

# Fayetteville Observer-Times

35 Cents

Thursday, October 8, 1992

REGIONAL EDITION

Fayetteville, N.C.

Vol. CLXXVII-No. 22

## Man's Quest For Son, 3, Ends In N.C.

By David Sinclair  
Correspondent

SOUTHERN PINES — Frank Kools was reunited with his 3½-year-old son Wednesday after more than a year of separation.

Mr. Kools, of Bethel, Ohio, said it had been 568 days since his son, Jacob, was abducted by his mother, Sharon Behn.

Ms. Behn, 29, is in the Moore County jail, charged with abducting Jacob in April 1991. She will have an extradition hearing within two days. Moore County sheriff's deputies were led to Ms. Behn's apartment at 375 Bethesda Road by members of the American Association of Lost Children Inc., a non-profit group in Houston. Reporters were notified by Mark Miller, president of the group, and were present at the arrest.

Mr. Miller handed Mr. Kools his son. The child appeared stunned, but seemed to warm up to his father after Mr. Kools showed him pictures of them together. He also repeatedly assured Jacob that he was his father and loved him.

"I'm happy," Mr. Kools, 42, said. "I'm glad to see him and I'm very glad we're back together."

As Ms. Behn was taken away by deputies, she told reporters that Mr. Kools had threatened her life repeatedly and that he had threatened to take their son with him.

"It was either him or me," she said.

Mr. Kools denied making any threats. He said he and Ms. Behn, his common-law wife, had lived together for four years when they separated and were given joint



JACOB

## Lost

From Page 1A

custody of Jacob.

He said he then sought full custody and that was when Ms. Behn disappeared with Jacob.

He said the last time he had seen Jacob before Wednesday was 79 days after the child and Ms. Behn disappeared. Mr. Kools said he found out that they were living about 10 miles from Bethel.

He said he called police and went to the home, where he found Ms. Behn, Jacob and about a dozen motorcyclists. He said Ms. Behn and the child left in a van before police arrived.

He said investigators believe Ms. Behn fled to Georgia, where she lived for several months with a sister. When and why she came to Southern Pines was unclear.

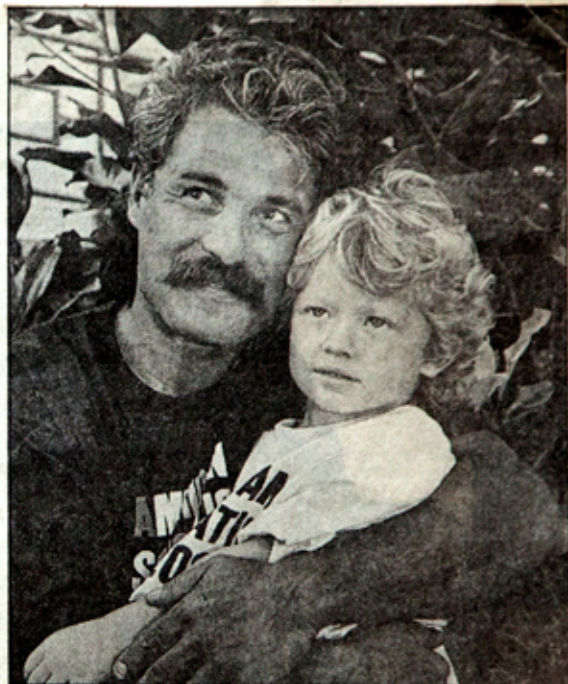
Mr. Miller said she was believed to have been in Southern Pines for about a year. He said she was using the name Sharon Daniels and apparently was earning a living by taking care of several children.

When deputies arrived, there were two other children besides Jacob at the home. One was a child whom Ms. Behn was apparently caring for. That child's mother arrived and took the child away.

The other was a 1½-year-old boy who, according to Mr. Kools, is Ms. Behn's son by a man who lives in Indiana. Ms. Behn called a man who arrived and took that child away.

"I wished she hadn't done this for the child's sake," Mr. Kools said. "The child is damaged by all of this."

Mr. Miller, his wife, Carmen, two other members of the group, and Mr. Kools arrived in Southern Pines on Tuesday. Mr. Miller said



Staff Photo By Cindy Burnham

### Frank Kools Embraces His 3½-Year-Old Son Jacob

he and his wife went to Ms. Behn's home and pretended to be interested in buying some real estate nearby. That was when they determined that Ms. Behn and Jacob were living there, Mr. Miller said.

On Wednesday, they took an Ohio warrant for Ms. Behn's arrest to the Moore County Sheriff's Department.

"This is all worth it," Mr. Miller said. "You really can't describe the feeling."

He said his is a Christian group

that relies on donations and prayers. He said the group has found 65 missing children in its five years.

"This is a beautiful organization," Mr. Kools said. "They get the job done."

Mr. Kools, who works as a roofer, said he and Jacob would return to Ohio today.

"I feel sad for him because of the trauma he has been through," Mr. Kools said. "I thank God I've got him back."

American Association For Lost Children  
539 Fred Rogers Dr.  
Latrobe, PA 15651  
(724) 537-6970

1-800-375-5683