

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Mailed July 3, 1986

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - There's a small, golden lady on the desk of Dr. Saul Friedman at Youngstown State University, and to him she is the ultimate.

The veteran history professor and author won the regional Emmy Award for a new role he assumed recently--script writer and television producer.

He was presented the statuette recently for his part as co-producer in the Holocaust documentary, "Robert Clary, A5714: A Memoir of Liberation," when the Cleveland Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences held its 17th annual Emmy Awards Night.

Selection of the show and Dr. Friedman of YSU and Dr. Herbert Hochhauser of Kent State University as co-producers, and Budd Margolis of Cleveland as director, qualifies them for nomination at the national Emmy Awards.

"I don't have any illusions. This is probably as far as it will go. But this is wonderful; this is reward enough," Dr. Friedman said.

The documentary was premiered over Cleveland Station WVIZ in April 1985 and was shown on numerous other Public Broadcast Stations and also in Europe.

The film title uses actor Robert Clary's concentration camp number and follows him in reviewing his life story from his home in France to the cattle cars the Nazis used to transport Jews to the death camps, and then to Buchenwald, where he spent 30 months living with suffering and death.

Clary, known in this country for his role as LeBeau in "Hogan's Heroes" and "Days of Our Lives," was one of only five children from a family of 16 who survived the Holocaust.

MORE

For the past six years he has been a volunteer with the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, making appearances before community and educational groups around the country. Clary was on the YSU campus in May as a Wean Lecturer and also spoke at area high schools and before other groups.

Dr. Friedman, a member of the YSU faculty since 1969, began his college days at Kent State University with a journalism career in mind and worked on several weekly newspapers. Although he switched to history, writing has remained important--he's the author of six books and many articles.

He wrote the script for "Robert Clary" and got pianist Roman Rudyntsky of Boardman, a member of YSU's Dana School of Music, to perform the show's musical theme, which was "Peatbog Soldiers," a concentration camp marching song. YSU's Media Center recorded it.

There are other notable facts about this documentary. They were the first western group permitted into Buchenwald since World War II; the first to make use of color film footage of the liberation of Buchenwald taken by U.S. Air Corps cameramen in 1945; and the first to interview East German high school students about their knowledge of the Jewish dehumanization.

"As it turned out, they were better informed than the American students," Dr. Friedman reports.

After he and his associates learned there was color film of the Buchenwald liberation, they found it was still classified by the U.S. "I believe the Army did not declassify that film because they felt it was too stark for American sensitivities back in 1945," he commented.

They finally got it declassified and used some of it in "Robert Clary."

Another part of the documentary contains scenes from the KSU Stark Campus where Clary spoke in April 1984 to an audience that included Austintown and Canfield High School students.

Dr. Hochhauser is director of Jewish Studies at KSU, where the documentary was produced with the aid of a \$38,000 grant from the Ohio Humanities Council.

ADD TWO

Dr. Friedman, in addition to teaching Middle East and Jewish History at YSU, is visiting professor of Holocaust and Jewish History at Kent.

Dr. Friedman, who resides in Austintown with his wife and three children, is now planning another documentary.

It will deal with the Terezin Ghetto in Prague, Czechoslovakia, an old Austrian fort that the Nazis used as a way station, or holding area, for Jewish families on their way to the "killing camps" where they were methodically murdered.

This project began to bloom while Dr. Friedman was in Israel this past spring researching a book on the plight of Syrian Jewry. He taught at Haifa University where his son, Jonathan, 20, now a junior at KSU, attended classes. They also traveled to Egypt and Germany together.

Friedman says there are some diaries, plus testimonials, from people who were in Terezin and survived. Also, he obtained from Israel's Yad Vashen Holocaust Center a Nazi "showcase" film which attempted to show what a fine place Terezin was.

Dr. Friedman received his bachelor's degree from Kent State and master's and doctoral degrees from Ohio State University.

In addition to many articles in journals here and abroad, he is the author of six books, including The Oberammergau Passion Play: A Lance Against Civilization; Land of Dust: Palestine at the Turn of the Century; Incident at Massena; Amcha: An Oral Testament of the Holocaust: Pogromchik, which dealt with the Ukrainian massacres in 1919; and No Haven for the Oppressed, a study of the Roosevelt Administration's policy toward Jewish refugees.

Dr. Friedman is a former president of the Youngstown Zionist District and a member of the Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League. He is also on the board of the Schermer Trust, Youngstown.

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