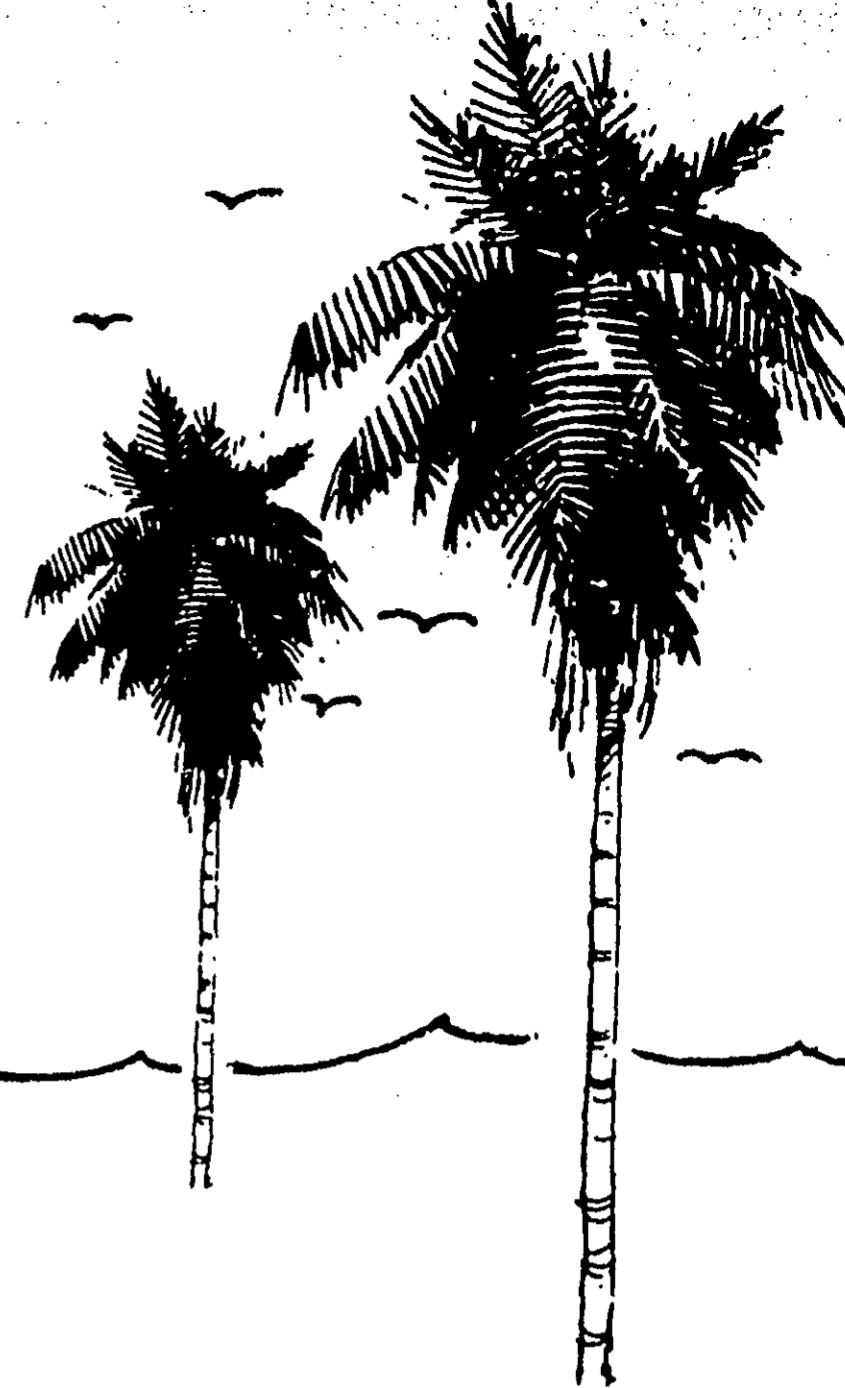


BLOOD LINES

FROM

FLORIDA



VOLUME I
Number I

JANUARY, 1978

Edited by: Rachel S. Rivers

ADOPTEE'S LIBERTY MOVEMENT ASSOCIATION
FLORIDA CHAPTER

POST OFFICE BOX 53-761
MIAMI SHORES, FLORIDA 33153
(305) 945-2758

We are all VOYAGERS on the SEA OF LIFE. Some are sailing in the free and easy breeze, Others are fighting the turbulent storm.

It is those who are in need of RESCUE from the soaring waves of the angry SEA OF SOCIETY that have embarked on the MERCY SHIP called ALMA.

Our SHIP plows the sea searching for sunken treasures. Our passengers are ADOPTees, NATURAL PARENTS, ADOPTIVE PARENTS, FOUNDLINGS and others who are searching for their BLOOD LINES.

Until the storm is stilled our voyage will continue. WE WILL NEVER lose our course. WE WILL NEVER turn back.

PORTS OF CALL

: HOME PORT -

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
THE ALMA SOCIETY, INC.
Post Office Box 154
WASHINGTON BRIDGE STATION
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10033

ARIZONA

Carolyn Ausborn 7640 E. 30th Street, Tucson 85710
Frank & Helen Leech P.O. Box 14162, Phoenix 85063

CALIFORNIA:

Sarah Howe P.O. Box 252
(Northern Calif) 625 Post Street, San Francisco 94102
Mary Anna de Parcq P.O. Box 112 Lomita 90717
(Southern Calif)

COLORADO:

John Mann P.O. Box 235 Westminster 80030

CONNECTICUT:

Doug Hall & Jim Stubbs 30 Ten O'Clock Lane, Weston 06880

FLORIDA:

Rachel S. Rivers P.O. Box 53-0761, Mia. Shores 33513

ILLINOIS:

Gene Foxen 141 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago 60604

MICHIGAN:

Margaret May 1500 Kensington Dr. Jackson 49203

MINNESOTA:

Carol Cornwell 3315 Walnut Grove La. Wayzata 55391

MISSOURI:

Denise Schroeder P.O. Box 11745 Clayton 63105

NEVADA:

Emma May Vilaridi P.O. Box 2312 Carson City 89701

NEW JERSEY:

Susan Carroll P.O. Box 41 Oldwick 08858

NEW YORK

David B. Martin P.O. Box 71 Rochester 10033

OREGON

Barbara Kellar

ALMA, Rt. 1, Box 447 Roseburg 97470

TEXAS

(To be announced)

WISCONSIN

Sharri Valentine

ALMA, P.O. Box 20964 Milwaukee 53220

MEXICO

Ruth Jason

Rio Atoyac 69-2

Mexico 5, D.F.

ALSO CONTACTS IN:

Cataldo Idaho
Ohio
Indiana

THE ABOVE LIST IS NOT OFFICIAL. It was prepared by ALMA staff for interim use until a more recent list is published. When it is received it will be included in later issues of "BLOOD LINES from FLORIDA". Or you may request them from your COORDINATOR.

THE CREW

CAPTAIN:

RACHEL S. RIVERS

FIRST OFFICER:

HARRIET McCORMICK

WELCOME ABOARD:

JOSEPH LOUGACHI

NAVIGATORS:

DENNIS PRIDGEN, JOAN & ROY MANDEL, MICHAEL & LORETTA BROCHE, PATRICIA LaBREE, and ALL OTHERS WHO ARE QUALIFIED AND WILLING TO ASSIST IN THE WORKSHOPS.

FIRST MATE:

JULIUS

MASCOT:

"ALMA"



SAILING DATES



1978

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS:

Take I-95 to Miami, Exit 125th Street. Go East over Broad Causeway (15¢ toll) to KANE CONCOURSE.

MEETING ADDRESS:

1132 KANE CONCOURSE (Over GLORIA LURIA ART GALLERY).

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

DATE: Every 2nd Sunday afternoon of each month.

PARKING: Free in back of building.

MEETING FORMAT:

Coordinator - Introductions and comments on items of interest.

Current Reunion stories told by members who have completed their searches.

Workshop for members in good standing.

Rap groups and socializing.

Coffee and/or refreshments.

FOR INFORMATION:

RACHEL S. RIVERS
(305) 945-2758

A REGULAR MEETING OF ALMA WILL BE HELD ON ALL DATES INDICATED. IF ANY CHANGES TAKE PLACE IN DATES, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED. MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND SEARCH WORKSHOPS FOLLOWING EACH REGULAR MEETING. NON-MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND REGULAR MEETINGS AND MAY JOIN BY SUBMITTING QUESTIONNAIRES AND PAYING DUES. NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 WILL BE ADMITTED TO EITHER MEETINGS OR WORKSHOPS. CAPACITY LIMITED TO 125 PEOPLE. DO NOT BRING UNINTERESTED PERSONS.

DUE TO COST OF PRINTING AND POSTAGE, NO MONTHLY MEETING NOTICES WILL BE SENT. THIS SCHEDULE WILL BE REPEATED IN SUBSEQUENT ISSUES OF "BLOOD LINES from FLORIDA".

MEMBERS! BRING YOUR DOCUMENTS TO THE WORKSHOPS FOR DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE IN YOUR SEARCH.

JAN. 8

FEB. 12

MAR. 12

APR. 9

MAY 14

JUNE 11

JULY 9

AUG. 13

SEPT. 10

OCT. 8

NOV. 12

DEC. 10

SHIP TO SHORE

BLOOD LINES from FLORIDA reports the successful location and reunion of a total of 18 families. We are very proud of this record. Since the first meeting held in August 1977, we have had 10 Reunions. The names of those reunited are not being published at this due to the desire on the part of some for confidentiality. This is an area we always respect although we encourage everyone to tell the world! In view of our tremendous reunion successes, we strongly urge everyone who needs help to come join with us and get your search started! For information on how to join, contact your Local Chapter Coordinator. When a reunion occurs, the standard reaction is: I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!! It could happen to anyone who decides to go about it seriously and who makes the effort.

EBB TIDE

FLORIDA BLOOD LINES is free to all members. Non-members may subscribe to receive 12 issues for \$5.00. Address your subscription requests to:

BLOOD LINES from FLORIDA
Subscription Department
Post Office Box 53-761
MIAMI SHORES, FLORIDA 33153

This publication will be mailed to every ALMA Chapter in the United States.

DECK HANDS AT WORK

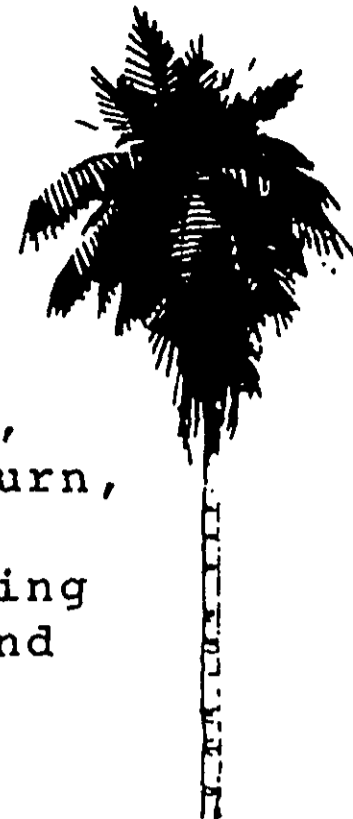
WE NOW HAVE OUR OWN CROSS-REFERENCE DIRECTORY - NAME & BIRTH DATE. This project was commenced by member JOAN TARCHER who is now in the process of updating it. With this tool, we might be able to match MOTHERS with CHILDREN or OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, locally. Be sure to furnish us with your correct date of birth when filling out your QUESTIONNAIRES.

ADOPTIVE MOTHER OF 3, FRANCES OLSEN, has volunteered to maintain our SCRAPBOOK! We are planning to keep FRANCES very busy pasting in clippings of our reunion stories, and other items regarding our local chapter. If you run out of pages, FRANCES, send a S-O-S; We will ask for reinforcements for you!!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER to be a DECK HAND, please let us know. WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK!!



THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE



BE A BUDDY!

If you need assistance in researching your case in other areas, you may request a "buddy" through other ALMA Chapters. In return, you might be able to assist someone who needs research in our area. It is vitally important that everyone cooperate in lending a hand to others, for when you assist someone else you learn and knowledge is essential in your search. Contact your FLORIDA Coordinator for a "buddy" in another city, or volunteer your services whether you need a "buddy" now or not!!

TELEPHONE BOOKS & OLD DIRECTORIES

The call has been placed for old telephone books and city directories. Ask relatives or friends in other cities to send you a copy of their current or year-old phone books. We are working towards building a library for ourselves. Bring them with you to the next meeting!!

RECORD-SETTER REUNION

MICHAEL and LORETTA BROSCHE attended our January meeting and everyone was delighted to hear MICHAEL tell us first-hand of his delightful reunion with his natural mother, father and family! As a result of MICHAEL's happy reunion, he and LORETTA brought JAMIE BUCE to the meeting. JAMIE is an adoptee who had been holding some information for 6 months, not knowing what to do with it to locate her mother. She joined ALMA at approximately 1:30 P.M. and at 5:20 P.M., she had located her mother! JAMIE will return to the February meeting to share the details with her new-found ALMA family and friends! Glad we could help you JAMIE! She remarked that not only did she not know what to do with the information she had, but she didn't have the moral support to follow through until she came to ALMA!

DON'T VOLUNTEER UNLESS YOU MEAN IT!

At the close of the January meeting, Paul Reiley asked if he could help anyone else while he is waiting for some developments in his own search. The following day, new member HARRIET McCORMICK called him and asked him to help her in her search for her natural father. Within a matter of hours, Paul telephoned HARRIET telling her he had "good news". He had traced her father for her. Not only is this a remarkable example of cooperation between members, but it made PAUL extremely proud to be so helpful. Thanks, Paul. Congratulations, Harriet!!

CRY AND TELL

If you have news, good or bad, and need a shoulder to cry on, there are volunteers who will be available to talk to. A list of volunteers will be published in our next BLOOD LINES. Until then, ask your Coordinator to furnish it to you. It's always a comfort to be able to call someone who understands.

IF YOU MOVE

Please let us know of any change in your address and phone number. We will be doing bulk mailing and the post office will not forward mail incorrectly addressed, nor will they return it.

NEWS FROM HOME

ALMA CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT IN THE NEWS

Calling it the "happiest day of her life," Florence Fisher, president of ADOPTEE'S LIBERTY MOVEMENT ASSOCIATION (ALMA) and Professor Cyril C. Means Jr., counsel to ALMA, filed a class action suit in May, 1977 to challenge sealed record laws in New York State. "I feel as if every day of my life has led up to this moment", Fisher told the other adoptee plaintiffs and panel of supports in a press conference following the filing.

ALMA and 19 other individual adult adoptees from New York filed the suit against several legal officials and adoption agencies with the intention of forcing them to "unseal" certain adoption records. The records contain information regarding the adoptee's original birth certificate with the names of the natural parents on it, data concerning other matters relating to the adoption and the adoption agencies' own files.

Under current law, these records are only made available with court orders showing "good cause". Past cases have been extremely rare and costly. Thus far, a person's need to know the truth of their own origin has not been considered a "good cause" according to Means, ALMA counsel.

ALMA is basing their arguments for suing on four main points;

- To deny access to a person's knowledge of natural ancestry causes psychological pain and suffering. It is akin to the feelings that slaves have felt, as they were sold from one place to another, losing all ties with their families.
- An adoptee's true medical records are locked up in the records, and may have serious bearing on the future of not only the adoptee but their children.
- There is a very real possibility of an adoptee unwittingly committing incest with a brother or sister or even parent, as the adoptee has no way of knowing who his blood relations are.
- An adoptee's FIRST AMENDMENT rights of freedom of religion are in question as they do not know the faith of their original parents. To be a true adherent in the Jewish faith, for example, the person must be born to a Jewish mother. This information is not available to the adoptee under current laws.

The 19 plaintiffs listed in the case have found their natural parents and feel strongly that others should have the opportunity to know their original parents.

The other side of the adoption story - a natural mother looking for her child whom she had given up for adoption - is included in ALMA's suit.

HELP OPEN THE SEALED RECORDS: Send a contribution to THE ALMA SOCIETY, INC., Post Office Box 154, Washington Bridge Station, New York, N.Y. 10033.

MAIL CALL

....8/13/77

Dear ALMA Family and Friends:

Congratulations on your first monthly meeting - you are luckier than most ALMA groups in that you have Raye Rivers for your leader and friend. I will always be grateful to her and ALMA for their guidance, help and sympathy. It's a big help just to know that you are not alone, there are others who share your problem and who want to help you in your search.

Before I knew about ALMA, I was about to hire a private detective who was formerly an FBI agent to find my natural daughter whom I had given up for adoption 30 years ago, and he wrote me: "It's impossible; the records are sealed and there's no way to find out what you want to know". Still - with Raye's advice and guidance, and a whole lot of "creative writing", I eventually got my daughter's amended birth certificate from the Department of Health in Jacksonville, with all the little bits of information I needed to continue my search for her.

It was not easy, it took time and a great deal of impatient waiting for answers, some paths that led nowhere, some that led to closed doors and disappointment, and some that paid off through intimidation and "imaginative story-telling".

I wish you all the best of luck in your searches; try to remain optimistic and know that if anyone can help you, ALMA can and will.

A Natural Mother - Clearwater, Fla.

. . . 1/17/78

Dear Rachel & fellow ALMA members:

My thanks to all of you for the moral support shown to me this past four years in my search for my "roots". I shed my adoptee mystique on 12-30-77 after composing hundreds of letters; using EMMA VILARDI'S "SEARCH BOOKLET" and Soundex Hints; and contacting my new pen-friend SCHUYLER BROSSMAN, the amateur genealogist who compiled the Brossman family tree which I viewed on the MORMON GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY micro-films that led me to my grandmother.

When I called her in the Bronx, my grandmother gave me her oldest daughter's phone number. I spoke with her and said: "Did you give birth to a daughter in 1944?" She said, "Yes". I replied, "Guess who you're talking to?" My natural mother said, "Hi! I'm glad you found me". She has written twice and signs her letters, "Love, Mother".

I have three stepsisters and two stepbrothers out west who I hope to meet in the near future when they are told of my existence. My

(continued)

