

Industrial School for Boys, (11)

RIVERVIEW

17th December, 1936.

Lieut. Somerland Godfrey Macdonald states:-

I have been an officer of this Institution for sixteen months. My duties consist of being the assistant at the Institution in all duties. Included in my duties is supervision of the boys from tea time up to bed time and sleeping in a room adjoining the dormitory.

Although REDA could not be classed as a good boy, he has been respectful and obedient to me, he is a better boy than either REDACTE and REDACT.

I consider REDACTE a very bad boy. He is both deceitful and immoral. From what the boys have told me and from what has taken place at the home I am quite satisfied that he is immoral. We have found him to be a sham and a "put on".

REDACT is disobedient and disrespectful, and he is a difficult to manage. He is easily lead and has probably been lead astray by the others.

REDACTE, in my opinion, is a shade better boy than REDACTE, but he is a worse type than both REDACTE and REDA.

I have been authorised by the Superintendent to inflict corporal punishment on the boys. I usually report misconduct in the first instance to the Superintendent, Major Dawson, who instructs what punishment must be meted out to the offender. The only time I would take it upon my-self to inflict punishment is when the Superintendent is absent from the Institution. Usually I punish the boys with a strap, wither on the open hand or on the buttocks. Usually after each punishment I report to the Superintendent.

On one occasion I punished the boy REDACTE with a piece of motor pump tubing by doubling it and applying it to the boys buttocks. I inflicted this punishment without assistance from any other officer. The boys trousers were lowered before punishment was given. I gave him four strokes. To my knowledge, no boy has been held by one officer whilst another punished him. REDACT was punished with the tubing for using insulting language to one of the lady officers at the Institution. This is the only occasion on which any boy was punished in this manner.

I consider that the punishments administered have been deserved, as a matter of fact we are lenient with the boys.

I would say that REDACTED is a sexual maniac. A boy named REDA, who is not at State Child and another boy named REDACT, are also sexually inclined. I am satisfied with the reports received that these three boys have sexual tendencies. Boys of this class have to be watched strictly. In my opinion they must influence in some way the other inmates. It is difficult to segregate them. I have no knowledge of the statement that one of the sub-normal boys throwing a knife at REDACT.

I would say that two of the boys, REDACTE and REDACT, should be in an Institution where they would be under more rigid supervision, and that without their bad influence Riverview should be able to cope with REDACTE and REDA.

To my knowledge REDACTE body bore marks of his punishment, I did not see the other boys' bodies.

Sumner
witness

Signed by

S. Macdonald
Lieut.