

SALVATION ARMY, BAYSWATER BOYS' HOME, NO. 2

14th October, 1957

Inspection of Bayswater Boys' Home, No. 2, continued for a period of 2 days. During that time each ward of the Home was seen, and the relevant information recorded on their various files.

Accommodation:

48 wards plus 8 private placements : Total 56 : Capacity 58
(can be increased if necessary.)

Visiting Days:

First and third Saturday afternoon of the month. Holidays with outside persons not encouraged, reason mainly Departmental requirements, and the type of boys.

Staff:

Senior Captain Francis and his wife (assistant)
Lieutenant Haywood (male)
" Leavy (female)
Envoy Collins (male)
Matron, Major Fleming (female)
Mrs. Stewart
Mrs. Saunders (part time)

Staff Holidays:

3 weeks, 1 weekend a month, 1 day a month

Medical:

Dr. Hewitt, Dr. Widmer, Dr. Cone, Dr. Stephens (Ringwood Clinic)

Sick Bay:

No sick room. Cupboard to give medical treatment. Mrs. Wright of No. 1., who is a trained nurse, attends to give injections if necessary. Generally, the Matron attends the boys (no qualifications, but years of experience).

Dental:

Health Department every 3 months; attend 2 days at a time. Attention is received at No. 1. Captain Francis said that only the urgent cases such as considered by him are in the main attended to on these visits, and that no general inspection was made. Inspector suggested that the practice should be that at least once a year every boy's teeth should be inspected by the dentist whether or not it is considered necessary by ^{himself} members on his staff.

Wet Beds:

3 wet beds amongst the wards. No special way to overcome. Inspector suggested night lights be installed to help.

Diet:

No special plan is made as to diet. In general the boys looked to be well nourished, and the boys themselves considered that plenty of food was provided.

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Discipline:

No evidence of corporal punishment apart from reference by several boys as to some members of the staff using a small stick now and again. Captain Francis said that disciplinary methods used for misbehaviour were:

1. Bringing in extra supplies of wood,
2. Sent to bed early,
3. Missing T.V.,
4. Stoppage of various outings arranged for the boys' benefit at weekends, and on holidays.

Duties:

Usual institutional chores lasting between 20 and 30 minutes a day.

Pocket Money:

Boys are not given regular pocket money. Most of the boys have their own Trust Account - such money given to the boys by their own parents. Where this is not so provided, the institution supplies.

Reveille:

Week days	6.30 a.m.
Saturdays	7.00 a.m.
Sundays	7.30 a.m.

In the evening, T.V. up to 9.00, lights out at 9.30.

Spare Time Activities:

Concerts, music and singing. Visit various Salvation Army functions (these considered to be training in citizenship.)

Gymnasium, Boy Scouts, Handicrafts, wood work (Mr. Spencer takes 8 or 9 boys one night a week.)

Other Entertainment:

Mainly T.V., and regular picture shows.

Education:

Primary school at which only institutional boys attend, plays an important part in assisting these boys towards stability and citizenship. Credit must be given to Mr. Spencer, Headmaster, as to his personal interest in the boys.

A new school has been erected on the property by the Education Department. It is up-to-date in architecture, and has enough space for twice the number of boys that are at Bayswater at present.

Problem re secondary school: The Salvation Army authorities do not favour boys going out to secondary schools. The reason for this policy appears to be administrative, clothing, meals, and the type of boy being dealt with at Bayswater No. 2. However, there appears to be the odd boy who would definitely gain by secondary school education, and both technical and high school are within a reasonable distance from Bayswater (Captain Francis' own boy attends technical school.)

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Primary School classes: Although only one class is looked upon as an opportunity grade, in general the three main groups are treated as opportunity grade type boys.

Institutional Buildings:

Buildings are of weatherboard and corrugated iron construction, and have served their purpose. Planning is well on the way for new buildings to improve and extend facilities.

Sleeping Quarters:

The boys sleep in three large dormitories, the largest containing 20 boys. Beds are of camp-folding type and generally the rooms were clean and tidy.

Dining and Cooking Facilities:

Adequate for purpose, but old fashioned.

Gymnasium:

Adequate in size, but floor in bad condition.

Ablutions:

Adequate for purpose; boys shower once a day.

Stores:

A good supply of clothing on hand.

Laundry:

A fully mechanised modern unit which will be retained in the new building plans.

Farm:

Although there is a farm attached to Bayswater, the boys have very little contact with farming activities. The farm is worked by the No. 1. Bayswater Boys', which is about a mile from No. 2.

Non-school boys:

Staff is regularly supplemented by several boys who have completed their school training. 'Completed', in the main, means boys over the age of 14½ years who because of their attitude and inability to learn are allowed to leave school. These boys help in the laundry, and other institutional chores. According to Mr. Spencer (Head Teacher), it is wrong for boys to be retained at Bayswater 2 when they leave school. He considers that the only general problem that they have at Bayswater 2 is with these out of school boys. He instanced several recent abscondings which he attributed to these boys just 'hanging around'.

School Problem:

Mr. Spencer asked whether or not it would be possible for a copy of the history sheet of individual boys to be sent to him, as well as to the institution itself. He said that he was hampered in his rehabilitation of the boys. In some cases he never knows the background of a boy, and he considers that this has hampered his work.

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Regulations:

Senior Captain Francis and Inspector went through the Regulations, in particular in relation to institutions. Captain Francis appears to have a good working knowledge of all aspects.

Visitors Book:

As yet there is no visitors book, but steps are being taken to put same into effect.

A. W. [unclear]
2.6.57.

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