

REPORT of M. G. WILSON (C.W.O)Salvation Army Boys' HomeDkt. 4/54

20/3/59. The Major rambles on and on when walking around the home. I mentioned the toilet facilities and he said it would be a huge job to have new ones but he definitely hoped one day it would be possible. I remarked on the renovation of the kitchen and the major was equally as pleased to have this being done. Whilst talking in the yard it was recess time and some of the children were playing in the yard. I noticed a dejected little boy and remarked on him, and Major said, "He has just arrived here and is known to Mrs. Butt. This lad has been very difficult at home - truants etc., but he will soon join in with the boys." I said, "Do you have many behaviour problems?" and he said, "Not on the whole. There are times when the older boys wander and take younger boys with them, and are out of bounds, and this is serious and we usually make them stay in some confined area such as on that cement paving - an area of several yards square - or they have to stay in the library, but of course, there are always boys about at the time." I said, "Do you lock the boys in that room?" - pointing to a so-called recreation room which is a dark dingy room, but very large, with little in it for recreation purposes, and he said, "The windows do not lock", and then looked at me and said, "If any parent is complaining I wish they would come to me personally. I said, "I do not know of any definite complaint." He went on to say any parent is welcome to come and visit boys at any time.

*M. Wilson.*MCH/SAB  
6/10/59CHILD WELFARE OFFICER

To Secretary. Vide your minute of 19/6/59.  
*AW/STB 6/10/59*

*Booth*

1646

Following the Minutes dated 18th. September, 1959, a report was received from a Child Welfare Officer following her visit to the Salvation Army Boys' Home, Mt. Barker, on 20th. August, 1959. The Inspector was not able to obtain any direct admission from the Superintendent that boys are locked in a dark, dingy room.

Noted.

8/10/59.

CCFB.

9/10/59.

*S. All*  
SECRETARY.*G*  
SECRETARY.

*Booth*  
*AW/STB*  
*17/10/59*  
*etc etc*

Retrieved from 4/1954 - GRG29/6: From secretary children's welfare & public relief department. Visitation by inspectors of salvation army boys home Mt Barker