

## Nina Ridenour papers

### Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

Nina Ridenour's papers consist of correspondence; press releases and other publicity materials; book reviews (both those for her own books and reviews written by her); manuscripts and draft versions, sometimes with annotations and corrections; comments and critiques; biographical data; bibliographies; reading and research notes; reference materials; a grant application; outlines and lecture notes; invitations; newspaper clippings; scripts; books, pamphlets, and other publications; and other related materials. Some correspondents include Menninger family members and Menninger Clinic staff, Aldous Huxley, Clara Beers (Clifford Beers' widow), and Abraham and Bertha Maslow, among others.

Topics in these materials include publications and publishing (especially Ridenour's books *Mental Health in the United States--a 50-Year History*, *Mental Health Education: Principles in the Effective Use of Materials*, and *Health Supervision for Young Children*); mental health education; the play "My Name is Legion" (based off Clifford Beers' autobiography and co-written by Ridenour and Nora B. Stirling); the American Theatre Wing's community plays, for which Ridenour wrote numerous discussion guides; children's mental health; term papers Ridenour wrote while in school; professional organizations and professional positions with which Ridenour was associated, especially the Ittelson Family Foundation; consciousness; extra sensory perception (ESP)/parapsychology; and other related topics.

The materials span Ridenour's career, though the bulk come from the 1950s and 1960s and provide an excellent overview of her work and professional interests and concerns.

Creator: Ridenour, Nina

Date: 1926 - 1977 (bulk 1950s-1960s)

Callnumber: Menninger Historic Psychiatry Coll., Ridenour, Boxes 1-7

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 223273

Item Identifier: 223273

[www.kansasmemory.org/item/223273](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/223273)

This folder: MH-50 1959-1961

## Pre-publication Activities

Correspondence: Barrie + Beatty

Negotiations c MHA Staff Council

Correspondence c publishers and  
foundations (turndowns)

Saregan estimates of cost.

## Receptions in honor of publication

5/18 State Charities Aid Ass'n &

N.Y. State Ass'n for Mental Health

5/22 Manhattan Society <sup>for</sup> Mental Health

(Award: Wisner "Certificate of Merit.")

Requests from persons invited, unable to attend.



1959 - 1960

Barrie & Beaty

Pre-publication

correspondence



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## THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

(STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION)

105 East 22nd Street, New York 10, N. Y.

Telephone GRamercy 5-1455

October 27, 1959

Dr. Nina Ridenour,  
Secretary, Ittleson Family Foundation  
654 Madison Avenue  
New York City

Dear Nina:

I am returning to you herewith the draft copy of your fine manuscript. As you know, I admire this document tremendously and look forward to its publication.

Your reference to the State Charities Aid Association and its early mental hygiene work are, of course, pleasing to us to note. Undoubtedly, you have a similar feeling in view of your service over a period of years with this agency.

I am particularly happy to see the last sentence of the first paragraph appearing on page 4 of chapter X. I concur with you that perhaps the first sign of organized citizen effort was the After Care work of the State Charities Aid Association. I referred generally to this SCAA history the other night to Jack Rees and he was quite surprised to learn about the early activities of the SCAA in the mental hygiene field. I would not want in any way to detract from the tremendous and early contributions of Mr. Beers and the other pioneers but I do feel that the work of Miss Schuyler and Mr. Folks is without parallel in this country for that time. I am enclosing a copy of "Milestones" for your files in case you do not have one.

Do keep me posted on your progress in publishing the manuscript.

Very sincerely yours,

*W. T. Beaty*  
William T. Beaty,  
Assistant Executive Director

WTB:ge  
Enclosures

P. S. I received the map which you kindly sent and I feel certain that we will arrive on Saturday, October 31, without difficulty. WTB

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## S.C.A.A. INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Robert Barrie  
Mr. Stanley P. Davies ✓  
FROM: Mr. William T. Beaty

DATE: March 28, 1960

SUBJECT:

Attached you will find a copy of the first draft of a manuscript by Nina Ridenour.

As you may know, we arranged, as a courtesy, for our Mimeograph Department to run this off for Nina. She will reimburse us for the paper and she will provide a tip for the mimeograph boy.

When Nina brought the stencils to us, she asked me if I would take from the finished copies, one copy each for Mr. Barrie, Mr. Davies and myself. These copies are numbered I, II and III. She asked if each of us would be willing-at whatever time available we have - to review this draft and give her any suggestions which we feel would improve the content, facts, etc.\*

I believe both of you know that there is a possibility that funds from some individual or foundation will be obtained to produce the document and that it might be published under the auspices of the Mental Health Association Staff Council.

I am asking Nina to send a note to each of you to let you know more specifically the kind of review which she would be most appreciative for you to do for her.

I am eager for us to cooperate with Nina in this matter since she is so helpful to us in so many ways.

WTB:ge  
(attached manuscript)  
(pink in files)

*Hastings,*  
*WTB*

\* P. S. I assume you will realize that Nina wants these copies returned to her with any comments you may have.



## Nina Ridenour papers

File

May 10, 1960

Mr. Robert Barrie, Secretary-Treasurer  
New York State Association for  
Mental Health  
105 East 22nd Street  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Bob:

Thank you very much indeed for the extremely helpful suggestions you have made about the manuscript. Your points are all well taken and I shall try to make my revisions accordingly. I may have a little trouble with how to phrase that point about how the National Association now conceives itself. (I've already had plenty of trouble with it and I see more in store.) You have given me a cue in indicating that I might phrase it in terms of different points of view. I may have to come back to you and Bill for final clearance when I get the sentence constructed.

I do most sincerely appreciate not only your reading and commenting on the manuscript but also what you are doing in connection with the Mental Health Association Staff Council.

Sincerely yours,

Nina Ridenour  
Secretary

MS



## Nina Ridenour papers

*File*

May 16, 1960

Mr. William Beaty, II  
New York State Association  
for Mental Health  
105 East 22nd Street  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Bill:

I said it to you over the telephone but I want to say again how very sweet and generous it is of you to have written such a full careful letter to Doug Darling -- and also that I appreciate the fine build-up!

Cordially,

Nina Ridenour  
Secretary

*MS*



May 17, 1960

Mr. William Beaty, II  
New York State Association  
for Mental Health  
105 East 22nd Street  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Bill:

I am trying to look ahead to that moment later in the month when we may be obliged to move very fast in order to get copies of the manuscript into the hands of a foundation board. I have been going through my returned manuscripts and find that although only a few of them (two or three) could be called "pristine" there are quite a number which have only a few marks on them -- not enough to interfere with the reading.

It occurred to me that it might be a simple device if I took six or eight of those down to your office and you could have a new cover put on and have them restapled because in practically all instances the staples have fallen out.

The other alternative would be to have a full new set mimeographed and I am such a thrifty soul that I hesitate to have that done if we can arrange some other method.

I'll keep the good copies segregated until I hear from you.

Sincerely,

Nina Ridenour  
Secretary





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(STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION)

105 East 22nd Street, New York 10, N. Y.

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August 15, 1960

Dr. Nina Ridenour  
The Ittleson Family Foundation  
654 Madison Avenue  
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Nina:

I returned from vacation last week, having had a wonderful rest in Italy. My sister and I ventured to Malta and Elba and found them both quite terrific.

I am disappointed that some more positive result has not occurred over the summer concerning your manuscript. I am attaching herewith copies of two letters which Bob received recently.

Further, Bob asked me to tell you that he did speak with Paul Hoch and suggested that he send his comments directly to you. If you have received them, I will be eager to know his reaction.

Meanwhile, I learned from Alex Sareyan that you return to work today (August 15) and I would like to hear from you so we can decide what our next steps should be. I want to move as quickly as we can - as I know you want to do.

Very sincerely yours,

*Bill*  
William T. Beaty

Acting Executive Director

WTB:LR  
Enclosure

(A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH)







The New York State Association for Mental Health

September 30, 1960

Dr. William C. Menninger, President  
The Menninger Foundation  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Doctor Menninger:

We are delighted to learn from Nina Ridenour that you are willing to sign the introductory statement to her manuscript (which, as you will appreciate, we feel so honored to be able to publish).

In order to save your time and since ~~we are so close to the manu-~~ script in its present form, we are presuming to send along to you the attached draft of an introduction for your consideration. Nina modestly agrees with us that this draft authenticates her qualification as the author and that it also leads quite naturally into the manuscript by way of tone and perspective.

This organization (which is a component of the State Charities Aid Association) recalls with great pleasure the occasion a few years ago when you addressed our Annual Meeting here in New York City. We hope that it will not be long before we can again sponsor an appearance by you in the Empire State.

With much appreciation for your cooperation in the Ridenour manuscript, and with every good wish to you in the magnificent work you are accomplishing in behalf of the mentally ill of this country, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Robert Barrie  
Executive Director

RB:rj

P.S. For your general information, a copy of our most recent Annual Report is enclosed.

RB

CC: Dr. Nina Ridenour

105 East 22nd Street, New York 10, N. Y.

GRamercy 5-1455



The New York State Association for Mental Health

October 6, 1960

Dr. William Menninger, President  
The Menninger Foundation  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Doctor Menninger:

We have received your letter of October 3 along with the changes for the introduction to Nina Ridenour's manuscript. We feel that your changes strengthen the introduction and make it more complimentary to Nina - as, indeed, it certainly should be since she has written such a magnificent document.

We will keep you posted on our progress in the publication of the volume and, again, may I say how grateful we are to you for your cooperation and promptness in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert Barrie  
Executive Director

RB:LR  
CC Dr. Ridenour

105 East 22nd Street, New York 10, N. Y. • GRamercy 5-1455



## Nina Ridenour papers

Mr. Robert Barrie  
New York State Association for  
Mental Health  
105 East 22nd Street  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Bob:

By now Bill will have reported to you about the unexpected but highly welcome interest of the Commonwealth Fund in the "Capsule History." I hope you do not feel any sense of disappointment if it should turn out that the Commonwealth Fund becomes the "publisher" instead of the New York State Association for Mental Health. In that case we would find some other name to describe your role, such as "sponsor" or whatever phrase you might prefer. I explained to Roger Crane how much you had done for the manuscript and that I would expect the New York State Association to be kept very much in the middle of the picture. He said that was entirely agreeable to them and the sort of thing they frequently did. He was also receptive to the idea of keeping Alex Sareyan in the picture in some sort of distributing and promoting capacity -- details to be worked out among us.

You understand, of course, that the matter is not settled yet. The Harvard University Press has the option of turning it down, and for that reason not only am I holding my thumbs but I'm making a point of not mentioning it to people until it becomes definite. I do not regard it as "secret" and if you find it necessary to report the present status to any of your associates you should not feel held back but I would hope that it would not be necessary to make any kind of official announcement such as to your Board. Unfortunately it may be some weeks before we know, even as long as several months, because as I understand it the Harvard University Press will expect to send it out to readers they select before making their decision. Roger Crane hopes to expedite action by recommending one or two of the persons who have already read the manuscript and whose names would be likely to be acceptable to the Harvard University Press.

Needless to say, personally I am delighted at this turn of events (although afraid to breathe lest they turn wrong after all.) The names of both the Commonwealth Fund and the Harvard University Press will add great prestige to the book. Also, it is likely to



## Nina Ridenour papers

- 2 -

November 3, 1960

be attractive in format because the Commonwealth Fund does those things exceptionally well and will not be pinching every penny the way we might have been obliged to do without them. More important I am sure their imprimatur will open up important channels we might have had difficulty in breaking into -- such for instance as the college and graduate school curriculum. Another important detail is that the Fund may be willing to provide some modest subsidy for distribution. And incidentally from the point of view of the New York State Association, the juxtaposition of the Association with the names of the Commonwealth Fund and the Harvard University Press will not hurt Association prestige either. All in all the picture looks rosy at the moment. But should it turn gray again I hope you will welcome me back on your doorstep as you have heretofore. You and Bill have been generous with your time and counsel far beyond the call of duty. It is my earnest hope that eventually your effort will have proven to be well spent. Whatever the turn of events, I continue to be enormously grateful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Nina Ridenour  
Secretary

cc: Mr. Beatty  
Mr. Sarayan



### THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, INC.

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November 7, 1960

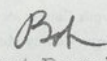
Dr. Nina Ridenour, Secretary  
The Ittleson Family Foundation  
654 Madison Avenue  
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Nina:

Many thanks for your letter of November 3 about the very happy turn of events with regard to the Commonwealth Fund. I am just as delighted as you are about this and have no regrets whatsoever about the minor change in our continuing responsibility for your fine manuscript. It makes no difference whether we are known as the "sponsor" or the "publisher."

I only hope that our optimism is justified and that we will have very fine news soon.

Cordially yours,

  
Robert Barrie  
Executive Director

RB:LR

(A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH)



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Tioga County Association for Mental Health

Tompkins County Society for Mental Health

Ulster County Association for Mental Health

Warren County Association for Mental Health

Mental Health Association of Westchester County

## Nina Ridenour papers

December 15, 1960

Mr. Robert Barrie and  
Mr. William T. Beaty, II  
New York State Association  
for Mental Health  
105 East 22nd Street  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Bob and Bill:

Just a quick word to let you know that the manuscript has finally landed on its feet. Harvard University Press will publish it with the Commonwealth Fund. I'll let you know more details after I have seen them next week.

Once more, my appreciation to both of you for all you have done.

The Season's greetings to you.

Cordially,

Nina Ridenour  
Secretary





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December 21, 1960

Dr. Nina Ridenour, Secretary  
The Ittleson Foundation  
654 Madison Avenue  
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Nina:

Many thanks for your letter of December 15 containing such excellent news. We look forward to hearing more of the details and to working with you in any way that we can in executing the new plan.

Bill and I both feel privileged in having had a small part to play in the progress achieved thus far.

With best wishes for the Holiday Season . . .

Cordially yours,

*RB*

Robert Barrie  
Executive Director

RB:LR

(A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, INC.)

Nina Ridenour papers

1960

MHA Staff Council

Pre-publ. negotiations  
(Their recommendations not  
acceptable to NR. See letter  
Williamson to Barrie 5/10/60.)



*file*

April 25, 1960

Mr. Robert Barrie  
New York State Association  
for Mental Health  
105 East 22nd Street  
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Bob:

I'm writing to ask you about the status of my manuscript with respect to the Mental Health Association Staff Council. Is it being officially considered? Was Max Williamson interested? The reason I ask is that I wasted three weeks thinking Dick Hunter was handling it because I had not realized that his term as president had expired -- and time is flying.

I greatly appreciate your interest in it.

Sincerely yours,

Nina Ridenour  
Secretary

*MS*



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Barrie

Fix - p. 5 - no job  
- p. 11 appropriate

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105 East 22 Street  
New York 10, N. Y.  
April 26, 1960

Dr. Nina Ridenour, Secretary  
The Ittleson Family Foundation  
654 Madison Avenue  
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Nina:

Thanks for reminding me about the Mental Health Association Staff Council and your manuscript.

Max Williamson does have a copy and I know that he is interested. I shall inform him immediately of your concern about timing. This may present a bit of a problem since the Staff Council Board will not meet again until June. However, I shall urge him to find some way to make a decision prior to that time.

Also, I should be able to give you my own personal reactions to the manuscript very soon. However, I can tell you right now that I think it is an excellent piece of work and that some way must be found to publish it and make it available to all of our colleagues. I will be pleased to have had even so small a part in making it possible.

With warmest regards . . .

Sincerely yours,

*Barrie*

Robert Barrie

RB:LR  
CC Mr. Max Williamson



## Nina Ridenour papers

1645 Hennepin Avenue, Room 313, Minneapolis 3, Minnesota

May 10, 1960

Mr. Robert Barrie, Director  
New York State Association for Mental Health  
105 East 22nd Street  
New York 10, New York

Dear Bob:

I am very concerned at my delay in responding to your request that I consider Nina Ridenour's manuscript. I finished reading it on the way home from New York on April 23, then got snowed under with the usual rush of business incident to raising a quarter million dollars in Minnesota this year.

As you have indicated to Dr. Ridenour, I have no authority prior to the June 27-30 Staff Council Board meeting to authorize Council support for publication of the manuscript, nor is there money in the current budget for our fiscal year ending November 1960 to cover such publication expense.

However, if you are willing to seek outside financial support for the project and Dr. Ridenour is willing to wait for an answer until June 30, I am more than agreeable with a plan to place the matter on the Board agenda and press for its adoption. I cannot, however, recommend publication costs from the regular budget, without assistance of a special grant.

If the Staff Council were to take responsibility for publication of the manuscript and the implication of endorsement of the content, I would propose some editorial changes and inclusion of either a preface making clear that Dr. Ridenour is presenting a historical sketch of the movement only, or addition of a chapter dealing with anticipated future development of treatment programs.

I am particularly concerned that a person not close to newer developments in the movement, not aware of the total change of concepts of treatment in the past five years, might become discouraged, or at least not be motivated to support the Mental Health Associations by looking at our fruitless battles of the past. It should be made clear somewhere that anything that happened in the mental health movement prior to 1955 in no ways relates to our future goals for

*It rejected their offer & closed negotiations on the basis of this paragraph. This does not fall under the rubric of history.*





## Nina Ridenour papers

Barrie 5/10/60

2.

elimination of the State Hospital from the treatment picture. In short, the emerging concepts of community services and Mental Health Association support for them now makes it possible for us to quit jousting windmills and turn out for humane, efficient treatment programs that never could be achieved in institutional settings.

Glad to talk with you on the telephone about this today; sorry you had to prod me on this matter. If you feel you can take the initiative I will be glad to push the matter at the June Board meeting.

I am returning my copy of the manuscript direct to Dr. Ridenour.

Very truly yours,

Max R. Williamson  
President

cc: Dr. Nina Ridenour  
Robert Barrie

FOUR STAR  
ONION SKIN  
FOLDING CRUS  
REPRODUCTION



## Nina Ridenour papers

The New York State Association for Mental Health

May 13, 1960

Dr. C. Douglas Darling  
Student Medical Clinic  
Cornell University  
15 Central Avenue  
Ithaca, New York

Dear Doug:

By this time I hope that you have had an opportunity to review the wonderful manuscript which Nina Ridenour sent to you, as she has to Bob Barrie, Stanley Davies, and myself.

It is in that connection that I am writing at Bob's request to get your reaction to a staff proposal.

We are exceedingly eager to see Nina's manuscript published, and we are most pleased that she has offered its publication to the New York State Association for Mental Health. Over and beyond the exceptional merits of the manuscript, we have, as you know, a very warm feeling for Nina since she was for so many years associated with our (predecessor) organization and is its staunch friend. I know, also, how much you have admired her work through the years, and it is for all of these reasons that we sound you out on this matter.

I have reason to believe that we can be successful in obtaining a grant to finance the publication of the manuscript. (Incidentally, I believe that Bill Menninger is going to be asked to write the preface and that volume will be dedicated to Mrs. Henry Hilleson, Sr., in view of her many years of service to the mental health field and on the occasion of her approaching eighty-fifth birthday.)

Thus, we are wondering if you would recommend to the Board of Directors of the State Association, at its meeting on Thursday morning, May 26, that the President and the staff be authorized to seek such funds as would be required and to undertake the publication and distribution of the published manuscript under our auspices.

The history of this manuscript is most interesting. Last year, Harry Milt of the National Association for Mental Health contracted with Nina Ridenour for her to write a much more modest document,

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## Nina Ridenour papers

Dr. C. Douglas Darling

-2-

5/13/60

### The New York State Association for Mental Health

along these lines, to be released at the Annual Meeting of NAMH in Philadelphia in November, 1959, since that was the 50th Anniversary of the Clifford Beers effort, as most particularly exemplified through the work of the National Committee and subsequently, NAMH. The document was to be dedicated to George Stevenson upon the occasion of his retirement at that time.

Nina worked last Summer on the document which was probably about one-third of its present length and submitted a first draft for Harry Milt's reactions. Harry was exceedingly critical of the draft and felt that the manuscript did not dwell sufficiently upon the successes of the progress of the National Association for Mental Health, particularly in the last ten years. Nina felt that what Harry really wanted was not history but a re-hash of his five or six annual reports and that he wanted a promotional piece which would make everything appear glowing and hopeful in every respect. Thus, Nina wisely withdrew her manuscript and Harry Milt prepared a rather flimsy little piece (to my way of thinking), which I am enclosing herewith. During the past six or seven months, Nina has expanded her manuscript and produced the document as you have reviewed it. (However, the present manuscript has a good many editorial changes which have been suggested by some 60 experts to whom Nina has sent it for comment and criticism.)

You may know that Nina is keenly interested in the history of the mental hygiene movement.

Last Fall, Nina told me of this matter, and we discussed it in detail. I then volunteered to think about ways and means in which we could be helpful to bring it to publication. At first, we wanted a nationwide agency - preferably a mental health agency to publish it. Naturally, Bob Barrie and I thought of the Mental Health Association Staff Council. Nina was pleased with that possibility and sent it to Dick Hunter of Philadelphia, who was the President of the Staff Council at that time. The manuscript was still, at that time, unfinished. Dick's term of office expired and Max Williamson was elected President of the Staff Council and as recently as yesterday, finally found time to send a letter to Bob Barrie (with a carbon copy to Nina) that he would be eager to have the Staff Council publish the document if Bob could locate the funds and also if the Staff Council could have certain editorial prerogatives. Nina felt that the nature of the editorial changes proposed would violate the conception of "history", and that they impinged upon the rights of an author who was avowedly developing a monograph along subjective lines, but hopefully with broad objectivity.

At this point (which was yesterday) Bob and Stanley and I - each disagreeing with Max - as does Nina - decided that we would seek your assistance since we are so eager that the manuscripts be published and since we are equally eager that our State Association publish it.

It seems important to make one more general observation, although the citizens segment of the broad mental health movement does not receive a white-washing in this document, I feel that the facts as Nina has analyzed and presented them, are true, positive and hopeful, and that NAMH nor any part of the citizens segment should be offended but should take great pride

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*Nina -  
I forgot to send out the H before it was  
re-typed. However, it's OK.*





Dr. C. Douglas Darling

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5/13/60

### The New York State Association for Mental Health

in the strides as presented, and which have been made in the past.

I am enclosing some excerpts from the various comments which Nina has received from persons who have read the manuscript. We, of course, want to add to that compendium your own brief comment. Further, Nina would be delighted for us to include that document in the folders of our Board members at the meeting on May 26. I know that your stature within the membership of our Board is such that your judgment would yield a unanimous vote in favor of the project, in the event that you were to decide to advance it.

I do not want to burden you with the administrative details, but you may wish to know that the amount of money which we feel would be required is approximately \$5,000.00. As I said before, I do believe that I can rally that grant without too much difficulty from sources from which we would not otherwise get funds this year for any project. Certainly, the manuscript and the reactions of the various experts speak for themselves. We would want to use Alex Sareyan's Mental Health Materials Center for the processing and distribution, all of which is included in the \$5,000.00 budget. The copies would sell for somewhere between \$1.00 and \$2.00. A royalty arrangement would be developed with Nina and she would retain the copyright on the book. A most attractive format is being thought of in connection with the production.

I apologize for making this letter so long, but I wanted to be certain that you had all of the facts and our attitude in the matter.

You may wish to telephone me to discuss it after you have given it some thought and then, if you feel we should proceed, I will prepare the documentation which would be needed for the Board Meeting on May 26th.

With all good wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

William T. Beaty,  
Assistant Executive Director

WTB:ge  
Enclosures

CC: Dr. Ridenour

*Yesh, Nina —  
This letter is almost as long as yr ms!  
Brie*





The New York State Association for Mental Health

*N. Ridenour*

May 18, 1960

Mr. Max R. Williamson, President  
Mental Health Association Staff Council  
c/o Minnesota Association for Mental Health  
1645 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis 3, Minn.

Dear Max:

This is by way of reply to your letter of May 10, concerning the Ridenour manuscript, a copy of which you sent directly to Doctor Ridenour.

First, let me say that for reasons which I will more fully explain when I see you, Doctor Ridenour has withdrawn her manuscript from consideration for publication under the auspices of the Mental Health Association Staff Council. In essence, she believes that revisions, such as you indicate you feel would be desirable prior to requesting approval by the Staff Council Board, are not in keeping with her desire and intentions to have the manuscript serve as a historical summary of the mental health movement. This, I am certain, you will agree is certainly her prerogative and, I should add, that I am in personal agreement with her.

It may be that the New York State Association for Mental Health will publish the document. The Chairman of our Professional Advisory Committee will present such a proposal to our Board of Directors when they meet on May 26. I am prepared to support such a recommendation, since I believe it would be appropriate for us to publish it, providing that we can find sufficient funds to do so.

Doctor Ridenour was associated with our predecessor agency for many years and has continued to be a staunch friend of our Association. While in some ways, it would be most appropriate, from a practical point of view, to seek a national group to publish her manuscript, it is equally appropriate

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The New York State Association for Mental Health

Mr. Williamson

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5/18/60

for us to do so since the State Charities Aid Association has made so many significant and early contributions to the citizens' mental health movement.

Meanwhile, my thanks to you, and the appreciation of Doctor Ridenour, for having read the manuscript and shared your thoughts with us.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert Barrie  
Executive Director

RB:LR  
CC Doctor Ridenour





*File*

May 18, 1960

Mr. Max R. Williamson  
Mental Health Association  
Staff Council  
1645 Hennepin Avenue  
Room 313  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Mr. Williamson:

In your letter to Mr. Barrie of May 10th you mention that you are returning Dr. Ridenour's manuscript to her. We have not received it yet. We would greatly appreciate it if you would put it in the mail as soon as you can because Dr. Ridenour very much needs an extra copy. A stamped addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Ida Voletsky  
Secretary to Dr. Ridenour

*MS*





### MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, Inc.

1645 HENNEPIN AVENUE, MINNEAPOLIS 3, MINNESOTA • FEDERAL 5-8883

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and service corporation  
supported by voluntary  
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May 20, 1960

MAX R. WILLIAMSON  
Executive Director

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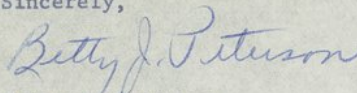
Nina Ridenour, Ph.D., Secretary  
Ittleson Family Foundation  
654 Madison Avenue  
New York 21, New York

Dear Dr. Ridenour:

At the request of Mr. Max Williamson, I am today  
returning to you, under separate cover, the copy of your  
manuscript. This is being mailed to you via First Class  
Mail.

Thank you for your stamped return envelope which  
we received this noon - just in time to make use of it.

Sincerely,



Betty J. Peterson  
Secretary to Max R. Williamson

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