

Los Angeles Chapter

ALMA

January 1976

Greetings

This is the first newsletter from our local chapter. We are hoping to publish on a quarterly basis, to keep you informed of meetings, workshops, happenings and any media programs pertaining to adoptees and parents.

We have a new phone number, (213) 547-0147 and a new address, P.O. Box 112 Lomita, Calif. 90717. It is our goal to get letters and calls answered as soon as possible. The answering service we had made for many delays. Our phone now has a message machine so YOU give a direct message to us. Please use it. Don't be shy and hang up. Calls will usually be returned in 24 hours, collect if they are a toll call. We hope this will enable our volunteers to help advise and assist you immediately. The new post office box is in a location that is more convenient for mail pick-up. This will result in a much speedier reply to your letter.

When Sarah Howe moved to the San Francisco Area we had to reorganize ourselves to try and fill the void, which was difficult. She is now a very active part of the ALMA group in her area.

The enclosed pink information card is to bring our member list up to date. Please fill it in and return to our local address. People move and don't realize that their mail is returned to the sender. It's important to YOU that your information is current.

Sincerely,

Mary Anna de Parcq
ALMA So. Calif. Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 24, 1976 KABC Channel 7 "Eyewitness" 7pm. Special on Adoptees Search
- Jan. 25, 1976 KHJ Channel 9 "Frankly Female Show" check TV listing for time. ALMA representative will be Mary Jo Baron.
- Jan. 31, 1976 NBC Channel 4 Special titled "Hello Again" 7pm. Features Natural Mother and Adoptee.
- Feb. 21, 1976 Workshop meeting to begin at 2pm. Location is 12237 La Maida No. Hollywood. Don't forget to bring all your search documents so we can assist you.
- We will begin holding the workshops in different areas each time so they will be close to you at sometime, but you are welcome at all of them.

FUTURE MEETINGS

March 1976 Florence Fisher will be here from New York

The exact day of Miss Fishers meeting date will be in the next newsletter. We will then have the time and location set up. At the meeting we will get information on how the ALMA Class Action Suit is progressing in New York and whats happening with other Chapters across the country. The meetings with Miss Fisher are always informative and enjoyable. Please keep the end of March open so you can attend.

Ending Thoughts

I would like to express thanks to our Los Angeles Search Committee members for all they do to keep things moving smoothly. I would like you to be aware of them. They are: Mary Jo, Carolyn, Delores, Roz, Bea, Marcy, Anna, Marie, Nancy, Kathy, Jill, Kathy (Santa Barbara), Audrey, Barbara, Eleanor, Bev and Cliff.

Remember, send your card to ALMA

P.O. Box 112

Lomita, Calif. 90717

Our ALMA genealogist, Emma Vilardi, is also scheduled to attend.

A Workshop will follow the general meeting so our Search Committee can assist members with their searches.

Don't forget the Raffle at the meeting!

Many of you are unaware of the importance of joining ALMA. We cannot help you to the fullest extent unless you register with us. To keep ALMA going we must all pay our dues. We are here to help you - so if you have not yet become a registered member of ALMA please do so now.

The computer registry forms are always available at our meeting. If for some reason you cannot attend the next meeting, but want to register, please contact us at P.O. Box 112 Lomita, Calif. 90717 Yearly dues: \$20.00

CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Sanders, of Orange Co. In early February she "found" her natural father in Texas. She says he "was delighted." Pat had already "found" her natural mother.

More and more of us are "finding" all the time. To all of you - it was a search well done. When you complete your search please let ALMA know.

FUTURE MEETINGS

There will be no further notices sent out for the following. Make note of the

DATE: Saturday, April 24, 1976

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: home of Mrs. Castellano - 1670 W. 255th St., Harbor City, Calif.

(2 blks. No. of Western Ave. & Pacific Cst. Hy

Date: Saturday, May 15, 1976

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: home of Roz Costelloe - 1824 Selby Ave. L.A., Calif. 90025

(east of San Diego Freeway. Cross street - Santa Monica Blvd.)

DATE: Saturday, June 19, 1976

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Fairview Community Church - 2525 Fairview, Costa Mesa, Calif.

QUESTION: If you aren't in the reunion registry, but the person you seek IS, then how can you be reunited?

ENDING THOUGHTS

Did you remember to send in your pink information card that was in the January Newsletter?

PURSUIT!

Vol. I No. 1

May 1976

ALMA
P.O. BOX 112
LONITA, CALIFORNIA
90717

QUEEN MARY SUCCESS!!

ALMA Southern California Chapter held its annual meeting, March 28, 1976, on board the Queen Mary in Long Beach. We had an unprecedented turnout of over three hundred people representing all sides of the triangle. This is indicative of the reported progress all around the nation.

It is incredible to think that six months ago the local chapter of ALMA was able to keep all its records in a shoe box. Today, we have upwards of one thousand active members, a twenty-four hour phone service, incoming correspondence is answered daily, we've begun our third cross filing system in conjunction with the already existing systems of New York, and there have been eleven reported reunions in April by our Southern California members. (SEE ALMA LATER)

We extend a thank you to NBC, Larry Badger, Dick Carlson, Rod McKuen and company for providing a copy of the NBC Special 'HELLO AGAIN!' which was shown as part of our program. To Florence Fisher, our founder, and Emma Jay Vilardi, Western Regional Research Coordinator, your inspiration and participation truly made this meeting a success.

ALMA MEMBERSHIP

Your membership dues of \$20.00 entitles you to:
ALMA HANDBOOK FOR THE SEARCH: A guideline on how to search in any part of the United States.
ALMA REGISTRY: It puts your case on file (1) sex of child; (2) date of birth; (3) Place of birth, etc. This enables a match up to be made, between the searching parties.
THE ALMA SEARCH COMMITTEE: Members that volunteer their aid and moral support to you in your respective searches.
THE SEARCH WORKSHOP: Members bring all their documents and are advised individually how to proceed with their respective searches. Workshops are held monthly and their location rotates around the greater L.A. area.
PURSUIT! The ALMA local newsletter and the National Newsletter SEARCHLIGHT.

COORDINATORS CORNER:

The past month has been by far the best in our chapters short existence. The reunions are, of course, the most gratifying. While Emma Vilardi was here she held a workshop assistants training session. The result of this session has been the reunions we are seeing at present. Not every workshop assistant has all the answers but, combined we are an effective force.

In the coming months the workshops will take on a new appearance. We need volunteers to do various tasks. This would include buddy systems, workshop assistants, (you must have completed your search in order to help here), also xeroxing if you have a machine and typing.

I plan to keep our chapter on its ever successful path. ALMA will keep growing and its members effecting reunions, until all legal obstacles are removed. WE HAVE RIGHTS TOO! PURSUIT! is our latest effort to keep in touch. If you have a question to ask or an opinion to express, send it in marked ATTENTION EDITOR. We look forward to your ideas and comments.

MaryAnna de Percy

COMING VERY SOON! ALMA MEMBERSHIP PINS, ALMA MEMBERSHIP PATCHES, ALMA T-SHIRTS, ALMA BUMPERSTICKERS, WATCH FOR INFO AND ORDER FORM IN THE NEXT PURSUIT!

BUDDY SYSTEM

The most efficient way to execute your search, is to work directly with an ALMA member who has found. To initiate this system, we encourage the personal obligation of each member who has found to assist at least one other individual in their quest for truth.

We are aware that often upon finding a vacation is in order, but remember we all still need you!

If you desire to utilize the BUDDY SYSTEM either as a finder or as a searcher, indicate this on the trial off information sheet. Page 5.

When we receive your request you will be assigned to a "BUDDY" in your area by the Workshop Assistant for that area.

!!! NEW ALMA LIBRARY

We have started an ALMA Library.

Telephone books, research material of all kinds, and any publication or information that can help our fellow searchers are needed. If you have any material to donate it would be much appreciated. If you have any ideas don't hesitate to ask if it would help.

Since alot of searchers go out-of-state, there must be some telephone books, etc. gathering dust in a closet. Please contact our ALMA Librarian, NANCY PALMER, through the ALMA office. 547-0147.

This library is for members only. No material will be allowed out but the Librarian will be glad to assist you.

LUCKY 29!

Monday, March 29, the day after the Queen Mary, an adoptee RUTH R. born 1929, found her natural mother living only 29 miles away. The ironic thing was that they unbeknownst to each other had attended the Queen Mary meeting and signed the guest book 29 names apart. Elena T. the 73 year old natural mother had just joined ALMA.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 11 DAYS!

Penny U. found five !! natural brothers, a natural sister, and her natural mother from Alaska to Germany to Florida in just eleven short days.

BOB HELPES HIMSELF:

Bob Helpes, staff member and our first male speaker, has located his natural mother, brother and possibly others after only two months intensive active searching. His personal campaign is to encourage increased participation of the male members of the adoption triangle.

OTHER FINDS:

Barbara E. - found a natural mother and two half sisters.
Eleanor M. - found her natural son.
Audrey S. - located her natural daughter.
Gerald L. - now knows where his natural ma is.
Jeanette J. - found her daughter.
Penny F. - found natural mother.
Kathy R. - saw her half sister and natural mom.
Wendy P. - found a natural parent.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE STAFF ON THE SUCCESS OF YOUR SEARCH!!!

IMPORTANT NOTICES!

ALL SEARCH WORKSHOPS WILL BE LIMITED TO MEMBERS ONLY. This is due to the increased membership. If you are not a paid member yet, and wish to attend a search workshop bring the \$20.00 yearly membership fee with you. There will be forms available at all ALMA functions.

May 15, 1976 - 2:00 p.m. Workshop - West Los Angeles.
Due to the limited space at this particular location we MUST have reservations for this SEARCH WORKSHOP, only. To get in on this workshop you must call the ALMA office and indicate your intention to attend prior to May 12, 1976.

Starting with the June workshops larger facilities have been arranged. Remember the workshops will be on an area rotating basis so everyone will be able to attend one close to them.

June 19, 1976 - 2:00 p.m. Workshop - Fairview Community Church, 2525 Fairview, Costa Mesa, California.

