

## Nina Ridenour papers

### Section 11, Pages 301 - 330

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

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## Nina Ridenour papers

Memo. to Nina Ridenour  
From Emily L. Martin

Page 2

April 6, 1960

- ✓ Page 21 Certification. The Division of Psychiatric Education, under the direction of Dr. Franklin G. Ebaugh made a study (1931-37) of all Class A medical School curricula as it pertained to psychiatric education and the training of the general practitioner.  
*As a result, training improved. (I worked on this project.)*
- ✓ 21 The correct name of the American Board ~~is~~ - is "of Psychiatry and Neurology." Reverse.
- 0 26 1st par. Dr. Salmon played a part in the establishment of the new New York State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital - a plaque of Dr. Salmon appears in the building. He was made Professor of Psychiatry, Coll of Physicians and Surgeons. (If you wish to use this, should be checked with the records. I am writing from memory.)
- ✓ 27. Check name - New York State Pathological Institute on Ward's Island. Last line. *(This is at present N.Y. St. Psy. Inst. & Hosp.?)*
- ✓ 28 Ward's Island. 'S
32. The late Mrs. W. F. Dummer of Chicago. add. *(80 years old; still living)*
- ✓ 33. Would suggest ~~xxxxxx~~ mentioning Dr. V. V. Anderson, Director. *(still living)*
- 0 34. These were NCMH demonstration clinics, financed by a grant from the C.F. (I notice that throughout you have referred to these clinics as C. F. demonstration Clinics.) See page 33 also.
- ✓ 37 Correct name is Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School in Chicago.
- 39 London). )1.
- ✓ 44. Hodgepodge.
- ✓ 47. Wasn't Dr. Salmon a major in the Medical Corps, U. S. Army? last line.
- 0 49. Add Dr. Frankwood E. Williams's name as one of the joint authors with Dr. Salmon.
- 0 Add Volume X, History to the Bibliography. *(In catalogue N.Y.H.)*
- ✓ 53. Francis J. Braceland, not G.
- 0 55. Post-war. ~~Training of Personnel Advisory Service~~  
~~Psychiatric NCMH established~~  
NCMH established the Psychiatric Personnel Placement Service to assist young physicians returning from the War Service to get training in Psychiatry. Many wished joint training in psychiatry and psychoanalysis, having learned in the war service of the value of the combined techniques. 1945-47. *(I worked on this project.)*
- you 57. Fountain House, as I have understood, was a split from WANA. Should WANA be mentioned? *(Wasn't highly regarded) - I know*
- ✓ 63. Brock Chisholm - not Bronk.
- 0 57 List in Bibliography Rennie-Woodward's studies.





## Nina Ridenour papers

Memo. to Nina Ridenour  
From Emily L. Martin

-3-

April 6, 1960

Page 60 - 4,000 present ?

Add Congress Proceedings to bibliography, 1930 to date.

✓ 68. Draft Act is out of print. Copies no longer available.

0 71. In 1923 the Bureau of the Census took over from the NCMH . . .  
(add)

✓ 72. Add " S." to Dr. Stevenson's name, since there is another G. Stevenson,  
as you know.

? - 73. Should one not refer to the nurses as "psychiatric nurses"?

See Fact Sheet No. 8, Joint Information Service. Only 4 States  
have similar acts, others vary.

Wm 7. 75. Insert "of".  
Frankwood E.

0 77. Dr. Williams more than any other person was responsible for the  
standards for the training of psychiatric social workers, and  
his name should be substituted for Salmon's here. By 1922 Dr.  
Salmon had left the NCMH and ~~was~~ was in private practice and  
teaching psychiatry at C & P. and S. Dr. Williams was a lecturer  
at Smith College School of Social Work from its beginning, and  
as long as Everett Kimball was there as Director. Many of the  
Smith College student's papers were published in MENTAL HYGIENE  
in those early years.

0 82. Again, NCMH demonstration clinics, not Commonwealth Fund.

✓ 82. Understanding the Child has been discontinued. This should be  
mentioned or we will get inquiries about it. Mrs. Franz  
can give you the date.

✓ 83. Include address of Pastoral Psychology in Bibliography or footnote.

0 84. Include addresses of agencies mentioned, such as Acad. of Religion  
and Mental Health. (Save correspondence later!)

86. "). instead of ".)

7 88. Editor of MENTAL HYGIENE, first 15 years, was Dr. Frankwood E.  
Williams. After he resigned as Medical Director of NCMH,  
Dec. 31, 1930, he continued as Editor to round out 15 years.

0 89. Statement checked, not entirely true. But, granted, they were not  
the slick jobs of today. Care was taken with the size of  
type and length of line - by Dr. Williams himself, as well as other  
detail.

✓ 108. Public education and public relations. Not true. The NCMH  
had a public relations man on its staff from the beginning of  
time; likewise public education personnel. Dr. Williams himself  
in the early years, for a period of time, was Director of Education.  
He was a born ~~educator~~ and trained educator. And that was his

See early  
scribbles

MS copy  
1917

Have you read Oliver Southard's book.  
(Jocelyn's library)

add



## Nina Ridenour papers

Memo. to Dr. Ridenour

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April 6, 1960

From Emily L. Martin

work from the day he joined the NCMH. There were three psychiatric social workers who served as Directors of Education from 1920s - Christine Robb Thompson and Kathleen Larkin Ormsby were two of them.

The NCMH's educational activities (last par.) were far from passive.

As early as 1913 we had exhibits - prepared by Dr. Salmon and Dr. Stuart Paton, and our materials displayed at all sorts of meetings, and shipments made to groups on request. And we had lecturers, and good ones, traveling throughout the country. When you wrote these paragraphs, Nina, I fear you didn't read the history of the movement!

P. 112. Again Dorothea Lynde Dix. Add Lynde.

P. 120. Didn't the merger take place in Sept. 1950, not June?

122. Change is to in.

### Bibliography.

References to A MIND THAT FOUND ITSELF. Mention the 1935, 1948, and 1953 reprints with additions. The 1935 edition has a brief but complete list of activities to date, which was prepared for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of N CMH.

*Emily*





10/16/75

FROM THE DESK OF

NINA RIDENOUR

Re: W.C. Menninger

See separate file:

"T1H-50: W.C. Menninger  
Pre-Publication Correspondence."

MORRISON

The Grant Foundation, Inc.

130 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street

New York 22, N. Y.

Plaza 3-1012

May fourth 1960

Dear Nina -

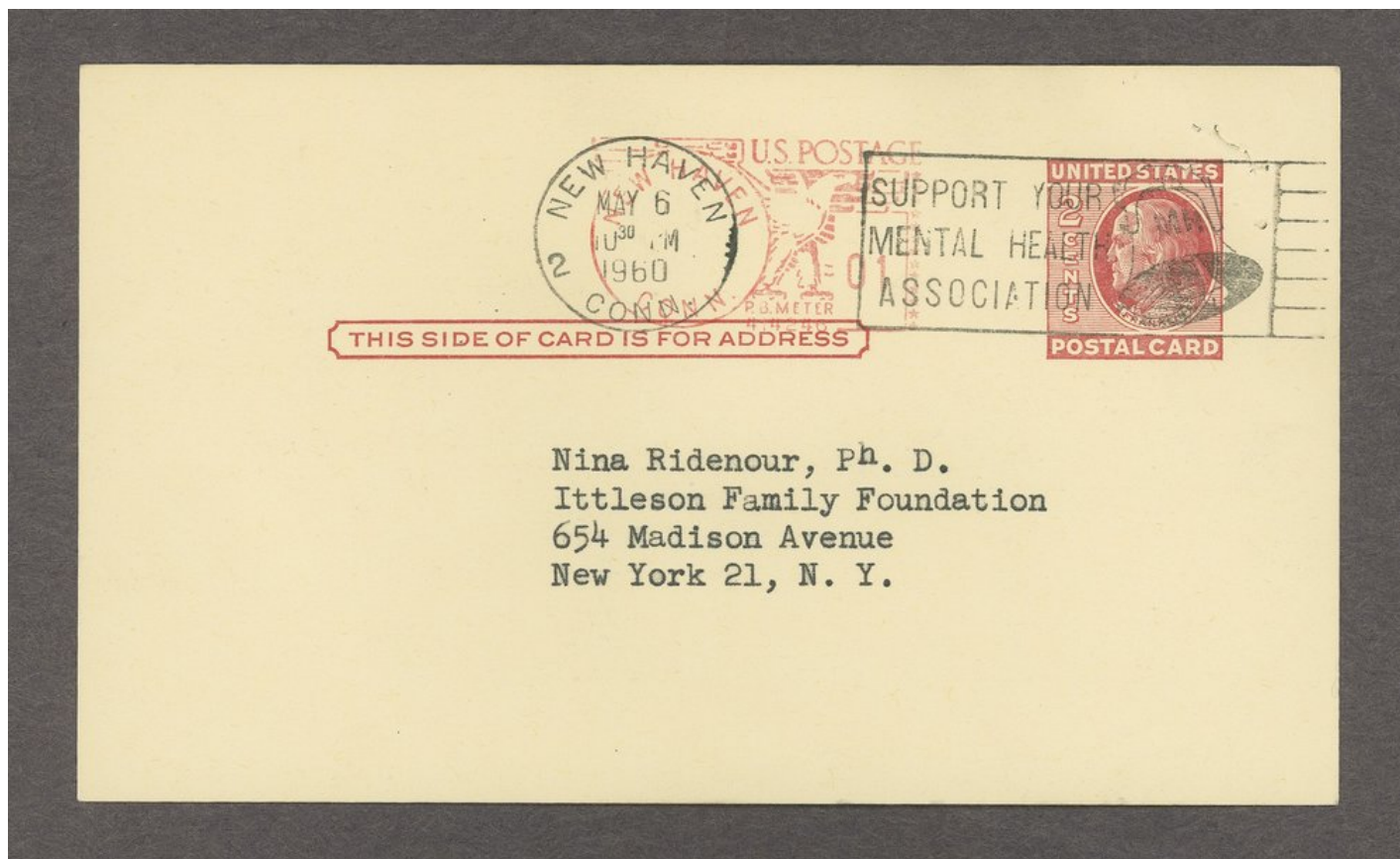
Congratulations on "Mental  
Health in the United States"  
and many thanks for an  
auto graphed copy which I  
will cherish -

It is not only a  
fascinating history but should  
prove a stimulus to effort  
in this tremendous field.

Yours sincerely,  
Adele Morrison



## Nina Ridenour papers



## Nina Ridenour papers

Dear Dr. Ridenour:

✓ My letter of the 5th omitted the one detail you really wanted from me--the time of the first meeting of the CSMH. It was 2:30 P. M., May 6th, 1908.

✓ One other thing I forgot--you mention the publication "Twenty-five Years After" as commemorating the founding of the National Society. Our book shows that this was to commemorate the founding of The Mental Health Movement, rather than the National organization.

Sincerely,



Merle W. Mudd

May 6th, 1960

*P.S. My apologies for the rather garbled letter - I had expected to read it over before mailing - but my secretary sent it along. Hope you could make some sense out of it!*



## Nina Ridenour papers



### CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, INC.

956 Chapel Street • SPruce 7-2309 • New Haven 10, Conn.

affiliated with the National Association for Mental Health

SEWALL MILLIKEN, Vice President  
C. MARVIN CURTIS, Vice President  
MRS. RICHARD BROWN, Vice President  
MRS. LEO DAVIDOFF, Secretary  
MRS. CHASE GOING WOODHOUSE, Treasurer

WILLIAM T. ROWE, President  
MERLE W. MUDD, Executive Director

May 27, 1960

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

Dear Dr. Ridenour:

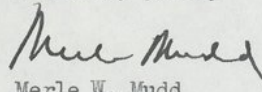
I am glad that you were able to get something out of that confused letter that I wrote to you at the time I mailed back your manuscript. I apologize again for sending out a letter which obviously should have been read so that I could re-write the whole thing.

As for public relations and publicity, I don't really feel as strongly about it as my letter may have implied. I secretly agree with you that a great deal of damage has been done by some of our p. r. boys- - no names, please. The unfortunate thing is these fellows do not have any kind of a concept of public relations in terms of a voluntary health agency, other than a pretty distorted one and a highly opportunistic one at that. So you see I refuse to debate this issue with you.

As for the "Beersiana," we would be delighted to inherit anything that you have. Over the years a good deal of what I am sure has been valuable material drifted away from this office, and we are lucky if we can even find a ninth or tenth edition copy of "The Mind That Found Itself". Therefore we would be particularly happy to have a copy of the first edition and any other things you might have.

Good luck on your biography and we shall be looking forward to it eagerly. Frances joins me in sending along our very best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

  
Merle W. Mudd  
Executive Director

MWM:YPP





## Nina Ridenour papers

May 11, 1960

Mr. Merle W. Mudd, Executive Director  
Connecticut Association for Mental Health  
956 Chapel Street  
New Haven 10, Conn.

Dear Mr. Mudd:

Again I want to apologize because my manuscript reached you at such a busy time. It was extremely kind of you to read it under the circumstances. I am, of course, pleased that you approve in general. More important are your helpful comments. I am glad to be corrected on the several outright errors, all of which I shall, of course, take care of. Thanks also for establishing the time of day of the first meeting, which I want to use in the opening sentence.

As to your points about public relations and publicity, it will probably not surprise you to hear that this section called forth more reaction than any other -- both pro and con. Some people criticized it severely but others urged me not to change a word, insisting that this needs to be said because all in all the public relations people are doing the movement a disservice. As to your point about the confusion between public relations and publicity, I agree that there is confusion but I would be glad to take you on in public debate as to whether it is I who have confused them or "they". The more I hear about the actual facts as to the care of the mentally ill in these United States of America in the year 1960 (and a seven page single space letter from Bill Menninger yesterday bears me up) the less patience I have with the sweetness and light gook that the public relations (or publicity) chaps are feeding the public. Nevertheless, I do plan to revise that section extensively and I welcome the statement of your point of view. In fact, perhaps I will find it possible to state part of it in terms of the very confusion you mention.

Indeed I warmly appreciate your thoughtful comments and I thank you most sincerely. I shall credit your assistance in the printed acknowledgements unless you specifically instruct me to the contrary.

By the way, some day when you think of it let me know whether the Connecticut Society collects "Beersiana". I have two paintings by Clifford which Clara gave me, a copy of the first edition of "Mind" and a few other less important odds and ends which I would like to



## Nina Ridenour papers

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May 11, 1960

will to some organization that would appreciate them. (If you should get a package from me in the next few weeks you will know I concluded that I am not likely to survive the revisions on this manuscript and decided to dispose of my possessions while still of sound mind.)

Again many thanks to you.

Sincerely yours,

Nina Ridenour  
Secretary



## Nina Ridenour papers

File  
April 25, 1960

Mr. Merle Mudd  
Connecticut Association for  
Mental Health  
956 Chapel Street  
New Haven 10, Conn.

Dear Mr. Mudd:

Thank you very much for the brochure about the Connecticut Association's Golden Anniversary. This is a valuable historical document. I'm glad you have recorded certain facts and lists in as much detail as you have. I have noticed in many other documents that lists of names are frequently incomplete. Therefore it is particularly good to have the full list of those who participated in the important early meetings. From this brochure I shall be able to get the additional few sentences about the Connecticut Society which I need in order to fill out the statement about it in my manuscript. The only additional specific item of information I now need from you is the time of day of the first meeting -- that is if it is not too much trouble for you to look it up.

I would appreciate it if you can return the manuscript to me within a few days, along with any comments you may have. Although I did not mention it on the phone, I am assuming that you are observing the request "For confidential use only" as stated on the cover of the manuscript. This does not apply to Frances Hartshorne because I am, of course, delighted to have her read it but I would not want to have it read by other people I do not know since it is only in draft form and there are going to be many changes.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Nina Ridenour  
Secretary

MS



## Nina Ridenour papers



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MRS. RICHARD BROWN, Vice President  
MRS. LEO DAVIDOFF, Secretary  
MRS. CHASE GOING WOODHOUSE, Treasurer

WILLIAM T. ROWE, President  
MERLE W. MUDD, Executive Director

May 5, 1960

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

Dear Dr. Ridenour:

Being very involved in the pursuit of money during this time, I am afraid I have neglected answering your letter and commenting on your publication. Please accept my apologies.

First of all, I want to congratulate you on what I think is an extremely publication which will have great value to the entire mental health movement. It has been badly needed for a very long time. I can see many uses for it and I shall look forward to its publication in the near future.

First of all a few minor points. On page 84 you refer to programs with police, stating that "a few other communities (Cleveland, Louisiana,) have experimented with courses for policemen". As far as I know, there have been many communities across the country that have experimented with courses for policemen; in Connecticut we have had them over a period of several years in at least a half dozen communities. While this can be described as "consistent rapprochement between police and psychiatry" it is subject to debate but I believe there is more going on in this field than you may be aware of.

On page 109, I think I would quarrel with you about your concept of public relations. This may be the way you interpret public relations but I question whether it is interpreted this way among many people in the health and welfare fields. If you ever have time, you might discuss this with Harold Wiener of the National Publicity Council, who is on our staff and with whom I used to have long discussions about public relations in our field.

## Nina Ridenour papers



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WILLIAM T. ROWE, President  
MERLE W. MUDD, Executive Director

- 2 -

I do not agree with you completely that "the purpose of public relations is to lay the ground work for raising money"; it seems to me you are making the common error of confusing public relations and publicity. Even in the latter instance, however, I would not say that publicity is primarily for the purpose of laying the ground work for raising money since I think it has other valuable uses as well. As a matter of fact, this discussion of public relations seems to me out of place in a "capsule history of the mental health movement" except as I can see you are using it as a basis for making comments about pressures for fund raising. On pages 109, 110 and 111, it appears to me that you have oversimplified a difficult problem. Since I think your generalizations leave the impression that fund raising needs dictate almost all program plans across the country, I think this leaves an impression in the mind of the reader which I honestly do not believe is as true as you imply it to be on a nation-wide basis. Certainly I think that any number of our people in Connecticut would deny it rather vigorously.

Another minor item on page 114, you speak of Dr. John R. Rees as being the principle speaker at our fiftieth anniversary meeting. He was not; Dr. Brock Chisholm was the principle speaker and actually Dr. John Rees made only a minor, but nevertheless entertaining, contribution to the evening's program. Come to think of it, we had two major speakers that evening; Dr. Chisholm, who spoke in reply to an award we gave to him for his leadership in the mental health field, and Governor Ribicoff of Connecticut, who delivered what in actuality was "the major speech" in terms of its length and general significance.

On page 122, you refer to the Mental Health Association Staff Council as being composed exclusively of executives of mental health associations. This is not so, since we have many people other than executives of mental health associations as our members, including field representatives, program personnel, and others, including many people from the National Association staff.





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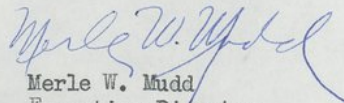
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MRS. LEO DAVIDOFF, Secretary  
MRS. CHASE GOING WOODHOUSE, Treasurer

WILLIAM T. ROWE, President  
MERLE W. MUDD, Executive Director

- 3 -

These are in general my re-actions to your document. I shall be looking forward with considerable interest to seeing the final version. Thank you for the opportunity of letting me read it.

Sincerely yours,



Merle W. Mudd  
Executive Director

MWM:YPP

## Nina Ridenour papers



*Neher*

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

### **Mental Health Materials Center, Inc.**

104 East 25th Street

New York 10, New York

ALgonquin 4-9631

April 12, 1960

Dear Nina,

Please excuse my tardiness in writing to you about your book, but there have been a thousand and one details to cope with before leaving on my vacation tomorrow. Having handled a goodly number of them, I can now relax a bit and write to you.

I read SINCE 1908 in one sitting on a relaxed Sunday afternoon and found it fascinating reading. The way you've organized the material and managed to convey a sense of perspective is nothing short of miraculous. Like many people who came into this field only after the war, I had had only a vague idea of what had gone on since Beers' book first appeared, and am happy that all of these events are now set down in black and white -- and in detail.

The only thing that bothered me was the chapter on public education, public relations, and publicity. I think that many people who know you and what you stand for will also be disappointed that this has not been developed further. Of course, I realize that this would be out of place in a capsule history, yet I did feel somewhat cheated. I also realize that if you really did speak your mind on this subject, certain toes would be stepped on and this might hurt the book's distribution possibilities.

Other than that comment, however, I have nothing but praise for your work. As things have turned out, it was a good thing that you had that disagreeable experience last fall with Harry, for otherwise we wouldn't have had SINCE 1908.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on my return -- the last week in April.

Sincerely,

*Jack (Neher)*

#### *board of directors*

Exie E. Welsch, M.D.  
*president*

Ethel Ginsburg  
*vice-president*

Howard G. Gibbs  
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Nina Ridenour, Ph.D.  
*educational consultant*

Jack Neher  
*field services director*

HUMAN RELATIONS AIDS IS A DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH MATERIALS CENTER, INC.





M. J. Ross  
✓

11 West 81<sup>st</sup> Street <sup>Ross</sup>  
New York 24, N.Y.  
June 23, 1960

Dear Dr. Ridenour.

Please forgive my delayed reply - I  
not even try to excuse myself -

I am very much impressed by what  
you have done, and find it extremely interesting  
as well. You have tied so many points in time  
together and many of those who have had  
only fragmentary contacts or information will  
have some appreciation of the scope of the  
Mental Hygiene (I still like this word) movement  
and the part the National Committee played.

On page 73 - the matching formula  
has changed in the last year (1959) so that  
the states are required to match dollar for  
Federal dollar in all grant-in-aid programs.

On the same page. New York will now  
match up to \$1.20 per capita; and I would  
doubt if the Pennsylvania law is quite a  
reimbursement of local expenditures yet. The  
acts in New York, California, New Jersey, Vermont  
and Maine are quite similar but  
Connecticut is more grant than reimbursement  
I would say. And Pennsylvania program is  
similar. I thought Indiana was not  
yet reimbursement, but I may be wrong.



I don't know the details of Tennessee and Florida, but would wonder about the letter.

In "changing concepts" isn't this idea of supporting local care almost as great a change as that of health of all? The idea includes the recognition of the need for patients to be cared for early and near at home rather than out of sight and mind as the more centralized care has. Does it seem so to me.

I'm so glad you have said the N. S. H. has been only one of the factors in recent growth. For so it certainly is, and could not have done so much had not the climate permitted it.

Again my apologies.

Sincerely,

Mabel Ross

P.S.

Still can't locate your envelope but hope this reaches you. --- On second thought I'll not risk returning it until I get back later this week. I'll just send this letter. As you see -

M.R.



ROWLAND

(Additional letters  
to & from  
Rowland in  
"Rowland" file



### LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

1528 JACKSON AVENUE

NEW ORLEANS 13, LOUISIANA


TELEPHONE: MAGNOLIA 3845

April 19, 1960

DOROTHY W. SEAGO, PH.D.  
PRESIDENT

LOYD W. ROWLAND, PH.D.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MABEL B. PALMER, M.S.W.  
SPECIAL SERVICES

  
GEORGE L. SAPORITO, M.S.W.  
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE  
6011 JOYCE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, LA.

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

Dear Nina;

Thank you for sending me a copy of the history. I am a little stunned by the magnitude of the operation, but will get at it one of these days when Mental Health Week and Mental Health Month have passed. As you know, I am in the administrative rat race in this business and a great deal of energy is consumed from the middle of April until the middle of May.

Cordial best wishes,

LWR/bgg





*File*

April 25, 1960

Dr. Loyd W. Rowland  
Louisiana Association for Mental Health  
1528 Jackson Avenue  
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Loyd:

I see now that I should have done with you the thing I did with a number of other people -- that is ask them first if they were willing to read the manuscript before I sent it. I did not mean to presume on your good will nor make a nuisance of myself. In view of your special busyness during the month of May, I wonder if you will be good enough to send the manuscript back to me and let me use it for other people. I have none too many copies. If it has not gone to press by the end of May then I can send it to you again if you have time and feel like reading it.

Spring is wildly exciting in Westchester County. I wish you and Lela could share it. Don't forget that standing invitation you have for a visit to Boaring Brook Road.

Cordially,

Nina Ridenour  
Secretary

*MS*

## Nina Ridenour papers

Rowland

### LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

1528 JACKSON AVENUE

NEW ORLEANS 13, LOUISIANA

TELEPHONE: MAGNOLIA 3845

George Denegre

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
PRESIDENT

LOYD W. ROWLAND, PH.D.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MABEL B. PALMER, M.S.W.  
SPECIAL SERVICES

May 2, 1960

GEORGE L. SAPORITO, M.S.W.  
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE  
6011 JOYCE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, LA.

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

Dear Nina:

I am very pleased to be of whatever use I can to you in reading this material. You have always been so generous and helpful in reading my manuscripts, and this is my first opportunity to read something you are in the process of preparing.

Much of this material was not well known to me and I was glad of a chance to read it.

Here are a few suggestions. Take them for what they are worth.

Best wishes,

LWR/m  
Encl.

Rowland





## Nina Ridenour papers

A real joy to read a manuscript so free of typographical and editorial errors. This made concentration on the text easy. I am sorry mine have not always been so, and made a quiet resolution that if I have any manuscript materials in the future I will ready them better.

Agree with your idea of mental health "in U.S." in the title. Also, I would like the sub-title better if you used "Short" or "Brief".

- P. 2-3. The difference between psychopathic hospitals and the better mental hospitals is fading out. Somewhere you ought to indicate this; perhaps you do.
- P. 5. I think a sentence might be inserted to indicate that states were doing the best they could. They were not doing as well as they are today, but then neither were other hospitals, or medicine as a whole. The mental health movement has developed somewhat along with the improvement of medical care, it seems to me. We have benefitted from better general medical care, though techniques of treatment in mental illness were painfully slow in coming.
- ✓ P. 17. "had the same goals" -- I didn't think there were other organizations with these same goals. Beers was setting up a totally new type of organization, at least that was my understanding.
- P. 19. Think "Surveys" might be given primacy in recounting the doings of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, though you may have in mind other neglected functions, and have therefore given them a position first in the listing.
- ✓ P. 20. You may want to check the manner in which A. P. A. surveys are now being conducted; some recent or imminent changes should be investigated.
- P. 23. Do not see the Hogg Foundation listed, which is the only foundation I know in the U. S. whose entire resources ( about \$300,000 per year these days) are dedicated to mental health. Which raises the question in my mind as to whether research might turn up other foundations in the back country which have done well by mental health. A good example locally is the Edward G. Schlieder Educational Foundation which put \$125,000 into Dr. Robert G. Heath's experimental work at the Tulane Medical School, and will put an additional \$29,500 for the next three years.
- P. 27. I do not regard therapy by vitamin supplementation as a "fad" and think you might be embarrassed one of these days if you leave it that way. Also, I do not find myself able to relate fads in therapy with fads in reporting. I think you would do well to simply eliminate the section on fads. Many promising leads in therapy have turned out to be duds.
- An account of the numerical growth of clinical psychologists might be interesting, and I think it is important. The American Psychological Association could supply the information without any trouble.



## Nina Ridenour papers

P. 37. The problem of whether mental illness is increasing is such a moot one that I would not enter the arena.

P. 55. Last paragraph. I think a better explanation of the drop in quality of medical services to veterans is not that people "forget" but that better doctors, at first induced into the services by patriotism or the draft, leave later for civilian (private) practice.

P. 59. I am sorry you use GAP 37 as the example. You have no idea how much grief GAP 37 has caused in some states. Anyway, I am not sure where GAP should stop when it gets into such matters. For example, should they investigate the psychiatric effects of the Catholic Church? I am perfectly willing, but they might soon get around to the naturists also.

P. 78. I wish you would say something about the impact of psychology on psychiatry in the direction of requiring the latter to conform to rigid scientific requirements in setting up experiments and in making clinical studies. I think this is very important and that it is generally overlooked.

P. 84. You pass too quickly the police training program which has developed all over the country in response to the little book, How to Recognize and Handle Abnormal People, a Manual for the Police Officer. You can get the data from Ed Linzer. In gross figures, I think more than 100,000 copies of the manual have been published and are in use in all training schools for the police, and in most police departments. This manual has led to the establishment of a very great number of classes for the police with psychiatrists as leaders. A new edition of the manual will be out in a few weeks, and we have just finished the shooting of a film, with the sponsorship of NIMH, entitled Booked for Safekeeping. Your statement "no consistent rapprochement between police and psychiatry is as yet discernible" is not an accurate depiction. I have not personally encountered a group more eager to be taught about the mentally ill than rookie policemen -- or more resourceful.

P. 115. Probably not in keeping with the rest of the paper, which indicates growth in public awareness, when you speak of the mental health associations as the "proverbial voice in the wilderness crying out to a public which chose not to listen". As a matter of fact, when we have something to offer I have always felt the public is quite willing to listen.

You have very carefully bypassed a lot of the reality situations, such as the succession of incompetent executive directors of NAMH.

You have done very well in briefing the story of various pieces of mental health education literature, with the exception of the Pierre the Pelican program. It is very hard to understand why you omitted this, since for one thing it is the only program which has singled out a special group, and has gone all the way to every member of that group. In this case, parents of first-born children. Perhaps you have never understood the magnitude of the operation. It is rather difficult to know exactly how long this material is used, for we never make any attempt



## Nina Ridenour papers

to keep up with that sort of thing. But in Louisiana, we know we have had the program in full operation for thirteen years, that Connecticut and Kansas used it for ten years, that states such as West Virginia drop it for a while and then begin it again. The following states have used the materials for systematic distribution in times past; some have dropped it; some are still using it: Georgia, North Carolina, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, New Jersey, Montana, Nevada. Certainly in the lean years before the development of many kinds of printed materials, Pierre the Pelican was the most widely read mental health literature in the country.

The pamphlets are now being translated into German, for use in West Berlin. The service is well known to Dr. Rees and the others and if you are writing for the World Federation for Mental Health ~~and if you are writing for the World Federation for Mental Health~~, you should be especially certain to include services developed here which have made an impact elsewhere. There may be two other translations available by the end of the year.

- o I do not think you mentioned the Joint Commission on Mental Illness and Health. I would say something about it. While I know you are not trying to bring the story up-to-date, nevertheless, I don't see how you can very well omit this.

## Nina Ridenour papers

Rowland *MS*

May 11, 1960

Dr. Loyd Rowland  
Louisiana Association for  
Mental Health  
1528 Jackson Avenue  
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

Dear Loyd:

I did not send my manuscript to you in the spirit of asking a favor from you on the basis of my having done favors for you. Whatever I have done for you in the past, you have reciprocated and I shall always remain appreciative. I sent the manuscript, first of all, because I value your opinion and second because I thought you would think it strange if you saw the number of people who had read it (some 45 to date) and you had not been asked to do so. I repeat my apologies and regrets that it reached you at a busy time and was a burden to you.

Several of your comments were extremely helpful and I thank you for them. I shall not react to all of them but I do want to mention a few. The Joint Commission on Mental Illness and Health is described on the last page. Sometimes you must tell me the history of GAP '37 in the South; I do not know about it. In the section on foundations which have contributed, I was listing only those which had contributed to the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and that is so stated; the Hogg Foundation does not belong in that group. It would be impossible to go into a discussion of foundations which have contributed to the entire mental health movement. You are so right that I "carefully by-passed a lot of the reality situations such as the succession of incompetent executive directors at NAMH". You are not seriously recommending that I include them are you? I will either revise or delete the section on police training as soon as I can get some more facts.

Now about Pierre. Your statement that I "have done very well in briefing the story of various pieces of mental health education literature" is incorrect, because I have not handled the subject of mental health education literature at all and particularly not parent education literature. If I had, Pierre would have been right at the top of the list. The entire subject of parent education is covered in one and one-quarter pages and the only piece of literature referred to in there is "Infant Care" which originated in 1914. I also did not touch on the vast array of pamphlet litera-

*MS*



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May 12, 1960

Dr. Loyd Rowland

ture in mental health. If I had I would have brought in references to such pamphlets as "Special Problems of Children" which has topped the million mark and "Mental Health Is - 1, 2, 3" -- which has been reproduced more millions of times than anyone can count. I also did not go into education theory, such as yours about homogeneous highly motivated groups, which I consider as one of the most important fundamental education theories of all time and which I quote on all possible occasions and for which I have given you credit innumerable times in speaking and writing. Neither did I mention one of my own favorite theories -- the confusion caused by failure to differentiate between education for and education about mental health. I might mention at least a score of other "content" ideas which were also omitted.

The problem of what to leave out of this manuscript caused me much travail. To have gone into mental health literature and theories would have made it a different manuscript. At one point I developed a long outline about mental health literature but it finally became apparent that this was setting the whole manuscript off balance. That subject would make a splendid book in itself and it ought to be written. (You could write it -- so why don't you keep that in the back of your mind.)

Because I value your friendship, it has been a source of deep distress to me that you have been hurt by the omission of Pierre. I feel your reaction is due to your failure to recognize the pattern of the manuscript. I see now I should have explained it before I sent the manuscript to you. The pattern is clear and it is consistent. Pierre, along with some hundreds of other topics, just would not fit in.

For better or worse I wrote the manuscript I did. Practically all of your comments have to do with the manuscript I did not write. If you and I had sat down together as a "committee" to outline the table of contents the chances are we would never have come to agreement as to what ought to be included in a "history of the mental health movement." I see in this incident another example of what is wrong with the whole mental health movement which I repeat (as I said in the manuscript) goes back to the ambiguity of the term "mental health". People use the term but they want to do and say completely different things under that rubric.

In the printed acknowledgements I shall, of course, give credit for assistance to those who read the manuscript. In view of the disapprobation I sense in your letter and comments, I shall omit your name if you want me to. Unless I specifically hear from you to the contrary I shall, however, include your name among those to



## Nina Ridenour papers

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May 12, 1960

Dr. Loyd Rowland

whom I am indebted. And I shall continue to be indebted to you  
whether your name is there or not.

Again I say to you many thanks for reading the manuscript and I  
shall make the best use I possibly can of your comments.

Most sincerely,

Nina Ridenour  
Secretary



### LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

1528 JACKSON AVENUE

NEW ORLEANS 13, LOUISIANA

TELEPHONE: MAGNOLIA 3845

May 16, 1960

DOROTHY W. SEAGO, PH.D.  
PRESIDENT

LOYD W. ROWLAND, PH.D.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MABEL B. PALMER, M.S.W.  
SPECIAL SERVICES

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

Dear Nina:

GEORGE L. SAPORITO, M.S.W.  
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE  
6011 JOYCE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, LA.

My conception of the role of a critic reader is a very simple one: to raise a question mark in advance where the reader of the printed page might raise one later, and to suggest alternatives. This is all I have tried to do as I studied your paper.

I find it very difficult to make out a separation between a movement and its materials. For example, probably the most important educational material to come from the mental health movement is Beers' book. However, since you are not going to deal with educational materials, the Pierre program has no place in your outline, nor does the police manual, even though the use of the latter has turned out to be a vital part of the program of many associations. You will have to be the judge, but I should feel a bit cheated if I read the story of the mental health movement without an account of the plays that led to the re-introduction of drama as a teaching technique in mental health education, in the decade 1945-55. But I can see that educational materials might get out of hand in terms of quantity, and besides people evaluate them so differently. Some are good, some worthless, and some of the attempts using the approach of the comics have embarrassed many people.

I am not sure why you are doing this piece of work, and who is the proposed reader group. Are you preparing an outline of the early development of the mental health movement in the United States to be included along with others from other countries for Mental Health Year? I think this may well be the case.

As I know historical accounts of organizations, it is not customary to report the succession of leaders unless they have done outstanding work. I wish our executive directors had been of such a calibre that they could be cited, but unfortunately, even up to the



## Nina Ridenour papers

Dr. Nina Ridenour

May 16, 1960  
Page Two

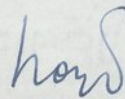
chap who left in April, such is not the case. As I shut my eyes and summarize, only Mr. Beers and Dr. Stevenson come to the top anyway.

I am not as dissatisfied as you are with the term mental health. It is never going to be possible to define the term with complete agreement, and much as I dislike borrowing phrases from the so-called exact sciences, we will get closer to it by a series of "successive approximations". We can't even define the word "health" but I for one would not know how to get along without it. Something else would pop up to take its place, with probably very little improvement.

Of course, I will be glad to be included among the critic readers. This does not mean you have accepted what I offered by way of suggestions, or that I would write the material in the same way. It only means that some of us who have soaked in the field have gotten together to think about something that needs to be set down.

In spite of the fact that the manuscript came at a rather bad time for me, I set aside appointments and read it carefully -- because of its importance, and because you were writing it and had asked me to read it. The suggestions I made were the ones I think I would have made if the reading had been spread over a longer period.

Cordial best wishes,





4/4/60

Sarejan - re M.S.

Superb. Terribly  
well written.

Psychosurgery -  
labotomies - omitted.

Fascinating narrative.

And. limited to people  
somewhat sophisticated - if  
could have been tied into NARTH  
could have dist. potential of  
2000 cops more. Dist. will  
depend on gops that buy.