

SEARCH TRIAD Inc.
Box 1432
Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340
602 935-9702
(9a.m. to Noon)

Vol. VIII No. 7

January 1984

Karen Tinkham
Executive Director

Dorothy Foster
President

Policy: Search Triad Inc., founded by Ginger Gibson Rogers in May of 1976, is an independent, Non Profit organization offering a free service of idea exchange, volunteer support and educational guidelines in the adoption triangle. We are a member of the American Adoption Congress, a National Organization whose aim is to promote openness, honesty and sound practices in adoption. It is a coalition of individuals and groups across the country dedicated to the needs of the adoption community past, present and future.

We offer an open meeting to adults in search, although we do not advocate birthparents searching for minors or minors searching for birthparents. Counseling is available.

"To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without root."
-Chinese Proverb

NEXT MEETING

January 12th at 7:30pm
All Saints' Episcopal Church
Manning Hall
6300 North Central Avenue
Phoenix

Executive Board meets at
6:30 sharp!

Many of our members have had reunions with their families over the holidays and we will devote the entire first part of the meeting to these stories. A search workshop, and two rap sessions will follow our break.

Birthparents of minor children are welcome to attend either rap session.

FUTURE MEETINGS

February 9th

March 8th

April 12th

May 10th

June 14th

July 12th

SPECIAL THANKS to all of you who continue to send in cartoons and articles for the newsletter. Also to those of you who were so kind to send special greetings during the holiday season!

The Adoption Education and Counseling Center 4628 N. 17th Street, Suite G119, Phoenix, is a non profit organization which offers information, education and counseling to people involved with or interested in adoption. In addition to workshops, the center offers community education programs and individual and family counseling. Most of you know Diane Eckstein and Jo Sadalla, who provide services at the center. The following workshops will be offered as noted, if you have questions call 274-3652:

"A Workshop for Adult Adoptees - Integrating the Adoption Experience"

This will be an opportunity to explore with others how adoption has affected your identity, your relationships and the decisions you've made.

Saturday, Feb 4 1 - 4 pm Tuesday, March 20 7 - 10pm
Cost: \$25 Limited to 8 participants

"A Healing Workshop for People Who Have Placed a Child for Adoption"

This workshop will provide a safe place to explore with other birthparents

how placing a child for adoption as affected your life and what you can do to live more comfortably with your decision.

Saturday, March 3 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
(Bring a bag lunch, coffee, tea provided)
Cost: \$30 Limited to 8 participants

Other workshops are scheduled for topics involving infertility, considering adoption, talking with your child about adoption, and many others. We will have a copy of this schedule at the January meeting or call the office for more information.

Community Involvement

Karen Tinkham will be the guest speaker of the Sun City West Rotary Club on January 6th.

ON THE LINE, Mark Regan's show which aired on channel 3 (ABC) Christmas Eve gave Search Triad 30 minutes to share our stories and what the group does. Video tape included interviews with Sophie Elvert, American Adoption Congress President, Emma Vilardi of the International Soundex Reunion Registry and group shots taken at the AAC Region 9 Conference held in Scottsdale in October. Search Triad members invited to the studio were Kathie Neal (who had just met her daughter the weekend before!), Roni Rohleder and Karen Tinkham.

Panels

September 27 - Maricopa County Hospital - Diane Eckstein
Maurey Trager and Joyce Forney

September 29 - D.E.S.
Mike Berdine and Joyce Forney

October 6 - Beth Lockhart's Adoptive Parenting Class
Gary Carter and Dorothy Foster

October 12 - D.E.S.
Cheryl Meyers, Dorothy Foster and Lorraine Kazmier

November 1 - D.E.S.
Jim Lincoln and Audrey Kreft

November 5 - Junior League of Phoenix Adoption Conference
Panel - Terry Lippens, Dorothy Foster, Lorraine Kazmier
Workshop - JoAnne Lee and Karen Tinkham

November 16 - Jewish Family and Childrens Services
Sandy Tarzwell

December 7 - Beth Lockhart's Adoptive Parenting Class
Lorraine Kazmier

Donations

We thank Bill Friedman, Marylee MacDonald and Virginia Baker for their donations to Search Triad. We also thank Helen Leech for her donation of the books UNHOLY CHILD, INNOCENT BLOOD and MOTHER, MOTHER.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING BACK ALL LIBRARY BOOKS. IF YOUR BOOK IS OVERDUE YOU WILL BE CHARGED \$1 PER MONTH. This fine \$ will be used to purchase new books for the library.

Several years ago, a Tucson adoptee Jim Phillips entered the ISRR thru Search Triad and was matched with his sister. Jim and his wife Mona are now forming a search and support group in Tucson. Mona has named the group PEACE OF MIND. They had their first meeting in December and 25 were in attendance. For more information contact Mona at 5641 E. 24th St. Tucson, Az 85711 745-9642. Include a SASE. Meetings are scheduled for January 20th and February 17th. Search Triad hopes to send down a car load of search assistants in the near future to give them some help.

EXECUTIVE BOARD BUSINESS

The Board voted to send a \$100 donation to Emma Vilardi - ISRR. We have

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received a lovely thank you. The Board also elected Sue Mills as recording secretary to replace Lesley Carter who resigned when she and Gary move to Minnesota. We still need a TREASURER. Do we have any CPA's or bookkeepers in the group who would be willing to consider this office. It means attending monthly board meetings, taking in money at the meeting and doing our annual report. If interested please contact Karen Tinkham. We also need someone to run off labels for the monthly newsletter and update the membership list monthly. Does anyone have a computer that might take on this job. Again, please contact Karen.

REUNIONS

JoAnne Lee completed her search for her birthfather in 1980 and found that he had died a year earlier. JoAnne then made contact with her Aunt Helen. This fall, JoAnne and her husband John combined a business trip to New York with a vacation and stopped in Grand Rapids, Michigan to meet Helen. It was a very exciting reunion and JoAnne had the opportunity to meet another aunt too.

Anita Wright joined us in December, attended the meeting on the 8th and spoke with her birthmother the next day! Don't we wish all reunions were this swift and this happy! Anita was searching locally and found the ASU Library most helpful. Her mother lives in Phoenix, teaches at the high school level and does not have other children. A reunion was to take place the next week. Anita will share her story at the March meeting.

The reunions that took place over the holidays will be shared in the February newsletter.

One of the nicest surprises to arrive at our P.O. Box last month was a Christmas card from the social workers at D.E.S. They had taken the time to each sign the card and write a personal thank you. One comment seemed to summarize all their comments, "Your group is invaluable to us as we prepare families to adopt. Thank you all for your concern, efforts and time in helping us!"

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Kansas has now increased its birth certificate fee to \$6.

The new address for the Adoption Triangle Ministry (Sandra Musser) is P.O. Box 1860, Cape Coral, Fla 33910.

The new address for P.A.C.E.R. is P.O. Box 1491, Palo Alto, Ca 94301. We are sorry to report that Susan Hammond has resigned as Director of P.A.C.E.R. No word on a new director as yet.

Triadoption Library has moved. Their new address is P.O. Box 638 Westminster, Ca 92683. When writing to any of the above organizations, please remember to include a self addressed stamped legal size envelope.

Sharon Rocca, Legislative reporter for Concerned United Birthparents says: The Colorado reunion registry is not defunct (its fate was questionable earlier in the year) but is very much in existence. Approximately 200 people have registered and the first match occurred a few weeks ago. The two registrants were put in touch with each other immediately. Registrants must be 20 years old and do not need adoptive parent consent. A registration form can be obtained by writing: Linda Eisnach, Colorado Dept. of Health 4210 E. 11th Ave. Denver, CO 80220.

A new pamphlet has been published by the Public Affairs Committee, Inc. titled Raising an Adopted Child by Claire Berman. The 28 page pamphlet No. 620 is 28 pages long and sells for \$1 which includes postage. If you want a copy write to Public Affairs Committee 381 Park Ave South New York, NY 10016.

Word has been received from Linda McDonald, President of Canadian Adoptees Reform Association of B.C. (formerly Canadian Parent Finders Assoc. of B.C.). They are the only registered, non-profit society in British Columbia designed to assist all members of the triangle. They also provide a

Provincial Registry. They are available to assist people searching in B.C. or will refer others to the appropriate Canadian group. For more information contact 202-4381 Fraser St. Vancouver, B.C. Canada V5V 4G4. Telephone number is 604-874-5950.

The Montreal Branch of Parent Finders announces the beginning of the NORTH AMERICAN REUNION REGISTRY. NARR is a non profit organization and is open to all Canadian and Americans. There is a one time fee of \$10. If you want more information contact President Candy Blais at P.O. Box 932 Delson, Quebec, Canada J0L 1G0.

A new organization, KINSHIP, Inc. has been formed by Linda Cannon Burgess and Virginia Rader. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 23641 L'Enfant Plaza Station, Washington, DC 200260641. They plan to monitor federal legislation and to make representatives available for information and testimony at congressional hearings. They are currently gathering brochures from all groups across the nation and are trying to determine the volume of need for help. They are a volunteer organization that are being aided by the Washington based group ASO.

AIM in Detroit is again sending out a newsletter. The Winter 83 issue contained some interesting stats. Michigan has had 271,474 adoptions since 1938. Over the past 3 years, more than 2,700 Michigan Adoptees and Birthparents have placed Waivers of Confidentiality with the Michigan Central Registry.

Articles of interest regarding adoption in LIFE December 83 and Cosmopolitan December 83.

The January - February issue of AID's newsletter has just arrived. Wisconsin adoptees - birthparents take note. Some problems have developed with wording of the bill that was passed last year. A new bill, AB 150, will be introduced this year to help clear up this confusion. You are asked to write to Rep. John Medinger, Chairperson, Committee on Children and Human Development P.O. Box 8953 Madison, Wisc 53708. PLEASE WRITE IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL!

The following article was included in the newsletter of Delaware Tri-Love, December 83. We felt it appropriate to share:

TELLING YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT THEIR SURRENDERED SIBLING by Sandy Cox

This is a very traumatic experience for a birthmother to plan for and do. She has already lost a child to adoption and even if she has a reunion... that child will never be hers. She can only hope for a friendship of sorts. Someone else will always be "Mom". So to tell the children she has raised that she surrendered their brother and/or sister for adoption is to risk losing their respect and love and that is a very big step to take. She has already lost so much...how can she bear to risk losing another!

There is no right age or time, and complete understanding is too much to ask...but support and compassion can come from the revelation. My children were both told at different times and ages. They each took it differently, but I have not lost their love and we are working on the understanding and acceptance. It takes time for them to fully accept and comprehend all that I told them. After all, they had always thought of themselves in terms of each other and now to include another child into the family picture is hard, especially when that adopted child does not want to be a part of our family. It is quite an emotional adjustment for my children I am raising. They know how much I love them and how hard I tried to have more children and kept having miscarriages until the doctor forbid me to try again. So they can't fully understand how I could ever have surrendered a child for adoption.

Hopefully as all my children become adults they will be able to have a relationship with each other. I want that so much and I pray God can work things out for us all in his good time!

FBI probing adoption-trick charge

United Press International

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — FBI agents are investigating a multi-state adoption agency run by an Arizona woman and a Texas man that one mother says tricked her into giving up her children.

Joe Carlson, in charge of the FBI's Albuquerque office, confirmed Friday that federal investigators are looking into the operation run by Debbie Tanner, 34, of Willcox, Ariz., and Bryan Martin Hall, 37, of El Paso, Texas.

Ermilia Hernandez of Albuquerque, a Mexican national, said Tanner and Hall convinced her to give up her four daughters so the family

could emigrate from Mexico.

Hernandez's attorney, Josephine Rohr, said her investigation indicates a number of couples have paid the firm adoption fees for Mexican children but have never received the children.

Rohr said she also found that federal officials failed to find any wrongdoing during a previous investigation of Tanner and Hall.

The Iowa attorney general is investigating the two as well, Rohr said, and has filed a lawsuit charging that adoptive couples have lost thousands of dollars to the agency.

Rohr said she did not believe

Hernandez's story at first, but decided the woman was sincere when she brought \$2,000 she had saved over 18 months.

She said Hernandez claims Hall and Mexican lawyer Lorenzo Prospero persuaded her to sign papers they told her would temporarily place the children in foster care so that the family could immigrate to the United States.

Hernandez says she was told she could visit the children on weekends and, after a while, would get her children back, Rohr said.

However, the lawyer said, repeated attempts to see the children failed.

New York Times 12/11/83

Data on Adoptions Given Out By New York State Registry

ALBANY, Dec. 10 (AP) — New York State's adoption registry, where adopted children and their natural parents can learn about each other, went into business on Tuesday.

The registry was authorized under legislation enacted this year. It allows adopted children over the age of 21, their adoptive parents and their natural parents to give permission for an adopted child to be told the identity of its natural parents.

Under the system, if a child adopted before next April 1, or one of its natural parents, applies to the registry for help, the registry may provide information to either one about the other, if the adoptive parents agree.

For children adopted after April 1, the information may be provided after the child reaches the age of 21, whether its adoptive parents agree or not.

'Revolutionary Step' Seen

The registry was the product of many years of effort under the leadership of Assemblyman Howard L. Lasher, a Brooklyn Democrat.

Mr. Lasher has described the registry as "a revolutionary step toward positive, progressive change in our laws governing adoption."

He said that only a few states, including Connecticut and Minnesota, had adoption registries.

While the registry, which is operated by the State Health Department, may allow some adopted children to find their natural parents — if all involved agree — it can provide some information for the children even if the natural and adoptive parents do not file with the registry.

Under that part of the system, the registry will be able to provide "non-identifying" information to the child,

on such matters as medical history and national, ethnic, religious and educational background about the biological parent.

Peter Slocum, a spokesman for the State Health Department, said registration forms would be sent out soon.

Mr. Slocum said the department was still not sure what fee would be charged those who file with the registry. He said fees for adopted children seeking information could be as high as \$100.

Private Registries

Fees for a simple filing by natural and adoptive parents would be much lower, he said, because this will involve less work for the state.

Mr. Slocum said the new program could help only adopted children who were born and adopted in New York State because the state will be relying on its own birth certificates for information.

The legislation also allows private adoption agencies to set up their own registries, Mr. Slocum said. He added that adopted children might find it quicker to work through these agencies if they know which agency handled their adoption.

According to Mr. Slocum, one estimate put the number of adopted children filing with the state registry at 2,000 a year.

In recent years, he said, there have been 7,000 adoptions a year in the state, down from an average of 12,000 a decade ago.

People wishing to use the registry should write the New York State Health Department Adoption Information Registry, Vital Records Section, Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower Building, Albany, N.Y. 12237.

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People weekly PICKS & PANS

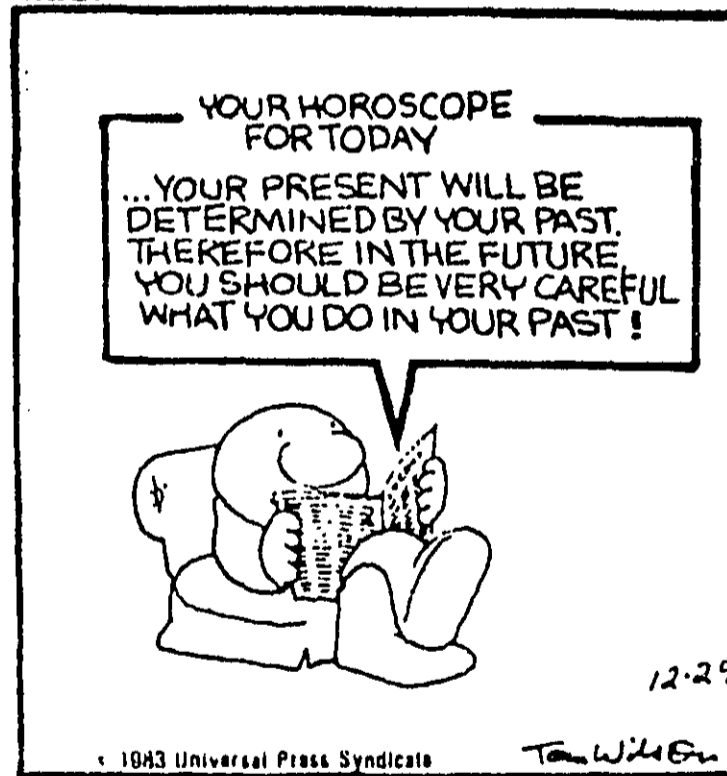
People Dec 12, 83

THE BABY CHASE by Tony Kornheiser

This report about a couple's attempt to adopt a baby makes for an astonishingly suspenseful true story. Kornheiser and his wife, Karri, a bridal consultant, had been married for nine years and she could not conceive. Then, one day in July 1981, they heard about a pregnant young girl who was willing to give up her baby for adoption. Told to bring \$15,000 in cash when they picked up the baby, the Kornheisers suspected the adoption might not be legal. They desperately wanted the child, so they suspended their skepticism, but then began to wonder. If the

adoption were illegal, could the mother someday demand the return of her child? In discussing this and other agonies, the author candidly probes his own motives and those of his shy wife. Kornheiser, a good reporter—he's a *Washington Post* feature writer—has produced a valuable primer on a complex, sad business. Do he and his wife get the baby they want so much? Readers are advised to get on the book's emotional roller coaster and stay for the ride. (Atheneum, \$12.95)

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SEARCH ASSISTANTS

Jan Deahl 841-7693
 (evenings)
 JoAnne Lee 247-2498
 (evenings)
 Karen Tinkham 935-9702
 (9a.m. to NOON)
 Ann Mehrtens 953-3256
 Maurice Trager 967-7641
 Barb Wodrich 938-2597
 or
 937-5549

CARING NUMBERS

Dorothy Foster 969-6042
 Speakers Bureau
 Birthparent-Adoptee
 Vi Pierce 972-3483
 Birthparent
 Lorraine Kazmier 838-4270
 Adoptive Parent
 Fairy Mae McKiernan 944-4729
 Adoptive Parent Class
 Diane Eckstein 274-3652
 Individual Counseling
 & Family Counseling

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE WHEN CALLING THE ABOVE NUMBERS. If an individual has requested calls during certain hours, there is a reason, please honor that request!

See you Thursday! Don't miss it, it promises to be a good one!

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"It's the real parents with a court order."

BERRY'S WORLD



© 1983 by NEA, INC. *Jim Berry* 12-C

"No two are exactly alike. They each have names and adoption papers. This here's Linda Mae...."

Letters to the Editor

Wall St. Journal

Dec 12, 1983

Adopting a Doll Is Child's Play Compared With Reality

Apropos of your Cabbage Patch Kids editorial (Nov. 30): Group meetings of adoptive parents have for some time been airing concerns that the CPK dolls and their Little People predecessors trivialize the adoption process by providing the buyers with "adoption papers."

Adoptive parents worry that the distribution of some 3 million sets of these papers to children in 1983 will perpetuate what we might call the Pet Shop Fantasy—that prospective adoptive parents shop around at orphanages which collect babies from a cabbage patch. Since owners can discard pets and dolls when they become

inconvenient, children may conclude the same goes for adopted babies.

The reality is that adoption is not so easy, and it's permanent. Many of the 40,000 or so children adopted by unrelated people in the U.S. each year are placed privately, bypassing social agencies. Relatively few infants without handicaps are available through agencies, a cause for satisfaction. The available infants most in need of adoptive parents are overseas, in Asia (where the CPK dolls are manufactured)—about 2,000 adoptees are placed from Korea alone—and increasingly in South America.

Real adoptions differ greatly from fantasy CPK "adoptions" in that homes must ordinarily be certified by an adoption professional; adoptive parents usually must wait upwards of six months after certification; and the cost for an overseas adoption comes to at least \$3,000. Above all, the adoptee becomes part of the family forever.

The fact that the CPK dolls are (like Coleco's other hot product, the Adam computer) difficult to obtain slightly narrows the gulf between the fantasy and reality of adoption. That, at least, may be a consolation to adoptive parents.

JOHN TEPPER MARLIN

New York

Dolls Exploit Idea of Adoption

We of The Adoption Circle and The Right to Know have received a significant number of letters from our national membership objecting to Coleco's marketing techniques for their line of dolls called "Cabbage Patch Kids." Most of the complaints center around Coleco's use of the image of cabbage patches to illustrate where their "adoptable" dolls come from.

As adult adoptees and birth parents, we beseech your newspaper not to run advertisements concerning the sale of this product.

We are deeply offended by Coleco's exploitation for profit of the pain adoptees and birth parents endure when they must be separated by adoption as the laws now stand. Adopted persons *do not* come from cabbage patches, *are not* delivered by "the stork," nor are we commodities for the marketplace.

If any company in America were to introduce a slave doll, complete with transfer of property papers, we would see a public uproar, due to the public's awareness and sensitivity to this issue. This is not the case concerning adoption and we hope to raise the public's consciousness by our letter-writing campaign.

Rosalie Schwab
Great Neck
M.P. Lamarche
Old Westbury

Editor's Note: Schwab represents The Adoption Circle, a group of adoptees, birth parents and some adoptive parents. Lamarche represents The Right to Know, a group for adoptees.

Dolls painful to adoptees, suit alleges

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco man filed a \$100 million suit Monday against the designer, maker and seller of the Cabbage Patch Doll on grounds that the marketing material is harmful to him and other adopted people.

The class-action suit, seeking punitive damages, was filed in San Francisco Superior Court by Martin Brandfon.

It names as defendants Coleco Industries Inc., Xavier Roberts and Barbary Coast Dolls.

"The advertising campaign holds adopted persons up to ridicule and humiliation by implying these individuals are bought and sold," the suit says.

Thus, Brandfon alleges, he and other adopted people are caused to suffer "emotional distress and psychological harm."

CABBAGE PATCH

Arizona Republic

Dec 14, 1983

Ban The Stork Myth, Too

PARDON us if we seem unmoved by the complaint of one Martin Brandfon, who was an adopted child, who says he and other adopted children are so offended and hurt by the Cabbage Patch dolls craze that only \$100 million will cure their hurt.

Brandfon has filed suit seeking the \$100 million damages for himself and other adoptees and a permanent injunction against the maker of the Cabbage Patch Kids, Coleco Industries, from selling the dolls with adoption papers.

Adopted people are being held up to humiliation and ridicule by the Cabbage Patch dolls advertising, he claims.

It's curious how those of Brandfon's state of mind usually can be assuaged with money. Or maybe it's not so curious at all, since it costs him only a few bucks to file a suit that might net him some nuisance money at this expensive time of the year.

Brandfon's hurt would have more credibility if, say, he also would file suit to prevent publishers of children's books from ever again repeating the tale that storks bring babies.

Being brought into this world dangling from the beak of a stork is what you call real humiliation.

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