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AIE General Fund: Postage, outreach, advertising, books etc! Newsletters \$5 yr.

Search Fund: **SEARCHING COSTS MONEY!** If we are searching for YOU, please donate!

Legal Fund: Two court cases - possibly a third pending: The Brewer Case and the Huff Case. All donations go toward attorney fees/court costs.

AIE is dependent upon your contributions to remain active! Stamps, office supplies, books, magazine articles, etc. are also greatly appreciated! This time of the year we are busy mailing out forum announcements - stamps are desperately needed!

THANK YOU ROBIN WILSON - for renewing AIE's American Adoption Congress group membership!

BIG, BIG NEWS! MARION TEAGUE/Gastonia, N.C. will be going to Los Angeles to meet her birth-son Rick on Hour Magazine! She will leave Aug. 2. Postcards will be sent out announcing air time! Best wishes Marion! We'll all be watching!

Sympathy is extended to Anne who recently learned her birthdaughter died two years ago.

October 1st is the 2nd Annual Adoption Forum. Registration Forms Included. Mail yours soon!

For information in writing to the groups below, please enclose a SASE. Thanks!

Adoptive Parents For Open Records
9 Marjorie Drive
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Adoption Triangle Ministry
Box 156
Oaklyn, NJ 08107

C.U.B.
595 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820

American Adoption Congress
573 Hollyburne Lane
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(\$10 individuals)

Open Arms Quarterly
PO Box 1522
North Platte, NE 69101
(\$6 yr. subscription)

Stacy Miller, CUB
4916 Brentwood Road
Durham, NC 27713
(NC Branch)

*"The holiest of all holidays are those kept by ourselves in silence and apart; The secret anniversaries of the heart."
Longfellow*

From Sandra Kay Musser :Director-at-Large, AAC (American Adoption Congress)

As most of you know, I have chosen the churches, the pro-life groups and the private agencies as my "target" areas for educating about our adoption issues and concerns.

I'd like to implore all of you to help me in this effort by sending me names and addresses of particular ones you would like information sent to; or just lists that I can feed into the computer; and I'd also like to be kept informed as to those churches, private agencies, etc. that are supportive of our efforts. ATM (Adoption Triangly Ministry) wants to make a concentrated effort to get our literature into as many churches as possible. We also want to compile a list of those clergy who will "stand up and be counted." It will take everyone's cooperation to perform this monumental task, but I think we're on a roll and we can do it.

The private agencies are another group that ATM wants to zero in on as it is my contention

that most (practically all) of them were founded on religious principles; i.e. Catholic Social Services, Jewish Social Services, Lutheran Social Ser., Meth. Home For Children, Baptist Home, etc. - Enough said.

And finally the pro-lifers continue to raise the flag "adoption-not abortion." Sounds wonderful, but the fact is that most girls today given a choice will choose abortion over adoption because they cannot bear to "give away their child" under the closed system. We need to continue to push for open adoption if the trend away from abortion is going to turn around. I am not in favor of abortion, but as a birthmother who suffered for years the pain of not knowing, I can understand the thinking behind it. In a survey I did of 150 teenagers, when given the choices of 1) keeping their child 2) adoption 3) abortion, the choice #1 was always to keep, 2# choice was abortion and #3 was adoption. Only as we give them more options and more knowledge about their child will they opt for adoption. The pro-lifers (who are "pushing" adoption) need to be aware of these facts.

Please send me any articles you find, ideas, suggestions, etc. as to how we can accomplish our goals quicker and better. Write me c/o AEIOU (Adoption Educational Institute for Openness and Understanding) PO Box 1860, Cape Coral, FL 33910.

BOOK REVIEWS BY: Robin L. Huff

BEATING THE ADOPTION GAME by Cynthia D. Martin
(304 pages - 1980 copyright)

The book explosively reveals how and by whom adoption is controlled, but also tells parents what they need to know to expand their chances of adopting a child. The book provides practical information and recommendations to everyone on everything! The author is a psychologist with 3 adopted children who lives in California. It's an easy to read and understand book.

This Time Next Week By Leslie Thomas (250 pages copyright 1964)

Leslie Thomas went to an English Orphanage for 3 years following the death of his parents. He left the orphanage at 16 yrs of age. But the book shows the coldness and loneliness of the home where he stayed. He discovered where his younger brother was, whom he hadn't seen in 18 months. And, he traveled 60 miles by foot and bicycle to see him for a brief reunion! A very touching story of a man with a loveless childhood who grows up with lots of heart-aches before reaching maturity.

MEMBERSHIP ADVERTISING: (If you wish something placed, let us know)

Birthmother searching for son - 50 years old. Born in Asheville, NC Mission Hospital, May 22, 1931. Searchers in this area needed. Ms. J. Sparrow, 721 Hillsborough St, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Birthmother searching for daughter: Kathreer Ann Wallace, March 11, 1961 - Providence Hospital, Wash. DC. Searchers needed! MK, 302 N Leslie St, Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Adoptee in search - born May 11, 1952 in Charleston, SC. Contact needed with someone in the area/or Florence Critt. mother who stayed during 1951/52. D. Huff, 3697 Wyandotte Ave, Winston-Salem, NC 27107.

Searching Adoptee wishes Penpal: Lisa Hayden, Rt. 2, Box 124-A, Ellerbe, NC 28338.

NAME SEARCHES, PLEASE:

Dorothy Brooks Bullock-BD '22, '23, '24. AIE.

Wm. H. Bowen or Virginia D. Bowen. AIE

Adoptee in search BD 8-31-58-Gaston Co. handled the adoption. M. Goble. 507 S. Hanna St. Gastonia, NC 28052. 704-861-0063.

AIE SUMMER SALE! AIE SUMMER SALE! SALE!
BUMPER STICKERS: Adoptees Search Today, Accept Tomorrow
I Would Have Searched Forever \$2.50 #2.5
Root For Adoptees Rights \$2.50
Adoptees Have Rights & Roots \$2.50
The Search Is Over \$1.50
Adoptees Need Facts, Not Fiction \$2.50

B Eternal Inspirations by L.Giddens \$4.50
O Faces of Adoption by L.Giddens \$5.00
O I Would Have Searched Forever (Musser) \$5.50
K What Kind Of Love Is This? (Musser) \$8.25
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MEMO'S FROM MARION - August, 1983 (Regular Column - Gaston County Area)

Another month has flown by - we haven't been sitting still. First, there is Chris whose search is over! After 12 exasperating years Chris has put a name & face to the woman who gave birth to her!

The conclusion of a search is an emotional time with highs-lows, smiles-tears, self-doubts-certainties. This emotional roller coaster can be bewildering, a common experience with most everyone whose search has ended. The families & friends of someone going through this trying time must have extra patience, love & support. It is so essential! This goes both ways - others involved also need to be reassured, be they adoptees, adoptive parents, birth-parents, or friends.

Injustice to any human beings infuriates me, but it really hit below the belt when I found out Chris's birthmother was lied to and told Chris died at birth. How can anyone - social worker or doctor give an adequate reason for this deception? My husband, Paul, got so mad when I told him this. He said "someone should be sued!" The tragedy is there can be no payment for lost years, lies and pain. It's time to put a stop to the lies told to everyone in the adoption triangle. Granted, in Chris's case, she was raised by wonderful parents, but that isn't the issue. The issue is someone, or some group of people playing "God", and deciding who keeps a child or who doesn't.

I would like to hear from anyone who has dealt with Cabarrus County Social Services. They seem to be behind the times. When asked for information guaranteed an adoptee (HB 1146) they have never heard of it or do they attempt to check it out! Vacations are much more important! Has anyone else had such an experience? If so, please let me know. The laws are bad enough, without what few rights an adoptee has being violated.

The mother of my birthson just let me know about all the cooperation she is receiving from the adoption agency in Connecticut. For her to get all the information the law allows on her two adopted children, she must first pay a fee of \$30.00! As they are not the richest family in the world, have three children to raise, we need your help. If everyone could send Lynn Giddens something to help get this \$30.00 together, I'd sure appreciate it. I'm putting back a few dollars, and with your help, let's hope this information will be in Pat's hands soon, and not locked away in some social worker's files. Personally, it sounds like blackmail money to me, but what are we to do? It seems adoption agencies are even above the FTC.

I'm sure most of you have read search ads in the newspapers. Unfortunately, there are sick people who read the paper, and take great pleasure in trying to exploit the sorrows of a person, because of a lost loved one. This was the case with Anne W. (Charlotte-birthmother). She placed a search ad & received a call from a "friend of the daughter she is looking for." After careful checking, Anne found out no such person existed - GOOD WORK ANNE! A point well taken.

Another thing - reporters. There are good ones (dear John) & ones that will misuse any trust you put in them. This happened to an adoptee. She went to place a search ad to help expedite the search for her birthmother. While at the newspaper office she started talking to a reporter, telling her about her search. She didn't give her permission for the details about her birthmother to be printed, even stated she didn't want them to be used, but the reporter used every scrap of information she could anyway! So know who you talk to - only give out information you want printed. It is a reporter's job to find stories & some don't care who they hurt when they write them.

Trying to get copies of medical records? Not having much luck? Here's a publication that might help: "Medical Records: Getting Yours" - \$2.50. Public Citizens Health Research Group, Dept. P 2000 P Street, NW. Suite 708. Washington, DC 20086.

Now-a light note: On AUGUST 2, 1983, I'll be leaving for L.A., California! Hour Magazine, a national TV show is paying all my expenses and my birthson & his mother so we can meet for the first time on TV!! Just when this will air - I don't know - I'll let you know. I'll tell you about my reunion next month!

Until next time... God bless all of you!

SEARCHING & AFTERMATH

AIE has undertaken & completed many searches recently & individuals associated with AIE have completed searches...which lends many thoughts for reflection. At one time, "reunions" not materializing into relationships were kept "hush-hush" among people for fear the movement would be damaged - this has changed. As Sandy Musser stated: "All reunions are positive." Why? The searcher and possibly the searchee has been released from that horrible bondage of "living with the unknown." Those who have searched & found less than desirable outcomes still need to have reassurance and support.

Death: Three persons completing searches have found death at the end of their road. Often the searcher fails to think of this consequence - but it is a reality I am made aware of more often each year. For the persons finding this - special consideration is needed, for they do not know how their fantasy would "have turned out." Unfortunately the person has a lot of "what ifs" to work through - but as Marion Teague said, one must not concentrate on the "what-ifs" - we can only learn to work through reality.

Rejection or non-materialized relationships. To date approximately six searches have ended in this manner. Yet, sometimes this isn't final. It is recommended that an intermediary do the initial contacting of a person. Why? Because it allows that person the right to be caught off-guard without any damaging after affects. People caught off-guard respond differently than they perhaps would normally respond. At the initial contact they may be frightened, confused or upset - and need a period to collect their thoughts and plan their actions. An intermediary is able to work through the initial reactions with assurance and support encouraging the person to take some time to consider the situation at hand before making any permanent decisions as to "NO". After the person located has worked through this initial shock - then the doors may begin opening. If this isn't the case, and to date the six mentioned have been this way - the need for reassurance and support given to the individual is vital. It can mean the "death of a dream" which needs to be worked through. It is also important to remember - rejection or the non-materialization of relationships" is not a personal attack on the individual searching - it is of the situation and fear. The person must work through the realization it is not them being "rejected or unaccepted." Often time is the ingredient needed - it has worked wonders in some cases.

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POPCORN SALE! Don't forget. AIE is selling popcorn to raise funds for the "funds" listed on the front page! If you haven't ordered your bucket of corn, please do! It is \$3.00 per bucket, plus 50¢ postage. AIE is currently operating on voluntary contributions/donations/and profits from items sold. Won't you help us help YOU? Thanks.

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high court rules

Tuesday, June 28, 1983

© The Arizona Republic

Biological link can't guarantee unwed fathers' rights,

Republic Wire Services

WASHINGTON — Fathers may lose their parental rights if they fail to establish a significant relationship with their illegitimate children, the Supreme Court declared 6-3 on Monday.

Acting in a New York case, the justices ruled that the "mere existence of a biological link" does not guarantee unmarried fathers the right to be notified and have a say in the adoption of their children.

The quality of the relationship also is important in determining a father's rights, the court said.

The ruling was a defeat for Jonathan Lehr, who claimed that his rights were violated when a New York family court — without notifying him or getting his consent — let his 3½ year-old daughter be adopted by a stepfather in 1979.

"The significance of a biological connection is that it offers the natural father an opportunity that no other male possesses to develop a relationship with his offspring," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the court.

"If he grasps that opportunity and accepts some measure of responsibility for the child's future, he may enjoy the blessings of the parent-child relationship. ... If he fails to do so, the federal Constitution will not automatically compel a state to listen to his opinion of where the child's best interests lie."

Justices Byron White, Thurgood Marshall and Harry Blackmun dissented, arguing that "a biological connection is itself a relationship that creates a protected interest."

The justices, upholding New York's system for protecting the rights of fathers of children born out of

wedlock, said men who admit paternity or assume fatherly responsibility are owed the same procedural rights as unwed mothers.

But Lehr's case was different, the court said.

"(He) has never had any significant custodial, personal or financial relationship with Jessica," Stevens wrote, "and he did not seek to establish a legal tie until after she was 2 years old."

Most states have enacted laws requiring certain classes of unwed fathers, such as those that live with or provide support for their children, to be notified of adoption proceedings.

New York's law allows unwed fathers to register if they want to be notified of any adoption proceedings.

SEARCH TRADING
AZ.

Sarah Martin Now Comes Complete With 2 Sets Of Parents

A few weeks ago I wrote about Sarah Martin of Madison, N.C., and her urge to find her birth parents.

Sarah Martin, 33, was adopted as an infant by a Rockingham County couple. She was reared in happy circumstances that left her without a great deal of curiosity about her real parents until recently. Prodded by a growing curiosity about her parents and by recent publicity about adoptees who are trying to break through the secrecy which cloaks adoption records, she decided to try to find her mother and father.

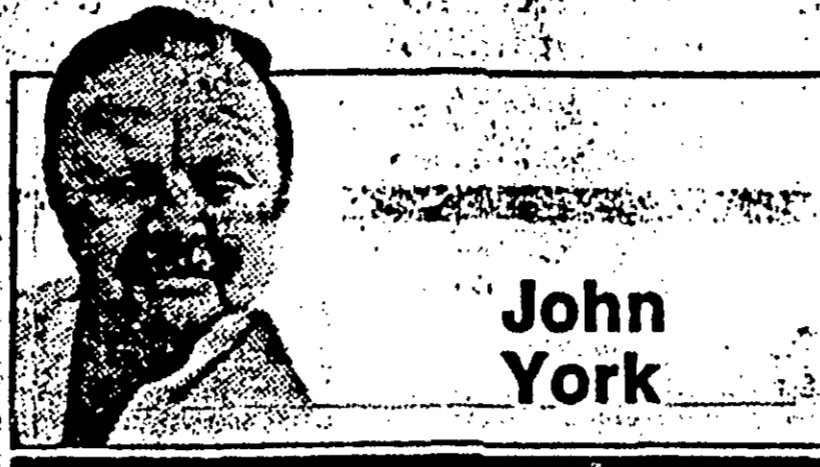
We met after she advertised in The Observer, asking anyone with information about her birth or parents to call her.

Neither the ad nor a private investigator she employed to track down her real parents did the trick, but on April 30 Sarah Martin located and met her father, and on May 4 she learned her mother's name and telephone number in Richmond.

One day later she was in Richmond, locked into a five-way, everybody-talks-at-once meeting with the mother she had never known and with three half-sisters she didn't know existed.

It was, for Sarah Martin, an exhilarating experience. Both her birth parents were delighted that she had found them, and both are pleasant people with whom she hopes to spend time in the future.

Oddly enough, her real father has lived



John York

only a few miles away from her for the 33 years of her life. "I have passed his house a million times," she laughs. But she does not recall ever having met him until she learned his name by a means she will not disclose.

Face To Face

She lost no time in calling him. "I have very good reason to believe I am your daughter," she said after a couple of preliminary questions. They agreed to meet face to face immediately.

Sarah Martin went to the meeting with only a few butterflies in her stomach. "I guess it was because he sounded so nice on the telephone," she says. "I liked him," she said after she had visited in his home and met his wife and children. "The whole family is nice.

"He had no idea that I was living so close or that I had been adopted," she says. "He always thought that my mother

had kept me and that I was probably living in Richmond."

He found a picture of her mother at age 17. He was 18 when they were going together and Sarah Martin's mother became pregnant, he recalled. He's 51 now.

She studied the picture intently. "I look like my mother did then," she said, and he confirmed it.

She prefers not to give the names of either her father or her mother.

Four days later, Sarah Martin persuaded a cousin of her mother to give her the telephone number of another distant relative in Virginia. From that person she got her mother's name and telephone number. That was on a Wednesday. She got on the telephone immediately.

She remembers part of the conversation. "Are you Patsy?" she asked the woman who answered the telephone. "Yes," the woman replied. "Are you 50, and did you have a daughter on Oct. 25, 1949?" Sarah Martin asked. There was a moment of silence and then the woman said, "Yes."

"She was really thrilled when I told her I was her daughter," Sarah Martin laughs. "She said she had prayed for this for a long time. She tried to find me once, when I was about a year old, but the adoption agency advised her not to, and she stopped trying."

"She wanted me to come see her right

away. The next day I parked in front of her apartment house in Richmond and I said, 'Well, this is it,' and got out of the car and went up and knocked on the door," Sarah Martin recalls. Prudently, she did not take the overnight bag she had packed in with her. "When my mother asked me why I hadn't brought my bag in, I told her it was because I didn't know how things would go."

A Family Get-Together

Things went splendidly. Her mother had told one of her daughters of Martin's impending arrival. That daughter had told another. After Sarah Martin had arrived, they called the third. The day sped by with people running in and out and introductions and kissing and talk.

"I spent the night, and she wanted me to stay longer, but I couldn't take the time off from work just then," the long-lost daughter says. "We're all going to get together early in June for a weekend."

She laughs as she recalls calling the detective she had hired to forget about it; she had already found her mother.

"I was about a day ahead of him," she laughs. "He would probably have found her the next day. She had been married twice, and that slowed him down a little. He offered me a job working for him."



Observer Photo By JOHN YORK

A Search Ends: My mother prayed for our reunion for a long time, Sarah Martin says.

Next Month's Feature

FATHER, DAUGHTER
REUNION FORGED
A NEW BEGINNING
-Interview with
Sarah's birth-
father! -

Congrats To
Sarah!