

A. S. K.

Adoptees Search for Knowledge
Search & Support Group

***** MEETING *****

February 20, 1983

2:00 p.m.

Kith Haven, Inc.
G1069 N. Ballenger Hwy.

North of the hospitals & Flint River
1st building on the west side

***** MEETING *****

COORDINATOR

Joyce Fensom
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EDITOR

Deanna Rogers
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COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

There comes a time when it is better to ask for help than ignore the fact that a problem exists. So it was when I asked for help with the newsletter that I was happily rewarded with an affirmative answer. In short, the newsletter now has an editor - Deanna Rogers. She is very knowledgeable in the adoptee - birthparent movement. During her search for her daughter, she joined many groups and subscribed to many periodicals. She received much support and gained much insight into the needs of others. Deanna feels very strongly about certain issues and I'm sure she will be sharing them soon.

One of her concerns, and mine, is dealt with in this issue. You need to be the most informed person about the issue you are trying to deal with - searching. You need to know your feelings are shared by others. You also need to know the other side of the issue. If you are a birthparent, you need to understand and feel the needs of the adoptee. If you are an adoptee, you need to reverse that and understand the life of a birthparent. There are two ways to achieve this understanding: listen to and talk with others and read as much material as possible. The first can be accomplished by coming to the meetings. The second is to use the book list Deanna has compiled for you. I strongly urge you to do both.

Another means of communicating is writing your own story. Whether you are just beginning or are a few years into your reunion, or anywhere in between, we want to hear from you. Each of you has something to say. Please take time to share with us, be it short or long, prose or poetry.

To Deanna - thanks for taking the responsibility of the newsletter. To Jeff, Judy, Gail, Liz, Mary and Helena - thanks. You've all given me and this organization a second chance to really make it.

Joyce

ATTENTION

You will find a very complete reading list included in this newsletter. Little Professor Book Center in Eastland Mall, Dalton's Book Store in Genesee Valley, and Nancy's Book World on Beecher Rd. in Flint will order any books for you that are not available in the store. Just give them a call. Little Professor 743-5510, Dalton's 732-5370, Nancy's 733-2013. Your library is also a good source if you're not interested in purchasing the book.

NEW BOOK

What Kind of Love Is This by Sandra Musser, author of "I Would Have Searched Forever". Sandra shares the ups & downs of a new found relationship with her daughter following a rejection five years before. (excellent reading) Book may be ordered for \$7.95 at Jan Enterprises, Box 156, Oaklyn, New Jersey 08107

SEARCH HELPS

Military Locators, Inc. PO Box 5369, Orlando, Fl 32855 can locate anyone in any branch of the military.

The American Medical Association will send you a doctor's last known address, age, if he is still practicing, and his credentials. Write: AMA, Dept. of Data Release Services, Profile Section, 535 North Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. 60610 and expect a computer read-out in two months.

PHONE BOOKS

You can order any phone book for any city in the U.S. by phoning Michigan Bell at 232-9911. There is a small fee which they will charge to your monthly bill and the phone book will be mailed to you. Allow a few weeks for delivery.

*Once there were two women
Who never knew each other
One you do not remember
The other you call mother.*

*Two different lives,
shaped to make yours one.
One became your guiding star
The other became your sun.*

*The first gave you life
And the second taught you to live in it.
The first gave you a need for love
And the second was there to give it.*

*One gave you a nationality
The other gave you a name.
One gave you the seed of talent
The other gave you an aim.*

*One gave you emotions
The other calmed your fears.
One saw your first sweet smile
The other dried your tears.*

*One gave you up
It was all that she could do
The other prayed for a child -
And God led her straight to you.*

*And now you ask me through your tears
The age-old question through the years
Heredity or environment - which are you the
product of?*

*Neither, my darling, - Neither
Just two different kinds of love.*

Anon

For additional copies:
Adoption Triangle Ministry
Box 156, Oaklyn, N.J. 08107
\$1.00 per 20

No, the heart that has truly lov'd never forgets . . .
- Thomas Moore

SUGGESTED READING

- * The Adoption Triangle, Sorosky, Baran, & Pannor; Anchor Press, Double Day, Anchor City, New York, 1978 Ppbk NF
- * Lost and Found, B.J. Lifton; Dial Press, New York, 1979 Ppbk NF
- The Baby Brokers, Lynn McTaggart NF
- Birthmark, Lorraine Dusky; M. Evans & Co. Inc., 216 East 49 St., New York, New York 10017, 1979 NF
- Shared Fate, H. David Kirk; Free Press, New York, 1964 NF
- The Art of Adoption, Linda Cannon Burgess; Acropolis Books, Washington D.C., 1976 NF
- A Time To Search, Henry Erlich; Paddington Press, Ltd., New York 1978 NF
- Pregnant Too Soon, Jeanne Warren Lindsay; Morning Glory Press, 6595 San Haroldo Way, Buena Park, Calif. 90620. \$11.45
- Adopted Children - How They Grow Up, Alexina McWhinnie; Routledge & Kegan, New York, Humanities Press, 1968 NF
- In Search of Origins, Dr. John Troselotis; Routledge & Kegan, 9 Park St., Boston, Mass. 02108, 1973 NF
- Orphan Voyage, Ruthena Hill Kittson, Vantage Press, New York, 1968 NF
- The Search For Anna Fisher, Florence Fisher; Dutton Publishers, Fawcett, 1973 Ppbk NF
- Twice Born - Momoirs of an Adopted Daughter, B.J. Lifton; McGraw-Hill, New York, 1975 NF
- Jody, Jerry Hulse NF
- I Would Have Searched Forever, Sandra Musser; Jan Enterprises, Box 156, Oaklyn, N.J. 08107, \$4.95 NF
- What Kind of Love Is This, Sandra Musser; Jan Enterprises, Box 156 Oaklyn, N.J. 08107, \$8.95 NF
- Understanding The Birthparent, Lee Campbell; C.U.B., P.O. Box 573, Milford, Mass. 01757, 1977 (25 birthparents tell their stories) \$3.00
- Adoption: Who Has the Right to Know, C.U.B., P.O. Box 424, Perrysburg, Ohio \$3
- Somebody Else's Child, Roberta Silman
- Sisters and Strangers, Helen Van Slyke; Double Day, \$10.00
- Doing Good, The Limits of Benevolence, Gaylon, Glasser, Marcus & Rotham, Panthian Press, \$8.95
- Single Parent Experience, Carole Kein, Avon Books
- The Politics of Adoption, Mary Kethleen Benet; New York, MacMillan, 1976
- The Adopted Break Silence, Jean Paton; Orphan Voyage, Cedaredge, Colo. 1954 NF
- The August Stranger, Mike Slosberg
- Why Was I Adopted, Carole Livingston; Lyle Stuart, Inc., 120 Enterprise Ave., Secaucus, N.J. 07094, 1978 (The facts of adoption with love & illustrations)
- Finding My Father, Rod McKuen; Cheval Books, Berkley Pub. Corp., 1977 Ppbk NF
- I Heard My Sister Speak My Name, Savage, Thomas; Little Brown Co. F
- Adoptive Kinship, H. David Kirk; Ben Simon Pub., Box 867, Waterloo Ontario, Canada N2J4C3 \$12.95
- In Search of A Stranger, Warren Siegmond; Cameo Press, 373 Fifth Ave., Suite 1102, New York, N.Y. 10016 \$4.95 F
- I'm Still Me, B.J. Lifton; Alfred Knopf, Inc., 201 E. 50th St., New York, N.Y. 10022 \$9.95
- One Against the Storm, Stanley C. Mann; Quest Pub., Box 27317, Salt Lake City, Utah 84127 \$7.95

* Recommend to read before and during a search

NF - Non-Fiction

F - Fiction

- Search Aftermath and Adjustments, Nancy Sitterly, 1203 Hill St., Suffield, Conn. 06078 \$4.50
- Adoption the Grafted Tree, Laurie & William Wishard; Avon Books, 161 Berry St. #6410 San Francisco, Calif. 94107 \$3.50
- Open Adoption Open Placement, J. Roberts & Diane Robie; Adoption Press, Box 29617, Brooklly Ctr., M.N. 55429 \$4.95
- Tell Me My Name, Mary Carter
- The Adopted Child, Mary Ellison Stepford
- Find A Stranger, Say Goodbye, Lois Lowry
- Adoptive Parents & The Sealed Record Controversay, Annette Baren
- Orphan Train, James Paton
- The Adopted Child, Joseph G. Ansfield
- A Sorrow Beyond Dreams, Peter Sandle
- Because I Was Flesh, Edward Dalberry
- Is That Your Sister, Sherry & Catherine Buin
- Dont't Disturb Daddy, Grace Connor
- Adopted Four & Had One More, Helen L. West NF
- A Paren'ts Guide to Adoption, Robert S. Lusnik NF
- Faint Trails, Hal Aiger NF
- How to Find Your Past, Carol Gray, (Pamphlet) Box 41372-A, Cincinnati, Oh 45241
- Out of My Tree, Hawood Giles (Autobiography) Reunite, P.O. Box 694, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43608 NF
- The Angry Book, Theodore Isaac Rubin, M.D. (Anger is a normal, natural, healthy feeling and many of us are burying the anger that we fee; toward many people involved in our adoption/relinquishment - Do yourself a favor and read this book)
- The Bereaved Parent, Harriet Schiff
- Beyond the Best Interests of the Child, Goldstein, Freud, & Solnit
- Before the Best Interests of the Child, Goldstein, Freud, & Solnit
- Successful Adoption, Jacqueline Hornor-Plumez NF
- My Mother, Jean Paton (Pamphlet) Orphan Voyage, Cedaredge, Colorado, 81413 50¢
- The Secret Life of the Unborn Child, Thomas Verny, M.D. (excerpted in Families magazine, Feb. 1982
- Admiral's Daughter, Victoria Fyodorova and Haskel Krankel NF
- Adoptive Parents and The Sealed Record Controversy, Annette Boran NF
- Death by Adoption, Jass Shawyer NF
- Finding Our Fathers, Don Rottenbury
- The Twins Who Found Each Other, Bard Lindeman
- Beating the Adoption Game, Cynthia D. Martin NF
- The House of Tomorrow, Jean Thompson; Harper & Row, New York, 1967
- Which Mother Is Mine, Joan Oppenheimer, Bantam Books, 666 5th. Ave., New York, - N.Y. 10019 Ppbk
- Dear Daughter, Kathy Wudel, 1980, P.O. Box 304, Montrose, Ca. 91020 \$5 Ppbk
- Orphan Train, James Magnuson & Dorothea G. Petrie, 1978, Fawcett Crest, New York, N.Y.
- What Happened to Adoption, Orphan Voyage, 2141 Rd. 2300, Cedaredge, Colorado 31413 (pamphlet) \$3.00

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Love Is Thicker Than Everything - Woman's Day, Aug. 5, 1980

I Have Two Mothers - Good Housekeeping, Sept. 1980

Letters To The Other Mother - McCall's, Sept. 1980

The Lingering Pain of Surrendering A Child - Psychology Today, June 1977

What's Right and Wrong With Adoption Today - Redbook, Sept. & Oct. 1978

Open Adoption - Social Work, March 1976

I Take After Somebody; I Have Real Relatives; I Possess a Real Name- Psychology Today, Dec. 1975

Secret Adoption Records: The Delemma of Our Adoptees - Psychology Today, Dec. 1975

My Search For My Roots - Seventeen, March 1977

Legacy of Love - Reader's Digest, Feb. 1982

Kathy's Triumph - Ladies' Home Journal, Feb. 1982

I Was Adopted By My Own Father - Good Housekeeping, April 1982

My Baby Can't Be Dead - Reader's Digest, March 1982

Adoption: Where the Children Are - McCalls, March 1982

Christian Life Magazine carried articles on adoption in the March 1982 issue. Write to C.L. Missions, 396 E. St. Charles Rd., Wheaton, Ill. 60187

Child Welfare, Journal of Policy, Practice and Program, April 1982 includes these articles: 1) Toward Humanizing Adoption, Caro; J. Sarich & Roberta Siebert. 2) The Consequences of Open and Closed Adoption for Older Children, Robert Rorgman. 3) Parent's Right to Counsel in Proceedings to Terminate Parental Rights: Factors to Consider, Douglas J. Besharov.

SEARCH BOOKS

How To Trace Your Family Tree, Double Day Ppbk

The Adoption Searchbook (Techniques for tracing people) Mary Jo Rillera,
\$12 Make checks payable to Triadoption Library, Inc., 7571 Westminster
Ave., Westminster, Ca. 92683

Searching in California (a reference guide to public and private records)
\$11.95 Make check payable to ISC Publications, P.O. Box 10857, Costa
Mesa, Ca. 92627

Searching in Florida (a reference guide to public and private records)
\$10.95 Make check payable to ISC Publications, P.O. Box 10857, Costa
Mesa, Ca. 92627

Adopted? A Canadian Guide for Adopted Adults in Search of Their Origins,
Claire Marcus

The Reg Niles Searchbook, Reg Niles; Phileas Deigh Corp., 600 Old Country
Rd. Suite 321, Garden City, N.J. 11530 \$13.95

How To Find Your Family Roots, Timothy Beard

The Handy Book for Genealogists, George B. Everton

The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy, Val Greenwood

Genealogical Evidence, Noel C. Stevenson

Building an American Pedigree, Norman Wright

Search, Jayne Askin; Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., Attn: R. Brengel,
10 E. 53rd St., New York, N.Y. 10022 \$17.00

THE LAW OF LOVE

The concept of loving trusting relationships among human beings is basic to the premise of God's universal teachings. So fundamental, yet so righteous, this LAW OF LOVE eclipses all else in life and remains a higher principle than mere man-made adoption regulations which were designed to "protect" people from knowing each other.

If learning from the past, for whatever reason, will ease suffering and pain, then why not draw aside that cold dark curtain of ignorance and fear, let the warming light of love shine through, and eliminate forever those terrible shadows of secrecy? Why is it considered such a threat for people involved in the adoption triangle to know each other? Do we really need to protect one another from learning the truth about each other?

I think not.

I say, let's make adoption more human. I say closed records is an idea whose time has passed. It's abhorrent to all I hold dear and sacred. To my way of thinking, it's contrary to God's way, and above all . . . against His LAW OF LOVE.

Warren E. Siegmond

(author of "In Search of A Stranger")

WARNING: ADOPTIONITIS

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaints as to the need for names, dates and places. Sufferer has blank expression, usually deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and county offices. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at mailman when answers are not forthcoming -- has been known to attack the mailman upon occasion. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries and utility companies. Makes secret phone calls, often at night. Hides phone bills from spouse and mumbles to self. Has strange, faraway look in eyes and functions well only around other adoption-oriented people.

TREATMENT: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend search workshops, buy and read all adoption-related books and magazine articles, and join a local support group. It is essential to give patient a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone. Large cardboard boxes for storage of papers are essential and a desk is a great asset.

CURE: The only known cure is completion of the search.

REOCCURRENCE: A reoccurrence of the disease of adoptionitis has been known to happen after the search is completed. This usually comes about because the ex-searcher cannot bear to see others still caught in the midst of the disease. It should be noted, however, that the severity of the disease is greatly lessened and can be treated with patience and understanding.

