



Our September Meeting was held September 29, 1977.

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- Minutes of the August Meeting were read.
- Recent news articles were passed around to be read by those who attended. Copies will be available at our October meeting.
- A.I.M. will be sending a brief resume about A.I.M. to all those organizations listed on the SOUNDEX REGISTER mailing list. The purpose of this will be to get acquainted with these other groups and request that an exchange of Newsletters be made.
- At our October Meeting a definite selection will be made as to a slogan to be used by A.I.M.
- Contact was made with the Buffalo Evening News on how to go about having our meeting announcements placed in the News. Hopefully we will give it a try for our October Meeting.

UPCOMINGS:

- October Meeting:

Doris Jones, Freelance Writer of "Suburban Woman" will be our guest speaker. "Suburban Woman" is circulated through Tops Market with a circulation throughout Buffalo, Amherst, Tonawanda and Kenmore.

Do Plan To Attend.

- November Meeting:

We are trying to line up a doctor specializing in Genealogy who is affiliated with the Medical Genetics Unit on High Street. More on this later.

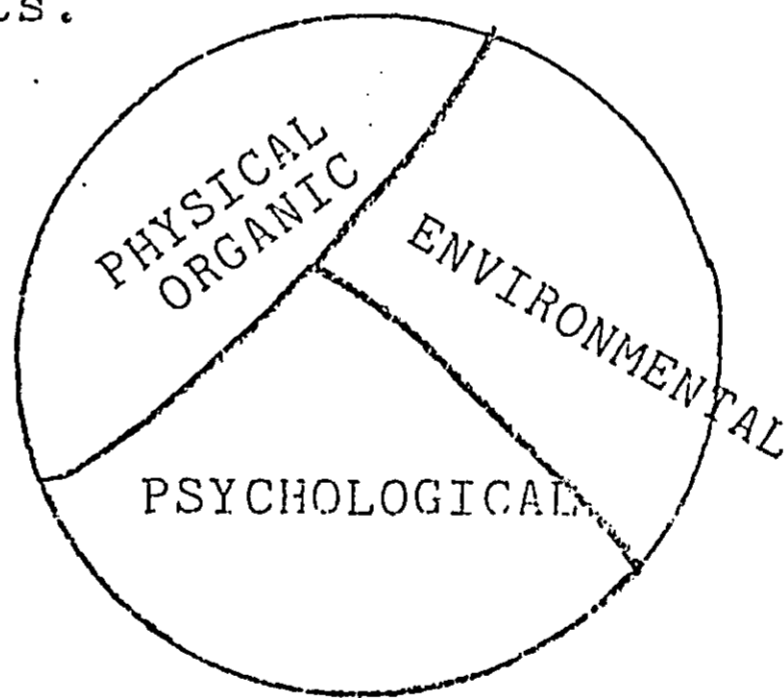
- January Meeting:

Once again, the ball is rolling and we are hopeful in being able to have Judge Mattina speak at our meeting. We hope to have this confirmed by our October Meeting.

GOODNEWS:

Barbara Brooks, adopted sister to Joe Ayres will tell of her recent reunion at our October meeting.

- Our guest speaker at the September Meeting was Dr. Norma Panahon. Here are some of the comments made by Dr. Panahon, who told us that she has several patients who are adopted.
 - She believes that agencies take the stand of giving no information out to adoptees because agencies do not want you "hurt" when learning of your past.
 - She feels in some cases adoptees don't want to learn of their biological origins because of family ties with their adopted families and they don't want to cause any stress.
 - The three main causes of stress are:
 1. The Unfamiliar
 2. The Unknown
 3. The Strange
 - States from her experience with adoptees that the loss of a loved one will prompt an adoptee to search for their roots.
 - Stressed that mental illness is not hereditary, but that the transfer of genes is.
 - Illustrated that the mind is made up of three parts.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The target date is March, 1978. We are hoping to be able to present a "Workshop Seminar" for A.I.M. The list of guest speakers would include: Judges, Attorneys, County Clerk, Physicians, Social and Case Workers from local agencies. The complete list is not yet prepared. The purpose of this Seminar will be to get these peoples' views on adoptions, adoptees in search of their biological origins, etc.

As this project is just starting to get moving, not much more is available at this time. However, any questions you can think of that you would like answered, jot them down, so you don't forget.

* * * * *

Let's plan to attend our October Meeting. Once again, our Guest Speaker will be Doris Jones.

Hope to see you on October 26, 1977 at 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Savings Bank, Eastern Hills Mall.

"Lilac Baby" — when he was abandoned at birth 31 years ago — is today desperately searching for his natural mother.

And he's turning to ENQUIRER readers to help him find her.

"I appeal to ENQUIRER readers who might have information to come forward to help me find my natural mother," declared Jack Laxen, who was found under a lilac bush on a front lawn in south Minneapolis, Minn., just hours after he was born on May 20, 1937.

"I've always been haunted by who I am," said Laxen, now vice-president and general manager of a photo processing plant in St. Charles, Mo. "I don't even know if my real mother even wants to know me . . . what I'm saying is, please come forward. Let me know who you are!"

"Times have changed . . . morality is changed and there's no longer the stigma there was in those days. I want you to know I don't bear you any ill will. I just want to know who you are . . . I just want to know . . ."

The only clue to Laxen's true identity was a note pinned to the baby's clothing, which read: "My parents are Catholic. I am German and Irish."

Minneapolis newspapers dubbed the infant the "Lilac Baby." But despite headline pleas, the mother never came forward to claim the baby.

The "Lilac Baby" was adopted shortly thereafter by Mr. and Mrs. John Laxen and grew up on a 160-acre farm outside Minneapolis with six other children, five of them also adopted.

The question of Laxen's origins did not begin to trouble him until he was a teenager — but he quickly learned that no one had any answers.

"When I was 16, I asked my mother about my real folks and she said, 'Well, you were abandoned,' and she showed me a newspaper article and that was about it," he recalled.

Married in 1965, Laxen served a hitch in the Air Force and he and his wife had a daughter, Jill, now 11. "When you have a child of your own you

SEEKING his true identity is Jack Laxen, now 31, of St. Charles, Mo.

start asking more questions," he said. "You start asking what it would take to abandon a child."

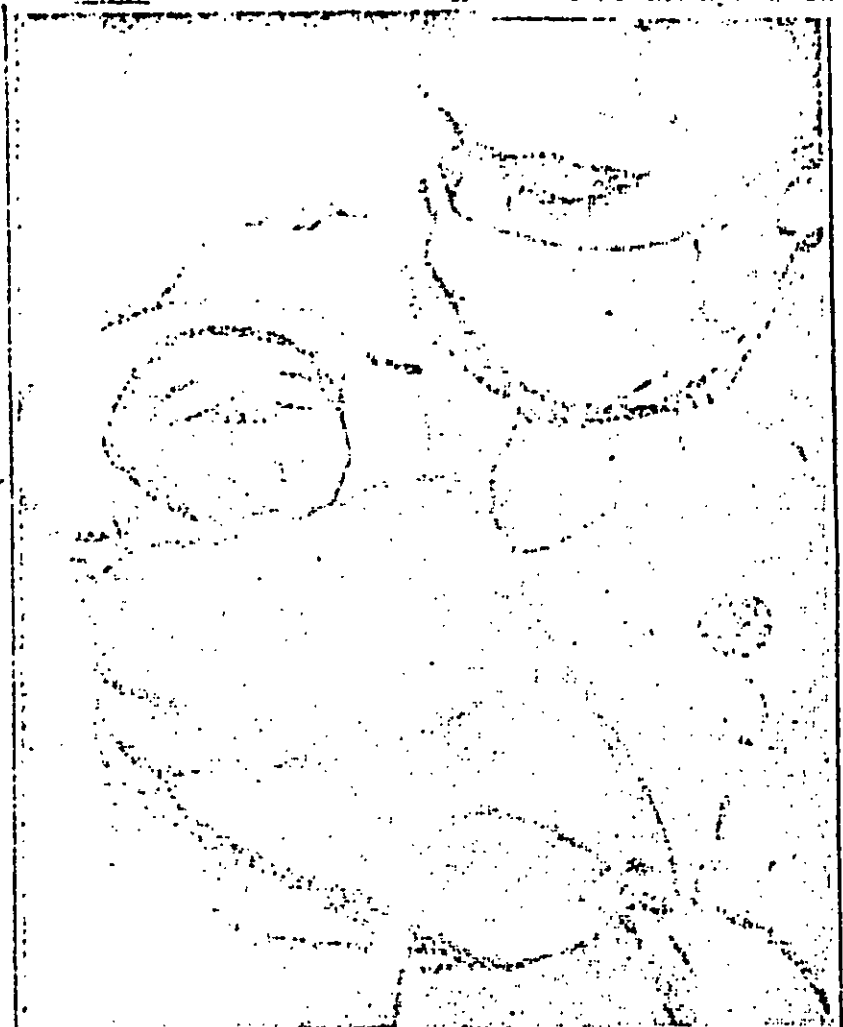
To try to find out, Laxen recently visited Minneapolis. But he was dismayed to discover that the front lawn where he had been found had been converted into a parking lot, and all his efforts to trace his mother came to nothing.

He did learn that a woman claiming to be his real mother had written a letter to the doctor who had cared for him in the hospital.

But that had been a long time ago, in 1946, and it was the last anyone has ever heard of her.

Readers who feel they may have information helpful to Jack Laxen may write Lilac Baby, NATIONAL ENQUIRER, Lantana, Fla. 33461.

— GRANVILLE TOOGOOD



ABANDONED NEWBORN BABY AT GENERAL HOSPITAL
Police seek identity of infant held by Nurse Alice Aicott

HE'S ALIVE AND KICKING

Paper Carrier Finds Baby
Abandoned on City Lawn

A NEWBORN BABY BOY, 8 to 9 pounds in weight, was alive and kicking at General hospital today after being abandoned, naked, beneath a lilac bush on a south Minneapolis lawn for several hours.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING was one of many stories detailing the story of the "Lilac Baby."

SEALED ADOPTION RECORDS

The right of adopted men and women to know their natural parents is being pushed by several activist groups. Some of them are bringing class action suits to test the legality of laws which keep adoption records sealed in nearly every state—laws originally designed to safeguard the rights of all three parties in the adoption triangle: child, natural parents and adoptive parents. By eliminating the natural parents from the picture, it was believed the other two would have a better chance to develop a more normal parent/child relationship. The current agitation for change indicates things haven't worked out as well as hoped.

UCLA psychiatrist Arthur Sorosky and two experienced adoption social workers, Annette Baran and Reuben Pannor, have examined (through questionnaires and interviews) 50 cases in which adoptees met with one or more of their natural parents, and in some cases with brothers, sisters or other relatives. The adoptees ranged in age from 18 to 50 at the time of the reunion. According to their reports, and those of the parents, the meetings were a great success.

Ninety percent of the adoptees and 82% of the natural parents were happy about the outcome. Most of the adoptees, the researchers said, reported "a sense of closure, resolution of genealogical concerns and diminished identity conflicts." After the first meeting, half the adoptees developed meaningful relationships with the natural parents; another 34% were satisfied with occasional contacts. The adoptive parents were less happy. While 36% were cooperative and understanding, 20% were mildly upset and another 10% were quite hurt. The rest were either dead or were not told about the meeting to spare their feelings.

Sorosky found that the adoptees whose case histories he studied were "more vulnerable than non-adoptees to the development of identity conflicts in late adolescence and young adulthood. Many . . . appear to be preoccupied with existential concerns and a feeling of isolation and alienation due to a break in the continuity of life through the generations that their adoption represents. For some, the existing block to the past may create a feeling that there is a block to the future as well."

The researchers concluded that the positive benefits from the reunions far exceeded the drawbacks. For adoptees, the benefits included a new meaningful relationship with the natural parents as well as a deeper sense of love and appreciation for their adoptive parents, whom they saw as their real "psychological parents." For natural parents, "the experience provided an opportunity to resolve old guilt feeling and to erase years of questioning about the outcome of their relinquished child." As for the adoptive parents, although some were hurt and upset by the reunion, the researchers found that "in only a few cases was any permanent damage done to the adoptive relationship."

Sorosky and his co-workers conclude that the anonymity mandated by sealed adoption records has created more problems than it has prevented for everyone, including the adoptive parents. "On the

- The meeting was opened with Marilyn wishing everyone present a "Happy Second Anniversary". Three cheers for A.I.M.

Marilyn made a few remarks about the past year. She said that she was proud of the work we have done as a group. We've been privileged to have many interesting speakers over the past two years. We've been able to make contact with legislators and senators who believe in what we are doing and have had personal interviews with these men. We've had many good reunions over the past two years. We're on the verge of becoming incorporated. Yes, we've come a long way! (Hip, hip, hooray for A.I.M.)

- Those present at our March meeting received an anniversary present from Marilyn. We received A.I.M. buttons. Thank you Marilyn.

Also, many thanks to Marilyn for the delicious cakes.

BUSINESS DISCUSSED

Volunteers were asked to be on our Board of Directors. Including our officers, our Board of Directors are:

- Joe Ayres
- Jackie Thomas
- Mr. & Mrs. James Zanghi
- Dorothy Barker
- Carolyn Krue

A report was given regarding our meeting with Timothy Trainer, Senator McFarland's aid. Mr. Trainer's thoughts on our cause:

- He felt it is our personal right to have access to our medical history. He felt that this information should be given to adoptees without a Court Order.
- He felt that prior notice should be given to the natural parent and/or parents being sought.
- He felt that A.I.M. could act as a mediator for both the adoptee and the natural parent(s) being sought.
- He felt that identifying background information should go through a clearing house. (Again, this could be A.J.M.)

During our general conversation, Mr. Trainer mentioned that he too feels that Social Services could be doing more for us than they are now doing without the benefit of a Court Order.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Mrs. Emily Scandale, Director of Cathedral Park Counseling Services at 402 A Ellicott Square Building, Buffalo, N.Y., spoke briefly explaining the counseling services available. She explained that the center deals with short term crisis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

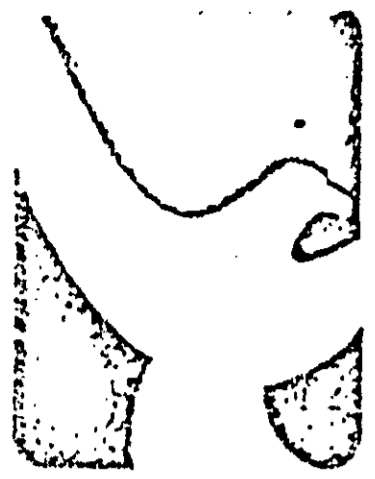
1. A 1978 Spring Conference on "New Frontiers Of Service To The Adoption Triad" will be held Thursday and Friday, May 18 - 19, 1978 at the Lexington Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. If anyone is interested, please write to:

Diane Christensen
Children's Home Society
2230 Como Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

2. A Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 1978. Anyone interested in a copy of the minutes, please send a self addressed stamp envelope to:

Marcia Ratka
479 Elliott St.
Buffalo, N.Y. 14206

(For those interested, Marcia's own telephone number is: 827-4373)



The Searchers

ADOPTIVE - NATURAL PARENT LOCATING GROUP
P. O. Box 1454
CANYON COUNTY, CALIFORNIA 91331
(605) 252-0925 213/768/1988

NEW ADDRESS: 12007 BURTON ST., NO. HOLLYWOOD, CA 91605

MAY WE INTRODUCE OURSELVES

We are a natural parent/adoptee locating group. We assist all persons connected with the adoption triangle including the adoptive parents.

We are the only group, nationally and internationally that work with the adoptive parents.

The Peace Corps of the United States and other countries have just been assigned to give us professional assistance and at this writing we are setting up meetings at the White House so we may further explain to the President of the outcrys of 8 million people involved in this adoption triangle.

We would seek a place to have persons go to find out their medical and personal background. These are human rights for us all. Then, if there is a mutual agreed upon reunion we work very carefully to handle this matter.

We would like some information relative to your assisting our clients and they with your group.

We take pride in preventative and follow-up measures for our some 17,000 clients.

If we can further explain our services and our future plans please do not hesitate to call or write to our 24 hr. number or address above.

Most sincerely and thank you for taking time to read our information letter to you. We ask that you send us some material to us about your group.

Most sincerely,
Dr. June Ramsay Miller
Dr. June Ramsay Miller - Sociologist
PRESIDENT and founder

P.S. If you would like to be placed on our mailing list, please indicate in your follow-up letter.

If you would like to have our initial information packet sent to you please send a self addressed stamped envelope with those instructions to us. Again, thank you.

The Searchers - International
Adoptive - Natural Parent Locating Group
P.O. Box 1454
Canyon County, California 91331 213-768-1988
NEW ADDRESS: 12007 Burton St., No. Hollywood, CA 91605

June 19, 1978

"LETTERS TO LOST PEOPLE"

REFERRAL ACCEPTANCE

This service is designed to assist our clients with their search.

Name of group or special consultant: _____

address: _____

telephone: _____

Officers Name _____

title _____

Fee to our clients _____

What services have to offer _____

I am completing a book with the above title. If you would like to have a letter published to the person you are looking for, please sign the permission slip below and return it to me along with the letter for publication. This is the most effective way.

Thank you,

Dr. June Ramsay Miller
President and founder
The Searchers
Adoptive/Natural Parent Locating Group
12007 Burton St., No. Hollywood, CA 91605
213-768-1988

DETACH AND RETURN

To: Dr. June Ramsay Miller, Authoress of "LETTERS TO LOST PEOPLE".

I hereby give permission to have published as I have written only the letter I have attached in your book in hopes I may find the person for whom I am searching.

Name _____

(can use a pen name)

Address _____

Phone (optional) _____

date _____

Take a copy for your records. Nothing else will be done with the letter unless you specify on an attached set of instructions to accompany this correspondence.

President and founder of The Searchers - above address. Thank you....

Accepted by Dr. June Ramsay Miller - President

This group will be reviewed periodically and if there are too many complaints by our clients, service will be removed from our referral lists.

Please see attached information pertaining to this group or individual person.

Again, my very special thanks to you. My responsibility to my clients is great and very meaningful to me.

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