment of the mentally ill, and the Glore Psychiatric Museum was founded. The display is still an integral part of the museum.

In 1997 the museum moved to its current home while the rest of the campus became a correctional facility, the Western Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center. The museum's main purpose is to educate people on the history of mental illness and to impress upon people that mental illness can be treated humanely. It was once featured on "Ripley's Believe It or Not."

Funding for the Glore Psychiatric Museum dried up in 2004, and the museum was in danger of being closed. An

agreement between the State of Missouri and The St. Joseph Museums, Inc., deemed that St. Joseph Museums, Inc. would manage the property and operations of the museum.

The State Lunatic Asylum No. 2 opened its doors to 25 patients on November 9, 1874. It had a 275-bed capacity, but grew to hold nearly 3,000 patients by the 1950s. In 1899 the name changed to St. Joseph State Hospital.

Families with nowhere else to turn committed their loved ones to the asylum and were instructed to drop off a nice set of clothing with the patient—for burial. According to information near the morgue in the basement of the museum, some families never returned to visit their relatives.

Rife with memorabilia from the old days and old ways, the museum includes furniture, a portion of the grand staircase from the original Administration Building and photographs. The tools of the trade, though, are the biggest attention-grabbers—instruments used for bleeding, dousing, stomping, restraining and spinning. The instruments for performing lobotomies lie in a glass case, alongside the details of the procedure.

Fever cabinets, a product of early 20th century reasoning, were used to treat syphilitic patients. Mannequins lie and sit in some of the early devices and restraints.

Benjamin Rush, known as "The Father of American Psychiatry," and also a signer of the Declaration of Independence, created the tranquilizer chair. A replica tranquilizer chair, complete with a boxed-in area for the head, stands on display. Another of Rush's tools, a replica of his knife used for bleeding patients to release evil spirits, lies on display in a glass case.

The "Bath of Surprise" consisted of a platform with a drop-floor that sent the patient into a vat of icy water. Some patients didn't survive the shock.



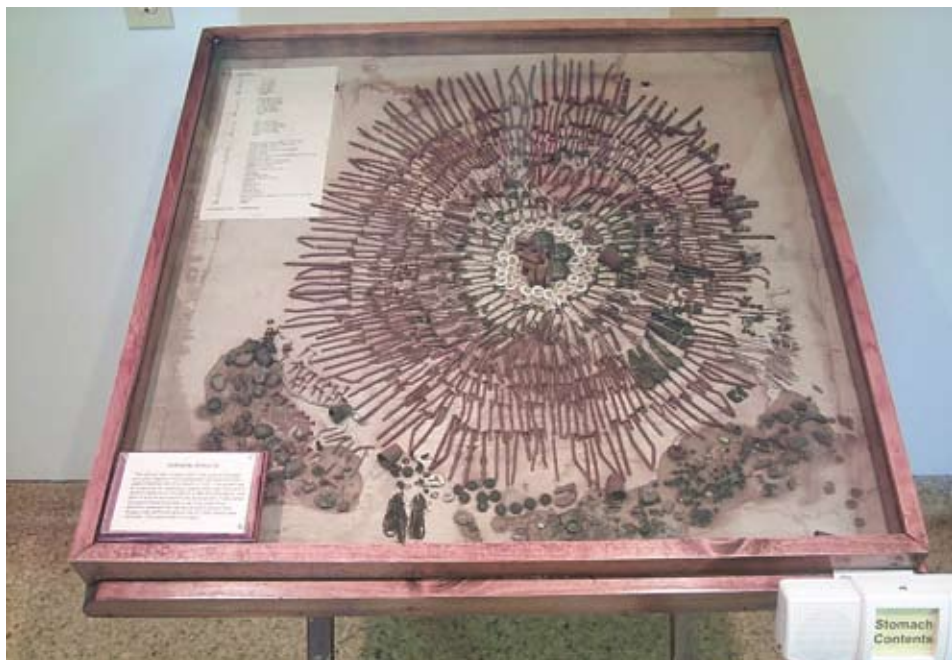
The model of O'Halloran's Swing leaves little to the imagination. This piece of equipment looks like it belonged in an old-time carnival, where a patient was strapped in and then set in circular motion up to 100 revolutions per minute.

A glass frame houses an interesting exhibit. In the late 1800s, a female patient complained of stomach pain. When doctors opened her up, they found 1,446 foreign items in her intestines and stomach, including 453 nails, screws, safety pins, spoon tops, buttons and other assorted items. She died during the operation.

Another display centers around a patient who had written and stuffed 525 notes into the back of a television set. Some of the notes were written as letters, while others were written in diary form. The television and a board full of copies of the notes stands on display next to another interesting display, a cage chock-full of cigarette wrappers. One patient believed that if he collected 100,000 cigarette packs, he could redeem them for a new wheelchair. So he rallied everyone he knew to give him his or her cigarette packs. Unfortunately it was discovered that there was no such prize being offered by the tobacco companies. In 1969, as a token of appreciation for his effort, the hospital administration presented a new wheelchair to the patient's unit.

The gift shop offers eccentric items—gummy (candy) brains, rubberized brains to squeeze and, of course, t-shirts.

The current psychiatric care facility sits across the street from the old location, and boasts a return rate after a rehabilitation program of 21 percent, as opposed to 58 percent in the 1950s and a much higher percentage at the turn of the last century.



(CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE PAGE) A mock treatment room depicts patient care at the former St. Joseph State Hospital. Check out the doctor's head lamp. Camisoles such as this one were hand-sewn at the hospital until 1968 and were used for patients who displayed overt combative behaviors toward themselves or others. A glass case displays 1,446 items that were removed from the intestines and stomach of a female patient in the late-1800s. Patients syphilitic patients were placed in fever cabinets in the early 20th century.

how to get there

The Glore Psychiatric Museum is located on the St. Joseph Museums, Inc., campus at 3406 Frederick Avenue. To get to the museum, take I-29 north to Exit 47 (the Frederick Avenue exit.) Head west about one mile past 36th Street, and watch for the St. Joseph Museums, Inc./Glore Psychiatric Museum sign visible on the left. Parking is free. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. The museum is closed major holidays. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students (7-18). Children 6 and under can visit free. For more information, call 800-530-8866 or 816-364-1209 or visit online at www.stjosephmuseum.org.