

# EXCHANGE

An independent newsletter published by the Adoption Research Project

Vol.1 No.1

September 1982

## Greetings!

This is the first issue of EXCHANGE, a newsletter designed to facilitate communication among individuals, groups and agencies interested in adoption issues and happenings.

EXCHANGE is an independent publication that depends on you the reader for survival. EXCHANGE is not affiliated with any particular group. It begins life as a quarterly but the number of issues per year will be determined by reader response. If there is none, EXCHANGE may be quietly buried with perhaps a tear or two of disappointment.

If you agree that there is a need for an exchange of information, please do respond. Send in your opinions, suggestions or news. Also your subscription, of course, to keep our exchange going.

Send copies of your own newsletters and items of interest to people in other areas will be reprinted in these pages.

EXCHANGE is intended to be an information vehicle that could help to develop unity and sharpen all our efforts to improve adoption and also post-adoption services.

Communication is better than isolation!

I'm taking a gamble with this first issue that the need for EXCHANGE is real. With your support and sharing of information, EXCHANGE can be a useful development in the field of adoption.

Let me know what you think.

*Clare Marcus*

Editor

## Teen Adoptees' Problems

Problems of the adolescent adoptee will be the focus of an adoption conference planned by the Victoria Branch, Adoptive Parents Association of B.C., at the University of Victoria, October 23. The one-day program opens at 9 a.m. and speakers include:

John Napier-Hemy, psychologist, foster parent and adoptive parent, on Predictable Crises in the Adopted Adolescent.

Richard Vedan, a native Indian social worker and teacher, on the cultural conflicts of native children growing up in Caucasian homes.

Bev Tansey, a family counsellor and adopted adult who has worked with other adoptees, on how feelings about adoption get translated into behavior.

Linda Paluck, adopted adult and president, Canadian Parent Finders Association of B.C., on the work and goals of that volunteer group.

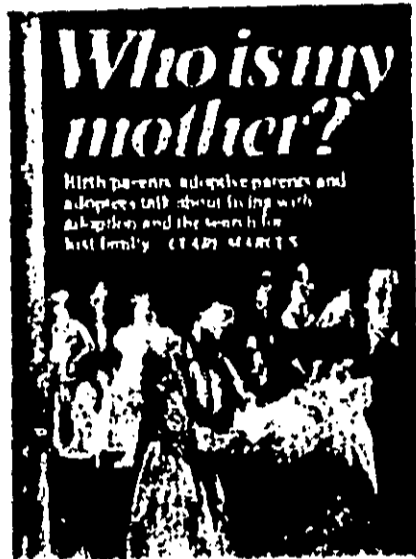
There is a registration fee of \$20 for individuals; \$25 for a couple or family; \$10 for members of the sponsoring group. To register or to obtain more information contact: Brenda McCreight, 2336 Belair Road, Victoria, B.C. V9B 3R1

KEEP THE POST OFFICE BUSY

What would you like to see included in future issues of EXCHANGE?

Your suggestions, questions, ideas or criticisms are welcome. Necessary, in fact. Reader input is important to an information exchange such as this newsletter hopes to be.

"This book is a must for anyone  
involved in the adoption triangle."  
- Midland Free Press



#### Who is my mother?

Adoptive parents, birth parents and adoptees talk about living with adoption...about the search for lost family...about the pain and joy that is part of adoption.

Clare Marcus  
240 pages \$14.95 hardcover

"A woman's plea for open lines  
in the adoption triangle."

- Victoria-Times Colonist

Available at bookstores or by mail  
from the author (add \$1.00 for  
mailing) Clare Marcus, 3231 Williams  
Road, Richmond, B.C. V7E 1H8

#### IN MEMORIAM

Jan Thompson, social worker, writer,  
and researcher, died July 28, 1981.  
Ms. Thompson worked in post-adoption  
services at the Children's Aid Soc-  
iety of Metropolitan Toronto and took  
part in several pioneer adoption re-  
search studies for the agency. She  
wrote extensively on those studies  
for a number of publications.

#### TALKING ABOUT ADOPTION: ACKNOWLEDGING "DIFFERENCE"

When a child is placed with a family for adoption, the parents are encouraged to tell that child of the adoption. Often, however, they are not advised on how to handle the inevitable questions that follow.

Margaret Edgar, a mother of six adopted children and a social worker, conducts seminars to help adoptive parents understand adoption.

Her next seminar will be sponsored by Richmond Family Services at South Arm Community Centre, 8880 Williams Road, Richmond, B.C., on October 23. The time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The seminar is limited to 20 registrants and the fee is \$30. Bring your own lunch.

#### REGISTRY POLICY

Canadian Parent Finders Association of B.C. now registers birth parents of adoptees under the age of 19, the legal age of majority in B.C. The new policy was made in response to many requests from parents who wish to register.

Search assistance is offered to adoptees, adoptive parents and birth relatives only when the adoptee in question is 19 or older, according to the Board of Directors.

For more information, contact CPFA of B.C. at 202-4381 Fraser St., Vancouver, B.C. V5V 4G4.

EXCHANGE is published four times a year as part of the Adoption Research Project, which is dedicated to enlightened adoption practice, post-adoption services, and greater understanding by all parties to adoption.

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## Intermediary Service

Politicians don't always procrastinate on policy decisions!

The new Saskatchewan government last spring wasted no time in packing up the NDP appointed Task Force to review a proposed intermediary service for adult adoptees and parents wanting reunion.

Patricia Smith, new Minister of Social Services, promptly announced the Cabinet approved policy. In brief:

- : Ministry staff do not help with reunion for adoptees under 18 years.
- : Reunion for adoptees 18 to 21 inclusive are facilitated only with the written consent of the adoptive parents.
- : Reunion for an adoptee over 21 years of age can be facilitated without the consent of the adoptive parents.
- : In either case, staff provide a discreet intermediary service to determine, among other things, whether the birth parent is agreeable to a reunion. If the parent refuses contact, under no circumstances will reunion be facilitated.
- : When a birth parent requests reunion it is recorded in a confidential registry. The request is not acted upon unless the adoptee in question also requests reunion.
- : In certain special instances, e.g. urgent medical conditions or settling inheritance matters, regardless of the age of the adopted person, the Minister may use her discretion to search adoption files and to contact parties in the adoption triangle as necessary.
- : A limited amount of non-identifying information about birth parents and adopted children may be released.

Smith said she will be considering whether the new policy should be contained in regulations rather than as departmental policy only.

To register or obtain the intermediary service, contact the Department of Social Services, 1920 Broad St., Regina, Sask. S4P 3V6

## ADOPTION CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

•• Parent Finders Inc. ••  
Fall Adoption Conference

NOVEMBER 18 - 21

PARK PLAZA HOTEL

TORONTO, ONTARIO

For details contact:

Bette Rayfield  
Conference Coordinator  
PFI Office, Seventh Flr.  
120 Eglinton Ave. East  
Toronto, Ont. M4P 1E2

## new groups

A new Parent Finders group has been formed in St. Catherines, Ontario and is reaching out for information in the adoption field.

"We would like to make contact with as many organizations as possible that are interested in the Adoption Triangle, thus enabling us to really get our group involved and moving on the right track," writes Margaret Hertzberger, secretary.

If you want to get in touch, the address is 146 Richmond Street, Thorold, Ont. L2V 3H4

The group meets the last Wednesday of each month at the Public Library in St. Catherines.

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After several attempts at organizing, Calgary, Alberta, also has a new group. Georgia Heard has organized the Parent Finders group there and an enthusiastic membership has had several meetings.

Mrs. Heard plans to obtain a post office box number. In the meantime, contact with this group can be made through the Department of Social Services in Calgary. EXCHANGE will keep you posted when an address is available.

Winter issue news deadline: Dec. 1

