

Sequel begs life-affirming question

Author with Indiana roots pens story of work, travels

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In "Under the Heaven Tree," Bill Bridges of Franklin talked of growing up in Vincennes and Franklin.

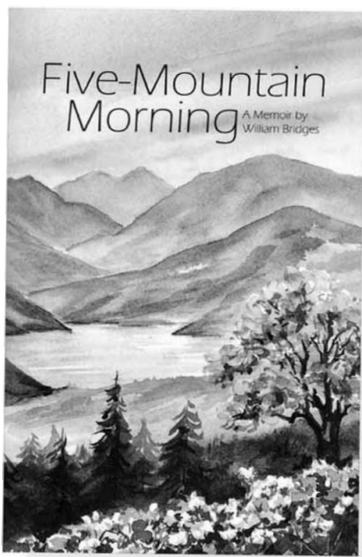
He told stories of his family, his friends and his surroundings. It was a pleasurable stroll down memory lane for readers who grew up in that sort of world and a wonderful introduction for those who didn't.

The book ended with Bridges' induction into the Army. It's a symbolic moment that marked his movement from the insular, protected world of his youth to the broader rest of the world.

"Five-Mountain Morning" (184 pages, VirtualBookworm.com, \$13.95) picks up from there, and Bridges explores his adult life as a journalist overseas and at home, a teacher and an intellectual explorer.

The book isn't a catalog of great accomplishments or an explanation of how he got to be who he is. Rather, it is a collection of sketches about his professional life and interesting people he has met and places he has visited.

The writing is filled with humor, much of it self-effacing. Bridges tells funny stories



"Five-Mountain Morning" by Bill Bridges (184 pages, VirtualBookworm.com, \$13.95)

about himself even better than he does about others. That's because he writes with warmth and care.

This is a gentle book, not one filled with conflict and controversy.

Bridges writes about his life to show how

IF YOU GO

What: Franklin author William Bridges reading from his new book, "Five-Mountain Morning"

When: 1:30 p.m. today

Where: Lower-level meeting room of the Johnson County Museum of History, 135 N. Main St. in Franklin

How much: Admission is free. Signed copies of "Five-Mountain Morning" will be available for purchase.

his experiences, while unique, are not so unlike those the rest of us have, just under different circumstances.

Some episodes are about major changes in his life, such as moving from working at a major metropolitan newspaper to teaching journalism at Franklin College.

Others are more personal and down to earth, like trying to find a furniture store in Homer, Ind., and getting lost in rural Shelby County.

Many sections have a poetic sense to them, not surprising since he has written poetry for much of his life.

The book's most important lesson is one everyone can apply.

In each of his experiences, in each of his travels, Bridges tries to answer a question posed to him by another Franklin professor: What did he learn about himself?

It's a question we can all reflect on.

BOOK REVIEW

SOUTHSIDE COLLEGE NOTES

Graduates

Indiana Wesleyan University

Bargersville: Patricia McCullough
Edinburgh: Andy Barker and Vanessa Hammond

Franklin: Darren Barnard, Rachel Clark, Steven Daudy, Kenda Fox-Myers, Tammy Good, Douglas Hooyer, Paula Ramey and Charlotte Waltherman

Greenwood: Jennifer Angel, Sandra Bailey, Peggy Jo Carson, Christopher Colbert, Tracy Gilliam, Marsha Graff, Margriet Kreisher Hesser, Amanda Hogan, Candice Jarboe, Jason Long, Alan Lulfs, Jyl Madlem, Matthew Mann, Peggy Martin, Dana Matthews, James Newton, Ryan Singer, Randall Thompson, Helen Walker, Stephen Williams, Salvatore Wingo, Stephen Worley and Megan Yturriaga

Needham: Paul Fletcher

New Whiteland: Shirley Murff

Nineveh: Sheila Coy

Trafalgar: Lori Lee

Whiteland: Albert Bacon, Andrew Britt and Mark LaRosa

Huntington University

Franklin: Cara Thomas and Stacie Lane Cheek

Greenwood: Molly Andrews and Jason Latino

New Whiteland: Adam Widener

Whiteland: Daron Short

Indiana State University

Franklin: Melanie Fortier and Jeri Wagner

Greenwood: Brian Beville, Kathryn Brown, Kerri Byrum, Nicole Chmil, Beth Derzen, Laura James, Joseph Nannery and Zachary Raibley

Whiteland: Kyra Himes

J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

Franklin: Lana Hass

Millikin University

Franklin: Heather Lyell

Oakland City University

Greenwood: Dean A. Messer

University of Evansville

Franklin: Kyle Shatto and Denee Wischmeier

Whiteland: Alicia Laraway

Dean's lists

University of Indianapolis

Edinburgh: Benjamin Goodin

Franklin: Ashley Harr and Ashley Smith

Greenwood: Sarah Ayers, Laura Bare, Susan Decker, Christa Edwards, Amanda Hanley, Megan Hauser, Jillanne Hudson, Gregory Jarvis, Ashley Jones, April Lynch, Heather Martin, Adam Miner, Emily Morgan, Haley Pinder, Megan Shelton, Ashley Smaltz, Katie Stam, Jamie Tyner and Elizabeth Welch

New Whiteland: Amy Skinner

Nineveh: Katherine Wall

Whiteland: Jonica McPeak

SENIOR OASIS

OASIS will offer the following classes for older learners at OASIS South, at The Centre, 1675 W. Smith Valley Road, Suite B-3 in Greenwood:

- "Those Wonderful TV Singers of the '50s and '60s featuring Andy Williams" — Listen to the music Williams sang on his television show and learn about his life. 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday

- "Writing for Publication" — Tips on how to get your writing published in magazines or books. The speaker has written 16 books and more than

100 magazine articles. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday

- "Miniature Oil Painting" — Learn how to paint smaller paintings anywhere at any time with a convenient amount of supplies that can be carried easily. This class is open to all levels. A supply list will be provided upon registration. Please bring reference photos or sketches. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24 and March 3. Fee: \$20. Bring sack lunch.

OASIS membership is free. There is a \$10 registration charge per trimester.

IN THE MILITARY

Army Reserve Pvt. **Jeremy K. Nelson** has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Knox, Ky. He is the son of Greg Nelson of Franklin and a 2003 graduate of Franklin Community High School. Navy Seaman Recruit **Casey A. Clark**, son of Connie S. and Mike G. Clark of Bargersville, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at

Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Clark is a 1998 graduate of Center Grove High School.

Marine Corps Pfc. **Michael S. Roush**, son of Rita L. and Steven K. Roush of Whiteland, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

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• Shopping

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

One February, one of their son's wrestling meets conflicted with Edwards' annual hunt for a Valentine's Day gift. So he stopped along the road, bought a dozen roses from a man selling flowers from the backseat of his

van and met his wife at the school to watch their son wrestle.

After the match was over, Edwards headed to the family car, reassuring his wife on the way that he had not forgotten the special day. But what he found didn't bring a smile to his or his wife's face.

"The heads of the flowers were all drooped over," he said. "She wasn't too happy that year."

His favorite gift for his wife

was an ankle bracelet, though he can't recall exactly what year he gave it to her.

"It really surprised her," Edwards said with a smile.

"When you're married this long, you try to find that one something she wasn't expecting."

Edwards left the store, fairly convinced that he would follow his usual plan of action: order flowers to be sent to his wife's workplace.

Things to do...

instead of fixing breakfast at home!

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