

KANSAS CITY ADULT ADOPTED NEWSLETTER

September, 1979

Vol. 1 Issue 1

*Member - American Family Records Association

The board of directors feels it is time that we have a newsletter to keep our members informed as to where we stand as a group and what our needs are.

This newsletter can only be successful if everyone in the group feels a responsibility to contribute to it, read it, and pass it on. If you have any suggestions for this letter at all -- please let us know: Our newsletter needs a name! We are hoping that our next issue can be titled.

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K. C. A. A. O has an ongoing scrapbook for which we are interested in news articles from all over the country. This includes Ann Landers, Dear Abby, editorial and reunion stories.

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Our organization needs old city directories, blue books, criss-cross directories and distant telephone books. If you can contribute any of these items we would greatly appreciate receiving them.

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The board of directors has run an ad in the Sunday Kansas City Star; "Adopted? In Search" and we are pleased to report that in the first month of exposure we've had nineteen responses from people who had not previously known of our organization. At this time we are planning to continue the ad, keeping close watch on its results.

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SUGGESTED READING LIST:

- The Adoption Triangle
- Lost and Found
- Twice Born
- The August Strangers
- In Search of Origins: The Experience of Adopted People
- The House of Tomorrow
- The Search for Ann Fisher
- The Art of Adoption

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT --

by Nancy Hudson

Anyone interested in assisting in the writing or mailing out of correspondenceplease contact me at 262-0836.

When requesting an answer of any kind to your correspondence, it would be greatly appreciated if you would send us a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Our postage expenses could easily get out of hand as more and more people become aware of our existence.

To date we have 45 paid memberships and still have charter memberships available at the original \$5.00 fee. We have sent out many membership forms which have not yet been returned to us. If you haven't yet joined, please do so now, as the membership fee will be increased to \$10.00 effective January 1, 1980.

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RESEARCH DIRECTOR'S REPORT -

by June Tanner

<u>Individual Searching</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>State</u>
June T.	Mother	CA
Jim M.	Mother	AK
Henry D.	Mother	KS
Joanne W.	Mother	MO
Karen W.	Mother	CA
Joyce P.	Mother	CA
Paul G.	Sister	
Nancy H.	Sister	MO
Bob B.	Mother	
Ora P.	Brother	CA
Rex M.	Sister	CA
Gary S.	Mother	
Mary W.	Mother	MO
Leona H.	Sister	AZ
Claudia B.	Mother	KS
Ruben	Mother	IA
Tom A.	Father, Sisters, Brother	IN
Helen B.	Self-Search	IL
Juanita	Mother	KS
Marilyn R.	Mother, Sister	CA
Phil W.	Mother	MO
Becky S.	Brother	CA
Fletcher R.	Mother	CA
Harold M.	Mother	KS
Linda U.	Mother	MO
Sue E.	Mother, Father	N.C.
Bill H.	Mother	IA
John Mc	Mother	MO
Elsa H.	Mother	MN
Janet Mc	Mother	KS
Kit B.	Sister	MN
Wayne T.	Sister	NJ
Marsha J.	Mother, Father	TX
Ann G.	Mother, Brother	KS
Phyllis B.	Sister	

TREASURER'S REPORT -

by Linda Gayle Hartman

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance	\$536.50
Disbursements	<u>61.81</u>
Resulting in an	
Ending Balance	\$474.69
	+
Petty Cash	\$62.14

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This is our first newsletter and it is our hope and prayer that it will be of some special benefit to you as you are taking time to read it. We will endeavor to meet the needs of our group as it grows and changes. This group has assisted numerous people in their searches and we are very proud of the rate of success that we have experienced. There are many different reasons why people are searching but the most common one seems to be, "Roots," as with the release of this film our populace seemed to move at a very rapid pace in the direction of tracing its biological origin.

This was just fine unless you were adopted, in which case, you found that you were covered by a shroud of secrecy, lies and deception. In many cases even the legally released non-identifying information was a total fabrication and not one ounce of it could be believed. However, even to get to these fabricated "facts" the adoptee must get over the hurdle of the law.

It is this law that we must deal with next. Our legislature is primed and ready to act on these laws and we must lead them. Only by being in our position can they truly understand our needs.

Reunion after reunion has proven that current supposed fears and doubts held by agencies and courts are unfounded. With the joy of each new reunion between birth parent/sibling and adult adoptee, comes the realization that the policy of anonymity and fear that is fostered is a policy which has been proven to be ridiculous and unnecessary. It is time that the adult adoptee speak out and protest a court of 20, 30, or 40 years ago stripping us of the right to know our biological origin, brothers/sisters, Roots. As the need for change surfaces so does the opportunity. We must involve ourselves in these changes.


Tom Allington, President

K. C. A. A. O. meets the first Saturday of each month at the main library, 12th and McGee, Kansas City, Missouri, on the Fifth Floor at 1:30 P. M.

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WE ARE NOT ALONE

Soundex - a reunion registry
Emma Vilardi
Post Office Box #2312
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Truth Seekers in Adoption
Box 286
Roscoe, Illinois 61703

Triadoption
Post Office Box #5218
Huntington Beach, California 92646

Open Adoption Records
Post Office Box #160551
Sacramento, California 95816

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KANSAS CITY ADULT ADOPTees ORGANIZATION

The Kansas City Adult Adoptees Organization (KCAAO) was incorporated in Missouri as a general not for profit corporation on April 10, 1979, to conduct business throughout the United States. It was organized for educational purposes to teach and assist adult members of the organization in the techniques of searching for their birth parent(s), brothers or sisters, or their adult adopted offspring. While local efforts are directed primarily towards teaching, assistance will be given in some cases, especially to distant members. Unless there is an urgent hereditary medical or health problem, data for underage persons will be filed to facilitate searches when they become adults.

The organization conducts monthly meetings on the 1st Saturday of every month at the Kansas City Public Library, at 1:00 P.M. Anyone interested in furthering the knowledge of the adoptee and natural parents is invited to attend.

Directors and elected officers of KCAAO are: Kermit B. Karns, President; Thomas T. Allington, Vice-President; Lorene Summerskill, Recording Secretary; Nancy Hudson, Corresponding Secretary; Lind Gayle Hartman, Treasurer; John McBurney, Legislative Director; June Tanner, Research Director; and Marsha Johnson, Past President.

A one-time membership fee has been established at \$5.00. Thereafter, contributions will be requested annually as the need develops. Where assistance is given, extra contributions will be accepted.

Persons or organizations interested in joining KCAAO should complete the blank form below and forward it along with their check, payable to the Kansas City Adult Adoptees Organization, to: Treasurer, KCAAO, Box 15225, Kansas City, MO 64106. A membership card will be furnished upon receipt of your application.

Additional information may be obtained by telephoning 816-453-1294, 816-453-2161,* or 816-753-8464, or 913-262-0836*. (* - 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

052879

Date: _____ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
KANSAS CITY ADULT ADOPTees ORGANIZATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone: area and number _____

For whom are you searching? _____ Age or date of birth _____

Place of birth or event _____

Enclose check or money order for \$5.00, payable to: Kansas City Adult Adoptees Organization, and mail to: Treasurer, KCAAO, Box 15225, Kansas City, MO 64106

476

KANSAS CITY ADULT ADOPTEES NEWSLETTER

October, 1979

Vol. 1

Issue 2

*Member - American Family Records Association

This is our second newsletter and we are very proud of the response we have received. Please...if you are receiving our newsletter(or wish to)...let us know what you think of it. What articles would you like to see covered in it? At the end of each newsletter on the last page you will find a membership form. If you are a member, please sent it along to someone that might wish to join our crusade for open records. Only in numbers can we make our cause heard. We will carry a section featuring letters from our readers...so we ask you to send us your opinion for publication. Address it to Editor, KCAAO, P. O. Box 15225, Kansas City, Missouri 64106

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Our group is still growing and we have been very busy in the past month. Several reunions have come about as the direct result of efforts put forth by our corresponding secretary, Nancy Hudson and research director, June Tanner. The trail to identity is a very tedious one that requires much time, travel and phone calls. We do not charge for the work but do ask for a donation from one and all to help keep this research going. If we have helped you in the past, and if you are able, please...please send a small donation so that we may help someone else who may not be able to search without our help. Make checks payable to "Treasurer, KCAAO", P. O. Box 15225, Kansas City, Missouri 64106

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DATELINE TENNESSEE.....

Anyone wishing information concerning an adoption(before 1960) from the State of Tennessee can get a copy of the adoption decree by sending a \$5.00 fee to the county where the adoption took place. For more information, contact Carolyn Mitchell, in care of this newsletter.

DATELINE ONTARIO.....

The Adoption Disclosure Registry for Ontario has been proclaimed.

Contact: Joan Vanstone
1408 West 45th Avenue
VanCouver, B. C.

DATELINE MANITOBA.....

The Child Welfare Act of Manitoba has been amended under Section 94-2 to read, "A county court clerk may, upon written request, issue a certified copy of an Order of Adoption to:

1. An adopting parent
2. An adult adoptee
3. To both as may be the case

Contact: Joan Vanstone
1408 West 45th Avenue
VanCouver, B. C.

DATELINE WINNIPEG.....

Apply to: Deputy County Court Clerk
Betty McDonald
Department of the Attorney General
County Court of Winnipeg
210 Law Courts
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0U8

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As for Missouri, you all know that this is the "SHOW ME" State and that is exactly what we of KCAA plan on doing, but we can't do this without your help... all of you...We need your:

- Financial Support
- Letters(that we can show our legislature)
 - Proposed legislation in your state
 - Sample legislation
 - Names and endorsements of influential friends of the cause.

We are the "SHOW ME" State, not the "tell me" state. We will not go to our state capitol and *tell* them that we represent millions or thousands...we will go and *show* them the letters of support, favorable changes in legislation in other states, and *prove* to them that we are not alone.

The correspondence from adult adoptees and birth parents is just pouring in. We are tickled pink. This is exactly what we wanted. But, our joy is dampened by what we see when we look back over the attendance log and reunions of the past year. There are some who have lost the wind in their sails and even some who have had a reunion and then dropped off in attendance. Just remember...the support and encouragement that you were able to receive from the group will cease to be available unless you come back and give as you received.

I would like to share a letter received from the orphanage from where I was adopted. This institution was very elated by the outcome of my search and had it not been for the gracious way of expressing themselves when I asked for information (that they were bound by law not to disclose), I would have, I am sure, become discouraged. It was primarily through the adoptive family of my sister, and their devotion to service in the church, that I was able to trace her down. We had a reunion with all brothers (2) and sisters (2) ... and all of our children and returned to the orphanage last December and made a video tape of our feelings before, during and after the search to be shared with new adoptive families the orphanage is now working with.

by Tom Allington

RESEARCH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by June Tanner

The California search for James McCourt ended abruptly when I answered the phone Monday Morning and a voice said, "June, how are you, this is James." His mother, Ann began this search quite some time ago from Wisconsin. Ann had come to Kansas City in the early 1940's to have her baby at the Willows. Before giving birth she had second thoughts and in the wee hours one spring morning, escaped through the kitchen and out the back door, only to end up in a hospital called St. Vincents at delivery time. After marrying and finding she could not have any children she and her husband eventually adopted two children; now 20 and 21 years of age. After many years of wondering and worrying about Michael (the name she thought she had given him) the final obstacle to overcome was; would she be an intrusion in his life. Ultimately she decided that this could only be answered after locating Michael...so she placed a small ad in the Kansas City paper. This ad was answered by myself for KCAA0. After talking to Ann, it was decided she should journey to Kansas City to do a systematic search. The week that Ann was in Kansas City, the adoptees had three people meet with her. Ann visited with Catholic Charities, St. Mary's Hospital, St. Anthony's and a few other places in search of bits of information. Many hours were spent going through old copies of the Daily Record and old City Directories until finally the family that adopted James surfaced.

James was Baptized "Paul" according to sources at Catholic Charities. As it turned out we talked to people all around him from age 8 up until military age at which time everyone lost contact. It was very exasperating to be so close and yet not be able to make contact.

Well, this brings us full cycle on the very condensed story of the search for James (aka Michael, aka Paul). Both parties were elated in the outcome and have shared much via Ma Bell. They have scheduled a reunion for the first week of October.

Two weeks ago, Tom and I had the opportunity to visit with Jan Kimbrough, of KMBC's PM Magazine and they are now very interested in doing a segment on our group, but need a real live reunion to film in order to make it interesting. If you are interested, let Tom or me know.

We also had a conference with Commissioner David Kierst, September 17th. He seems willing to help in any way possible. He is bound by the law of confidentiality, but will answer your questions on non-identifying information to the best of his ability. These requests must be in writing. It is my opinion and also that of Tom's that if you contact Commissioner Kierst by letter, and communicate with him on a non-advisory basis, you would be more likely to have your communication answered.

Like most governmental officials, Commissioner Kierst often finds himself involved in more things than he can give his personal attention, effectively. It is for that reason he has a staff. The Commissioner informed us that, contrary to popular believe, there is no standing order in his office...that adult adoptee communication be interrupted by any individual. The Commissioner further informed us that any individual who believes he has located a natural relation (mother, father, etc.) can correspond with him. He will confirm or deny the validity of your information, in order that he might prevent an embarrassing situation.

The Serenity Prayer

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things that I cannot change.....
the courage to change the things that I can, and
the wisdom to know the difference.*



Holston Methodist Home

INCORPORATED

CONTINUOUS SERVICES SINCE 1895

RICHARD N. ROE, B.S., M. DIV.
Executive Director

P.O. BOX 188
GREENEVILLE, TENN.
37743
PHONE (615) 638-4171

January 3, 1979

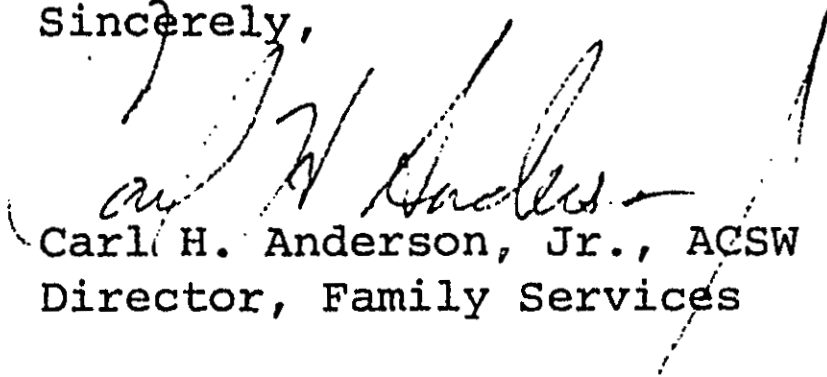
The Tom Allington Family
4336 Jarboe
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Dear Allingtons:

The video tape did very well and we are looking forward to using it to educate our adoptive couples. We have had many compliments about the news coverage and your story has thrilled many people. We are particularly happy about the church involvement of your families and your crediting a living Jesus for this "modern day miracle."

Your sharing with us your story truly has given us a Merry Christmas and reason to look forward to a Happy New Year. We wish that all adopted children could experience the same success and happiness in life.

Sincerely,


Carl H. Anderson, Jr., ACSW
Director, Family Services

CHA/gao

Enclosures

CHAPLAIN
Kenneth C. Verran, B.A., M. Div., M.A.
MRS. EUGENIA BEWLEY CENTER
David E. Long, B.S., M.S.W., A.C.S.W.,
Director

FAMILY SERVICES
Carl H. Anderson, Jr., B.S., M.S.S.W., A.C.S.W., R.C.S.W.
Director

MRS. E.E. WILEY CENTER
Arthur S. Masker, B.S., M.S.,
Director
Robert P. Bradford, A.S., B.S.,
Supervisor, Group Homes

480

