

TRACERS, Ltd. Adoption Genealogy Specialists

"We Reunite Families"

THE BEST OF HOLIDAY GREETINGS !!!

Family Reunions Sept-Dec.

Eileen Stewart and her birthmother
Olga Alvino and her two daughters
Neil Zevitz and his birthmother/sibs
Sharon M. Geiger and her birthmother
Michael Winsted and his birthmother
Margaret Perkins and her son
Rachel Silver and her birthmother
Bernice Loschen and her son
Mickey Gianola and her brother
Beth L. and her daughter
Maggie Countryman and her daughter
L. Paulson and his birthmother
Jane and Jerry Fick with their son
Troy E. and his birthfather
E. Mandell and her brother

SPECIAL SPEAKER MEETING

C.E. (Gene) Moore, M.D. and an adult adoptee with a completed search will be the special guest speaker at the January 8th meeting. Moore has been working with adoptees throughout his practice and will speak to all members of the triangle on "The Psychology of Adoption." We all are hoping for a great turnout and with your support, we will have great Meeting!!!

THANKSGIVING A REAL BLESSING

Two of our reunions have developed into extra special relationships. On Thanksgiving week Eileen Stewart, her adoptive mother, Eileen's husband and two children traveled to Louisiana for Thanksgiving dinner with Eileen's birthfamily. Mona Bressler and her adoptive parents flew to Butler, PA for a Thanksgiving holiday with Mona's entire birth family.

Most people never dream that this type of reunion and relationship are few and far between, but we think it is the shape of things to come.

David Kirk, author of "Shared Fate" sheds great light on this subject.

American Adoption Congress holds Conference

The 1984 Region 7 AAC conference was held in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. It was a small conference but much was learned, especially about "OPEN ADOPTION". The Catholic Charities of Green Bay, Wisconsin has been doing open adoption for several years now, with "NO HARMFUL EFFECTS" on either adoptive parents, birthparents of adoptees.

Guest speakers were from Truth Seekers in Adoption, Barbara Gonyo, Pres. and Linda Brown, therapist. Dr. Gene C. Moore, an adoptee and a psychiatrist spoke on the issues that face the Adult Adoptee.

The key note speaker was yours truly and I am glad to say it was moving, and yet a message was received as to the feelings that professional researchers go through when searching for others.

Mark your calendars for next Oct. 1985 when the conference will be held in the 'windy city' of Chicago.

THE OPEN ARMS QUARTERLY is now PEOPLE FINDERS

Blair Hallenstein, has purchased The Open Arms Quarterly from Bob O'Dell. This could mean wonderful things for all members of the triangle.

People Finders is a national magazine, published monthly, for the purposes of finding people. It is based in Batavia, IL and will be found on all newstands nationally by January 1985. There are many different types of ads to be placed. Some of the categories are 1) missing children, 2) old friends from the past, 3) class reuniones, 4) missing heirs, 5) adoptee/birthfamily. For more information, contact People Finders, P.O. Box 651 Batavia, IL 60510.

This is a great opportunity to reach hundreds of thousands of missing birthfamily members. People are so mobile that you can be born in one place and have lived in three more cities before you are found.

A big thanks to Bob O'Dell for his starting the Open Arms Quarterly.

A Message from the Founder---

During the past 18 months, from the inception of Tracers, Ltd., until today, I never dreamed that we would have been able to help so many people. With each case, I became more aware of why people search, what their fears are, how long it takes to make the decision to begin, and the joy of the reunion. I have talked with people until midnight, trying to relieve anxiety, cried over coffee, and delighted when pictures come from a newly found birthfamily member. It is important to me to share these things with people I help.

I'd like to tell you about our reunions: Since August of 1983, I have reunited 63 families that had been separated by the adoption process. 33 of those were for adoptees, 3 males 30 females: 4 were for searches paid for by adoptive parents for their children: 26 were for birthmothers. Of the 63 reunions, 60 had very positive results. The 'negative' reactions were: one birthmother had died at the age of 28, one birthmother denied being the mother, and one birthmother said she was the mother but wanted no contact. That is a 95% positive results with ongoing relationships. No negative results with birthmothers doing the searching.

The average search takes anywhere from three to six months. The shortest we have ever had was 5 days and was for a birthmother of an 18 year old boy. The longest was for a birthmother with a 20 year old son and her's took 9 months.

Many of these adoptees were from 'imported' mothers. I have found many families sent their daughters away from where they lived to the Chicago area. To date we have found our birthmothers living in Texas, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, California, Wisconsin and Arizona. These women never dreamed they could be found and were glad to know that there are ways to search.

Most birthmothers who were found felt they had no right to search, but hoped that their child would come looking for them some day. All but two had remarried and had children that were either full or half siblings to the adoptee.

What about the Adoptee? Most of our adoptees teetered on the brink of would they be rejected or would they be accepted? Questions like, 'what will they expect? Will I be thin enough, how do I act? What do I say? kept cropping up. I just kept telling them to be themselves.

Adoptive Parents: A large percent of the adoptive parents were upset that their children were searching. Somehow it was as though they had failed as parents, or didn't show enough love, or were afraid they would lose their child. Many were angry, quite a few were never told, but of those who found out, they lived in fear for the first six to eight months. In almost every case, once the search was complete, the adoptee became closer to their adoptive parents.

For Those Born After 1964 in Illinois: It is important for you to note that these searches are much more difficult, and usually take longer.

WHY PICK TRACERS, LTD., TO DO YOUR SEARCH?

Tracers, Ltd., is a professional research firm with a success rate of over 95%. Our staff of researchers use the most effective searching techniques available. In addition to our research staff, we have two professional therapists who offer several types of counseling to our clients. As members of the adoption triangle, their services are invaluable to those with problems resulting from adoption. Our monthly meetings are open to the public and memberships are available. We also offer searching assistance in a variety of ways.

Someone once asked me why they thought we had such a good success rate? My answer was and still is "we don't stop until we find."

Searching Tips:

- 1) The International Soundex Reunion Registry PO Box 2312 Carson City, NV 89702
- 2) The ALMA Registry PO Box 154, Washington Bridge Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10033
- 3) "Searching in Illinois" handbook for \$13.00 available at Tracers, Ltd.
- 4) Join a search and support group

SOME OF OUR MOST DIFFICULT CASES TO DATE:

BECKY BIXBY- age 59½ - Adoptee- born in Illinois, Adopted in California MEDICAL SEARCH Becky came to Tracers, Ltd., for help after searching five years on her own. Her birthmother was part of the original Orphan Train. She (the birthmother) and her brother and sister, were placed in an orphanage when they were 6, 8 and 14. When Patsy (the birthmother) went to work as a maid in the home of a farmer at the age of 15, she was attacked by a 45 year old farm hand. The result was a female child - Becky Bixby. Since July we have found out who her mother is/was, who she married, that she had other children and we are very close to completing this case:

SPECIAL NOTE: BECKY BIXBY HAS CANCER, M.S. AND CROHN'S DISEASE. SHE HAS PASSED THESE HEREDITARY ILLNESSES TO HER CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. SHE WOULD LIKE TO MEET MEMEBERS OF HER BIRTHFAMILY BEFORE SHE PASSES ON. SHE IS OUR OLDEST ADOPTEE.

EMILY MATHIS- age 35- Birthmother of child born 20 years ago. MEDICAL SEARCH Emily came to Tracers, Ltd., for help after searching with another group and finding no results. Her mother, sister, and one of her daughters as well as she suffer from a sleeping disorder called NARCOPLEPSY. The courts of Cook County did not think this was sufficient reason to open his sealed record. Found her son just after his 20th birthday and right before Christmas.

SPECIAL NOTE: EMILY'S STORY MADE THE FRONT PAGE OF THE CHICAGO SUNDAY SUN-TIMES ON 1-8-84 Emily has three daughters from another marriage. The family has continued with an ongoing relationship.

ELLIN BRESSLER- Adoptive Mother of Mona age 21- Adopted privately in Chicago as a newborn. Ellin and Mona came to Tracers, Ltd., after reading the story about Emily and her son. Mona's parents were married when she was placed for adoption. Her birthfather did not want to let her go. When the search was completed, Mona's father called her before her birthmother did. This past Thanksgiving Mona and her adoptive parents flew to Pennsylvania to spend the holiday with Mona's birthfamily.

SPECIAL NOTE: MONA'S STORY MADE THE FRONT PAGE OF THE SUNDAY CHICAGO SUN-TIME ON 4-1-84 The experience of doing a search with the help of the adoptive parents opened the eyes of other parents. As a result, Ellin Bressler, A.C.S.W., has become one of the therapists for Tracers, Ltd.

JANE AND JERRY FICK- BIRTHPARENTS- age 38- surrendered their child when they were both 17 and unmarried. Jane came to Tracers, Ltd., on a referral from Truth Seekers in Adoption. She and Jerry married later. Their first son born after their marriage was born prematurely and died. Jane knew it was God's way of punishing her for giving up Tim. They had another son and three daughters. In December, they were reunited with their son Jay. Jay was born here and raised in New York. He has three full sisters and one full brother.

SPECIAL NOTE: JANE AND JERRY COME FROM A SMALL TOWN OF 500 PEOPLE. IT IS A FARMING COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS. THE SAME TOWN THAT WOULD NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD 20 YEARS AGO IS SHARING THE DELIGHT OF JANE AND JERRY'S FIND. AMAZING HOW ATTITUDES CHANGE, ISN'T IT?

GEORGE CHAPPELL, JR- adoptee- age 44- surrendered in Detroit- adopted privately to an English couple- Was raised as an only child. George began his search at age 42. His search was the first that Tracers, Ltd., completed and was made for medical reasons as well as curiosity to know what his background was. Search took 5 months and on July 4, 1982 the family was reunited in San Diego.

SPECIAL NOTE: GEORGE'S SEARCH FOR HIS BIRTHFATHER TOOK TOO LONG. HIS BIRTHFATHER DIED OF CANCER, THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE SEARCH WAS OVER. DEALING WITH DEATH IS NOT AN EASY SITUATION AND THE QUESTION " WHY DID I WAIT SO LONG"? WAS AN ISSUE FOR A VERY LONG TIME. GEORGE LEADS THE SPECIAL GROUP FOR MEN ONLY, AND DOES PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.

"EMPTY WORDS"

Give yourself time, you'll forget

If she would have wanted you, she would have kept you

I don't look like anyone, why not?

I can't search until my adoptive parents are dead.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

The second printing of "The Adoption Search" by Mary Jo Rillera is available through The Triadoption Library- P.O. Box 638 Westminster, CA 92683

STATES THAT MAKE ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE UPON DEMAND:
Alabama, Alaska, Kansas, and Pennsylvania

STATES THAT OPEN COURT RECORDS UPON DEMAND:
Idaho and South Dakota

FAMOUS ADOPTEES:

ROD MCKUEN
HAROLD ROBBINS
CHRISTINA CRAWFORD
GERALD FORD, Jr. Ex-President
ART LINKLETTER
KAREN ANN QUINLEN
MOSES
JESUS

FAMOUS ADOPTIVE PARENTS

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
JOHN DENVER
HENRY FONDA
JOAN CRAWFORD
RICHARD BURTON

FAMOUS BIRTHPARENTS:

MARILYN MONROE
CALMITY JANE
WILL BILL HICKCOCK
MARY JO RILLERA

THE AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS:

A National Organization located in Seattle, Washington which is divided into regions serving the United States and other countries for adoption reform. (see page 1 for our next regional convention in 1985 here in Chicago)

A RETYPED REPRINT FROM THE FAIRMOUNT MATERNITY HOSPITAL IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:

We are pleased to advise you that we always have desirable babies for adoption. Their ages range from a few days old to several weeks, and we offer for adoption only fine, healthy babies of good parentage. We know you can make a satisfactory selection from these babies.

It is necessary to fill out the enclosed application blank. Return to us with three letters of reference and \$5.00 for filing fee. We will advise you when to come for the baby. Do not come until we notify you. It is impossible to say just how long it will be before we notify you to come, but we will do our best to get a lovely baby for you at the earliest possible time.

The Court prefers one letter from a minister, if possible and the other two from lawyers, doctors, bankers, or good business men. Have the letters mention both you and your husband. What the court wants to know is that you are people of good moral standing and are physically and financially able to care for a child. The adoption can be arranged in one day if desired. The total cost of adoption, including court costs and blood tests, is Forty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$47.50).

By adopting a child from this institution, you are assured of getting a healthy, normal child, who has had a thorough medical examination and has been found free from disease of every character. We also encourage you to have your family doctor make an examination, and if he finds anything irregular, return the baby to us.

Trusting we may have the pleasure of brightening up your home with a little one, and that we may hear from you in the immediate future, we are.

Very truly yours,

Eva Hill Thomson, Superintendent: Fairmount Maternity Home*

*Check People Finders Magazine for the aftermath of these placements.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR FEBRUARY MEETING: 7:00 p.m. February 5th, 1985
at the First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield 824 Waukegan Road Deerfield, Illinois

Famous Quote" And The Truth Shall Set You Free"

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