

*Each time a man becomes a father, there is a brief instant when he feels as God must have felt on the day of creation.*

— Martin Buxbaum

BIRTH PARENTS/RELATIVE GROUP OF CANADA

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Edmonton, Alberta

T5A 4E9

Phone: (403) 473-4552

**St. Thomas Aquinas High School** reunion, graduating classes of 1962-68, is planned for Aug. 5-7 in Penhold. If you have not received an invitation contact Suzanne Erickson, 115 McLerin Cr., Red Deer, T4R 1S8.

June 1983

VOLUME I  
ISSUE 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These are just a few of my personal observations at the National Adoption Conference May 12th to 15th, 1983, which Penny and I attended.

During registration on the 12th, I got into a conversation with one of the Adoptive Parents Association's members who was involved with registrations. At one point she asked who I was then looked at my name tag. She said "Oh yes, Madeline Webb. Who are you with?" (representing). "The Birth Parent & Relative Group of Canada" says I. The immediate reaction was "Oh!" rather indignantly I thought. She said she had read my articles in the St. Albert & Morinville Gazette. I asked her what she thought of them. Another indignant reply, "Well! I had mixed feelings. End of Conversation.



We felt as though we had been locked into a block of ice for four days. Everyone seemed to be "keeping an eye" on us.

This day happened to be the birthday of my daughter whom I'm still searching for (when I have time). I wasn't in very good spirits naturally as any birthparent can understand. So I wasn't too appreciative of these comments - especially when I later learned that this particular adoptive mother is also a BIRTHMOTHER who married the birthfather. I can only assume that she must really be suffering with guilt - if only she would allow us to help her with her feelings.

Love, Madeline

P.S. IN CASE ANYONE IS WONDERING, EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT OUR MEETINGS IF THEY SUPPORT OUR CAUSE.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING FRIENDS, RELATIVES, ETC.

"I FOUND HER" "I FOUND HER" "I FOUND HER"

I think April 14th was one of the happiest days of my life. I spoke to my daughter Ruth at Seba Beach, Alberta.

It was a traumatic experience but the only time we cried was when I told her she had two sisters and I cried when she said "Good-Bye, "MUM".

I have five more grand children and a great-grandchild another son-in-law and Ruth will be coming to Maple Ridge on May 13th, to review our long overdue meeting face to face. These are going to be a long four weeks, but after all these years I can wait a bit longer.

I owe this reunion to the nicest little person "Adele Priestly" who lives not far from my home and who really put me on the right track. I remembered a little girl Ruth used to play with in Edmonton and after a telephone call to Empress Alberta we were able to locate Ruth.

To you, Madeline, I give my sincerest thanks for the help you were able to give me, also for the newsletters, they were very interesting. I never realized before there were so many parents and children looking for each other, my heart goes out to them all and I do hope many of them will be as fortunate as I was.

Good Luck to you and all your associates in your searches.

Yours sincerely,

Bernice Stibbon



### Almost a Halo

There's a glow of radiance  
That outshines all the others.  
You see it in the faces  
Of newborn babies' mothers.

— Omar Cayenne

Earlier, Skogstad called as witnesses two persons adopted in Alberta (where simply a letter to the appropriate agency gets the required information). Both attested to the contribution a reunion with their birth parents had made to their emotional well-being. Kelly has said he would use an intermediary if his application is approved by the court.

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#### PHONE BOOKS

We now have a great selection of phone books from British Isles, Italy, Milan, Norway, Sweden and various other Canadian provinces.

We will soon (I hope) be cataloguing our resource material. Anyone have some free time to spend in the office?

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#### MORE SEARCH INFO

We suggest you write a letter to person you're searching for and send to Social Services to be placed on file. Also keep copy and put in safety deposit box or with your will in case the person you are searching for shows up after your death, to be given to them.

When we suggest you send us copies of everything relating to your search, i.e. documents, etc., it is mainly for safekeeping and here is a good example why. One of our members recently had a house fire - which in itself is devastating - and lost all her documents, etc. Fortunately we have copies in our office on her file.

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#### THE HENDERSON DIRECTORY

Those who know what the Henderson Directory is have often refused to give the info. necessary to be listed, due to the fact that creditors use the directory. Please remember that if you are not listed in the Henderson Directory that it may mean that your child, mother, etc., cannot trace you. If you are afraid you may have been missed when they come door to door or just

want to be sure you're listed send your information to:

HENDERSON DIRECTORIES  
100 East 4th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V5T 1G3

Send: Name  
Spouse's Name  
Occupation and place of employment  
Whether you rent or own  
Address

#### SEYMOUR HAMILTON'S STORY

No one ever told me that I was adopted. I found out one day when my mother took me to visit some old friends of hers. The lady said "Is this Seymour? I can remember when you first adopted him." I was 15 years old at the time. I pretended I hadn't heard a thing because my poor mother almost died of shock.

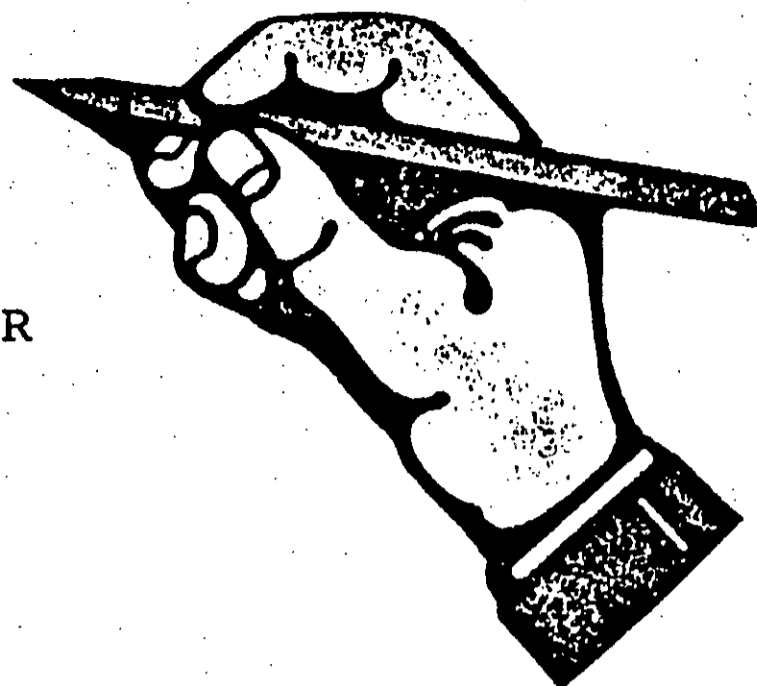
I don't recall feeling any anger or resentment but if anyone ever said anything to me about finding my real mother, I simply said, "She didn't want me so why should I want her?" As I got older, though, and important things started to happen in my life such as getting married and having children of my own, I began to consider the possibility of finding her.

Just before Christmas, 1982, our doctor noticed that our youngest son, then 16 months old, was not gaining weight as he should. During the next 4 months, he underwent alot of different tests and my wife, Linda and I experience alot of anxiety. I knew nothing of my natural family or my family's medical history and so in the summer of 1982, I asked my wife to write to Social Services to see what we could find out.

Linda had worked with Rae Doesburg, who was involved with Parent Finders. Rae told us who to write to for a family history sheet and an Adoption Order. In August 1982, I received same. The family history sheet said that my mother had 4 brothers and that her father worked in lumber camps. The Adoption Order said my name at birth was Peter Marsden.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OR WHO IS INTERESTED IN THE ADOPTION PROBLEM???

OR DOES SOMEONE ASK TO READ YOUR NEWSLETTER EVERY MONTH???



NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

PHONE. (Residence)..... (Business).....

I AM A:            Birthfather ....            Adoptee....            Birthmother....  
                      Birthsister ....            Birthbrother....            Foundling....  
                      Fostered....            Adoptive Parent....

ADOPTEE:            Name at Birth.....  
                      Date of Birth.....  
                      Place of Birth.....

BIRTHPARENT:    Date of Birth.....

BIRTHFATHER:    Name.....

BIRTHMOTHER:    Name.....

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO PURCHASE BACK ISSUES OF OUR NEWSLETTERS FROM DECEMBER 1982 UP TO THIS DATE AT \$1.00 EACH. THEY ARE AN INVALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND SHOULD BE KEPT TOGETHER IN BOOK FORM FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

## SOMETHING NEW

In the past two months I've had two phone calls from women who are pregnant and who feel they must give up their babies. But they are afraid to go through Social Services and would prefer a private adoption. Of course a private adoption must go through Social Services and the Court regardless, but I believe that with the new awareness we have today, that a woman could exercise more control over the adoption for her and her child's future benefit.

Unfortunately, hindsight is not the best instinct but later on I wondered if there were any people in our group who were waiting to adopt. In these two mentioned cases the birthmothers did not have anyone specific in mind to give their babies to.

Then later on, I got a letter with the same concern. After a lengthy telephone discussion with the birthmother (who also had no specific adoptive parents in mind) we came to a mutual agreement. She felt that she would like her baby to be adopted by someone from our group because of our open attitudes about adoption. She hopes to keep in touch with the Adoptive Parents perhaps have pictures as her child grows, etc., with a good information exchange between herself and the adoptive parents. Sounds like our dreams come true.

Unfortunately, her baby is due in June and at this late date there is definitely too little time to make any arrangements. However, since she is insisting on private adoption Social Services has consented to give her profiles on three prospective families from which she can choose. I realize this is a step forward for the Government but can anyone honestly choose the fate and future for her child from paper statistics!? This is the total extent of her choice, however, as she will not know the family's name or whereabouts or have any future contact. So what's the big difference?! In my eyes this is not private adoption or open adoption. So the questions I put to you, our members, who are concerned about the future of the adoptee and everyone else concerned are these:

1. How do you feel about this?
2. Should we encourage child placement within our group?
3. Are any of you hoping to adopt and would you consider surrendering to or accepting a child from within our group?

4. What concerns would this cause for you?
5. Should we approach Social Services about this and try to come to some mutual agreement?

I NEED SOME FEED BACK ON THIS PLEASE. THANKS.

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*Put out a ladder so people can climb into your life.*  
— Stanley Horowitz

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FROM PARENT FINDERS, EDMONTON.

The following is a paragraph from Parent Finders Newsletter of April 1983.

"I read a couple of articles recently in another local newsletter that really surprised me, the reason being that some of the statements contained therein are not true. It seems to me that it is hard enough to search and find as it is without having radical unresearched statements being made that only confuse people more. However I guess these people must be short of news for their publications so be forewarned to check out these types of statements before you act."

I was not going to make any comment about this but feel I must as I don't have the slightest idea what Larry is referring to. If we have made an error in our statements we want to know what it is and if an apology is in order - it will be given.

I leave it to you to draw you own conclusions about the overall insinuations of the statement made.

It seems that Parent Finders sees us as rivals. Personally I feel there is no room for rivalry among groups who are supposedly working towards the same goals. We have extended our hand to Parent Finders but it has not been accepted. I hope this changes in the future.

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**Ticket to Success**  
Of all life's journeys,  
The most important trip each day  
Is to meet the other fellow  
At least halfway.

— Ruth M. Walsh

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## PUBLICATIONS

We are now receiving publications from Can Mental Health Association which will be available for borrowing by members. Remember we also have copies of briefs submitted on behalf of our cause and many articles on adoption for borrowing. Also we have monthly newsletters from CUB. All items must be returned by the following meeting.

## PERSONAL MESSAGES

Dan T. - have you had any results from your letter to the birthmother?

Randy C. - Welcome to our group ----- at last!

Lynn W. - Welcome back.

Nicki P. - Welcome back.

Joan F. - Have you had any luck tracing Fleury?

To whomever - I still haven't got my book back "Once Removed". We desperately need it.

Elaine H. - It was great to finally meet you in person. Wish you much luck in your search.

Bruce R. - Thanks for your offer to host Ft. Saskatchewan meeting. Isn't it unfortunate that nobody showed up! Hey, you members in Ft. Saskatchewan - what's wrong?

Mary S. - Keep your chin up. There must be brighter days ahead.

Bernice S. - So happy to hear of your reunion. Won't you please share it with us?

Ron B. - Where were you?!

Everyone - Please send us newsclippings, etc., from newspapers.

## THANK YOU COLUMN

Brenda T. - Thank you for your contribution of placing (and

paying for) our ad in the Sunday Sun personal column. We've had great response from it.

Also, many thanks for your sale articles donated to our flea market.

Joanne T., Cec H., Anne S. - Thank you for taking the time to write and send your very important protest letters.

I can't stress enough how vital it is that you all contribute to this if we want to see any positive changes in legislation.

We will be printing these protests again in the newsletter hoping you will all respond.

Joanne T. - Thank you for your involvement and cooperation - also your kind words.

Linda & Cec H. - Thank you for your sale articles donated for the flea market. Special thanks for the personnel list on firefighters.

Florence, Sylvia, Mom and whoever else did the cleanup after the last meeting, many thanks.

Florence - Thank you for your past help in keeping the scrapbooks up to date and for the flea market donations.

Sylvia - Thank you for taking over on the scrapbooks.

Dorothy P. - Many thanks for typing letters, etc.

Marilyn Z. husband - Thanks for the lovely stool (hand made) donated for the flea market which got sold at the meeting.

Brenda Tessier - Thanks for donating an ad in the Sunday Sun personal column advertising our group. It has brought very good response. Thanks again.

## GOVERNMENT NEWS

We are expecting a representative from N.D.P. Leader Grant Notley's office at our June 13 Meeting to delve into our reasons and feelings, etc., as to why we want some legislative changes in the adoption laws. So, please support our group by showing up and making his visit worthwhile. We'll never accomplish anything if we don't stick together and work together for what we believe in. Here's your chance to tell the government what you want.

Hopefully, Mr. Notley will then introduce a new Member's Bill into Parliament for us outlining what we want.

ARE YOU WITH US?

"If you aren't a part of the solution. Then you must be part of the problem."

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?!

SMILE!

ANOTHER P.F. VOLUNTEER AND I STOOD IN THE LOBBY ONE COLD, NASTY DAY WATCHING ONE OF OUR VETERAN COLLEAGUES BEING BUFFETED BY WIND AND DRENCHED BY RAIN AS SHE MADE THE LONG WALK IN FROM THE PARKING LOT. AS SHE ENTERED THE LOBBY, SOAKED FROM UMBRELLA TO BOOTS, I CALLED OUT TO HER, "NOW THERE'S A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER!"

"YOU'RE NOT KIDDING," SHE RESPONDED. "IF I WERE BEING PAID FOR THIS, I'D CALL IN SICK!"

Barbara C. Brookshire (NYGH Newsletter)

**HAPPY  
THOUGHTS**

Happiness is the day the judge said to us, "The adoption is final."

— Jeri Christenson,  
La Puente, Calif.

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# Triadoption Library, Inc.

## INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE SURVEY

DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE RESPONSE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

1. ARE YOU:
- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoptee         | <input type="checkbox"/> Birthsibling           | <input type="checkbox"/> Extended Birthfamily     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birthparent     | <input type="checkbox"/> Adoptive Sibling       | <input type="checkbox"/> Extended Adoptive Family |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoptive Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin raised separately | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse of _____          | <input type="checkbox"/> More than one _____ |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin raised together   | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional _____       |  |
2. ARE YOU:                      2b. ARE YOU:
- |                                 |   |  |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male   | <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 - 35 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 46 - 55 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 - 25 years  | <input type="checkbox"/> 36 - 45 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 55 years |
3. ARE YOU:
- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Search                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Waiting to be found     | 3b. ARE YOU:                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not ready to search           | <input type="checkbox"/> Not wanting to be found | <input type="checkbox"/> The searcher             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not wanting to search         | <input type="checkbox"/> No longer in search     | <input type="checkbox"/> The person who was found |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taking a vacation from search | <input type="checkbox"/> Reunited                |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Not triad member        |   |
4. IF YOU SEARCHED OR WERE FOUND HAS IT BEEN:
- |                                       |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 1 year | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - 5 years  | 4b. DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR RELATIONSHIP(S):                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 3 years  | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 6 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Favorable <input type="checkbox"/> Unfavorable |
|                                       |                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed  |
5. DO YOU FEEL YOUR SEARCH HAS BEEN MOST BENEFICIAL FOR YOUR:
- Identity     Continuity     Information
6. WAS YOUR ADOPTION EXPERIENCE:     Open     Closed
7. IF THERE ARE ADOPTED SIBLINGS IN THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY IN YOUR CASE HAVE:
- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All searched                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Some searched                              | <input type="checkbox"/> None searched                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All expressed interest in the birthfamily | <input type="checkbox"/> Some expressed interest in the birthfamily | <input type="checkbox"/> None expressed interest in the birthfamily |
8. IF YOU HAVE BEEN REUNITED, HOW WAS THE FIRST CONTACT MADE?                      8b. WHO MADE THE FIRST CONTACT? \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone call     Letter     In person     Other \_\_\_\_\_
9. HOW MUCH TIME PASSED BETWEEN:
- Beginning the search & finding \_\_\_\_\_
- Finding & making first contact \_\_\_\_\_
- First contact & In person reunion \_\_\_\_\_
10. IF YOU CONDUCTED MORE THAN ONE SEARCH WHO DID YOU LOCATE FIRST, SECOND ETC.?
- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| - Adoptee         | - Birthmother |
| - Adoptive parent | - Birthfather |
| - Sibling         | - Other _____ |
11. DURING YOUR SEARCH, WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST HELPFUL?
- |  |   |                                      |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption agency/social worker | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Search Appointments | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Search Consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers                   |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops/Conferences         | <input type="checkbox"/> Books _____                  |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Search Classes                | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters _____            |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Meetings              | <input type="checkbox"/> Group _____                  |                                      |
12. ARE YOU:     Single     Married     Divorced     Widowed     Remarried #of times \_\_\_\_\_
13. ARE YOU:     Protestant     Catholic     Jewish     Mormon     Other \_\_\_\_\_



























