

15.9.03

Interview Denis Doherty re GS

I spoke with Denis Doherty re his recollections of GS and their time together at REDAC. GS was new out of Teacher's College at the time and DD was the teacher in charge of the primary. Initially they got on well. After a time the relationship deteriorated as well as DD's concern about GS. One morning DD came into the classroom of GS at about 7.30am well before school to find GS wrestling with a number of students on the ground. While at one level it seemed harmless enough wrestling DD noticed that GS went quite red in the face when he came in.

Also DD often noticed GS mowing the fields on a tractor with the same boy sitting between his legs. DD also received comments from people who were suspicious of GS's relationship with some of the students. GS tended to have a black or white relationship with students. Those he liked he really favoured and those he didn't he tended to push to the side. There were rumours around although DD saw nothing specifically wrong. Some students came up to him and said GS is a poofter. DD expressed his concern to the Superior, Br John Holdsworth, particularly about GS being alone with students and having the car out so often many times with a single student. DD claims that he voiced his concern to Br Charles Howard the Provincial and that at the end of the year GS was moved. Br Charles commented recently that he was by no means certain of improper conduct by GS as he had concerns about the consistency and judgment of DD.

DD also noticed very inconsistent behaviour with GS. He withdrew the school choir at the last minutes from the Eistedford claiming that they had not been given the correct pieces to sing. He found out later on that this was not correct. I repeat that while DD was convinced that GS was "up to no good" he had no specific evidence of that himself. DD said he did remember the name ACW but he could not remember any further detail than that he had been there. He recalls the mother of the lad who used to ride on the tractor with GS reprimanding him for having GS moved because he never did anything wrong with her boy.

As I said DD was able to confirm that ACW was a student at the time.

Alexis