

Southwest Missouri Adult Adoptees Assoc.

Co-Founders

Elizabeth A. Ward
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F E B R U A R Y - 1981
N E W S L E T T E R

\$5.00 subscription (per year)

Co-Founders

Mary Lou Graham
Rt. #5, Box 172
Joplin, MO. 65801
1-417-623-2503

Welcome to our "Family"! We always happy to try to do whatever we can to help you in your searches. Our newsletter comes out following our meeting, which is held the 2nd Sat. of each month at one of the Public Libraries (check calander) in Springfield, Mo. The public is cordially invited to attend.

1/23/81 - The Phil Donahue Show - was re-run here. Topic: reuniting adopted children with birth parents. The Ch. 3 people willingly ran a blip across the TV screen for us 4 times during the 1 hr. show. The SW Mo. community response was overwhelming. So far we have nearly 40 inquiries locally. Then 1/30/81 Mary Lou ran the blip on the Pittsburg, Ks. station and she began getting phone calls, too, following the show there. We have heard from a cross section of people involved in some way.

1/15/81 @ 1:45 P.M. eight of our members attended a meeting with Greene Co. Social Services Supervisors. It lasted 2 1/2 hours and Director, Miss Jean Heyle, was in attendance. Everyone, on both sides, came away feeling as though many avenues of communication were opened. Elizabeth Ward gave a 15-minute prepared address, followed by a "rap" session. Our Firth Grandmother was allowed to tell her story, and came across very effectively. Our Adoptive Mother who is presently searching for her 27-year-old sons family, had a chance to give her opinions and outlook on this issue. Several adopted adults also spoke to various points @ issue, and a spouce-of-an-adoptee was there and voiced opinions. Miss Heyle remarked, at the close of the meeting, that she felt out organization be a great help to them and they would be intouch with us and perhaps would be setting up other meetings for more work on understanding how they could more effectively serve to open communication among all members of The Adoption Triangle. Those attending were: Zee Dietrich, Daniel Campbell, Thelma Agee, Gwe Richards, Beverally Baltz, Jean Nivens, Joan Arvates, Elizabeth Ward.

Since that meeting our organization has received 4 referrals from Family Services. We feel this is a giant step in the right direction and hope to continue to build on this foundation. Greene County does allow "birth" parents to enter into their child's file an information sheet updating info. about the "Birth" family, and asking for the proper communication to be made when the adoptee comes to them wishing contact.

Approx. 75 newsletters were mailed out for January, and 195 will be mailed out for February.

We mailed a manila envelop full of letters to JoAnn Waggoner in KCre:SB177. Copies of those letters were kept for our permanent files. Copies of the same letters were mailed to Sen. Paul Bradshaw here in town. Sen. Bradshaw is now Chairman of the Judiciary Com. before this bill will be heard in Feb. He received a letter from SMAAA on 1/29 requesting a formal meeting with him. If you did not have an opportunity to write your letter yet, please do so now and mail to: JoAnn Waggoner

PO Box 17770

Kansas City, Mo. 64134

Your letter should be hand-written! Each letter you write represents 100 people who felt that way, and did not write. Our legislators know this when they read your letters. Don't even underestimate your ability to help change things!

For those who would like to get together between meetings in a group and "rap" about positive and negative feelings relating to birth and adoptive family, and dealing with them. Contact Eliz. Ward or Zee Dietrich (833-9531). We are open to any suggestions that might be helpful for you in dealing with feelings about searching or other things.

REMINDER: Those of you who have clippings and magazine articles, please get them to SW for our Verticle Files. We are trying to build a library.

Anyone from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri may borrow materials, tapes, magazines, books, video tapes, articles, for 21 days. Their address:

Region VII Adoption Resource Center
University of Missouri
124 Clark Hall
Columbia, Missouri 65211
1-134-882-6091 or 882-4707

Anyone may write for a catalogue of available information. This will be a tremendous asset for our group.

Also for those of you who have not paid dues to Terry or myself, please do so. They are due from January to January. \$10. per year full membership
\$5. per year (newsletter only).

We are going to be trying to keep the price of our membership down by collecting donations at each meeting. For those who are wondering about our newsletter price this applies only to those who live such a distance that can not travel to attend the meetings in person. Those other groups who send us a newsletter will be continued on our list. For other people who request information, we will mail you 7 newsletters. If, at that time you have not attended, or mailed a donation to cover the cost, you will be discontinued from the mailing list. We regret it say we can not continue to handle the inc. postage with no donations, since our postage is increasing by the day! We will TRY our best to mail you a newsletter that will be worthy of your membership, and will always be open to changes or suggestions. Our newsletter is, in part, a composite of other newsletters across the nation. We do not stand alone, and must be informed on action and projects elsewhere, if we are to survive and grow. Memberships will be January to January. They will be mailed to: Elizabeth Ward Rt. #2, Oak Crest Estates, Rogersville, Mo. 65742 or Terry Branscom, 2154 E. Walnut, Springfield, Mo. 65802.

Our officers: Elizabeth Ward - President
Zee Dietrich - Secretary
Terry Branscom - Treasurer

This is a temporary slate of officers. Yearly elections will be held in April, prior to National Congress in Kansas City. Let us know what we can do for you.

Independant Search Consultants
7571 Westminster Ave.
Westminster, California, 92683

Pat Sanders: Executive Director states "...a professional association for those assisting in adoption related searches. Affiliated consultants may work independant or may be associated with search and support groups. Very basically, ISC consultants work with individuals who need very specialized search help or who do not care to be involved in a group situation. Some chg. hourly fees, others donate all of their time. ISC certifications provides a "professional" stamp of approval to consultants, insuring their competence and ability to help in the search. ISC requests a stamped-self-addressed envelop.

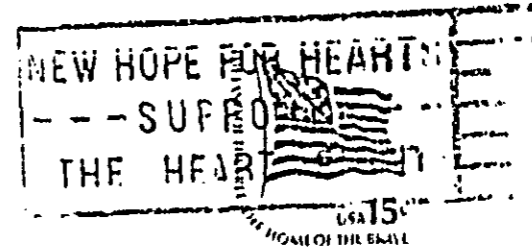
Social Security Death Benefits: not available to adoptees with many "ifs" besides the usual stipulations placed on the claimants (under 18 or student til 22); the deceased worker must have the required time in; yet, if adopted by others than Worker's spouse other than relative the adoptee may still be qualified. Benefits are retroactive for 12 monthes only. The retention by SOCIAL SECURITY in Miami, Florida for this unusual request was admirable...yet untried in Mo.

Birthparents who have relinquished children over age 4 are ask to write to:
January Roberts
PO Box 1212
Madison, Conn. 06443
She is doing graduate work bases on this...

SW Missouri Adult Adoptees
c/o Elizabeth A. Ward
Rt. #2, Oak Crest Estates
Rogersville, MO 65742

Our group is really beginning to see much positive effort toward searching. We have had 2 successful reunions and 2 who have made contact with families. We have over 90 local people with 74 searches going...just since beginning October 1. Most publicity and awareness has come since Dec. 4. We feel very good about our progress, and want to invite YOU to join with us in our "fellowship". Our next meeting is March 14th. Mark your calanders now, and plan to attend!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We hope you find this newsletter to be informative.



Triadoption Library
7571 Westminster...#6
Westminster, California
92683

"An unmarried 21-year-old man has filed a paternity suit in an attempt to gain custody of his 13-month-old son, saying he is unwilling to lose track of the only blood relative he knew. Airman 1st Class Jeff Claypool, who was adopted himself, filed the unusual court action after he learned his son, Michael, was about to be given up by the boy's mother... 'Every time I go home on leave and see him I can't help but cry... because he knows who his father is,' he said. 'And everytime I go see him it is just out of this world. It is just something that makes your whole body feel good, knowing that there is some body with your own blood out there in the world.'"

Other's Day forthcoming, many of our
 es and birthparents think back and
 write things down. I am sharing a couple
 with you in hopes you, too, can relate to
 them and pass along these to those you
 know will be moved by them.

To My Daughter on Mother's Day

by JoAnne Swanson

Twenty years ago,
 You and I spent Mother's Day together.
 Of course you don't remember,
 For you were only half-formed in my womb.
 I weep today, as I remember that day's
 tears,
 Knowing that the next Mother's Day
 You would cling to another woman's breast.
 And how vivid is the memory
 Of the few agonizing moments
 I stood and studied your tiny face
 Through the nursery window.
 How I wanted to hold you then!
 How I want to hold you now!
 And, looking back, how I despise
 my cowardice,
 When society, by virtue of its virtues
 Declared that I, for being rejected
 by my father,
 Was unworthy of mothering you!
 If I loved you, they said,
 I would let you go.
 Oh, how I loved you!
 So I succumbed,
 Too weak to fight the current.
 Firstborn child—only daughter—
 Have you any Mother's Day love for me?
 Or did your instinctive love,
 Unable to understand,
 Unable to forgive,
 Withdraw from me forever,
 Even as the ink was drying
 On that cold, heartless document
 I trembled to sign so many years ago?

NEWSLETTER CREDITS:

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From an Adoptee to Her Mother

Almost 42 years ago on May 16, 1938, in Memphis, Tennessee you gave me life. This event forced you to make the hardest decision of your young life, therefore, soon afterwards, we parted as mother and daughter.

Years went by and then at age 18, I too, found the joys and love, of Motherhood, and I too was alone. At this point, however, our lives took different paths—my son and I together soon found a family—father, brothers, and sisters.

As time passed, I felt your presence often, forgetting came hard, but understanding and forgiveness—easily. I questioned reasons—and your whereabouts—I never questioned your love. Each Mother's Day I've said a prayer and wished you well. This year, I too, shall come to know the happiness of becoming a Grandmother. Do you know, somehow, that you are soon to be a "Great" Grandma?

Today, I still don't know your name or who I am—your secret remains in some dark, unopened drawer—but I do know what I am—a fulfilled, happy woman and mother.

Thank You Mom—and Happy Mother's Day, 1930 wherever you are.

Love,
 Juliette

Any of you that would care to submit anything you have written to us, we will be happy to consider a place in up-coming Newsletters, and share a part of you with others. We always welcome any comments, suggestions, or written material for our file. We can't promise when it will be printed or return it to you so please send us a copy and keep the original for your own files.

I must get home by night

*As I look back across the years,
 I see myself again:
 A little girl away from home
 With darkness closing in.
 As soon as shadows streaked the sky
 With dying shades of light,
 My only thought was getting home
 Before the coming night.
 No other place in all the world
 Could even half compare
 To being home, secure and safe
 With loved ones gathered there.
 Well, many years have hastened by,
 And things are not the same.
 The old home place stands empty now,
 For God has made a claim;
 My loved ones still await my step
 But on a farther shore.
 The lights of home have dimmed now,
 As Earth prepares for war.
 Strange shadows move across our land.
 I smell the stench of sin.
 I find myself away from home
 With nighttime closing in;
 And how I long for home tonight!
 Almost the darkness turns;
 Almost I see the shoreline, Lord;
 And how my spirit yearns!
 I long for home! My final home!
 For sunrise without blight.
 It's growing dark so very fast!
 I must get home by night!*

—MARY MASON

For those of you who have the name of your delivering physician and did not know there was anything to be done with it or what it would be, you can write and request information from the following:

American Medical Association
535 N. Dearborn Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60610
C/O Microfilm Department.

State your request for PERSONAL FILE. They will mail you a computer read-out sheet with the following information: Name, address (last known), whether deceased or living, birthdate, medical education, primary, secondary, and tertiary specialties, board of certification, National scientific medical societies, professional appointment, whether a member of AMA (many were not), year graduated from school, and states he retained license to practice. They seem to keep updated records on all M.D.'s whether a member of AMA or not.

Expect two months for reply, be pleasantly surprised if response comes sooner!

For those of you who have been following with interest the case of the Missouri lady who could not get a birth certificate; the update is that on February 20 she finally got a birth certificate at the city level and from there (transposed names and all), located both parents, still living!! It turned out there were several siblings involved.

I frequently look for little sayings that might help me through the day when I get "down" or discouraged about things. I now have this one hanging by the phone in my kitchen and read it every time I look toward the phone (which rings 10-20 times a day at present)!

"I'm moving clouds today...tomorrow I'll try mountains."

I feel it reflects our endeavors and our intentions with regard to the Adoption Movement.

PLAN to ATTEND the NATIONAL in KANSAS CITY...MAY 29-31, 1981! LET'S ALL GET TOGETHER!!

The past is past

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:18,19, NIV).

*The past is past, nor should I dwell upon it
To hold its failures and mistakes in constant view.
Why let it paint the present and the future
In color tones of dark and deepest hue?*

*I cannot change the past, though I may wish to.
Our deeds time writes with ink that cannot be erased.
Each moment after moment slips so quickly
Into the past, with either joy or hurt or grace.*

*Yet all the past can yield to me its lessons;
From all its tangled wreckage God can help me learn.
O then with love for God and love for people,
I'll make my broken life to yield a good return.*

*The past is past; I shall not dwell upon it;
For God has promised to forgive and to forget.
The future's filled with glorious expectation;
O what the gracious God will do, I know not yet!*

—JOHN A. WRIGHT

A Clean Page

A child's life is a blank page.

*You, that child's parent, write upon it.
What will the first words be?*

"Shut up! Get out of my sight!"

"Look at the mess you've made!"

"Go play, don't touch."

"Now see what you've done!"

"Beat it! Scram!"

These words teach fear.

They register unkindness.

They say, "I don't love you."

Let your words teach gentleness and beauty.

Let them supply high moral principles,

Courage to meet life's disappointments.

Pride in a job well done.

Faith in a mighty God. Love.

"Beautiful, Son, you did a fine job."

"Come look at the lovely sunset."

"Do you know how this works?"

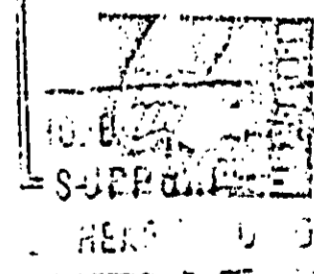
"Don't worry; we'll clean it up."

"What's a little dirt? Pants wash."

"Here. Feel it. Look at it closely."

"I'm so proud of you."

*When your child is grown, you will look at him
and see the words you wrote on that blank
page. Be proud of them.*



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Triadoption Library, Inc.
7571 Westminister Ave.
Westminister, Ga.

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