



HOTLINE!

From Houston, Texas

"Illigitum. non carborundum."

November Meeting

The November meeting of The Family Tree will be held on November 4, 1976, at Cherryhurst Park Clubhouse, 1700 Missouri Street, Houston, Texas, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Husbands, wives and guests are always welcome so bring anyone who has expressed an interest in our organization and its goals.

NEW MEMBERS: We would like to extend a personal welcome to our new members, Richard Parker of Mamaroneck, New York, and Nancy Hazlett of Houston. Although Richard's search is not complicated by adoption, he needs all our assistance in locating his son, who has been separated from his family. Nancy is an adoptee with records in Washington and/or Oregon and would appreciate any help you can give her.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Someone cares! Mrs. Loy Wheeler of California has shown her concern and support for our organization by purchasing an annual subscription to Hotline. We certainly appreciate her interest in our work.

DONATIONS: The Family Tree has been honored with donations this month from Wonetta Shurtz and Ted Wilkison, two local members who always work hard for the benefit of all. We are always in need of extra funds, but especially need your help now with all our national advertising campaigns in the works. Please remember us if you can spare a few dollars, and remember all donations are really donations to yourself and your search.

SPECIAL THANKS: We would like to take this opportunity to say a special "Thank You" to Sandra Holland for all her efforts on behalf of The Family Tree. Sandy spent several days doing typing and copy work which we could not afford to have done commercially, and it really helped us over a rough spot.

Telephone Numbers to Call:

Legislation: (713) 631-3703

Public Relations: (713) 923-7196

Correspondence: (713) 644-4234

Counselor: (713) 771-9903

LIASON: The Family Tree has always been in favor of establishing good relations between itself and other organizations concerned with the adoption situation, as we feel groups can be beneficial to each other by sharing news and assistance and keeping all geographical areas well informed. This past month we have received newsletters from:

ADOPTION IDENTITY MOVEMENT OF MICHIGAN, INC.- Tina Otway, Co-ordinator. AIM of Michigan has been very active in the national attempt to open the sealed record by meeting with state and local agencies and authorities. In the past few months they have met with the Michigan Department of Social Services, Wayne County Juvenile Court, Council on Adoptable Children, Association for the Protection of Rights of the Adoption Triangle, and Grand Rapids Press, to name a few. They have also undertaken research of Michigan adoption statutes in preparation of a legal challenge on grounds of unconstitutionality. Good luck, AIM, if we can help just let us know.

TEXAS COUNCIL ON ADOPTABLE CHILDREN- Carolyn Chamberlin, President. COAC of Texas and our local chapter of Houston COAC are doing a most necessary and important job in the adoption field. Their foremost goal concerns adoptable children who have not been placed for adoption due to age, mixed race, medical problems, etc., but they are also vitally interested in the psychological needs of adopted children and have held several workshops in which they included discussion of open records and an adoptee's need and/or right to know his biological heritage.

ALMA - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH. Recent correspondence with ALMA in Southern California has led to an invitation extended to The Family Tree by Emma May Vilardi, Western States Regional Co-Ordinator, to participate in the International Soundex Reunion Register. We have all talked of a central Reunion File where all groups can share reunion information, and Ms. Vilardi has informed us that at long last our dream is to be a reality. All reunion information will be soundexed and recorded in a central place but each individual group participating will retain all the personal membership information in their files. Each time information is matched in the International Register, the members' individual group will be notified to contact the party concerned. By using this method, each member's personal information remains confidentially retained by their local organization.

Anyone desiring further information about these groups, including addresses and telephone numbers, please call Greer Cannon at 644-4234.

PUBLICITY: On the advertising scene, we are currently running a seven-day advertising campaign in The Houston Chronicle as well as several national magazines. Response is starting to come in from all areas of the country.

JIM SOLOMON of our local Houston Family Tree was responsible for arranging a one-hour live call-in program on KPFT Pacifica Radio on Saturday, October 16, 1976. Our thanks go to Jan Hatch of KPFT, Ted Wilkison of The Family Tree who did a superb job as "Interviewee", and of course, Jim Solomon, for making it all possible.

DOROTHY ELLA POTTS has once again honored The Family Tree by inviting

our spokesman to appear with her on KFMK-FM Radio. The program will be a follow-up to the August show we did with Mrs. Potts which emphasized the many psychological aspects of searching from the adoptee's viewpoint as well as the natural parent's viewpoint. Appearing on that program with Mrs. Potts were Elizabeth McCain (adoptee), our psychological counselor, and Naomi Adams (adoptee/natural mother). This second program, which will be aired on November 7, 1976, at 4:30 P.M., will deal with The Family Tree and its work on a general basis and will feature Ted Wilkison as our representative. Don't miss it! KFMK is located at 98 on the FM dial.

SEARCHES COMPLETED!

The month of October has been busy in more ways than one! Our record search for this month was 4-1/2 hours and belongs to Dorothy Robertson.

DOROTHY ROBERTSON found her natural mother living in Fort Worth, as well as two half-sisters and one half-brother. The search now begins for her natural father.

NAOMI ADAMS has completed the long search for her son and found him living in San Francisco, just seven miles from Greer Cannon's mother. We hope they can pool their resources for a visit.

CHARLES CAMPISE is credited with the Harris County Coup-of-the-Month by persuading a local Judge to open his adoption records to him. With the help of Naomi Adams he located a sister living right here in Houston and they were reunited the following day.

"Hummingbirds" (J. Cunningham-1976)

The Springtime comes and brings to Earth
A blanket of wondrous hues,
And the Robin's song is heard once more
As we walk through the mists and dews.

The morn is alive with beauty and hope
And the promise of better things;
We catch a glimpse of a hummingbird
In flight on fragile wings.

How like a hummingbird, you and I,
Flying from flower to flower
Seeking the nectar from the rose
That may wither within the hour.

Fragile wings and a fragile heart
Both flutter so frantically;
Darting here and darting there,
This hummingbird is me.

This creature is my metaphor
As I walk through this valley of tears;
To drink from the rose is the driving force
That impels me in spite of my fears.

Hummingbird you, hummingbird I
Flying from flower to flower,
Grasping for sweetness from the rose,
Grasp the moment, grasp the hour.

From PURSUIT, ALMA's Southern California newsletter, we would like to share with you a couple of our favorite poetic contributions by Angie Weiland.

- You left me to find
a world you could not give me;
And I found music in my spirit
and poetry in my soul
and love's arms in winter
to keep out the cold.

But now with worlds behind me
I must travel back to you.

(A. Weiland)

Please, Mr. Bureaucrat
open up your door,
I am no longer under age,
I want to know the score.

When my mother's tummy grew
to house and shelter me,
Did you send her out of sight,
and throw away the key?

Well listen, Mr. Bureaucrat,
My mother's child will find
A way to break your rusty locks
and open what is mine.

Is it that I frighten you
when I ask the truth?
Do you quiver in your shoes
with bastards on the loose?

(A. Weiland)

JAN



from

"Illigitum non carborundum"

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Yes, 1977 is upon us at last and we of The Family Tree will be the grandest year of all for every one of you. Move forward to this year as we continue to grow and influence our respective communities.

We are starting this new year off on a note of progress. Our special guest for the January meeting is the Chairman of the Family Tree group, Dr. Jerry Cunningham, and possibly other members of the group. In order to coincide with Dr. Cunningham's holiday schedule, we have rescheduled the January meeting for Monday, January 3, 1977, at the home of Chris Frampton, 6803 Indian Falls Drive, Houston, Texas. A map showing directions to the meeting place is attached to this issue and if anyone has a question regarding same, please call Chris prior to meeting time.

The February meeting of The Family Tree will be held at the Elgin Park on the first Thursday of February as per our normal schedule.

DATE: JANUARY 3, 1977

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: We are happy to announce that Mrs. Bernice McAllen, Texas, has sent in her subscription request and a permanent mailing label. Bernice has previously been our guest at our meeting and has actively supported her adoptive nephew, who is currently in his search for his natural parents.

POLITICS: Harold Miller of El Paso reports that a bill has been introduced to the Texas Legislature this month by Representative [Name] relating to removing questions concerning legitimacy from the Texas Standard Certificate of Birth and amending Sections 14 and 14A, Chapter 41, Act of the Texas Legislature, as amended (Rules 47a and 47b, Article 4477). The bill would provide that any child whose mother was not married at the time of conception and birth of the child or has not subsequently been legitimated or whose father has not been declared by court order, shall be issued a standard certificate of birth with the exception that the certificate shall not contain or any information by which he might be identified, shall

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