

December 12, 2003

Ms. Gertrude Plummer  
XXXXXXXXXXXX  
Terre Haute, IN XXXXXX

Dear Ms. Plummer,

My name is Gary Stewart. I was born Earl Van Best, III on February 12, 1963 in New Orleans, LA. I was born to an Earl Van Best, Jr. and Judith Chandler Best of San Francisco. I was adopted by Loyd and Leona Stewart at 3 months old and was raised in a wonderful home by a great family. I have truly been blessed and I have a wife and an 11 year old son. Two years ago, my birth mother Judi Gilford (formerly Judi Chandler then Judi Best) located me and we have re-united and my family and I visit with her and her mother very often. I live in Baton Rouge, LA and she still lives in San Francisco, but we travel to be together. She has told me of my father, and I have committed to find him. You see, I now have a sense of meaning and belonging because of finding my birth mother, and I have to find my father. I want my son to know his family history, to know where he came from. I assure you, I do not want anything. I am not trying to disrupt anyone's family. I am a successful electrical engineer, a graduate of LSU (now playing for the national championship against Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl!! Go Tigers!!). I don't need anything, I am not after money and I will not disrupt anyone's family because family has always been the most important thing in my life. I just want to find my father and to see him face to face. I want to tell him that I love him and that I'm okay. I want him to know that I turned out to be a successful businessman and family man. I want him to be proud of me. I understand that he may have been in prison recently and it's been difficult trying to find him. One thing my adoptive parents taught me is the importance of family. Now after having found my Mother, I have a renewed understanding of "blood family". Although my Father and I have never met and know nothing about each other, he is still my Father and I have to see his face and hear his voice. I have a picture of my father from 1967 and I also have a picture of my Grandfather (his Dad) from when he was a Seminary Senior at Asbury College in Wilmore, KY in 1935. My father was born in Wilmore, KY on July 14, 1934. His father, Earl Van Best, Sr. was from Conway, SC. I have also found out that my Grandmother was/is Gertrude McCormae Best, now Gertrude Plummer. Through my searching, you were the only Gertrude Plummer that I've found and so I am writing you this letter in hopes that you are my Grandmother. If you are the Gertrude Plummer I am looking for, the Mother of Earl Van Best, Jr., could you please contact me at XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX. My father is 69 years old now and I am 40, and I feel a sense of urgency about finding him. It would also be an incredible blessing to find out that my Grandmother is still alive and to be able to meet and find out a little about your family and my Grandfather. By the way, there is quite a resemblance between me and my Father, but I look more like my Grandfather, Earl Van Best than anyone could ever imagine. If you are not my Grandmother, and have no connection to the "Best" family I am searching for, please write back in response anyway. I assure you

I will never bother you again. I will even include a stamped envelope for your response. Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you are my Grandmother, or not, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Gary Stewart