

# \* Woman adopts three children from China

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cess to meet the quota. "I was heartbroken," she said. "After researching many countries, I was certain that my little girl was from China."

Two weeks after getting the news, said Ms. Isbell, she called the agency back and asked if she could adopt a special-needs child. Weeks passed and she received a call saying that she could adopt a little girl from China with special needs and the agency had one picked out for her.

Ms. Isbell said she asked what was wrong with her future daughter. The agency representative said she was missing her left arm.

Ms. Isbell said she thought that was no big deal. She said her reaction was, "Please don't let her go to anyone else."

She hurried to finish the mounds of paperwork while her daughter waited in China.

It was another nine months before she traveled to China to bring home Cordelia "Cori" Marie Xin Hua Isbell.

Cori was 16 1/2 months old, she said, but couldn't walk without help. "She was smart, she was beautiful and all my dreams came true," said Ms. Isbell. "I was a mother for the first time at age 48."

They went back home and learned about each other, she said, including all of the duties of being a mother.

Knowing how long the adoption process takes, said Ms. Isbell, she started right away on the paperwork for her second daughter.

"I was told I had to wait six months before applying and could not be over age 50," she said.

At the time she was 49. She said she missed the application cutoff by a month and had to wait until the next year.



**IN CHINA** Jeanne Isbell sat with her kids Calista, Christopher and Cori with one of the workers from the adoption agency she went through when she got her son in March.

By then she would be too old and wouldn't be able to adopt another child internationally.

Then, said Ms. Isbell, she got a call saying that the agency would consider her anyway.

She said she was joyous and couldn't wait to tell Cori that she would soon have a sister.

In 2004, she flew back to China to meet Calista Leigh Xian Qian Isbell, her second daughter. At the time Calista was 17 1/2 months, the oldest of the group of kids brought in to meet their moms and dads.

Calista, said Ms. Isbell, had a scowl on her face. Cori's hug to her sister and presentation of a Barbie

doll dress brought "ahhhhs" from the other parents.

Calista didn't know what was happening and wasn't too pleased. The trip, said Ms. Isbell, was a test of patience, inner strength and grit as the two girls fought over her fiercely.

"Children who have not had the nurturing needed as babies, sometimes have difficulty attaching to their primary caregiver," said Ms. Isbell. "Many problems result as the child struggles with attaching to her mother."

Ms. Isbell said nowadays Calista is still challenging and strong-willed, but she is also loving, outgo-

ing and friendly.

"And, boy, does she speak her mind!" said Ms. Isbell.

"Everyone thought I was crazy to consider another child," she said. "It never entered my mind not to complete my family with a little boy. I began the process again."

The agency said they couldn't help her, as they could only take four singles every quarter. So, said Ms. Isbell, she started to surf the Internet and found a little boy, Dan Xin Li, who also was missing his left arm. Through another agency, Adoption Guides, she said she was able to place him on hold.

At the same time, she said, child-

care for the girls became expensive. The investment properties she had weren't making the same kind of money they had.

She couldn't rent them out and was losing money. The overtime at work dried up and it was time for a change.

The girls, said Ms. Isbell, would cry when she would leave for work and her heart broke each time she had to leave. They were scared that a "bad guy" would shoot her on the job, she said.

For years, she said, she had dreamed of retirement, something exotic. Costa Rica had been high on the list. But, said Ms. Isbell, Oberlin

was also looking pretty good. The people had always been friendly when she had visited her house in the country, she loved the land, it had a school system with an excellent reputation and the girls would have her all the time.

In 2006 they made the move. Ms. Isbell retired from the force, but retained the country property and bought a house in town.

In that time, she said, she never gave up the idea of her son. When she retired, she collected a chunk of money and set it aside for the next adoption.

In March, Ms. Isbell and her daughters traveled back to China to pick up her son and their brother.

"I was so hoping and praying that Christopher would be an easy child," said Ms. Isbell. "My prayers were answered, as he is obedient, happy, content, playful, curious and smart."

She said he gets along well with his sisters and they are all attached.

Christopher, she said, hadn't been able to go outside in the orphanage as there aren't many nannies, so he is exploring the things outside here. When he came home, she added, he spoke not a word of English, while his mother and sisters knew no Mandarin.

Ms. Isbell said her son has come a long way in a short time. He seems like a typical 3-year-old now. He repeats words and has been successful in communicating in two-word combinations.

She said she thinks his English will come rapidly and, unfortunately, he will lose all memory of the Chinese language.

At this point, said Ms. Isbell, she isn't looking into any more adoptions.

# \* Man remembered for contributions to Oberlin businesses

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home of their parents, Waldo and Lela (Jorgensen) Lohoefer seven miles northwest of Oberlin. They grew up on the family farm in Liberty Township and he attended a one-room country school, Liberty

School. He graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1939, then continued his education at Fort Hays State University.

He enjoyed attending the school and extracurricular activities of his children and

grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis; a daughter, Deb Lohoefer; and a son, Greg and Mary Jo Lohoefer, all of Oberlin; five grandchildren; a niece; and four foster grandchildren. He was preceded in death by

his parents; an infant daughter, Diana Jo; two brothers, Rex and Keith; and a sister-in-law, Catherine Lohoefer.

The funeral will be held at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin. Pastor Charlotte Baseler-Strecker will officiate and burial will be at

the Oberlin Cemetery with military committal rites by the Oberlin American Legion.

Memorials have been established to Sunflower Cinema and the Oberlin Library. Contributions may be sent to the funeral home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

# \* Office might close

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services with a postal delivery person. Mr. Swan said they can buy stamps off the person and do other things they would normally do at the post office.

Once the post office is suspended people will get their mail on the rural route. Currently there are 18 post office boxes at the Dresden location.

The post office has been without a postmaster since 1999, he said.

The suspension doesn't mean the office is closed, said Mr. Swan, but he doesn't expect it to open again.

This has been going on for the last three years or so. Mr. Swan added that he doesn't make the final decision.

The service scheduled a meeting for 7 p.m. tonight in the basement of the Dresden United Methodist Church.

# Council to meet

The Oberlin City Council will meet Thursday with an engineer from Penco Engineering about ideas to fix the humps and bumps in the city streets.

City Administrator Gary Shike said Penco owner Jerol DeBoer will be at the meeting, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

Mr. Shike said he got prices to add an additional three feet to the height of the fence around the new waste water treatment plant. That would make the fence seven feet tall, with the idea of keeping deer out because their hooves can cause damage to the liner in the lagoons. Mr. Shike said the council will need to decide if they want to make the fence taller.

Robyn Rouse, he said, will also be at the meeting to talk about her gymnastics group.

The meeting will be upstairs at The Gateway. It is open to the public, but will not be on cable access channel 7 since it is the second meeting of the month.

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