

The original documents are located in Box 7, folder “Foster Orphanage Plan, 1974” of the Shirley Peck Barnes Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE CHILDREN: VICTIMS OF VIETNAM

1. Official estimates of the number of homeless children in Vietnam ranges from 5,000 -200,000. No one knows.
2. We do know they are dying. The Vietnamese government allots only \$2.50 per child per month, so in orphanages already ill-equipped and understaffed the infant mortality rate is 80-90%. The children left deserted on the streets? They probably die quietly and unnoticed. No one knows.
3. At least 5,000-40,000 of these children have been fathered by Americans. Survival, especially for the half black child, is questionable. In Vietnam they present living testimony to their mothers activities and are unwanted, unaccepted.
4. The children now face a more grave crisis than ever before. Many received substantial help from GIs in Vietnam - food, medical supplies, love. As the GIs come home, this support stops. What will happen to the children who needed them to stay alive? No one knows.
5. Present Vietnam law makes it extremely difficult to adopt these children and bring them out of the country, either for adoption or medical care. Will governmental red tape in Vietnam, the United States, and the United Nations continue to wind in indifference around maimed and dying children? No one knows.

WE KNOW THIS: YOU CAN HELP. HOW?

1. Write immediately to your own senators and to SEN. WM. FULBRIGHT, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SUITE 4229, SENATE OFFICE BLDG., WASHINGTON D. C. 20510. Voice your support for bill S. 2497 which would establish a temporary South Vietnam Childrens Care Agency to improve the welfare of the children of South Vietnam and facilitate the adoption of orphans or abandoned Vietnamese children, particularly children of US fathers.
2. With your contribution, support the Committee of 1000. Their long term goal is to establish a reception center which would offer adequate

medical and physical care. Present facilities and institutions are tragically inadequate.

3. Join the Milwaukee Vietnam Childrens Committee in providing immediate aid. We need medicines, infant clothing and supplies, non-perishable food (e.g. powdered milk or formula,) for shipment to Vietnam. We need money to support nurses, doctors, social workers, and to help open the doors for adoption.

For further information contact: Ms. Shaggy Norman
4004 E. O'Brien Rd., Oak Creek, Wis.
(414) 764-2189 53154

REMEMBER - WHEN THE TROOPS COME HOME, THE CHILDREN OF THE WAR WILL STILL BE THERE.



HỘI BẠN THIẾU-NHI VIỆT-NAM

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIET-NAM

HEADQUARTERS :
600. GILPIN ST.
DENVER, COLO. 80218
TEL. (303) 321 - 8262

SAIGON ADDRESS :
24 - 25 BUI THỊ YUÂN
GIÁ-ĐÌNH - S. V. N.
TEL. 43.162

They move about the compound in small groups or chains, shuffling from one wall to the next. Most once shared a life of begging on the street, shelterless often with out food for days. For these people Phu My offers more than food, a bed and companionship; it offers life itself.

Also saved from the noisy of the street are the polio stricken children. Virtually wiped out in the U.S. polio is a major problem in Vietnam, where vaccines aren't available to so many. At Phu My, the young kids are given opportunities available at few other centers in the country. I watched a group of young boys swimming, laughing and splashing like any yang of kids in any part of the world. As it grew later, they helped each other out of the pool, pulled on their own clothes then strapped on their braces. Arm in arm, they walked off to dinner. This scene could be imagined to be nothing unusual, in Vietnam its a miracle.

Then there are the seemingly 'healthy' children (as much as that word can be applied to anyone living on little but rice) who have another type of handicap, that being growing up without ever being able to be held in the arms of a mommy or daddy. There are over 150 orphaned and abandoned children living at Phu My. Daily they can be seen laughing and singing, running and playing. One could almost forget the tragic story of hardship, loss and endurance behind each and every one.

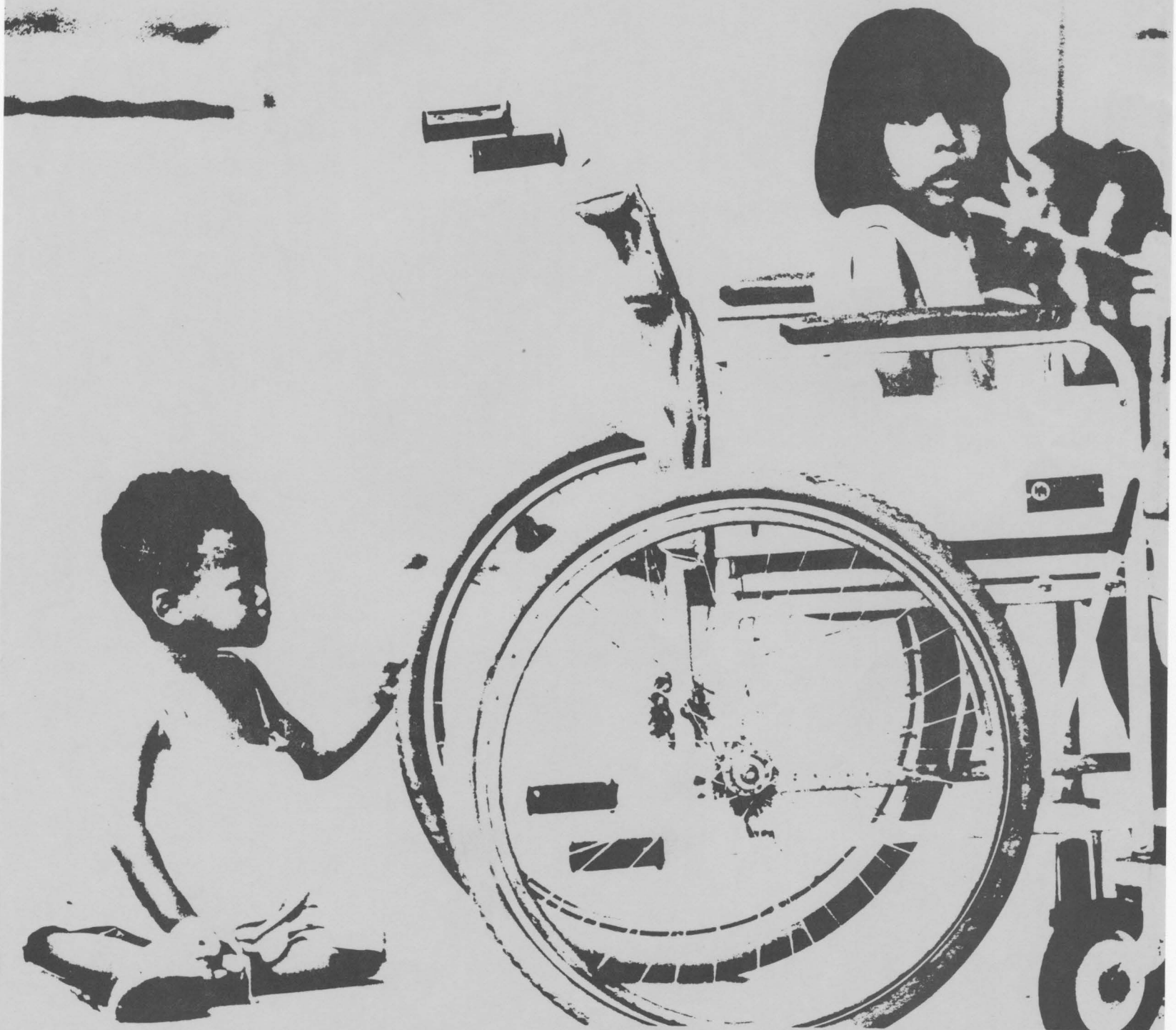
The most difficult hut for me to even walk through was what the sisters term "the incurable". Here the grotesquely deformed, the retarded, the emotionally disturbed and the hopelessly handicapped are sent to be given a chance to live, to know something besides misery, hunger and ridicule. One hydro-sephallic boy greets the visitor with a smile stretched across his mammoth head. Another stricken with cerebral palsy slowly makes his way across the room. The sister explains he loves to have his picture taken. Others aren't so fortunate as these two. One 18 year old boy is totally paralyzed, his body shriveled to half its normal size. Only able to move his eyes and mouth, an old man tends to his every need. A hole in the bed leads to a hole in the floor for bodily wastes. Though death is just around the corner for those living here, they have been given treasures by Phu My; the song of a bird, the laughter of a child, the sight of a spectacular sunset, and the warm knowledge that someone does care.

The cost of running Phu My, the only place of its kind, in all of Viet Nam, is incredible. 1,320 pounds of rice are prepared daily on a wood burning stove. There are no appliances of any sort. Washing for 2000 is done by hand on stone slabs with cold water and bar soap. The heat in the kitchen is nearly unbearable with 24 huge caldrons bubbling away over blazing fires. Dutch ovens bake 250 loaves of bread a day. Water, a brackish brown liquid is drawn by hand.



What is needed? Everything, but the primary concern is simply for the basics. Daily costs are currently \$500 U.S., but with the inflation of this war-torn economy (one of the worst in the world), they are rising rapidly. Every penny is badly needed, and praised by the sisters. Few institutions in Viet Nam are truly as needy and deserving as Phu My.

Words cannot portray the spirit of Phu My. From its misery, its grotesqueness, rises a pheonix of compassion, of warmth, of concern. Through the stench and the bugs comes the smiles, the hopes and dreams of the thousands. It's the chance, the possibilities of life no one would bother to give to the seemingly 'hopeless'. That is the beauty of Phu My.



Friends of Children of Vietnam
600 Gilpin
Denver, Colorado 80218

Dear Sister Rose,

September 4, 1974

FCVN now has 23 sponsors for Phu My. We have enjoyed the report by Mai of the FCVN staff in Saigon and also the report by Ross Meador. We are most anxious to have a small note from you. It will mean so much to the sponsors to hear from you. I am able to translate your letter from French to English for the sponsors.

If you have a particularly interesting story about a person or child in your care we would like to hear from you. All things about Phu My are welcome to the people that care about Phu My.

I join with the other Friends across the United States in wishing you well and thanking you for your dedicated hard work.

Most sincerely,

Lee Anne Buchanan

Ma chère sœur,

Nous avons maintenant vingt-trois personnes désireuses d'aider Phu My. Nous nous intéressons beaucoup au rapport par Mai de l'équipe de Saigon et aussi celui de Ross Meador. Nous voudrions beaucoup recevoir aussi de vos nouvelles. Si vous savez combien tout le monde ici intéresse à vos lettres. Je peux facilement faire traduire vos lettres de français en anglais pour eux.

Si vous avez une histoire spéciale concernant une personne ou un enfant confié à vous, nous aimerions beaucoup en entendre parler. Tout ce qui concerne Phu My intéresse ceux qui l'aime.

Je me joins aux autres amis à travers les Etats-Unis pour vous souhaiter bien des choses et vous remercier de votre dévouement et de votre travail.

Recevez, chère sœur, nos sentiments les plus dévoués

Lee Anne Buchanan

Chere Soeur Rose,

Je suis la nouvelle directrice pour les adoptifs de le orphelinat Phu My.

Je vous ai rencontrée en automne 1972 quand j'ai visité le Vietnam pour escorter des enfants de Rosemary. Notre premier enfant adoptif est venu de la première crèche a Phu My en 1968. Je me rejouis de ~~la~~ pouvoir peut être aider les enfants de

Phu My. J'ai envoyé la lettre ci-jointe aux personnes qui s'occupent de Phu My.

le mois prochain je leur enverrai des photos et aussi, je l'espère une copie

d'une lettre de vous. Si vous désirez que je leur communiquer quelque chose

faites-le moi savoir s.v.p. Je suis sûre qu'ils intéresseraient a votre vie

de tous les jours, aux histoires des enfants etc. En fait, tout ce qui pourrait

rendre les enfants de Phu My plus réels, nous ferait plaisir.

Si vous voulez bien m'écrire a l'adresse ci-dessus je copierai et traduirai votre lettre et l'enverrai a tous ceux de plus en plus nombreux, qui s'intéressent a ce projet.

Je vous remercie d'avance a ce sujet et de tout ce que vous faites pour les enfants qui ont tout besoin d'aide.

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Steele School
May 31, 1974

Dear Parents,

The school year is rapidly nearing an end and our last week is full of activities, which seems typical of every week. Perhaps you'd like to join us for some of the following activities:

MONDAY TALENT SHOW at 9:50 A.M. in the school Auditorium

TUESDAY 6th Grade parents especially are invited to come help the teachers play the 6th graders in our annual softball game.

9:50 A.M. on the south playground

TUESDAY PM 1:45 - the TALENT SHOW will be presented for the 2nd time. (Perhaps you can make one of the performances particularly if your child is in it.)

WEDNESDAY 7:30 - 9:00 P.M. - Continuation Program for 6th Graders

THURSDAY Last day of school for children.
Report Cards and assignments for next year go home.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and cooperation during the year. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Glen R. Peacock
Principal

Friends of Children of Viet Nam
Foster Orphanage Program
600 Gilpin
Denver, Colo 80218

Dear Sister Rose,

orphanage

I am the new Foster/Co-ordinator of Phu My orphanage. I met you in the Fall of 1972 when I visited Vietnam to escort some of Rosemary's children home. Our first adopted child came from the original 'creche' in Phu My back in 1968. I am so happy I can perhaps be of help to the children at Phu My. I have sent the enclosed letter to the sponsors of Phu My. Next month I will send them some photos and also, I hope, a copy of a letter from you. If you have anything you would like to relate to those who sponsor Phu My, please write it. I am sure they would be interested in the day-to-day life there, stories of any of the children, etc. In fact anything that would make the children at Phu My more real would be most welcome.

If you will please write to me at the above address, I will duplicate your letter (and also translate it, if you reply in French) and send it to the growing number of sponsors.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. And for all you are doing for the children who are so needing help.

Sincerely,

chère sœur
Chère Sœur Rose,

Je suis la nouvelle directrice américaine pour les adoptions de l'orphelinat Phu My - Je vous ai rencontrée en automne 1972 quand j'ai visité le Viet Nam pour escorter des enfants de Rosemary - Notre premier enfant adoptif est venu de la première crèche à Phu My en 1968. Je me réjouis de pouvoir peut-être aider les enfants de P.M. J'ai envoyé la lettre ci-jointe aux personnes qui s'occupent de Phu My. Le mois prochain je leur enverrai des photos et aussi, je l'espère, une copie d'une lettre de vous. Si vous désirez que je leur communique quelque chose, faites-le moi s.v.p. Je suis sûre qu'ils s'intéresseraient à votre vie de tous les jours, aux histoires des enfants etc. En fait, tout ce qui pourrait rendre de P.M. plus réels, nous ferait plaisir - Si vous voulez bien m'écrire - l'adresse ci-dessus si vous voulez bien m'écrire à l'adresse ci-dessus

je copierai et traduirai votre lettre et l'enverrai à tous ceux de plus en plus nombreux qui s'intéressent à ce projet.

Je vous remercie d'avance - sujet et tout ce que vous faites pour les enfants qui ~~avaient~~ ont tout besoin d'aide.

Sincerely,

Chère sœur
Chère Sœur Rose

Most sincerely

If we can get enough sponsors for Phn My, Sister Rose would love to send some of the older children to school. There is no public education in Vietnam. Cost is about \$1.00 a month and the child would need a bike as there is no other cheap way to get to school. I am anxious to get this off to you, so I will wait until next time to assemble some photos of Phn My. Also by that time I hope to have heard from Sister Rose. I will duplicate her letter for you. Thank you for joining with other to sponsor these children. I hope the letters and photos will bless you as much as they have blessed me through the years.

answered
8/6/74

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF VIETNAM

HONOLULU CHAPTER

P. O. Box 5285
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

July 23, 1974

Dear LeeSanne,

If there is any correspondence with the Phu My Orphanage we would appreciate receiving it as it would help us as a chapter in getting other individuals or groups to join the Foster Plan. Also did the First Presbyterian Minister's Class (1822 Keeaumoku) receive their information on Phu My, as last I heard they hadn't & I don't want them to think there's aren't getting to Phu My.

Thank you so much as we realize you must get correspondence from all over the U.S. & it must be quite a job. So glad to hear the Orphanage Plan is going so well.

FCVW



Aloha,
Lyette Cabral

ALL CHILDREN SMILE IN THE SAME LANGUAGE

PROVIDENCE ORPHANAGE

(Cantho)

Directress: Sister Eugenia

The Children: 130

0-2years: 49

4-8years: 23

2-4years: 29

8years and up: 29

Providence Orphanage is in Cantho, a provincial capital in the fertile, rice-producing Mekong Delta. In this area flowers are everywhere; mangoes, coconut palms, jackfruit, and grapefruit trees abound. Unfortunately, throughout the city of Cantho, there are thousands of refugees crowded into miserable one-room shanties. Many infants are being abandoned because their parents are no longer able to care for them. Mothers, hoping their child will have a better chance to live, leave their sick and weak babies at an orphanage or hospital door.

The orphanage building is made of some type of heavy material and is 32m by 14m. There are four sleeping areas with from 20 to 50 children in each area. There are kitchen facilities, a dining area, and a fairly large play area for the children.

It takes over \$1,200 to run the orphanage each month. Approximately half that amount is spent on rice, sugar, meat, fish, and vegetables. During the last three months the price of rice has almost doubled. The orphanage receives a small amount of money from the Ministry of Welfare, but they must rely on donations to take care of the major costs of running the orphanage.

Sr. Eugenia writes that Vietnamese doctors in the Provincial Hospital come three times a week to visit the sick babies. "We can get some medicine from them, but not too much." Right now they are spending from \$40 to \$60 a month on medicine.

During the American involvement in Vietnam, Cantho was the site of both a big Army base and a Navy base. At one point the Army built a water supply system to provide pure water for the town. Before that their source of water was the river. The G.I.s also built an outdoor, concrete wading pool at the orphanage for the children to play in. At Providence Orphanage the G.I.s came often to help and to play with the children. One little girl, now living in Colorado who came from Providence Orphanage, remembers the soldiers coming to the orphanage and taking some of the children back to post for showers and ice cream.

The American soldiers' help is sorely missed, especially at Providence Orphanage; it was one place the G.I.s really took care of.

I MET YOU AT THE ORPHANAGE YARD by Thich Nhat Hanh

Your sad eyes
overflowed with
loneliness and pain.
You saw me.
You turned your face away.
Your hands drew circles,
circles
on the dusty ground.

I dared not ask you
where your father
and your mother were.
I dared not open up your wounds.
I only wished to sit with you
a moment
saying a word or two.

June 14

Dear Cheryl,

Please add The "Malolo
Mariners Club" to the Foster
Orphanage Plan for Phee
My! I have told them that
they will receive info on
Phee My + that they'd get
envelopes to send their
\$10 monthly check, from next
month on they will be
sending you the check,
or to whom ever they are
to sent it to.

Hope to be sending
you more members in the
near future.

Aloha,
Lynette Cabral
Honolulu FCUN

Pho My Orphanage

Foster Orph. Plan

Mrs. John Katt
Malolo Mariners Club
First Presbyterian Church
1822 Keeganmoku St.
Honolulu, 96822

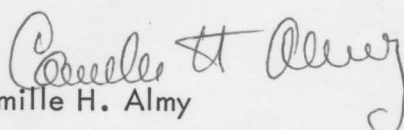
August 7, 1974

Honolulu Chapter
FCVN
1302 Mokulua Drive
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Dear Friends of Phu My,

We here in Honolulu are always so happy to learn about the great care and concern you have for the Vietnamese children. We have especially enjoyed the letters from Mai and Lee Bucham. Learning of your specific needs and ongoing activities makes our part here much more meaningful. We hope that our cash contribution of \$109 to Phu My will be of help. We are stepping up our fund raising activities and hope to be able to send more in the future. Our thoughts and blessings are with you.

Aloha,

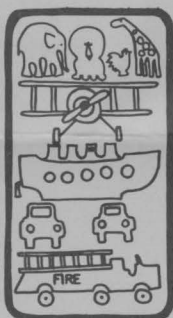

Camille H. Almy

290 Truck Court
Foster City, California 94404
August 8, 1974

Dear Ms Lamb:

Thank you for your data
on Foster Orphanage. I
chose ^{the} One My Orphanage.
Enclosed is a check for
ten dollars.

Sincerely,
Jessie G. May



Aug. 12, 1974

Dear Lee Anne,

Enclosed is my monthly check for Phyl My. I wanted to write to tell you that we first heard of FCVN from my sister in law, Randy Lomell, who is at Cherry Creek & heard about it from your husband. We got our little Sarah, 14 mos. ago and seeing how she has blossomed we really felt we could do some thing more; although we would like to adopt again, right now this program very definitely fills a vacuum which we had felt existed. Would it be practical for me to send any toys to Phyl My.? - I know food and medicine are first priority, but if I can do any-thing else please let me know.

Sincerely,
John F. Hawkins

Lee Zanne Buchanan

HANNAH

1850

HANNAH