



HERITAGE, INC.
P.O. BOX 85424
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89185-0424

HERITAGE/BIRTHRIGHTS OF KNOWLEDGE

The Freedom Press

VOL. III, NO. I&II

DEAR FRIENDS OF HERITAGE, INC. again we must apologize for the lateness of our publication "THE FREEDOM PRESS". Please note however, that we have combined our January and March issues into this one volume. We sincerely thank you for your patience and understanding.

We would also like to take this time to thank all of you for your tremendous response concerning the Cabbage Patch blitz of Coleco.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO:

Beverly & Dean Funk, Peggy & Bob Mitchell — your donations were above and beyond — our sincere appreciation!

Alice Gelbar & Tom Weir — who have donated radio air time on KMJJ, the executive desk and photocopying service for the past year — We thank you!(THE HOME OFFICE)

There are many others who have enabled us to continue with our community service to mention but a few; Eric K., Rob Powers, Mr. Day, and Mr. Wade Cavanaugh.

RUMMAGE SALE REPORT:

Again we had a great response from our members both active and inactive with a vast assortment of quality contributions. A total of \$210.66 was raised and a sunburn was obtained by Wendy, Mal, Julie, Carol, Doug, Dee, Marti, and Trish.

We were so encouraged, we are planning another sale for this Spring. Get Ready Folks!

CHANGES:

We would like you to note the changes of publication dates. New issues of "The Freedom Press" will be released the first week of August thereafter the first weeks of Nov., Feb. and May.

SCHEDULE:

General Members and Guest Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of every month at the Las Vegas Press Club, Charleston Plaza Mall, 1724 East Charleston Blvd.

ATTENTION: WE MAY MOVE OUR MEETING ROOM! PLEASE ATTEND NEXT MEETING.

SCHEDULE Cont.

MARCH	12	7:30	PM
APRIL	9	7:30	PM
MAY	14	7:30	PM
JUNE	11	7:30	PM

Workshops are held after general meetings. They begin after the business portion of the meeting and a brief break.

NOTE: We do make special arrangements for members with special problems.

Marti 451-8309; Dee 646-1790; Trish 451-9939

AND MORE CABBAGE PATCH MANIA (SIC):

As you can see by this advertisement the Riviera Hotel also cashed in on the Cabbage Patch mania which swept the nation during the holiday season.

If you plan a trip to Las Vegas in the future, we of Heritage would ask you to write to the Riviera Hotel as to why you will not stay at their hotel.

MANAGEMENT
Riviera Hotel
2901 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

The Riviera Adopts Las Vegas



Win a Doll for Christmas,

Complete With Adoption Papers

(And maybe a load of 'cabbage' on our new loose slots)

Every day from December 19th through the 24th, the Riviera will be giving away leavable dolls, like the one above, complete with Riviera adoption papers. Just come in and register at the casino cage. You can get additional tickets every time you hit a jackpot on the Riv's new loose slots. It's a great chance to adopt a doll for Christmas and take home some extra cabbage (money). Win a doll this Christmas at the Riviera, we're adopting Las Vegas.

DRAWINGS MONELY MOON TO 7 P.M.

DOLLS AND ADOPTION PAPERS
NOW READY AT THE RIV.
DEC. 19 - 24

SUNlight

By Wade Cavanaugh

On People

For Sam and Marie of Las Vegas, the new year started off wonderfully, despite a deluge of emotion-moistened eyes by both of them.



Neither know the other, but the experience both went through somehow feel a kinship.

Sam has been in town for many years. (There is no necessity to use either of their last names.) He is very prominent and one of the top people in Las Vegas. Marie has a very responsible job as manager of a top office.

More than 45 years ago, in the height of the Depression, Sam fell in love with his high school sweetheart in a mid-western state. Her parents, very wealthy farmers with a lot of political juice in the home area, took a dislike to Sam. Despite the family animosity, the young couple were married and had a baby girl within a year.

He was a responsible young man in a time when a lot of people were out of work and took any job he could find, sometimes two, to make a home for his wife and young baby.

While working on a farm job in a neighboring country for almost a week, her parents convinced the young wife she had no future with him, talked her into returning to the easy life she was used to, and convinced her to divorce him.

Her parents had enough local juice that they convinced a judge to grant the divorce, give her complete custody of the baby, and rule the father could have no visitation rights to the baby.

The young man didn't find that out until he returned from his temporary job. After a lengthy period of trying to see his former wife and the baby, he was threatened by the same judge with a jail sentence if he persisted, finally left home and his family roots and moved West.

He finally settled in Las Vegas where he prospered, but always retained the faint hope he could see the woman he married and their baby. After a number of years, he accidentally ran into his ex-father-in-law, who admitted he made a mistake in breaking the couple up. He promised to tell Sam's former wife and daughter where their father was but he died before he could tell anyone. Sam thought his daughter knew where he was but just didn't want to see him.

Earlier this month, Sam received a phone call from a woman who asked his hometown and other personal questions. He began to get perturbed when, suddenly, the woman said, "Daddy, this is your daughter!" In a three-hour conversation, he discovered he also had a son-in-law, grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. His former wife had long died.

In Marie's case, she had been married to a serviceman, had two sons, were living in Southern California when he was transferred to Alaska. As a dutiful wife, she and the boys went with him, leaving all their longtime neighbors behind.

The rigors of the move took its toll, the marriage became a nothing situation and she returned to Southern California for a divorce. She then found she was pregnant. In addition, one of her sons was killed in an accident. Emotionally distraught, unable to work and also to care for the new baby, at the urging of friends and her clergyman, she put the baby up for adoption.

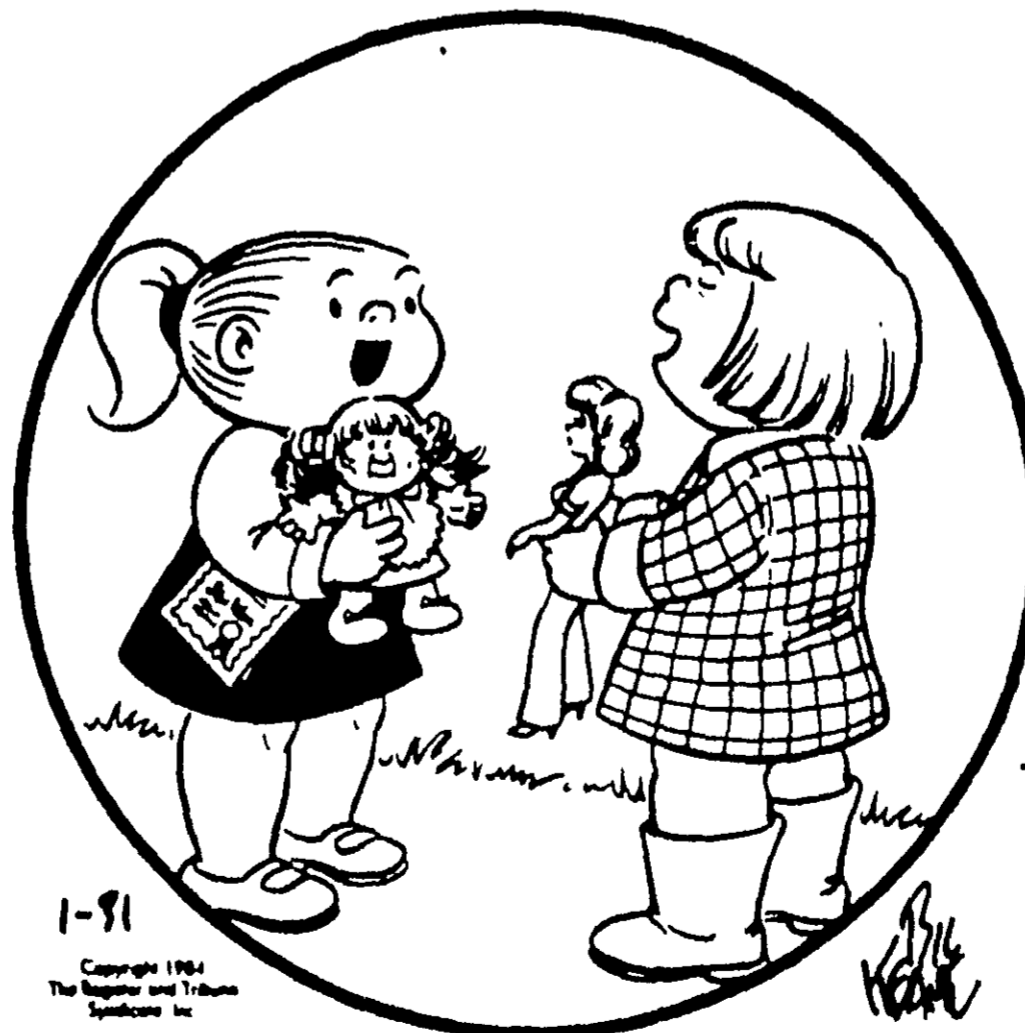
A national group called Heritage, whose local chapter meets at the Las Vegas Press Club, has as its goal to help children who had been adopted or parents seeking to see their child once again.

A week ago, she received a call from a member who informed her, "We found your daughter. She has also, for years, been looking for you."

Marie, too, found she was a grandmother. The eyes of Sam and Marie and two long-lost daughters were filled with flowing tears of joy.

Destiny waves its own web at times. For at least four people, it's been the beginning of a very good year.

FAMILY CIRCUS



1-91

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The Register and Tribune
Syndicate Inc.

"My doll has a birth certificate and 'doption papers."

"That's nothin'! Mine has a driver's license!"

FIRST I.S.R.R. MATCH FOR HERITAGE:

INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REUNION REGISTRY does it! The great lady in Carson City, Nevada again had the opportunity to make two people extremely happy! Yes, sometimes your Soundex form has been in for several years (seems like eons, I know) then whoops the other party fills out theirs and Bingo...a Match.

The tireless efforts of Emma May Vilardi are deeply appreciated by all who have availed themselves of her services and for many of us who know her dedication personally over these many years, may we say

Thank you and God Bless

May we remind you that I.S.R.R. is non-profit and donations are gratefully accepted.

Variety

DEAR ABBY/DR. BRÖTHERS/



Woman vetos surprise reunion

Dear Abby: What are your views on adopted children one day being able to meet their birth parents?

Nineteen years ago my parents forced me to give up a baby girl for adoption because I was 16, unmarried and pregnant. I was very bitter at the time because I wanted to keep my daughter, but I realize that my parents did what they thought was best for me.

I am now a happily married mother of three, but my nightly prayer is to meet my first-born child. I have no desire to "surprise" her with a telephone call or an unexpected visit. I want to meet her only if she wants to meet me.

I heard that there is a national organization with whom birth parents and adopted children may register, and if all parties are agreeable to meeting, they may do so.

I am not a wealthy person, Abby, but I would gladly pay a fee. Thanks for any help you can give me. — MY NIGHTLY PRAYER

Dear Prayer: There is such an

organization. It is: International Soundex Reunion Registry, P.O. Box 2312, Carson City, Nev. 89702.

I have checked the organization out and have found it to be a legitimate, non-profit corporation that provides this charitable, humanitarian service gratis. Contributions are welcome in order to keep the operation going, but no fee is charged for services.

For a registration form, write to the above address, and please enclose a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope. Good luck and God bless.

For those of you who may have miss the article which was in Dear Abby and help bring about a reunion of close associates of Heritage, Inc. here it is again!

SUMMARY OF THE STATE OF MAINE REUNION REGISTRY

In answer to our inquiry concerning the Maine Reunion Registry, we received a warm, friendly reply from Ms. Pamela Leonard of Vital Records.

To register with the Maine Reunion Registry you must meet the following requirements as directly quoted from § 2706A Adoption contact files.

1. FILE: The State registrar shall maintain files of the names and addresses of adopted persons and their adoptive and biological parents, who have registered under this section.
2. REGISTRATION. The following persons may register their name and address with the state registrar and request contact:
 - A. An adopted person 18 years old or more;
 - B. An adoptive parent of an adopted person who is less than 18 years old; and
 - C. A biological parent of an adopted person.
3. REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. The State registrar may request from each person registering or requesting contact any information that is necessary to insure accurate identification of that person and to assist in identifying the other party.
4. REVIEWING DEPARTMENTAL FILES. The State registrar may review both public and confidential departmental files to assist in identifying or verifying the identification of the other party. If both parties have registered, he may release those names and addresses even if the relationship was identified or verified by the use of confidential departmental files. He may charge a fee for the assistance which shall reasonably reflect the cost of providing it.
5. REQUEST FOR CONTACT. When the State registrar has a request for contact from both a biological parent and that parent's adopted child or the child's adoptive parent, he shall notify each party of the name and address of the other party.
6. CONFIDENTIALITY. Except as provided in subsection 5, the files established under this section shall be confidential and not open to public inspection.
7. PUBLIC INFORMATION. The State registrar shall, by appropriate means, make known to the public the existence of the adoption contact files, the assistance the department may offer and the purposes of those files.

Along with our inquiry we received the Registration form used by the State of Maine and a form letter requesting a check or money order made payable to "Treasurer of State" for \$2.00.

We of Heritage, Inc. hope this information is of assistance to those persons searching in Maine and for further information we suggest that you write to:

State of Maine
Department of Human Services
Augusta, Maine 04333

ATTENTION: PAMELA LEONARD, VITAL RECORDS

SUMMARY OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN REUNION REGISTRY

Michigan Department of Social Services
Adoption Reunion Registry
P.O. Box 30037
300 South Capitol Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Michigan statutes are very specific; (MCLA § 710.27); as to what information is to be retained as non-identifying information. Any other information would be only that "which the child placing agency, department, or court considers appropriate".

NON-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION specifically includes:

1. Date and place of birth of the adoptee which includes only the county and state.
2. Medical history of the adoptee and biological parents.
3. Ethnicity of biological parents.
4. Status of termination; voluntary or court ordered.
5. Religious background of biological parents.
6. Age and sex of brothers and sisters known at the time of adoption.
7. Educational level of biological parents.

FOR THE ADOPTEE as of September 12, 1980 you can obtain identifying information if neither parent submits a denial to release of identifying information. If either parent submits a denial, identifying information may not be released. (The preceding is stated directly for the pamphlet sent us.)

Of interest from the state statutes:

M.C.L.A. § 710.88

1. The non-identifying information required by section 27(1) and (2) of this chapter¹ shall be made available to the adoptive parents at the time of placement, and upon request thereafter, and shall be made available to an adult adoptee upon request.
2. A biological parent or adult biological sibling shall not receive information, other than non-identifying information described in section 27(1) and (2) of this chapter, from a child placing agency, court, or file of the department relative to an adoptee unless the adoptee, as an adult has given written consent to the release of the information.

The age of majority in Michigan is 18 years. The information sent us was minimal and we do suggest for further information you correspond directly, be sure to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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SUMMARY OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA REUNION REGISTRY

When talking with Mrs. Jane Conner over the phone we learned she was instrumental in setting up this mutual consent registry in the year of 1973. Mrs. Conner was very warm, helpful and friendly and I know we all thank her for her efforts in making reunions possible for those members of the triad adopted or relinquishing in Oklahoma.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
Department of Human Services
Sequoyah Memorial Office Building
P.O. Box 25325
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

ATTENTION: ADOPTION UNIT

Directly from Mrs. Conner's letter we quote:

"We do keep track of the request made from persons involved in the adoption triangle concerning placements made by this department. An adult adoptee can write in the request to find biological relatives, and we ask that they be specific, as to the individual they wish to find. If these same individuals have been in contact with this Department trying to find the adoptees then we are able to assist in a reunion. If the requests do not match up at the time they are received, they are kept on file until such time as the other party expresses the desire for communication".

Age of majority is 18 years old and at this writing your request to register can be made in letter form. However, Heritage does recommend enclosing a waiver of confidentiality.

Some interesting points of Oklahoma State Statues:

Chapter 2— ADOPTION § 57.

Records kept confidential— Release of information on court order.— All records of proceedings in adoption cases and all papers and books relating to such proceedings, shall be kept in a separate confidential file in the Court Clerks Vault by the Court Clerk, and shall not be open to inspection or copy except upon order of a court of record for good cause shown...

SUMMARY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE REUNION REGISTRY

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
111-19 7th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

ATTENTION: POST ADOPTION UNIT

The age of majority in Tennessee is 18 years or older. The registry maintains in their post adoption files request from birth family members and adoptees. It is a mutual consent registry. If an adoptee has already registered and has reached majority and subsequently a birth family member registers the registry will advise the adoptee.

The following are some points of interest as taken from Tennessee State Statutes

Chapter 4-^s 36-128.4 The date and place of birth recorded on the new certificate of birth shall be the data recorded on the original certificate of birth.

These sealed papers may be opened by the state registrar for the purpose of issuing a certified copy of the original birth certificate upon written approval of the commissioner of public health after receipt of a sworn statement of the adopting parents that the certificate is needed for legal purposes affecting the interests of the child and setting out a complete explanation of the purpose for which the certificate is to be used...

§ 36-132. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION UPON ORDER OF JUDGE.— Any necessary information in the files or the record of an adoption proceeding may be disclosed, to the party requiring it, upon a written motion in the cause before the court of original jurisdiction, the judge of which may issue an order to open the record, if, in the opinion of said judge, it be to the best interest of the child or of the public to have such information disclosed.

§ 36.140. REUNITING SIBLINGS AFTER ADOPTION— In situations where a preadoptive brother/sister relationship existed, and one or more of these siblings was then adopted, the following procedures shall be followed on an inquiry by one or more of the siblings to the department of human services seeking information about his or her brother or sister:

- a. In all cases, an adopted person eighteen (18) years of age or older or a pre-adoptive sibling eighteen (18) years of age or older of an adopted person may file information concerning himself, his parents location, and his known antecedents with the department of human services stating his interest in being reunited with his pre-adoptive siblings and authorizing the department to release such information to his pre-adoptive siblings who may make similar inquiry.
- b. In any case in which a person eighteen (18) years of age or older request information about or expresses a desire in being reunited with a pre-adoptive sibling the department shall first determine whether such sibling has made similar inquiry pursuant to subsection (a) above. If such sibling has previously authorized release of information about himself the department shall release such information to the sibling making inquiry.

In all other cases, upon written request of an adopted person eighteen (18) years of age or older for information concerning a pre-adoptive sibling with whom he or she had a pre-adoptive relationship the department shall search the sealed adoption records in its possession for information concerning such sibling and, if possible from such information, shall

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