

ADOPTEES

Pair Reunited After 62 Years

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The decades disappeared when Aileen Brown and her brother finally saw each other in Lansing, 62 years after they had been separated.

"From the beginning, he didn't seem like a stranger," Mrs. Brown said upon being reunited with Larry Nipp, a retired businessman from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "It seemed very natural."

And for the 62-year-old Nipp, the long years of separation that ended last week had never stopped him from thinking of Mrs. Brown, 66, as his "baby sister."

"I have looked for her, off and on, for 60 years," Nipp said. "I got a lot of scars slammed in my face. Some people thought I was crazy. I made numerous trips to Lansing. I couldn't pick up a thing."

Neither is sure why they were separated in 1920, they were 7 and 8.

Mrs. Brown remained in Lansing, where she still lives. Nipp was adopted by a family in St. Louis, Mo.

"I've thought about him a lot over the years — what he was like, what he's been doing," Mrs. Brown said. "I thought maybe he was dead, but I wanted to know, one way or the other."

A break came in May when Mrs. Brown, a retired civilian employee of the Depart-

ment of State Police, wrote a personal plea to an Ingham County Probate judge. She noted that everyone involved in the adoption, with the exception of herself and possibly her brother, was dead, ending any need for records to remain confidential.

"I wanted to know what happened to my brother," she said. "I couldn't see what harm it would do." The court agreed and the records were opened.

Four months later, Mrs. Brown tracked her brother to Florida and placed a call. He was on a fishing trip at the time — in Michigan.

"When I returned, I was told 'your sister called,'" said Nipp. "It didn't register. Even after I called back and talked to her, it didn't register."

As they talked, Nipp and Mrs. Brown were struck by their shared interests.

"She likes to travel in the

mountains, fish and oil paint," Nipp said. "I also love to travel in the mountains, I love to fish and I have just taken up oil painting. Top that!"

Nipp said his adoptive parents died in the 1940s and "couldn't have been better" to him. Mrs. Brown said her parents divorced when she was 14 and never talked about her brother.

"No doubt my real mother did what she had to do,"

Nipp said. "My suspicion is that our parents were poor — that they couldn't raise two children."

It was two weeks after Mrs. Brown's first phone call that they reunited in person.

"In a way I felt like we had never been apart," said Nipp. "In another way, I felt like I was talking to a stranger ... but I knew I wasn't. She's no stranger. She's my baby sister."

REUNION - SIGNING

The Homecoming

SAT. AUG. 28/82

David Holden Finally Gets To Visit His 'Other' Family



DAVID HOLDEN

CONTOCCOOK — In February, David Holden, who was adopted when he was a child, located his mother in Germany. On June 15, the night before his 27th birthday, he wrote her a letter.

"Dear Mother,

"On June 14, 1955, twenty-seven years ago tomorrow, a miracle occurred. Dearest Mother, I love you."

"After much research and by God's help I have located you. This is your son ..."

Earlier this month, Holden and his wife flew to Munich for a reunion with his mother and the wedding of his half brother. He also met his half sister and made a surprise visit to his father. His father had left his mother before Holden was born.

His 11 days in Germany and Austria were fabulous, terrific, beautiful. You choose the adjective. He used them all. And about the trip, he said, "There's so much to tell, I don't know where to begin."

Holden owns Country Cutting Co., a hairdressing salon in Contoocook. Before he began looking for his mother last year, he knew only that he had been born in Salzburg, Austria, and adopted by American parents when he was 18 months old. He grew up in Westport, Mass.

With help from the Austrian consulate in New York City, he located his mother in Germany. He learned later that she had moved to Munich after giving him up for adoption.

He wrote her in June, and two weeks later received a reply. "Dear son ... I am your mother. I have not forgotten you ..."

And his half brother wrote, "Today has become one of the most beautiful moments in my life and in my mother's life."

His half brother also wrote that he was getting married in August. Holden and his wife decided to visit them.

The reception was warm from the moment they arrived in Munich. They spent every day with his mother, brother and his bride, who could all speak English, and they shopped, went sightseeing, visited Holden's half sister, brought one another up to date on their pasts and traveled to Salzburg, Austria. In Salzburg, they visited the foster parents who kept Holden for 15 months. And they visited Holden's father,

Monitor Columnist

Tom Keyser



An Update

He had located his father, again with help from the Austrian consulate. His mother, who had not seen or heard from his father in 27 years, reluctantly agreed to the visit.

"I'd say the whole situation there was tense," Holden said.

His father had left his mother — they were never married — after she told him she was pregnant. She gave birth to Holden, put him in foster homes and then up for adoption. She had two more children but did not marry. His father married another woman before Holden was even born.

During their visit, his father was nervous but friendly. He said at first that maybe Holden was his son and maybe he was not. He never did say he was, but neither did he say he wasn't.

"I've got his terrible hairline, the whole bit," Holden said.

Since his father could speak no English and Holden could speak little German, they did not communicate like old army buddies. But they did break the ice, and Holden plans to keep in touch through letters.

His half brother and sister said they would like to visit him next summer, and he plans to continue exchanging photographs and letters with his mother.

"I feel any adopted child has the right to know about his parents, maybe even to meet them," Holden said. "And I don't think the adoptive parents should feel threatened."

He said his adoptive parents supported his search. And now, "I have even a greater appreciation and love for them," he said.

REUNION ADOPTEE INITIATED

Search: Bill Brow Looks For Pieces of His Past

From Page A1

years have passed since Brow was adopted by a military family in San Diego.

"I started searching in the summer of '77," Brow said. "My older brother had given me a copy of my adoption records about 20 years earlier and I'd thought about searching but never did. Then my youngest daughter contracted scoliosis — curvature of the spine — and it made it more important to find out my biological and medical heritage."

Since then, Brow has traveled to Northern Virginia three times from his Lawrenceville, Kansas home, where he works for the University of Kansas.

This week, he's searched through state records in Richmond and Northern Virginia. One glimmer of information he's obtained is that his parents lived in Northern Virginia and worked for the federal government.

Marilyn Moore of Fairfax has assisted Brow in his search. Moore was adopted herself and is the search coordinator for Adoptees In Search, a national non-profit agency which helps adoptees find their birth parents.

Moore found her biological parents almost four years ago after a three-week search. She says Brow's search is "very rare" because five years of investigating have produced little more than the information on his birth certificate.

"It's very rare to look for someone and not to find a trace of

them," said Moore, who has helped hundreds of adoptees find their roots. "Despite thorough searching, all we really have are their names. It just drives me nuts."

"I found out that my real mother had uterine cancer and her mother and grandmother died of uterine cancer," Moore said. "Well, I took birth control pills for 10 years and I never should have taken them. I'm a shoe-in for uterine cancer."

When she was growing up, Moore said, she was very conscious that she didn't look like anyone in her adoptive family.

"When I saw my birth mother's pictures, she had green eyes and so do I and that was really neat to know where they came from," Moore said. "I have four children and now I look at them and see bits of me and bits of my mother, too."

Although many people believe adoptees should not delve into their biological parents' pasts, Moore and Brow said sealed adoption records deny adoptees of a basic right to know "who we are."

Brow plans to leave Northern Virginia tomorrow and return to Kansas. But he says he's not giving up his search. He believes the turning point will come when he finds out what Virginia city or county his birth parents came from.

Bill Brow has been looking for bits of his past since 1977.

Staff photo by George Borstley



ADOPTEES IN SEARCH
SEARCH - ADOPTEE UNITED.

He's Searching for an Identity



Bill Brow
Searching for an Identity

By SALLY ANN STEWART

For five years, Bill Brow has been searching Northern Virginia for any scrap of information that can tell him why.

Why his daughter contracted curvature of the spine. Why he has blue eyes. Why his biological mother "abandoned" him when he was two days old and put him up for adoption.

"Sometimes I feel like a piece of Swiss cheese — you know, the cheese with all the holes," Brow said. "I feel like one of the holes."

"Each of us just wants to know about ourselves. It fills a real void

knowing who your real mother and father are and by extension, who you are," he said.

Right now, all Brow knows is what's typed onto his District of Columbia birth certificate, dated March 24, 1937.

His mother and father were both native Virginians, the document states. His mother was a 22-year-old nurse and his father a 27-year-old chemist. The slip of paper contains his biological parents' names along with the name his mother gave him: Lester James Wilmer.

But his name was changed by his adoptive parents and almost 45

See SEARCH, Page A4

3/25/73
J. C. ...

Woman Reunited With Family

A newspaper article containing a familiar name led an N.C. woman on a hunt that resulted her with her family in Indiana after a 37-year separation.

"I still can't imagine it," said Peggy Jeanne Bragg of Greenville, N.C., after meeting her family in Indiana.

Two weeks ago, Bragg saw a story about a Richmond, Ind., missionary named Abney. "I saw that name Abney. I knew that was my name before I was adopted, and I was surprised to see someone with that name still in Indiana."

She called information and reached Cheryl Abney, who didn't know anything about the family, but volunteered to try and find a relative.

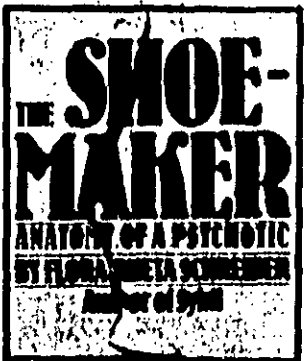
One person she called was Barbara Abney Taylor, 51, who was sent to live with foster parents when she was 14 and was surprised to hear of her sister, Peggy after so many years. Bragg, 39, was reunited with five sisters, a brother and her 79-year-old mother.

Bragg, who remembers little about the family's separation, was taken from her biological family by welfare workers when she was 2 and later was adopted.

NY Times 7/31/83

(A.D.)

ABOUT BOOKS | Shirley Horner



IT'S ANTI-THOUGHT and a distortion of the relationship between author and subject," said Flora Rheta Schreiber, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

Miss Schreiber was referring to what she called "the vicious remarks" she had received after the recent publication of "The Shoemaker: Anatomy of a Psychotic" (Simon & Schuster, New York, \$16.95).

The shoemaker is Joseph Kallinger, whose brutal murder of a 22-year-old nurse in Leona in 1975 — while accompanied by his 13-year-old son Michael — drew intense public outrage.

In 1978, Mr. Kallinger was sentenced in Hackensack to life imprisonment, a sentence that was to be served consecutively with the 20-to-30-year prison term he had received in Pennsylvania 18 months earlier in another case involving the robbery of four women. His son also had accompanied him in that crime.

"The Shoemaker" is a shocking book, and readers will recoil at the descriptions of the cruelty that Mr. Kallinger inflicted on both his children and his victims.

During the course of being interviewed by Professor Schreiber for her book, Mr. Kallinger admitted to two more murders — those of another son, Joseph, who was 14 at the time, and another boy of 19. He has since been arraigned for these crimes.

"I'm being seen as Joe's apologist,"

Professor Schreiber said. She added that the purpose of her book was "to show that it's even more important to prevent the development of psychosis that leads to crime than to get tough with criminals after the event."

Professor Schreiber said that after her early interviews with Mr. Kallinger — they began on July 19, 1978 — her "fear of the man changed to pity for the child, and my book, based on seven years of intensive research, shows that Joe is a victim, having been abandoned by his mother when 4 weeks old and finally adopted by an unloving, sadistic couple."

In revisiting the case, Paul J. Giblin of Paramus, the attorney whose unsuccessful defense of Mr. Kallinger is described in "The Shoemaker," said: "I could write a book about all the agony I endured for defending him."

Mr. Giblin said he would defend Mr. Kallinger again as "insane, although the experience affected my professional life."

"People ask what kind of person would represent such a man," he said, "but we have to accept that the defense of insanity is a valid one and that the right place for Kallinger was a mental asylum, not a jail."

REUNION - ADOPTEE INITIATED

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS
VIOLENCE - MURDER
CRIMINAL

AG

Couple fights legal battle for others, too

By Joseph H. McCarty Jr.
staff writer

James Grant George and his wife talked about it and kept trying to answer the question, "Why us? Why is this happening to us?" "Well, I think the answer is that we can take it," George said. "We can put up with it, we can fight back." The Kansas City native said that some day someone will have to repeat what he and his wife have gone through "and maybe they won't be able to put up with it. They might just give up. That's the reason we're doing this—to make it a little easier on the next person." George, a computer systems consul-

tant living in Miami, has myelocytic leukemia. He returned Tuesday to Kansas City, slightly embittered but determined.

"The whole thing's insane," George said of the purpose of his return, a matter of his life or his death. "It's just absolutely insane."

"But the thing that gets me is that if I were born in Kansas, a mile and a half west of where I was, the whole thing would be over. I'd have what I needed."

George was born Aug. 18, 1947, at the long-defunct Willows Maternity Home, 2929 Main. Much of his story is known—not that he likes it.

"I really don't much care for all the publicity. I have a lot of better things to

do than sit under television lights. But the reason we talk, talk, talk is to make it easier on the next person," he said.

Doctors have said the only chance George has of curing the disease is with a bone marrow transplant from a matched donor. His best chance of a match rests with a blood relative. George is barred from finding his blood relatives because Missouri law keeps birth records of adoptees sealed.

He came to Kansas City to see if the law could be bent.

George spent a grueling four hours Tuesday in the juvenile division of Jackson County Circuit Court, attempting to convince Judge Gene Mar-

See Couple, pg. 6A, col. 3

Couple continued from pg. 1A

tin that his case represents "compelling circumstances," which Missouri law says he must show before his records can be opened.

George was told of his illness in July. Since then has been wrestling with the Missouri legal system. Complicating the situation is the fact his natural mother does not want her identity to be revealed.

The hearing was adjourned until at least the first week in June, when George's attorneys will attempt to present more medical testimony.

"I'm not mad at Judge Martin. I don't feel anger at Martin. I'm just mad at the system. I know the judge is well-meaning and I know it's a difficult position for him. From his point of view, what he's doing makes sense."

Kansas, on the other hand, is one of five states with laws that allow adoptees to see their birth records.

In the hearing, George said, he tried to convince Martin that unless he gets the transplant he could die. Doctors have sent affidavits to Martin confirming that possibility, but the affidavits were not admissible in court.

"We couldn't admit those things because the doctor wasn't there to be cross-

examined," George said.

George returned to Miami today. His wife, Mrs. Marilyn George, remained to attend the annual meeting of the American Adoption Congress that begins Friday in Overland Park. The congress provides the only resource for adult adoptees in search of biological background in closed-record states.

"I really am distressed that this thing has taken as long as it has," George said. "Maybe not from Missouri's standpoint, but from my standpoint, this thing started in July. It's just been a terrible, terrible time. I don't think I can describe how bad it's been."

Since *The Star* revealed George's situation in March, he has become something of a celebrity. Besides appearances on three television newscasts in Kansas City, he was the subject last week of an in-depth story on David Brinkley's NBC news magazine. He also has appeared on an ABC newscast and has been the subject of articles in newspapers as far away as London.

He has been interviewed by *People* magazine and now a Hollywood producer has approached him about the possibility of doing his life story.

KE Times 3-21-81

Hurry

The plight of James Grant George prompts prayer for him and deliverance for everyone else from such a tragedy.

George suffers from a type of cancer believed to be incurable without a bone marrow transplant from a medically matched sibling. George's plight as a patient is compounded because information that could reveal whether he has brothers or sisters is sealed by Missouri law in adoption records at the Jackson County Circuit Court.

The rationale for the statute sealing such records is that it protects the adopted child as well as the natural parents, though the Missouri Supreme Court has ruled that the file can be opened if a compelling reason is shown.

Family complaints of delay as resulting from misrouted correspondence, a lost court petition and a clerical error by authorities have been of no comfort in George's legal attempts to open the record.

Certainly the urgent need in this situation is obvious and outweighs consideration of George's natural parents. The latter could suf-

SEARCH
MEDICAL - LEUKEMIA
LAW - LITIGATION

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