

## NOTES OF A CONVERSATION, M.A.C. Wed. 13/11/1996

Sr. Mary St. Pius came to see me to continue a conversation we had started immediately after the Robert Grant day (specifically the time for Neerkol sisters).

St. Pius was on the staff from 1958 - 1962. It was a very difficult time for her and she sees herself as often getting the hard jobs. In fact I think she did. Sr. M. Clare was in charge and St. Pius sees herself as being in constant conflict with Sr. Clare on numerous issues including needing clothes for the boys, time out for the non-school girls.

St. Pius has the "big girls" and than the "big boys". She wanted to tell me the following stories:

1. The only miscarriage story she know concerns a **REDACTED**, a non-school girl at the time. **REDACTED** would have been 14 or 15 she thinks, and became pregnant after an outing. Pius herself was not called. Sisters Francis Regis and Constance were living in the girls dormitory with the older girls. I think it must have been in the old building.

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St. Pius is of the opinion that **AYC** appropriated this story. It would have happened in 1960 or 1961 as best she can remember. St. Pius does remember **AYC** from Neerkol but did not look after her in the dormitory.

2. She also considers she knows the origin of the "twin boys" story. Twin Aboriginal boy babies were very sick. It was the custom for Mr. Pattle to go to town for the pictures on a Saturday night. For this reason Pius remembers one of the babies being very ill on a Saturday. Eventually Mr. Pattle's outing was given up and he drove Constance? (and probably another sister) with the sick baby into the hospital. The baby died that night and was not brought back to Neerkol for burial. In the eyes of the children that baby would have "disappeared without explanation" overnight. Pius has no memory of what happened to the other twin. The story should be traceable. She is not sure of the year but more likely 60 - 62 than earlier.

*R. M. Lock*  
13/11/96.

14/11/96

\* It was the other 'non-school' girls who called the Sisters. Pius says the 'whole place' would have known the story.

The incident is very vivid in her memory. She even remember Francis R. having a new "precious" white towel which was sacrificed to trying to manage the haemorrhage. The baby came but the placenta did not come. They had to rush **REDACTED** to hospital. She went to work at Bethany & did not return to Neerkol.

It is likely the children saw - miscarriage - 'baby' buried - no return ∴ ?