

4-5-75 SF Chron

17 Orphans Safe in Loving Arms

Emotional Welcome In Denver

Denver

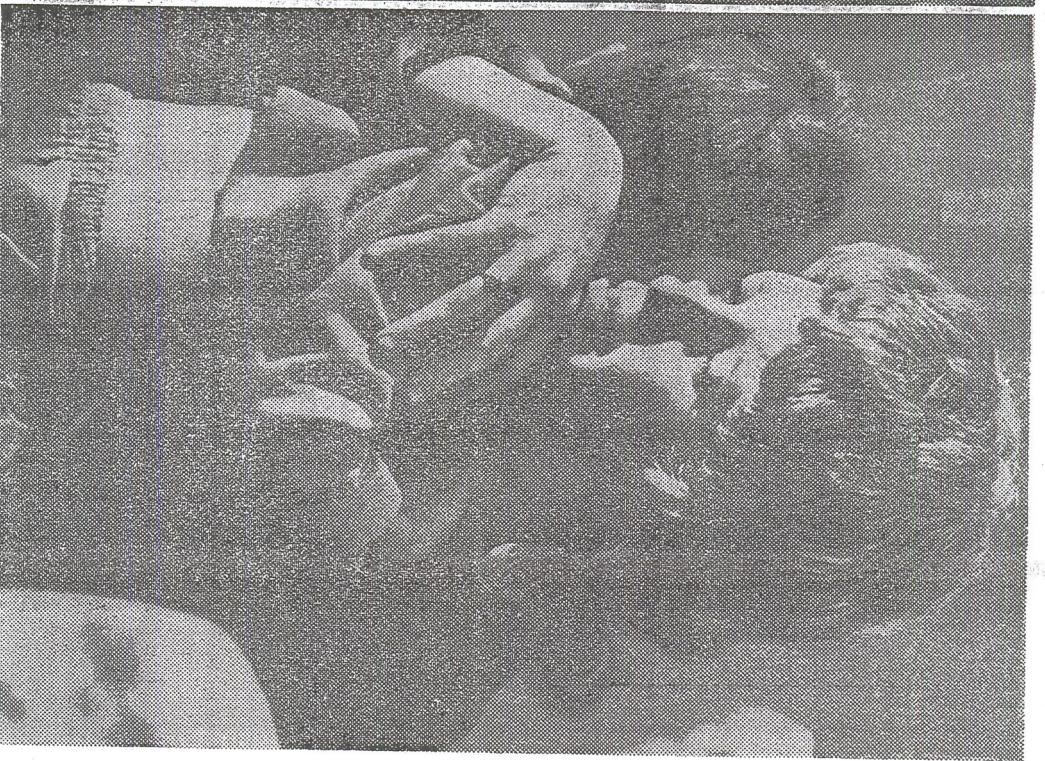
Larry and Linda Moritz got the son they always wanted. Dave and Bobbie Johnson got an instant family after six years of childless marriage.

Tony and Denise Ingram got a new playmate for their two adopted Vietnamese girls.

In a touching, quietly joyous scene, these three adoptive families were finally united here yesterday with the Vietnamese orphans they had been awaiting for weeks.

More than 100 people — parents, friends, relatives, volunteer caseworkers and translators — showed up at 1 a.m. yesterday in the deserted Denver airport to meet 17 orphans, part of the group flown to the United States from Saigon earlier this week.

Twelve of the children,



Denise Ingram with her new daughter Camille (left) and Linda Moritz with Thomas

AP and UPI photos

many of them carrying balloons, toy telephones and stuffed animals, were picked up by local families who put them up temporarily before sending them along to their new parents elsewhere.

But for 4-year-old Tom Moritz, 5-year-old Camille Ingram and for three young brothers, Jeremy, Peter and Matthew Johnson, the 10,000

mile journey ended when their new parents embraced them as they stepped off the commercial Western Airlines flight.

Denver is the home of Friends of Children of Vietnam, the organization largely responsible for bringing the orphans here. Dozens of toddlers brought by their volunteer parents played

with the new arrivals on the airport floor and gave them presents.

Linda Moritz of Loveland, Colo., fought back tears as she stroked the hair of the wide-eyed, silent Vietnamese boy she and her husband have named Tom.

"I was afraid I wouldn't recognize him because all we had seen were pictures

with his head shaved," she said.

"Oh, isn't he beautiful? Oh, sweetheart," she said, "mama loves you. Mama won't hurt you."

The Moritz' two daughters, aged 4 and 7, reached up to clutch the boy's hand and to offer him a brown and white teddy bear.

Like Linda and Larry Moritz, Bobbie and Dave Johnson of Berthoud, Colo. had arranged their adoption after finding it impossible to adopt American children.

For the Johnsons, the arrival of the three brothers, aged 5, 6 and 7, whom they have adopted, meant the start of a "total change in life style," as Mrs. Johnson

put it. The couple has not been able to have their own natural children.

Tony and Denise Ingram made the four-hour drive from their home in Casper, Wyo., just in time to meet 5-year-old Camille, a part-black orphan who will be the third Vietnamese girl in their family.

New York Times