

**The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “McGorry, James P. (Babylift Adoptee)” of the Shirley Peck Barnes Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

ITEM TRANSFER FORM

The item described below has been transferred from this file to:

  X   Audiovisual Unit  
       Book Collection  
       Ford Museum in Grand Rapids

Item: 1x picture of infant

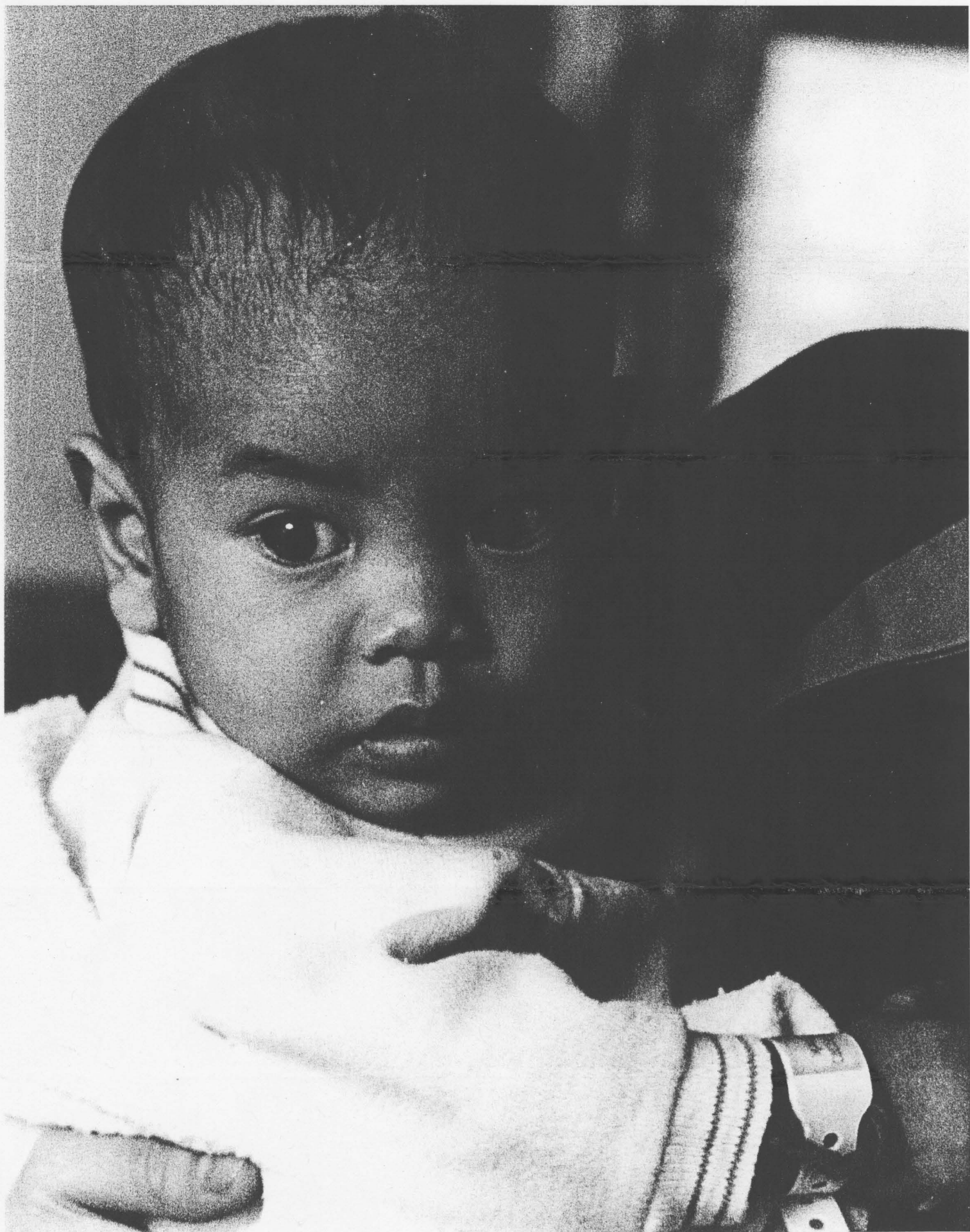
The item was transferred from:

Shirley Pech Barnes Papers

Box 2

Folder James P. McGarry

Initials/Date TMH 3/25/14



# Easy-going little Jimmy McGorry escaped worst traumas of Vietnam



**JIMMY MCGORRY**  
... all the joys

*This is the last of three stories about the lives of Vietnamese refugees in the Lehigh Valley.*

By JOHN H. KOCH  
Of The Morning Call

Jimmy McGorry is a Vietnam refugee of a sort.

He's the 21-month-old adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. McGorry, who arrived in the United States in April as part of Operation Babylift — that ambitious attempt to airlift Vietnamese infants from South Vietnam during the final days of the Saigon government.

His story is very easy to tell: he has all the joys and problems of any 21-month-old baby.

He's lucky because he is an obvious joy to his adoptive parents.

He lives with them and his sister, Jeanne, 6, at 1752 Linden St., second floor, Allentown.

"This child is so easy-going," said his mother, Louise, 34.

"She's (Jeanne, who is also adopted) is bubbling constantly," she said, comparing her two children.

As their parents talked with a reporter, brother and sister played on the

floor of the dining room of the McGorry home.

The young McGorry seemed fascinated with a reporter's hat — a size 7½, which covered the little boy's entire head.

Jimmy, whose Vietnamese name was Pham Minh Hung, came by way of the Pearl Buck Foundation.

The McGorries had made inquiries about adoption at the Catholic Social Agency, through which they adopted Jeanne.

"The Catholic Social Agency is the one that put us on to it. If it wasn't for the agency, we would have been waiting for years," Mrs. McGorry said.

The foundation arranged for Jimmy to come to the United States from an orphanage in An Loc, South Vietnam.

On April 7, Jimmy arrived in Perkasie at Kellers Church, after a flight around the world that ended in New York.

At the time, he was 13 months old and weighed 13 pounds.

He now weighs 23 pounds and is 21 months old, his father said.

McGorry, 33, is a salesman for the Glenn Moyer Real Estate Agency. Mrs. McGorry is employed by the Social Security office in Allentown.

During the day, a babysitter takes

care of Jimmy.

"She has a son 10 months younger than Jimmy and they're great together," Mrs. McGorry said.

Jeanne has adjusted to her new brother, Mrs. McGorry said. This was not easy, she said, because "she was used to being the only child."

In January, the McGorries hope to be given final and permanent custody of their son.

As the father and mother talked to a reporter, Jimmy played with a pair of maracas and danced on the floor.

Mused the father with a smile: "A Vietnamese child in an American home with Mexican maracas."

The McGorries know that Jimmy was placed in the orphanage by his natural mother, who could not provide for him. He is the youngest of seven brothers and sisters.

When he is older, McGorry said, they will tell him about his adoption. In a few years, they hope to make a trip to Vietnam.

For the moment though, the problems are those of simply growing up.

Mrs. McGorry noted that in his first few months Jimmy would not sleep in a crib.

They then moved the crib into their bedroom and "he was fine," she said.



## Supertime shari

Jimmy McGorry shares parental eyes of Mr. and Jeanne during Operation



## little Jimmy McGorry first traumas of Vietnam

*This is the last of three stories about the lives of Vietnamese refugees in the high Valley.*

By JOHN H. KOCH  
Of The Morning Call

Jimmy McGorry is a Vietnam refugee of a sort.

He's the 21-month-old adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. McGorry, who arrived in the United States in April as part of Operation Babylift — that ambitious attempt to airlift Vietnamese infants from South Vietnam during the final days of the Saigon government.

His story is very easy to tell: he has lived the joys and problems of any 21-month-old baby.

He's lucky because he is an obviously happy child to his adoptive parents.

He lives with them and his sister, Jeanne, 6, at 1752 Linden St., second floor, Allentown.

"This child is so easy-going," said his mother, Louise, 34.

"She's (Jeanne, who is also adopted) bubbling constantly," she said, comparing her two children.

As their parents talked with a reporter, brother and sister played on the

floor of the dining room of the McGorry home.

The young McGorry seemed fascinated with a reporter's hat — a size 7½, which covered the little boy's entire head.

Jimmy, whose Vietnamese name was Pham Minh Hung, came by way of the Pearl Buck Foundation.

The McGorries had made inquiries about adoption at the Catholic Social Agency, through which they adopted Jeanne.

"The Catholic Social Agency is the one that put us on to it. If it wasn't for the agency, we would have been waiting for years," Mrs. McGorry said.

The foundation arranged for Jimmy to come to the United States from an orphanage in An Loc, South Vietnam.

On April 7, Jimmy arrived in Perkasie at Kellers Church, after a flight around the world that ended in New York.

At the time, he was 13 months old and weighed 13 pounds.

He now weighs 23 pounds and is 21 months old, his father said.

McGorry, 33, is a salesman for the Glenn Moyer Real Estate Agency. Mrs. McGorry is employed by the Social Security office in Allentown.

During the day, a babysitter takes

care of Jimmy.

"She has a son 10 months younger than Jimmy and they're great together," Mrs. McGorry said.

Jeanne has adjusted to her new brother, Mrs. McGorry said. This was not easy, she said, because "she was used to being the only child."

In January, the McGorries hope to be given final and permanent custody of their son.

As the father and mother talked to a reporter, Jimmy played with a pair of maracas and danced on the floor.

Mused the father with a smile: "A Vietnamese child in an American home with Mexican maracas."

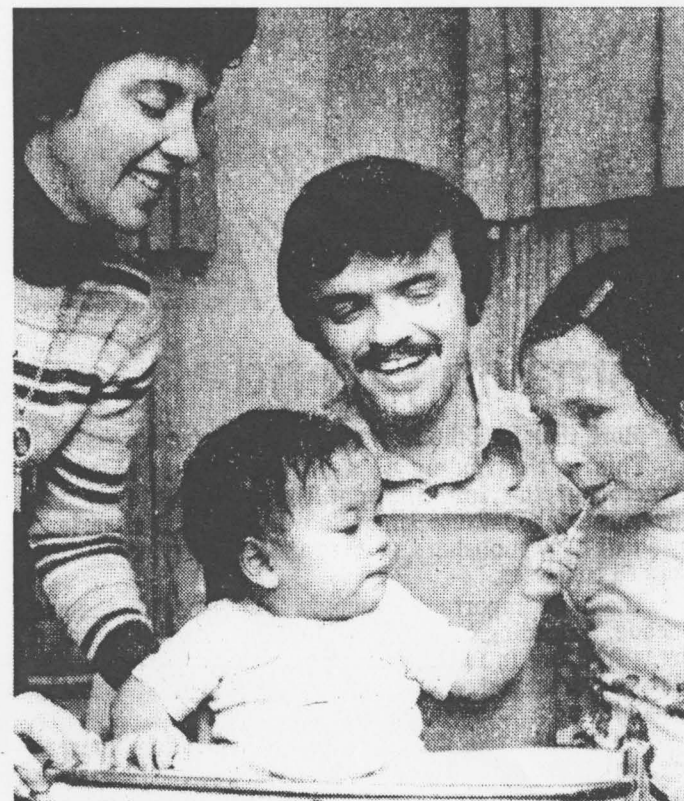
The McGorries know that Jimmy was placed in the orphanage by his natural mother, who could not provide for him. He is the youngest of seven brothers and sisters.

When he is older, McGorry said, they will tell him about his adoption. In a few years, they hope to make a trip to Vietnam.

For the moment though, the problems are those of simply growing up.

Mrs. McGorry noted that in his first few months Jimmy would not sleep in a crib.

They then moved the crib into their bedroom and "he was fine," she said.

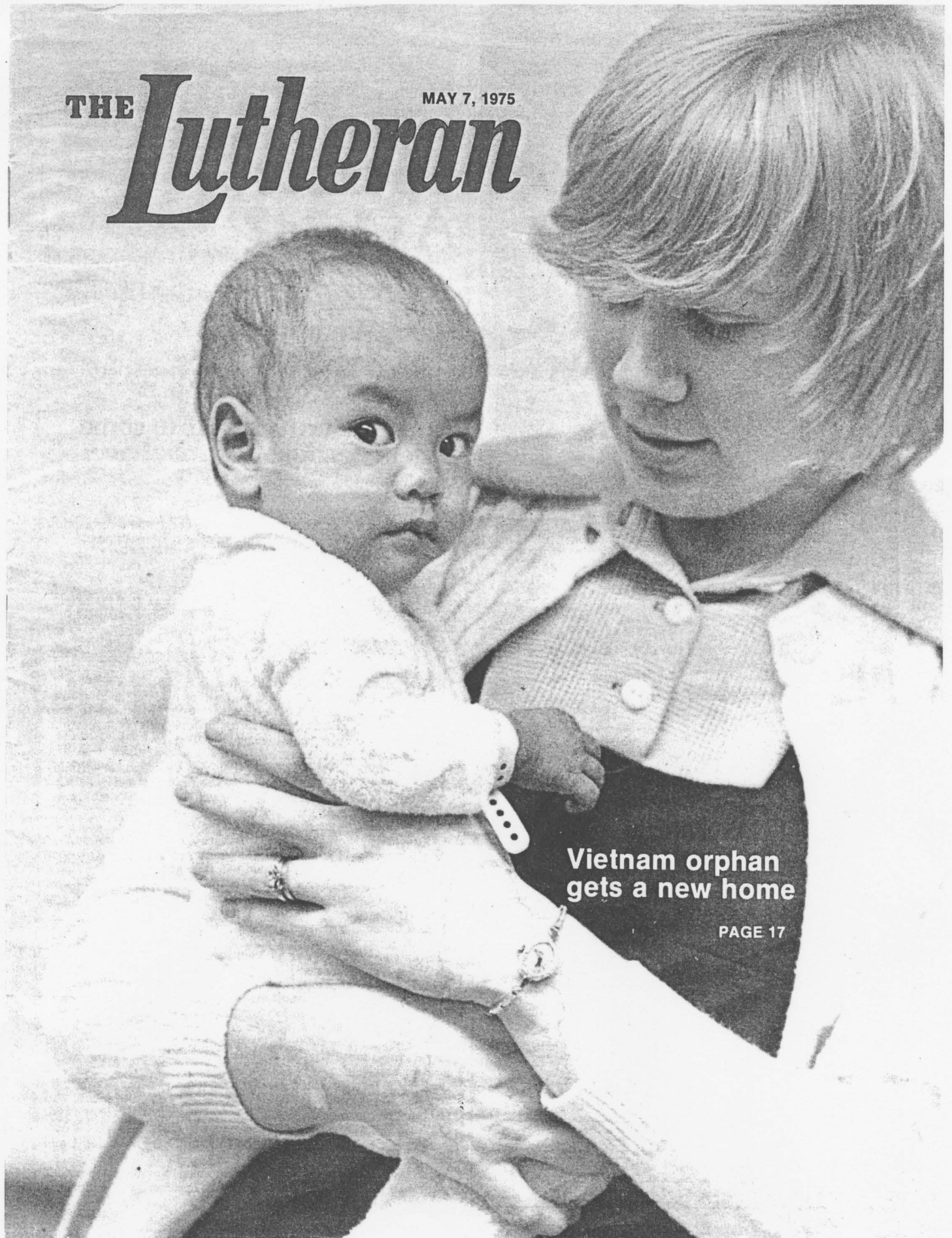


### Suppertime sharing

Jimmy McGorry shares a morsel with his sister, Jeanne, under the parental eyes of Mr. and Mrs. James R. McGorry, who adopted Jimmy during Operation Babylift.

# THE *Lutheran*

MAY 7, 1975



**Vietnam orphan  
gets a new home**

PAGE 17



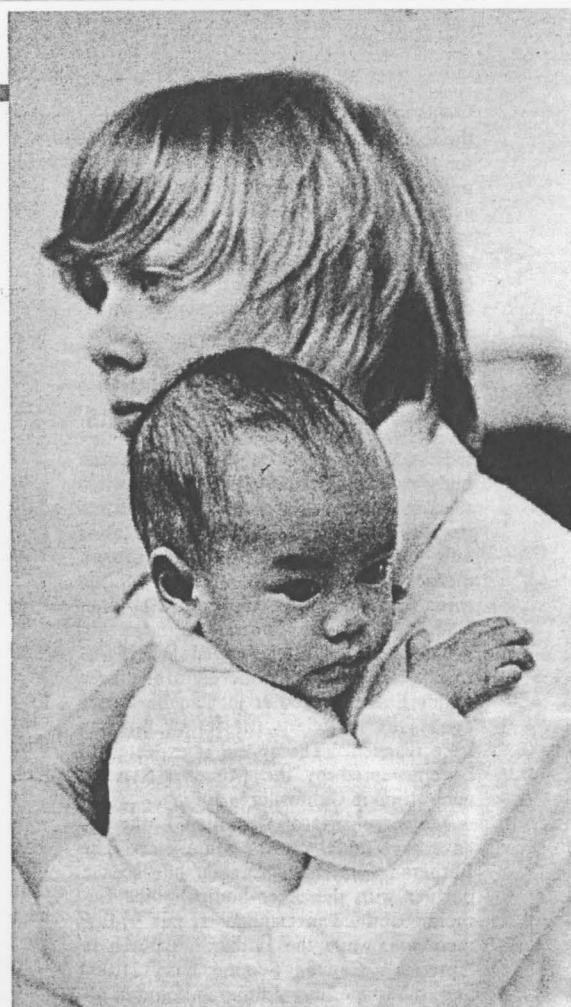
## Welcoming tots from Vietnam

A Lutheran church in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, became the first American home for 16 Vietnamese children on a Sunday night in early April. The children had been airlifted from Saigon to Seattle, then on to Kennedy Airport in New York. They completed their 9,000-mile journey on a Pennridge school bus, reaching St. Matthew Church, Kellers Church, Pa., at about 10:30 p.m. Members of the congregation and staff persons from the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, which had arranged for the trip, accompanied the children from the airport to the church.

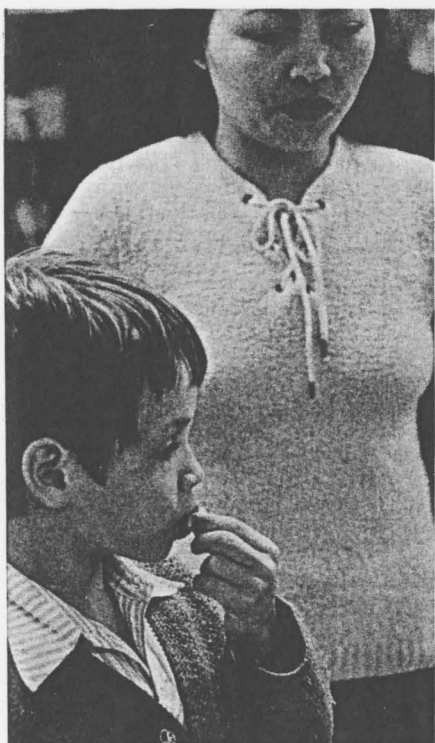
"We didn't know the orphans would be on this flight until about 7 p.m. tonight," said Dr. H. Lee Hebel, St. Matthew's pastor. Preparations had all been made, however. Lutheran Church Women had provisioned and staffed a 24-hour kitchen, with plenty of bananas and milk on hand. The congregation's social ministry committee had gathered 16 cribs and arranged other sleeping places with mattresses on the floor, Vietnamese style. Members contributed mounds of diapers, garments and other necessities.

Mrs. Edith Hebel, the pastor's wife and director of adoption services for the foundation, said prospective parents were awaiting all the children. A physician and nurses were on hand, but only one infant needed medication. Someone en route had written in ink on his stomach, "Take me to a doctor. Pneumonia?" Fortunately, it wasn't a serious case.

Some youngsters slept. Others stared silently but wide-eyed at the corps of journalists and photographers that awaited them. A few older ones promptly found the piano in St. Matthew's nursery room and pounded away, just like kids everywhere.



Mrs. Brenda Hebel, daughter-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. Hebel, holding Phan Minh Hung. They're also on our cover.



Hon Volpe, staff member of the Buck Foundation and interpreter for the group, with one of the older children



Mrs. Edith Hebel: "The paper work was terrific"



Dr. Hebel looks over mounds of clothing gathered by church members for the orphans. At left, a worker holds one of the orphans. Fourteen were Amerasians, with American fathers.

# *The Globe Times - Allentown/Lehigh County - June 17, 1982*

## New Citizens Told to Honor Origins, Live by U.S. Ideals

### **Enjoy Liberty, Education, Citizens Told**

Former Commonwealth Court Judge Madaline Palladino, herself a daughter of an Italian immigrant, told 145 new citizens to get an education and enjoy the freedoms the United States.

"This is the only place where freedom — real freedom — still exists," she told the former residents of 41 countries packed into the humid Gold Courtroom of the Old Lehigh County Courthouse.

She also advised, in the words of her father, "It's never enough to know a little. Get as much education as possible."

The program was sponsored by the Herbert Paul Lentz American Legion Post 29 and its auxiliary.

Attorney Craig DeBernardis, U.S. naturalization examiner, moved for the admission of the new citizens and Lehigh County Judge James N. Diefenderfer administered the oath of citizenship.

The new citizens ranged in age from 1½ — Rebecca Eileen Lester, a native of Korea and daughter of Raymond and Rhonda Lei-

Continued on Page B-2, Col. 4



(Globe-Times Photo)

**New Americans Take Oath of Allegiance in Old Lehigh County Courthouse**

Continued From  
ster of 1935 E. Woodl:  
town — to 81 — An;  
1327 Richard Ave.,  
native of Italy. Syria  
cants, provided the  
ber of new citizens.

Also speaking at  
were Janet Sander,  
deputy; attorney Ri  
of the American  
Lehigh County Comr  
neth Mohr.

New citizens are:

Vietnam — Anna Thi Tran,  
town; Phouc Nguyen Than,  
Whitehall; Cu Trong Than, 1 N  
tehall; Tinh Chan Ly, 1219 E. A  
Thien Ngoc Tran, 222 S. 14th S  
Ho, 815 N. Sherman St., Allen  
Khanh Gia Tran, 138 S. 14th  
Ba Tran, 138 S. 14th St., Alle  
Tran, 138 S. 14th St., Allentown  
S. 14th St., Allentown; Quang I  
St., Allentown; Dien Van N  
Road, Coopersburg; James Pl  
22nd St., Allentown.



# *The Globe Times - Allentown/Lehigh County - June 17, 1982*

## New Citizens Told to Honor Origins, Live by U.S. Ideals

### *Liberty, Justice, and the Pursuit of Happiness is Told*

Commonwealth Court Judge Robert J. Palladino, herself an Italian immigrant, told new citizens to get an idea of the freedoms they are enjoying.

Only in this place where freedom — still enjoyed by former residents — has been passed on to the newcomers of the Old Courthouse.

And, in the words of the Constitution, never enough to do as much education.

The program was sponsored by the Lehigh Valley American Legion and its auxiliary. Judge DeBernardis, acting as the naturalization examiner, presided over the ceremony of the new citizens in the Lehigh County Judge's courtroom.

The new citizens ranged in age from 18 to 80. Among them were Eileen Leikore and daughter Rhonda Leikore.

Page B-2, Col. 4



(Globe-Times Photo)

New Americans Take Oath of Allegiance in Old Lehigh County Courthouse

Continued From Page B-1  
ster of 1935 E. Woodlawn St., Allentown — to 81 — Angela Zeolla of 1327 Richard Ave., Bethlehem, a native of Italy. Syria, with 34 applicants, provided the greatest number of new citizens.

Also speaking at the program were Janet Sander, naturalization deputy; attorney Richard Abbott, of the American Legion, and Lehigh County Commissioner Kenneth Mohr.

New citizens are:

Vietnam — Anna Thi Tran, 222 S. 14th St., Allentown; Phouc Nguyen Than, 1 Maryland Circle, Whitehall; Cu Trong Than, 1 Maryland Circle, Whitehall; Tinh Chan Ly, 1219 E. Marks St., Allentown; Thien Ngoc Tran, 222 S. 14th St., Allentown; Thong Ho, 815 N. Sherman St., Allentown;

Khanh Gia Tran, 138 S. 14th St., Allentown; Linh Ba Tran, 138 S. 14th St., Allentown; Dzong Minh Tran, 138 S. 14th St., Allentown; Xuan Thi Tran, 138 S. 14th St., Allentown; Quang Dinh Tran, 138 S. 14th St., Allentown; Dien Van Nguyen, West Passer Road, Coopersburg; James Pham McGorry, 913 N. 22nd St., Allentown.

# Evening Chronicle



ALLENTOWN PA., MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1975



Chronicle photo by Dick Mantz

## Allentown pair adopts a dream

By DICK JOHNSON  
Of the Chronicle Staff

A two-year-old dream finally came true today for Mr. and Mrs. James R. McGorry of Allentown.

The couple were united with a Vietnamese war orphan — their second adopted child — at Kellers Church near Perkasio.

Thirteen-month-old Jimmy, whose small dark eyes darted about the room as flashbulbs popped and newsmen asked questions, is the newest member of the McGorry family.

"I just can't believe it's true. It's finally happened," smiled a joyful Mrs. Louise McGorry, as she held the tiny Vietnamese infant on her lap.

"We filed the papers over two years ago, received the approved immigration papers last Wednesday, and here he is today," she said.

"I just can't put words on it. It's a terrific experience," said her husband, an insurance agent for the Glenn Moyer Agency in Allentown.

McGorry, of 1752 Linden St., said the snowballing events in South Vietnam last week meant a lot of frustration and suspended hope for his family.

"We didn't know for about three hours after the C-5A crash whether he (young Jimmy) was on it. But he wasn't aboard, thank God. I have great sympathy for the adoptive parents of those kids who were killed in the crash."

Young Jimmy's airlift to America was arranged by the Pearl S. Buck foundation, whose officers supervised the joyful adoption proceedings in the nursery of St. Mathew's Evangelical Lutheran Church today.

Fifteen other Vietnamese orphans, ranging in age from 3 months to 8 years, arrived at Kellers Church yesterday after a long Pan American Airways flight which terminated in New York.

For the McGorrys, the Vietnamese child is the second adopted member of the household. An animated, almost-exuberant Jeanne, 5, was with her parents today.

The Allentown couple was the third set of parents to be introduced to their newest charges this morning. Earlier, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Anders Jr. of Fairport, N.Y., and their two sons were united with six-month old Elissa, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peters and family, of Waterloo, N.Y., met 11-month-old Sarah.

Jeanne McGorry, who was adopted by her Allentown parents through the auspices of the Catholic Social Agency, was delighted to meet her new brother today.

McGorry noted that young Jeanne, not



Chronicle photo by Dick Mantz

## One happy family

The McGorry family of Allentown beams with joy today at Kellers Church with little Jimmy, the South Vietnamese orphan who will begin a new life far from rifles and rockets.

questions popped and newsmen asked questions, is the newest member of the McGorry family.

"I just can't believe it's true. It's finally happened," smiled a joyful Mrs. Louise McGorry, as she held the tiny Vietnamese infant on her lap.

"We filed the papers over two years ago, received the approved immigration papers last Wednesday, and here he is today," she said.

"I just can't put words on it. It's a terrific experience," said her husband, an insurance agent for the Glenn Moyer Agency in Allentown.

arranged by the Pearl S. Buck foundation, whose officers supervised the joyful adoption proceedings in the nursery of St. Mathew's Evangelical Lutheran Church today.

Fifteen other Vietnamese orphans, ranging in age from 3 months to 8 years, arrived at Kellers Church yesterday after a long Pan American Airways flight which terminated in New York.

For the McGorrys, the Vietnamese child is the second adopted member of the household. An animated, almost-exuberant Jeanne, 5, was with her parents today.

The Allentown couple was the third set of parents to be introduced to their newest charges this morning. Earlier, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Anders Jr. of Fairport, N.Y., and their two sons were united with six-month old Elissa, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peters and family, of Waterloo, N.Y., met 11-month-old Sarah.

Jeanne McGorry, who was adopted by her Allentown parents through the auspices of the Catholic Social Agency, was delighted to meet her new brother today.

McGorry noted that young Jeanne, not exactly an avid regular fan of the news programs, had spent the last four days "glued to the radio and television for re-

See Page 2, Column 4

# Two-year dream comes true

continued from page 1

ports on the progress of the war orphan airlifts."

His wife, Louise, employed at the Social

Security office in Allentown, commented on the difficulty of adopting a second child through the same agency which handles a first adoption.

"When we went for a second adoption at the Catholic Social Agency, they advised we try another, possibly the Pearl S. Buck Foundation. We owe it all to the Pearl Buck Foundation."

Jimmy's new father said he had "mixed blessings" about the fact that the escalating military catastrophe in South Vietnam had "definitely" forced the urgency of the situation, leading to the 11th-

hour airlift of the war orphans.

The McGorrys know something about their new son. Jimmy was placed in a Saigon orphanage nine months ago by his widowed mother. He is the youngest of seven natural brothers and sisters.

"His mother placed him for adoption because she just couldn't feed him," Mrs. McGorry said.

But the struggling Vietnamese woman's loss was clearly the McGorry's gain.

They waited a long time — and patience, love and understanding paid off today.



# Jimmy starts a new life in Allentown

The long journey of a young Vietnamese war orphan finally ended yesterday when his adoptive parents, Mr. and Mrs. James R. McGorry, brought him home to Allentown.

The couple was united with 13-month-old Jimmy (whose Vietnamese name is Pham Minh Hung) at Kellers Church near Perkasio. He is their second adopted child.

"I just can't believe it's true. It's finally happened," smiled a joyful Mrs. Louise McGorry, as she held the tiny Vietnamese infant on her lap.

"We filed the papers over two years ago, received the approved immigration papers last Wednesday, and here he is today," she said.

"I just can't put words on it. It's a terrific experience," said her husband, an insurance agent for the Glenn Moyer agency in Allentown.

McGorry of 1752 Linden St. said the snowballing events in South Vietnam last week meant a lot of frustration and suspended hope for his family.

"We didn't know for about three hours after the C-5A crash whether he (Jimmy) was on it. But he wasn't aboard, thank God. I have great sympathy for the

adoptive parents of those kids who were killed in the crash."

Jimmy's airlift to America was arranged by the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, whose officers supervised the joyful adoption proceedings in the nursery of St. Mathew's Evangelical Lutheran Church today.

Fifteen other Vietnamese orphans, ranging from 3 months to 8 years, arrived at Kellers Church Sunday after

## Editorial on Page 18

a long Pan American Airways flight which terminated in New York.

For the McGorries, the Vietnamese child is the second adopted member of the household. An animated, almost-exuberant Jeanne, 5, was with her parents yesterday.

The Allentown couple was the third set of parents to be introduced to their newest charges yesterday. Earlier, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Anders Jr. of Fairport, N.Y., and their two sons were united with six-month old Elissa, and Mr. and Mrs.

See Page 6, Column 1



McGorry family: J

## Jimmy begins new life

### Continued From Page 5

Donald Peters and family, of Waterloo, N.Y., met 11-month-old Sarah.

Jeanne McGorry, who was adopted by her Allentown parents through the auspices of the Catholic Social Agency, was delighted to meet her new brother.

McGorry noted that Jeanne, not exactly an avid regular fan of the news programs, had spent the last four days "glued to the radio and television for reports on the progress of the war orphan airlifts."

His wife, Louise, employed at the Social Security office in Allentown, commented on the difficulty of adopting a second child through the same agency which handles a first adoption.

"When we went for a second adoption at the Catholic Social Agency, they advised we try another, possibly the Pearl S. Buck Foundation. We owe it all to the Pearl Buck Foundation."

Jimmy's new father said he had "mix-

ed blessings" about the fact that the escalating military catastrophe in South Vietnam had "definitely" forced the urgency of the situation, leading to the 11th-hour airlift of the war orphans.

The McGorries know something about their new son. Jimmy was placed in a Saigon orphanage nine months ago by his widowed mother. He is the youngest of seven natural brothers and sisters.

"His mother placed him for adoption because she just couldn't feed him," Mrs. McGorry said.

Meanwhile, one of the last of the large-scale flights of Operation Babylift carrying 380 children from Saigon is due to land on the West Coast early today.

The exact number of children who have been evacuated is unknown. Unofficial tallies showed more than 1,700 had left Saigon in the last five days.

Efforts to evacuate more children are continuing, especially half-American children because of fears they will be slaughtered by the Viet Cong.

Frank Da' the Pearl E are going to point they sl

Mrs. Patr Lehigh Valle dren of Vietn gram yester de Lima or unit sponsor uated.

About 150 nage located gon.

Robert C. Conn., busin to airlift orp said he plans out of Vietna

"There are there with ex parents lined





*McGorry family: Jeanne, Louise, Jimmy and James*

ed blessings" about the fact that the escalating military catastrophe in South Vietnam had "definitely" forced the urgency of the situation, leading to the 11th-hour airlift of the war orphans.

The McGorrys know something about their new son. Jimmy was placed in a Saigon orphanage nine months ago by his widowed mother. He is the youngest of seven natural brothers and sisters.

"His mother placed him for adoption because she just couldn't feed him," Mrs. McGorry said.

Meanwhile, one of the last of the large-scale flights of Operation Babylift carrying 380 children from Saigon is due to land on the West Coast early today.

The exact number of children who have been evacuated is unknown. Unofficial tallies showed more than 1,700 had left Saigon in the last five days.

Efforts to evacuate more children are continuing, especially half-American children because of fears they will be slaughtered by the Viet Cong.

Frank Davis, Asian affairs director of the Pearl Buck Foundation, said, "We are going to keep trying right up to the point they slam the gate in our face."

Mrs. Patricia Sexton, director of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Friends of Children of Vietnam, said she received a telegram yesterday with word that the Rose de Lima orphanage — which the local unit sponsors — had been safely evacuated.

About 150 children lived at the orphanage located 25 miles northwest of Saigon.

Robert C. Macauley, the New Canaan, Conn., businessman who put up \$250,000 to airlift orphans to the United States, said he plans to get another 1,000 children out of Vietnam.

"There are a thousand children over there with exit visas and we've got 1,000 parents lined up," he said. "We'll get an-

other plane. We're going ahead on the premise we can get more out."

In Washington, congressmen met with officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to discuss relief measures for Vietnamese orphans. The State Department refused to participate in the public meeting, and a private session was arranged.

Mrs. Sexton called on Lehigh Valley residents to write to President Ford, congressional representatives and immigration officials urging them to include all orphans, especially the half-American ones, in the evacuation of American dependents from Vietnam.

She also called for the enactment of legislation granting immigration rights to half-American children and a relaxation in required paperwork to speed up their departures from Vietnam.

"These children cannot wait much longer," she warned.

ALLENTOWN, PA.,  
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1985 •

# Sunday

## CALL-CHRONICLE

Call-Chronicle Newspapers, Inc.  
All rights reserved (C) 1985 •

## Many Vietnamese refugees find life in Lehigh Valley is good

By DAVID M. ERDMAN  
Of the Call-Chronicle

### VIETNAM LEGACY

10 YEARS LATER



Jimmy, another Vietnam baby, was 13 months old when a 9,000-mile journey from the Viet Hoa orphanage ended in the basement of St. Matthew's Church near Perkasio.

His airlift was arranged through the Pearl S. Buck Foundation in Perkasio, which was founded in 1964, to foster sponsorship programs. Jan Coughenour, director of Asian affairs, said she remembers the airlift preparations being chaotic. "We had never dealt with such great numbers of orphans at the same time."

Suddenly, she said, "We received word that Vietnam was about to fall." The foundation was pressed not only with saving the orphans, but with closing down an office in Saigon and evacuating staff safely. "A lot of paper work had to be processed," Coughenour said. "Our phone lines were flooded and we did the best we could. Then we received the phone call and we knew that the babies were coming."

Jimmy's plane touched down at Kennedy airport at 5:30 p.m. April 26, 1975. He was taken to the church in a Pennridge School District bus with 16 other refugees ranging in age from 3 months to 8 years. He had been abandoned by his parents, who had to care for seven other children.

Louise and James McGorry of Allentown hadn't been expecting Jimmy until September. Events in Vietnam escalated and the decision was made to send the babies through in April.

Mrs. McGorry recalled the scene in the church. "There were just families sitting all over waiting for their children to be called, but when we saw Jimmy we knew it was him because we had been sent pictures of him before he left Vietnam."

Jimmy, a Muhlenberg Elementary School student, has had his curiosity piqued this month by media coverage on the 10th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. Mr. McGorry said he dusted off a pile of National Geographic magazines in the attic to help explain the Vietnam conflict to his son.

"I think he understands pretty well now," said his mother.

448 E. 20th Street  
Apt 7D  
New York, NY 10009  
January 22, 2002

Dear President Ford,

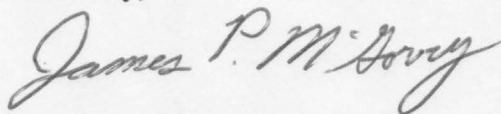
I am writing to you today because I have recently started reading a book about 'Operation Baby Lift' and wanted to thank you for your assistance. I was one of the children who were on a flight that the Pearl S. Buck Foundation sponsored. I came to the United States in April of 1975, when I was thirteen months and weighed thirteen pounds. I was adopted by Jim and Louise McGorry from Allentown, Pennsylvania. Not only did I have new parents but I also had a new sister Jeanne Margaret who was five years older than me and also adopted.

I grew up surrounded by a loving family and I have never been overly concerned about the details of my adoption. However, as I got older I did start to sense some different views of the events that went on during the Vietnam War. I do know there were times when my dad was offended by how people viewed the Vietnamese, our involvement in the war and the aftermath. However, as a family we were not political and I was not treated as though I were different. I find myself lucky to have been placed in the United States with such a loving family and I know this was made possible because of your sanctioning of 'Operation Baby Lift'.

Growing up in white suburbia I enjoyed all the advantages of the average American child. I never felt that I was any different, but then this was the only life that I knew. Throughout my childhood I went to school and played sports with all my friends from the neighborhood. I played baseball, football and started wrestling at a young age, which has given me the opportunity to attend Moravian College. After graduation I moved to New York City where I started working for an investment firm in their computer department. I am still with this company after three years and enjoy my work. I also enjoy the energy of New York City and by living here I am close to my sister, who also lives in New York, and my mother who still lives in Allentown, less than two hours away.

I am lucky to have been afforded many opportunities in the life that 'Operation Baby Lift' opened for me. Again, I would like to thank you for making my life here in the United States possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James P. McGorry". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James P. McGorry