



SEARCHLINE OF TEXAS QUARTERLY UPDATE

Spring
Edition

Volume I, Issue Number 1, April 26, 1982

Editor: M. Hermann

The environment fosters and selects;
the seed must contain the potentiality
and direction of the life to be selected.
George Santayana

rites of Birth: SEARCHLINE OF TEXAS

Searchline of Texas, Inc. is the inevitable outcome of Ed Mulder's and Pat Palmer's dedication to assisting persons separated by adoption, and their accumulated experience in effective search techniques. The two friends had been informally disseminating search information and personally assisting in searches for a long time, and in January of 1982, they acted on their recognition of the need in the North Texas area for an organized, effective and accessible search and support group. Searchline of Texas, Inc. was incorporated on January 17, 1982.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on January 17, 1982 with four charter members present. Officers were elected at this meeting: President: Ed Mulder, Vice President: Mary Beth Fitzgerald, Treasurer: Pat Palmer, Secretary: Marian Hermann.

A statement of purpose was approved by the Board members:

"We are a non-profit organization dedicated to expediting reunions between persons separated by adoption; promoting understanding of the adoption experience by the general public; the support of humane and uniform adoption practices; providing a support network for adoptees, adoptive parents and birthparents; promoting ethical standards of conduct among all adoption professionals; and the right of every adult adoptee to complete and accurate birth records and personal, genetic and medical information."

Basic operating policies were also decided upon at the meeting.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Ed Mulder: Co-founder, Member of the Board of Directors, President, Adoptee. Ed conducted his search during a one year time span; it was conducted long distance, and in a tightly closed records state. He found his birthmother, birthfather and siblings.

Mary Beth Fitzgerald: Member of the Board of Directors, Vice President, Adoptee. Mary Beth's search was notable because of its short duration and simplicity. She was reunited with her birthmother and siblings.

Pat Palmer: Co-founder, Member of the Board of Directors, Treasurer, Birthmother. Pat's search for her birthdaughter lasted a few months. Although Pat has found her, a reunion has not yet occurred.

Marian Hermann: Member of the Board of Directors, Secretary, Adoptee, Adoptive Parent. Marian's search for her birthmother was only four hours long; her search for her birthfather lasted for over two years. A brother was also found.

LOVE AND THANKS

This first issue of Searchline's QUARTERLY UPDATE is dedicated to a special lady who has worked with us tirelessly to facilitate over fifty reunions. We would like to offer her a lifetime, honorary membership in Searchline of Texas. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to BOBBIE M.! LOVE YOU, BOBBIE!!!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: MEETINGS

The Board of Directors will meet on Sunday, May 16 at 1:00pm at 725 Burnwood Dr., Irving, TX, 75062.

The general membership meeting will be held immediately following the Board meeting, at 1:30pm.

This departure from policy was necessary because our usual meeting day fell on Mother's Day.

MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT 725 BURNWOOD

Searchline of Texas' Board of Directors will meet every second Sunday of the month at 1:00pm at 725 Burnwood Dr, Irving. This meeting is usually open to only members of the Board, but special arrangements may be made by non board members to attend by contacting any board member one week in advance of the meeting.

General membership meetings, which are held on the second Sunday of each month at 1:30pm at 725 Burnwood Dr., Irving, are our member's opportunity to meet our consultants and to discuss any topic related to adoption: adoptive practices, adoptive parenting, the birthparent experience, search techniques, emotional aspects of search and reunion, and adoption legislation. Special projects to be undertaken by the membership are discussed at this time. Adoptive and birth relatives are welcome if arrangements are made at least one week in advance by contacting Pat Palmer at 258- 0372.

A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

Searchline of Texas has been contacted by ISC Publications with a request that we compile a genealogical resource book for their series of volumes, to be entitled Searching in Texas.

continued

(Call for assistance, continued)

This request is quite an honor and we are very proud.

We are asking for volunteer typists and researchers. If you can be of help in compiling and typing any of the following lists for the state of Texas, please call Pat at 258- 0372 or Marian at 530- 1328. Thanks!

- the major cemeteries
- colleges
- adoption agencies
- county and city offices
- hospitals
- libraries

A FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1- 17- 82 through 4- 1- 82

Expenses:

telephone	1836.79
newspaper ads	30.21
office supplies	50.00
incorporation fee	25.00
membership AAC	10.00
membership Open Arms	10.00
ISC certification	75.00
postage	<u>48.00</u>
total	2084.99

Income:

donations	295.00
packets	13.00
garage sales	423.65
membership fees	75.00
reimbursement on phone bill	<u>282.83</u>
total	1089.48
balance:	-995.51

A SPECIAL REQUEST

Please refrain from calling your consultant after 9:00pm and before 8:00am. We try to be available to you as often as our schedules permit, but we now find that we must limit our number of hours on the telephone to find time for our families.

FOUND! REUNITED!

/P.A. is a birthmother reunited recently with her son. The adoptive mother participated in the reunion, which included full brothers and sisters. Birthmother is still married to birthfather! / Cindy B. is an adoptee who searched for her birthmother. Her adoptive mother is dead, and she has little contact with her adoptive father. When contacted, her birthmother completely denied that she was Cindy's mother. / M.B. found her twin boys in another state. / H.B. searched for and found her son, but the adoptive parents informed her that he does not know he was adopted. / B.C. had already been reunited with a sister; we assisted in locating a brother. / Janie C. and Kathy B. had a reunion that occurred because of a one in a million chance phone call! The birthmother is a relative of one of the consultants, and when birth-daughter called (just beginning her search) our consultant knew she recognized the details! / J.C. was reunited with his brother. / Betty D. found her 78 year old birthmother, still living-- still denying. / P.D. located both of her birthchildren. / Sandra F. located a brother and sister, remarkably living within blocks of one another. / C.H. is having a difficult time accepting the outcome of her search: her birthmother had been murdered. / Lois H. was reunited with her birthmother despite the false names on the documents. / When D.H. found her birthmother, she also found her baby pictures on the piano in birthmom's living room. / Linda H. had a reunion with birthmother and brothers within hours after contacting a consultant. / Tom P. found 13 brothers and sisters and birthmother, despite the five possible spellings of her name! / H.H.'s birthfather took a six week leave of absence from work to visit her after she found him. / After searching 17 yrs., Sandra B. was reunited with birthmother and brother with our assistance. / Jo Ann was met at the airport by 6 brothers who had paid her airfare to reunion with birthmother and birthfather! / P.'s letter to her birthdaughter was intercepted by birthdaughter's husband who gave the letter to adoptive parents. / Eileen was shocked to discover her birth had been the result of incest. / Becky S. was the 5th sister we found for the other four. / Steven L. found birthmother and birthfather still married and 6 brothers and sisters. / Denise M. found her birthfather; he denied being her father. She discovered her mother and sister had suicided, but found two half brothers who were delighted to know her. /

SEARCHING... SEARCHING...

Search ads are welcome. The rate is 10¢ per word, payable to Searchline of Texas. Please address your request to Marian Hermann, 2929 Forest Park Dr., Garland, TX 75040. To respond to an ad, write to Searchline of Texas, 725 Burnwood Dr., Irving TX, 75062.

/Searching for my birthmother: ELEANOR LOUISE MORGAN. I was born around July 26, 1920 in Chicago and adopted through Catholic Charities. My birth name was MARIE ELAUDRA. /

/Anyone with information regarding my birthmother, ROBERTA IRENE MURRAY STONE, and sisters, DONNA JEAN, PHILLIS LORAIN and BEVERLY WAYNE STONE, please respond. All are from Ft. Worth, TX area; grandmother's name: EDITH LARA DAVIS, (female) /

/Looking for daughter surrendered at the Suerma Coleman Home in Indianapolis, Indiana. Birthdate is 6-23-62. /

/Searching for birthmother: ALDA McELROY, and birthfather: JAMES COLLINS. My birthname was VIRGINIA LEE COLLINS. Born in San Antonio on 1-11-32 at the Palm Maternity Hospital. Does anyone know anything about this hospital? /

/Birthmother looking for twin girls born 3-28-59, birthnames ANNA RAY AND FRANCIS RAY SMITH. Also looking for single girl born 4-10-58, named LINDA SMITH. Surrender was through welfare Dept. in OK /

/I was born 3-24-31 in Fort Worth. Looking for my birthmother RUBY WORTH. I am female. /

SEARCHING... SEARCHING...

/Woman looking for birth-mother MAE STRINGFELLOW. Birthdate 3- 7- 31 in Ft. Worth, TX./

/Male adoptee searching for birthmother VIRGINIA LEE FAULKNER VAUGHN, Born in TX. Has information there may be a brother or sister. Born 7- 7- 41 in Dallas an Parkland Hospital./

/Anyone with information about my birthmother LILLIE MURL KELLEY, born in Alabama, please reply. I was born female on 6- 31- 31 in Ft. Worth./

CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO

The American Adoption Congress' 1982 National Conference will be held in San Antonio, June 3rd through 6th. The conference is entitled PROGRESS IS: THE ADOPTION TRIAD UNITED. Those interested in attending are urged to write for details: Kathy Silber, Lutheran Social Services of TX, 615 Elm St. at McCullough, San Antonio, TX, 78202.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We hope to expand Searchline's QUARTERLY UPDATE so that it may function as a communications forum for shared ideas, experiences, solutions to problems and search strategies for all members of the adoption triad.

Your input is encouraged, and actively recruited. Please write us with your responses to what you read; send us your poetry, essays, free writings, and also your questions. We are adoptees, birthparents and adoptive parents; we may have encountered the same problem or difficulty you are facing now. We will try to respond in a creative, responsible and caring way to your needs.

SEARCHLINE'S QUARTERLY UPDATE

Marian Hermann, Editor
2929 Forest Park Drive
Garland, TX 75040

To Join Searchline:
clip and send with the one time membership fee of \$25.00:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Are you an adoptee, birthparent, adoptive parent, or professional?

How may we assist you? _____

(Mail to Searchline of Texas, 725 Burnwood Drive, Irving, TX 75062.)

SEARCHLINE OFFERS:

Search consultation for those seeking reunion with relatives separated by adoption, support for all members of the adoption triad, referral to search groups in other states, a reading list of materials in current adoption thought, absolute honesty and confidentiality, a once a month meeting to meet and share with others, and the subscription to QUARTERLY UPDATE. Please join now!

TO SUBSCRIBE ONLY:

Rate is \$7.00 per year. Send your request to Marian Hermann, Editor, at the above address.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Ed Mulder 214- 526- 6104

Pat Palmer 214- 258- 0372

Mary Beth Fitzgerald 214-385-9916

Marian Hermann 214- 530- 1328

Searchline Of Texas QUARTERLY UPDATE

Summer
Edition

Volume 1, Issue Number 2, July 30, 1982

Editor: Pat Palmer

NOTES FROM SEARCHLINE:

First, our apologies for being so late with our newsletter. Our only excuse is that we have all been so busy with new searchers and have also had some personal changes in our lives at the same time. We will try to do better in the future.

Marian Hermann was our representative at the AAU Conference with an assist from Nancy O. A good time was had by all and Marian came back with some really funny stories about her trip. She also met a lot of new people and old friends. She will report on the conference at our next meeting.

In June instead of our regular meeting we had a combined social with the local CUB group. Everyone brought a dish and we all swam and talked and ate. Everyone enjoyed themselves and would like to do it again.

We had the pleasure of meeting with Pat Sanders of ISC right after the conference when she came to Dallas. Our board met with her and we also had a social swim and cook out. Again we talked and ate and swapped funny stories. Pat is a marvelous person and a really funny lady and we all loved meeting with her. Come again Pat.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: MEETINGS

The Board of Directors will meet on Sunday, September 18 at 1:00 PM at 725 Burnwood, Irving, Texas 75062.

The general membership meeting will be held immediately following the board meeting at 1:30 PM.

Again, we had to change the date because of the Labor Day Holiday and because we did not want our meeting to conflict with CUB's meeting.

LOVE AND THANKS:

This month's dedication is to Jo Ann Swanson. Jo Ann is the founder of Roots and Reunions in L'Anse, Mich. She has referred many searchers to us as well as giving us many valuable contacts and tips. Thanks Jo Ann for everything.

SEARCHING IN TEXAS

We are plugging along with our book "Searching in Texas" and have all the lists we need except the list of cemeteries and adoption agencies. If anyone can help with these lists, please let us know.

SPECIAL REQUEST-PART II

Please try to keep your calling hours at reasonable times. Our consultants are having a hard time juggling Searchline with our families. We realize some of you work and must call after 6:00 but please at least try not to call during the dinner hour or so late at night. Also, some of you are calling so early in the morning you are getting us out of bed. Also, please try to be considerate of the length of your phone calls. As much as we like visiting with you sometimes our time does not permit lengthy phone calls.

PUBLICITY:

For those of you who may have missed the write up, we had a story in the Dallas Times Herald recently. We had a lot of calls and a lot of favorable response to the article. Vivian Castleberry, the very sweet lady who wrote the article states that she did not receive one negative comment from the article which has to be some kind of record. Vivian has promised to keep in touch with us.

FUND RAISING IDEAS:

As you all probably realize Searchline is still operating in the hole. We simply must come up with some ideas to raise some money or drastically curtail the work we are now doing. We have had two garage sales that greatly helped our kitty but we are all running out of items for another garage sale.

Can anyone give us any ideas as to what we might do to secure funds or raise some money. Of course, any donations from anyone would be gratefully accepted. We want to continue with what we are doing but are having a very difficult time the way things stand.

Let us hear from you with your thoughts.

FOUND-REUNITED:

Since our last issue we have assisted in 28 completed searches. Here are some of them:

JULIE G. - Had a joyous reunion with her birthmom. They arranged to meet very soon after initial phone conversation.

VICKI M. - Vicki's reunion was one of our best to date. When she got off the plane she was greeted by a brass band, two full sisters and birthmom and dad, and assorted relatives. Many of the relatives had traveled a great distance to meet her. In addition people she had talked to during her search, strangers really, showed up along with some reporters. The story made newspapers all over the country.

MIKE S. - Found his mother and siblings living very close to his home.

DONNA H. - This lady was able to find her birthmom when Sandra Bruce who was working with her told her to contact the American Kennel Club as she had some information that her birthmom raised dogs. It worked and reunion went beautifully.

JOAN R. - Joan's birthparents were both dead but she has spoken with her grandmother and an aunt and is making plans to visit them soon.

PEGGY W. - Adoption agency in another state acted as go-between and Peggy and birth father (they are married) and their children met with their son and his adoptive family. Reunion went very well.

MARY A. - Also, a great reunion. Mary was reunited with birthmom and three (count em) three full sisters. This was really a long hard search for Searchline but we had a lot of help from other groups around the country and Mary and we want to thank everyone who helped with this search. It was really worth it. Mary brought her mom to meet Pat at Pat's house and her mother is everyone's dream of a perfect mother. Lucky Mary. Lucky Mom too.

T. L. - Reunited with birthmom after long search. This was another difficult search for us but reunion has been going very well.

J. B. - Located birthfather but has not made contact as yet.

Linda K. - Good, good reunion with birthmom in another state.

DELORES R. - Another real goodie. Delores and her two beautiful daughters met with another beautiful daughter and the adoptive parents even had them all over for dinner. Delores' newest daughter has been spending weekends with her and her sisters. They all act and look alike and are four (we've included Delores in on this) of the best looking girls you've ever seen.

FRED W. - Located birthmother and has spoken to her. Is presently searching for other siblings.

SHARON E. - Birthmother was dead, however, has located other relatives. Searching for birthfather.

NANCY R. - This was first reunion we had from batch who replied from newspaper story. Nancy has spoken with her mother and they are planning to meet.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to M. G. who lost her birthdaughter a few days ago after only being together again for a few months. This was certainly a case where medical history could have helped as M's daughter died of the same kind of cancer that her mother had been successfully treated for several years ago. If her daughter had known of the medical history perhaps she would have been alerted and the cancer would have been caught in time.

SEARCHING-SEARCHING.....

Search ads are welcome. The rate is 10¢ per word, payable to Pat Palmer. Address your ad requests to Searchline of Texas, 725 Burnwood, Irving, Texas 75062. You may respond to an ad by writing this address or calling 214-256 2807.

Searching for birthparents: ANN REYNOLDS and GEORGE HOWARD FURNESS. I was born 11-22-61 in Austin, Texas and parents were supposed to be from that area. My birth name was RONALD RAY REYNOLDS.

We are twin girls born 4-28-50 looking for our birthparents ROSELIE L. SAUL and MABEL ISABEL KING. Last known residence-Corpus Christi, Texas.

Looking for birthmother: GLADYS VIVIAN GREEN from New Jersey but in Dallas area when I was born on 2-5-50.

I was born 6-29-56 in St. Louis, Mo. My birthmother's name is Shirley Ann Spanger. She was born in Tenn.

My birthdate is 12-28-56 and I was born in Kansas City, Mo. Im searching for birthmom MINNIE FRAZIER.

Searchline Of Texas

QUARTERLY UPDATE

Volume I, Issue Number 3, November 1, 1982

Editor: M. Hermann

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

This special edition of The Quarterly Update is to announce the total suspension of all Searchline of Texas services effective November 15th through January 15th. NO SEARCHES WILL BE CONDUCTED DURING THAT TIME, NOR WILL CONSULTANTS ACCEPT ANY PHONE CALLS. This decision is despite our record of over 110 reunions facilitated in just under a year.

There is a measure of bitterness in this announcement, because the irresponsibility of some of our members forces us to make this unwanted decision; we would much prefer to go on helping to assuage the pain that separation from blood relatives has caused. The irresponsibility is both financial and moral in nature.

Searchline of Texas has financed many searches, with the understanding that we would be reimbursed for only our expenses. We have sent out numerous statements and received few payments. The other financial disaster occurs each month when we receive our phone bill. Many calls originally billed to our member's number (as per our contractual agreement) appear on our phone bill. The only conclusion to be drawn is that members that we have helped to reunite with family have refused to pay for these calls and have instructed the phone company to bill us. We cannot continue to pay \$500 and greater phone bills each month; we have families to support. We will not underwrite the costs of any more searches.

The emotional demand made on our consultants have been so excessive that this was a contributing factor to the suspension of our services- and also a contributing factor to family disruption for our consultants. We want to be responsive to our members; we cannot, however, be constantly available to our members to discuss related or unrelated issues. We have been asked to do the work of a detective agency many times; we have been entreated to make unnecessary calls by members. We have been verbally abused regarding the outcome of searches and the sizes of phone bills.

We, the Board of Directors of Searchline, have a great deal of soul searching and planning to do. Your response to this newsletter-paying the money you owe, giving us your input by letter, sending us the typed lists you have promised, making the phone calls you promised, mailing donations

and membership fees, and your increased sensitivity to us will make the difference when we reopen in January. We are considering severely limiting the scope of our services, limiting our caseloads and charging set fees. You, however can make the difference.

We mourn the great numbers of person these abuses have made it impossible for us to help over the next two months but we need time to catch up financially as well as emotionally.

CLARIFICATIONS:

A number of questions arise about our services again and again. Here are the answers to some of the most common.

What happens to my \$25.00 membership fee?

Your membership fee solely entitles you to the services of Searchline of Texas. It is not applied to the cost of your search. It goes toward printing costs, postage, communications with other search groups across the nation, our own membership dues in various organizations and office supplies. Please note our financial report which appears in this newsletter. The membership fees do not cover our expenses; we underwrite Searchline ourselves.

Why is my telephone bill so high?

Remember, you authorized every charge on your phone bill. A long distance search is going to cost some money, and at the beginning of a search, we cannot estimate the cost or predict how complex it will be. WE do keep you informed.

Do you have any information for me?

NO, we will call you when we have something. There is no need to check in with us daily. We are sometimes working with as many as 20 searchers at one time, so please wait for our call. We will not withhold any information.

Why are there phone calls from other states on my bill?

You authorized them. Some of the most successful searchers in the nation reside elsewhere and they may have more immediate access to what you need than we.

How long will this take? Do you think you'll find my mother? Do you think she's hiding out from me? Do you think I should quit now? Will she reject me?

Please, read Betty Jean Lifton's LOST AND FOUND: NOTES FROM THE ADOPTION UNDERGROUND. There is a psychological pattern to what you're going through and it is normal. There are questions you can resolve yourself with the insight you will glean from this great book.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

(This is reprinted in part from the North Carolina Adoptees Together Inc. Newsletter written by Karen Tinkham with additional comments from Sally File, Operation Identity, New Mexico, and Marian Hermann.

PHOOEY ON YOU!!!!

Phoey -- on all of you that have never bothered to let your search consultant know the outcome of your search. Those folks gave their time, support, expertise, and many times their money to help you!

Phoey--on all of you who have promised to help and who never have!

Phoey--on all of you who have completed your search with our help and then have sat on your behinds and never given a portion of what you have received!

Phoey--on all of you who think that your search consultant has nothing else to do but work on your case!

Phoey--on those of you who have been given things to do and who then just disappear from the face of the earth!

Phoey -- on all of you who entreat us to put your telephone calls on our bills and who then never pay us back! The same to all who sign our telephone contract, agreeing to allow us to charge long distance calls to your home phone number, and who then have the telephone company revert the charges back to us!

Phoey -- on all of you who tell us "The check is in the mail".

Phoey- on all of you who have awakened us as late as 2:00 A. M. or as early as 6:00 A. M. with phone calls to our homes!

Phoey -- on all of you who have never extended any expression of thanks to us!

Phoey -- on all of you who never get around to paying our membership fee but who constantly call to get searching tips!

Phoey -- on all of you who call each month after your phone bill arrives, to abuse us about calls you authorized, or entreated us to make!

Phoey -- on all of you who think that we are a detective agency and that we can solve problems unrelated to adoption!

Phoey -- on all of you who have deserted the adoption reform movement right after you get what you wanted out of it!!!

Each one of you needs to realize a responsibility to our search group. We need you.

Many of you completed your search and then drop out, never thinking of the next guy who might need your encouragement and friendship. Remember we were there for you. We can't change attitudes or the laws without you. We need you to help new people feel welcome at the meetings, to help with research for new cases, to send us pictures of your reunion, to be on a panel now and then and just get involved. Each of your contributions makes our group that much better. A group is only as strong as its people.

Our warmest, heartfelt thanks to the handful of you who are carrying the whole load. You know who you are.

COMPLETED SEARCHES:

We have had 31 completed searches since our last newsletter. Here are some of them:

Nancy R. - Located her birthmother and grandmother still alive and living in same state. Had a joyful reunion.

Gary L. - Had a reunion with his birthmother who lived very close.

Alice A. - Found son who did not know he was adopted. Reunion went very well anyway.

Pam C. - Had a very good reunion. Pam had been looking for a long time before she contacted us and with aid of our wonderful M. C. she had a very good reunion.

Dorothy M. - Had a very very good reunion with daughter who was searching also. WE had already located daughter when mother got a call from Emma Mae that there was a match. Mother had been debating on whether to contact daughter but after Emma told her she was in register too they had an immediate reunion. This was a good one.

Mary P. - Mary found birthfather with our help. Very good meeting.

