

"ORIGINS"

ALMA CENTRAL ARIZONA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ALMA
P. O. BOX 14162
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
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Vol. I No. 2

(602) 247-3247

June/ July 1977

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AS OUR "ORIGIN" IS OUR OWN BEGINNING FOR US ALL, yet to some of us our origin is unknown, so we must search, for somewhere sealed away is our past. In finding our origin the voids in our life are filled, making us more whole and complete, and then we can only look to our future, writing Finis, "The End" to our search. Just as our ALMA CLASS ACTION SUIT is also the "Beginning of the End"

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ALMA believes that an adult adoptee has a constitutional right to full and unconditional disclosure of all information about his natural parentage, and intends their Class Action Suit filed Monday, May 23, 1977 by Florence Fisher, President of ALMA and Professor Cyril C. Means, Jr., counsel to ALMA, together with 19 individual plaintiffs, in New York, in Federal District Court, Manhattan, establish this right on the behalf of the adult adoptee as a class.

ALMA has never advocated legislative change, believing it impossible to change the law, state by state. We feel the present laws so barbarous that the only acceptable change is to erase them from the statute books completely.

Hopefully, we are now on the way, "THE BEGINNING OF THE END!" The scheduled date for "Hearing of Testimony" is September 12, 1977.

ALMA'S motto is, "The truth of his origin is the birthright of every man."

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WELCOME TO ALMA!!!!!!

Welcome to all the new ALMA members who have joined our ALMA CENTRAL ARIZONA CHAPTER IN MAY, JUNE and JULY.....When you join ALMA, you shut the door on fantasy and begin your walk towards reality and a new tomorrow. A tomorrow, that will mark the first day of the rest of your life.

REMEMBER YOU ARE NO LONGER ALONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

FROM THE DESK OF EMMA MAY!!!

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Our parents are the authors of our beings, and only through them is the blueprint of our genetic heritage known.

FORMAL APOLOGY, to all those two hundred plus persons who have written to me in the last several months desperate for advise in search procedures. I am very sorry, but I am only one person, have no assistants, nor am I funded for mail costs and other expenditures. Your letters will be forwarded to your nearest ALMA chapter for future assistance. PLEASE ATTEND YOUR ALMA WORKSHOPS as they are prepared to help you!

IN THE WESTERN STATES! Membership in all of ALMA'S chapters is increasing daily, and almost 400 persons have registered on an individual basis in ALMA'S INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REUNION REGISTRY, in a six week period. Many of these persons are new members of ALMA, so lets all make them feel welcome!

Total registrations in the ALMA INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REUNION REGISTRY now exceeds well over 4,000 persons. About one-third of these are next-of-kin, by birth. We now begin the drive to enroll all members of ALMA, THROUGH THEIR CHAPTERS, when this is complete enrollment will commence of individual ALMA members not attached to chapters. Your ALMA chapter has been provided with an explanation of this registry and names of other participating organizations. Registration expectations is 20,000 persons by October of this year, and hopefully 100 % enrollment in the near future.

IMPORTANT, You must enroll in the ALMA INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REGISTER ON AN INDIVIDUAL basis, your enrollment in ALMA'S NATIONAL REGISTER does not place your name in this register.....nor does your enrollment in the INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REGISTER place your name in ALMA'S NATIONAL REGISTER. LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF ALMA IS ACCOMPLISHED ONLY THROUGH YOUR PAID MEMBERSHIP IN OUR NATIONAL ALMA SOCIETY!!! THESE TWO REGISTERS ARE MAINTAINED SEPARATELY.....

BE ADVISED.....Your ALMA Soundex Registration form will be returned to your nearest home ALMA Chapter, after it is soundexed and recorded in the Soundex Register. If you desire to have this information please submit a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope), plainly marked Soundex, to that chapter. The original form will be held by the chapter as an update on you, and to prevent any mis-haps in the event of a match. NOTIFICATION OF A MATCH, will be handled through your nearest ALMA Chapter.

Each person who passes our way touches our lives to one extent or another, some forgotten almost before they pass, others noteworthy, some forever with us. Almost all of us, adoptees, adoptive parents, and natural parents who have searched or been found, or those who are still searching, whose lives have not been touched eternally with a deep lasting impression by Emma May Vilardi. These past few years, so very many of us, have been helped by her unselfish devotion of hours of her time and energy caring so very much and sharing her knowledge with so many of us. Our joyous reunions with family, blood relation, our heritage and future, we owe it all to you. Our Thanks with much Love from the depths of our hearts.....to you EMMA MAY VILARDI for not only yesterday but most of all, all of our tomorrows.

Sue Cypert (cont.)

being in Oklahoma City, but because I left on October 5 by myself to do my own thing the personal satisfaction I have gotten is great, plus the results of my search are still proving to be unbelievable.

When I was at the vital statistics office in Oklahoma City and saw that both my parents were from Arizona I thought I was through, but on October 9 from the Oklahoma City Library I called the man listed on my birth certificate as my father. Upon arriving that night at home in Arizona I found that this man and his wife had already called my husband. This man was very upset that he was not my biological father as he had never fathered any children. When I walked in the house he was on the phone again, a very concerned man with much background information.

On October 10 I talked to a former sister-in-law of my Mother's and then to my biological father. On October 12 after talking to my Mother's brother on the phone I called my Mother.

So far I have received two letters and pictures from the man who is listed on my birth certificate as my father. He and his wife seem to be very sweet people.

October 25 brought even more surprises. I was afraid my Mother wasn't going to write me. Between the day I first called her October 10 till October 16 she had put together a scrapbook for me and had written me a 13 page letter. WOW!!

I am still on the clouds and looking for another half-sister who was adopted. I have a total of 9 half-sisters, 1 half-brother, plus a biological father who has not been able to get his own adoption records.

All this has happened since June 1978 when I joined ALMA.

Diane Flooster

My search started March, 1978, when I joined ALMA. I went to the adoption agency and was given a xeroxed copy of my mother's report with all the names crossed out. In the report it said that my mother lived in Everett, Mass. The social worker also gave me an engagement picture of my mother which had been cut out of a newspaper. My mother had sent the picture and told the agency that she was to marry my father in May of 1958. While we were talking, the social worker slipped my mother's first name, which is Lorraine.

I then wrote the court to have my files opened. They didn't open the file but I was given some general information including Lorraine's birthday.

I sent everything I had to a contact in Everett, Mass. who found that the family had moved to Wakefield. Then she looked in a 1957 year book and found a picture of Lorraine and it matched up with the picture I had. She also found a shower announcement and wedding plans in the 1958 paper. So she had found my father's name also.

Since then I have talked to my father and both grandparents. My father has 3 boys from his second marriage and my mother has one boy from her second marriage.

I talked to my father for an hour and all he could say was he couldn't believe it and that his prayers had been answered. He kept telling me that he loved me and wanted to see me in person so he could give me a big hug. He is planning to fly out as soon as possible. His mother was the same way and sounded like a

SEARCHER'S MEMORANDA (cont.)

6. Clearly indicate your name and return mailing address on all correspondence. Envelopes are often discarded so repeat this information in your letter. Include your telephone number if relevant.
7. If no reply has come to a search request within 6 weeks (refer to your file notations for this data) write again.
8. City Directories are not the same as telephone directories; city directories contain more complete information and are rich mines for searchers. Find them in public libraries or call the ALMA office to ask if a directory is in the archives.
9. Consult with the staff in Genealogical Societies for information. Visit the Mormon Church archives which are a treasure trove for searchers. There's one in Mesa.
10. Go to the ALMA Workshop meetings and seek the expert counsel of Workshop Leaders who are trained in explicit search techniques.

Courtesy of the Editor of "The Triangle", ALMA's St. Louis chapter newsletter:

The other day I was reading one of my back issues of New Women Magazine, and I came across an article written by Eugene Kennedy. It was from the book, "The Trouble Book", and this little paragraph really speaks to the adoptee.

"Something of your soul has been shaped by the experience of your ancestors and by the environment in which you have grown up. Psychologically speaking, your origins are essential for achieving your individuality. All one needs to do

is inspect the lives of people who have cut their own cultural or religious roots. They have suffered a loss in a crucial aspect of their identity, and they frequently exhibit personalities that seem to have holes in them. They may be very modern in being estranged from the rituals of their tradition, but they are also very empty. They are forever searching for the lost base on which to stand as individuals."

Courtesy of "Bloodlines", ALMA's Florida Chapter newsletter:

FLORENCE FISHER, President of ALMA, reports on the progress of the ALMA CLASS ACTION LAW SUIT that the attorneys for the Defendants in this action had filed a motion to dismiss and to abstain. The attorney for ALMA, Cyril Means, together with Florence, had their first day in court on October 24th in the United States Courthouse for the Southern District of New York, Judge Pollack presiding. This judge ruled that the case be dismissed. This, in effect, was what Mr. Means and Florence had expected, and it was a preferred ruling over abstaining.

With the ruling to dismiss, this leaves the way clear to file an appeal in the Federal Court. Florence stated that ALMA will continue the fight, eventually taking the case to the Supreme Court of the United States. Florence Fisher personally told this writer that ALMA is prepared to continue this fight and will do so even if it takes years.

EVERYONE IN ALMA is a part of this legal battle. Financial support is needed to continue the fight. Send your tax-exempt contributions or donations to:

THE ALMA SOCIETY, INC., Box 154, Washington Bridge Station, New York, New York 10033.

PLEASE HELP ALMA FIGHT FOR THE OPENING OF THE RECORDS.

