

Parents Adoptees Liberty Movement

PALM



Reaching Out With
Helping Hands

Betty Angier, Ed.

February 1984

P.O. BOX 3073
PAWTUCKET, R.I. 0361

IMPORTANT: Financial info below. Be sure to read it.

JANUARY MEETING : The final results of the search described in the last newsletter was good. Daughter and birthmother talked on the 'phone for a long time and arranged a meeting in Florida in February. We all offered to go ,too! That meeting day was cold and just the word-Florida -sounded good. Another ~~one~~ search is going on in Warwick and one in Cranston . Good luck to both.

Our guest was Marion Donnelly, representative to the state legislature and secretary to the committee on Judiciary. She has offered to sponsor our bill on "opening" records. What an attractive ,vivacious person! She has already started her campaign by sounding out judges, other legislators and a few friends who have some connection with adoption. As of this date (Sat. the 28th) several of us have received a copy of the New York bill. It is pages long and filled with legal language so we have our job cut out for us

to "clean up" the bill before it is presented. The other legislator, Rep. Horan from Pawtucket, is a lawyer so that's a plus. We'll ^{need} plenty of help in lobbying for this bill. As Marion said, when the hearings are conducted in committee then we will see who our opposition is.

Now that we have entered the new year a look at our finances show that dues are due and our treasury depleted by publicity efforts and the extention of our registry. Both are worthy causes and most important to the life of our organization. Just to clear up any misunderstandings here are the regs:

\$5 fee -for registry only

searching help wanted includes paying expenses involved such as 'phone calls etc.

\$10 fee- full membership including newsletter , help at meetings, contacts etc.

The registry is only \$5 and a one time fee but doesnot pay the expenses of searching. Also those who paid us \$10 this summer or fall

are considered up to date. All others please pay at the next meeting or mail to me : Betty Angier- 861 Mitchell's Lane, Middletown, R.I. 02840 As usual the elected officers, because of their work, get their dues wavered. Maybe next year you might like take a more active part in becoming an officer, too.

See article enclosed that tells of some of the ^{search} techniques that work. It takes time and patience.

~~FEBRUARY~~- FEBRUARY MEETING: Same place: Smith Hill Branch Library on Candace St. just off the intersection of Smith and Orms Streets.

The date: February 18th, Saturday at one o'clock. Don't forget your dues.

●● ~~■~~'s latest "Super Sleuth" award has to go to Cathy, who contacted her birth-mother just after Thanksgiving. Cathy had a lot of non-identifying information about her birthmother and calculated when her birthmother would have graduated from high school.

With the help of a friend in Michigan and after perusing names upon names of high school graduates from one city, finally the right name that fit all the known requirements was found. And the photo of the graduate bore a strong resemblance to Cathy.

It was a pretty short hop, skip and jump through city directories, obituaries and marriage license records to discover her birthmother's location and new name, but there the trail ended. Finally, Cathy called her birthmother's brother and, with his help, was able to contact her. She was very warmly received.

another organization

"When one door closes, another opens, but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us."

--Alexander Graham Bell

This letter was contributed by one of our members who has located his birth mother. Unfortunately, she refuses to see him. Too bad she is not in a position to know him as we all do - he is a lovely, warm, funny, loving human being and it really is HER loss.

November 14, 1982

I watched Superman tonight. One scene brought tears to my eyes. An infant was sent into space, by his parents, in order to live a full life. He is found and raised by two people on Earth as their child.

In his young adulthood, though his Earth parents have raised and loved him, he feels a need to leave their farm home and find out who he is.

In the scene I relate to, an 18 year old Clark Kent is standing on a hill above his childhood home looking out into space. His Mother sees him from the house and walks out to him. Clark seems to sense her presence and says, "I have to leave". Mrs. Kent answers, "I knew this day would come". Clark then leaves to find out who he is and where he came from.

Just for a second, I felt like I was standing on that hill, telling the world that I need to know who I am, where I came from. That is a feeling that all of us have experienced at least once in our lives.

This little note has no earth shaking revelations, no moral, it's just here to say, "Hey, other people have those little pains in their hearts over things that mean nothing to anyone who is not searching for his parents or child. No, you are not alone; and, yes, we do understand."

From another organization Adoptee

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MARCH 1984

P.O. BOX 3073

PAWTUCKET, R.I. 0361

FEBRUARY MEETING: Some very interesting facts came out of this get-together. First: we believe that one of our former members is now head of Sophia Little Home. How much good it is going to do us will be tested this week. A new member is trying to locate her birthmother who was at Sophia L. just before the birth. Let us hope we are right in this assumption. Next we went over the proposed legislation and that it leaves much to be desired from our point of view. All adoptions that took place before 1985 would only be allowed to join the registry. Since there are so many registries already (see article further on) we do not see the need for yet another one. It is a passive way to get where "you want to go". Adoptions and the participants that take place after 1984 will be able to go back to the agency who handled the paperwork and ask them to search & facilitate a reunion or get identifying data for them. So when this bill #84H7418 comes up in committee we are going to ask for changes

Here is the article about the international registry.

By JOHN O'BRIEN

United Press International. Joyce Brown of Englewood Cliffs, N.J., gave up her first baby for adoption. But now, reunited after a 25-year separation, she and her daughter are living under the same roof again.

Betty Lucas of Puyallup, Wash., was reunited — during a television program — with her first offspring, a daughter, whom she gave to adoption authorities before even seeing her 18 years earlier. Now they regularly exchange interstate letters.

All four women thank International Soundex Reunion Registry, based in Carson City, Nev., for helping reunite them. The national registry has helped reunite more than 1,000 blood relatives and has a registry containing 18,000 names.

The eight-year-old, non-profit organization founded by Emma May Villardi of Carson City, serves as a link between "birth parents" and their natural offspring 18 or older, all of whom express the desire for reunion by registering their names with ISRR.

Brown, a divorcee who was living with two of her other three children, contacted ISRR after her fiancé, the Cohen, read about it in a newspaper column in November.

Six weeks later, ISRR made the match. The daughter, who had registered two years earlier, was identified as Angie Alexander and was living with a boyfriend in New Mexico. The long-separated mother and daughter talked on the phone, then Alexander flew to New Jersey and met her biological mother and half-brother and half-sister on New Year's eve.

"When I first saw her, I knew she was my daughter," said Brown, 45, an advertising set decorator. "She looks like her sisters and brother look. We hugged and kissed and cried."

"I had lived with the fact that I had a child some place on earth, a child I hadn't seen for 25 years. One part of me hoped one day I would find her and another part said it would be impossible. Laws exist today that kind of makes it very difficult to happen."

Brown, said in an interview that when she became pregnant as an unmarried teenager, her parents sent her from New Jersey to Texas to have the child.

"It happened in the 1950s, and people did not live together in the 1950s or anything like that," she said. "I was 19, living with my parents. Orders were given and I followed them. The last I saw the birth father was 23 years ago."

WHILE IN NEW JERSEY ON NEW YEAR'S Day, Alexander, 25, had a falling-out with her boyfriend in a phone conversation. Brown agreed her daughter to live with her and her husband and she agreed, deciding to enroll in college.

Her adoptive father, a retired lawyer living in the Virgin Islands, and his second wife were supportive of Alexander's reunion plans. She has not heard from her adoptive mother in many years.

Alexander, who calls Brown "Mom," said her reason for registering with ISRR was medical.

"I was born with a heart defect and had other medical problems that were not easily answered without knowing my background," said Alexander, who grew up in Dallas. "But I expected after the reunion to resume my life as normal. I just didn't think there would be as much love as there is. I had a lot of fears."

Adopted people should try to be reunited with their natural parents, Alexander said in an interview, "only if they feel strong enough about themselves that they can deal with whatever happens, whether it's rejection or something else."

She spoke of an adopted male friend who was reunited with his biological

A few items to catch up with.

A few dues have been paid but not everyone. please bring to the next meeting, thanks. May 19th is the N.E. Region conference on Adoption. Ann Conway of Channel 6 is going to be involved. Betty

Jean Lifton, author of "Twice Born, Lost and Found" and several other books on adoption will be the main speaker. The place is Newport- more later
 NEXT MEETING: Same place, Smith Hill Br. Library, March 17th at one o'clock.
 Hope to see you there as thereought to be plenty to discuss.

Agency

reunites adopted children, 'birth parents'



REUNITED — Betty Lucas, left, of Puyallup, Wash., and Susan Rogers, right, of Scottsdale, Ariz., daughter Lucas gave up for adoption at birth, were reunited through International Soundex Reunion Agency.

parents. "His adoptive parents were very happy (about his reunion)," said Alexander. "But he stopped the relationship because of his feelings that he was hurting his adoptive parents, although he actually wasn't. His own fears stopped the relationship."

Brown said she would like to see the laws changed so people could obtain more information about blood relatives. She advises those in her former situation to "go for it."

"I have a feeling within myself that all of my children are with me now," she said. "And my life is complete. It is a wonderful feeling."

Meanwhile, out West, Susan Rogers, 19, of Scottsdale, Ariz., after being informed of the match by ISRR, phoned her natural mother, Betty Lucas, a year ago. Then a friend in an adoptees' search group, TRIAD, told her that someone already had been reunited with a long-lost relative on the TV show "Fantasy."

So Rodgers, who lives with her adoptive parents and works in a shoe store, contacted Fantasy's producers and was invited to tape a show in Los Angeles in February 1982. The program aired nationwide the next month.

"I was so grateful to the registry (ISRR) for helping me, I thought I could talk about the registry on TV and get it some publicity," she said in an interview. "But they didn't tell me my mom (Lucas) would be there."

"When I saw her, I just ran up and hugged her and my little brother and sister. We were just so happy to see each other. During the commercial we ran out behind the stage and said, 'So, what have you been doing for the past 18 years?' and crazy things like that."

She hopes to visit the Lucases for a month soon and she continuously exchanges letters with her natural mother.

Lucas, 41, explained in an interview that she bore Susan when she was unmarried, "still living at home and not a mature 22."

"I was sent to Arizona," she said, "to live with an aunt to deliver it. I was shipped away. That's the way they did it then... Susan's father was living with someone else at the time and said he would not get a divorce."

"But it was the best thing for her that I did it that way. I ended up marrying Susan's father (Harney Lucas) four years later. That just was a disaster; it was a mistake. It lasted 10 years."

Lucas registered with ISRR a year before the reunion.

"I think if you want to find the other person, the registry is a real good way," she said. "Both parties have got a choice and you're not intruding where you're not wanted."

Besides her daughter having a "right" to know about her natural family, Lucas said, "It bothered me for years she might just turn up on the doorstep. I didn't think I could stand that waiting. I wanted to do something to initiate it."

Lucas said Susan calls her "Betty" and Susan's adoptive parents are happy about the reunion, and should be because, "I told them I wanted to add to and not take anything away."

"I told (Susan) I'd like to be like a special aunt," she said. "I don't feel like her mother. I'm not trying to take her place. I'm just somebody special in her life."

Lucas, a drafter for a civil engineer-

ing firm, said the reunion has given her "a sense of closure, of something coming together where before there was emptiness."

Rodgers, who also met her father when she went to Puyallup and writes to him now, said she is happy she did satisfy her curiosity about her heritage by registering with ISRR, but said "in no way should (a reunion) be forced on anyone."

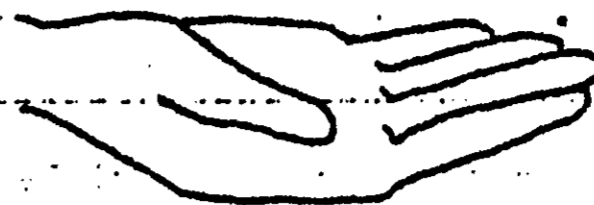
"If the birth parent doesn't want the child to come back, that should be their prerogative and should be respected."

Still, she said, she would favor the states opening up records to facilitate reunions.

"Dear Abby" gave this a big boost. They received thousands of letters short after her publicity!!

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APRIL 1984

P.O. BOX 3073
PAWTUCKET, R.I. 0361

Items to remember: As promised here is Paul Zecchino's address and phone number for those who have had trouble contacting him; 1-377-2447 Maxson Hill Rd., Ashaway, R.I. 02804. Don't forget our conference in Newport, May 19th on a Saturday. The brochures will be here soon, possibly before this newsletter goes out.

Dues: A few have not paid theirs yet but believe me this getting involved in the legislative process is expensive and we need every penny we can get. Money raising affairs are not not my bag and usually end up with the same people donating the money.

For new members the dues are \$10. a year which includes all the help we can give in the way of support and suggestions on searching. The newsletter and meetings are included.

This may be the last season we can have registration for only \$5. as that is not paying its way either. A suggested fee would be \$10. (one time only). Then you could get the newsletter all year. -----

Yes, our friend and former member of our organization is the new director of Sophia Little Home: Kathie Crowe - who was a pioneer in trying to get her records from the agency thru which she was adopted. They were finally released by the court to her lawyer, Bob Mann. He, in turn, released them to her. So the data was obtained but without a court ruling.

MARCH MEETING: We were all in a fun mood but it was St. Patrick's Day. Rosie and Margo wore green berets with the words "Erin Go ? " (I don't know the spelling of that last word). Rosie brought some Irish bread and milk so we were a bit more luxurious than normal. Sheila gave us a nice surprise by bringing pictures of her birthmother in Florida. Talk about look-alikes. You could see the resemblance easily. Her visit sounded like a great success. Unfortunately a few ^{reunions} have not been happy. The new member whose birthmother stayed at Sophia Little had more yearbooks for us to look at but it was hard to

Judge

because of different hair-d's styles
Her next step may be to try a genetic
special ^{ist} test. With so much info ex-
cept a name we don't want to give up.

One adoptee from Fiskeville who, like
Mina, was born in Canada, she came to
to a meeting over a year ago and with
the help of Mina found all she wanted
to know thru a contact of ours in
Montreal. Since no reunion, at this
time, is wanted this was an easy one
to solve.

IMPORTANT! Nominations are now open
for two officers: president and vice-

APRIL MEETING: On the 28th, Saturday, at one o'clock. The place is the
Smith Hill Branch Library, Providence. It is on Candace St. just off the
intersection of Orms and Smith St. near the back of the State House. See you!

A 53-year secret unfolds,

Providence Journal April 11, 1983

DETROIT (UPI) — Keith Rusk Dearborn sang in a church choir for nine months under the watchful eye of his brother — and never knew it.

Last month, Dearborn unlocked a 53-year-old family secret and met his two brothers. One of them was Loren Rusk, who had sung in church choir with him.

During the nine months that Dearborn and Rusk sang together in 1971, Rusk knew the other man was his brother, but did not speak up. He had a promise to keep.

Rusk was a member of the Presbyterian church in suburban Royal

Oak when Dearborn was hired on a temporary basis (for nine months) as a soloist at the same church (just a coincidence, Rusk had nothing to do with the hiring).

"I was just a hired soloist, so I never learned anyone's name," Dearborn said. "Loren knew exactly who I was, but I never knew."

Rusk not only knew him from his name, but said that Dearborn was a dead-ringer for their father.

Dearborn, 54, was put up for adoption when he was 9 months old.

Their mother, Ellen, was 22 when her husband abandoned her,

leaving her with three small children. The older boys, Loren and Don, were placed in a children's home. The baby, Keith, was placed with a childless couple in Detroit.

Ellen, broke and desperate during the Depression, agreed to sign adoption papers when the Detroit couple wanted to raise Keith as their son. She made the two other boys promise that they never would contact Keith.

She remarried, took the two boys home and had a daughter. But she never forgot about her third son, who lived only a few miles away. She died last year, at the age of 75.

"My father simply told me my natural parents were forced to give me up, and I didn't pursue it," said Dearborn, who was 13 when he was told that he had been adopted.

"I was very happy with the life I had," he said. "And I felt if my natural parents didn't care for me, I didn't care to find them."

In 1956, a family friend who knew the secret invited Dearborn to dinner, and shocked him by showing him a photograph of his brother.

"I said, 'What are you talking about? I don't have any brothers,'" Dearborn recalled. "She said, 'Yes, you do. You have two.'"

As the years passed, the mystery began to haunt him.

"It came to a head this January," Dearborn said yesterday. "I was going to England and couldn't get a passport. Something was wrong with my birth records. I didn't know where to begin. I didn't even know where I was born."

Dearborn said he pressured his adoptive parents into telling him about his past. They resisted, until his adoptive father finally said, "There's a Loren Rusk in Huntington Woods. Why don't you give him a call?"

The brothers were reunited the next day, Feb. 28.

"We started to shake hands," Dearborn said, "but then we just grabbed each other and held on and held on and held on."

The entire Rusk and Dearborn family is planning a reunion Saturday in Armada, where Dearborn's oldest brother, Don, lives.

"I'm still amazed how they kept track of me for years," Dearborn said. "I used to think my mother abandoned me. I have since learned she was one great lady, and she went to her grave suffering for giving me up."

"She kept the promise for my sake, and everyone else kept it for hers."

a R.I. woman also got her original birth certificate
Thru applying for a passport. Details when I get them.

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JUNE 1984

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P A R E N T S & A D O P T E E ' S L I B E R T Y M O V E M E N T

April Meeting; What a nice surprise! Steve brought his birthmother to the meeting. She is such a lovely lady. Everyone was impressed at how much they resembled each other. She is a tall striking looking red head who, inspite of all her large family (eleven children), is now getting education toward her degree. Thanks to both of you for sharing yourselves with us. Every reunion gives the rest of us hope. We had several new members that seem enthusiastic, interested people. Two came in May to the regional conference in Newport. One was in the same category as me : a birthgradmother. We had quite a chat on comparing notes. Shirley of Coventry had ,previously to the meeting, done some genealogical research at the R.I. Historical Society Library -121 Hope St. Prov. She had two names that were the same as one of her brothers. We gave her some suggestions as to how to make that scary phone call. Results were that neither one was right but Shirley did-

n't let that stop her . She kept on and found her brother (also adopted) only a short distance away from her. After a very happy reunion she called me and was on an emotional high. They have plans for more meetings involving the families. Great, Shirley, we wish you much happiness.

One more search has started on a good note . * new member who was born and adopted in Maryland has found a social worker back at the proper agency that gave her much more info than our agencies do here so she has her Godmother name ,and conformed that she knew her original name . I have to get more details about that as I'm not sure of my facts but her birthmother is possibly in Conn. so that's close.

NEXT & FINAL MEETING ('till fall)

Saturday, June 9th at 1 o'clock-
Smithhill Branch Library, Providence,
R.I. Take the State Offices exit off
95, turn onto Orms towards Smith st.
Candace St. & the library is off the
traffic light at this intersection.

Happy endings to birth parent search...

DEAR READERS: "Curious in Florida," the parents of three adopted children, asked me to poll my readers to find out what to expect if their adopted children decided to search for their biological parents.

Today, a sample of letters with happy endings:

DEAR ABBY: Being an adopted child, I yearned to know about my "roots," but I didn't want to hurt my adoptive parents, so I waited until after I was married to start my search.

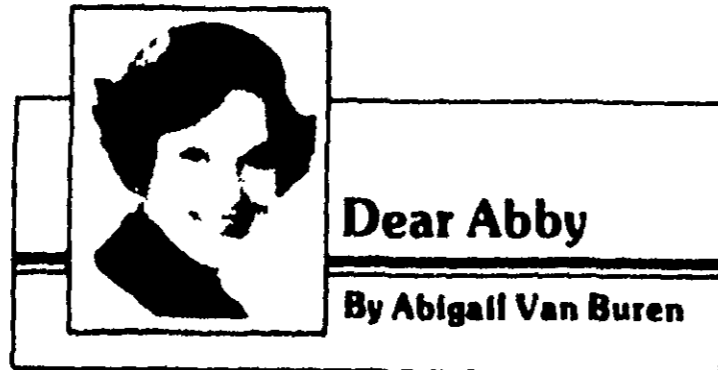
Three months later, I flew to a small Midwestern town and walked into a Dairy Queen where my mother was working behind the counter. I knew immediately that she was my mother. She looked at me and something told her that I was the daughter she hadn't seen since I was 5 days old. We were both overcome with emotion. Her boss sent her home, and we talked until 5 a.m. She's been divorced twice, has three other children and seven step-children. She's had a hard life.

I'm glad I satisfied my curiosity. I also am glad she had the courage to give me up. It made me appreciate my adoptive parents all the more.

GLAD I SEARCHED

DEAR ABBY: I have never been happier in my life! I am enjoying and relishing every second I've spent with my son since he found me last January.

My family is joyous. This event has changed my entire life for the better. Garland is 24, a college graduate and a beautiful human being. I was 18 and unmarried in 1960 when I gave birth to him in the old Gaston County Negro Hospital. The nurse brought him to the



window and held him up so I could see him. That was the only contact I was permitted. I was never allowed to hold that child — maybe that's why I can't keep my hands off him now!

MARTHA YOUNGBLOOD

DEAR ABBY: My husband was raised by his grandparents. His mother got pregnant at 14, and her parents rescued her by adopting her son. When he was 18, he was told that his "sister" was really his mother. Of course, he wanted to know who his father was, but they all lied, saying they weren't "sure." (Isn't that the lowest?)

He was 39 years old when he found out from a relative who his father was. (He was living only 50 miles away.) I believe that children should be protected when they're young, but when they become adults, it's their right to know the truth.

I encouraged him to communicate

DEAR ABBY: Last September, I opened my door to a total stranger who announced that she was my child! She was 39 years old, and I had not seen her since she was 1 week old. It's a good thing I had a strong heart or I might have had a heart attack.

with his father. At first, he was reluctant, fearing he might be rejected. As it turned out, he was warmly received and they developed a beautiful father-son relationship. Unfortunately, his father died a few years later, but at least they got to know each other.

The hardest part of the ordeal was after his father died, knowing how many people had known who his dad was, while he did not.

What foolish secrets people keep.

NEW JERSEY STORY

DEAR ABBY: I gave up a beautiful boy 22 years ago because I was 16, unmarried and my parents forced me to.

I was contacted six months ago by an attorney who asked me if I wanted to meet the child I had given away in 1962. I was thrilled out of my mind! I'm married now and have four children and a wonderful husband. He knew about my first-born; my children did not.

My husband and I flew immediately to meet my son. It was an emotionally charged experience for all of us. His adoptive parents had told him on his 21st birthday that if he wanted to meet me, they would make the search and they did. Imagine that! They had a fine dinner and spent the night showing us home movies of their son from the day

My daughter looked just like her father, whose face I had been trying to forget since he left me when I told him I was pregnant. He said the baby couldn't be his. (It couldn't have been anyone else's!)

My daughter was interested in the possibility that she might come into some kind of inheritance. I gave her all the information I had on her blood relatives. I even told her the truth about her father but suggested she give him some advance warning if she intended to look him up.

She told me her adoptive parents were both dead, but for some reason I didn't believe her.

The whole ordeal was a nightmare.

BAD SCENE

they got him until he graduated from college last May. It was almost like watching him grow up. And we were treated like "family."

We gained a son, and our lives have been enriched. Our hearts are filled with love and gratitude for these generous people, and "our son" (as they call him) could not be a finer gentleman.

OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER

DEAR ABBY: I located my birth mother. This was her message to me: "Thank you for affirming that I did the right thing in giving you up. I wish to God I had had the courage to do the same thing for your younger brother and sister, but society lays such a guilt trip on us if we don't raise our own children.

"Please go home and tell your parents 'thanks' from both of us. Good-bye."

I won't tell you what my life would have been like if I had been raised by this bitter, unhappy woman.

I was happy to have seen the contrast and grateful to her for having given me away — and even more grateful to the mother who raised me.

SAN DIEGO

Tomorrow: Letters with less than happy endings. Stay tuned.

DEAR ABBY: Our adopted daughter searched and found her birth mother five years ago. After they had been reunited, we felt unloved, unneeded, unwanted and unappreciated. She made the search when she was 25 years old. She is now 30, and we've never met her birth mother, have never had any desire to meet her and would like to forget that she even lived.

Since the daughter we raised found her "real" mother, the relationship between us has never been the same.

We will remember "Curious in Florida" in our prayers, and hope they never have to walk the path we have walked.

ADOPTIVE PARENTS

The newsletter is short this month as the deadline is approaching quickly. In July I will type up a report on the convention; mainly the good ideas that came from it. Also, I will include a report on the legislation in other states and what our state commission hopes to accomplish. Below are items of interest in case you missed them.

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unhappy endings →

CONFERENCE and SUMMER BULLETIN, 1984

PARENTS & ADOPTEE'S LIBERTY MOVEMENT

WHY GO TO A CONFERENCE? Yes, it costs money and time but so many benefits can be gained. First, if you are searching, there are CONTACTS all over the "place". Mina got two new leads from contacts she had made before at other places. Second, if you want a sense of identification there are many people in your category who will talk with you and make you feel good about yourself. They've been there, too. Third, you get ideas for whatever project you are working on in this field of adoption. See further on in newsletter for what I got from the legislative workshop. Fourth, you can just have fun and meet people that understand where you are coming from. Usually the conferences are held in an area that is interesting by its self.

A FEW DETAILS FOR ALL: the New England con. was held in Newport in May. One hundred forty -two attended plus speakers and aids. The farthest away was from Hawaii and I guess a Laure Walters from Newport was the nearest.

The most unusual combination was one birthmother, an adoptive mother and father, the adoptee, and the search facilitator. The workshop where they told their story was amazing and very gratifying. A good reunion all around. The winner of the \$200 grocery raffle was Elaine Kohn of Belmont, Ma. She was a very happy person. Now the treasurer's report for the New England Region reads in the black: \$865.13. This is a good start for the new slate of officers: Fran Harriman of Maine is the new regional director. Jo and Peter Devlin have done an outstanding job of starting this organization!!!

LEGISLATIVE HINTS: This workshop interested me the most because we are just starting in this field. It's tough, up-hill fighting. Marion Donnelly who helped us get a start this past session was there with concrete suggestions; try to find a lobbyist who may be known to many of the legislators, send as many members of our

group as often as possible when the bill is out of committee, get as many friends as possible on the study commission that considers the bill first, and finally get as many letters of support as soon as the bill is written to our approval. The one last year was the New York bill that needed too many corrections to be feasible. It takes a great deal of work, time and money.

REGISTRY: The article in the Pawtucket Times last spring was very well written (about one of our searches and the happy conclusion).

Wish the Providence Journal would do the same by us but their editorial policy is very restrictive in this area. Not in politics, however. Strange, isn't it? Well, on to the change.

Now we will have to charge \$10 for the registry as it has not been paying its way. Those who register and have paid only \$5 may get search help, if they wish it, by becoming a regular member which is \$10 a year. A regular member is entitled to attend all our meetings and receive the newsletter which tries to keep you up to date on all kinds of adoption matters.

GENERAL ITEMS OF INTEREST: The meet- place is the same: Smith Hill Branch of the Providence Public Library on a Saturday near the end of the month. September meeting will be set as soon as the library sets its fall schedule-in August usually. They are most kind to us and it's free. Another newsletter will reach you in September in time to plan your Saturday with us.

Right now we are working on a slate of officers and some revised by-laws. The latter are way out of date.

Well, enjoy the lazy hazy days of summer. We are looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Keep cool and good-bye for now.

Betty Angier

P.S. Plenty of newsletters from other places to read at the first meeting in Sept.

PEACE OF MIND

October 1984

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WELCOME

Peace of Mind-Search and Support, was founded in December of 1983, by Mona Phillips, a birthmother, and her husband Jim, an adoptee. Since the start of the organization already six searching members have found their biological families. Peace of Mind welcomes all members of the adoption triangle, including minors with their adoptive parents' consent.

Working closely with one another, we continually strive for more reunions, to make the public aware of the evident 'need' of those affected by adoption to search and to find the answers from our past which have been erased.

MESSAGES FROM MONA

I wish to thank the people of Tucson for their support in founding the organization. I extend special appreciation to Niki French and Linda Morris for their continuous encouragement and advice. Thank you Karen Tinkham, of Search, and Sally File, our Regional Director for their suggestions and answers to my many questions.

The Regional Conference of the National Adoption Congress was held this past September in New Mexico. Though I was unable to attend, two other members went and will report the event in our next issue. I plan to attend future conferences and I will be visiting Sally File this month to gain more knowledge of the adoption movement.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that there is a 'real need' for adoptees and birthparents to come together at some point in their lives. It honors me to be a part of their search and this special time in their lives.

Mona Phillips, President and Founder

WE SOLD IT

Our August yard sale was a huge success! Thanks to the many donated items, we raised \$106.00. The funds will be put towards operating expenses, publicity and will be helpful as we prepare for National Adoption Week.

NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEK

November 19th-24th, National Adoption Week will be celebrated across the country. Historically, this has been a time to heighten awareness of the many children available for adoption and the services offered by adoption agencies. This year our goal will be to publicize the other side of adoption - - - the affects on families separated by adoption, the search process, and the help available through search and support groups such as ours. We feel if a family is willing to accept the responsibility to adopt a child, they should be willing to accept the responsibility to help that child find the answers of his heritage - to give him peace of mind.

