

THANKSGIVING AT OPERATION INDEPENDENCE

PICTURED ARE CHILDREN AT OPERATION INDEPENDENCE ENJOYING THEIR THANKSGIVING DINNER BEFORE THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY. THE LAS VEGAS SENTINEL ALSO PROVIDED TICKETS FOR SOME OF

THE OPERATION INDEPENDENCE CHILDREN TO ATTEND THE CIRCUS FESTIVAL CURRENTLY APPEARING IN LAS VEGAS.



GOOD CITIZENS — These Von Tobel Junior High School students were selected Citizens of the Month for September based on effort, performance, appearance, deportment and

promptness. Top row, from left, are Christina Bates, Barbara Bicknell and bottom, Salvador Reza, Ted Balash and John Coluccio. Not pictured is Chelsea Morgan.

Annual Adoption Week Observed Nationally

In addition to being the week of Thanksgiving, November 22-28 is celebrated nationwide as Adoption Week. The purpose of this annual event is to recognize the many families who have been formed through adoption and focus on the approximately 200,000 children in the United States who are still waiting for the love and security of a permanent family.

These are children who have not traditionally been viewed as candidates for adoption. Many are older and some are part of a sibling group. About sixty percent are minority children. Some have physical, mental or emotional handicaps. Still other children have been abused or neglected.

Often times, they are confused because of the many moves they have seen in their short lives.

Here in Las Vegas, AASK, Aid to Adoption of Special Kids, has been actively searching for adoptive families since March of 1976. AASK requires little except love, caring, and stability from families who wish to adopt. Both couples and single persons may adopt. There is no income requirement except that the family can show it is able to care for another child. There may be subsidies available which will pay children's medical or other special costs. There is no adoption fee through AASK.

People with large families as well as those

without children are considered as possible adoptive parents. There is no need to own a home as long as there is space for another child. AASK's basic requirement is that the family be stable, flexible and accepting of the "special" children whom AASK serves.

Las Vegas families who want more information about the adoptive process can attend one of AASK's monthly group orientation meetings. Call 876-7420 or visit the office at 3305 W. Spring Mt. Rd. #92 to enroll for this meeting. During the following month, three more group meetings are held to assist families in deciding whether adoption is for them.