

THE ALMANAC

ADOPTees LIBERTY
MOVEMENT
ASSOCIATION
NEVADA
AND
CALIFORNIA
(NORTH)



The truth of his
origin is the birth-
right of every man.

P.O. BOX 8081
(916) 393-ALMA
SACRAMENTO, Ca. 95818

MEETINGS:
2nd SUNDAY of
EACH MONTH
1:PM to 4 PM

CAROL McDOWELL, COORDINATOR

ISSUE NO. THREE

ADOPTees HAVE ROOTS TOO!

NOVEMBER, 1981

* * * ATTENTION WE'RE MOVING * * *

Starting December 13, 1981, all regular ALMA meetings will be held at The Sierra School Cafeteria, 2791 24th Street (corner of 24th St. and 4th Ave.), on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING:

FROM THE NORTH (I-80, Hwy. 99) Take the P Street exit, stay on 29th St. (parallels freeway) which later becomes W St., turn left (south) on 24th St. to 2791 24th St. (about 7 blocks).

FROM THE EAST (Hwy. 50) Take the 26th Street exit, turn left (south) on 24th St. to 2791 24th St. (about 7 blocks).

FROM THE WEST (I-80) Take the 15th Street exit, stay on X St. (parallels freeway), turn right (south) on 24th St. to 2791 24th St. (about 6 blocks).

FROM THE SOUTH (Hwy. 99) Take the 12th Avenue exit, after exiting the freeway turn left (east, going over freeway) turn right (north) on 24th St. to 2791 24th St. (about 3/4 mile).

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RAP SESSIONS will be cancelled until further notice.

(1)

NEW MEETING PLACE

I am very happy we are able to use the Sierra School for our meetings. It is a real nice room and has lots of room. We looked for a long time to try to find a big enough place but could not. The only drawback is that it will cost us \$20.00 per meeting. Donations will be needed every month to pay for this.

If you could afford to sponsor a meeting we would be glad to send you a receipt. Remember all donations to ALMA are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Helen Weaver, our Treasurer, and mail to our P. O. Box.

The dues that you pay are used to cover the expenses office in New York, The Registry, phone bills, postage, copying, Newsletters, and the list of expenses goes on and on.

If it were not for all our wonderful volunteers here in our Chapter a lot of people would never have found. Most of our volunteers spend hours of their time, besides coming to the meetings. I know if we all try hard everything will be fine.

DECEMBER MEETING

Hal Aigner, Journalist, is an adoptee and author of FAINT TRAILS and soon to be published MIXED BLESSINGS. Hal searched and found his brother. He will give a short talk and then answer any questions you may have.

CHRISTMAS POT LUCK

Following our meeting, Dec. 13, we will have our annual Christmas Pot Luck. It will be held after the meeting at 5 PM. Helen Weaver will organize the dishes, please call her at 391-7710, if you plan to attend. Everyone is welcome. There will be no place to heat anything. There are NO REFRIGERATORS AVAILABLE so please bring your ice chest to keep the food cold.

BRING YOUR OWN SILVERWARE AND PAPER PLATES !!

Call Helen Weaver, at 391-7710 after 5 PM.

Search Tip

Protect your SOURCES!!! Don't get carried away by the JOY OF FINDING and announce your strategy. We want to LEAVE ALL DOORS OPEN for the next searcher.

LOST BUT FOUND DEPARTMENT, NOTE

Since our first meeting in February 1978, Sacramento ALMA has had a large number of finds. Is yours one of them? We would like to print your story, whether it's happy, sad, or in-between. We have never met anyone yet who is not glad he searched, no matter the outcome.

If you have already mailed your I Found form in to us, perhaps it is one of the stories you will see in the next issue of The Almanac. If we don't have your story, please fill out the I Found form or write your own, not-too-long-please, story and send it to us.

Thanks, Millie Bishop

LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT

With \$12.35 and one suitcase, LOIS TODD left Indiana in 1961, hitchhiking to California. Five years before, her world started to crumble when her husband was tragically injured in a devastating truck accident. Later what Lois believed was temporary foster care for her three young sons while she was in the hospital for major surgery, turned into a hellish nightmare of permanent separation for them.

In 1974, she joined ALMA, located her oldest son, Dave, a Purdue graduate. Raised in foster homes, bitter about not being adopted, Dave said he had never called anyone Mother; was not going to start now. For five years, the phone calls and letters were patiently instigated by Lois. Then in 1980, she was shocked to receive a funny, loving Mother's Day card from Dave.

Lois started searching for her second son, Bruce in March 1975 and FOUND February 1979 in Gosport, IN. The phone call upset Bruce, as his parents had told him his birth parents were dead. Curious, he asked Lois what he could have searched for? "TRUTH." Nine months later, Bruce phoned Lois.

Lois started searching for her youngest son, Mark in May 1977 and FOUND February 1979 at Camp Pendleton, CA. Mark had planned to search for Lois as soon as his discharge from the Marines. The first phone call, a recorded classic, was as if they had always known each other. Though Mark was ready to adopt Lois, she reminded him his first loyalty was to his parents. Mark's first visit followed by several others, came shortly after the phone call. On a cold, rainy morning at the bus depot, Lois thought her 6 foot, 200 pound baby was a beautiful sight.

In April 1981, Lois met Bruce, her 24 year old son in Crawfordsville, IN. When Bruce arrived at the motel, Lois thought it was going to be a short visit, but they spent the entire day together, discovering they had much in common: Both wear watches with the faces down; both use money clips; neither carry wallets; both hold their heads the same way when tired; both have ESP. Although they bounced along 70 miles in Bruce's jeep with no shocks, Lois did enjoy the day. She finally met Bruce's beautiful adoptive grandmother on her 76th birthday.

Lois' oldest son Dave had promised to drive down to meet her in Indiana, but when he reached Chicago and was within one hundred miles, he could not handle it psychologically, turned around, drove back to Minneapolis. But seven years after Lois located Dave in November 1974, he finally called her for the first time, August 26, 1981, four days after his 26th birthday. Dave plans to spend this Thanksgiving with Lois.

Its been a long time.

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MARGARET PEARSON of Maxwell has more than the usual fervor of a searching adoptee, but she is not adopted. She is the daughter of Roy Graham, who was adopted through Native Sons and Daughters. He was born November 10, 1924 in French Hospital, San Francisco. When Margaret read an article about ALMA, she started thinking about searching for her grandmother, but tucked the article away in a drawer for 7 years. Finally, the momentum started to roll and she dug into a consuming search which would have caused many adoptees to quit with what seemed to be dead ends. During the years, Margaret's great-grandmother's name had changed three times; her grandmother's name had changed four times, even including Smith. Undaunted, Margaret travelled, dug, phoned, phoned and phoned. (Please don't mention phone bills to Margaret's husband.) Margaret stepped up her travels, phone calls and digging until on September 4, a year and a half after joining ALMA, she was at last talking on the phone to her thrilled grandmother. Margaret and her father Roy met his mother at her home in San Francisco on her 74th birthday September 16th. Although her father is more like his grandmother, Margaret and her grandmother share an interest in archeology and both have e.s.p. Margaret and her father have also met his two nieces, younger sister and have talked to his older sister, whom they will meet soon. Margaret's advice? Never, never give up your search.

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MILLY DAVALLE of Lodi, born in Minneapolis June 12, 1947, was when two years old, separated from her mother. She was raised by her father's family. Thirty-two years later, Milly joined ALMA at the July meeting and FOUND her mother Margaret Hallquist in a phone call to Minneapolis the next day. At first Milly spoke with an aunt, who called Margaret to the phone: "Milly, is that you? I've been waiting all my life for this day." Four days later, Milly flew to Minneapolis, wearing a yellow ribbon and a sign saying "I am Milly," was greeted by a huge "Welcome Home Milly" banner and a tearful mother. Before she found her mother, "I was prepared for rejection," Milly admitted, "I was prepared for the worst. Mother said she never wanted to interfere in my life but she always harbored a secret hope that I would find her." How did it feel to meet her daughter? "Wonderful," Margaret sighed, "that's the only way I can say it without crying." Remembered Milly, "The hardest part of all was the calling. We cried over the phone, we cried at the airport, but never shed another tear."

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MARLENE BRUNS joined ALMA in April. "I first found my father's sister in Oklahoma but I was too late for my father. He had died of cancer a year and a half before. I flew to Oklahoma to my father's sister's house, where I saw the first picture of my mother, at last someone who looked like me. I could not wait to get back to California to resume my search. I found my mother, Candy, August 3, 1981 and flew to Washington to meet her. I met my full sister Angel, my adopted sister and brother, aunts, uncles, cousins. It was all too consuming. Candy and Angel visited us and I brought Candy to the September ALMA meeting. Candy and her husband plan to spend Christmas with us. Thank you ALMA for making my dreams a reality."

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INTERMEDIARY

Definition: Go between who acts for one person to another.

I feel it's time to speak out on the subject of the intermediary. When an adult adoptee or birth parent of an adult adoptee begins a search, it is a big step in their lives. Also, a very exiting one and can give a person a great sense of accomplishment.

The search process can take weeks, months, even years. more and more states are using the intermediary system. When a searcher makes inquiries about his background the letter is turned over to an agency, they will, for a large fee, conduct your search for you. This is discrimination against those who can not afford the fees. There just out in the cold.

Something as personal as your first contact should not be handled by anyone but YOU. Often the first contact is a surprise to the person called. That you can not change, regardless of who calls. Most people called resent their personal lives being handled by a third party.

Most of the first personal phone calls are beautiful and precious. That could be lost if the initial contact had been made by a stranger not the persons own flesh and blood. Some people have to work diligently and carefully over a period of weeks, months, even years. An agency could not do that.

If an adoptive parent were called he might say, "my son or daughter is not ready for this", never asking the adoptee his feelings. Although their son or daughter is an adult, the parent may not even let him or her know of the contact. Sometimes an adoptee will tell us that their adoptive parents were called by a birth parent years before, but the adoptee was never told.

A.L.M.A. Volunteers take great care in advising the searcher in making the contact in the best possible manner. Above all, the volunteer emphasizes it be made in the most discreet and private way possible. I feel this contact should be between the two people involved in the relationship.

Carol McDowell

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NEWSPAPER DRIVE DISCONTINUED

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that participated in the newspaper drive each month but we lost our chairpersons. We specially like to thank Frances and Paul Carr, our past chairpersons, for the very good job they did. We would appreciate, very much, if somebody would please come forward to fill the vacancy, as it did help defray our expenses.

Again, DO NOT BRING YOUR OLD NEWSPAPERS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

ALUMINUM DRIVE

We are still collecting aluminum cans, tin foil, etc.. Please make an effort to bring yours in as it does help.

