4 little words: ‘We have a match’ initiate long-hoped-for phone call

The Arizona Daily Star

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Search reunites mom, son

Ed Severson

4 little words: ‘We have a match’ initiate long-hoped-for phone call

The Arizona Daily Star

O ne cold, wet morning less than two weeks ago, Tucsonan Sherry Smith picked up the phone. “It was this man whose voice I’d never heard before,” she said.

“Are you Sherry Smith, and were you born Feb. 2, 1947?” he asked.

“Yeah.”

“Did you have a son named Brian — the one who lived with the Wiliards, who was born June 23, 1974?”

“Yes.”

The voice belonged to Brian — now Eric Hargrave — a son she’s had for only 15 minutes, but knew well. She needed a son 27 years ago. His voice was as beautiful, she said.

She might have never heard it if she hadn’t read an ad placed by another young man that appeared in this paper in 1990.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE MOTHER THAT I’VE NEVER SEEN


All Information About Adoption Will Be Kept Confidential.

She couldn’t tell Bill Woodham, who placed the ad, where her mother was, but she could tell him how her mother might feel.

“I wrote a letter to give him a personal perspective to let him know my point of view, why she brought him in to me,” Sherry said.

After holding her son for 15 minutes, a nursing home official walked in and was furious that the rules had been broken.

“Why? Was there a hard time? I’ve never seen this before,” she said.

“I’m sure that the nurse who brought him to me got into trouble, but I could never tell her a million times over it’s a memory that I’ve carried with me.”

She saw Eric’s father once after he was born, and they went their separate ways.

“We were young, she said.

Later, she was married, had two children who are now grown, and was divorced, since then she has remarried. Her memory of those 15 minutes with her son has continued to haunt inside her.

“I’ve spent 27 years not talking about him and seeing everything that’s happened every time his birthday came around,” she said.

Last Christmas she ran another ad in this paper.

TO THE SCOTTISH family that I have never seen

For my mother, from your son who was born on October 2, 1969. You are now a grandmother. Your son’s birthday was born on May 8, 1956. His mother is 5’9”, size 8, weight 151 lbs. Skin is fair with freckles. Hair is brown, hair is brown. He has a 24” neck.

Reading that was enough to bring to the surface all of the feelings that Sherry had tried to hide for 27 years.

In a “Dear Abby” column, she had spotted the name of a New York organization called Interrelational Sounding Board, an organization that matches children and their blood relatives. She got in touch with them.

After 40 years, the results were astonishing.

“I called the third of the month, they received the 2nd, and immediately there was a match,” she said.

“I was sitting there watching TV, and all of a sudden the phone rang,” said her son, Eric, who lives in Denver.

The call was from ISB: “We have a match.” “I was shocked,” he said.

He had seen the same “Dear Abby” that his mother had read and had contacted the organization three years before.

Robust, rocket-fuel music propels Neville Brothers’ gig

By Kelly Armstrong

Sherry Smith is looking for her son, Brian, now 17, in Denver today, plays 8-9 Minswhew, his adoptive father.

“I don’t want any. No. He’s my family. He said.

When Eric wondered now that he had found son.

“Hello, this is your mother.

Sherry, who wrote herself, said, “Maybe the way I look, the way she doesn’t think.”

But she’s all, you know, experience might help.

“She’s not in San Francisco. She’s not in city, she said.

This poor man has been
Ch reunites mom, son after 27 years

Words: ‘We have a match’
Long-hoped-for phone call

Cherry Smith is looking forward to meeting the son she gave up for adoption 27 years ago

“She brought him to me,” Sherry said. After holding her son for 15 minutes, a nursing home official walked in and was furious that the rules had been broken.

“That was the last time I ever saw him,” Sherry said.

“I’m sure that the nurse who brought him to me got into trouble, but I could thank her a million times over for it—it’s a memory that I’ve carried with me.”

She saw Eric’s father once after he was born, and they went their separate ways.

“He was so young,” she said.

Later, she was married, had two children, who are now grown, and was divorced. Since then she has remarried. Her memory of those 15 minutes with her son has continued to haunt her inside her.

“I’ve spent 27 years not talking about this and keeping it quiet, then dying a thousand deaths every time his birthday came around,” she said.

Last Christmas, Bill ran another ad in his paper:

“TO THE SCOTTISH family that once knew me.
For my mother, from your son who was left on October 2, 1960. You are now a grandmother.
Your grandson was born on January 31, 1961.
In Denver.
A family search is underway.
Reading that was enough to bring to the surface all of the feelings that Sherry had tried to block for 27 years.

In a “Dear Abby” column, she had spotted the name of a Colorado organization called International Soundex Registry Reunion, an organization that matches children and their blood relatives.

She put in touch with them.

After so many years, the results were overwhelming.

“I mailed it the third of the month, they received the match and immediately there was a match,” she said.

“I was sitting there watching TV, and all of a sudden the phone rings,” said Cherry. Eric, who lives in Denver.

The call was from Eric.

“He said, ‘Hello’;
He had seen the name ‘Dear Abby’ that his mother had read and had contacted the organization three years before.

However, when he got the news, he quickly called his mother.

“I had never seen him, his voice means so much to me,” said Sherry.

“I’ve always wondered on my birthday—I’d think, whatever had me had me to the thinking of that day,” she said.

Adoptive parents encouraged search

They talked for nearly two hours, and for Sherry the most enjoyable part was hearing about what had happened during all those years and how he had held him.

“When a birth mother gives up her baby for adoption, they always tell her that they’re going to a really good home but you really don’t know,” Sherry said.

“But his parents did such a wonderful job raising him.”

And his adoptive parents encouraged him in his efforts to seek out his birth mother.

Eric married and the production manager of a

China fighting sales of abducted women

rocket-fuel music
Leivile Brothers’ gig
Once away from family and friends, the women learn there is no job and they are prisoners. Some try to escape. Others don’t know how to get homes or are too ashamed to try.

After the comments gained power in 1949, they outlawed bride prices and forced marriages.

Neville

Continued From Page 10

controversy in perspective.

Although the group sang and spoke of tolerance and a world community, often with the fervor of gospel singers, they never became didactic.

In fact, the Nevilles integrated seemingly disparate songs and music seamlessly, always finding or creating a common ground. During “Yellow Moon,” Charley Neville yanked banjo in a dueling dust with rock-influenced guitarist Eric Bratcher.

Reunion

Continued From Page 15

You can do it.

I am proud of being a Woodham, and knows his son will be proud also.

“...But I also say, ‘You also have this Scottish ancestry.’

If you can do it, you can do it.

Some people can do it, but it’s much more difficult. It’s a very difficult thing to get well with a self-help group,” said the wife of the late Democratic presidential candidate.

Opdy will Indoctl Harris

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Country singer Emmylou Harris will be inducted Saturday night as a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

She doesn’t think anyone can kick bad habits on their own.

“We don’t want people to go through what we went through,” she said.

Grady Oke Istemberg and its members — just present — and her music has always reflected those feelings,” said Ray Durkin, Opry general manager.

Harris won Grammy awards for such hits as “Blue Kentucky Girl” and “That Lovin’ You Feels Right.”

She was the Country Music Association’s Female Vocalist of the Year in 1989. Her albums include “Trav” recorded with Dozy Parson and Linda Ronstadt.

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