

Biography Allen

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Local History

The Optimist



Pearl Allen and son Dennis

## Selah woman reunited with another son, hopes to see last child

Pearl Allen has only one son left to find.

Optimist readers may recall a story earlier this year about this Selah woman who was reunited with a long-lost son then. Another returned last week.

Twenty years ago, when Dennis was five years old, he and several of Allen's children were taken by the state and put into foster homes, claiming she had no means of support for them.

She was living in the Benton City area at that time and her husband had run off to North Carolina with another woman, she said.

Dennis, Roy, who was then three, and Duane, who was three months old then, were taken, along with several older children.

Duane, Dennis and Roy were adopted into other families and the older kids eventually all came home when they reached legal age. One came home at the age of 17 because he kept running from his foster home.

Allen thought through the years she would never see her three youngest children again although

call from Allen during which they talked for an hour.

"I said, 'I've waited for this for 20 years. I'm not going to wait any more,'" said Dennis.

He said he called his mother from Lubbock to let her know he was on the way and where he was. She told him not to hitch-hike, that a bus ticket was on its way. Family members had taken up a collection for the ticket.

Dennis said he's been "lost" since he was taken from his mother. He said he rebelled against everyone and everything from the beginning. He said his "whole life was messed up."

Asked to describe how lost he felt, he said: "Massively."

"When things are not going well, or you're down, you know you can always go home, but there was no home for me to go home to," said Dennis.

"I've slept under bridges. I've been the bum of the earth."

Allen said she was not surprised to hear her son talking this way.

"They day they took my kids, he was holding onto my leg and crying