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Monitor Newsletter July 16, 1990

Bowling Green State University

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Friedman's new book takes first indepth look at Menninger family

Dr. Lawrence J. Friedman, history and American culture studies, doesn't believe the adage that talk is cheap. Some of the most valuable information he collected in researching his latest book was gathered during interviews. In fact, the whole project came about as the result of a friendly conversation.

Friedman's new book, entitled Menninger: The Family and the Clinic and published by Alfred A. Knopf Inc., is about America's "first family of psychiatry" and the mental health clinic they created.

Dr. Charles Menninger and his sons Karl and Will opened the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan., shortly after World War I. Widely known for its innovative approaches to mental health, the clinic came to play a key role in the development of modern psychiatric practice.

Nearly a decade after he began scholarly research on the pioneering work of the Menningers in the treatment of mental illness, Friedman has written a 472-page book which tells how the charismatic family shaped the clinic and how the enterprise shaped the family.

Described by The New York Times as a "thorough, accomplished addition to the history of American mental health," the book also traces how the clinic evolved over the years into a major psychiatric research center which remains today under the control of the Menningers.

Friedman is the first writer ever to be given access to the clinic archives and the family's private papers—and it was almost a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

While conducting research on a fellowship at the Menninger Foundation, Friedman casually remarked to Karl Menninger it was too bad no one had written a book about the history of his family and its work. Menninger agreed it was time for a book—but only if Friedman would write it.

"This is the first time any mental hospital has let a researcher in with no restrictions," according to Friedman. "I began (conducting research for the book) in 1981 when Karl Menninger gave me a key to the archives. The documentation was incredible. Each of the Menningers had kept memos and diaries—the level of documentation was just amazing," Friedman says.

The historian also conducted 106 interviews with members of the family, staff and former staff of the clinic. Friedman's "conservative estimate" is that he spent 300 hours alone with Karl Menninger. "Dr. Karl," who was awarded an honorary degree by the University in 1982, will be 97 later this month and is considered by many to be the 20th century's leading American psychiatrist.

The interviews produced even more historical documents.

"I never realized so much would be available," Friedman admits. "There was a period over five or six years when I spent all summer, every Christmas and all other breaks in Kansas. The more people I talked with, the more people started sending me things—documents they had hidden away."

Friedman said he now has a new respect for the use of interviews in collecting historical information.

Continued on back
Commentary

Editor, the Monitor:

On June 1, Classified Staff Council sponsored the annual golf scramble. The response was outstanding, with 30 teams participating. The council would like to thank all of the University em-
ployees who bought or sold raffle tickets, and/or volunteered their time to this project. More than 30 prizes were awarded and $25,400 was added to our scholarship fund.

A special thanks goes to Jane Schimpf and food operations, John Buckenmeyer of the Bookstore, and Todd Brunsink of Convason Golf Course. They also thank Ruth Milliron and Gary Baur, former head golfers, for their support.

Those winning prizes were: golfballs — Matt Evans, Mary Ann Rife; Plan Van Gundy, Bruce Rutte, International Women's, Kandy Duikes, Nancy Plouts, Ray Halley and Dave Carmicheal: golf retriever — Linda Mears; umbrella — Dave Seemnon: falcon jug — Tom Vance, Terry Merritt, Jeff Meek, Dave Godeen, John Snyder and Carol Ash; towel — Jerry Ritter, David Casby and Bob Graham: visor — Chris Esperanza, Jacqueline Dalsey, Stela Meyers, Terry Olfy, Pat Stavish, Sarah Grimes and Paul Castro; nine holes of golf — Dave Mears; popcorn — Dolores Rey-
nolds; bowl in Greenery — Denise Oitinger; Bowling Green hat — Glenn Pik, Ron Greve and Connie Allison; and a round of golf — Mick Hodges, Cherry Beaupre, Judy Hagelmann and John

Kay Gudehus
chair of the Special Events Committee
Classified Staff Council.

Bauer is named president of Firelands board

Gary W. Bauer, a county extension agent for Huron and Erie counties and county chairman for Firelands, has been elected president of the Firelands College Advisory Board.

Bauer, who was appointed to the board in 1985, succeeds Larry Betchter.

Weight Watchers starts

The next Weight Watchers program will be offered starting Thursday (July 19) and will run through Thursday, Aug. 23. Each session will be held during regularly scheduled lunch periods in the Jerome library conference room.

Persons interested in attending these informal lunches should contact Ruth Milliron or Karen Heckman in personnel services at 372-2225.

Datebook

Monday, July 16

Ohio Contemporary Art Quilts and Baskets
Exhibition, features 42 pieces by 24 Ohio artists
through July 27. Gallery, Fine Arts Building.
Summit season opening at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Bowling Green State University Musical Theatre presents "Carousele," 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Show continues through July 17. To reserve tickets, call 372-8171.

Tuesday, July 17

ski, American culture studies, 12:30 p.m., 1008 Business Administration.

Huron Playhouse, presents "The Philadelphia Story," runs through July 21, 8 p.m., McCormick School on Ohio St. in Huron. Ticket reservations may be made by calling 433-4744.

Thursday, July 19

Weight Watchers, noon-12:30 p.m., Jerome library conference room. More information, contact Ruth Milliron or Karen Heckman, personnel services, at 372-2225.

Graduation

from the front

commencement ceremonies will be Dr. Colm M. Turbayne, a professor emeritus of philosophy at the University of Rochester, N.Y.

Turbayne is known as one of the most prolific scholars in the studies of George Berkeley during this century and is a leading scholar in the theory of vision. He is the author and editor of six major books and 17 scholarly articles which are now standard texts and references worldwide in the interpretation of Berkeley, who is generally considered to be one of the three greatest English philoso-

phers in history.

Turbayne's most recent book, Metaphors for the Mind: The Creative Mind and its Organs, was published in 1969.

Commencement will begin at 10 a.m. on the lawn west of University Hall.

Friedman from the front

"The book very definitely has changed the way I think of historical research. I was taught to conduct scholarly research, like many others, by going to archives. But perhaps the most important information (for this book) was in bank vaults. It has really taught me the value of oral history. It has made me realize that the most important things in history are not found in libraries and archives, but in the stories that are so crucial to the people that they keep them.

For Friedman, the interplay between family dynamics and operation of the clinic has been particularly fascinating. The Menninger family, he said, was polarized from the beginning. In the book Friedman probes the personality conflicts, the alliances and rivalries among the Menningers as well as the inner operations of the clinic.

The book, which is illustrated with 16 pages of photographs, is divided into three sections. The first covers the period from 1919 through the end of World War II.

The second section details the years between 1946 and 1954, a period of enormous growth which saw the establishment of the Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry and the Menninger Foundation's emergence as an educational center. The third section covers the years since 1954. While working on the book, Friedman was aided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as research grants from Harvard University and from the Friends of the University Libraries and Center for Archival Collections.

Friedman also is the author of The White Shows: Radical Fantasies in the Postbellum South, Inventors of the Promised Land and Gengaro Santos: A Study of Nativist Frontiers of the American Abolitionism.

This summer Friedman is conducting research for his next book. This time the subject is renowned American psychologist Erik Erikson.

Classified Employment Opportunities

New Vacancies
Posting Expiration Date: 10:30 a.m., Friday, July 29.

7-20-1 Custodial Worker at Pay Range 3

7-20-2 Physical Plant (Two positions)

7-20-3 Typist 2

7-20-4 Word Processing Specialist 2

Pay Range 2

Admissions

Faculty/Staff positions

The following faculty positions are available:

College of Arts and Sciences or College of Business Administration: Associate professor/pro-
sessor of English studies. Contact Michael Marsden (2-2015). Deadline: Aug. 1, screening will be-
gin. Position will remain open until filled.

English: Assistant professor. Also, assistant or associate professor. Contact Richard Gebhardt (2-
2076). Deadline: Nov. 15.

Environmental Health: Assistant professor (reopened search). Contact Gary Silverman (2-8242).
Deadline: Screening begins Sept. 1 and will continue until filled.

Finance: Instructor (tenth month) Deadline: July 18. Also, assistant/associate professor (anticipated). Deadline: Dec. 1. For both positions, contact Paul Mueller (2-2520).


Music Composition/Ensemble: Instructor/assistant professor. Contact chair of the Musicology Search and Screening Committee (2-2181). Deadline: July 25.

The following administrative positions are available:


Student Health Service: Medical assistant. Contact Marcia Buckenmeyer, personnel services (2-

Obituary

William F. Quaintance

William F. Quaintance Sr., 77, a retired mainte-

nance repairman, died July 5 at his home in
Bowling Green.

Quaintance joined the University staff in August 1964 as a custodial worker. He later became a maintenance repairman in 1966 and retired in
April 1978.

Memorials may be made to Wood Lane School or to the American Red Cross.