

Reunited family searches for its missing member

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Nancy longed most for Norah, the sister closest to her in age.

"The last time I saw her, she was standing in a Brownie uniform at the gate (of the foster home). She was crying because we were leaving, and she wanted to go.

"I didn't want to leave her — it didn't seem fair. I hated the authorities.

"I didn't know then I wouldn't see her for another 23 years."

Norah, Pat and Lucy were adopted by one family, Diane and Paul by others.

"Pat, Norah and Lucy had each other," said Diane who was 3 1/2 at the time. "But I was all by myself. When it's just you — it's like you have no beginning and no end. It's like you begin at 3 1/2. I never saw a baby picture of myself."

Each of the Ashbaughs hung onto the hope that they'd see each other again.

THE OLDER boys, since they retained the Ashbaugh name, continually kept their phone numbers listed in case one of the adopted children tried to locate them.

In spring of 1977, the Adoption Identity Movement of Michigan called Frank for Diane.

"I was 25, and I knew that I had 10

other brothers and sisters," Diane said. "I just decided I was going to find out where everybody was.

"I went to the agency (Adoption Identity's office in Ferndale) and told the woman all about it. She said, 'Since you know the last name, why don't we just go through the phone book?'"

After a few calls, including one to an uncle who said the family was still in the Detroit area, the woman dialed Frank's number.

"She said, 'Do you have a sister by the name of Diane,'" Frank recalled, adding that the telephone's ring woke him from a sound sleep. "I said 'no,' and as soon as I hung up, I realized what I did.

"A few minutes later, she called Mark, and after, he called me. Mark had put it all together."

Mrs. Ashbaugh lived long enough to see Diane. She died in 1977. The Ashbaugh's father lives in Marine City.

This spring, Tony Theisen of Clawson — Norah, Pat and Lucy's adoptive father — noticed Fred Ashbaugh's name in a newsletter published by the church he had just joined.

which he was adopted, but have received no response. They may attempt to secure any records they can through probate court.

"We all wonder, 'What does he look like, is he alive, what if he went to Vietnam?'" Nancy said.

When the Ashbaugh children met each other again, it was as if no time had elapsed.

"WHEN I saw Norah, every feeling I felt at that (foster) home came back," Nancy said. "All the love — all the pain of not being able to be with her."

Since then, the Ashbaughs have noticed they're very similar and share the same interests.

"We all talk a mile a minute — we never shut up," Nancy said. "Everyone seems to be an optimist and very family-oriented."

"I take all the pictures!" Joan chimed in. "And I noticed they all have the same nose."

Norah, Pat and Lucy grew up just like she expected they would, Nancy said. "Pat has a good sense of humor, Lucy's kind of shy, and Norah is very smart."

Since being reunited, the Ashbaugh children are trying to make up for the time they lost by getting together at the littlest excuse.

"It's never an obligation," said Nancy, adding that, because of their experience, they probably appreciate each other more than other brothers and sisters.

"We all come together because we really want to."

Ways to create jobs divide candidates

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was the first Michigan legislator ever to visit France upon the invitation of the French government.

"The French made an investment of about a quarter of a million dollars in the school I'm identified with."

The senator is headmaster of Lycee International, a French school in Southfield.

ANDERSON ADVOCATES "the tightening of eligibility requirements for workers' compensation claimants in order to create a climate in which jobs may be developed. There's no question further reforms are needed."

Temperatures in the studio again rose when the topic turned to small businesses.

"We've done things in the Legislature to encourage new small businesses by reducing paperwork and setting up customized business training with local community colleges," said Faxon, re-

ferring to the "one-stop shopping" bill intended to ease regulatory burdens faced by small businesses.

"JACK FAXON gives the impression he supported that bill, when in fact he voted against it," Anderson said.

"He's misrepresenting his record," answered Faxon. "I'm speaking as a member of the Legislature. Once legislation is effected, it's 'we who share the responsibility.'"

Regarding the high cost of unemployment compensation, Faxon said the federal government must share some blame for exacting excessive interest rates on the money Michigan has had to borrow to pay unemployment benefits. An effective unemployment compensation program is sorely needed, he added.

"We need to sustain families of the unemployed based on what they make. Removing individuals' ability to support their families would be devastating to the economy," said the senator.

Anderson called Faxon's shot at the federal administration "a smokescreen."

"While it's true our economic capacity has some origin in the national or international economy, to say we can do nothing at the state level is underestimating voters," Anderson said.

"I feel a sense of urgency about the problems facing Michigan. You may get tired of hearing it, but creating jobs is the key issue. If elected, I'll put my heart and soul into doing everything I can to put people back to work."

FAXON VOTED in favor of the state income tax hike, the open-mee-

tings act and a package of bills stipulating stricter penalties for drunk drivers. He is opposed to voluntary prayer in the schools and did not favor the recently passed workers' compensation reforms.

Anderson said as a member of the Legislature he would have voted against the income-tax hike, and supported the workers' compensation reforms and drunk driving bills. He opposes prayer in the schools.

Other appearances by the senatorial candidates are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, and 4 p.m. Thursday at the Botsford Inn.

Self-improvement workshops planned

Starting Sept. 28, the Southeast Campus of Oakland Community College is repeating the series of self-improvement workshops that was held earlier this year as part of the Homemakers in Transition Program.

The eight, two-hour sessions will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in Room 108-D of the new Royal Oak Campus. Topics include:

- Sept. 28, Self-Management. Conducted by Mildred Thomas, M.A. Ph.D. candidate in Business and Vocational Education, Wayne State University.
- Oct. 5, Study Skills for Academic Survival. Conducted by Wilma Garcia, coordinator of developmental writing, Department of Rhetoric, Oakland University.
- Oct. 12, Assertiveness Training. Conducted by Mary Kay Cole, supervisor, Macomb County Mental Health

Day Treatment Center.

- Oct. 19, Legal Problems. Conducted by Elizabeth B. Burda, attorney and counselor at law, St. Clair Shores.
- Oct. 26, The Job Market, Today and Tomorrow. Conducted by Nancy Knitely, OCC Student Intern Program Director.
- Nov. 2, How to Construct a Resume and Apply for a Job. Conducted by Wilma Garcia.
- Nov. 9, Dealing With Stress. Conducted by Mary Kay Cole.

Admission is free for individuals who qualify as "homemakers in transition," according to Displaced Homemaker Program guidelines. Other interested persons may attend each session for a nominal fee of \$2.

For more information, contact the Southeast Campus Counseling Department at 542-1290, ext. 359 or 397.

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