

# <sup>TIME</sup> Freedom Press

P.O. Box 85424, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89185-0424

## HERITAGE/BIRTHRIGHTS OF KNOWLEDGE

### BETTER LATE THEN NEVER!

TIME has gone by and we are a little late with our second newsletter, but we are here with a beautiful new logo (thanks to Marti) and our new proud motto (thanks to Dee). AND so...with new strength we continue...

### MARCH-APRIL-MAY-JUNE 1983 CALENDAR

\*Please note: All General Meetings are held at the Las Vegas Press Club in the Charleston Plaza Mall, back parking lot, 1724 East Charleston Blvd.

Monday - March 28, 1983 SEARCH WORKSHOP  
3535 Cambridge, Barkley Square Apartment Complex,  
Call Kim for directions at 732-9228 and more information.

Wednesday - April 6, 1983 BOARD MEETING  
All members are welcome to attend. To be held this month at Marti's. Please call 451-8309 for directions or information.

Monday - April 11, 1983 GENERAL MEETING  
GENERAL MEETINGS start promptly at 7:30 PM.

Monday - April 25, 1983 SEARCH WORKSHOP  
3535 Cambridge, Barkley Square Apartment Complex,  
Call Kim for directions at 732-9228 and more information.

Wednesday - May 4, 1983 BOARD MEETING  
All members welcome to attend. The location of this meeting will be announced at the General Meeting of April 11, 1983.

Monday - May 9, 1983 GENERAL MEETING  
Starts promptly at 7:30 PM.

Monday - May ???, 1983 SEARCH WORKSHOP  
Please contact Kim at 732-9228 for the exact date and time.

Wednesday - June 8, 1983 BOARD MEETING  
All members are welcome to attend.

Monday - June 13, 1983 GENERAL MEETING  
Starts promptly at 7:30 PM.

Monday - June 24, 1983 SEARCH WORKSHOP  
3535 Cambridge, Barkley Square Apartment Complex,  
Call Kim for directions at 732-9228 and more information.





Nevada State Reunion Registry  
Welfare Division  
Dept. Of Human Resources  
25 Jeanell Drive  
Capital Mall Complex  
Carson City, Nevada 89710

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Tennessee Dept. of Human Services  
111-19 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37203

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The Bureau of Resource Development  
State of New Jersey  
Division of Youth & Family Services  
Box 510  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Alma Reunion Registry  
National Headquarters  
P.O. Box 154  
Washington Bridge Station  
New York, NY 10033

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Michigan Dept. of Social Services  
ADOPTION CENTRAL REGISTRY  
P.O. Box 30037  
300 South Capital Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48909

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\*\*BE SURE TO ENCLOSE A SELF-  
ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE  
WITH ALL INQUIRIES.

P.S. We of Heritage, Inc. Do maintain our own registry also, so  
please don't forget us if your are searching in the So.  
Nevada area. Our new Search Coordinator is Kim Miller.

SEARCH ADS!

John Charles Smith, DOB: 12/24/41. Last known residence, Reno, NV  
John Carl Smith, DOB: 9/3/04 in Union, SC. Last known residence  
Philadelphia, PA.

James (Jimmy) Swably, DOB: 1939. Last known residence, Tiffin, OH.  
Florence Ester (Spivey) Swably, DOB: 10/21/21. Last suspected  
residence Florida.

Charolette Gillespie, last suspected residence, Philadelphia, PA.

William (Billy) Jackson Last suspected residence, Phildelphia, PA.

Jesse James Jackson

Margaret (Mickey) Nanny Spivey Gillespie Jackson, DOB: 11/6/19  
Last known residence, Stockton, CA.

ANY INFORMATION, PLEASE REPLY TO: DIANE RODGERS, 909 A North Jones,  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89108

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SUMMARY REPORT OF HERITAGE, INCORPORATED

October 1, 1982 - February 28, 1983

The main objectives of Heritage, Inc. for these past months has  
been to correlate the functions of management and membership. As  
most new groups are well aware, there are many problems in starting  
a new group and we shall not go into further explanation.

As has been stated earlier we have established a logo, and motto.  
We have set our policy statements to paper, which are on the  
latter part of this report.

The formation of our workshops have been clearly established and  
are doing well. Kim Miller as Search Coordinator is doing a  
wonderful job. Please remember if you cannot make a regularly  
scheduled workshop and are still in need of assistance to call

Kim to set up an appointment at (702) 732-9228. Kim has set up a program of workshops for the last Monday of every month at her residence, 3535 Cambridge, Barkclay Square Apartment Complex, #220, at 7:30 PM. Remember to bring your notebooks and materials you wish looked at.

Kim, Marty, and Dee have been busily working correlating our introduction packages not only for our established members but' for those persons interested in becoming members, which we hope to have soon.

Please not our new P.O. Box. We sincerely hope this will be the last time for a change of address.

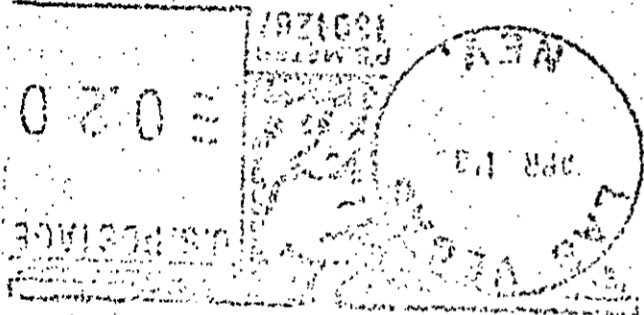
We are planning a fun night at a regularly scheduled General Meeting, please watch for announcement in the RJ or Sun or call one of the established information numbers, 732-9228, 451-8309, 646-1790, 878-3977, 383-0037.

CLOSING NOTE: Thank you for the opportunity of bringing you this progress report, please let us know what we can do for you!!!

#### POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Heritage will lend emotional support and search assistance to adoptees, birthparent(s), and adoptive parents.
2. Heritage will not knowingly or intentionally invade the rights of any triad member should that member not be in social agreement with the search movement. If the member decides to remain in his/her current status with regard to search, Heritage will support that decision.
3. Heritage will lend emotional support only to adoptees under the age of 18 unless given extreme and/or unusual circumstances with the mutual consent of adoptive parents and agreement of the Board of Directors.
4. Heritage will lend emotional support only to birthparents with children under the age of 18 unless given extreme and/or unusual circumstances with the agreement of the Board of Directors.
5. Heritage will lend emotional support and search assistance to adoptive parents with children under or over the age of 18 with consent of the adoptee and/or approval of the Board of Directors.
6. Heritage will not support any member of the triad who gives thought to malice, financial gain, revenge or any adverse reason for seeking information concerning another triad member.
7. A decision of non-support or search assistance will be left up to the discretion of our search co-ordinator and/or search assistant and/or Board of Directors. Once this decision has been made it will be final.

ISRR (INTRN SOUNDEX REUNION REGIS  
BOX 2312  
CARSON CITY NV 89702-2312



HERITAGE, INC.  
P.O. BOX 85424  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89185-0424

To become a member of Heritage, Inc. please submit a \$10.00 donation and fill out the application blank provided below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTEE \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHPARENT \_\_\_\_\_ ADOPTIVE PARENT \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

EXPLAIN \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Heritage, Inc. c/o Treasurer  
P.O. box 85424  
Las Vegas, NV 89185-0424

Please enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.



Heritage, Inc.  
P O Box 35424  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89185-0424

HERITAGE BIRTHRIGHTS OF KNOWLEDGE

# the Freedom Press

Vol. II. No. 2

General Members and Guest Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of every month at the Las Vegas Press Club, Charleston Plaza Mall, 1724 East Charleston Blvd.

August 8	7:30 PM
September 12	7:30 PM
October 10	7:30 PM

The Board of Directors Meeting is held each Wednesday before the General Meeting at 7:30 PM. The location is on a rotating basis.

Marti 451-8309; Dee 646-1790; Doug 878-3977, or Trish 451-9939

August 3	7:30 PM
September 7	7:30 PM
October 5	7:30 PM

Workshops are held at individual homes. They start promptly at 7:30 PM. Please call one of the listed phone numbers for details and location.

Please note: We do make special arrangements for members with special problems.

## VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE

Economic hard times seem to seep into all of our daily lives. So it holds true that it also effects groups such as ours. We have lost two VIP's since the last newsletter.

We, the group, are sorely going to miss the departure of Kim Miller, Search Coordinator and acting Librarian. Her tireless efforts on the behalf of the group and individuals have helped enlighten all of us. We wish her much success in her new career and move to California.

Also leaving us during this period is Trish Wentworth, President. Thanks to Trish, we have a search and support group in Las Vegas. Trish was one of the founders of SNAG which developed into Heritage, Inc. Her leadership has inspired us to move ahead. She shall be maintaining her membership and her position on the Board of Directors as past president.

With the resignation of Trish Wentworth as President, it was Doug Warren, Vice President, who for personal reasons decided not to take the position of President under his wings. It was the unanimous decision of the Board of Directors to appoint Diane (Dee) Rodgers President for the duration of this term. Elections will be held June, 1984.

Especially for Heritage Membership:

We realize it is difficult for many of you to attend meetings because of family and personal obligations. We also realize these past months have been tough on all of you, what with trying to get Heritage, Inc. off the ground. Our meetings have been boring and tedious with details, such as setting up the By-Laws, setting our policies to paper, choosing our motto and logo, setting a budget for the fiscal year and last but not least, 'The Corporation' papers. Thanks to your patience and fortitude, all of the details are complete and we are ready for the future. It is time we move ahead and we are looking forward to your active participation once again. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at a meeting in the near future to help plan programs you would like presented. We would like your active participation and suggestions on increasing the membership.

Diane Rodgers  
Heritage, Inc., New President

The following letters are donated by two very special mothers of Doug Warren who had his reunion November, 1982.

(Adoptive) "The feelings of the adoptive parent when the child they love and care for decides to look up their birth parent varies. As for myself it's true I never carried my children under my heart but always in my heart. I had prayed a long time for our babies. We knew the first baby shown to us in all our children's cases was God's choice and we were delighted with His choice. To be faced with such a crisis as another mother in the picture was a jolt at first. Had I not been the mother my grown son wanted any more? Was my love not enough as a mother? Where had I failed? It all passed through my mind. Was it true my devotion and love were put aside and the blood is thicker than water saying all too true. I was hurt at first but I listened and found our son still loved me as his Mom but he had to find his birth mother. I am sure many reasons were there. I probably would not do it myself but we are all individuals and have different feelings and ways of approaching our problems. I loved our son and if it meant so much to him I could do nothing less than help where I could even if I did not fully understand. It was important to him and so it was important to me. I did not have any intrusion before from a mother who for very good reasons gave up her child. It took me awhile to get used to the idea and I still have some feedback on not being the only mother but the happiness it brought our son and his birth mother, the peace of mind they now have and the friendship building between them and also the biological father has a joy I did not think would be mine.

I met the birth parents and I like them. They are very nice people. I believe God planned it this way and I accept it in that way. We love our son as we always have. His birthparents gave him a good heritage. A lot of good inherited qualities. Our blessing was being able to build on these qualities. We are not perfect and made our share of mistakes. Our son is not perfect and will make his share of mistakes also but the one ingredient that binds a family is love and caring and learning to share with those who are your family. With a stable family life you can reach out and love others but without that basis all the searching and reaching out will not bring you a lasting relationship with anyone including biological parents.

I find I can accept this "my son's other life", now and be at ease with it and happy for him and his birthparents. I did what I felt called to do and enjoyed my children and feel fulfilled in doing it and would do it over again.

I wish all of you happiness in the family you have so you can reach out and have a good relationship with others and when you find your birth parents it will be in perspective. Don't put aside those who spent prayer, love and tears on your behalf. It is well to give credit where it is due and then each one can be loved for the contribution in your life.

I was given time to get used to the idea of this search for a birthparent. Reasons were explained to me. I was kept abreast of how things were going. It was not always easy for me but I felt it was being done fairly and our son was being very honest and forthright about it all. It was well worth it all because I knew I was not being set aside. I was still my son's Mom and always will be. His birth mother has her own place in his life.

The search was handled properly and so had a happy ending. May I say to those of you who are married my daughter-in-law was of immeasurable help and support to our son and to me. She has been a real blessing and I surely appreciate her and all she has been and done. She had everyone's good at heart and really played an important role in this our happy ending." An adoptive mother

(Biological) "It's been five months now since I received the phone call relating the name and whereabouts of my adult son, ending the near twenty-eight year period entailing inner moments of wondering, grieving, guilt and depression. The decision to meet him came instantly for me, along with the fears and uncertainty of how this knowledge would effect other family members. Relying on the love, strength, and openness we had established within our family unit, I felt positive that all would work out well.

I'm not going to say all was easy. Along with deeply hidden feeling of resentment and hurt which surfaced, I nearly lost the love and respect of my son-in-law who is equally important to me. Our daughter, who can relate to the feminine circumstances, both now and long ago, openly accepted her younger brother. Our youngest son on the other hand, is happy for us, but at present his main priority is living and working independently. I'm sure with more time and maturity, he will adjust and accept the situation more openly.

While traveling to meet our son, anxious thoughts kept dashing thru my mind. Even though we had exchanged letters, photos, phone calls and knew a little about each other, the feeling of insecurity still remained.

Finally the reunion and there he stood, looking so familiar and yet still a stranger. The mother in me wanted to touch and embrace him and the practical adult in me kept saying, "Go easy!" The next few days were extremely exciting and enjoyable, getting to know each other, discovering you share similar interests, likes and dislikes and enjoying the same relaxing atmosphere. Slowly building a relationship, realizing that here is a person so very much like yourself and regretting times that never occurred but bonding a friendship for future contemplation. Time passed so quickly, sharing thoughts and feelings and trying to absorb years in the short stay. It was hard to leave this son and his family who had entwined our hearts with love, but being adults, I think we all realized the ties were strong and there would be an ongoing friendship.

I imagine our reunion was one of the happier ones. Not only did we meet our son and his immediate family but also members of his adopted family. Thanks to the support of organizations like this one, reunions such as ours are now made possible."

HERITAGE SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS:

Our special congratulations to one of our newest members, Mal Loveland on finalizing his search. Our blessings are with him, his family and extended family.

TO FRIENDS OF HERITAGE, INC.:

As of January, 1984, we will no longer send the Freedom Press to our complete mailing list which now consists of approximately 300 groups and individuals internationally. Heritage, Inc., will maintain a policy of sending to groups on an exchange basis. It was the decision of the Board of Directors to make a minimum charge of \$5.00 per year (4 issues) subscription to the "Freedom Press". Let us hear from you.

REUNION REGISTRIES, Part II:

Parent Finders of Canada  
Reunion Registry (Canadian Adoption)  
1408 West 45th Avenue  
Vancouver, B. C. V6M 2H1 Canada  
Attention: Joan Vanstone, Director

State of Florida  
Office of Vital Statistics  
P. O. Box 210  
Jacksonville, Florida 32201  
Attention: Florida Adoption Registry

Deletion: Colorado State Reunion Registry closes June 30, 1983.

We would like to know what is going to happen with the 187 names you enclosed in this registry. Heritage would like to know that they have been placed with International Soundex Reunion Registry. Do you have any comments? Address them to:

Frank A. Traylor, M. D.  
Executive Director  
Colorado Dept. of Health  
4210 East 11th Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80220

(Cont. P.6)

SEARCH ADS

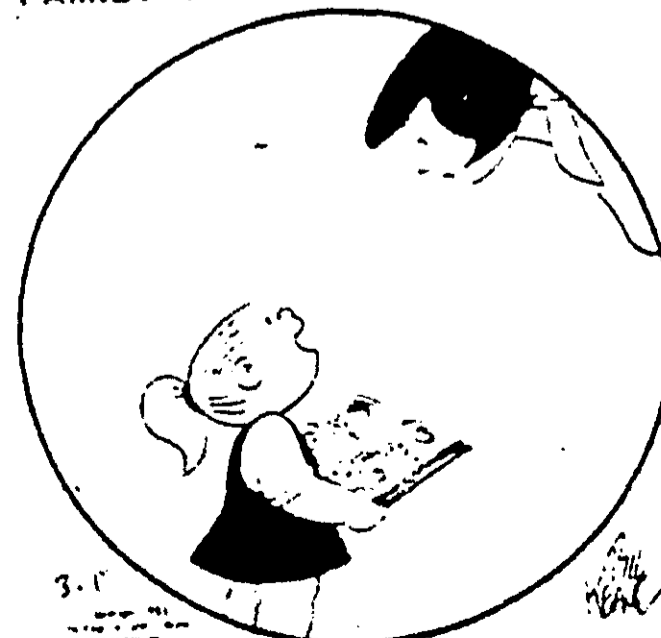
"I was born Judy Joyce Brem in Santa Monica, California: DOB: Sept. 2, 1945, private adoption (?) through Atty Boller, Suttner & Boller first to Martha Bristol, who in turn gave me to Irene A. Putman. I am searching for my mother or information regarding the whereabouts of Joyce Helen Tow. DOB: 1925 in Oilton, Oklahoma of Black-Dutch and Indian descent. Known to be married to Kuehn (pronounced keen). Last known whereabouts of Joyce Helen Tow Brem Kuehn, Myrtle Creek, Oregon, 1948. Please forward any information to Judy J. Redding, 4794 Saguaro Way, Las Vegas, Nevada 89121 (702) 454-5169. At this date, I am still not sure that the adoption was ever finalized, my mother tried to reclaim me 8-5-48 through the court of jurisdiction and motion was denied but no final decree has been found."

"I would like to have a search partner in the Roanoke, Va., area. Anyone interested, please write to: Marti Reinhart, 4478 Casa Blanca, Las Vegas Nevada 89121"

"HELP! Anybody reading this ad please look in your phone book and see if you find the name Toby Chandler! If so, send information to: Marti Reinhardt, 4478 Casa Blanca, Las Vegas, NV 89121

SEARCHING FOR: John Charles Smith DOB 12/24/41 Last known residence Reno, NV, John Carl Smith, DOB 9/3/04, Union, SC Last known residence Phil., PA, James (Jimmy) Swably DOB '39, Last known residence Tiffin, OH, Florence Ester (Spivey) Swably DOB 10/21/21 Last suspected residence Florida, Charolette Gillespie, William (Billy) Jackson, Jesse James Jackson Last suspected residence Phil. PA, Margaret (Mickey) Nancy Spivey DOB 11/6/19 Last known residence Stockton, CA Any information, please reply D. Rodgers, 909A No. Jones Blvd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89108

FAMILY CIRCUS



"When you and Daddy ordered me was I in stock or did you have to put me on back order?"

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SUMMARY OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY REUNION REGISTRY:

The following is taken directly from the cover letter sent by the Department of Human Services:

"The Division of Youth and Family Services offers an Adoption Registry service to the biological parents and adult adoptees who went through the adoption process with this agency. Upon written request from a biological parent, their name, address and any other identifying information, they wish to share will be placed in our registry and cross referenced with that of their child. When the child (adoptee) reaches the age of majority and requests to be put in contact with his or her biological parent we refer to this registry and use the information contained there to initiate a reunion."

"This Division will share non-identifying information with an adult adoptee upon written request. Also, we will provide a limited search program for adult adoptees who wish to be put in contact with members of their biological family who have not registered with this agency."

Of interest regarding access to records: Chapter 367, #15

"...copies of such judgment and shall maintain an alphabetical index of all judgments of adoption entered each year pursuant to this act in the County Courts and the Superior Court of the State, all of which records shall be sealed and thereafter shall be made accessible only by court order.

16.a. All records of proceedings relating to adoption, including the complaint, judgment and all petitions, affidavits, testimony, reports, briefs, orders and other relevant documents, shall be filed under seal by the clerk of the court and shall at no time be open to inspection or copying unless the court, upon good cause shown, shall otherwise order..."

You will need to write directly to the address given below to inquire as to the age of majority or to direct any other questions.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
Department of Human Services  
Division of Youth and Family Services  
Adoption Services Unit  
One South Montgomery Street  
CN 717  
Trenton, New Jersey 06625

SUMMARY OF IOWA REFERENCE & REUNION LIBRARY:

Iowa Reference & Reunion Library  
P. O. Box 9191  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52409

ATTENTION: JANET RANDALL, PRESIDENT

Talk about a lady going out of her way to furnish information for this article, Janet, you are tops with Heritage.

I.R.R.L. has no restriction as to who may register. There are no fees attached; however, "Donations are accepted to help defray expenses". I.R.R.L. also offers search assistance, "any unusual expenses involved for which reimbursement is necessary you will be asked before we proceed".

Janet went out of her way to provide us with copies of Iowa statutes from which the following is extracted:

§ 600.6 ATTACHMENTS TO AN ADOPTION PETITION. An adoption petition shall have attached to it the following:

1. A certified copy of the birth certificate showing parentage of the person to be adopted or, if such certificate is not available, a verified birth record.
2. A copy of any order terminating parental rights with respect to the person to be adopted.

§ 600.16-3...court may, however, permit revelation of the identity of the natural parents to medical personnel attending the adopted person or the person's offspring. These medical personnel shall make every reasonable effort to prevent the identity of the natural parents from becoming revealed to the adopted person.

§ 600.24. ACCESS TO RECORDS. The department may allow access to adoption records held by it or an agency if:

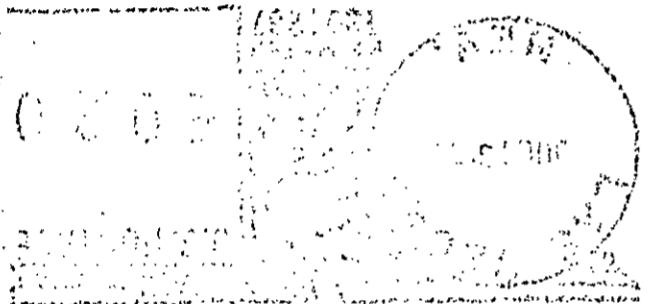
- a. The records were compiled prior to January 1, 1977.
- b. The identity of the natural parents of the adopted person is canceled from the person gaining access to the records; and
- c. The person gaining access to the records uses them solely for the purposes of conducting a legitimate research project or of treating a patient in a medical facility.

Thanks a lot, Janet, and we at Heritage wish you many REUNIONS!!

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*Thompson Library  
7571 Brentwood Ave.  
Brentwood, Ca. 92083*

HERITAGE, INC.  
P. O. BOX 85424  
LAS VEGAS NV 89185-0424



To become a member of Heritage, Inc., please submit a \$10.00 donation and fill out the application blank provided below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTEE \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHPARENT \_\_\_\_\_ ADOPTIVE PARENT \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

EXPLAIN \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Heritage, Inc., c/o Treasurer  
P. O. Box 85424  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89185-0424

Please enclose a self addressed, legal size stamped envelope.

THE FREEDOM PRESS - 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION \$5.00

GROUP  INDIVIDUAL



Heritage, Inc.  
P. O. Box 35424  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89185-0424

HERITAGE BIRTHRIGHTS OF KNOWLEDGE

# the Freedom Press

Vol. II. No. 2

General Members and Guest Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of every month at the Las Vegas Press Club, Charleston Plaza Mall, 1724 East Charleston Blvd.

November 6	Heritage Rummage Sale at Broadacres
November 14	7:30 PM
December 12	7:30 PM
January 9	7:30 PM

Marti 451-8309; Dee 646-1790; Doug 878-3977, or Trish 451-9939

Workshops are held after general meetings. They begin after the business portion of the meeting and a brief break. NOTE: We do make special arrangements for members with special problems.

### Especially for Heritage membership:

We initiated a library for the benefit of members who have trouble finding books at the public library on adoption topics. There are several books overdue; some are very overdue. Please return the books at the first opportunity, mail them to the P.O. Box or call 451-8309 to arrange pickup. Thank you.

Due to the success of last year's rummage sale, we were able to publish this newsletter. We are hoping to have the same success this year. The sale will be held at Broadacres, Sunday, November 6. Please contact one of the officers to donate time and/or items.

### VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE

We are pleased to announce that our President, Dee Rodgers, was interviewed concerning Heritage, Inc., by Tom Weir of Station KMJJ. The show aired Sunday, August 14, at 8:00 AM. Dee was advised that the interview might be replayed at a better time if there were enough requests. Let's all pitch in and call the station! It was a great interview and we need the publicity. We hope to tape a copy to keep in the Heritage library for interested members.

The following article appeared in the Review Journal on May 15, 1983.

# CONNECTIONS

## Heritage aids adoption triad members in helping to restore their family tree

By Rob Powers  
Review-Journal

As a little boy, Doug Warren would lie in the solitude of his darkened bedroom before drifting off to sleep, wondering who his birth mother was — and why she gave him up.

"I remember thinking, 'Someone out there had to have me,'" says the 28-year-old Las Vegas post office worker. "I'd go to these sports events, see all these faces and think I'd never find her."

When he finally did begin his search, his adoptive parents, Esther and Walter, were "wary," he says.

"At first, I wasn't sure how I felt," Esther says. "It leaves you with a feeling: Was I not adequate? Was there something I left out?"

After she talked with her son, however, Esther felt reassured.

"If they need this to complete themselves," says the mother of five adoptive children, "then fine."

All was not fine for Warren when he began his search.

"When I started, I had heard different tales about the lack of cooperation of agencies," he says. "I didn't know what to do; I couldn't afford a private eye."

He eventually did track down his birth parents, largely with the help of a local organization called Heritage. They were still married, and living in New Jersey.

He wrote them. They wrote back. And last Thanksgiving, his mother telephoned.

"She said they wanted to come out and visit," Warren recalls. "It was more than I expected."

When the meeting did take place, he says, "They wanted to explain why I was placed up for adoption. They didn't have to feel guilty. I made out all right."

Warren discovered, to his delight, that he and his father shared a love of auto mechanics. He also learned that he had a blood brother and sister, with whom he now corresponds "regularly." His sister recently flew out from the East to visit him.

"It was kind of strange," he says. "We were related, but we were complete strangers."

Does he regret his search?

Warren says no.

"I feel more content now. I know my roots; I've got my family tree all the way back to my ancestors. It gives me a better self-image."



DOUG WARREN



TRICIA WENTWORTH

Times have changed. It wasn't too long ago, says 56-year-old adoptee Tricia Wentworth, also a member of Heritage, when "birth parents were threatened not to search for their kids." As for adoptees, she adds, "if they felt a need to search, they were considered ungrateful...or not raised properly."

The number of people in the United States directly or indirectly affected by adoption is staggering. There are about 9 million adoptees in the country. Figure in 18 million adoptive parents, 18 million birth parents, as well as adoptive and birth brothers and sisters, and the total approaches one-quarter of the entire population.

Despite those eye-opening figures, groups like Heritage, an independent search and support group founded here in 1980, were a rarity 25 years ago, Wentworth says. And if they did exist at all, their effectiveness was severely limited by tightly sealed adoption records.

"Closed records are still the biggest roadblock" members of the adoption triad (birth parents, adoptees, adoptive parents) encounter in the United States, Wentworth, an office manager, contends.

The decision whether to open them, she adds, is most often left up to a judge, to whom "good and just cause" must be demonstrated.

Nevada, she says, "has one of the most cooperative state (registries)," but Wentworth still believes comprehensive legislation on a national level is needed so that those who desire access to records may have it.

As if to assuage the fears that idea might provoke, Wentworth points to a country like England, which, she says, "has had open records for 20 years. And there have been no instances of problems."

But what about the birth parents? Don't they have the right to keep their anonymity, to prevent a curious child from re-opening an enormously painful emotional wound?

It's a right they do possess, but one, contends Wentworth, they seldom exercise: "Statistics show that internationally, there is only a 2 percent rejection rate of birth parents not wanting" a reunion with their children, she says.

Besides, Wentworth stresses, "Discretion is what we advise all the time. And, confidentiality (when it is desired) — that goes without saying."

Warren says that it was the prevalence of birth mothers at Heritage meetings that solidified his resolve to search for his.

Which contradicts in dramatic fashion a widely held notion that the vast majority of parents who gave up children for adoption would think it too painful to ever hear from them again.

There was a time when Las Vegas Diane Rodgers, a 38-year-old secretary and a member of Heritage, felt exactly that way.

Rodgers was 19 and single when she became pregnant. "I was engaged to a young man," she says. "We both decided marriage wasn't the thing for us." Shortly after she told her fiance about her pregnancy, he left her, returning to his ex-wife.

Friends suggested abortion, but Rodgers "couldn't do it. It was not within my fiber."

She was alone with an infant and had nowhere to turn.

"I had tried to keep my child," she says. "But we were both starving."

Three months after her daughter, was born Rodgers arrived at what she calls "the hardest decision in my life."

Her aunt, a nurse, contacted a doctor who knew a couple willing to take the child. They did, two weeks later.

Rodgers says she "didn't want to know, for my own self-preservation," who adopted her baby.

"I just trusted the doctor's judgment. And I trusted my aunt implicitly.

"I just found it was easier for me to lay her down on the couch and walk away from her," says Rodgers, fighting back tears.

"To be truthful, I don't remember much about that time. I was like the walking dead. I felt like my insides had been torn out. I had no existence, no purpose. Nothing."

She wed a year later. The marriage soon collapsed.

"It was a very short marriage. I was never able to have any more children."

Rodgers says the emotional support she received from Heritage helped her to come to terms with the overwhelming feelings of guilt she had carried inside her for almost 20 years.

"There is tremendous guilt," she says. "Did I do right by my child? Is my child happy? Was the family she was placed in an idealistic family? You think about all these things."

Rodgers remembers being told "never to search for my child."

But hearing adoptees in Heritage talk about their feelings helped change her mind.

She found that her daughter was living in Salem, Ore., and she called her. "We talked three hours on the phone," she says.

Last Memorial Day weekend, the two met face to face. Rodgers calls the meeting "wonderful."

"It was like meeting a very good friend," she says. "We talked about everything.

"We're very, very close," she adds. "We even look alike! I thought, 'My God, that's me at 16!'"

Heritage has brought about 20 such reunions during the years, says Wentworth, who adds the group is seeking professional volunteers such as



DIANE RODGERS

doctors, lawyers and psychologists.

But she emphasizes there is much more to the group — and adoption generally — than reunions. One of Heritage's functions is to explode the myriad myths and misnomers surrounding adoption.

One that falls into the latter category is the term "natural parent."

"That's an insult to the adoptive parents," Wentworth says. "Does that mean they are unnatural?"

Says Rodgers, "There's definitely a feeling amongst members of the triad that outsiders lack understanding. I never met anyone I thought could understand what I was going through until I found Heritage."

"It seems to us that so much centers on reunions per se," Wentworth says. "They do sell newspapers. But there's more to it.

"There's not always face-to-face contact. Sometimes, just knowing a name and heritage is enough."

"Adoption is not what some people would like to think it is," says Rodgers. "Not all adoptive families are idealistic."

And not all the reasons adoptees search for their birth parents are emotional.

"Can you imagine the relief of going into a doctor's office and giving your medical history?" Wentworth asks.

Heritage meets 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the Las Vegas Press Club, located in the Charleston Plaza Mall. All members of the adoption triad and their families are welcome.

Sandy Musser, founder and director of Adoption Triangle Ministry, has requested our help in reaching the churches, private agencies and pro-life groups. The following is a copy of her request.

As most 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 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 Services, etc.

And finally the pro-lifers continue to raise the flag of "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 choice of 1: keeping their child; 2: adoption; 3: abortion, the first choice was always to keep; the second choice, abortion; and the third choice, adoption. Only as we give them more options and more knowledge about their child, will they opt for adoption. The pro-lifers 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 Adoption Educational Institute for Openness and Understanding, Box 1860, Cape Coral, Florida 33910.

#### SUMMARY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA REUNION REGISTRY

The Nevada Reunion Registry is maintained by Nevada State Welfare Division which has locations throughout the state. Their main office is: NEVADA STATE WELFARE CENTRAL OFFICE, 251 Jeanell Drive, Carson City, Nevada 89710

ATTENTION: MARY LEE

You may want to check the White Pages of a local telephone directory for one of the local offices to pick up a form. The qualifications to become a registrant are: taken from s<sup>s</sup> 127.007 NRS, Chapter 127:

#### STATE REGISTER FOR ADOPTIONS.

1. The Welfare Division of the Dept. of Human Resources shall maintain the state register for adoptions, which is hereby established in its central office for the purpose of providing information to adults who were adopted and their natural parents.

2. The state register for adoptions consists of:
  - a. Names and other information, which the State Welfare Administrator deems to be necessary for the operation of the register, relating to persons who have released a child for adoption or have consented to the adoption of a child, or whose parental rights have been terminated by the court of competent jurisdictions, and who have submitted the information voluntarily to the Welfare Division; and
  - b. Names and other necessary information of persons who are 18 years of age or older, who were adopted and who have submitted the information voluntarily to the Welfare Division.

Any person whose name appears in the register may withdraw it by requesting in writing that it be withdrawn. The Welfare Division shall immediately withdraw a name upon receiving a request to do so, and may not thereafter release any information relating to that person, including the information that such a name was ever in the register.

3. The Welfare Division may release information about a natural parent to an adopted parent to an adopted person, or about an adopted person, if the names and information about both are contained in the register.

#### SEARCH ADS

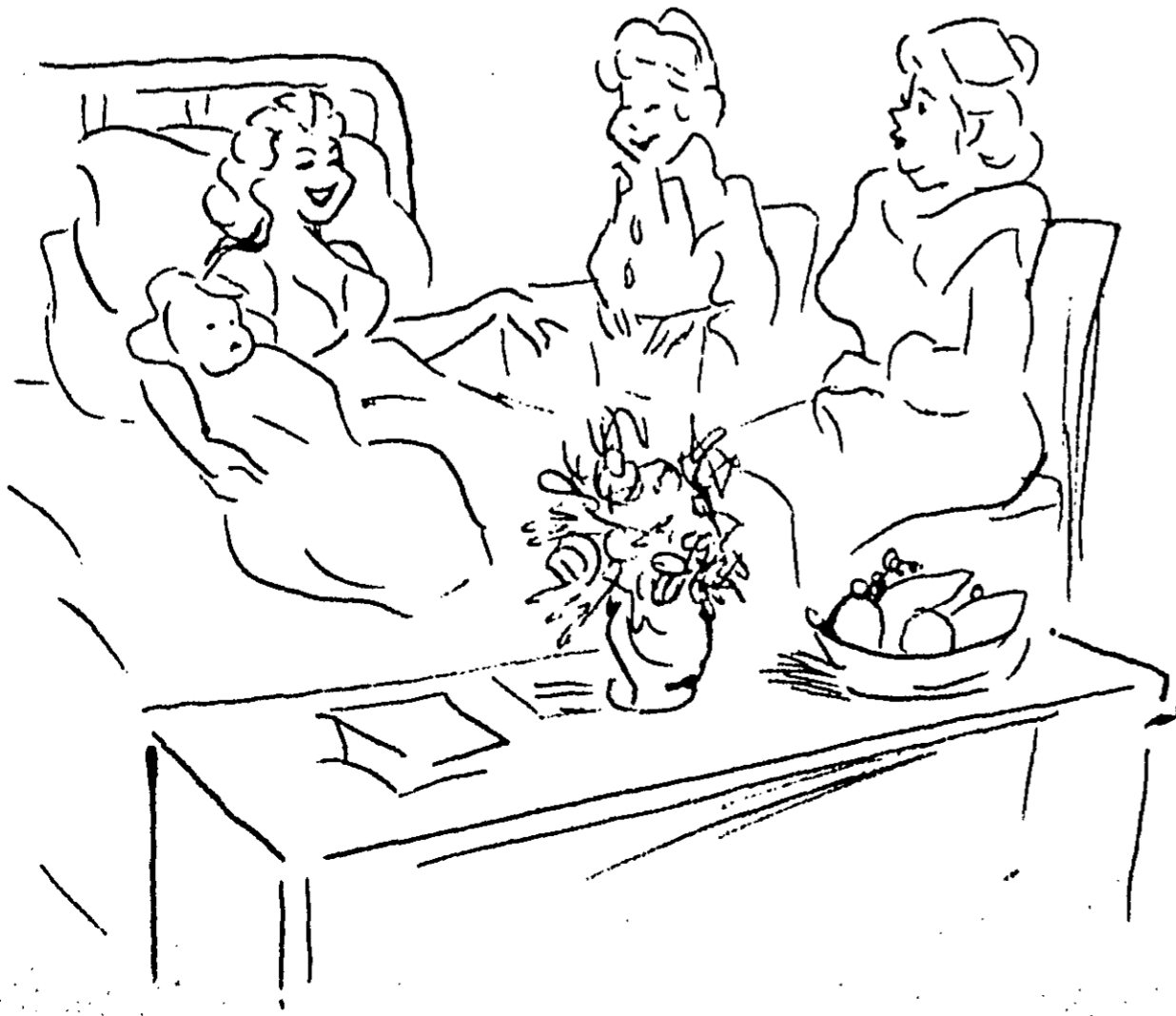
We are still accepting search ads free of charge.

#### SEARCHING FOR NEPHEW

Birthname, John Daniel Oneil, B/D: 6/7/47 in Ft. Lauderdale or Miami area, Florida. Call Trish Wentworth, P. O. Box 43444, Las Vegas, Nevada.

#### TO FRIENDS OF HERITAGE, INC.:

As of January, 1984, we will no longer send the Freedom Press to our complete mailing list which now consists of approximately 300 groups and individuals internationally. Heritage, Inc., will maintain a policy of sending to groups on an exchange basis. It was the decision of the Board of Directors to make a minimum charge of \$5.00 per year (4 issues) subscription to the 'Freedom Press'. Let us hear from you.



Adoption humor circa 1949.....  
submitted by one of our members.

"It was nothing compared to the ordeal we went through adopting little Waldo --no references, no embarrassing questions, no sitting around in agencies..!"

**16-in.-tall Cabbage Patch Kids**

include birth certificate and adoption papers

**1** CABBAGE PATCH KIDS BY COLECO. Each little person in the Cabbage Patch is unique, a "one-of-a-kind". Adorable, adoptable girl and boy dolls come with birth certificate and adoption papers. Their arms are open, ready to hug. Dressed in removable baby's clothing in various-color, non-flammable fabrics. 16-in.-tall bodies are stuffed with polyester fabric. Heads are vinyl, with painted eyes; face expression may vary slightly. Acrylic hair in various shades. Arms and legs are free to move. For ages 3 years and up. Before ordering see NOTE below, right. State the catalog number for the type of Cabbage Patch Kid you choose.

XU 651-3022 A—White girl with light hair.

XU 651-3030 A—White girl with dark hair.

XU 651-3048 A—White boy.

XU 651-3055 A—Black girl.

Delivery weight each 1.20 lbs..... Each 19.97

**2** CABBAGE PATCH KIDS ROCKER/CARRIER. 3-position adjustable handle converts unit from a rocker...to carrier...to car seat. Seatbelt strap holds the little one in. Inner vinyl cushion is plump and comfortable. Carrier is contoured, molded plastic, with Cabbage Patch Kids decal on front. Doll not included—order [1], above. For ages 3 years and up.

XU 651-3063 A—Delivery weight 1.80 lbs..... 13.88

Clipped from J.C. Penney catalogue. A similar ad appears in the Service Merchandise catalogue, located in Las Vegas.



It's a car seat

It's a rocker

It's a carrier

Adopt Your Own Cabbage Patch Kids

NOTE: Each adoptable Cabbage Patch Kid is an individual—no two are exactly alike. Each has his/her own name and designer outfit. For these reasons the actual little person you receive will be similar to one of the types shown here—but not identical. You select the type you wish to "adopt", we'll do the rest.



Birthparents: Did you drop your kids off at the Cabbage Patch Adoption Agency?

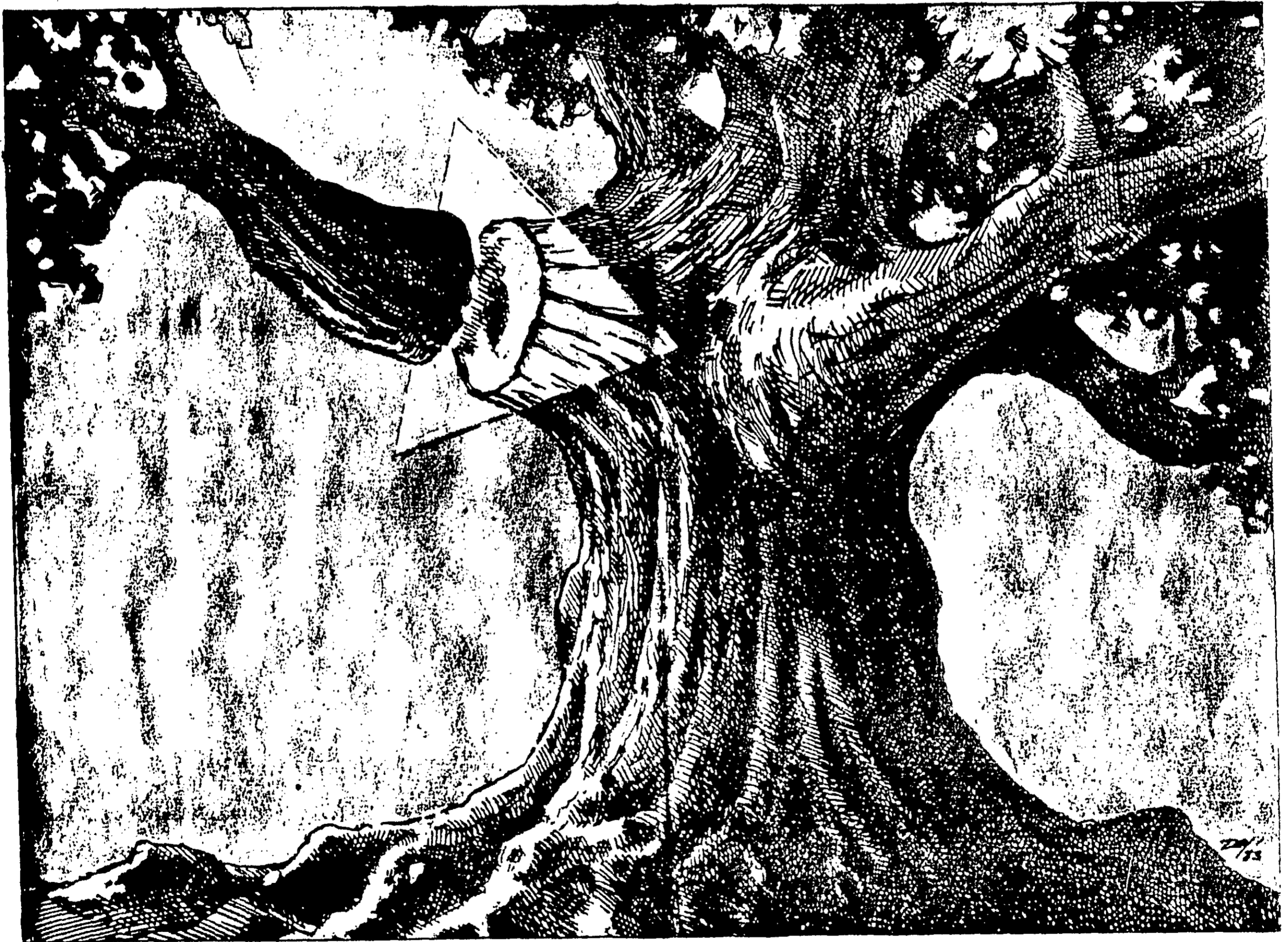
Adoptees: Did you come complete with your own name, birth certificate and adoption papers?

Let's hear from our readers.....Do you think this is funny or is it offensive?

SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION

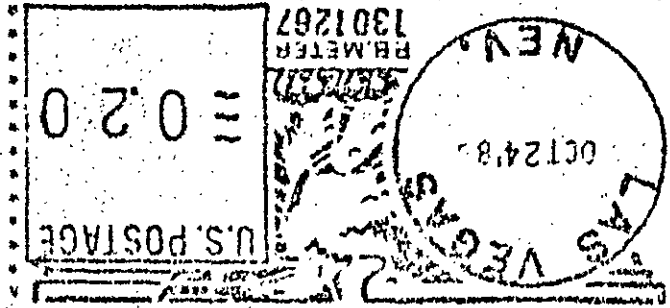
Birthname: Patricia Ann Northrop. Birthdate: September 12, 1936.  
Birthplace: Reno, Nevada. Birthname of mother: Virginia Hume Wakefield  
from St. Louis, Mo. or Kansas. Please write Marilyn Cowan, 321 Lehman St.,  
Las Vegas, Nevada, 89110 or call 452-7044.

This is an artist's conception of the adoption triad that accompanied the  
Las Vegas Review Journal article on pages 2 and 3.



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I.S.R.  
P.O. Box 2312  
Crown City, Nev. 89702-2312



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To become a member of Heritage, Inc., please submit a \$10.00 donation and fill out the application blank provided below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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ADOPTEE \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHPARENT \_\_\_\_\_ ADOPTIVE PARENT \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

EXPLAIN \_\_\_\_\_

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Las Vegas, Nevada 89185-0424

Please enclose a self addressed, legal size stamped envelope.

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GROUP  INDIVIDUAL

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