

Dear Friend in Search,

**ADOPTES' IDENTITY DISCOVERY (AID)** is aware of the mixed feelings you may have about beginning your search. You can be assured that **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**, either in your feelings, fears, or your desire to discover the true identity of your natural heritage.

AID's membership consists of:

**ADOPTES** – who want to discover the true identity of their natural heritage.

**NATURAL PARENTS** – (both mothers and fathers) who have relinquished children.

**SIBLINGS OF ADOPTES** – who want to know their brothers/sisters.

**ADOPTIVE PARENTS**

**FOSTER "CHILDREN"**

**PERSONS** – separated from their parents/children/siblings/etc. due to divorce, separation, etc.

**PERSONS** – who support the rights of adoptees and natural parents.

At the AID meetings you will be able to meet and talk with others like yourself (whether adoptee, natural parent, adoptive parent, foster, etc.) who share feelings that you each may have. Some of these members are still in search while many have *discovered*.

Many searchers will ask how they can possibly *discover* considering that the records are sealed (you can be certain that this point has been made repeatedly by friends, relatives, attorneys, and possibly social workers), and that the only information that they possess is perhaps their date of birth and city of birth. It is not the sealed records or lack of information that is important, rather the actuality of so many other searches of similar nature that are started and then successfully completed....that is what is important. Although AID does not do the search for you, **NINETY SEVEN PERCENT (97%) OF AID MEMBERS WHO ACTIVELY SEARCH WILL DISCOVER IN LESS THAN FOUR MONTHS.**

There are only two things needed to guarantee success in a search....**PERSISTANCE** and **SEARCH SKILLS**. AID, with our experienced, trained, expert Search Consultants, will supply all the search skills and expertise that you need to conduct a successful search. All you need to supply is the persistence....and AID will provide moral support and encouragement.

Membership in AID is only \$20.00 per year (renewals, if you wish, are \$20.00 per year). There is *no* charge for registration/entry into the INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REUNION REGISTRY. We do not ask that you even become a member of AID to be placed in the registry. AID is a *non-profit* organization that is made up entirely of volunteers....*no one is paid*. We do not charge our members for any of the assistance that we give.

**AID SEARCH MEETINGS:** These are held monthly the last Sunday of each month (*except December*) at Mercury Savings and Loan (San Antonio Shopping Center), Mountain View at 1:00 PM. The meetings are divided into two sessions: the first is the orientation, get acquainted, question and answer session which is open to anyone - *members or non-members*. The second is the actual AID SEARCH MEETING and is open to adoptees (over the age of 18), natural parents (whose relinquished child has reached the age of 18), and others who are AID members. You may become an AID member during a short break between sessions. For this session you will need to bring any information and documents you may have and an AID Search Consultant will advise and guide you in your search. Such points as: who to write to, what to say, what not to say, where to go, how to get information from "sealed" sources, how to use the information that you do have to develop further leads and information - will be covered on a *one to one* basis.

**AID SEARCH CONSULTANTS:** Specially trained AID members who have already successfully completed their own searches. These volunteer consultants are required to complete AID's copyrighted training seminars before they are allowed to assist you. These Search Consultants are experts in how to conduct a search and facilitate a reunion. They are experienced, trained, and know what they are doing. You will receive knowledgeable search assistance. AID Search Consultants are only one of the reasons for our fantastic *discovery* rate.

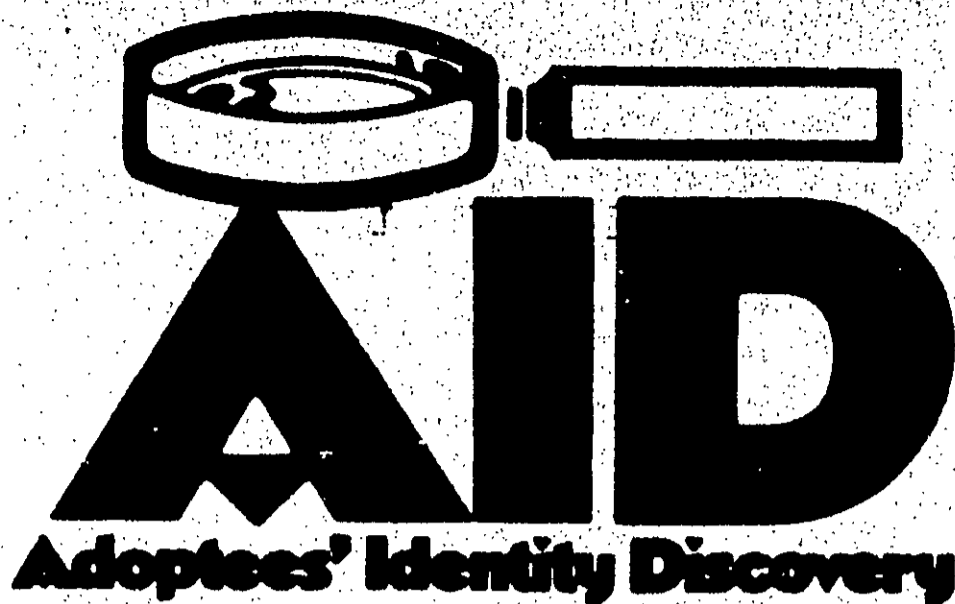
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**AID SEARCH TECHNIQUES:** Developed over the last seven years and responsible for thousands of successful searches and reunions. Our copyrighted search techniques and procedures will enable you to find even in sealed record states. Even if you have been searching for months or even years without success, you will discover that you can succeed using AID's search techniques.

**AID's DISCOVERY NEWSLETTER:** You will *discover* stories of searches, discoveries, reunions and other events taking place in California as well as the other states. You will also find out what other search organizations are doing, conferences being held, and legislations affecting members of the adoption triad.

**AID's NATURAL PARENTS' RAP SESSIONS:** If you are a natural parent whose relinquished child is under the age of 18 and would like to have another natural parent to talk with....or perhaps you might like to talk to an adoptee....they are available during the AID Search session of the monthly meetings. There are also a number of positive steps you can take until your child is 18 and you can begin searching.





# AID

**Adoptees' Identity Discovery**

Dear Friends and Members:

Adoptees' Identity Discovery is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting adult Adoptees, Natural Parents, and others search for one another with perhaps a reunion in mind. We can help you discover.

Our meetings and search workshops are now held the last Sunday of each month at 1:00 in the afternoon at the Mercury Savings and Loan, 350 Showers Drive in Mt. View.

The first half of the meeting is free and open to anyone. The second half is the workshop and is open for Members only.

If you wish to become a member you may join at the meeting. For further information call 408- 243-2000.

Remember-- you too can discover your total identity. See you January 31 at 1:00 pm at our next meeting.

Please note our new post office box number below.

Sincerely

Lori Littleton Secretary

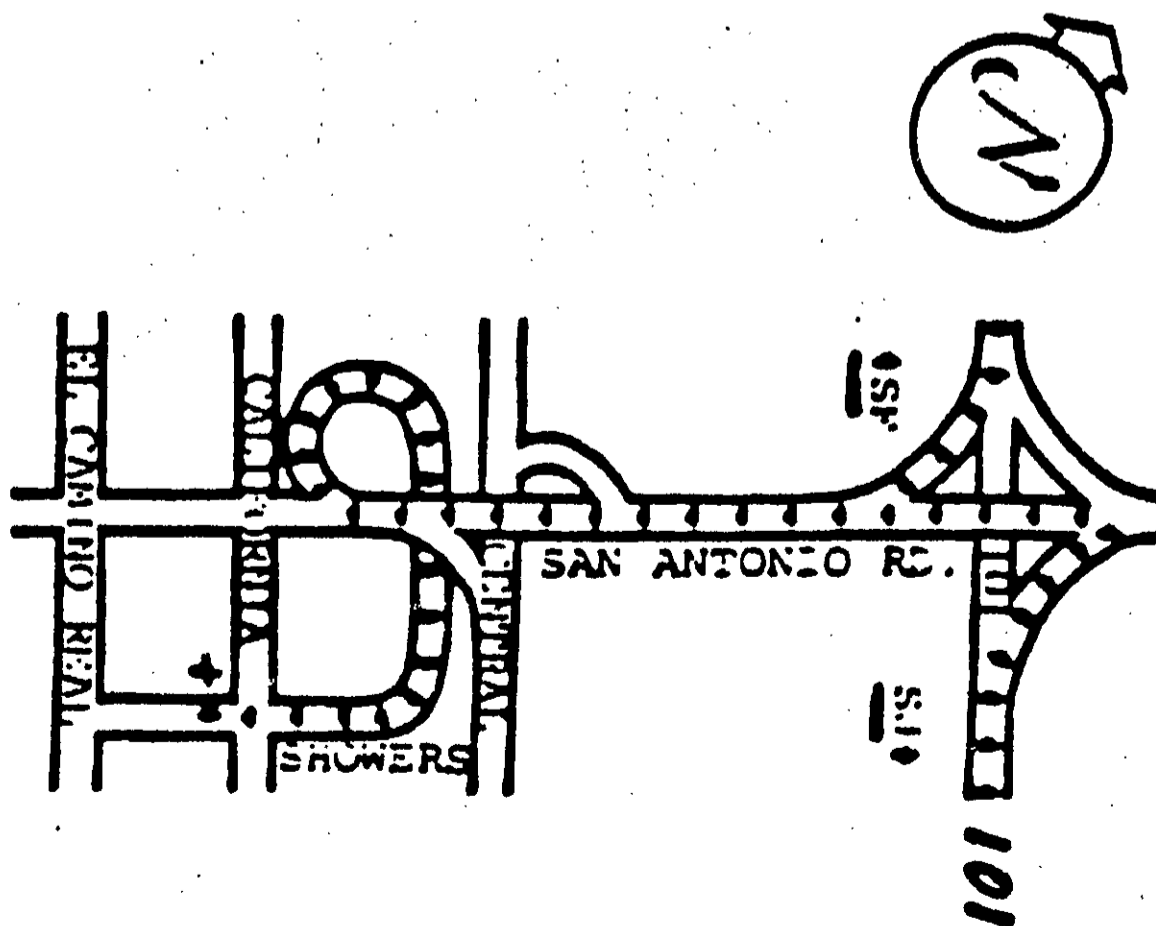
Adoptees' Identity Discovery  
P.O.Box 2159  
Sunnyvale, Ca 94087



## AID Search Meetings

Last Sunday each month @ 1:00 pm (except in December)

Mercury Savings & Loan  
350 Showers Drive  
Mountain View, CA



Take San Antonio exit off Hwy. 101. When on San Antonio (approx. 1-3/4 miles off 101) follow directional arrows at top of overpass for off-ramp to the San Antonio Shopping Center and Showers Drive. (Look for Mervyn's!)

Upon becoming an AID member, you will receive your membership card and an "AID" sheet which will get you started on your search until you can attend a Search Meeting.



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**INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REUNION REGISTRY (I.S.R.R.):** A reunion registry that is not bound by membership requirements. I.S.R.R. is maintained by Emma Vilardi (founder/registrar of I.S.R.R.) The registry is *free* and has registrants from nearly every state and organization in existence. Some other registries are restricted to "members only" and as such are costly and restricted in their coverage....not so with I.S.R.R.

**AID-2000:** By calling (408) AID-2000 you will be put in touch with a Search Consultant or someone to talk to if you wish. If no one is in the office at the time you call, your call will be returned generally within 24 hours....these calls must be returned *collect* since we are a *non-profit* organization. If no one is in to answer your call, just leave your name, telephone number (including area code) and what you need.

Membership in AID is only \$20.00 per year and is always made payable to AID and must be accompanied by the **AID MEMBERSHIP FORM**. Memberships are mailed to:

AID, P. O. Box 2217, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Upon receipt of your membership fee and AID Membership Form, we will mail you a membership card and a starter guide giving you basic beginning instructions on starting your search as well as things *NOT* to say or do. Remember, you are not alone. Many other thousands of adoptees and natural parents share your feelings. At the next AID Search Meeting you will be able to meet and talk with others in search or those who have already successfully *discovered*.

**ALL WHO ACTIVELY SEARCH WILL DISCOVER...ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SEARCH AND AID IS HERE TO HELP YOU.**

**Adoptees' Identity Discovery**  
P. O. Box 2217, Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
(408) AID-2000

(Detach at dotted line and return with check or money order.)

**AID Membership Form**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adoptee/Nat.Parent/Foster/Adop.Parent/Other

BIRTH PLACE OF ADOPTEE: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTH DATE OF ADOPTEE: \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF ADOPTION \_\_\_\_\_

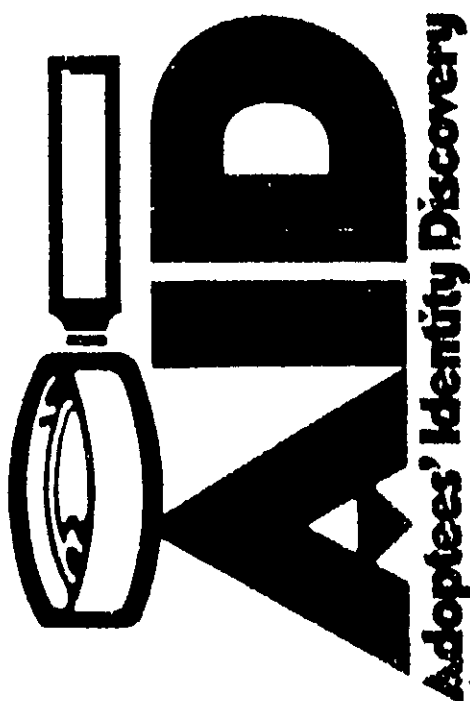
BIRTH NAME OF ADOPTEE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED NAME OF ADOPTEE: \_\_\_\_\_

NATURAL MOTHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NATURAL FATHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

*SAMPLE*



P. O. Box 2217 • Sunnyvale, CA 94087 • (408) AID-2000

# Adoptees' Identity Discovery

## Update/Information Card

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ Any change in above information since joining? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you DISCOVERED: \_\_\_\_\_ When: \_\_\_\_\_ How long did it take? \_\_\_\_\_

Results of Reunion: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be a Search Consultant? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be a Volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

For what? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to serve on the Board of Directors? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you renewing your Membership? \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make an additional contribution? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt requested? \_\_\_\_\_

I am going to designate part/all of my UNITED WAY contributions to AID: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to write letters to State Assembly and Senate expressing my support of  
OPEN ADOPTION RECORDS: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

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# **DISCOVERY**

EDITOR: Richard Rogers      DECEMBER 1984

**Good News!** After many starts, and with many apologies for the delay, we present **DISCOVERY!**

**DISCOVERY** is the newsletter of Adoptees' Identity Discovery (AID). Aptly named, the newsletter has as its sole subject the members of AID and their struggle to "DISCOVER" that natural heritage to which every human being is entitled but from which, by a bureaucratic mentality that makes second class citizens of us alone, adoptees and natural parents are disinherited.

Historically, adoptees and natural parents were assured of an organization to aid them and to share with them in their search, when, after many months of Neil Kelly's blood and sweat, AID's incorporation papers were accepted on the first filing. We have learned since that only 5% get accepted on the first try -- so our thanks to Neil Kelly. Also, after many fits and starts, what with the Internal Revenue Service's penchant for endless clarifications of this point or that, AID was found to be a Public Charitable Foundation, and thus it was granted a tax-exempt status. Although AID has only been incorporated for a little over three and half years, we have actually been helping searchers for over TEN YEARS.

The first officers of the Corporation were Neil Kelly, President; Judy Holcomb, Vice President; Lori Littleton, Secretary, and Bev Kelly, Treasurer. The first Board of Directors also included Shiela and David Ames, Bud and Donna Alm, Peter Ahern, and Kathi Schoenenberger. The 1982 Annual Election found Shiela and David Ames, Joyce Tafoya, Lori Littleton, Judy Holcomb, and John and Karen Bevington elected as new board members. Bev Kelly took on the combined tasks of Secretary and Treasurer, while Don Cracraft assumed the role of Vice President and Neil Kelly retained the Presidency. During the 1983 Annual Meeting, while Bev Kelly, Don Cracraft and Neil Kelly were elected to continue as our corporate officers, the following were elected as new board members: Shiela and David Ames, Chris Cracraft, Sara and Richard Rogers, Judy

Holcomb, and John Scardina. Sharon Troy, Louise and Jim Schulz, were also elected as new voting members. At the 1984 election the same officers and board was re-elected. Lori Littleton, who was twice elected to the Board of Directors, was scheduled to relocate with her family to Austin Texas, because her husband, Bill, was to have been transferred there. Not the first time, the plans of the Littletons to move to Austin were thwarted by corporate redtape -- they finally made it to Texas!

A home for AID meetings was found at the present location in the Mercury Savings and Loan room in Mountain View. Training seminars were begun for new Search Consultants, to ensure a competent group of helpers for the new members who were beginning to flood to AID meetings. AID's hotline was established, at first in the home of Lori Littleton but since removed to the Kelly residence, where it remains as a vital if demanding tool. Search meetings were held (with the exception of December) on the last Sunday of each month. Furthermore a small fee was assessed to help pay for AID's survival. The fee is \$30 for one year's membership and it is **tax-deductible!** The membership in AID began to grow and the DISCOVERIES began to pile up. Our record -- that approximately 97% of those who actively search will DISCOVER in less than four (4) months -- continues to be a reality!

Members of other search organizations and searchers across our country started to hear about us and they began to turn to us for help. Even social workers, bound by state laws, began to refer adoptees to us!

Channel 36's Martha Tonsing did a TV special, "Birth Right," on AID and two of its members. "Birth Right" won national acclaim, many national awards and was aired on many stations across the United States. Lori Littleton, Don Cracraft, Bev Kelly, Beth Blote, and Paul Blote did some public service announcements. At the time of printing of **DISCOVERY**, Channels 11, 5, and 36, in the Bay area including KEEN and KBAY radio are participating in or will broadcast segments about Adoptees' Identity Discovery. Calls began (and

**Adoptees' Identity Discovery**

P.O. BOX 2159 SUNNYVALE, CA 94087 • (408) 737-2222

continue day by day) to pour in from adoptees and natural parents, each of whom felt the need to know. DISCOVERY flags sprang up like flowers after a Spring rain, like pennants to cheer us on, to let us know that what we were doing, how we were doing it, was a success -- that we were succeeding in spite of legalistic means to thwart us.

One such attempt to make harder, if not impossible, our searches was California Senate Bill #SB 859, which allowed for the destruction of adoption records after fifteen (15) years! Fortunately, that bill was defeated and its author, Dan O'Keefe, lost his bid for re-election. It would behoove us to keep in mind that such attempts will likely continue to spring from the bureaucracy. One way to help to avoid unnecessary impediments to our searching is not -- we repeat -- not to tell our search techniques to non-members.

We must point out, in fairness, that some legislators are trying to make things easier for us. One example of this is Assembly Bill #AB 2096. Without going into specifics about the Bill, authored by Assemblyman Robert Campbell, the Bill would provide for the disclosure of information to adoptees, if the natural parents express a similar desire to know. AB 2096 would get rid of the existing requirement that the adoptive parents must also give their consent before an exchange of information can be made. However, the major drawback to AB 2096 is that it would apply only to adoptions taking place after 1986, and it would apply only for adoptees who reach their twenty-first (21) birthday. There is in AB 2096 no retroactive clause to cover adoptions prior to 1986. In point of fact, assuming that most adoptions take place near the time of birth, AB 2096 would have little value until sometime in the year 2005! Nevertheless, we thank Assemblyman Campbell for trying.

But in spite of the bureaucrats, we have continued to DISCOVER!

#### **DISCOVERIES:**

Chuck Cannon joined AID in June and started his search in Kansas City, Missouri and Fort Worth, Texas. It took Chuck three and one-half months to DISCOVER his mother living in Los Angeles. Chuck was born in 1927 and was 54 when he DISCOVERED his mother. She was in her middle 70s and was in excellent health. His reunion was very exciting and rewarding learning

of his past and meeting all of his new brothers and sisters "is the greatest," says Chuck. He said he cried when he first talked to his mother on the telephone after so many years of separation.

Lori Littleton was born in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in 1954. Lori said she wanted to search and DISCOVER her heritage, current medical information, as well as find out if she had any relatives. In three weeks she DISCOVERED two brothers, six sisters, four uncles, two aunts, one cousin, and 27 nieces and nephews. She also DISCOVERED one of her cousins by adoption actually was her sister! Lori's mother died shortly after Lori was born and the father had been unable to take care of a baby and eight other children by himself.

A. J. Matthews attended his first AID meeting in July. He said he wanted to DISCOVER before he had to return to his schooling in August. With but his date of birth and the city of his birth, in less than four weeks he had DISCOVERED his mother's name. His search took him from Virginia Beach, Virginia, to Seattle. Just short of three weeks A. J. took a week off to go to Hawaii and was asking his natural mother if his birthdate meant anything to her. It did!!, and she was happy to hear from him. From her he DISCOVERED that he has a grandmother living in Los Angeles. Although he has yet to locate his natural father, A. J. is waiting for a good time to visit with his mother.

Trish was born in 1952. Her search took her to New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Trish DISCOVERED in one month. So far she has talked to uncles and aunts and a brother on her mother's side. Her mother is deceased. On her father's side, she has two brothers and two sisters. Everyone she has talked to was happy to hear from her, and her father is sending her airfare so that they can have a reunion at the end of the month.

Sharon (not her real name) lives in Canoga Park in Southern California. She was born in April of 1957. Sharon called in to AID. After just three telephone calls to AID, she was talking to her natural father in Fresno. According to Sharon, there was no denial on his part. In fact, he was willing to talk about the events which led to her adoption.

This letter from Barbara Pickens: "On May 5th, I called and talked to Lori on the phone about your organization and could not believe my ears. That young lady may be only 26 or 27, but



