

THE ALMANAC



The truth of all things is the breath of every man.

ADOPTees LIBERTY MOVEMENT ASSOCIATION

NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA (NORTH)

(916) 393-ALMA P.O. BOX 8081 SACRAMENTO, CA. 95818

MEETINGS: 2nd SUNDAY of EACH MONTH, 1 PM to 4 PM

CAROL McDOWELL, COORDINATOR

ISSUE NO. VIII BIG MOUTHS CAN SHUT DOORS MARCH 1983

Meeting date change, FOR MAY ONLY.

Due to Mother's Day falling on our regular meeting day, the May meeting will be held on the 3rd Sunday, May 15.

ALMA'S WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE will be held on Sunday May 1, 1983, in San Francisco. Read elsewhere in this Newsletter for more information.

March 13th meeting was a very emotional and inspirational experience. Natural Parents, Jerry and Angie Garcia had as their guests the adoptive parents of their daughter they had just found. They shared their open and warm feelings about Angie and Jerry finding their daughter. Adoptee Bill Null told of finding his brother, See his story in The Lost, But Found Dept., in this Newsletter. Adoptee Dean Worley shared his story of finding his mother. Dean's reunion was covered by Channel 10, News. Dean's story is also part of this newsletter. Hope Ludeman told us how she found her mother. If you attended our February meeting, you may recall Hope running out of the meeting when her adoptive mother came and told her that her mother had just called and will call back soon. She called! Joanne Barnes found her mother. Rhonda Bauer found her mother.

We've had many other finds. See The Lost, But Found Dept., if your story is not there get the information to Millie. It sure was nice to be able to give so many "I FOUND" buttons.

ALMATCH REUNIONS We've had two ALMATCH reunions in our area, more information on these will in future issues.

Economy Crunch In the future when communicating, by mail, with ALMA please enclose your membership number and a self-addressed stamped envelope when a reply is necessary. Thank you.

California fee increases The State of California has recently increased the fees for Death and Marriage Certificates to \$4.00 and Birth Certificates have been increased to \$8.00.

RAP MEETINGS Sacramento RAP Sessions are now being held on the 4th Wednesday of each month, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at Allstate Savings and Loan, 4768 J St. Sacramento. (April 27, May 25 and June 22, 1983)

New Search Assistant's On March 19, 1983 the following people participated in an ALMA Search Assistant training Seminar: Sonja Aguilar, Sharon Lee Allen, Howard and Millie Bishop, Sue Booth, Nancy Casady, Ann Curnow, Ramona DeHart, Chris Ebner, Sandra Hall, Leila Higgs, Alan Holmstrom, Susan Lawler, Tina Lorenzen, Carol McDowell, Woody Nelson, Sue Nelson, Margaret Pearson, Marty Renault, Sharon Schrader, Donna Scott, Helen Weaver, and Pat Willey. Some of these people are current Search Assistants and others took the training for the first time. Thanks, and good luck to all.

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Gary McDowell, Editor

ALMA



The truth of his
origin is the birth-
right of every man.
—Harmon Fisher—

MEMBERS, FRIENDS & THE PUBLIC
ARE INVITED TO A

RECOGNITION DINNER

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1983

SIERRA SCHOOL CAFETERIA

24TH STREET & 4TH AVENUE

LASAGNA DINNER SERVED PROMPTLY AT 5 P.M.

\$7.00 PER PERSON

PAID RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL 10, 1983

MAIL CHECK & BELOW FORM TO: HELEN WEAVER (TREASURER)
P.O. BOX 8081
SACRAMENTO, CA 95818

RESERVATION FOR ALMA RECOGNITION DINNER

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ATTENDING _____ @ \$7.00 PER PERSON; TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

CHECKS PAYABLE TO — HELEN WEAVER — MAY BE SENT TO
P.O. BOX 8081
SACRAMENTO, CA 95818

R.S.V.P. NO LATER THAN APRIL 10, 1983

There is still help needed in many areas. Please sign up now.

I/We can help at:
Food preparation _____, Serving _____, Cleanup _____,

Raffle prizes _____.

LOST but Found Dept.

THE STORY OF SUSAN, THREE NURSES, 33 YEARS AND A 3 WEEK SEARCH



The cast of characters in the scenario:
DEAN WORLEY, his good friend SUSAN
MUSKLEE, his birth mother AMELIA
McKINLEY & her good friend BEULAH
HOWARD. All are nurses except Susan.

Because Dean had to work the day of the February ALMA meeting, Susan joined in his behalf. At the workshop, Search Assistant Pat Willey gave Susan some ideas to relay to Dean. 3 weeks later Dean found & first called his mother on the night of March 3. She was so delighted that within 24 hours she arrived at Sacramento Airport, meeting Channel 10 News, Dean's old friends &

some new ALMA friends and Susan and Dean holding a dozen long stemmed red roses for his mother. Afterward, everyone gathered at the house for a champagne party with a huge cake Dean had ordered decorated with a stork carrying a man who looked just like Dean, moustache & all, & the words "Better Late Than Never." For Dean had been born in Baker, OR on 9/21/49 to his mother, Amelia, now a 68 year old attractive white-haired retired surgical nurse (Dean is also a surgical nurse). Earlier in the day of her Sacramento flight, Amelia called her nurse friend Beulah with "Guess who called me last night!!!" Beulah cried for joy as she informed her friend Amelia that she had actually taken care of Dean for the first 6 weeks of his life. After a wonderful weekend, phone calls & letters followed. And now? The 3 nurses & Susan are planning a Carribean cruise together in November.

CAROL TRISDALE FOUND HER MOTHER WITH HER FATHER & SISTER AS A BONUS

"I was born 12/17/46 in Buffalo, N.Y. On my 18th birthday my loving adoptive parents, now deceased, had told me all they knew about my birth mother. Fearing rejection, I did not search until 17 years later. In mid-1982, encouraged by my new husband, I joined ALMA & started to search. In November I had her phone number, but I was too emotionally incapacitated to call. Luckily ALMA had a meeting the next day & ALMA search assistants helped me with how to make the phone call. That call was beyond my wildest dreams as my mother was very happy to hear from me. All these years she also was afraid to seek me for fear of rejection. I learned that my mother had married my father so she asked him to pick up their other phone. I heard that I had 2 half-sisters & a sister of my very own! I visited my parents in Florida for 5 wonderful days, unbelievably resuming the relationship as if we never had been separated for 36 years. My parents had silently endured the pain & loss of giving me up for adoption at a time they believed it impossible to marry & care for me. My sister visited our parents recently & learned about me. After letters & long phone calls, my sister & I met at Metro Airport, Sacramento, March 11. Just as it was with my parents, Terry & I found much in common & a determination to make up for lost time. Thanks to my husband & ALMA for their support & help, I had the courage to let a fairy tale come true. I experienced a joy which surpassed all others in my lifetime."

.....CAROL TRISDALE



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64 YEAR OLD MAN SURPRISES 76 YEAR OLD BROTHER

BILL NULL, born 8/6/18 in Joplin, MO joined ALMA 2 years ago looking for his mother or "ANYONE WHO WILL HAVE ME!" On March 2, Bill called his brother George, 76, in Kansas City. George exclaimed, "Well I'll be DOGGONED!!!" The brothers had a wonderful phone call but Bill was sad to learn that their mother died in 1936. When Bill received his I FOUND button at the March meeting, he made a memorable speech. Bill is now looking for another brother, Eugene, last heard of in California. The Nulls are planning a trip to Kansas City to meet George.

SOMETIMES IT TAKES AWHILE

ANN CURNOW of Redding, born 1/24/23 in L.A. & an ALMA member for over 10 years, had a long & difficult search but finally found her mother in L.A. February 1982. At first everything went beautifully with all the phone calls & letters positive & caring. Now things have definitely cooled. But Ann, an enthusiastic & dedicated Search Assistant since the Redding ALMA began, knows that sometimes it takes awhile. She is hoping to meet her mother & her sister in mid-April.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.....HAPPY REUNION

BO KREIS, born 3/20/29 in L.A., joined ALMA in September & first called her 72 year old natural mother in Southern CA February 3. Bo offers the following suggestion to others: "I would like to share the concept with people not to be discouraged if they don't get an instant, ecstatic response. To persist & to give the person time to adjust, it may turn out more positive than you can even hope for. That is what happened to me! My natural mother's first phone call to me on March 13 was to ask if the 20th was a good day for her to fly to Sacramento to visit me. The 20th was my 54th birthday. The reunion was beyond my fondest hopes. We plan to get together again before too long."

IF AT FIRST THE CALL DOES NOT SUCCEED, JUST CALL AGAIN

ALAN HOLMSTROM was born in San Diego 12/4/45. "The adoption was set up by the doctor who delivered me. My birth mother did not see me or know my sex. I started searching in '79 but stopped due to my own fear of rejection. I joined ALMA 12/11/82, found 1/23/83. The first phone call 2/2/83 she denied everything. She was very cool & calm. The 2nd call on 2/6 she called me. She was very warm, friendly & open. The call lasted 20 minutes--felt great! The meeting was warm & friendly--no tears. We spent 6 hours together, my wife, my natural mother, her mother & I. All 4 of us were very excited. My natural mother gave me the name of my natural father. I called him on 2/11/83. He sounded like a nice man & had warm words for my natural mother. He stated that he was planning to come to Sacramento within 6 months & that he definitely would come to see us. I felt very good about the 20 minute conversation. I now have 3 half brothers & one half sister: whom I want to meet someday. Neither of my birth parents feel they can tell their spouses about me so it may be awhile before I can meet them, but I know someday I will. In one week, I met my birth mother and grandmother and talked to my birth father. It was one of the most thrilling & exciting weeks of my life."



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Redding-Chico News

LEILA HIGGS, COORDINATOR

(916) 824-4790

P.O. BOX 271

VINA, CA. 96092

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The Redding-Chico group is helping with and copying the newsletter. In the future both groups are interested in receiving any information you are interested in seeing in this newsletter. We have been most fortunate in obtaining a copier due to Johnny and Sonja Aguiar and their business, and can get the newsletter out much easier and faster. Any news, ideas, input, etc., is most welcome. Please send your correspondence to A.L.M.A P.O. Box 271, Vina, CA 96092. Also please advise us of the fact that it is for printing in the newsletter.

Since the inception of the Redding satellite group almost four years ago, this group has expanded and grown to also include a monthly meeting in Chico. The Redding group will celebrate its 4th anniversary soon. The Chico group just had its 1st anniversary the 10th of February.

In the near future both Leila Higgs and the other staff of this group intend to try to start satellite groups in or around the Medford, Oregon and Eureka, California areas. If anyone in either of these areas is interested in helping either by publicity, housing, letter writing, phone contacts, etc., please contact Leila Higgs at area code 916-824-4790 with your offers. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

At this time the Redding-Chico group is helping ALMA members by letter from the Oregon and Washington area, so the need for a satellite group in the northern part of this area is quite great. Anyone with ideas for either location for meetings, places, publicity avenues places to stay for staff while they are setting up the meetings, and training individuals to run the satellite groups please contact the Vina P.O. Box with your suggestions.

Remember, your find results and find story are a valuable tool for others. Many times someone who has thought of searching hasn't done it because of fear or other reasons. Your find story could be the lever that finally decides someone that they owe it to themselves, and perhaps to their future to search. Please write those find stories no matter what the outcome of your search. These stories are the one way all of us keep up the enthusiasm to continue this campaign.

Last summer the Sacramento group and the Redding-Chico group had the pleasure of getting together for a picnic at Woodson Bridge Recreation Area Park. Members of both groups, their newly found families and in some cases, adoptive families all attended and had a wonderful time. We would like to make this picnic an annual affair, so watch for announcements of date and time for the next one. We would like as many as possible to make this picnic, and perhaps we could persuade some good media coverage as well!

Since we have had very little success with obtaining find stories from this area, we thought that we should at least include a list of the members who have found lately. Our success rate here in the Redding-Chico chapter has been fantastic due to a great bunch of search assistants and a lot of patience and dedication. So at this time it seems appropriate to blow our horn a bit. From the inception of the Chico part of this group a year ago, there have been in excess of 25 finds, all in a group that rarely numbers more than 25 people attending any one meeting. In the first 2 weeks of the Chico group's infancy, there were six finds, all positive. These are some of the members in our local group that have found recently: Susan Lawler, Gail Hunt, Melba Sain, Debbie Lakey, Donna Vogel, Leola Smith, Tina Spessard, Bonnie Hibberts, Sharon Allen, Carolyn Henning, David Rabo.

Remember when you were searching and no matter what your difficulty was there was always someone you could talk to about your problems? Now is the time, for you that have found, to turn the tables and help someone else that is in the same boat you were in. This organization is totally dependent on people to make it work. Without people who feel the dedication and commitment to this worthy cause, the work all the other members have done, so far, will be for nothing. The only way we will finally force the lawmakers and general public to hear our cry for freedom is to make a total commitment to this organization and keep that commitment.

Redding-Chico continued

As director of the Redding-Chico group I would like to take this time to thank Carol McDowell, Marty Renault, Millie Bishop, and many others too numerous to mention for the valuable support and love they have given us since we started these two groups. Had it not been for them, this group would never have got off the ground. When this group was first forming, I had no idea of how to go about running an ALMA chapter. Carol, Marty, Millie and all the others gave me the help both morally and physically to get it running successfully. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU AND HUG from Leila Higgs and all the other staff and members.

We are trying to get a library started which will include all the books in the book list, plus any other books pertaining to adoption. We are very interested in any books you might be willing to donate to the library, as some of the books on the list are no longer in print and are very difficult to obtain. Anyone with books to donate for the library please contact Leila Higgs, either by phone or at the P.O. Box.

At this time due to lack of interest and bad weather, the Redding-Chico group is putting their rap sessions on vacation. They will resume if enough interest is shown. In my estimation the rap session is one of the most important services that an ALMA chapter offers its members. Anytime an individual begins his or her search for their roots there is a certain amount of psychological stress. The only way of getting past this stress and on to bigger and better things is for the member to talk about the stress and understand what the causes are. That's where the rap sessions come in. They are one of the most important tools we have. It always helps to talk to someone who has already been in your shoes and learned to walk anyway.

Until next time, we once again would say thanks to the Sacramento Chapter for all their assistance and support. Keep up the good work, keep up your faith and we'll see you next quarter.

Leila Higgs, Coordinator
Redding-Chico

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REPORT ON CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

AB 2096, a bill which would facilitate contact between adoptees and their natural parents, has been introduced by Assemblyman Robert J. Campbell (not to be confused with Senator William Campbell, who sponsored a registry bill several years ago). AB 2096, known as the Adoption Information Act of 1983, is patterned after a bill by Assemblyman Bruce Young, which was killed in the Senate in 1980. It also provides for more extensive reporting, transmission and updating of the adoptee's family medical history. Assemblyman Campbell represents the 11th District (Richmond, Contra Costa County), and is a strong advocate of adoptees' rights. We will monitor this bill closely and provide our members with action alerts.

Assemblyman Sam Farr's AB 3040 went into effect Jan. 1, 1983, and enabled adoption agencies to legally arrange reunions if they receive unsolicited waivers of confidentiality from the adoptee, the birth parent and adoptive parent. If you were involved in a California adoption, contact the agency or state dept. of adoptions for waiver forms.

A bill will be introduced this session which would allow agencies to give non-identifying information to other blood relatives of the adoptee, such as siblings, grandparents, aunts & uncles, adult sons & daughters of the adoptee, etc. As yet, this bill has no number.

Assemblyman Steve Peace, from Chula Vista, has introduced AB 1011, a bill which would regulate sperm banks involved in artificial insemination by donor. The language of this bill has not yet been formulated, but a section giving an adult who was produced by this process access to information about his or her natural father is being considered.

Assemblyman Mike Roos has not yet decided whether or not he will reintroduce his bill legalizing surrogate mother contracts.

To learn the names of your new representatives after 1982 reapportionment, call your local registrar of voters. Then contact your State Senator and Assemblyperson by letter, phone call or personal visit, and let them know about your support for adoptees' rights!!!

MARTY RENAULT

WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE

ALMA 12th ANNIVERSARY

Date: Sunday, May 1, 1983
Time: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Location: San Francisco HILTON
Mason and O'Farrell Streets
Room: HILTON PLAZA CONFERENCE ROOM

SPEAKERS

FLORENCE ANNA FISHER, President & Founder of ALMA
Topic: ALMA's Twelve Years - Giving & Sharing
plus a Panel Discussion

HOWARD M. FIELDS, Esq. Los Angeles Attorney & Counsel for ALMA
Topic: LEGISLATION & the CALIFORNIA LAWSUIT

MYRNA McNITT, Assistant Court Administrator
Allegan County Juvenile Court
Allegan, Michigan
Topic: The HISTORY OF ADOPTION, CHANGES WE SEE

Additional Speaker TO BE ANNOUNCED - Call (415) 523-4774

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

10:00-12:00 SEARCH WORKSHOPS & RAPS
(You must be a current ALMA member to attend
the workshop, you can join at the Conference.
Anyone may attend the rap sessions.)
BRING YOUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD

12:00- 1:30 LUNCH (at the location of your choice)

1:30 - 5:00 SPEAKERS - see above

NO CHILDREN PLEASE

REGISTRATION: \$10.00 if pre-registered, \$15.00 at the door

WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____


Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE: \$10.00 per person
\$15.00 per person if paid at the door


Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ persons.

Send this form to:

 A L M A
P. O. Box 2341
Alameda, CA 94501

A.L.H.A. STAFF

MEETING & BUFFET RESERVATION REQUEST

 MAIL TO: A.L.H.A.
P. O. BOX 2341
ALAMEDA, CA. 94501

STAFF MEETING: APRIL 30, 1983, 2:00 PM, SAN FRANCISCO HILTON, CYPRESS ROOM-4TH FLOOR

I will attend YES NO

STAFF BUFFET DINNER (SPOUSE INVITED): APRIL 30, 1983, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
SAN FRANCISCO HILTON, CONTINENTAL BALLROOM

Names _____

Address _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$20 per person) for the Buffet Dinner.

NOTE: Authorized Staff members do not have to pay a registration fee for the conference on May 1st.

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WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE continued

HOTEL REGISTRATION

GUEST ROOM RESERVATION REQUEST

Mail To: THE SAN FRANCISCO HILTON
333 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Name _____

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Arrival Date _____ Hour _____ AM
PM

Departure Date _____ Hour _____ AM
PM

I am arriving at the hotel by car
and request a drive-up floor.
YES NO

CHECK IN TIME: After 2:00 PM
CHECK OUT TIME: 12:00 Noon

SINGLE ROOM: \$60.00
DOUBLE/TWIN: \$70.00
EXTRA PERSON: \$20.00

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE 9.75% TAX

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY
APRIL 23, 1983. AFTER THIS DATE,
THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED ON AN
AVAILABILITY BASIS ONLY.

ROOMS WILL BE HELD ONLY UNTIL
6:00 PM ON THE DATE OF ARRIVAL,
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED.

A.L.M.A.
ADOPTERS LIBERTY MOVEMENT ASSOC.
Western Regional Conference
APRIL 30, 1983 - MAY 1, 1983

ADOPTERS LIBERTY MOVEMENT ASSOCIATION
ALMA)
.O. BOX 8081
ACRAMENTO, CA. 95818

**T-SHIRTS & TOTE BAGS
ORDER NOW**



Ladies French Cut
Sky Blue



Men's Polo Shirt
Sky Blue



Tote Bag
Natural Canvas

*To save delivery charge, you may pick up pre-paid merchandise at conference.

ITEM	SIZE	PRICE	QTY	AMOUNT
Ladies French Cut	S M L XL	\$ 7	_____	_____
Mens Polo Shirt	S M L XL	\$ 7	_____	_____
Tote Bag		\$ 10	_____	_____


NAME _____ MERCHANDISE TOTAL _____

ADDRESS _____ DELIVERY CHARGE _____
(\$.50 if mailed)

CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Please send T-Shirt/Tote to me
I will pick up my T-Shirt/Tote at the Conference

Mail this form to:

 A L M A
P. O. Box 2341
Alameda, CA 94501

HELP ALMA.....ADVERTISE ALMA

(8)

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