

Family unites after years of separation

United Press International
CUSHING, Okla. — The search lasted decades, but Hazel Beatrice McConaha and four of the five children she was forced to give up for adoption 38 years ago will meet again today in Dallas.

The reunion will not be complete, though, because Walter Elmer McConaha, who was born after his father died, still has not been found.

Paul Ithamer McConaha died in 1942, leaving behind a wife and four young children.

McConaha was uneducated, unskilled and unable to provide for her family. When Walter was born, she nearly had a nervous breakdown.

The best thing to do, she decided, was to allow the state welfare department to take custody of the children until she was able to provide for them. McConaha, who was raised in an orphanage herself, reluctantly turned them over to the state in 1944, with the assurance they never would be separated.

Now, after decades of searching through telephone books and running ads in newspapers and magazines across the country, most of the children and their mother are finally getting back together.

The family said Walter, who would now be 38, may have lived with a family named Cox somewhere in Oklahoma. He was less than a year old when he was adopted, and may not even realize he grew up in a foster home.

Maxine Terrel, the third eldest sibling, has spent nearly 30 years trying to reunite the family.

Terrel, 48, now lives in Mulvane, Kan. James Albert McConaha, 51, is flying in from Moses Lake, Wash., for the reunion. George Dean, 45, and Wilbur Francis Dean, 42, who were raised by the same foster parents, live in the Dallas area. Barbara June McCoy, 36, a half-sister who was born a few years after the rest of the children were adopted, lives in Stillwater, Okla.

Their mother, 71, returned to the Southwest when she rediscovered George and Wilbur,

and now lives near Dallas. When her father died after a long illness, Terrel said, her mother was unable to cope with raising the family.

The children were sent to foster homes in Stillwater. Some then were sent to Perry, Okla., where they were split up again and sent to Guthrie.

"We were separated from the beginning," said George Dean, now a chief engineer for a Dallas-based electronics firm. "I have very vivid memories of our life before the separation and they are the driving force for making the reunion happen."

Terrel said it became a personal obsession over the years to find all the children.

Starting in 1953, she sent out search letters, placed ads in papers and spent hours examining phone books. She joined the Wichita Adult Adoptees Club, and recently hit pay dirt when a letter intended for Walter was recognized by George and Wilbur.

"I knew I would succeed eventually," she said. "You have to have a lot of faith in the Lord. When you're adopted it leaves so many blank spaces, and I can't put into words the heartbreak I went through."

A number of factors further complicated a seemingly impossible task.

Wilbur once was told all his family members were dead when he tried to find the brothers and sister he vaguely remembered.

State laws also complicated the search, as did the fact that some of the siblings never may have been formally adopted by their foster parents.

"Oklahoma has a closed records law for adoptees that I think for 40- or 50-year-old adults is completely stupid," George said.

His mother also ran up against roadblocks when trying to find her children, George said.

"You can tell she has quite a bit of bitterness in her because of that," he said. "But now she just wants to spend the rest of her life with us."

Texas Air wants merger of airlines

United Press International
HOUSTON — Continental Air Lines Inc. could become a wholly owned subsidiary of Texas Air Corp. if shareholders approve a plan proposed by the two companies.

Texas Air, parent company of Texas International Airlines, already owns 51 percent of Continental common stock, but the financial combination of the two carriers proposed Wednesday would place both airlines under the control of one company.

Both airlines would continue to operate with their own identity if the plan is approved in June by stockholders, officials said.

Terms of the transaction specify the outstanding 49 percent of Continental's publicly owned stock would be exchanged for four-tenths of a share of Texas Air common stock and \$4 in liquidating value of a new issue of Texas Air preferred stock. The

new stock would pay an annual dividend of 15 percent of the value.

Company spokesmen said the proposed combination would result in operating cost reductions and increased revenues.

The two carriers would synchronize their respective schedules to provide feeder traffic for each other and improve connections at the hubs of Houston and Denver.

Spokesmen said they expect to officially file terms with the Securities and Exchange Commission in early April and will present the proposal for shareholders' approval at meetings in early June.

Texas Air is a Houston-based holding company that owns Texas International Airlines and 67 percent of New York Airlines. Continental Airlines is headquartered in Los Angeles.

Motorcycle gang threatens Garland

United Press International
GARLAND — Members of a motorcycle gang, already accused of harassing one city employee this week, have threatened more violence against the city, police say.

Police said people believed to be members of the Scorpion motorcycle gang made the threats after two members of the gang were arrested and charged with murder in the death of a Dallas woman.

Ernest Brandon, 32, and Donald Smith, 35, were charged in the March 16 death of Elizabeth Cavin, 21, also known as Kathy Sawyer, whose body was found in a pickup truck in Garland.

Two men on "chopper-type motorcycles" Tuesday harassed water department employee

driving a truck, police said. When the driver stopped his truck, the two men banged on its locked door, but could not get inside.

The driver's dispatcher received a phone call from a man who said the driver would be killed if police "did not release our friends from jail."

Last Wednesday, the Garland SWAT team surrounded police headquarters after police received a call saying someone planned to get "our friends" out of jail that night. However, the suspects were transferred without incident to Dallas County Jail the next day.

Police Chief Jesse Youngblood called the threats "Mickey Mouse stuff," but said they were worth attention and the department would take precautions.

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VHS Blank Videotapes \$12⁸⁸
Stock up on RKO T-120 blank videotapes in the most popular VHS format. No limit!

7 to 8 p.m. Friday—
Semi-Auto Turntable \$69
New Nikko NP-500 belt drive turntable has convenient automatic return, cueing, and more.

8 to 9 p.m. Friday—
Phono Cartridge \$19⁸⁸
Make all your records sound better with an Empire 200-E at Dyer's lowest price!

9 to 10 p.m. Friday—
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Enjoy your favorite music anywhere through lightweight headphones with the IS-111 AM-FM personal stereo.

10 to 11 p.m. Friday—
120-watt Booster/E'lizer \$89
More power than you'll ever need plus graphic equalizer for total tone control. Model 7120 has it all!

11 to 12 midnight Friday—
Deluxe Car Stereo \$149
Jensen R-410 AM-FM cassette has Dolby NR and electronic controls. One hour only!

Midnight Friday 'til 6 a.m. Saturday
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Midnight Friday to 1 a.m. Saturday—
Deluxe Sony Headphones \$24⁸⁸
Sony MDR-3 lightweight headphones are a great bargain. Set your alarm!

1 to 2 a.m. Saturday—
AM-FM Cassette Car Stereo \$38⁸⁸
Get a model TS-2010 car stereo at Dyer's lowest price ever for one hour only!

2 to 3 a.m. Saturday—
Auto-Rev. Reel to Reel \$699
New Akai GX-7 reel recorder has auto-reverse play and record LED metering, new slim style.

3 to 4 a.m. Saturday—
3-head Cassette Deck \$389
Onkyo TA-2060 is one of the best at any price. Logic controls.

4 to 5 a.m. Saturday—
Sennheiser Phones \$28⁸⁸
HD-400's from Vest Germany are top.

5 to 6 a.m. Saturday—
Stereo Rack \$88
O'Sullivan AR-72 with glass door.

Noon to 1 p.m. Saturday—
Dual Single- or Multi-Play Turntable \$99
Dual 1257 has Ultra-Low Mass tonearm, quiet belt drive system, long and short spindle. Was \$169!

1 to 2 p.m. Saturday—
Pioneer 3-way Car Speakers \$99
Pioneer TS-698 six-by-nine 3-way car speakers can't be beat! Neither can this Dyer Marathon price!

2 to 3 p.m. Saturday—
Lightweight Headphones \$8⁸⁸
Get a pair of great sounding and comfortable HS-113 lightweight headphones at Dyer's absolute lowest price ever for this one hour!

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Altec 6x9 Speakers \$129^{pr.}
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Onkyo Belt Drive Turntable \$99
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9 to 10 a.m. Saturday—
Deluxe Akai Cassette Deck \$149
Akai CSF-12 metal cassette compares with many \$200 decks. This price good for one hour only!

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday—
150-watt Booster \$48
Model MA-150 amp for those who want a lot of sound.

3 to 4 p.m. Saturday—
Sharp Cassette Deck with Dolby NR* \$88
Sharp RT-10 cassette recorder with Dolby NR. Don't miss this!

4 to 5 p.m. Saturday—
Personal Cassette with FM \$99
Toshiba KTS-1 personal cassette player comes with pop-in FM module and headphones.

5 to 6 p.m. Saturday—
Dual Cone Speakers \$28⁸⁸
The slimline Clarion SK-95's will fit most any car and fill it with good sound you'll never see this price again!

6 a.m. 'til noon Saturday
HOURLY SPECIALS!

6 to 7 a.m. Saturday—
2-way Speakers \$58^{ea.}
Fuse protected Sound Source Model 8's have never been priced lower.

11 to noon Saturday—
Box Speakers \$69^{pr.}
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