



False labor: During an unproductive visit to the hospital July 17, Marcia Berg tells her grandchild to hurry, as mom Marcia Nieport smiles. Nieport was later sent home to wait. Grandma Marcia Berg (right) touches baby Morgan Nieport's tiny foot.



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Her search carried her back to Ohio, through a maze of hospital records and detailed letters to the attorney who handled the adoption and who would not release any information. Letter after letter, and through discussions with others around the country who faced similar problems, she kept hoping one day something would surface.

Genetics important

She believes that God finally took over. In 1989, Berg was diagnosed with a curable form of thyroid cancer, and realized that contacting her daughter became even more important because of the genetics. "I thought 'this is my opening —

God works in mysterious ways," she said.

She re-contacted the attorney, explained the situation, and the attorney offered the clue that all his adoptions were in an area around Dayton.

A contact Berg had made in New York sent her to a California man who did a search and eventually found her daughter. "I never met him — I don't even know his name," she added.

Because the younger Marcia was taken away at birth, Marcia Berg never knew for a long time whether her child was a girl or boy. Once Berg found her daughter, she was eager to meet face-to-face. "I kept saying 'this kid is going to know I love her — that I've looked for her forever'," she said.

There are parallels between mother and daughter — and even between Nieport and her older sister Traci.

Both mother and daughter carry the same first name spelled the same way, something the younger Marcia said she never asked her adoptive family about. Both have borne two children as single parents.

Her mother's experience played in a part in the younger Marcia deciding to have her daughter. "I wasn't going to have the baby," she said. "I'm glad it worked out this way."

Berg said she offered her support freely. "If you decide to have that baby I told her 'you can't give it up. I will help you in any way possible'," she added.

Why adoption?

Nieport said her experience as a single parent helped her to understand why her mother offered her up for adoption years ago. "If I didn't have (her son) Levi, I wouldn't have understood why she gave me up," she said. "Once I read her letter, I understood."

Although growing up apart and never knowing each other, the younger Marcia and her sister Traci hold many of the same interests. In

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Marcia Berg

high school, both ran track, were avid swimmers and participated in band and cheerleading. Their high school colors and mascots were even the same.

Throughout her childhood, Nieport had dreams about her birth mother, though she didn't realize at the time what they meant. "I dreamed for years I was at the top

of a ladder and a blonde lady was trying to get me," she said.

What about her adoptive family in Ohio? Nieport still visits and talks with them often. And they gave Nieport the letter from her birth mother which opened up this whole, new world.

"We try to look at it as one, big extended family," Berg added.



Eyes wide open: Morgan Nieport, within half an hour of her birth, mugs for the camera.



On countdown: Doctors from Providence told Marcia Nieport to walk the halls during her early labor, as her mom, Marcia Berg, times the contractions.



Waving goodbye: Levi Nieport waves to his mom, Marcia, as he leaves Providence Hospital Friday night with grandma Marcia Berg. Marcia was sent home about an hour later. She wasn't to have her baby until the middle of the next week.

'Coach' assists on birth

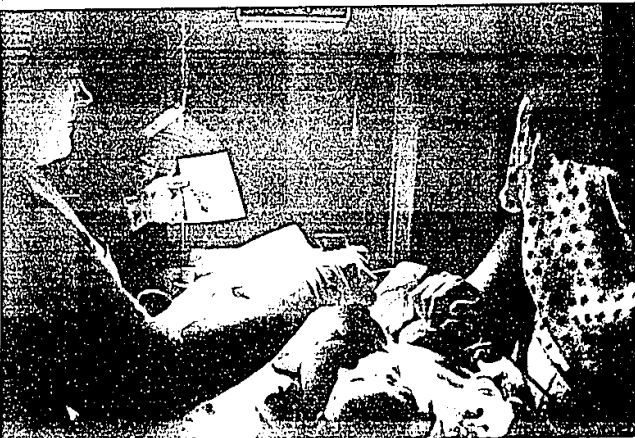
Marcia Berg couldn't wait for her new grandchild to be born.

"Morgan, grandma wants to hold you — hurry up," she said, as her daughter, Marcia Nieport, prepared to give birth to her second child on July 22. Morgan, a 9-pound, 1-ounce bundle of joy, was born shortly before 6 p.m. at Providence Hospital in Southfield with grandma coaching.

This birth was particularly special for the Farmington Hills duo, because Berg was just reunited with her daughter in August of 1990 after 20 years of separation. Pregnant and single at 17, Berg had given Nieport up for adoption at birth and began looking for her in the mid-1970s. It took 15 years of effort to track her down.

Morgan came a couple of weeks late and her mom had a few close calls. With contractions down to two minutes, a frustrated Nieport was sent home the previous Friday after hoping she would give birth.

Nieport also has a son, Levi. With Nieport's newfound birth family and the adoptive family who raised her, Berg said it's like "one big extended family" now.



Footprint: Providence Hospital delivery nurse Ellen Brewster (left) footprints newborn Morgan Nieport as grandma Marcia Berg of Farmington Hills watches.



Helping hand: Some of the contractions were so intense, Marcia Nieport needed both the wall and her mom's help to steady herself.