

Open A.R.M.S. Quarterly

CAN WE HELP YOU SEARCH FOR SOMEONE?

VOL. 1 No. 2

NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA

SUMMER, 1981

AAC Convention 'Puts it All Together' at K. C.

"Open Minds and Open Records" was the motto and "Unity" was the theme throughout the four days of the 1981 *American Adoption Congress* held May 28 - 31 at Kansas City, KS under the able direction of Tom Al-

lington and his group, "The Kansas City Adult Adoptees Organization"

An impressive array of speakers pounded away at doors locked against adoptees and their birth families and

pleaded for unification of search/support groups within the adoptive search movement.

The impact of the conference was clear when representatives of the nine national regions emerged from their respective meetings — bleary-eyed and exhausted — in the wee hours of the morning, but none-the-less smiling triumphantly as they displayed their ratification of the proposed by-laws paving the way for unification into a national organization.

Officers elected to head the newly-formed organization were Penny Callan Partridge, president; Tom Allington, vice president; Pat Burlingame, secretary, and Heidi Taylor, treasurer.

The *Open ARMS Quarterly* was selected as the national news organ for the AAC at the conference.

Strength, determination and a renewed dedication pervaded the entire conference. If AAC'81 is an indication of the attitudes prevailing through-out the adoptive community, there is no doubt that the next few months will hold changes which we dared not even dream of in the past.

THANKS . . .

To each and every one in attendance at the AAC Conference last week . . . *THANK YOU!* The opportunity to meet so many of you and learn from you . . . the inspiration which you provided . . . the enthusiasm you radiated . . . the dedication which you displayed touched my wife and me beyond words.

Thank you for choosing the *Open Arms Quarterly* as "our voice to the world". Most of all, thank you for allowing me to become a part of something in which I so strongly believe.

My sincere apology for having to leave before the conclusion of the conference. The printer's deadline for this issue had been established, and that deadline had to be met.

May God bless us all in our newly-combined efforts.

— Bob O'Dell

Why Do So Few Search . . . ?

Statistics compiled in 1978 tell us that there are well over 5 million adoptees in the U.S. today. Some very simple logic leads us to the conclusion that in most of these instances, there are two birth parents, two adoptive parents, an undisclosed number of brothers, sisters and other relatives. The number of people who have a "stake" in the U.S. Adoptive Search Movement has to be in excess of 25 million; roughly 10 percent of the total U.S. population.

Where are They?

Don't let anyone tell us that adoptees aren't curious about their biological roots. We can't believe for an instant that birth parents simply relinquish a child with never an afterthought. Adoptive parents are not so naive as to think that the child they reared, nurtured and educated can live a lifetime without that question of identity gnawing at their insides.

WHY, then, in this arena of such great interest are so few actively participating and so very many standing on the sidelines enviously watching their counterparts in action on the field?

Why Don't More Search?

Are we still inhibited by the centuries old stigma surrounding birth out of wedlock and adoption? Hopefully, in the 1980's we have progressed to a point where a person is adjudged, not by conception or background, but rather by the quality of that human being NOW. Do we fear the outcome of our search? Many outside the adoptive community and, unfortunately, even some within our midst, are of the opinion that anything less than a blissful tears-of-joy reunion is the disastrous end to a search, NOT SO! The primary pur-

pose of initiating a search is to gain information. True, each of us may hope for the development of personal, emotional relationships, but these factions are merely a bonus to a search which has yielded a degree of desired information.

Are we afraid to "get involved"? Recent attitudes indicate that fear of involvement may be a major obstacle facing the search movement. Certainly, most of us have enough to deal with on a daily basis without dedicating countless time and dollars to a search effort; but we all know our own resources and are quite capable of deciding upon the extent to which we are willing to become "involved"! Sadly, too many people hold pre-conceived notions about the time and expense necessary to participate in a search, and without another question, conclude that their involvement would be too great a burden. Before reaching such a conclusion, each should take time to check with someone who knows. *Open A.R.M.S.* provides information about adoption search support groups in every region of the U.S., and can help gather the information needed to help the person decide for him/her self whether or not to search, and the extent to which that person wants to become involved in the search. An individual's personal search might range in scope from the hiring of an investigative firm to a simple registration with a computerized matching firm, or a "search Ad" in this publication.

Each of us has the opportunity to become involved in a search at whatever level we see fit for ourselves. The point is that each of us should exercise that opportunity and "get involved" at some level.

Just a Word . . .

Thanks to your response to the first issue, the *Open A.R.M.S. Quarterly* is "off and running". With only one exception, your calls and written comments have been enthusiastic and supportive. I deeply appreciate the words of encouragement included in many of your letters, and the confidence which you have shown by sending me your subscriptions and "Search Ads". That confidence and financial support have made this second issue possible.

Obviously, a publication of this type will become truly effective ONLY when it has reached the point at which its name, purpose and method are as well known and understood as the term "adoption" itself. To make use of this newsletter, people must first know of its existence. It must be widely advertised, not only within the active adoptive community, but throughout the U.S. and the world.

So many outside our ranks stand ready either to search or to be found, but have not yet identified the method they wish to use. *Open A.R.M.S.* introduces an all new and unique "Search" technique; a technique which demands very little time or money of the searcher.

It is difficult to imagine that any adoptee, adoptive parent or birth parent who is aware of this publication could let even one issue go by without carefully checking the ads section to see if they might be the object of someone's search. As a searcher myself, I certainly open each of your letters with bated breath.

We need to let the world know just what we are doing. When *Open A.R.M.S.*, through your support, has reached the financial capability, a nation-wide advertising campaign will be launched aimed at recruiting hundreds of thousands who are not presently active, but who have reason to search, and may view the *Open A.R.M.S.* concept as their answer to a search method. As the number of people joining our cause increases, so does the probability that each of us will successfully conclude our search.

I am pleading with everyone to become involved. Send me your ads and subscriptions. If you, yourself, have no reason to search, give this copy to someone who might use it. Send me a name and address and I'll mail a complimentary copy of *Open A.R.M.S.* to someone you know who might wish to initiate a search.

If you belong to a search group,

Anonymous Mailing Service Available

If you would like to respond to an ad in *Open A.R.M.S.*, but haven't done so because you don't wish to reveal your identity or address, *Open A.R.M.S.* can help. Place your correspondence in a sealed envelope. On the face of that envelope, write the name and address of the person to whom you wish the letter mailed. (Where only an identification number is given in an ad, write that number on the BACK of the envelope.) Place the required postage stamp on the envelope. Enclose the sealed letter in a second envelope along with \$1 for handling and address the outer envelope to: *Open A.R.M.S.* Dept. "C", P.O. Box 1522 - North Platte, NE 69101. *Open A.R.M.S.* will re-mail the enclosed letter to the address of I.D. number specified and the envelope will not bear your local postmark.

Open A.R.M.S. also makes it possible for two parties to correspond without either revealing their identity or address. This anonymous contact may continue for as long as desired.

Details are available by writing to: *Open A.R.M.S.* at the above address.

**READ THE ADS
IN THIS ISSUE!**

●
**SEND YOUR AD
FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE!!**

contact your local newspaper. Ask that they publish an article telling your community of the purpose, activities and resources available through your organization. Ask for public response to the article. *Recruit, Recruit, Recruit!* The person who becomes involved through your efforts may be the person I am searching for. Possibly, the person whom I persuade to join the cause is the very person you wish to contact.

At any rate, we need to *work together* and direct our efforts toward a goal which is of such great importance to each of us.

Can we count on you?

Will you submit your ad for publication in the Fall issue?

Think it over carefully and please join us if you can.

Best wishes and God Bless. . .

Bob O'Dell

Open A.R.M.S. Advertising Section

The Search Ad Section

The advertisements appearing in this section of the *Open Arms Quarterly* have been submitted by adoptees, birth parents, friends relatives and other interested parties. The *Open Arms Quarterly* will not be held responsible for authenticity or misrepresentation.

How to use the "Search Ads"

Each of the ads in this section is listed under *The month of birth of the adoptee*. Other information such as race, sex, exact (or approximate) date of birth, place of birth, etc., is included within each individual ad. The identifying data is sufficient in most cases to assist the reader in determining whether or not the possibility of relationship exists between the advertiser and the reader.

The Name Search Section

Open Arms has received a number of requests to publish ads which may involve neither adoptees nor birth parents. These ads have been listed in the "Name Search" section. Ads which appear in this section have been submitted by individuals or organizations who are in search of a person whose name is known, but not enough other information is available to locate that person. Typical ads in this section have been placed by genealogical groups, parents of run-a-way children or someone in search of a lost relative or friend.

To Reply to an Ad

1. Simply address your correspondence to the address listed in the ad, or follow any given instructions in the ad regarding telephone contact.

2. Where only an *Identification number* is given, address your correspondence to:

OPEN ARMS

P. O. Box 1522

North Platte, NE 69101

Include the identification number given in the ad on the back of your envelope. *Open Arms* will forward your *unopened* letter to the advertiser.

SEARCH ADS

JANUARY

White male, born January 14, 1917 San Leandro Hospital - Oakland, California, Birth name: Sammel Louis Walters. Seeking contact with brother or sisters. Reply: #1001011417

White female, born January 16, 1961 Memorial Hospital - Casper, Wyoming. Seeks birth mother, brother, other relative or friends. PLEASE! Reply: Becky Eaton, No. 2 Hutton Heights - Trl. Ct. Green River, Wyoming 82935

White male, born January 8, 1956 Bethesda Hospital - St. Louis, Missouri. Adopted through Family and Children's Service of St. Louis. Seeking birth mother. Reply: Douglas Carter Murphy 4431 Travis, #105 - Dallas, TX 75205

Birth mother wishes contact with adoptive parents of white male born January 9, 1968 at General Hospital - Minneapolis, MN. Anonymous correspondence provided. Reply: *Open A.R.M.S. Dept. "C"* P.O. Box 1522 - North Platte, NE 69101 2020010968

Birth mother seeking contact with white male born January 16, 1944 Georgia University Hospital - Augusta, GA. Birth name: Walter P. Thomas II. Please reply: Jeanne Mellis 10166 118th Avenue N. - Largo, FL 33540 (telephone: 813/398-1116)

Birth mother seeking white female, born January 24, 1960 at St. Mary's Hospital (5:55 p.m.) Green Bay, WA. Birth name Jean Ann. Adopted in August 1961 also in Wisconsin. Reply: Audrey Besaw Box 3604 - Green Bay, WI 54303

White female born January 26, 1912 in Cleveland, OH seeking birth parents, relatives or anyone having information. Birth name: Verna Carle or Craw or Givings. Birth parents believed living in the Corry PA area prior to birth of adoptee. Reply: P.O. Box 424 - Perrysburg, OH 43551

Birth father seeking white male born January 1968 in San Francisco, CA. Unwed mother's assumed name: "Shy". Birth unknown to me until years later. Child placed for adoption at birth or soon afterward. Reply: #2031010068

FEBRUARY

White male, born February 25, 1938 Fairmont Home - Kansas City, Missouri. Birth Name: Donald Hall. Seeking birth parent(s), relatives or anyone having information. Reply: #1023022538

White female, born February 27, 1931 in New York, NY, abandoned in Bronx on May 3, 1932 with Catherine D'Alessandro on 155th Street. Searching for birth mother, relatives or anyone having information. Reply: 1114 Modesto Avenue - Camarillo, CA 93010

White female born February 3, 1960 - Los Angeles, CA, seeking birth mother (born August 3, 1941 in Santa Monica, CA); Sister: Katherine Lorraine (believed to be in Ohio, born March 1961). Brother: Christopher (born March 1964). All children given up for adoption in El Paso, TX. Birth mother's name believed to be Judy Patricia. Please reply: #1042020360

White female born February 2, 1950 in Omaha, NE, placed through an Omaha children's home. Wish to contact birth mother. Anyone having information please reply: #1025020250

MARCH

Half-sister seeking **Grace Fuller Prince**, born prior to 1912, daughter of Elsie Cumpston Fuller Hager. Last known in Colorado. Reply to: R.L. Krigegeger - Rt. 1 - Atkinson, Nebraska 68713

Birth mother seeks white male, born March 12, 1944 - Denver Colorado. Anyone having information please reply: Mrs. D.R. Garcia 686 So. Patton Ct. - Denver Colorado 80219

Birth mother seeks white female born March 22, 1971, Bartow Memorial Hospital - Bartow, Florida. Anyone having information please reply: Charlene Pruitt, 4001 E. Rd. 542 - Lakeland, Florida 33801

White female, born March 24, 1943 in Montgomery, Kentucky seeks birth parents, Rhoda Hicks or relatives. Reply: Jane Shaffer, 620 N. 6th St. - Burbank, California 91501

Birth mother seeking white female born March 26, 1961 Michael Reese Hospital and adopted through Jewish Family Services - Chicago, IL. Reply: CUB P.O. Box 42587 - Houston, TX 77042

White female born March 17, 1958 - Peoria, IL. Seeks birth parents or relatives. Please reply: Caron Chelmen 10550 Lyndale Avenue S. - Bloomington, MN 55420

Birth mother of white female born March 3, 1966 in Philadelphia, PA wants to let it be known that she is available to daughter and adoptive parents. Daughter's birth name: Lisa Linke. Place of birth: Booth Salvation Army Home for unwed mothers. Adoption through Lutheran Family Services. Actual birth date may have been March 2,3,or 4. Reply: Robin Linke Wilson 11 Sweetbriar Lane - Chapel Hill, NC 27514 or #2036030366

White female born March 1, 1951 at Greenpoint Hospital - Brooklyn, NY seeks contact with birth father and half-sister. Half-sister also thought to have been born in Brooklyn area in 1940's. Birth mother's name: Emily Marino. Anyone having information please reply: #2032000040

White female, born March 21, 1954 - Shreveport, LA. Birth name: Rebecca Ann Feazell. Adopted through Catholic Charities - St. Ann's Infant Home. Seeking birth mother or relative. Please reply: Angela R. Propst 1621 12th Street - Lake Charles, LA 70601 or #1044032154

White female born March 22, 1943 - New Orleans, LA Touro Infirmary, adopted through Protestant Home for Babies. Seeking birth mother whose last name was peterson. Anyone having information, please reply: J.N. Miller 221 Broadway Street - New Orleans LA 70118

APRIL

Birth mother seeks white female born April 25, 1965 - Southfield, MI Providence Hospital. Adopted through Catholic Charities in Chicago, IL. First name is known to be Cindy. Information which I have, indicates that she has left the home of her adoptive parents. Please reply: Joan Arnette Route 1 - Cameron, WI 54822 (telephone: 715/458-4883)

White female born April 5, 1943 Charity Hospital - New Orleans, LA. Birth name Linda Lee Allen. Wishes contact with birth parents. Birth mother has been told that adoptee died in infancy. Anyone having information please reply: Linda Squyres P.O. Box 10365 - Houston, TX 77206

White female born April 23, 1925 Los Angeles, CA. Birth name: Norma May Kittrell. Seeking birth mother, relatives or friends. Anyone having information please reply: Juanita Hovis 4278 Via San Jose - Riverside, CA 92504

Birth mother wishes contact with white male born April 24, 1959 St. Joseph Hospital - Flint, MI. Anyone having information please reply: B.A. Murphy G-4166 Richfield Road - Flint, MI 48506

NAME SEARCH

Seeking to contact Robert W. **Atherton**. Age: 39-41. Attended college in Georgia in 1961 or 62. Anyone with information reply: #2019000000

Desire contact with Mrs. Augustine **Battin**. Last known to be in Iowa City, Iowa in 1946. Reply: #1006051546

Hope to contact parents of Eve Natile **Devine**. Last known address in Minnesota. Reply: #2019052179

Wish to contact Maurine **Eller**. Last known address was Casper, Wyoming in about 1961. Reply: #1002011661

Wish to contact William Adam **Fulton**. Reportedly born in Richmond, Indiana. Age, aprox. 50. Last known to be with U.S. Navy - Jacksonville, Florida. Reply: #1021121750

Wish to contact David Malcolm **Gorman**. Born March 12, 1944 in Denver, Colorado. Reply: #2004031244

Wish to contact Aline **Hall**. Last known address - Kansas City, Missouri in 1938. Approx. 60 years-of-age now. Reply: #1023022538

Adoptee whose birth name was Mary Delora **Hill**. Born May 1, 1946 in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Seeks to contact birth parents or anyone having information. Reply: #1005050146

Hope to contact David Cordell **Keenum**. Born July 22, 1959 in Gadsden, Alabama. Reply: #2016072259

Would like to contact Joseph "Pete" **Macri**, approx. 50 years-of-age. Last known living in New York. Reply: #1017090254

Want to contact Joanne **McPherson**. Born January 19, 1936 in Martinez, California. Present first name is Marilyn. Reply: #2002011936

Would like to hear from Marilyn **Milligan** who left home on June 17, 1977. Was born on May 19, 1966 in Richomnd, Missouri. Reply: #2010051966

Searching for Grace Fuller **Prince**. Last known to be living in Colorado. Born approx. 1912 in Nebraska. Reply: #2003031212

Adoptee named Virginia Katherine **Tubbs** at birth, born November 8, 1924 in Dallas, Texas, wishes to contact brother, sister or relatives. Reply: #1018110824

Wish to contact Jesse Arvel **Waldrop** who is originally from Missouri. Known to have been in California in late 1940's. Reply: #1004042947

Wish to contact Barbara LaVerne **Howell**. Married name thought to be **Greene**. Reply: #1024010856

Wish to contact Sheridan Lee (Sherri) **Venners Allan** or James **Allen**. Both were entertainers. (singer and dancer). Last known address 255 W. 92nd Street - New York, NY. Known to have been in the New Orleans, LA area in spring and early summer of 1943. Please check local telephone directories and notify if sur-name of **Venners** appears in your directory. Please reply: #1028040543

Wish to contact Jessie **Kittrell**. Born in Missouri, known to have been in Los Angeles, CA area in spring of 1925. Anyone having information please reply: #1026042325

Wish to contact John **Comer**, age approximately 60. Was employed as a roofer in California or Washington. Anyone having information please reply: #1030050345

Wish to contact Dorothy **Simms-Reed**, (Mrs. Vernon). Relatives, friends or anyone having information please reply: #1041102344

Wish to contact Stephen Franklin **Buck**, born 1908 to Frank and Mary Zurn at Harrisburg, PA. Relatives or anyone having information please reply: #1040000032

Hope to contact relatives, friends or anyone having information regarding Teresa Mary **Griffen-Ward**, born about 1912 and left at the New York Foundling Hospital at birth. Now deceased. Reply: #1040000032

Wish to contact Buster **Patterson**, age approximately 54, last known whereabouts was the Galesburg, IL area. Anyone having information please reply: #1029102449

Wish to contact Geraldine **Feazell**. Last known to be in Shreveport LA area in middle 1950's. Reply: #1044032154

Wish to contact anyone having information about Marie **Ferrigno/Ferringo**. Known to be in New York City in early 1930's. Possibly acquainted in the Bronx. Reply: #1045022731

