

PRIVATE

HIA REF: 130

Witness Name HIA 130

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 130

HIA 130 will say as follows:-

Personal details

1. I was born on [REDACTED]. My mother's maiden name was [REDACTED] and her married name was [REDACTED] is my stepfather.
2. I know that the circumstances of my coming into the world are as a result of a rape. I know the surname of my biological father but I have never contacted him and do not necessarily ever want to contact him.
3. I was placed in the care of the Sisters of Nazareth in [REDACTED] at Termonbacca. Some of the residents had come from [REDACTED] in Donegal but I don't know whether I was placed there prior to being placed in Termonbacca.

St Joseph's Children's Home, Termonbacca [REDACTED]

4. I recall the following nuns were present during my time in Termonbacca – Sister SR 3 was in charge of the nursery, SR 1 was in charge of the senior dormitory and SR 2 was in charge of the junior dormitory. SR 8 was in charge of the kitchen and there was also SR 12

PRIVATE

an SR 5 working in the home at this time. The lay workers were SND 59 who worked in the nursery and the kitchen SND 39 who worked in the nursery SND 194 SND 214 SND 145 an who all worked with the children and had cleaning duties SND 12 SND 13 an SND 1 worked on the farm SND 1 was an ex-resident himself HIA 144 also a former resident, an SND 15 was employed as a

5. My memory stretches back even to the nursery. I would say I was between the ages of three and five and I recall waking up in the morning and any of the children who had wet themselves were beaten on the feet with a stick of some kind. It may have been a ruler or a cane. The person who did this was not a nun but one of the lay workers. I believe her name was either SND 8 or SND 8. She was a small woman with red hair, stocky build and she wore glasses. She would roar and shout at the children as she beat them. I have a memory of crying myself as she stood over me. Anyone who wet their bed was abused even as an infant.
6. SR 3 would chastise the children with something that looked like a spatula and she would whack them on the backside with this thing. I recall her doing this in the shower room. This all happened in the nursery.
7. I recall even the nursery children were taken to church. I remember when I was between three and five I tore up a prayer book belonging to SR 12 in church. I thought I was sharing it with another child SR 12 didn't beat me but she talked to me in front of the others. She didn't know who did it. She said the prayer book was something that had been given to her by her parents upon entering the convent so I was lucky I didn't get beaten. I remember that the other children stood around and pointed the finger of blame at me.
8. When I was about five I was taken to the junior dormitory SR 2 was in charge of the junior dormitory SR 1 was in charge of the

PRIVATE

senior dormitory. There were about eighty or ninety boys in both dormitories and an additional fifteen or twenty children in the nursery. I had a fear of being returned to the nursery so I was traumatised even at that young age. The junior dormitory was connected with a main living room where we would watch TV. The senior dormitory and the junior dormitory led off from opposite ends of the TV room giving all the boys easy access to this recreational room. There were about twenty boys in the junior dormitory and the remainder of boys were in the senior dormitory. Also, many former residents would return to the home to visit and they would stay for hours. The older boys used to come in and scold or even physically abuse the younger residents. There were not many nuns to look after so many boys and they went off to prayers daily so the older boys were often left in charge. In my view there was inadequate supervision of so many residents.

9. When I was in the junior dormitory an older boy [SND 221] took me down to a hut on the side of the football field and he sexually abused me. I had no idea what was happening. I was about six or seven at the time and he was around fourteen or fifteen, perhaps even older. The abuse did not involve penetration or anything like that but he had me touching his penis and fondling him. He was aroused and ejaculated. This was a one off incident only with [SND 221]

[SND 221]

10. In my view our treatment by the Sisters was a form of mental cruelty. They degraded us and verbally and physically abused us. For example they called you "devil" or "crack pot" or "reprobate". Sometimes they called us 'amadán' which means a male fool in Irish [SR 1] said this a lot. They threatened the children by saying they would admit them to Muckamore Abbey, a mental institution. When I was about six or seven and I thought I had some sort of an allergy where I couldn't eat custard [SR 2] force fed me. I could feel the force of it going through my teeth and she shoved it down my throat. I threw up over her and she slapped me. I was seeing stars after she had finished and I thought I was going to die.

PRIVATE

11. At a certain time of day, usually about 7pm, the nuns would go over to the church to say their prayers and they could be gone maybe an hour or two and we were left in the charge of one of the older boys. They would go wild with the power the nuns had given to them. They would beat you up or slap you around. I was fortunate because my mother used to come up and visit me from the time I was in the nursery. There was discussion at one stage when I was about seven of me being taken out of the home to go to [REDACTED] with my mother. The attitude of the Sisters, particularly [REDACTED] SR 2 [REDACTED] changed. She was more friendly and she was trying to win me over but I was terrified of her. I had probably said something to my mother about what was happening but they had told my mother that I was mad. I even remember on one occasion when she had visited me and two nuns were in the corridor and they were talking about me in front of her. Whatever happened I was not in fact taken out of the home to go to America and there was a priest involved [REDACTED] SND 106 [REDACTED] – Parish Priest in the [REDACTED] and his advice to my mum was "leave him there, the Sisters will take care of him, you get on with your own life". I think Father [REDACTED] SND 106 [REDACTED] is still alive and in [REDACTED]. They didn't do that out of care for me. It is my view that they did that for whatever financial benefit they were getting from the state. I therefore had the chance at one point of getting out of there but my mother was only in her early twenties at the time and it wasn't to be so I got stuck there for years. My mother married and went to live in [REDACTED]. She left when I was about seven or eight years old and I did not see her again until I was sixteen. She never visited me at any stage during this time.
12. My mother told me in later years that she was told I was mad and although she wanted to take me with her the pressure from the religious order and the church prevailed and I was left in their charge until I was sixteen. I had an aunt and a grandmother who visited me on occasion for about a year after my mother left the country but my aunt married and had children and these visits stopped after about a year. My mother married an [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] and I have a brother and sister who live in [REDACTED]. I have met them and that has helped me a lot. I don't know what I would be like if I hadn't met my family. All this had an impact on me as I sometimes felt like a square peg in a round hole,

PRIVATE

as if I never quite fitted in. It really hurt me years later when I realised that I could have been out of their clutches as a young boy. The thought of it sent me half crazy.

13. There was another incident with [REDACTED] SR 2 when I was about ten or eleven. I always got bored during the rosary at mass so on this occasion I went to the toilet and she followed me, called me out and beat the hell out of me across the face. Her violence was increasing.
14. We used to go on holidays to Carrowmena in Donegal. When I was about maybe ten and we went there and I didn't quite conform when [REDACTED] SR 2 told me to do something. She chastised me then she got me close and said "wait til I get you back" and when we returned to Derry she gave me a beating with the flex of an electric kettle. This became a pattern and she continued to beat me until I was about fourteen. It usually happened once or twice a week. I believe it affected my ability to learn, I was failing in school and the treatment I was receiving was never taken into consideration.
15. I was sick once and [REDACTED] SR 2 came to feed me which I thought was a bit odd. When I had finished eating the food she took the tray away and then came back and beat me. I was thirteen at the time and I think she thought I was only pretending to be ill. She also beat another resident [REDACTED] HIA 136 so hard on one occasion that he had to be kept off school. She beat me repeatedly and left me with welts on my legs, back and arms and she would also hit me with her open palm across my face.
16. The abuse by [REDACTED] SR 2 went on for years. She was crafty in the sense that she didn't do this in front of everybody. She would call you down when the lay staff were gone. She did beat you on occasion in front of other staff but not as severely as when you were alone. When you were alone with her it was like a frenzy and she would lose her temper. I was left with welts on my front, back, legs and arms. She would also hit you on the head. The flex was her implement of choice so she definitely wanted to inflict pain, it was sadistic. She hit me with it when I was about fourteen and this time I put up a fight and I blocked it with my

PRIVATE

hand, grabbed onto the lead and there was a struggle and it was like a knock down fight. I wasn't punching her but I was restraining her. I knew not to hit her but I was just stopping her from hitting me as I wasn't taking the beatings any more. She punched me in the face but I was able to take hold of her two arms and I restrained and overpowered her. I shoved her away from me and she came at me then with a small dustpan broom. She went to whack me on the head but I was able to restrain her again and the next thing she came at me with a pair of scissors in a stabbing motion and I had to stop her again. I think I exhausted her and she just ran out of energy trying to fight me but that was the end of the beatings. After this encounter her attitude towards me changed and she became more amenable.

17. My first primary school was Nazareth House, Bishop Street and the teachers there were alright but the fact was that I wasn't being nurtured properly and I wasn't getting the help at home that I needed. I remember being full of beans and going to school wanting to learn and any desire I had just got destroyed. I even said to the nuns when I got back that I needed help with my homework but I was fobbed off. When a nun's voice was raised you knew to back off otherwise you were in for it. When you are subjected to that kind of neglect you get into a sad state so I got very depressed. I felt as if there was no real consideration for any type of preparation for later life, for me anyway. Some guys seemed to sail through that place but they were few and far between. Of course it was easier for some as the nuns had their favourites. I have no idea why certain boys were selected as their favourites. There was no obvious pattern but I always felt as if they told us what to do all the time rather than relating to us as individuals and there was never much proper social intercourse between the nuns and the children in the home.
18. I was hyper as a child so I wasn't able to absorb the information well and there was nothing being done to help me with that condition. From the age of ten or eleven we were sent out to work on the nun's farm from late September to November, maybe a six or seven week period around harvest time. You were up every morning and out picking potatoes. We did that until we were sixteen. I

PRIVATE

wasn't as fast as some of the other boys and I remember being beaten by one of the farmers (SND 12) and I was sent down to the home and I refused to go back up. I think I was about thirteen or fourteen at the time. I don't think Mr (SND 12) was trying to hurt me, he was under pressure to get the work done on the farm and I was much slower than the others at the task in hand. Sister (SR 2) tried to prevail on me to return but I wouldn't and she punished me. I had had enough at that stage.

19. When I was eight or nine they used to give us pocket money every week and two or three of us together would be allowed to go down town shopping. It was more relaxed then but when the troubles started that put an end to our trips to town and we were confined to Termonbacca. We were never shown any affection by the nuns. They could be nice at certain times but I don't ever remember getting a cuddle or anything like that so I think it affected our ability to socialise later in life. I hated the hypocrisy of the nuns saying that being a nun and looking after children was a vocation for them, some sort of calling and yet they abused us. If they couldn't deal with the job they should have asked the Mother Superior to be moved elsewhere. I think they were destroying lives.
20. When I was fourteen or fifteen I was used by another member of civilian staff, (SND 194) to punish a younger child. She worked with the children but she was very manipulative and often used the older boys to do her dirty work. I am not proud of the fact that I did this but the staff member asked me to make him do certain things. I asked if I had permission to hit him and she authorised me to hit him and then she stood there and watched. I cannot recall the boy's name but I remember he was only about seven and I did hit him but something within me pulled me back and I said I was not going to hit him anymore. I walked away and the young boy was left hunkered down in the corner. We were brutalised and they were making monsters out of us. The only thing they taught us was violence and yet there was so much hypocrisy with religion and saying mass and preaching the bible. You buy into it, I did anyway.

PRIVATE

21. I still like **SR 2** even though she frequently beat me. After I stood up for myself her attitude changed and I was getting better treatment. She probably did not want me to report her behaviour towards me to the Mother Superior. I don't know why I still wanted to maintain a relationship with her but I suppose she was still a mother figure of sorts within the home.
22. I went to St Peter's secondary school, a Christian Brothers school and I was beaten there as well by the lay teachers. I remember one day an English teacher **SND 240** slapped me twenty four times. I was acting up in school because of the treatment I was getting, I was a bit of a thug. My attitude was that I was going to do the beating rather than being beaten myself so I got a reputation where nobody would mess with me. I think even in primary school we were treated differently to the day boys although it might not have seemed as overt as in the secondary school. We didn't get the attention we needed. There must have been a problem if I could go through school and learn nothing.
23. When we were in Termonbacca there was a programme started by a group of student teachers and a number of them came up and gave us a little tuition. I am not sure where they came from but I think they were doing this as part of their teaching practice. Unfortunately it only lasted three or four weeks as they were not encouraged by the Sisters. It would have been brilliant to have been taught by them for a longer period. I only recall the name of the art teacher involved in this scheme **HH 27**
24. Another guy, whose name I cannot recall, taught us guitar for a few weeks but this did not last either. I asked him why he was leaving and he said he had to teach others who were paying him. There was a great music teacher, **HH 27** **HH 27** who gave us lessons and taught the choir. I think he was the music teacher at **HH 27**. He taught during the 1960's but that finished in/around 1969 or 1970 as they said they no longer had adequate facilities to train the boys. I was picked for the choir and I was delighted but it didn't last long unfortunately.

PRIVATE

25. The nuns gave me and some of the other residents medicine in liquid form after school. It was usually [SR 1] and [SR 2] who administered this drug and after receiving it I felt drowsy and I had to sit down, go to sleep or go to bed. I think because I was hyper they were giving me drugs to sedate me. The effects would have lasted until the next day and it affected your concentration. I cannot recall how long I took this medication but it would have been from about the age of seven until I was nine or ten. I have no recall of any doctor being involved. I think the other residents who got this medication were [HIA 94] [HIA 11] and [SND 193]. They drugged those of us who were considered to be over active. I think I was about seven at the time as I was still in the old building and it did not get knocked down until 1969 or 1970. The new building took a few years to erect. It was supposed to be redesigned to be a more family friendly set up. It did give more privacy but one drawback was that there were many more rooms so it offered more opportunities for abuse to happen. It definitely allowed [SR 2] [SR 2] more latitude to continue with her abuse.
26. There were occasions when we were told to line up and we were made to show our underwear and [SR 2] would check our underwear for stains. If there was a soil stain it would have been placed to your nose and put over your head. This happened in front of the other residents and you were humiliated. She would be shouting at you at the time. This seemed to be one of [SR 2] little things that she liked to do to humiliate you.
27. There were a lot of guys who had problems wetting the bed. There were boys as old as thirteen who were still wetting their beds. They would have a mackintosh placed on their bed to protect the mattress. The first thing you would hear in the morning would be the "wet the beds" getting up and they would be trotted down to the wash area and bathed in Jeyes Fluid.
28. [SND 214] was one of the lay staff and I thought she was a very caring person. She usually worked in the kitchenette serving tea and buns but she talked with me a lot and she started guiding me and pointing out things that I was

PRIVATE

doing that were not acceptable. She began to alter my behaviour and I think she became a calming or a civilising influence on me. Other lay members of staff, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] SND 145 were also decent people and they showed more love than the nuns. They had more compassion, the nuns were very aloof and remote for the most part.

29. With regard to the presence of social workers in the home I recall hearing the name Mrs Black but I don't ever recall her talking with me and in later years there was another social worker called [REDACTED] SND 332 who was a more frequent visitor. You were so controlled that you never talked about the abuse that was going on in the home. The nuns even sheltered some of the older boys who were abusing the younger ones because they had maybe told them to keep this guy in line or something.

30. There was an incident when a resident [REDACTED] SND 193, ran away from Termonbacca and two of the older boys were sent out to get him and they brought him back like a prisoner, one on either side of him. He was brought into the shower room and [REDACTED] SR 2 told him to get down on his knees and after she had grilled him on why he had run away she told him to put his hands together and close his eyes and she started kicking him with her boot. I also saw [REDACTED] SR 5 on another occasion hit [REDACTED] SND 154 in the face with her fist in the living room area. She had this thing about him, he was like a whipping boy [REDACTED] SR 5 never hit me but I was not in her group. I know she hit many of the other boys regularly. She left the home before I did and she was replaced by [REDACTED] SR 14 and [REDACTED] SR 6 then came to the home. [REDACTED] SR 5 is now deceased.

Life after care

31. When I was about sixteen and after I had left Termonbacca I knew I was deficient as far as education was concerned. I could barely read so I organised lessons with a remedial teacher [REDACTED], for literacy. She made great

PRIVATE

progress with me in a short space of time and started me on the road to adult literacy.

32. I was fortunate when I left the home because the people that I went to in the community were decent people and they really cared for me. This was arranged by one of the lay staff [SND 214] and not by the nuns. The people I went to were related to [SND 214] and I stayed there for a few years. Initially I went out for a couple of weekends to see how I liked it and it went well so the transition was smooth. I have no doubt the nuns were delighted to get rid of me. Once the money stopped coming in they got rid of you. There was no aftercare programme and nothing to help you adjust or integrate into the community. We were on our own and it was very lonely. Despite all its flaws this had been our home for sixteen years and we had an attachment to it.
33. At school I took part in cross country running and athletics but in the home I just sat and watched TV. I wasn't properly stimulated until later in life. I was resigned to the fact that I was not going to get any help in the home. They must have known how important education was especially for orphans who had no one to fall back on and if they had an education that would at least be something to assist them in life. I would say 95% of the boys ended up leaving without qualifications. I will never understand the methods that they employed to bring up children. It was severe and it messed me up.
34. My first job in the outside world was with Ulster Bus. I started working in the Parcel Office and I did that until I was eighteen. I then became a janitor and cleaned the bus depot, the toilets and the yard where the buses would have pulled in. I did that for another year and then I was unemployed for about a year or two so I decided to join the Irish army. I trained as a mechanic.
35. I contacted my mother at this stage and she invited me out to [REDACTED] You needed five years to train as a mechanic in the army and I had only completed three but I decided I wanted to go to [REDACTED] I went over in 1985 and stayed with my mother's family and worked in a garage over there for a while. It was

PRIVATE

good to integrate with them and to be with my brother and sister. They helped me to socialise and be more affectionate. I stayed with them for about three years.

36. I met a girl from [REDACTED] and moved there in/around 1988 and lived with her for a couple of years. I moved back to live with my mother for about a year and worked as a lorry driver. I then met a girl from [REDACTED] so I moved to [REDACTED] in/around 1991 and stayed there until 1999. I returned to Ireland in 1999 as I had health problems and there is no National Health Service in [REDACTED]. Our relationship did not endure as it was an abusive relationship and I was not the most stable person to have as a partner. I drank and smoked marijuana. I was messed up. I got a job immediately when I got back working with [REDACTED] delivering newspapers. I worked there for five years and then worked for three years as a [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I have been out of work since September 2011 and am currently seeking employment.

37. I met up again with [REDACTED] SR 2 about six or seven years ago when she was still working at Nazareth House. She was ill at the time and could only get around with the aid of a walking stick. She told me that she had received a phonecall from [REDACTED] HIA 11 and he was angry with her and asked her if she remembered "the flex". She told me that she responded by saying "do you remember the flex?". I met her because I wanted to see her, I was curious to see how she had changed and how she was doing and to let her know that despite my upbringing I was doing fine. I could not bring myself to mention the abuse to her during our conversation.

38. [REDACTED] SR 2 is now a resident in the Nazareth Care Village on the Ravenhill Road in Belfast. I brought [REDACTED] HIA 150 to see her about three years ago. [REDACTED] HIA 150 is still quite religious and the visit was more to assist him than for my own reasons as I had closed that chapter in my life after my last visit to see her.

39. I live alone now in a small bungalow, it is a housing executive property. I have kept in contact with some of my cousins and aunts and uncles over the years but

PRIVATE

my mother passed away in 1997. I keep in touch with my sister but have not had contact with my brother in years.

40. I meet up now and then with some of the ex homeboys.

41. I have a civil claim ongoing and my solicitor is Ciaran McAteer.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

HIA 130

Dated

30/10/13

164

HIA 130

Recommended by Mother De Sales

Nazareth House Tahan through

SND 106

C.C.

Received

Mother's Address:

One Payment of \$10

has been paid for his
maintenance since he was admitted in June
The Child's Mother has promised to pay
\$5 weekly but failed to do so

77					
Christian Name	Where Born	Date of Birth	Where Baptised	Parents' Names	Occupation
HIA 130	Gulielm Maternity Hospital Belfast		St. Brigid's Catholic Church Derryvolgie AVE Belfast		Domestic

					78
Recommended by	Received	Died	Left	Observations	No.
SND 106					798

He went to the [redacted] family to
and will be out until the end
August. HIA 130 enjoys going out
He also settles in well when he
is home.

He was sent home from school today,
suffering from a sore throat. The
doctor prescribed a bottle for him, after
a day he was back on his feet.

He took a packed lunch this morning -
and went to Bundoran for the
with the School he arrived home
3.30 p.m. after an enjoyable day.

Today HIA 130 went to Buncrana with his
for horse country racing.

He went to the Dentist.

Dec 12th to 17th HIA 130 was off school for a week with the
Mumps - he saw the Doctor who prescribed
a bottle for him. He is now well and
back at school again.

18th HIA 130 received a Christmas card and £1
from the [redacted] family who take him
out for the Summer holidays - Incidentally
[redacted] is an X Termonbacca Boy.
He is very happily married and has got
a lovely family.

25th to 6th Jan. 1974 HIA 130 received many gifts for Christmas
among them was an old craft which he
built himself and attached an engine
to it which he took from another boy.

HIA 130 is very useful with his hands.
He hopes to be an Electrician one day.

Jan 7th Back to school today.

by HIA 130 attended the Dentist,
three fillings

HIA 130 visited the Dentist.

HIA 130 went out with Mrs. [REDACTED]
the summer holidays

he returned home for school in the
ing.

he (says) tries to do his best at times
he is inclined to be a bit wild
has to be checked occasionally.
chool his teacher has complained

is behaviour. He is inclined to
shaky but takes correction in good

received a Christmas card and 50p

from the [REDACTED] family

1973

Feb

HIA 130 has joined the 'cross-country' racing
in school. Every Tuesday evening he does
for a practice, he seems very interested
in it.

April

4th

HIA 130 went on a school trip to-day to
Leasleberg.

30th

HIA 130 went to the Dentist

May

11th

HIA 130 celebrated his 13th birthday. He
gave him a track suit with which he was
delighted, as he can wear it for games
at school.

June

23rd

To-day we had our usual annual sports day
HIA 130 took part and won a middle for
running

Thelool, Derry.

This is **HIA 130**

taken at school

April 1971.

emated Sept. B.C. g. Aug 60

unaid Oct. Nov. and Dec.

in March, April and July

at the Almagelvin Hospital re sprained

ided Almagelvin Hos re fractured finger
hand.

He is attending Rosemount Boyp school

He is in an E.S.N. class. Behaviour is good at
school and at home.

11/5/71

HIA 130 had his eleventh
birthday to-day. He received
many little gifts from the
sisters and his pals.

He also got a gift from
the [redacted] family who takes
him for the holidays.

1/2/71

HIA 130
[redacted] went off to-day for two
months with the [redacted] family.

1/9/71

[redacted] brought **HIA 130** home this
afternoon. All the family seem to be
very fond of **HIA 130** who seemed to
have enjoyed his holiday.

H.S.No. U.L.S.S: 478

*Lease Heaton***HIA 130***Born Jubilee 1600. Belfast.
Baptised**Rec. by **SND 106** *Jeggan, Derry.*
to Tahan.**Admitted 1.5.62.**Mother**A payment of £10 has been made to
Rev. Mother De Sales for the child's main-
tenance since he was admitted.**Child's Mother has promised to pay 10/-
weekly but has failed to do so.**First Confession 19 May 1967**First Holy Communion 28 May 1967**Confirmation 25 May 1967 St. Eugene's*

HIA 68

58. I do not recall HIA 68 having us to go to the Irish Army. I don't recall him too well as he was one of the older boys. I cannot comment on any of the allegations he has made as I only have very vague recollection of him as he was not in the children's group where I was working.

HIA 130

59. I recall HIA 130 as a pleasant and harmless child. I recall that after he left Nazareth House he went to [redacted] to try to find his mother and he did in fact find her and I was delighted. He kept in touch with me after he had left Termonbacca. He would have kept in touch after he had left us.
60. I have absolutely no recollection of any incident involving custard or that HIA 130 was in fact allergic to custard or any other food. The food we had was limited in choice and the children would have been encouraged at all times to eat what was put in front of them. We would not have wanted the children to be hungry and the food was as nutritious and balanced as we could provide. I have never forced fed a child and I do not recall any incident when a child was sick on me either in the dining room or anywhere else. I do not understand where this allegation comes from.
61. When I look back I have to agree with HIA 130 We did not have the staff that we needed to look after so many children. It would have been better to have a significantly larger number of staff although we simply could not have afforded them. I think that the lack of staff was unfair to the Sisters who had to look after the boys. This often meant long hours where the Sisters had to get up early to sort the boys out with their breakfast and so on in the morning, getting them off to school and then ensuring that the house itself was kept clean and tidy, clothes were laundered and repaired.
62. We would often be working into the night. I recall on occasions waking up in bed with sewing or darning in front of me, where I had simply fallen asleep in my bed whilst trying to do some of the repairs. I also think that it was unfair on the children who could not be shown the level of care, love and affection that they needed, bearing in mind where they came from. The need to maintain a proper and efficient system probably meant that the children did not have the freedom that we would have liked to have given to them.
63. I note that HIA 130 alleges that I struck him but I can confirm that I never struck a child across the face. I cannot recall striking HIA 130 with any implement at all.
64. I do recall HIA 194 HIA 194 would have been a girl who volunteered from the local school and she would have come up to help with homework and sometimes on Saturdays to take the boys out into town to go shopping. We would have referred to this as 'shopping' but in reality the boys would have had very little money and would not have been doing a lot of shopping. I recall that HIA 194 also came over to

Thanks to the Sisters of Nazareth

Sir - May I through your Letters Column try to give a more balanced view as to how things were in Termonbacca.

Yes, times were tough there, like I suppose it was in many institutions but it was also a place where there was love. How many of us would give up our lives from a young age in the service of unfortunate children who couldn't be looked after by their own families?

Let us not lose sight of the fact, that in society in general, times were very difficult and I, for one, would like to thank the people of Derry who gave their support to the 'Sisters of Nazareth', who ran Termonbacca. In the 60s there was little enough to go around, in this city where there was chronic unemployment, i.e just listen to the song 'The Town I

love So Well'. There was not much work for men, but the people still gave money to help us.

I would like to thank the members of staff who helped make our lives happy. One member in particular, **SND 214** whose warm, loving personality, full of fun and good humour, I will carry with me all my days. Her brother, **SND 145** and his wife, **SND 145** were especially good to me. Other members of staff, **SND 145** and **SND 145** were people who helped light up our lives.

May I also pay tribute to the teachers who gave up their time after a day's work at school, to coach us at football, **HH 27** and **HH 27** are two that I remember. **HH 27** was our music teacher. There were arts

teachers as well.

Thanks also to the members of 'Saint Vincent De Paul' **SND 214**

the **SND 214**, **SND 214** and of course, our very own **SND 214** who came up every Saturday and showed movies; to the firemen who organised a party every Christmas; to the workers of Du Pont who donated money to buy presents for the children at Christmas time, every year.

To all these people, I am grateful but most importantly, to the women who gave up their lives, in the service of God to look after children and old folk, 'The Sisters of Nazareth'.

To all who helped me to become the person I am, again, thank you.

HIA 130
Derry

HIA 130

10 - Derry Journal, Tuesday, 28th September, 2004

HIA 130

NORTHERN SPECIAL CARE**(Londonderry Hospital Management Committee)**

Ref. No.

ADMINISTRATIVE & MEDICAL DEPT.,

(Phone No. 4077)

Harvey House,

76, Gt. James Street,

Londonderry.

31st January, 1967.

SR 1

St. Joseph's Home,
Termonbacca.
Londonderry.

Dear

SR 1

As you know I saw the following three boys on Thursday
and Friday last week:-

1). **HIA 130**. This little boy has been with you since the age of two years. He is illegitimate and his mother lives in Creggan. He has been attending school but has been slow to learn. He is habit trained and can feed himself and attend to his personal hygiene. However, as you told me his behaviour in the Home and in school has been difficult; he can be rough with the other children, and, as you say, it is hard to care for him in his present environment.

On psychometric testing with the Terman Merrill LM Form he have a mental age of 5yrs.4mths. which makes his I.Q. in the region of 70. He can only write his name and can only do the most simplest of additions. His concentration was hard to sustain. He was much better at performance tests than conceptable tests. He is left handed. He does not come under the requirements for Special Care. He is definitely Educationally Subnormal.

Phone 61981.

St. Peters Secondary School,
Foyle Hill,
DERRY.

TERM REPORT:**HIA 130**

NAME.

CLASS:

D9.

LEVEL:

No. of Days absent (

Term)

Afternoons absent.

SUBJECT:GRADE*SUBJECT:GRADE*

ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

B

SCIENCE.

B

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

PHYSICS.

MATHS.

B

BIOLOGY.

NUMBERS.

FRENCH.

GEOGRAPHY.

IRISH.

HISTORY.

ECONOMICS.

SOCIAL STUDIES.

COMMERCE.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES.

ART. B

METALWORK. C

WOODWORK. C

TECH. DRAWING. B.

COMMENTS:

Good pupil, tries hard to please. Makes a genuine effort.
Discipline generally quite good. Attendance throughout
the school year has been satisfactory.
Contribution to sports - excellent.

SIGNED: J. McGregor. (FORM MASTER)

DATE: 27-8-75.

*GRADES ARE AS FOLLOWS: 1st, 2nd, 3rd years: A(80+) to F(0-20)

4th and 5th years - "O" Level: A, C, E, F, H. (F & H are fails)

"C.S.E" Level - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and U (ungraded)

Non-Exam Classes - Grades A to F according to the ability range of the Class.

REPORT FOR FIRST TERMCHRISTMAS, 19..CLASS.SUBJECT.% Mark

ENGLISH.....

5

IRISH

5

FRENCH.....

MATHS.....

0

SCIENCE.....

4

HISTORY.....

2

SUBJECT.% MARK.

GEOGRAPHY.....

0

ART.....

CRAFT.....

WOODWORK.....

METALWORK.....

30

TECH. DRAWING.....

REMARKS.*marks scribble.***HIA 130***Behaviour poor. Inclined
to be cheeky to teachers.*SIGNED.....*Sam Morris*

(FORM MASTER)