

Third front



Donna Hilborn talks to her monther on the phone, ending a search that took 60 years to reunite the pair.

60 YEARS APART

Mom, 79, daughter celebrate 'miracle'

WINNIPEG (CP) — Olive Biers' 60-year search for the daughter she gave up for adoption in 1927 ended with a telephone call this week.

"It was Donna," Biers, 79, gasped in a telephone interview from her North Bay, Ont., home. "It's a miracle."

Her daughter, Donna Ruth Hilborn, now living in Kelowna, B.C., agreed.

"It's unbelievable," she said. "It is a miracle. The chances of winning a lottery are far better."

The story of Biers' struggle to find her daughter appeared in Monday's Winnipeg Free Press and was picked up by The Canadian Press around noon. Hilborn's husband, Norman, heard the story on a CBC radio broadcast.

"I put two and two together," he said. "It's phenomenal — a one in 28-million chance."

Donna Hilborn said her husband told her about the radio story.

"The funniest feeling came over me," she said. "I definitely wanted to follow it up."

Biers was preparing supper and reading parts of the paper to her invalid husband Kenneth when the telephone rang.

"She called me mother," said Biers, who had vowed to live to 100 so she could hear her daughter call her mother.

The two talked for two hours and believe they are mother and daughter.

"Everything seemed to fit," Hilborn said. "Everything flowed, just as if we weren't strangers."

The two are making arrangements to meet as soon as possible.

Adding to the coincidence, Biers' niece, Julie Bratten, lives in Kelowna, only five blocks from Hilborn and the two know each other.

Biers, born Farrell, was working as a telephone operator in Wawota, Sask., in 1926 when she met and dated the son of a prominent area farmer.

She said she was five months pregnant before she realized it and was fired from her job when her condition became evident.

Neighbors took her in and arranged for her to come to Winnipeg to a home for wayward girls. There she gave birth to the baby she named Donna Gay Farrell on Jan. 24, 1927.

The home's operator and Biers' brother insisted she put the child up for adoption.

Biers' quest for news of the baby girl began almost immediately and continued over the years in newspaper advertisements and with the help of the Ottawa-based Parent Finders.

The only word Biers ever received was a letter from Manitoba's Community Service Department in 1982 telling her the baby had been adopted by an English couple in their 30s who had no children of their own.

Hilborn said her adoptive parents, George and Elizabeth Copley, hadn't encouraged her to look for her birth mother.

Since the death of her adoptive parents, Hilborn again had thoughts of searching for her natural mother.

"But, then, I'm 60 and I wondered if she would be alive," Hilborn said. "I told her she is going to have to live to be 100 so we can catch up."

CITY PROGRAM FOR AGES 5 TO 8

T-ball aims for special kids

Spring brings something new in the special T-ball program for kids with special needs. T-ball is a form of baseball that uses a stand for the ball instead of a pitcher. The participants have more success at hitting the ball and enjoy the game more.

Special T-ball is a non-competitive program. Youngsters will be encouraged to do what they can. Participation, enjoyment and success are stressed throughout the program. It is a great way to meet other kids, establish friendships and add something new to your weekly routine.

A leader is present at each session to organize activities. Parents are encouraged to help out as volunteers, to ensure that each participant has a good time, and receives lots of personal attention.

The program is open to any boy or girl, five to eight years old, with preference given to youngsters with a disability or special need. The program began Tuesday and runs until June 9. Late registrations will be accepted at the Coliseum box office during the week. The program fee is \$10. Call Len Brandolini at 563-8802, parks and recreation department for more information.

CITY WIDE
Preschool Gym
The spring series of Teeter

Recreation spotlight

Toddlers and Rumping Rascals begins soon at the Civic Centre. The parks and recreation department invites boys and girls between the ages of walking to 3½ years to come and enjoy these outstanding programs.

Our leaders set up the Civic Centre with plenty of equipment and the wide open space gives lots of room for your offspring to move around in.

The schedule is:
■ Rumping Rascals for 2½ to 3½-year-olds, Monday, 9:30-10:30 a.m., and Sunday, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

■ Teeter Toddlers for youngsters of walking age to 2½ years olds, Wednesday, 10:30-11:30 a.m., and Sunday, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Register at the Coliseum during the week. These programs begin April 27. For more information phone Len Brandolini at parks and recreation 563-8802.

T-ball Clinic

Ever wanted to know the proper way to play or coach T-ball? This clinic includes game play and rules, field layout, equipment and coaching techniques. All present and prospective coaches can come to this clinic.

The T-ball clinic is from 6:30-9 p.m. May 14 at Seymour elementary. The cost is \$5. Register weekdays at the Coliseum or phone 563-8802 for more information.

Fitness

Prince George community associations are combining their efforts to provide an afternoon of fun and activity at Fitnic. . . picnic in the park. On May 31, neighborhoods, families — people of all ages — will gather at Fort George Park

for this celebration of spring and togetherness.

Fitnic is a Canada-wide event held every year during National Physical Activity Week. It is a jam-packed, fun-filled festival of activity, including games, contests and fun events. The idea of Fitnic is "together is better," highlighting interaction and co-operation.

Bring a lunch for your family at noon, then at 1 p.m. enjoy the many exciting activities happening all afternoon. Watch The Citizen for further details, or call your community association to find out how you can be a part of it!

For further information, contact Muriel Wilson at 563-8802.

Recreation Winners

The Spring Recreation Market turned out to be another great event. The 38 participating groups put a great deal of energy in developing interesting and informative displays.

The parks and recreation department congratulates these groups on being selected the top three displays:

■ First — Prince George Cycle Club.

■ Second — Prince George public library.

■ Third — Vintage Car Club of Canada.

Many thanks goes to each of the participating groups for a job well done.

Carr art topic for discussion

Emily Carr College of Art and Design's first year foundation program will be discussed in meetings taking place at 7 p.m. today and Thursday at the College of New Caledonia.

The program, offered by both the CNC and North West Community

College (Terrace), is a two-year offering which gives students the equivalent of ECCAD's first year in its diploma course.

More information can be had by calling David Wharrie or Marcia Timbres at 562-2131.



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Mel Barber

ANNOUNCEMENT

Honda North is pleased to announce the appointment of Mel Barber to their sales staff. Mel brings a wealth of automotive knowledge to his new position and he invites everyone to drop in and test drive a new 1987 Honda.

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