

## RE - BALLARAT ORPHANAGE

7-10-48 — 2-4-57

My ④ Sisters, ② brothers, and myself were taken from our parents, and in different orphanages. We had parents, we were not orphans.

We were DEPRIVED of knowing and growing up with our parents. We were DEPRIVED of growing up as a family.

Our parents were DEPRIVED of raising us as should have been their right. We were a family, a happy family and they ripped us apart.

My eldest brother Robert was sent to TALLY-HO boys home, JOHN was sent to Bayswater boys home. I was ⑥ years old and I didn't see them again for ten years.

My youngest sister Shirley was only ① year old and she was put in a babies home in Ballarat, she came to the same home as my other sisters and myself when she was ③.

They wouldn't let her go home to mum & Dad they said she had a deformity and needed medical attention. They lied she never had a deformity of any kind.

Us other ④ girls were in the same home, but not as a family as we were in different age groups. So we were also DEPRIVED of growing up as sisters.

I was the BALLARAT inter schools combined sports day champion when I was in grade ⑥. The next year I was Junior

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Champion at BAKHARAT EAST HIGH SCHOOL. The following year I was Senior champion. Running was my life and I didn't go any further after leaving school as I didn't know how to go about it. There was a girl at the home, I don't remember her first name, her surname was Hodges, she was younger than me but not as fast. Someone bought her a pair of spikes and got her into an Athletic club. Nobody ever did that for me, and she was the only person in my whole life that I was jealous of. My life might have been different if I had of had that chance.

I ran away not long after that, intending to go home. I was caught and sent to WINTATON GIRLS Home for wayward girls, from there I was sent to a job as a live-in domestic. I was up early every morning to get the kids breakfast, expected to work all day and the day didn't end until the dishes were done after the evening meal. Even on our ① day off a week I had to get the kids breakfast and make the beds. For working all day every day ⑥ days a week I was paid £2-10-0. Of course after a few months I ran away again, and was sent straight back to Wintaton. This time I escaped from there. I say escaped because at night we were locked in little cells, and the home had a barbed wire fence all around, we were treated like criminals, it was like being in jail. I was ⑮ when I escaped, and I lived on the beach walking in any direction from Frankston to Rye.

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I survived by being up early in the mornings and stealing either milk or milk money from the beach houses. I stole clothes from clothes lines belonging to campers along the beach. I SLEPT in boat sheds that were not locked, or underneath upturned boats on the beach, but had to be up early so as not to get caught. Once I walked to Portsea. I came to a compound with cabins inside and a Barbed wire fence all around, there was no-one around. There was a big sign that said Quarantine, but of course I didn't know what that meant then. Barbed wire had never kept me in, and this one didn't keep me out.

I only stayed long enough to look around. There were clothes and toys discarded as if everyone had left in a hurry. It was too scary even for me, it was just like a government place, a real feeling of Doom and Gloom. I left quicker than I had entered.

Who? was to blame for putting my life at risk

Certainly not my parents, they didn't have care of me.

Was it myself, for being rebellious? If I was responsible at that age, why? Then wasn't I released.

and sent home to my parents. Was it the Court?

What court today would believe the word of a

Louisey Cop? Were we neglected? Ward of the State, what does that mean? That the whole

State was our guardian, if so, How many wards

of the state, did our so called guardian give a good

start ~~to~~ <sup>IN</sup> Life to? — NONE

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What guardian? had me classed as fit for domestic duties ② months before I absconded what difference is there from living in a shack, or living in a Caravan? as a lot of families live in caravans to-day. ANSWER: NONE

What difference is there from a kidnapper kidnapping a kid and demanding payment, or the Government stealing kids and demanding parents pay maintenance? ANSWER NONE

I eventually went home when I was ①⑥ IT was the biggest disappointment of my life because my DAD was not there. He had already been missing for quite awhile, and to this day was never seen again by any of his family. What happened to him? did he have an accident in the bush somewhere and die? Did he shoot through because the government was demanding maintenance?

I went back to MELB when I was ①⑦ I married when I was ②② that turned out to be a disaster as he turned into a drunk after a few years. I had ⑥ kids in ①① years and stayed with the drunk for ①⑧ years before a divorce because I grew up without a dad I thought any dad was better than none. I was so wrong. AS AT to-day I have ⑥ kids, ①④ grandkids ① died of cot death, and I have ① Great Grandson on the way

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I grew up a very shy kid, would blush at the drop of a hat, I had no confidence what so ever and always had a sense of loss, I was always on the move, always looking for something, I don't know what. I have lived in a lot of places Vic, NSW, QLD & SA. I will probably move again before long, as I have been here in Whyalla for a few years now, and it's almost time to move on. Who knows what the future holds, I don't

Mavis Crawford

LEONIE

I HOPE THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT

Mavis  
PS. good Luck .