



Searchlight

June, 1984

Volume I

Number 1

SEARCH's existence is:

DEDICATED - to supporting all adult persons in the adoption triangle.

PLEGGED - to conducting searches through legally proper channels.

DEVOTED - to the individual's right to make a personal decision.

POSSIBLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AFFILIATION

The program for the June 5, 1984 meeting of SEARCH will focus on our group seeking official affiliation with the Madison County Historical Society (MCHS).

Benefits of this action could be incorporation of the SEARCH name in accordance with the laws of the State of Indiana, prestige as an arm of an established organization, research aid from knowledgeable persons (supplementing those presently involved in SEARCH), and low annual dues.

As an entity unto itself, SEARCH would probably have to charge much higher dues than would be the case if we become part of MCHS.

Under the auspices of MCHS we would be eligible to utilize many of their resources, such as use of the postage meter.

Your input on this important decision is sought on June 5, 1984 at 7 p.m. in the Redbud Room of the Anderson Public Library on Jackson Street.

Each person present will be given opportunity to express his/her views and to vote that preference.

New members are always welcome. If you want to talk or simply come to listen, please do attend and find out what we're about.

INDIANA ROOM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

You are needed as a volunteer in the Indiana Room for a few hours each week - day or weekend or evening - to fit your schedule.

Tasks include clipping, pasting, xeroxing, typing, indexing, and filing all kinds of materials. Take your choice.

If you can help, please see Howard Eldon or Phyllis Leedom in the Indiana Room, downstairs in the main branch of the Anderson Public Library, or phone 644-2578.

SPEAKER BECOMES MEMBER OF SEARCH

A clinical psychologist at the Center for Mental Health, Dr. Thomas E. Murray spoke at our April meeting of the emotions evoked in us as participants in the adoption triangle.

Tom conducted an informal discussion session and shared with us that he is an adoptee.

He acknowledged that a decision to search for his birthparents has not been any easier for him because of his position than it is for the rest of us.

It's comforting in a way to know that emotions are emotions are...

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF THE ADOPTEE

1. Thou shalt have no birthright according to adoption laws.
2. Thou shalt have no right to knowledge of thine origin.
3. Thou shalt have no right to medical records of thine birth.
4. Thou shalt have no right to pre-adoption identifying information.
5. Thou shalt have no right to question thine relinquishment.
6. Thou shalt have no right to trace thine pre-adoption genealogy.
7. Thou shalt have no right to make thine own decisions for thou art viewed by law for eternity as an infant; thus shalt thine origin remain obscured in its own infancy.
8. Thou shalt have no right to question violation of thine social, human, and constitutional rights regarding thine adoption unless thou showest "Good Cause" before the court.
9. Thou shalt be viewed by the court and its enigmatic laws as a nuisance of said court.
10. Thou shalt be viewed for eternity as an illegitimate child with no right to know thine mother's or father's reasons for relinquishment so as to understand those reasons.

The above are brick walls which adoptees encounter during their quest to locate their birthparents. Only the opinions of those who have no idea what they are talking about and who do not understand what it is like to be denied one's rights as an American citizen because one is an adoptee dictate these restrictions.

It should be decreed that all agencies of adoption, homes for unwed mothers, and welfare offices post these Ten Commandments of the Adoptee in order to remind those who read them that the adoptee, infant and adult, remains a human being with inalienable if denied rights.

John Michael McCoy

(The author is an 18 year old adoptee, actively searching for his birthparents.)

A NOTE FROM OUR ADVISER

Your comments on the new format for our newsletter are welcome.

Suggestions for programs and/or items in the newsletter will be seriously considered.

We aim to present a variety of programs which will help every-

one in the adoption triangle. Severely limited finances make this a Herculean although not an impossible task.

Contact Phyllis Leedom in the Indiana Room 644-2578 or at home 642-0187. Thank you.

Help us help you help yourself. SEARCH was organized for YOU!