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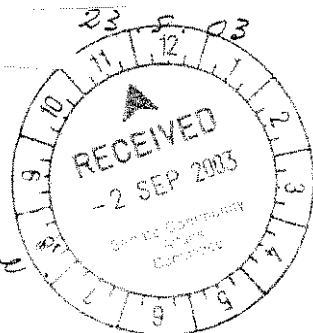
Phone & Fax

William G. Simmons.

To The Secretary,
Senate Community Affairs References Committee
Parliament House.

Canberra A.C.T. 2600

"The inquiry into children in Institutional Care"
Dear Sir,



This is the story & details surrounding William & Ronald
Simmons, who were placed into the custody of the N.S.W. Child
Welfare Dept, May 1934, by the mother Ruby Simmons.

(File Nos being 8.5.1934 No 1. H34289 New No. 2. on 1. 12. 1936. B4669)

No 1. The trauma of realising that you were being given away into the
baby's home at Bidarra (Glebe) (age at time approx 2 1/2 yrs & 4 yrs)

No 2. Life in the big boys home at "Royalston" Glebe. N.S.W.
discipline & regimentation amongst the bigger boys at the time
for two small children was frightening. On one occasion I had my
head held under the water in the bath tub. I was extremely frightened
on that occasion - Reason? I don't know.

No 1. Foster parent was at Greenwich N.S.W.? Treatment?

No 2. " " " " Dalwich Hall - Treatment. Hunt fingers

No 3. " " " " Mrs Bagg Hercules St Dalwich Hill. Very kind.

No 4. " " " " Mrs & Mrs C. J. Mulcahy 1936 - 1942?

Approx a ges of Ron & I 4 1/2 yrs & 6 yrs.

We were given the name of Mulcahy whilst attending Newemburn
Public School

Threshings were a daily occurrence for not acting promptly
(regarded as disobedient) answering back, looking directly at
them in the eye. Knocked to the ground by hand or a
piece of mutton (flap) (Common occurrence bleeding nose & ears)
by Mrs C. J. Mulcahy Senior) Sexually interfered with by
(Mrs C. M. Mulcahy his son) Battered around the head by Mrs
Mulcahy.

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H. G. SIMMONS CONTINUED

23. 8. 03

using her closed fist.

Worked in butcher shop (K. Bulcay's) cleaning down tiled walls, making sawdust floors. Spreading sawdust, making sausages. Delivering parcels of meat by push bike.

This was morning & ~~night~~ afternoon

Should you not get home from school by a set time to start your duties, you copped a flogging in the back yard. Saturdays & Sundays, - worked in K. Bulcay's citrus & poultry farm at Kenthurst - feeding poultry morning & night afternoon. Cleaning out poultry sheds, picking citrus from acres of trees, gathering eggs, washing & pecking some. Hammersing various sections of ground, (horse drawn) picking pears.

The food in the morning could be a enamel dish of sago (lumpy & cold) or a smashed egg boiled. The sago was presented to you for tea if you had not eaten it earlier.

It was a great relief to be sent to bed - you felt safe, (No more thrashings.)

The thrashings were severe, for small children to endure physically & mentally.

I feel that someone (in the vicinity of the butcher shop at Cowes) had reported the beatings & screams to the Child Welfare Dept. Sydney. & that we were handed back to the Dept.

No. 5. Mrs L. Judd 544 Illawarra Rd. Marrickville N.S.W. early 1942? Finished off approx 18 months primary school.

& Two @ years High School (Dulwich Central High)

Living conditions - food scanty, but we had our freedom after school to play cricket or football at adjacent parks. Plus I was selling newspapers throughout the week ends & we were allowed to go to Saturday afternoon pictures.

(3)

H. G. Sumner Cent

28. 8. 03

(Mrs L. Judd guardian)
The last two years at high school I had been selling newspapers early morning prior to school & the afternoon paper run

I used to hand over to Mrs Judd at the end of the week (pay day Saturday), all of my wages approx £1-10-00 to £2.10-00 — Mrs Judd would then give me back 3 shillings to go to the Sat Night pictures (one shilling for your ticket — so I had money left over.

I started as a trainee apprentice painter in September 1944 for £1-7-00 per week plus 3 shilling for fares. (Emmore Painting Coy.)

I needed a push bike for work, so I requested from Mrs Judd, my money she had been saving for me. She responded that she had spent my money on clothing for me over the period of time

Not true I responded so what happened Next — there was a golf club nearby with a wooden head on it — She (Mrs Judd) pick it up & swung it at my head & smashed on my ear split it — I promptly reported the matter to the Kenilworth Police station, the officer took down the details — later on there was a Male inspector from the Wellfare Dept investigated the occurrence.

Nothing further was heard, or carried out on my behalf. I remember that there was £34-00 of my money saved, but not for my head.

One other incident that stands out in my mind was being washed & dressed ^{NICELY} prior to a lady inspector from the Dept, coming out to inspect us, at the Kulcaly residence & being told that you had to say how nice it was being there, if you were really scared to say otherwise.

(4)

28. 8. 03 H. C. Timmer's Court.

So much for the institutional side of our lives.
"Growing up & out of Child Welfare Care."

Next, comes that side of your life, "Who am I?"

"What were the circumstances surrounding these two small boys, to be given away", "Who to turn to for adult guidelines & advice"

Assistance in the above mentioned, to my way of thinking would most certainly help to create a mature reasoning of mind, to make responsible decisions.

So in 1992 I turned to the Youth Comm' affairs Dept. requesting help relating to my Child Welfare files (Penarth Branch N.S.W.) (Mr Paul Hulbert M.A.)

Mr Paul Hulbert informed me that my files had been located, at the Kingswood government Archives Dept, & for me to present myself to them at the above dept & I would be allowed to see them & read through same, but were not allowed to take away.

Upon presenting myself to the office of the above Dept & requesting access to my files, I was told to be seated in the waiting room.

I waited for just under a hour, when a young male (approx 30 yrs) came from within the building & told me that he could not locate my files & in any case I was asked "Why do you want to see your files" I answered him respectfully, that I wished to know our circumstances (Donald & Helen), surrounding us & had been told by the manager (Mr Paul Hulbert) of Penarth Youth & Community Affairs that I was entitled to see my files.

He (the chap interviewing me (Karin he said his name was)) then horrified me by telling me. "That it was up to the officer of this dept as to whether or not for such files to be allowed access to, & also, my files were not to be accessed for fifty years !!!"

I was choked with emotion.

CHOKED

5. H.G. SIMMONS (Orit).

I made further representation to my local member for parliament, (Mr Tony Aqualina for Penrith & For Kings Area)

Mr Tony Aqualina had voiced his concerns, regarding my case in open speech time in parliament & I was informed that the Minister handling such matters at that time would make the necessary enquiries & forward the answers back to his office.

Some time went by, but I was duly informed that the Attorney General's Dept had responded, stating that access to my files were denied!!!
Why???

I am not a criminal, I have raised 8 children.
4 girls & 4 boys & 18 grandchildren.

I have always tried my level best, to be thoughtful & help all, whenever & wherever possible, as well as set an honest example of kindness & honesty.

Perhaps it may be the younger years of our lives, being brought up on bread & milk, golden sump-treacle & on bread that made young Ron & I become aware of those in need. & to extend your heart felt aids to those less fortunate.

I have not gone into all complete details concerning our upbringing, but I feel sure that there are a lot of other unfortunate beings around who have experienced worse circumstances.

I do hope that ^{the} Senate enquiry into such circumstances surrounding the care of small children, shall be able to access all information, regarding this situation, which has been going on for many years, & hopefully arrive at a far better humanitarian level of management. Most sincerely
Hilton G. Simmons