

ADOPTees IN SEARCH  
P O BX 27294 DENVER CO 80227

MAY NEWSLETTER

MAY GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY MAY 16, 7:30 PM,  
COLO. FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN  
1280 SO. FEDERAL BLVD.  
EDYTHE WILL PLAY A TAPE SHE MADE  
OF LEZLEE AND HER BIRTHPARENTS.  
ANNE WILL BRING BACK HER IMPRESSIONS  
AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS.  
SEARCHERS: BRING YOUR MATERIALS.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY JUNE 6, 7:30 PM.  
1166 W. LILLEY AV # 1, LITTLETON  
CALL EDYTHE - 794-8989

JUNE GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY JUNE 20, 7:30 PM.  
ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS.

AT THE MAY GENERAL MEETING NOMINATIONS WILL BE TAKEN FROM  
THE FLOOR FOR ALL AIS OFFICES.

THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF OFFICES HAVE BEEN ALTERED TO FIT THE GROWING NEEDS  
OF THE GROUP. THE POSITIONS OF AREA CHAIRPERSONS AND VICE COORDINATOR HAVE  
BEEN DROPPED AND SECRETARY/TREASURER HAS BEEN CHANGED TO TWO OFFICES.  
PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR HAVE BEEN ADDED AS NEW POSITIONS.  
DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON REWORDING THE BY-LAWS TO ACCOMODATE THESE CHANGES  
WILL BE DONE AT THE JUNE MEETING. SO FAR THE NOMINATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CO-ORDINATOR	LEE JONES	SECRETARY	HELEN CHAVEZ
PROGRAM CHR.	MARY FREEMAN	TREASURER	DEBBIE ROMANS
P. R.	JULIE CROWELL	NEWSLETTER	KAROL BENNETT
LEGIS./LEGAL	ANNE GIBSON	SEARCH CH.	

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

CAN YOU HELP FILL IN THE BLANKS? VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL THE POSITIONS ARE STILL  
WELCOME. BALLOTS WILL COME IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IN EARLY JUNE. VOTING WILL  
BE AT THE JUNE GENERAL MEETING. IF YOU DONT GET YOUR NEWSLETTER/ WOULD LIKE TO  
RUN FOR OFFICE/ HAVE SOMETHING TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSLETTER, CALL 429-2601.

THE AIS BROCHURE IS MEETING WITH HEARTY  
APPROVAL FROM ALL -ADOPTED AND NOT- WHO  
HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ IT.  
COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MAY GEN.  
MEETING. IF YOU CAN THINK OF PLACES  
WHERE THE BROCHURE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE  
TO THE PUBLIC CALL JULIE : 744-7868 -

DID YOU GET A ' . . SOURCE UNKNOWN'  
IRON ON AND IRON IT ON?  
IF NOT THEY CAN BE PICKED UP AT  
THE JUNE MEETING - OR SEND \$1.00  
PER TRANSFER TO THE AIS P O BOX.  
ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD THE  
LEGAL-FUND.

ON FIRST SATURDAY PAULA WOODWARDS SEGMENT ON SEALED  
ADOPTION RECORDS TURNED OUT WELL. PORTIONS WERE  
FILMED AT THE APRIL MEETING. DEBBIE, MARY F. AND  
MARY W. SPOKE FOR THE ADOPTees. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
COMMENT ON THE PROGRAM WRITE TO : FIRST SATURDAY  
P O BOX 5667 DENVER 80217

DONNA J. CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE ENERGETIC SEARCH AND FOUND BOTH OR HER  
BIRTHPARENTS WITHIN 30 DAYS OF WHEN SHE STARTED. IF THERE WERE OLYMPIC  
RATINGS FOR SEARCHES THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE A RECORD BREAKER CONSIDERING  
THE DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY INVOLVED. DONNA KEPT ON PROCESSING EVERY BIT  
OF INFORMATION EVEN AFTER SHE WAS TOLD THAT HER FATHER HAD DIED. SHE  
SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS FALSE. WITH THE HELP OF  
ONE OF HIS FRIENDS (WHO THOUGHT HE WAS IN CALIFORNIA) DONNA ULTIMATELY  
FOUND HIM IN ARKANSAS. HE HAD SOME RESERVATIONS AT FIRST BUT AS SO  
OFTEN HAPPENS, CALLED HER BACK A FEW DAYS LATER WANTING TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT HER. THEY WILL MEET EACH OTHER IN JUNE.  
HE TOLD HER OF A SISTER OF HER MOTHER'S IN DENVER WHO REALLY TURNED OUT  
TO BE IN MARYLAND, WHICH LED HER TO HER MOTHER IN FLOIDA. HER MOTHER  
IS STRUGGLING WITH AMBIVJLANT FEELINGS AT PRESENT AND DONNA IS GIVING  
HER SOME TIME TO GET USED TO THE IDEA BEFORE CONTACTING HER DIRECTLY.  
DONNA WILL BE GLAD TO HELP NEW OR CONTINUING SEARCHERS - SHE HAS  
GATHERED A WEALTH OF INFORMATION AND MADE CONTACTS IN MANY AREAS. IF  
YOU NEED INFORMATION FROM THE DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MARRIAGE APPLICATIONS,  
OR TELEPHONE ADDRESS ARCHIVES (233-3661) CALL DONNA - 779-0454.

MEREDITH HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH HER BIRTH FATHER AND HOPES TO SEE HIM SOON.

\$50 WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE LEGAL FUND IN THE NAME  
OF DR. AND MS. HAROLD TUFT.

JOANNE SMALL, THE ADOPTEE MEMBER OF THE MODEL ADOPTION LEGISLATION  
ADVISORY PANEL REPORTS THE FOLLOWING IN THE BETHESDA MD. NEWSLETTER:

What I report is subject to change, but it is representative of what has been decided by the Panel, to date. In summary: Records are divided into three sections: Birth Records, Court Records and Agency Records. So far, the Panel has agreed that:

1) The adoptee (child and adult) is the primary target (recipient) of adoption services.

2) As the primary recipient of adoption services, the needs, concerns and rights of the adoptee shall prevail over those of the birth and adoptive parents. In relation to this point, the Preamble includes the following statement: "If, during the period of an adoptee's minority, there is a conflict between the rights of an adoptee and those of other parties to the adoption, decisions shall be made in the best interests of the adoptee. If conflicts arise or continue when the adoptee is an adult and no compromise can be reached among the parties, the adoptee's rights shall prevail."

3) The Birth Record (original) shall be made available for inspection by the adoptee at age of majority, upon request to (Vital Records).

4) Court Records shall be made available upon request to the Clerk of the Court by the parties to the proceedings (the adoptee at majority). For example,

birth parent will have access to termination proceedings records, adoptive parents to adoption proceedings records and the adoptee to both, upon majority.

5) There are provisions for access during the minority of the child.

6) Section 508 Retroactivity. "The rights to access to records established by this Title shall have retroactive effect, and shall not be limited by reason of prior law or assurances of confidentiality not required by this Act."

3 BILLS IN THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE HAVE BEEN ABANDONED IN LIEU OF A  
TASK FORCE WHICH IS TO BE SET UP TO STUDY SEALED ADOPTION RECORDS.

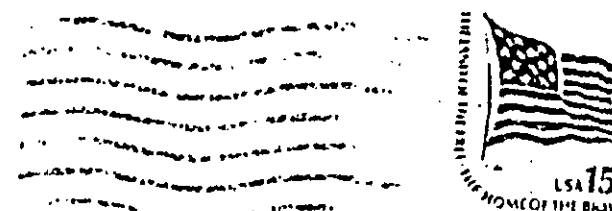
HONK IF YOU HAVE IDENTITY LACUNAE -

"ERIK ERIKSON DESCRIBED THE ESSENTIAL TASK OF ADOLESCENCE AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SENSE OF IDENTITY, AND HE SHOWED HOW THE FAILURE OF THE PROCESS RESULTS IN A STATE OF IDENTITY CONFUSION. IN PART, THIS SENSE OF IDENTITY IS ESTABLISHED THROUGH IDENTIFICATION WITH THE PARENTS, ESPECIALLY THE ONE OF THE SAME SEX. IN THE CASE OF THE ADOPTED ADOLESCENT THE PROCESS IS COMPLICATED BECAUSE HE/SHE HAS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT AN ESSENTIAL PART OF HIMSELF/HERSELF HAS BEEN CUT OFF AND REMAINS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ADOPTION BARRIER. ADOPTEES APPEAR TO BE PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF IDENTITY CONFUSION. THE AUTHORS OF THIS BOOK HAVE DESCRIBED THESE ADOPTION-RELATED CONFLICTS AS RESULTING IN "IDENTITY LACUNAE." THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE SEEN TO LEAD TO A SENSE OF SHAME, EMBARRASSMENT AND LOWERED SELF-ESTEEM."

THE ADOPTION TRIANGLE

ZOROSKY, BARAN, PANNOR CHAPTER 8 VERSE 24

AIS  
P. O. Box 27294  
Denver, CO 80227



Emma Uilardi  
P.O. Box 2312  
Carson City  
Nevada 89701

# A I S

P O BOX 27294 DENVER, CO. 80227

JUNE NEWSLETTER

### JUNE GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 20, WEDNESDAY, AT 7:30 PM  
1280 S. FEDERAL BLVD.  
COLO. FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN

### JULY GENERAL MEETING \*

JULY 18, WEDNESDAY, AT 7:30 PM  
1280 S. FEDERAL BLVD.  
COLO. FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN

### JULY BOARD MEETING \*\*

WEDNESDAY JULY 18 AT 6:30 PM  
1 HOUR BEFORE GEN MEETING  
AT THE BANK

- \* KEEP JULY MEETING DATE HANDY.  
THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER IN JULY AS WE CUT BACK TO EVERY OTHER MONTH TO SAVE ON EXPENSES. JUST KEEP IN MIND EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY AT THE BANK - OR SAVE THE NUMBERS BELOW TO CALL WHEN YOU THINK ITS GETTING NEAR OR FOR SEARCH HELP.
- \*\* FROM NOW ON BOARD/BUSINESS MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ONE HOUR BEFORE THE GENERAL MEETINGS ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH. ALL MEMBERS WHO CAN GET THERE EARLY ARE WELCOME.

### SEARCH NUMBERS

EDYTHE. . . . . 794-8989	LEE. . . . . 973-0067
IPENE . . . . . 935-8676	MEREDITH . . . 697-4534
JUDY. . . . . 366-5184	KAROL. . . . . 429-2601

THE AIS BOARD MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK MEREDITH B. FOR THE EXCELLENT YEAR WE HAVE HAD WITH HER AS OUR COORDINATOR. HER ENERGY AND EXPERTISE BENEFITED ALL AIS MEMBERS EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. THANKS MEREDITH.

- MARY F., KAROL B. AND ALICE ("TERRY") L. WERE ON KWBZ TALK RADIO TUESDAY, JUNE 5. THANKS TO ALL THE AIS PEOPLE WHO KEPT THE PHONES LIT UP.
- MARK JOHNSONS REUNION STORY WAS PRINTED IN THE 'COLORADO SUN' MAY 13. ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE IS A CAPSULE REPRODUCTION WHICH HE SENT US IN LETTER FORM AND WHICH EXPRESSED TOO CLEARLY THE PRE-REUNION MELTDOWN TO BE CUT OR EDITED.

THE ART OF ADOPTION IS ABOUT A SOCIAL WORKER'S DEALINGS WITH OVER 900 CASES SHE HAD A PART IN. IT COVERS THE FEELINGS OF THE ADOPTEE, ADOPTIVE PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, BOTH BIOLOGICAL AND ADOPTIVE. IT IS THE OPINION OF THIS WRITER THAT THE BOOK IS IN TOTAL FAVOR WITH ADOPTEES. SOME INTERESTING POINTS ARE BROUGHT OUT, THOUGH AT TIMES YOU SOMETIMES WONDER IF THERE WAS SOMETHING YOU MISSED IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH. IT IS WELL WORTH READING IF YOU WANT A VIEW COVERING ALL SIDES. BARBARA D.

AS SOME OF YOU MAY ALREADY HAVE HEARD I HAVE BECOME THE NEW LIBRARIAN. BEING NEW, I DO NOT KNOW OF ALL THE BOOKS OUT. SO PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL AT 371-3635, IF YOU HAVE ONE. THE TWO BOOKS IN MY POSSESSION ARE 1) THE ART OF ADOPTION BY LINDA CANNON BURGESS AND 2) MOMMIE DEAREST BY CHRISTINE CRAWFORD. FOR ANYONE WISHING TO READ THEM I WILL TRY TO GET THEM TO YOU AT THE GENERAL MEETING. WE ASK THAT THEY BE KEPT NO LONGER THAN THE TIME BETWEEN MONTHLY MEETINGS. IF YOU CANT MAKE A MONTHLY MEETING AND STILL WISH TO READ ONE OF THE AIS BOOKS, PLEASE CONTACT ME AND I WILL TRY TO WORK SOMETHING OUT. BARBARA D.

- PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR COMMITTEES (SEARCH, RESEARCH, LEGAL) AT THE NEXT MEETING!
- \*\* A REMINDER THAT MANY DUES ARE DUE IN JUNE. CHECK YOUR LABEL AND HELP AN ADOPTEE IN SEARCH.

	NOMINEE	WRITE-IN	
			A I S BALLOT///// 6/20/79
COORDINATOR:	LEE JONES _____	_____	
PROGRAM DTR:	MARY FREEMAN _____	_____	
SECRETARY:	HELEN CHAVEZ _____	_____	
TREASURER:	DEBBIE ROMANS _____	_____	SEARCH CH. : BOBBIE H. _____
LEGIS/LEGAL:	ANNE GIBSON _____	_____	NEWSLETTER: JULIE CROWELL _____
NOMIN/ELECT:	JOYCE VILLANUEVA _____	_____	NEWSLETTER: K. BENNETT. _____

BRING TO 6/20 MEETING - OR MAIL IN TO P O BOX

12298 010 111100  
DENVER, CO. 80227  
110235 111100  
P. 110235 111100  
1229

FEBRUARY 16, 1979

DEAR ADOPTEES IN SEARCH--ESPECIALLY MEREDITH AND ANNE,

IT'S BEEN A COUPLE WEEKS NOW SINCE I REUNITED WITH MY BIRTH MOTHER, THANKS TO YOUR HELP. I'M STILL IN A STATE OF SEMI-SHOCK, AND IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO PUT INTO WORDS ALL THE EMOTIONS I'M FEELING.

THE MAIN ONE I WISH TO EXPRESS TO YOU IS GRATITUDE. THE INFORMATION, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND ASSISTANCE YOU PROVIDED ME WERE CRUCIAL TO MY SEARCH AND ITS INCREDIBLY HAPPY ENDING--WHICH IS REALLY MORE OF A BEGINNING, I GUESS.

I FIRST BEGAN MY SEARCH WHEN I WAS 18 YEARS OLD--NINE YEARS AGO. I CAME TO SO MANY DEAD-ENDS THAT OFTEN I'D GET SO DOWN AND HOPELESS THAT I'D DO NOTHING FOR A YEAR AT A TIME. ALL BUT GIVE UP THE SEARCH ENTIRELY. I WAS SO IGNORANT, ILL-EQUIPPED, AND GENERALLY DISCOURAGED FOR SO MANY YEARS THAT IT'S AMAZING TO ME HOW QUICKLY MY SEARCH WENT AFTER JOINING ADOPTEES IN SEARCH. AND I MUST CONFESS THAT IT COULD HAVE GONE EVEN FASTER THAN IT DID, BUT FEARS AND WORRIES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL ROAD-BLOCKS ON MY PART CAUSED ME TO DRAG MY FEET FOR MONTHS AT A TIME.

WHEN I GOT MY BIG BREAKTHROUGH--THAT IS THE NAME, AGE AND BIRTHPLACE OF MY BIRTH MOTHER--FROM MARSHA JOHNSON OF THE KANSAS CITY ADULT ADOPTEES ORGANIZATION, LAST THANKSGIVING, I WAS AGAIN SO STUNNED AND SCARED THAT I DID NOTHING FOR WEEKS. THE NEXT BIG KICK-IN-THE-BUTT WAS THE INFORMATION ANNE PROVIDED ME AFTER HER TRIP BACK EAST: THE PHONE NUMBER OF A LIVING RELATIVE IN NEW YORK. AGAIN I FEEL INTO A STATE OF TERRIFIED TORMOR. FOR WEEKS I JUST STARED AT THE NAME AND PHONE NUMBER, TRYING TO SUMMON THE COURAGE TO ACT. WHEN FINALLY THE STRENGTH--OR IMPULSE CAME, IT WAS JUST 12 HOURS LATER (AND A COUPLE HUNDRED DOLLARS WORTH OF LONG DISTANCE CALLS--I'M DREADING THE PHONE BILL) THAT I LOCATED MY BIRTH MOTHER. AND SHE LIVES WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE.

I WAS UNABLE TO LEAVE TOWN IMMEDIATELY DUE TO SUCH MUNDANE MATTERS AS KEEPING MY JOB. IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO KEEP FROM TELEPHONING MY MOTHER IMMEDIATELY AND POSSIBLY BLOWING THE WHOLE THING WITH A FEW WRONG WORDS. INSTEAD I MADE A SERIES OF HYSTERICAL PHONE CALLS TO POOR MEREDITH, WHO HELPED ME KEEP A LID ON THINGS AND GAVE ME LOTS OF VERY SOUND ADVICE.

WHEN I FINALLY DID LEAVE, TERRIFIED, ON THAT ALL-NIGHT DRIVE TO MEET MY MOTHER, IT WAS LIKE A DREAM. THOUGH MY WIFE WANTED TO ACCOMPANY ME, AS MUCH OUT OF CONCERN FOR MY WELL-BEING AS HER OWN CURIOSITY, I INSISTED THE TRIP BE MADE ALONE. AND AT NIGHT. IT HAD TO BE THAT WAY, FOR REASONS GOD ONLY KNOWS. OR MAYBE A SHRINK. THERE'S PROBABLY ALL KINDS OF FREUDIAN EXPLANATIONS--THE DARKNESS AND THE SOLITUDE BEING APPROPRIATE FOR A JOURNEY BACK TO THE WOMB, OR SOME SUCH STUFF. I CONFESS TO HAVING AN OVER-ACTIVE IMAGINATION, AND TEND TO SEE PATTERNS AND STORY LINES AND POETRY AND TRUTH AND SIGNIFICANCE AND MEANING IN ALL BUT THE MOST MUNDANE MATTERS OF MY LIFE. . .IT'S ONE OF THE DRAWBACKS OF AN ARTISTIC TEMPERAMENT.

ANYWAY, AFTER DRIVING ALL NIGHT, AND HAVING LITTLE OR NO SLEEP THE TWO DAYS SINCE I'D LOCATED MY MOTHER, I FINALLY ARRIVED IN FRONT OF HER HOUSE. NANCY HAD MADE ME PROMISE TO SHAVE AND CLEAN UP AND TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP BEFORE I SPRUNG MYSELF ON HER. BUT I COULDN'T KEEP MYSELF FROM AT LEAST DRIVING BY HER HOUSE HOPING TO GET A GLIMPSE OF HER.

TO MY DISMAY, THERE APPEARED TO BE NOBODY HOME. A CAR PARKED IN THE DRIVEWAY WAS COVERED WITH SNOW, LOOKING AS IF IT HADN'T BEEN DRIVEN IN WEEKS. PANIC SHOT THROUGH ME. I WAS CERTAIN THAT AFTER DRIVING ALL THIS WAY SHE MUST BE OUT OF TOWN ON VACATION. I FRANTICALLY BEGAN KNOCKING ON NEIGHBORS' DOORS, AND FINALLY LEARNED FROM ONE THAT THEY WERE NOT OUT OF TOWN, AND THAT THE WOMAN OFTEN COMES HOME FROM WORK FOR LUNCH. THAT GAVE ME THREE HOURS TO KILL. I DROVE AROUND THE CITY AIMLESSLY FOR A WHILE, THEN DECIDED TO TRY TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO NANCY. I CHECKED INTO A MOTEL, SHAVED, SHOWERED, AND TRIED TO SLEEP. TO NO AVAIL, OF COURSE. AS THE LUNCH HOUR APPROACHED, I BEGAN TELEPHONING MY MOTHER'S RESIDENCE EVERY FIVE MINUTES. FINALLY A WOMAN ANSWERED. I BECAME SUDDENLY MUTE. IN A PANIC I HUNG UP ON HER AND HOPPED INTO MY CAR AND RACED OVER TO HER HOUSE. THERE WAS ANOTHER CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY WHEN I ARRIVED. I BEGAN TO TREMBLE UNCONTROLLABLY. I TOOK A DEEP BREATH, STRAIGHTENED MY TIE, COMBED MY HAIR, PUT SOME EYE DROPS IN MY EYES IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO ERASE THE RED FROM THREE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, AND WALKED UP TO THE FRONT DOOR. OR TRIED TO--MY KNEES FAIRLY BUCKLED ON ME AS I STEPPED OUT OF THE CAR.

I'D REHEARSED WHAT I WOULD SAY TO HER ALL NIGHT LONG AS I'D DRIVEN THERE. IN FACT, I GUESS I'D REHEARSED WHAT I'D SAY TO HER FOR MOST OF MY LIFE. SUDDENLY MY MIND WENT BLANK. WHEN SHE CAME TO THE DOOR, I ASKED HER HER NAME--HER MAIDEN NAME--AND HER HOME TOWN. SHE WAS A BIT TAKEN ABACK, BUT ANSWERED NONETHELESS. IT WAS HER. I STAMMERED THAT I HAD REASON TO BELIEVE I WAS RELATED TO HER. SHE ASKED HOW, AND I BEGAN TO EDGE MY WAY INTO THE FRONT DOOR. THE DOG BEGAN BARKING, AND SHE WAS VISIBLY ALARMED.

I ASKED HER IF SHE WAS ALONE, WHICH FURTHER ALARMED HER BUT SHE SAID "YES" IN SPITE OF HERSELF. (SHE LATER TOLD ME SHE COULDN'T BELIEVE SHE WAS LETTING A STRANGE MAN INTO HER HOUSE WHO WAS ASKING QUESTIONS LIKE THAT, BUT SAID I "LOOKED LIKE A NICE GUY, AND AFTER ALL CLAIMED TO BE A RELATIVE. . .")

SHE ASKED AGAIN, AFTER I'D EDGED MY WAY PAST THE FRONT DOOR, HOW I WAS RELATED TO HER. I TOLD HER THAT I'D JUST HAD MY 27TH BIRTHDAY A WEEK AGO--DID THAT RING ANY BELLS? HER FACE WAS A BLANK. I THEN NAMED THE MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR OF MY BIRTHDAY. I COULD SEE A FLICKER OF RECOGNITION IN HER EYES, BUT STILL SHE SAID NO. SO I TOOK A DEEP BREATH AND TOLD HER MY BIRTH NAME.

SHE IMMEDIATELY GROPED FOR A CIGARETTE, LIT IT ON THE FILTER END, PACED THE FLOOR IN TIGHT CIRCLES, TREMBLING UNCONTROLLABLY AND MUTTERING OMIGOD OMIGOD. AND THEN SHE BURST INTO TEARS AND EMBRACED ME.

I RESPONDED IN KIND.

I STAYED AT HER HOUSE FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND, AND MET MY TWO HALF-BROTHERS AND TALKED TO A HALF-SISTER OVER LONG-DISTANCE TELEPHONE. SHE HAD TOLD THEM ALL ABOUT ME YEARS AGO. SHE HAD ALSO TOLD HER HUSBAND, BUT THEY HAD DIVORCED RECENTLY, SO THERE WAS NO CONFLICT ON THAT FRONT.

THE JOY AND RELIEF AND KINSHIP WE ALL EXPERIENCED AT THAT REUNION CAN BE DESCRIBED AS NO LESS THAN MIRACULOUS. THE POSITIVE EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS ON ME, AT LEAST, ARE INDESCRIBABLE.

IT'S LIKE A BURDEN HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM MY SHOULDEPS. I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN. NO MORE IRRATIONAL GUILT, OF SELF-LOATHING, OF FEARS. WHEREAS I USED TO, IN MY MORE MELANCHOLY MOMENTS, WALLOW IN SELF-PITY AND REGARD MYSELF AS A BASTARD WHOSE BIRTH CAUSED NOTHING BUT HEARTACHE, I NOW REALIZE THE POTENTIAL I HAVE TO BRING JOY INTO PEOPLES' LIVES.

AND AN ADDED BONUS TO ALL THIS, ONE WHICH I HADN'T DREAMED OF, WAS A NEW REALIZATION OF HOW WONDERFUL MY FAMILY IS--MY ADOPTIVE FAMILY. I HAVE A NEW APPRECIATION FOR THEM AS WELL. I'D FEARED CONFLICTING FEELINGS IN THIS AREA, BUT, TO THE CONTRARY, I FEEL EVEN MORE OF A BOND WITH THEM, AND REALIZE JUST HOW BLESSED I AM TO HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR ME--TWICE THE NUMBER OF NON-ADOPTED PEOPLE.

WELL, THIS LETTER HAS GOTTEN WAY OUT OF HAND. I'M AFRAID IT'S A LITTLE TOUGH FOR ME TO CONTAIN MYSELF LATELY. I TEND TO BE A BIT EFFUSIVE ANYWAY, SO THANKS FOR BEARING WITH ME THROUGH ALL THIS LONG-WINDEDNESS, AND THANKS, MEREDITH, AND ANNE, AND ADOPTees IN SEARCH FOR MAKING ALL THIS COME TRUE FOR ME. I'M FOREVER INDEBTED TO YOU.

MARK

MARK WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM OTHER MEN WITH SIMILAR OR DIFFERENT EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES WHEN FINDING THEIR BIRTH MOTHERS. WRITE TO:

MARK JOHNSON  
P O BX 326  
CASCADE COLO. 80809

DONNA J. FOUND BOTH BIRTHPARENTS LAST MONTH AND WAS HAPPY TO SHARE IT WITH US:

IN MY SEARCH, I WAS VERY FORTUNATE FOR IT TO GO SO FAST. I HONESTLY BELIEVE THE HARDEST PART WAS FOR ME TO MAKE UP MY MIND THAT I WAS GOING TO START MY SEARCH AND FOLLOW THROUGH WITH IT.

FOR YEARS I HAD BUILT UP THIS FALSE BARRIER: IF MY BIRTHPARENTS HAD WANTED ME I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ADOPTED. I HAD TO FACE MYSELF. I DID AND I'M MORE OF A PERSON NOW THAN I WAS.

I WAS PUT IN CONTACT WITH LEE AND KAROL OF AIS. BELIEVE ME THAT WAS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED. THEY WERE MY SUPPORT ALL OF THE WAY THROUGH. IT IS NICE TO BE ABLE TO RELATE WITH OTHERS THAT KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH.

I FOUND OUT MY PARENTS NAMES, AGES, ETC. MY ADOPTED MOTHER HAD GIVEN ME A LOT OF INFORMATION AND MY BIRTH NAME WAS ON MY ADOPTION DECREE. I FOUND IT ALL TO BE TRUE. THE FIRST THING I FOUND OUT WAS THAT MY FATHER WAS DECEASED; THIS WAS UNTRUE. A FRIEND OF HIS TOLD ME THAT HE WAS VISITING TWO YEARS AGO. NOW I HAD SOME FAITH THAT I WOULD FIND HIM. I SEARCHED THE LIBRARY, CITY DIRECTORIES AND HOUSE HOLDER DIRECTORIES IN WESTERN HISTORY, WHICH IS AN EXCELLENT SOURCE IF YOU HAVE AN ADDRESS. NEIGHBORS CAN BE TRACED AND ARE EXCELLENT INFORMATIONAL SOURCES. THROUGH THE HOUSEHOLDER DIRECTORY I FOUND THAT HIS BROTHERS NAME HAD BEEN TRANSPOSED IN THE CITY DIRECTORY. IT WAS A MAJOR LEAD. I FOLLOWED HIS BROTHER THROUGH VARIOUS SOURCES AND FOUND THEY HAD MOVED SINCE THE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS, FROM THE MAILMAN. A CALL TO INFORMATION AND I WAS ABLE TO CALL HIS SISTER-IN-LAW. I FOUND OUT THE CITY WHERE HE WAS LIVING AND I CALLED HIM THAT NIGHT. HE CALLED ME BACK 4 DAYS LATER AND MANY TIMES SINCE. YES I AM HIS DAUGHTER AND WE WILL BE SEEING EACH OTHER IN JUNE.

IN THE SEARCH FOR MY MOTHER I USED D. P. SCHOOLS, THE MTN. BELL ARCHIVES (THEY HAVE PHONE BOOKS BACK 40 YRS AGO AND MORE FOR THE WHOLE STATE), THE U.S. POST OFFICE, MARRIAGE LICENSES (ASK FOR THE MARRIAGE APPLICATION--SOMETIMES THEY HAVE MORE INFORMATION THAN THE CERTIFICATE) AND VOTING RECORDS. (THESE ARE PUBLIC RECORDS AND TELL A SPOUSES NAME, OCCUPATION, EVEN A DIVORCE WHICH I FOUND OUT ABOUT BY THE RECORDS.)

I STILL HAVE NOT TALKED TO MY MOTHER PERSONALLY, ALTHOUGH SHE WAS CONTACTED. THE SEARCH WENT TOO FAST AT THE VERY LAST AND WAS TAKEN OUT OF MY HANDS. SOMEDAY SOON I WILL CONTACT HER PERSONALLY, AND WILL TAKE IT FROM THERE.

A GOOD SEARCH TAKES TIME, AND ONLY THE INDIVIDUAL THEMSELVES CAN DO IT. THERE ARE MANY SOURCES OF INFORMATION, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO PURSUE AND UTILIZE THEM TO YOUR OWN ADVANTAGE. MY SEARCH LASTED FOUR WEEKS AND TWO DAYS. BOTH PARENTS HAD BEEN OUT OF THE STATE FOR 35-39 YEARS. I HAVE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE TO FIND THEM, BUT THE ANSWERS ARE THERE. IT JUST TAKES US ADOPTees TO FIND THEM.

DONNA J.

CALL DONNA AT 779-0454 IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE DETAILS ON THE SOURCES SHE USED.

THANKS DONNA AND MARK FOR ALLOWING ALL AIS MEMBERS TO BENEFIT FROM YOUR SEARCHES AND REUNIONS.

WE HAVE A FRIEND IN SALT LAKE CITY WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO LOOK UP SOME INFORMATION IN THE GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY OF THE LDS CHURCH. IF YOU WANT HELP, CALL MEREDITH AT 697-4534.

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