

## RECORD OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN SERGEANT A.J. CAROLAN AND DONALD BRUCE HENDERSON, CIB OFFICE

DARWIN POLICE STATION, 10/9/75.

QUESTIONS BY CAROLAN. ANSWERS BY HENDERSON.

PERSONS PRESENT DURING CONVERSATION, CONSTABLE T. SAXBY, MR. D. AVERY, SOLICITOR AUSTRALIAN LEGAL AID OFFICE.

Time commenced 6.35pm.

Q. 1. For the purpose of this record what is your full name.

A. Donald Bruce HENDERSON.

Q. 2. And how old are you Mr. Henderson.

A. Thirty nine..

Q. 3. What is your occupation.

A. Cottage Parent.

Q. 4. Who is your employer.

A. Aborigines Inland Mission, Retta Dixon Home.

Q. 5. How long have you been in that employment.

A. Almost eleven years.

Q. 6. Do you know a person called AJT [redacted].

A. Yes.

Q. 7. I am going to ask you some questions in regards to an indecent assault whiche was allegedly committed on AJT [redacted] at Tortilla Falts on 29/8/75. Do you understand that.

A. Yeah I understand the question.

Q. 8. I must tell you that you do not have to answer any of my questions or say anything at unless you wish. Anything that you do say will be typed down on this paper and may later be given in evidence in court. Do you clearly understand that.

A. I undefstand that.

Q. 9. How long have you known AJT [redacted].

A. Well since I've been in the home.

Q. 10. Would it be correct to say that you have known him for almost eleven years then.

A. Yeah.

Q. 11. During that period what has your relationship with AJT [redacted] been.

A. I prefer not to answer that question at this stage on my solicitors advice.

Q. 12. You say that you are employed as a cottage parent by Retta Dixon Homes. What exactly ~~is~~ does that job entail.

A. Well its just caring for children that are placed in my care.

Q. 13. Was AJT [redacted] ever in your care.

A. Yes.

Q. 14. When exactly.

A. I wouldn't know exactly could I say about three years.

Q. 15. Do you mean the last three years.

A. Yes.

Q. 16. Did you recently take AJT [redacted] and a number of other children camping at Tortilla Flats.

A. Yes. with Miss Ehtel McKAY.

Q. 17. Would it be correct to say that Ethel McKAY had charge of the girls and you had charge of the boys.

A. Correct.

Q. 18. Who were the boys that you took to Tortilla. MR. AVERY USES TELEPHONE 6.52pm.

A. AJT [redacted], AJS [redacted], AKM [redacted] and AKN [redacted], AKP [redacted], AKO [redacted], AJF [redacted].

Q. 19. What date was it that you went to Tortilla Do you remember.

A. We went on the Thursday thats the first Thursday of the school holidays whenever that

Q. 20. And how long did you say at Tortilla.

A. Till the following Friday, eight days.

Q. 21. What were the sleeping arrangements.

A. All the boys slept in one tent with myself and the girls slept in one tent with Miss McKAY and Miss Jydy Ruby SHEPHERD.

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- Q. 22. Did you have a sleeping bag or a mattress.  
A. A mattress.
- Q. 23. What did most of the boys have.  
A. Most of them just slept on blankets.
- Q. 24. Did any of the boys have a mattress.  
A. Yes.
- Q. 25. Which one had a mattress.  
A. AJF and AKP.
- Q. 26. Did you or somebody else there have a television set.  
A. Yes I did.
- Q. 27. How did you operate it at Tortilla.  
A. Off the car cigarette lighter.
- Q. 28. What time did the boys usually go to bed at night.  
A. The younger ones would have gone from about eight thirty and the older ones at varying times.
- Q. 29. Did you watch television the second night that you were there. That would be the Friday night.  
A. Oh yes.
- Q. 30. Do you recall what time you went to bed on that particular night.  
A. No I'm sorry I couldn't recall the time I would only be guessing.
- Q. 31. Do you or did you while you were at Tortilla wear pjamas.  
A. Yes.
- Q. 32. Which of the boys slept closest to you.  
A. AKP.
- Q. 33. Where did AJT sleep.  
A. On the other side of the tent.
- Q. 34. It is alleged that on the night of the first Friday that you were at Tortilla you went to AJT bed and woke him up. Do you have anything to say to that.  
INSPECTOR ILLETT ENTERS WITH KEYS FOR MR. AVERY 7.08pm.  
A. Prefer not to answer that question at this stage on my solicitor's advice.
- Q. 35. It is alleged that you asked AJT to go to your bed to have a tickle. Do you have anything to say to that.  
A. Prefer not to answer that question on my solicitor's advice.
- Q. 36. It is alleged that when AJT refused to go to your bed, you picked him up in your arms and carried him there. Do you have anything to say to that.  
A. Prefer not to answer that question on my solicitor's advice.
- Q. 37. It is alleged that you placed AJT in your bed and played a game which he refers to as tickling his feet. Do you have anything to say to that.  
A. The same reply. Prefer not to answer that question on my solicitors advice.
- Q. 38. Have you played a game which the children refer to as tickling their feet.  
A. Prefer not to answer that question on my solicitors advice.
- Q. 39. AJT alleges that on this night, the first Friday you were at Tortilla you tickled his feet by rubbing them up and down against your penis and testicles. Do you have anything to say about that.  
A. Prefer not to answer that question on my solicitor's advice.
- Q. 40. How old is AJT.  
A. Fourteen.
- Q. 41. Is there anything else that you wish to tell me about this matter.  
A. No I dont think so.
- Q. 42. I am arresting you on a charge having indecently assaulted AJT at Tortilla Flats on or about the 29th August, this year. You do not have to say anything in answer to this charge unless you wish. Anything that you do say, I will type down here and later give it as evidence in court. Do you clearly understand that.  
A. Clearly understand what you have said yes.
- Q. 43. Is there anything you wish to say.  
A. No I'd prefer not to say anything at this stage on the advice of my solicitor.
- Q. 44. I will now give you the original pages of this record of our conversation and ask you to read each page. If you agree that it is a correct account of our conversation,

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5. Have you just read through this record of our conversation.  
Yes.
6. Is it a correct account of the questions I asked you and the answers you gave to those questions.  
Yes.
7. Was any threat or inducement held out to you to answer any of my questions.  
No.
8. Was any threat or inducement held out to at any time this afternoon by either Detective SAXBY or myself.  
No.
9. Is there anything that you wish to add to this record of our conversation.  
No.
10. Is there anything in the record of conversation that you would like to change.  
No.
11. Do you wish to sign this record of our conversation. I must tell you that you do not have to sign it unless you wish.  
I do.

COMPLETED AND REMOVED FROM TYPEWRITER 7.33pm.

*A. L. Cord*  
*M. S. Myers*

*D. W. Henderson*