



July 2003

To whom, it may concern.

We had to do the Housework, in the Cottage, Parkbury. We had to Polish the wooden floors in the Dormitory and the Balcony until we could see our faces, every day we had to scrub floors and Sillies with cold water, always on our hands and faces. We also set the Tables in the Hall, for Tea. We did the washing up, clean the Hall and clean it. We Picked the Vegetables after school. We had very strict House mothers, Miss Middleton was very cruel. She would slap the lights across the face or toes for nothing, and loved telling us if it wasn't for them, we would be in the gutter, where we belong. We had no shoes for every day wear, we would get chil-Blains on our toes and fingers, as I got older, about 12 the other girls my age had to sleep in the Balcony with bamboo Blinds, I use to get very cold, and I got Rheumatic Fever, I told Miss Middleton and Miss Steele the Home nurse, I was getting Pain in my ankles, knees and wrists, they wouldn't believe me and said I was stupid, it was just growing Pains, when I couldn't walk and my temperature was 105, they sent me to Royal Perth Hospital, in an ambulance. I had acute Rheumatic Fever and was in Hospital for 6 1/2 months. My mitral Valve and aortic Valve are damaged, and I have to take medicines, for the rest of my life. I detect for Heart, aorta and meninges for Blood Pressure and infection to thin my blood. I have had to minor strokes I am House Bound, I only go to the Dr for a Blood Test once a month. My husband Gyome does the shopping, because I have Panic attacks. The management from Parkerville never gave me or my mother an Apology. never came to see me or write to see how I was. I never did 6" gymnastics at school, and when I left

had a education, Once up at Parkville in grade 5. I laughed in
bliss, because the girl I sat next to was going to change
one of my mistakes in spelling, I said no and pulled my
paper off her and it ripped, and we laughed, but staff caught me
and I got 6 cuts with the cane on my hand.

The meals up there were not very good, but you had to eat
them or starve. We never got treated very well, and there
was lots of mental and physical abuse, Barry & Doug got worse
than me and we didn't get duty of care, our mother paid 10/6
each a week for us, our Board. We were not wards of the state.
When major Hooper was there, we had to go to church alot
for hours some kids fainted or were sick, so they stopped
us for staying so long.

They use to take us to the zoo, once a year to the Royal
show also. sometimes to the Pictures in Midland.

When Mr Dallas took over the management it wasn't any
better up there. He could be very cruel to the Boys.

One night he came to our bodega, and he ran his hands
over my chest and said you have beautiful Breasts. I have
never told anyone this before not even mum, because he was
the manager, who could I tell. He had a wife and daughter
Jennifer up there. There was a sister Hicks up there but she
left the home before I got sick, (she wasn't a nun) I was her
Baby sister for Janet & John. When I left Hospital, and mum
couldn't afford to send me to school, sister Hicks offered me a
home, to look after Janet & John while she worked for the
silver chain. she was very kind to me and very nice, she
even got me a pair of second hand shoes and 3 Dresses, But
I had to leave, because Mr Hicks would come into the
Bathroom, and watch me have a shower, he would just stand
there staring at me with a smirky grin on his face. I said
I would tell sister Hicks, and he would laugh and say, who
would believe me, a kid from an Orphanage, so I told sister
Hicks I wanted to leave, she got very angry with me, and
said I was a very ungrateful. she made me leave the 1st of
shoes and 3 Dresses behind. I had to leave because I was 14

later, I could have got the Police to him, He use to work at the
Stenwick Railway station, He just Bluffed me saying no one
would believe me.

I have no happy memories from my childhood and they
ruined my health, and emotional well being, I have always
been ashamed and felt unequal to other People, we grew up
feeling unwanted and ~~unloved~~ unloved, and have got no
self esteem. I would rather be a loner; so I didn't have to
answer questions about my child hood.

We went to Parkerville because our Father abandoned us and
wouldn't help mum,

mum had to go to work and had no one to help us.
There was no government Payments in those Days, like there
is now.

Its not fair that the People in these Places treat
children, Its terrible that these People got away with what
they did to children, who come from Broken marriages or
were Orphans. Its a disgrace. I wish they were all put in
jail. for the way we were all treated.

I hope and pray it comes out in the media
instead of being swept under the carpet.

I wish you could let out Malcolm Mcbuster
(Queens council) ~~how~~ know how the children up at
Parkerville were treated in those Days.
I'm not sure, But have been told he is on the
Board at Parkerville Childrens Home.

yours sincerely
Phelma Book (nee murray)

P.S

Sorry for the
mistakes