

TRIANGLE

THE ALMA SOCIETY CORP., P. O. BOX 11745, CLAYTON, MO. 63105

Vol I, No. 1
Editor: Becky Leigh

August, 1977
Coordinator: Denise Schroeder

MEETING NOTICES

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 10, 7:30 P.M. at the Brentwood Community Center, 2505 Brentwood Blvd. Please note however, that this will be our last meeting at this address, Our September meeting and all of the following meetings will be held in the meeting room at Farm and Home, 110 West Lockwood in Webster Groves. You will be reminded of the change and given directions in next months letter.

COORDINATOR COMMENTS

I'm happy to report good news in this, our first newsletter - First of all, ALMA filed it's open records suit in the U. S. district court in New York on May 23, 1977. Hopefully this landmark case will be favorable to our cause and result in a loosening of the restrictive practices now present in many jurisdictions. Let's all wish good luck to Florence Fisher and her efforts in our home-state of New York. I'll keep you posted as to current developments as they occur. Secondly, we have made good progress at the St. Louis level. Our chapter has gotten it's wheels in motion and have drafted organizational plans that will serve our group efficiently in the future. Committees have been appointed and the chairpersons are very enthusiastic about the progress that can be made, both collectively and individually. The most important of these developments has been in the area of search and reunion workshops. Of course we can't understate the importance of all our committees, but I'm sure you are most interested in the strides we have taken toward accomplishing our basic goals of reunion between adoptees and natural parents. I plan to report in more detail to you at the next meeting, particularly in the area of specific workshop plans for the immediate future. I'll be looking forward to seeing you at the next general meeting when we can discuss all the topics that affect us all so vitally.....Denise Schroeder.

WHAT IS A WORKSHOP?

A workshop is for all currently paid members who would like some help with their search. Workshop Assistants are trained to be able to help others. ALMA has lots of ideas which are for the use of members and have proven successful in the past. Bring all the information you have about yourself to the next meeting and you will be able to talk to one of the assistants. Groups are formed and you would be amazed at how many members have the same type of problems as you are having. Don't be afraid to ask that "stupid" question, we have all asked them and that is the only way we can learn...by sharing.

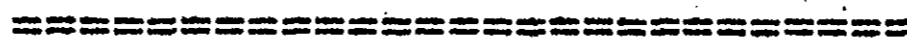
ALMA MEMBERSHIP

Your membership dues are the only support ALMA has. We are a chartered non-profit group. Your yearly dues of \$20.00 entitle 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, ect., This enables a matchup to be made between the searching parties.

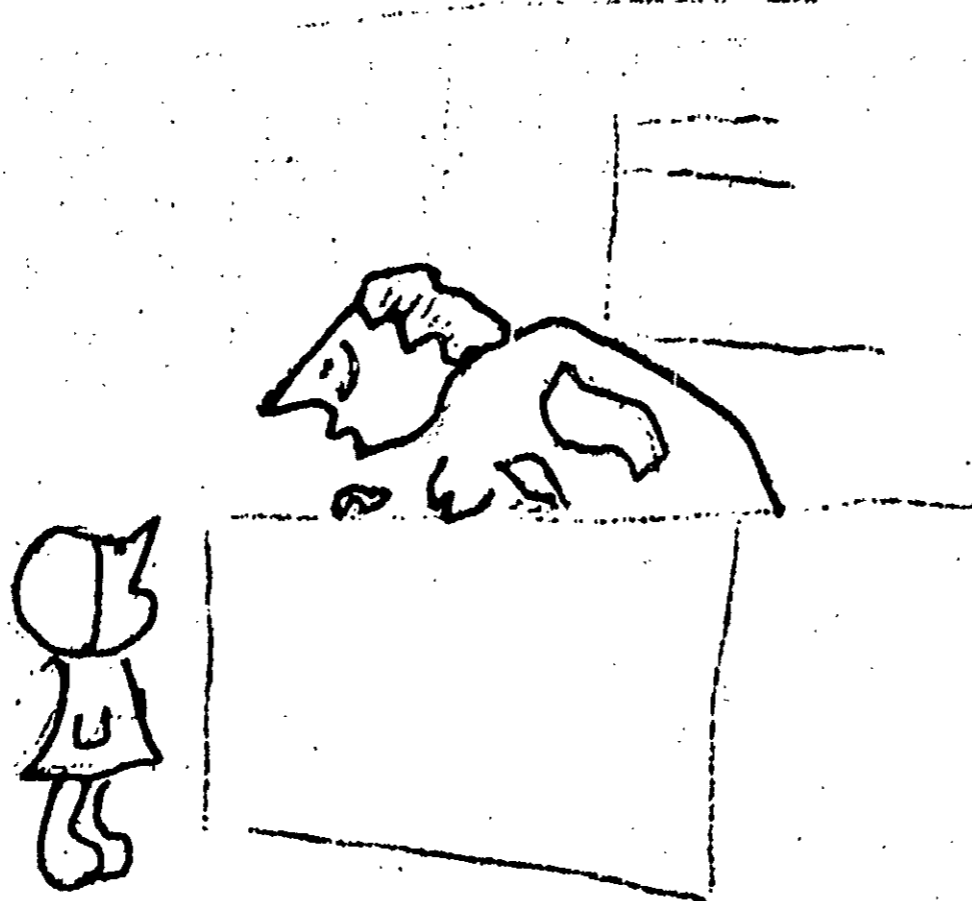
THE ALMA SEARCH COMMITTEE Members that volunteer their aid and moral support to you in your respective searches.



DEAD OR ALIVE!!!

WANTED * AUTHORS WITH OR WITHOUT LITERARY SKILL, TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THIS RAG. CONTACT BECKY LEIGH..P.O. BOX 11745, CLAYTON, MO 63105.....

Lost + Found



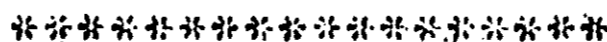
HAVE you Found a mother who looks like me?

GLOSSARY

A/K/A : also known as.....
GUARDIAN AD LITEM: Translated means friend of the court. Person appointed by the courts to represent a minor in court proceedings in order to protect the rights of a minor. Usually a lawyer.

SOAPBOX

This column is reserved for those who wish to express their comments on any topic pertinent to the cause. Please submit all letters to the Editor to Becky Leigh.. P.O. Box 11745, Clayton, Mo. 63105...



BONDAGE!!

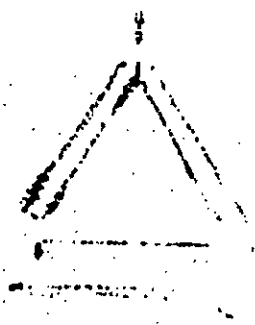
SLAVES WANTED!!! Willing to dedicate their talents to the "cause". If you can lift your limbs, and are willing to perform useful tasks, report forthwith to your Army Recruiter..or to Denise Schroeder or Becky Leigh...P.O. Box 11745.. Clayton, Mo. 63105

RESUSCITATION

Def: " Revive, ressurect, rally (life) "

Those of you who wish to share your most precious moments with fellow searchers, are encouraged to submit a brief manuscript relating your experience to the Editor (Becky Leigh) Five to fifteen lines, type-written will be appreciated. Happiness is only half realized until you share your joy!

THE TRIANGLE

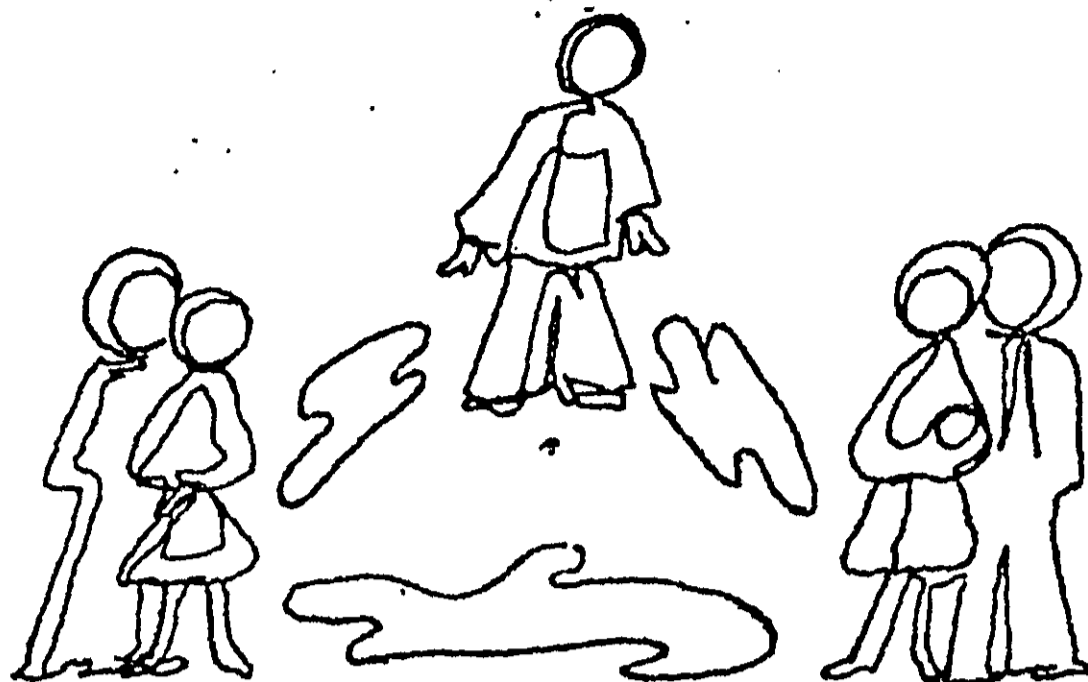


The most familiar triangle is the triangle used on farms throughout America to call the family for meals. It is perhaps coincidental that it is a broken triangle. In our reasoning for this logo, we see the Adoptive Parents on the lower right angle, the adoptee on the top angle, and the natural parents and courts on the lower left angle. This is where the break occurs. It is our goal to eventually bring the triangle together, to weld the break.

EDITOR'S NOTES

We hope to make The Triangle a really super newsletter, and with your help, I know we can do it. Much thanks to Denise and John Schroeder for their help in getting this newsletter out. We also hope to have a Poet's corner soon, so lets hear it from all you "sonneteers". Remember, we also need donations, money, services, equipment, ideas, paper, stencils, printing, typing, the list goes on and on. Please don't hesitate to ask people to donate to this tax deductible cause. See you next month.....

THE Triangle



THE ALMA SOCIETY CORPORATION., P.O. BOX 11745, CLAYTON, MO. 63105

Vol. I. No. 2
Editor: Becky Leigh

September, 1977
Coordinator: Denise Schroeder

MEETING NOTICES

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 21, at 7:30 P.M. Please note that we have a NEW ADDRESS. We will be meeting from now on at Farm and Home, 110 West Lockwood, in Webster Groves. We have enclosed a map, that we hope will be of help. Also please note that we will be meeting on the THIRD Wednesday of the month from now on. Hope to see you at the meeting!

THANKS!!!

We want to thank Susan (Sam) Howell for the artwork she did for our newsletter's Logo. It is super and really conveys the message. We all thank you Susan, and feel lucky to have a friend like you.

WORKSHOP NOTICES:

All ALMA national members who wish to participate in the workshop after the regular monthly meeting should bring all their information regarding their adoption and it's history, but please bring copies only of your documents, for they are much too precious to be carrying a ound.

SOAPBOX!!!!

In the past month, I have had the pleasure of getting to know an Adoptee named Lee Ann, who is in the process of tracking down her natural mother. Lee Ann should be a lesson to all of us. She was adopted from the "WILLOWS", a home in Kansas City, Mo. A place that has burned all it's records and closed it's doors in 1969. Lee Ann found a lot of answers from people who had previously given her NOTHING. When she asked why they were giving her information now, the man told her it was because she was so PERSISTANT!!!! Need I say More? Start writing your Missouri Senators. I will publish a list of their names and addresses in next months letter. Meanwhile write to our U.S. Senators

Senator John Danforth
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Thomas Eagleton
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

You can also write to President Carter:

Pres. Jimmy Carter
" People "
P.O. Box 2600
Washington, D.C.

OR

Jack Anderson
National Suggestion Box
P.O. Box 2009
Washington, D.C.

TELL THEM HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SEALED RECORDS LAWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

POET'S CORNER:

A CIRCLE INCOMPLETE

A child who knows not of
himself, or of his beginnings
is like a circle that is incomplete.
For in the ring whose ends do not
meet, lies a space that leaves
that circle half and incomplete.
The void which lies between
the uncompleted ring is filled with
feelings and inhibitions that have
grown, and are very deep. Yet the
answers that are sought are never
given, and remain forever sealed.
So, like the child who knows
not himself, the circle will remain
incomplete, until the ends of the ring
are free to join and make
the ring at last complete.

Lee Ann Wehner

MIRROR IMAGE

What will she look like?
What will she be?
Will she love me or hate me
or just let me be.

Tomorrow I'll meet her
And then I will know
the answers to questions
From so long ago.

She'll be here in a minute
My heart starts to race.
What will I see
When I look at her face?

When she came through the door
Just imagine my glee,
This stranger, my mother
Looks exactly like me...

Mary Ann Spehr

GLOSSARY:

" PUBLICATION" - "The publishing of a legal notice in a general
circulation newspaper (usually the Daily Record in the
city of St. Louis, and The Countian if in the county)
The purpose of publication is to give notice to
interested parties of the court preeceedings, wherein
their legal rights may be affected."

WANTED: Male Cherokee, age approx. 65, 5' 11", black hair, brown eyes, high
school grad. Must have been acquainted with my mother in July 1935,
probably in Oklahoma. All applicants will be thoroughly checked for
validity. Your Daughter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

" We are the parents of two adopted children, a son and a daughter. It was love at first sight! A love that has grown over the years. We would never feel threatened if our children decided to search, because we feel that we will always have the beautiful memories, and now our beautiful grandchildren. I wrote our daughter about ALMA, but as yet she hasn't asked any more about her biological parents. I am writing her again, and feel more free to tell her about the progress of our group and how it is growing. She has since told our little granddaughter that I am not her real grandma, because her mommy was adopted, and then our granddaughter put her little arms around my neck and said, " I love you grandma ". I am so glad she knows, and I think that the little boy will feel the same way. I would like to invite all adoptive parents to come to these meetings just to hear the stories the adoptees tell of their frustrations, and to share the reunions they have with their mothers and sometimes their fathers, and to see the peace and joy in their lives is so beautiful. Everytime our children celebrated a birthday, graduation, or marriage, in my mind, I wished that their natural parents could be there for the happy occasion. I feel in time the laws will be changed to allow the adoptees to find out their natural parents, not only for medical reasons, but the right to know who their mothers and fathers are, and why they were given up for adoption. We are grateful to these hardworking ALMA members, and hope to help all we can, because they have helped us so much to see how the adoptees feel, just as they can see how we feel..."

Two Grateful Adoptive Parents

A QUOTE OF ELIZABETH COLE OF THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE TO THE SENATE ADOPTION HEARINGS.. " THE ADOPTION TRIANGLE THEN IS COMPOSED OF BIOLOGICAL PARENTS, ADOPTIVE PARENTS, AND AGENCIES."...ANYONE MISSING?

LOST AND FOUND

" WHO would have thought that in three short months I would be able to meet someone I have wondered about. Someone whom I never remembered but knew all my life, my mother. I attended an ALMA meeting that month and a social worker was the speaker that night. We spoke shortly after the meeting and she said to call her the next day. I did. She said that she would try to help. She called me a few days later and said for me to come in and she would discuss my case. That was the day that I was 26 years old. For the first time in my life I knew something other than stories, I knew me. The next step was to locate my adoption decree, which I was able to do. There was the information long sought, my real name and that of my mother. I didn't do anything until later that night. I called two of the names listed in the directory, and said who I was seeking. My information panned out, she was in Perryville, Missouri, so near yet so far away. Sunday at 12:30 P.M. I called the number and spoke to her son, my half brother, and at 2:30 I spoke to my mother. One reunion was tense for me, but exciting for both of us. We found that our lives were different, but alike. She was a small town girl who wanted to live in the city, and I was a city girl who wanted to live in a small town. I can say honestly, with the love I have for her, I don't regret my life, but then we've only just begun.

Shelagh Mayhew

Editor's note: We encourage our readers to share their reunions with us. We would also appreciate contributions for any of our other columns. Please submit to:

P.O. BOX 11745, Clayton, Mo 63105

