

This is the Annexure marked 17
referred to in the Affidavit of

Nayden Stephens

signed the 25 day of November 1954

Before me:



J. Moran

7th - 15th July 1959. 195

Justice of the Peace/Solicitor
Visitation Report of

REBDON.



COMMUNITY LIST.

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Br. M. Sebastian Quilligan (Superior) | Br. H. Declan Parker |
| Br. T. Peter O'Sullivan (Sub-Superior) | Br. C. Cletus O'Neill |
| Br. P. Sebastian Iwyer (Councillor) | Br. J. Conrad Campbell |
| Br. M. Albeus Ryan (Bursar) | Br. N. Norbert Tuppin |
| Br. C. Matthias Dawe | Br. G. Salvator Dick |
| Br. M. Genesisus Bilich | |

OBSERVANCE: In a general sort of way the standard is satisfactory. Morning Prayers begin at 5-45 a.m. Lecture is read before Meditation. Mass begins more often than not at 6-35 a.m. so that five minutes is snipped off the meditation. Likewise the Thanksgiving after Holy Communion is seldom fifteen minutes as the Litany is said as soon as the Priest leaves the altar. Breakfast follows immediately - a recreation and informal kind of meal. Particular Examen is said privately after dinner. Tea is at 6 p.m. There is no Martyrology and Latin Grace is said only when the Chaplain is present. All evening exercises are after tea; lecture is read in private even on Fridays (there are no books on the Passion). Night Prayers are said with the boys at 7 p.m. The Final Prayers follow immediately (the old version of the De Profundis is still used). Brs. Albeus and Sebastian then retire. The others come together for supper at 8-40 p.m. but there is no definite time or prayer to mark the commencement of the Great Silence. Accusation of Faults is seldom held. Stations of the Cross are not made publicly on Fridays. These points were brought to the notice of the Superior but they were brushed aside with the remark: "This is Bindoon".

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND CHARITY: On the surface all seems well; the Brothers get on well together and plenty of fun takes place. However, the Superior has a poor regard for the capabilities of the Brothers - regards them as a hopeless lot. The Brothers know the Superior's feelings in their regard and feel unhappy and frustrated. Instead of trying to get the best out of each man the Superior dampens down all enthusiasm and initiative and gives the Brothers a feeling of incompetency. Fortunately, as time has elapsed a modus vivendi has grown up that operates at no detriment to the out of door activities but has militated against the complete training of the boys.

PERSONNEL: The Superior is at the end of his term of office. He is mentally and physically weary and spiritually worried. He feels that he has not done enough for the boys. He has sincerely tried to help them but has not succeeded as well as he would wish, mainly I think, because ~~xx~~ ~~xxx~~ through his leniency he has undermined the authority of the Brothers. He has controlled the Institution but he has not provided the necessary leadership that swings the Brothers in behind him. He has worked hard but has not co-ordinated the various departments; there is little method or organization. Too much experimentation has taken place; no solid plan has been devised for a steady progress. He cannot understand why he has not been allowed to spend £20,000 on the place and is not reconciled to refusals by the Higher Superiors. We just miss getting into the same category as the community. Because he has not been allowed to run headlong into debt he feels that his efforts are not appreciated. He is not open to suggestions from the community; he bristles when they come from the

7th - 15th July 1959. 195



Visitation Report ofBIMDOON.....

PERSONNEL (Continued): members of the Provincial Council. He will benefit from a rest from office at the end of the year.

Br. Peter O'Sullivan is the Sub-Superior. It is unfortunate that the Sub-Superior is not a school man. Something after the set-up at Tardun is desirable. An old saint in his way, he yet cuts a sorry figure at second in charge. He is untidy of person and his efforts to keep out the cold in winter give him the appearance of an overdressed scarecrow. He uses a certain native shrewdness to achieve success in his department against the pressing demands of those with other interests. The presence of Mick Gleeson (retired sheep farmer) has brought a good deal of method into the raising of sheep.

Br. Sebastian Dwyer keeps the pressure up on the basic subjects in spite of his seventy years. He is just as unorthodox as Br. Peter in his dress. He is slowly recovering from a prostate gland operation. On the doctor's advice he is making his meditation in his room and coming to the Chapel for Mass.

Br. Albeus Ryan tutors a few boys in secondary subjects. Last year four passed the Junior under his tuition. He is in perennial poor health but manages to keep cheerful and in his spare moments attend to the Bursaring. In this he is assisted by Br. Raphael Kent of Clontarf.

Br. Matthias Dawe is beginning to show signs of wear. He is not as well as he might be. He is troubled with prostatitis and gravel in the kidney. He still works hard, keeps a fair if unorthodox kind of discipline. His drawing ^{room} manners might not suit all establishments.

Br. Declan Parker seems to be more contented than when I met him four years ago. The orchard is developing well under his care. A chance remark by one of the boys that he seemed to be often in the company of one of the Nuns was referred by the Lora Abbot to the Superior who promptly took measures to prevent such possible innuendoes. Both thought it merely circumstantial but indicating the need for reserve and circumspection.

Br. Cletus O'Neill is at most times a strangely reserved type of man. He is a lover of animals - mainly dogs and kangaroos. He allows these too much freedom - the Chapel and dining room are no places for such pets. He has a clear head and good method. His electrical equipment is of first quality and well maintained. Too much of his time is required to be spent keeping worn-out trucks on the road. He has a sound grasp of farm organization and could be useful in community discussions. Br. Conrad Campbell has been working the farm under the direction of the Superior. His previous training would seem to fit him better for the work of the dairy, the pigs and the poultry. In these he is interested and knowledgeable.

Br. Norbert Tugan is kept busy renewing work that was originally poorly done. New window frames, floors and ceilings are gradually replacing those built hastily many years ago. He is a good bricklayer, a good bush carpenter and quite a good farmer. There is not a first class finish to most of his work because he has to depend on boy labour for help.

Br. Salvator Dick looks after the dairy and cattle. In my opinion, he would be better employed on the farm and as a help to Br. Declan in the orchard. He has a "green finger" and would do better under another than working by himself. His dairy is neat and clean but he has little knowledge or interest in animals.

of

+
6.

7th - 15th July 1959. 195



Visitation Report of BINDCON.

THE LORD ABBOT, CHAPLAIN, SISTERS (Continued): Few postulants are entering. If he is able to establish a community in Spain for this purpose, the Sisters at Bindoon might be needed for the project.

C. On the information of the Chaplain, the Abbot learned of immorality among the boys and the failure of the Superior to take drastic measures to eradicate it. It may be that there is more of it at Bindoon than elsewhere or it may be that more of it comes to light because of the Chaplain's efforts to eradicate it. Apparently it is in the place. Boys report cases to the Chaplain who sends the boys to the Superior. The Superior will take no action unless he has the names of both accuser and accused. Then both are named in public. Often nothing is done other than sending the boy guilty of the immoral deed to the Chaplain for Confession. On occasion a boy is kept away from part of the weekly film shows. I raised the matter with the Superior. It was soon evident that he and the Chaplain are not on good terms. He regards him as a busybody and anxious to listen to all tale bearers. He maintained he was doing all in his power to stamp out the evil. The whole trouble lay in the type of men the Provincial Council had given him - men who could not supervise boys. If he had picked men there would be no trouble. So the matter was left there.

D. The Abbot also referred to the Superior's refusal to allow boys from Bindoon to enter the Abbey. He said he resented not only the refusal but the way in which he refused it. It would seem that the Superior gave the Abbot a piece of his mind.

ANNALS, ETC.: All house books except the Annals are written up to date. It will be unfortunate if the Annals have a gap of six years.

GENERAL: Half the Community lives in the new building; the other half lives in the old part. In this part live also Mick Gleeson, Con Cullity, the Chaplain, and any visitors (secular) that stay the night. It would seem better to leave the old building to the seculars and for all the Brothers to live together in the new block.

During the seeding time, the three Brothers engaged in this work were present at Mass on Sundays only. On the week days they received Holy Communion, then breakfasted and went off to work. This lasted for three weeks at least.

The Superior was urged to have a two days' retreat or mission for the boys. At least a change of Confessor would be thus possible.

Films are shown on both Saturday and Sunday night. At first it was a mere division of programme. Now it is almost equal to two programmes. Feast days and other celebrations call for more films.

CONCLUSION: I have given a rather full and wide survey of the various departments so that a clear picture could be had for the purpose of setting a policy for the incoming Superior in the New Year. Since each section is making some contribution to the overall receipts, I think it safe to say that Bindoon has turned the financial corner. It is certainly a far cry to the pioneering days of six years ago.

J. J. Levander.

+
3.

7th - 15th July 1959. 195

Visitation Report of BINDOON

PERSONNEL (Continued):

Br. Genesis Bilich is reported to be gaining better control over the boys. He is not a robust teacher. In Art and Woodwork he has ability; he is keen to go on the Missions; such skills make him a useful candidate.

SCHOOL:

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Grade I - 1 | | Grade VII 13 | Br. S. Iwyer |
| Grade II - 2 | | 1st Yr 3 | Br. A. Ryan |
| Grade IV - 3 | Br. G. Bilich | 2nd Yr 3 | " " " |
| Grade V - 1 | | | |
| Grade VI - 14 | | Total = | 45 |

There are 29 Migrant Schoolboys
" " 16 Private Cases.

Working Boys = 16
Grand Total = 61

The boys of Grades II, III, IV and V are all Private Cases in spite of the fact that we have a Junior Boys Home at Castledare to cater for such boys. These seven boys know very little and both take up much of Br. Genesis' time and render his task so much the more difficult. Superiors do not seem to consider the difficulties they hand on to their staff. The standard of Br. Genesis' room is about Grade IV. Not more than a few could attempt Grade V work. Br. Sebastian's class is doing Grade V work. Woodwork is taught to the boys of Grade VII, 1st Yr and 2nd Yr at night. Very little is done for the Working boys. The Brothers report that once the boys leave the classroom and work out of doors they rapidly deteriorate in manners, obedience, outlook and morals. Most of the trouble in the establishment stems from this group. That is why the youngsters would be better off at Castledare. The devotion of the School Brothers under trying circumstances is praiseworthy.

FINANCE:

B/S as at 1st Dec. 1958

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Income | £20,532.19.11. |
| Total Expenditure | <u>£27,712.12.11.</u> |
| Excess E/I | <u>£7,179.13. 0.</u> |

Receipts to 31st May 1959
£10,300. 1. 6.

Payments to 31st May 1959
£8,831.15. 7.

Bank O/D as at 1st Dec 1958 = £27,060.18. 5.

Bank O/D as at 31st May 1959 = £27,060. 6. 5.

Amount owing to Goldsborough Mort Ltd at 31st May 1959
£1,309.19. 0.

Working Boys are paid 2/6 a week when they turn 15 years.

FARM: Three thousand acres have been cleared. One thousand acres are under crop - 500 wheat; 500 oats. Last year twelve thousand bales of fodder were taken off the property. Some of this was sold. Oats, wheat and barley were also sold bringing in £2,000. This was the first time that the money from crops equalled the cost of superphosphate. The big danger lies in the desire to plough up the land too soon. A three year cycle is envisaged but it would be better for sheep to leave it longer - say for five or six years until the clover is eaten out. Too much crop leaves too little pasture for the sheep. A proper balance must be maintained as at Taruh. Hence the need to clear the Tableland area where



+
4.

~~7th - 15th July 1959.~~ 195

Visitation Report of BINDOON.

FARM(Continued): sheep can graze all the year round. Water is now available in the area with the new airstrip catchment filling three tanks each holding fifty six thousand gallons.. Already some cleared land is being overrun by suckers because equipment is not available for continual attack on the re-growth. A crawler tractor is a necessity both here and at Tardun. The Superior has built up a splendid pool of equipment. The only weakness lies in the tractor position. There is no crawler tractor. There are two good tractors - one AW-7 (IHC), and one orchard type ACS-6 (IHC). There are three old tractors that have served their time - one Fieldmarshal, one Fordson and one W-6 (IHC). None of these are dependable. The great need is for a D-4 Caterpillar similar to the one Tardun are anxious to procure. Similar equipment in both places would be an advantage. Brothers trained at Tardun could make use of their knowledge and skill here. Efficient equipment is needed with our limitation of man power. The Musk Estate could provide the finance.

There are too many old trucks consuming petrol and oil and requiring frequent maintenance. Here is the list:

The Blue Dodge; the Ford Tip-Truck; the Ford Tray Truck
the Dodge Utility

Then there is the 5 ton International Truck (A-L160) used By Br. Matthias on the runs to Perth. Finally there is the Station Waggon (Renault). The Dodge Utility has had its day. A new one is needed. The three mentioned above should be traded in for a 3 ton International Tip Truck. Both Tardun and Clontarf received a £1,000 towards their new trucks. Castledare are about to approach the Lotteries Commission(as did the others)for assimilar amount. Bindoon has made no major approach for years. This seems a pity. I mentioned this to the Superior but did not get a good reception. I mention it in this report so that the new Superior can be reminded of it.

SHEEP: We seem to be where we were five years ago. The change from fat lambs to wool has not been successful. In Tardun Br. Isidore buys in person; in Bindoon Agents do the buying. That is why we were loaded with eight hundred ewes whose footrot had been but patched-not cured. The Superior tried the experiment of summer lambing- they came when there was little feed. Romney Marsh rams were bought and mated with the ewes; the results have been two poor lambing seasons. Both Br. Peter and Mick Gleeson want a return to the fat lamb policy and breed them from Bungaree Ewes by Southdown rams. As in Tardun heavy culling must take place and no profit should be expected from the sale and purchase of ewes. Profit will come from fat lambs and from good quality wool. Until much more country is opened up a safe flock would seem to be fifteen hundred ewes. Both the fat lamb market and the wool market fluctuate but there is a satisfactory profit in the combination.

Fifteen hundred and forty sheep were shorn - a lot of the wool was poor enough. Forty two bales were obtained.

I believe that Br. Peter and Mick can make a success of the policy mentioned above. I talked it over with Br. Isidore and he agrees with it.

DAIRY: There are seventeen cows being milked each day. A new Imperial straight eight milking machine was installed early in the year. Over

+
5.

7th - 15th July 1959. 195



Visitation Report of BINDOON.

DAIRY (Continued): one hundred head of cattle are pastured with the sheep. The cows are an AIS beef strain and are being mated with a Hereford Bull. About twenty five calves with Hereford markings were dropped in June. Last year about twenty one head were sold for £600.

POULTRY: There are about five hundred fowls under the care of Br. Sebastian.

PIGS: The Superior looks after the pigs. Whilst the sheds are an eyesore the finances are sound - £693 so far this year in returns. Plans have been drawn up for a new sty but nothing will be done this year.

ORCHARD: Good progress has been made in this department. Five hundred olive trees have brought in £420 this year. The twelve acres of stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines) and almonds and figs have not brought in much profit but have kept the table supplied with good fruit in season. Seven hundred orange trees help in this regard. Grapes cover five acres and serve a similar purpose. Twelve beehives produce about 20 lbs of honey. The orchard is not big enough for commercial returns but is too large for domestic needs. More olives will be planted as the migrant increase assures a firm market.

WATER: Besides the tanks at the airstrip there is a tank not far from the cemetery. It is filled from the main tank on the hill above the hostel. Another tank is close to Foulkes-Taylor's boundary over towards the Geraldton road. The front paddocks near the entrance gate as well as the eighty acre paddock need a supply if sheep are to be run in them. Br. Cletus is doing good work with the Boring plant.

BUILDINGS: About £32,000 has been expended by the Superior over the six years. For this sum we have premises that are in reasonably good condition. The main administrative block has been finished in first class style. Both here and on the Technical block, parapets are causing dampness to inside walls and ceilings. A change over to eaves would be inexpensive and effective. Covered ways need to be provided from the main building to the two front buildings. These would give all-weather routes about the place. The dormer windows on the front blocks are in bad shape and could easily be dispensed with, giving a safe unbroken roof. The present Chapel is the least impressive building in the institution. The loose ceiling, the two-level floor, the untidy kneelers, the rough pews - all fail to inspire reverence and devotion. Use should be made of the large room on the right of the foyer entrance of the main building. This and adjoining rooms could be made into a worthy Chapel. The proper Chapel is not likely to be built for many years. This area would serve as an excellent substitute.

THE LORD ABBOT, CHAPLAIN, SISTERS: The Lord Abbot came to see me privately to mention three matters.

A. Servile work on Sundays. B. The possible withdrawal of the Sister C. The immorality in the institution D. The continued refusal of the Superior to allow boys from Bindoon to enter the Abbey.

A. The Abbot said that for many years work has been done on the building on Sundays. It was tolerated but he was not happy about it. Now that the building programme had been completed he wished for a strict observance of the Sunday.

B. Last year the Superior was informed of the possible withdrawal of the Sisters. He made a special appeal and was allowed to retain them.