

Family Living

An Aid To Locating Vital Records

Vital records are just that...vital. We need access to them.

In this age of bureaucratic documentation, everyone has need of copies of records of birth, death, marriage or divorce. An application for benefits from the Veterans Administration or Social Security, a passport or marriage license requires not only the information in the records but usually copies of the records themselves.

All these records are stored permanently by municipalities, counties, states and the Federal government. We all know this, but where each document is kept is frequently unknown.

The Consumer Education Research Center, a national non-profit consumer group, found there was little uniformity on where the records were available and the costs. In some states, birth records are kept by the city and in others by the county or state. To further complicate matters, often older records are held in different places than current ones. In addition, the addresses where the records are kept are changed quite often.

The consumer group found many people had difficulty in locating the records they needed. Often, it was necessary to make expensive long distance calls just to find out where

to write, what information was required and how much money to send. For that reason CERC has been publishing a book entitled *Where To Write Worldwide For Vital Records* which contains a state-by-state listing of the addresses and telephone numbers of the archive where each record can be found, the cost of a copy of the document and sample form letters containing all the information needed to get these and other vital documents. For those needing information from foreign countries, the book contains a list of government offices where you can get help in locating vital records kept in almost every country. Even U.S. citizens born overseas, on a ship or aircraft can locate the place where their records are kept.

CERC found that many people have used previous editions to locate their family trees or roots. For those, the book includes information on the Family History Library of the Mormon Church. This library contains over 200,000 volumes of family history records and a list of almost a quarter-million people who are willing to share information to help you find your family roots.

CERC has just released an up-

dated 1996 edition. To get a copy of this useful book, send \$9.97 (Plus \$2 s&h) to Consumer Center-Documents, 1980 Springfield Ave, Maplewood, NJ 07040 or call 800-872-0121 with credit card. More information can be found on the World Wide Web <http://www.planet.net/cerc>

Robert L. Berko, executive director of CERC says that originally the book was published to satisfy the needs of persons applying for various benefits but many others have found it useful. He has received letters from libraries, coroners, law enforcement, social agencies, credit grantors, collection agencies, stock ownership tracers, lawyers, persons searching for missing heirs, adoptees and those interested in searching their family roots. All these and others have found use for a book that helps them locate and prove the status of individuals.

Many times documents can be used to prove things other than what they record. For instance, one woman wrote to the group telling them that a birth certificate for her child proved her residence at that time in the United States and helped her become eligible for legal residence and citizenship.

Congratulations to Jemeiah Harris and Quandrae Streeter, the proud parents of

Quandre Deshawn Harris Streeter, Jr.

Born April 8, 1998 and weighing 7lbs. 9ozs. and 20.5 inches long.

Mural at the Guardino Building



Photo by Norm Whitten

Artists Dave England and Jude Cornwell paint a mural on the Guardino Gallery Building at 30th and Alberta.

England, an experienced sign painter who applies art on shoes of vehicles from motorcycles to log trucks, is guiding Cornwell on her first large mural venture.

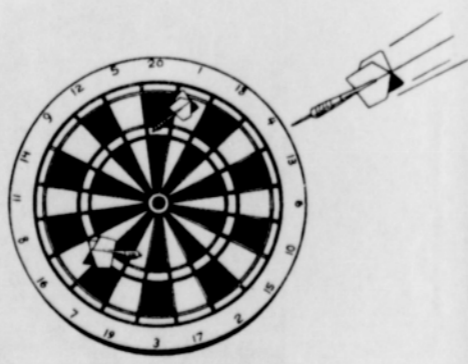
The illustration, created by Cornwell, is that of a bird drawn for a bilingual children's book, "El Pajaro Cantor," seeking publication. Both artists have studios only feet away from the 12 X 20 foot mural.

KNOW YOUR LOTTERY

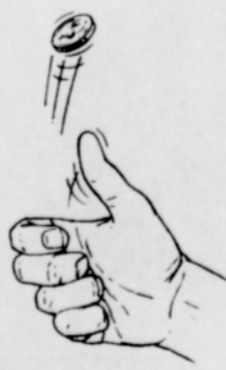
DO YOU KNOW HOW LOTTERY PROFITS ARE ALLOCATED?



A.
Rock, Paper, Scissors



B.
Dart Throw



C.
Coin Flip



D.
The People of Oregon

Luck has absolutely nothing to do with it. Instead, it's up to the people to decide. In 1984, Oregonians voted overwhelmingly to establish a state lottery, with profits directed to enhance economic development within our borders. In 1995, you voted again—this time to allow Lottery profits to help a public education system in need.

Who decides which specific programs and projects get Lottery funding?

That's the job of our voter-elected state legislature, whose decisions have distributed over \$1.6 billion in Lottery profits since our inception.

Want to find out more? We invite you to visit our web site at www.oregonlottery.org. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at lottery.webcenter@state.or.us. Or drop us a line at Post Office Box 12649, Salem, Oregon 97309. The Oregon Lottery. It does good things for Oregon.

