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Together in 1980: Dr. Fred Klenner dreamed that his son Fritz would carry on his work at the Reidsville clinic

Fritz Klenner, his father's son

By JERRY BLEDSOE
Staff Writer

On a Reidsville street a few years ago, an acquaintance encountered Dr. Fred Klenner and his son, Fred Jr., called Fritz by his family.

"Fred," the acquaintance said, "as long as Fritz is alive, you're going to be on this earth. He looks like you. He walks like you. He talks like you. He even puts his hat on like you."

Dr. Klenner smiled broadly. Few compliments could have pleased him more.

From the time his only son was born on July 31, 1952, Dr. Klenner's dream for his namesake was that he would replace him on earth, take up his work and carry it on.

By then, Dr. Klenner already was gaining a national reputation for his experimental work in orthomolecular medicine — using chemicals normally found in the body, particularly vitamins, to restore and maintain health.

Dr. Klenner's own parents came to this country as immigrants from eastern Germany and settled in Johnstown, Pa. His father worked hard in a steel mill to ensure that his youngest son, Fred, a bright and gifted child, could get an education to meet the opportunities in this new country.

Fred attended Catholic University in Washington, where he earned a degree in chemistry. He was a devout Catholic and was considering studying for the priesthood when he was accepted at Duke University Medical School. In his second year there, he met Annie Hill Sharp, a senior nursing student. They married, over strong objections from her Episcopalian family, in 1937, a year after his graduation.

BITTER BLOOD A Genealogy of Murder

On June 3, Fritz Klenner and his cousin Susie Lynch died when a bomb in his Chevy Blazer exploded north of Greensboro. Her two sons also died after being poisoned and shot. Police wanted to charge Klenner with murdering Susie's mother, father and grandmother near Winston-Salem. Police also suspected he murdered two of her former in-laws in Kentucky. This is their story.

Together, they worked at the N.C. Tuberculosis Sanatorium in McCain and at the Forsyth Sanatorium, where Dr. Klenner, a thoracic specialist, served his internship and residency.

In 1939, at his wife's urging, Dr. Klenner moved to Reidsville, her hometown, and opened a second-floor office in the Whitsett Building over Dailey's Drug Store on Gilmer Street. It was a family practice, and he never hesitated to make house calls, often in the dead of night, frequently to those who could not pay.

The early years of his practice were marred only by whispers during World War II that Dr. Klenner sympathized with the Nazis of his father's homeland, whispers that acutely embarrassed his wife's prominent family and led to insults and vandalism aimed at the Klenners.

Near the end of the war, Annie Hill went to her dentist with bleeding gums. He recommended pulling

all her teeth. When she told her husband, he remembered reading about research using ascorbic acid — vitamin C — to cure bleeding gums in chimpanzees. Why not try it? His wife agreed, and after several shots, her gums stopped bleeding.

A short time later, Dr. Klenner decided to try vitamin C on a man near death from viral pneumonia. He gave the man a 5,000-milligram shot. When he returned several hours later, the man's temperature had dropped and he was sitting. Three days later, after receiving four such shots a day, the man was better.

"My gosh," Dr. Klenner told himself. "This is doing something."

When his two small daughters, Mary Ann and Gertrude, came down with measles, Dr. Klenner treated them successfully with vitamin C. In 1946, Dr. Klenner delivered premature quadruplets and used vitamin C shots to help keep them alive. After treating hundreds of people for many different ailments, mostly viral diseases, Dr. Klenner published a professional paper, "Virus Pneumonia and Its Treatment with Vitamin C," in Southern Medicine and Surgery in 1948, the first of 38 such papers he would publish during his life.

When a polio epidemic struck in 1949, Dr. Klenner experimented with vitamin C treatments for 60 young patients he'd diagnosed as having the disease. He gave them the vitamin in quantities unheard of at the time and reported quick cures in every case. He published a paper on those treatments in 1952.

In 1954, word of Dr. Klenner's work with vitamin C appeared in a book, "Let's Eat Right To Keep Fit," by nutritionist Adelle Davis. Dr. Linus Pauling, a Nobel Prize-winning chemist, acknowledged Dr. Klenner's work in his 1970 bestseller "Vitamin C and the

(Continued on A6)

Weapons test impact is denied

U.S. official predicts
Soviets will negotiate

From Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — U.S. negotiator John Tower, shrugging off Soviet complaints, predicted Sunday that U.S. testing of antisatellite weapons would have no impact on the arms-control talks scheduled to resume in Geneva next month.

Tower, chief of the U.S. delegation dealing with long-range nuclear weapons in the three-pronged negotiations, predicted the Soviets would act in what they considered their own best interest regardless of anything Washington might do or refrain from doing.

"I think that the arms talks, the progress of the talks, the ultimate outcome is going to be driven by both sides' perception of their national interest," Tower said. "That's going to be the determining factor, not incidents that may occur along the line."

"The ultimate outcome will depend largely on the extent to which the Soviets perceive it to be in their interest to agree to radical reductions in offensive arms," he said.

Asked on the CBS-TV interview program "Face the Nation" if he believed the Soviets would resume their own antisatellite weapons testing program — suspended since 1982 — in response to the U.S. announcement last week of antisatellite testing, Tower said, "I have no idea whether they will or not. They will do whatever they perceive to be in their interest, regardless of what we do."

Tower's hard-line comments, less than a month before he is scheduled to resume talks in Geneva, came in the midst of a U.S.-Soviet propaganda war in which each side appeared to be trying to position itself to blame the other for failure in the arms control talks or the Nov. 19-21 (See Talks, A9)

Shuttle still grounded; satellite save unlikely

L.A. Times-Washington Post News Service

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla. — The daring attempt to rescue a stranded satellite appeared to be in serious jeopardy Sunday after the launch of the space shuttle Discovery was scrubbed for the second day in a row.

A computer failure forced the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to scrub Sunday's launch, and the back-to-back setbacks will require maintenance procedures that will delay the launch until Tuesday at the earliest.

But weather — the cause of the initial scrub on Saturday — was deteriorating rapidly, and it was doubtful that the Discovery would be able to keep Tuesday's date either.

If the shuttle is not launched by Thursday, it will not be in the right position to attempt to rescue an \$85 million Hughes satellite that failed to activate itself after it was released from the Discovery in April.

That would force postponement of the rescue attempt until a later mission, if ever.

NASA skipped Monday as a possible launch day to allow engineers to inspect the orbiter to be sure none of its systems deteriorated or sustained damages during the two false starts.

UNC-CH graduate student abducted near planetarium

By MEREDITH BARKLEY
Staff Writer

A 23-year-old graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was abducted at knife point late Saturday from the Morehead Planetarium parking lot on the college's campus, authorities said.

The woman, identified as Sharon Stewart of Kingswood Apartments in Chapel Hill, was still missing late Sunday.

The abduction occurred shortly before 11 p.m. as she and a friend were walking to her car parked in the Planetarium lot, according to Chapel Hill police.

People who answered telephones at the woman's Chapel Hill residence and at her home in Cincinnati, Ohio, declined to comment on the case. Capt. Ralph Pendergraph of the Chapel Hill Police Department said Sunday evening that neither Stewart nor her abductor had contacted authorities or family members.

Pendergraph said police were talking with people in the area of the abduction and were showing them pictures of Stewart and composite drawings of her alleged abductor in hopes of finding someone who recognized them.

"We're asking for information from anybody that may have seen anything," he said. "We're following up on all leads we have."

He said authorities have no indication that Stewart and her abductor knew each other before Saturday night.

Pendergraph said Stewart and her friend, another female student whom he declined to identify, had been to a movie at the Ram Triple Theater on Rosemary Street shortly before the abduction. The theater is located at the rear lower level of NCNB Plaza.

As they left the theater, the two women walked up through the plaza to Franklin Street, crossed the

(See Abduction, A9)

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Today's Chuckle
People used to do things by the book because people used to read books.

Mission of Guilford schools revised in new chief's plan

By STEVE BERRY
Staff Writer

After only two months in the job, Superintendent Jerome H. Melton has developed far-reaching plans for major changes in the Guilford County school system, including establishing specialized curricula in high schools, reorganizing the middle grades and possibly building a new high school.

"Guilford County offers the opportunity, the real possibility of pulling off these things, and frankly that's the only thing I'm interested in," Melton said in an interview during a break from moving into a new home on Hollycrest Court near the airport.

"I don't really care about the asbestos," he said, referring to fire retardant material in school buildings that has been linked to lung cancer. "Now, I got to get the asbestos out because I don't want to endanger the kids' lives. It's a prob-

lem — as long as everybody says it is — but that doesn't fascinate me like getting centers of interest, getting more kids identified as gifted and putting them through exciting programs.

"For example, we're going to have a strings program in the county even if I have to buy the fiddles, and we're going to start it in the fourth grade."

Under Melton's plans:

- Each of the county's eight high schools would offer a special curriculum such as cultural arts or vocational education and would be open to any high school student.
- Business education, journalism, cultural arts and more foreign lan-

guage courses would be added to the curriculum.

- Most of the remedial programs would be shifted from elementary school to the middle grades.

- Students would be permitted to skip grades if they meet the requirements, and the daily class schedule would be more flexible.

A curriculum committee formed by the school board will study many of his ideas when it is appointed in October.

"You've got to get a lot of people involved," he said. "I anticipate somewhere between 300 and 1,000 people will be involved in this curriculum study. It will take three years to complete."

The committee will use the eight-year state Basic Education Plan as a frame of reference. The plan, approved by the General Assembly this year, sets out a standard course

(See Melton, A9)



Melton