

Brandon State School  
Summary of Miss Curtis' conversation with Blanche Shewell  
4/12/55

-3-

or wear tight dresses and short skirts to attract the men.

Blanche bought a razor and the man told her it was \$1.00 but stated that Miss Dolan charged her \$2.00 for it. When Miss Dolan found that she was using it to shave under her arms, she took it away from her.

Blanche explained that she worked one day last week for Mrs. Handler. She was to receive \$2.00 but Mrs. Handler went downtown and left her alone with the children and gave her an extra dollar for it. When she returned to Colony Miss Dolan asked about the extra dollar, would not believe Blanche's story and accused her of stealing the dollar.

Blanche stated that Miss Dolan and some of the girls were constantly asking her questions about Mr. Russell, Mr. Mulcahy and Miss Curtis but she refused to answer any questions.

Blanche also stated that she was permitted only one bath while at Colony House, although she frequently asked permission for a bath. She stated that the girls at Colony are only permitted one bath a week.

On the evening of 4/11/55 Miss Dolan accused Blanche of leaving a shaver in the bathroom. Blanche denied it and Miss Dolan grabbed her arm to "shake her out". She pulled her arm away and in the tussle Miss Dolan inflicted two deep scratches, two or four inches long, on her right arm. It was this incident which decided Blanche not to stay another day. The next day she absconded *was AWP.*

Blanche's statements as to Miss Dolan's comments on the following persons to all girls at Colony:

1. Linnee Hendee -- Linnee was returned to Brandon State School because she was pregnant. That she is a "homo" and Blanche's girlfriend. That Blanche wanted to return to Brandon State School so she could "play dirty with Linnee and sleep with her".
2. Beverly Mailhotte -- Miss Dolan stated that Shirley told her that Beverly likes to play with other girls breasts and that if Beverly walks in the door, she (Miss Dolan) walks out.
3. Pearl Vasseur -- Blanche stated that Pearl is not permitted to use the bathtubs at Colony as Miss Dolan states that "she stinks".
4. Beatrice Godbout -- Miss Dolan stated that if Beatrice gets her complete discharge from Brandon State

Brandon State School  
Summary of Miss Curtis' conversation with Blanche Shewell  
4/12/55

-4-

School, she is going to Montpelier and tell all about her past history. Also that she is going to see that Beatrice has a "hard time" in Rutland.

Blanche Shewell -- If Blanche goes back to Brandon State School and is put back on Day Placement, Miss Dolan is personally going to Montpelier and see that she is taken off it and never given another chance to work.

Mr. & Mrs. Alvah Holmes -- Miss Dolan stated that Mr. and Mrs. Holmes told her that they did not like or trust Blanche and were glad to get rid of her.

Mr. Russell -- Miss Dolan fully expressed her dislike of Mr. Russell and his new programs at Brandon State School. She stated that Mr. Russell stole money from Brandon State School and was called to Montpelier about it. That none of the employees or students like him and he has ruined Brandon State School. Also that he spends the school money running the school bus back and forth three times a day and couldn't buy enough hams for the Colony girls at Easter, so Miss Dolan had to buy them herself for the girls.

Mr. Mulcahy -- Miss Dolan fully expresses her dislike of Mr. Mulcahy, as former social worker and now as Assistant Superintendent. She stated that at one time he stole a girl's bank book from her and kept the money himself. He has no interest in the girls, is abusive to them and, in her opinion, at times was sexually interested in them. She intimated that there was something wrong about Mr. Mulcahy's desire to take Elenor Gifford back to Brandon State School when she was supposed to have been placed on a job. On several occasions she has stated that she hopes that his son dies so he will be punished for all the bad things he has done.

Miss Curtis -- Miss Dolan also freely expresses her dislike of me. She told the girls that I smoke, drink, probably gamble, wear mens dungarees, not womens and let the girls at Brandon State School kiss and fondle me. I wear my hair too short, my skirts too short and my dresses too tight and neither look or act like a social worker. She has a poor opinion of my ability in this field.

June Heath  
Isabelle Hallock  
Lucy Bell } Blanche stated that these girls are very unhappy at Colony as they are disliked by Miss Dolan. They are called names, accused of un-natural acts, etc.

The rest of the girls at Colony are liked by Miss Dolan and are called her "pets".

Brandon State School  
Summary of Miss Curtis' conversation with Blanche Shewell  
4/12/55

-5-

Mary Stevens -- Blanche stated that Miss Dolan hates Jews and did not like the fact that Mary was placed in a Jewish home. Mary has visited Colony twice and calls frequently. During her visits, I am discussed and Miss Dolan is told everything that I say to Mary. Also everything that happens in the Myer's home is discussed. Mary does not like me and freely expresses her opinion of me which conforms with Miss Dolan's opinion. Mary is one of Miss Dolan's "pet".

Lucy Curtis  
Social Worker

Brandon State School  
Summary of Miss Curtis' conversation with Blanche Shewell  
4/12/55

On 3/16/55 Blanche was transferred to the Colony House. On 4/4/55 she told Dr. Brooks that she was unhappy and was so emotionally disturbed that she would not give the reasons. She was told that she could return to Brandon State School if she remained unhappy. On 4/12/55 Blanche was working in the home of Mrs. Handler in Rutland. At 1:30 p.m. she left the home and told Mrs. Handler that she was not going back to Colony House. She asked directions to South Wallingford, intending to go to her sister's Mary. On one occasion she saw Miss Dolan's car and to avoid being found, went into a side street. She refused offers of rides from several men on the road. A few miles out of Rutland, she thought better of her actions, went to a house and asked permission to call Brandon State School. She reversed the charge and notified Brandon State School where she was. Miss Spriggs and Mr. Wheeler went for Blanche and returned her to dormitory G. Here she was put in a room until Mr. Mulcahy and Mr. Russell returned from Montpelier.

When I returned to Brandon State School, Mr. Wetmore advised me of Blanche's return and suggested that I see her at G. Instead, I picked Blanche up at G held her in my office until Mr. Russell and Mr. Mulcahy returned. Blanche told me the following facts and they are reported as she gave them:

Blanche Shewell -- Blanche stated that when she arrived at Colony House, Miss Dolan commented that she was the best dressed girl to ever come from Brandon State School. Miss Dolan objected to her having a trunk and took it away from her. She also took her watch and stated "I suppose Miss Curtis bought you this". Blanche replied that she bought it herself out of money she earned on Day Placement. Miss Dolan also commented on the fact that she had nine dresses and said "I suppose Miss Curtis bought you these" and took three of the best dresses away from her and gave them to some other girls. Blanche objected as her sister had bought them for her, but Miss Dolan would not return them. She also took away her wallet that she had brought from the school. She was housed in a double room with Shirley Mailhotte, whom Blanche classified as one of Miss Dolan's pets.

From the beginning Miss Dolan called Blanche "Elsie" and kept telling her that she hopes that she isn't a sex maniac like her sister and also told Blanche that Elsie went crazy and is in Waterbury because all she can think of is men.

The first week Blanche worked in Colony House and Miss Dolan constantly made derogatory statements about her ability and the training she received in Brandon State School and on Day Placement. Blanche said that she did the best work she

could and was deeply hurt when Miss Dolan said that she was lazy and didn't do any work. She was also cautioned about men and having an interest in girls and accused of having an unnatural interest in Linee Hendee and some other girls at Brandon State School. Miss Dolan told her that all the girls at Brandon State School are permitted to fall in love and fondle other girls. The other girls in Colony looked down on her because she was from Brandon State School and told her "you don't know anything, none of the State School girls do". Miss Dolan told her that she was not to tell any of her employers that she was from Brandon State School but Blanche did so and antagonized Miss Dolan. Also she refused to call Miss Dolan "Dodie" and continually addressed her as Miss Dolan. Miss Dolan also told her that Colony House was not owned by the State and was run by her, not by Brandon State School.

The second week she was there she was sent out to work in Rutland. She was not permitted to wear socks as she did at Brandon State School and Miss Dolan commented on Miss Curtis permitting the girls to go into homes barelegged where men could see them. She was also told not to sit with the driver of the cab even though Miss Curtis permits the girls at Brandon to sit on the same seat with men.

Blanche stated that she liked the work she did and the people that she worked for but did not like to come back to Colony House. Every evening Miss Dolan had some comment to make about her interest in men, about Elsie, about Linnie Hendee and on more than one occasion in front of others, told her that she was a "sex maniac" and if she didn't watch out she would be at Waterbury with Elsie. Other times in front of all the Colony girls, Miss Dolan expressed her opinion of Brandon State School, Mr. Russell, Mr. Mulcahy and Miss Curtis and told many stories about their actions and behavior. Miss Dolan fully expressed her dislike of these three people and also for the Day Placement Program.

Blanche stated that when she returned to Colony from work she brought her earnings with her which had to be given to Miss Dolan the following morning. Every other day she and all the other girls had to contribute \$.50 for food for the four cats and one dog. Blanche objected to this use of her earnings but still was asked for the money and told she had to contribute.

At Easter Blanche asked permission to buy a new skirt and blouse but was refused. She was permitted to go to Mary's for Easter weekend although Miss Dolan did not approve of the visit. Miss Dolan also refused permission for her to get a permanent wave or hair cut and told her that the Colony girls did not wear short hair, get permanents, use makeup or