

Chief Protector of Aborigines

Perth

I have to report that at about 8am a native named Alec handed me a letter from J. E. Champion Mgr of Hillside Stn (a copy of letter attached). The quarter caste boy mentioned in same is about 11 years old. His foot looked nasty. I took him to the Hospital where he will be treated for about 10 days, The sisters In Charge state he should be quite alright by that time. The boy is receiving attention, meals etc at Hospital. Shall I tell the sisters to put their bill for the boy in assist to the station, or for it have to first be presented to you?

The boy mentioned "Vernon" he has two sisters also at Hillside, viz Ethel age about 13 yrs and Margery about 6 or 8 yrs. I am informed their mother was a H/caste named Minnie, who died about four years ago, and the father of these 3 children I understand is a man named Wager (Billy Wager, a white man) who is [known well?] in this District.

A confidential verbal report from a man who left Hillside with a grievance against the Manager, is to the effect that the girl Ethel who works in the house is pregnant to a white man on Hillside.

There are no white men on Hillside.

The boy Alec F.B. Who is mentioned early in this report, is married to a H/C named Lucy, Alec and Lucy have cared for 3. H/castes, Ethel, and Vernon since mother died, about 4 yrs ago. Alec is a very intelligent and well-spoken boy – I questioned Alec re Ethel's condition, Alec said he heard the rumour but it was not true, and that Ethel was getting big and fat, but she is only getting full grown, Alec said Ethel was at present away holidaying.

I visited Hillside on 9.9.34 late at night and only stayed an hour, I did not see any H/caste girls about – I was not aware at that time of this complaint.

It is very hard to get confirmation re this sort of thing, but I will continue inquiries.

I also received a complaint that a boy (stock boy) named Mallet and his wife a F.B. named Gipsy of Hillside Stn are V.D. Cases, they have a child about 8 yrs old and are employed on Hillside. I questioned Alec regarding these people also, but he holds that they are clean.

Regarding the H/C girls Ethel and Margery, probably you would deem it advisable to have them removed to some home, or a Stn where white women are living, personally I think they should be removed from the District.

W. G. I. Marshall

Protector

Mbar

24.9.34

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT

310/29

Perth, 29th October, 1934

Constable w. G. Marshall,

Protector of Aborigines,

Marble Bar.

I have your letter of the 24th ult. respecting the children at Hillside Station, and it seems to me that the information justifies a visit in order that it may be confirmed or otherwise.

Mr Mitchell late of this Department visited this Station in July 1929 and reported the presence of three children, a half-caste there named "Sarah" widower, father and mother deceased. These children were Ethel, six years, Mervyn four years, Marjory twelve years, and they were in the care of Lucy the full-

blood wife of Aleck and said to be their aunt.

The boy now referred to by you as Vernon is evidently Mervyn, the other two names being correct and from Mr Mitchells report you will note the ages are less than those given by you.

If the girl Ethel, has been interfered with by a white man there would appear to be a case under the Criminal Code against him.

The children were thought by Mr Mitchell to be the offspring of two half-castes, but if you are correct and they are indeed quarter-castes they should be promptly removed from the Station. In fact, the two girls even if half-castes should probably be removed, particularly if the circumstances you relate are correct.

I should be much obliged if you would look into this matter further as soon as convenient to you.

In regard to the condition of the boy, Vernon, was this an accident case? If so I propose to give statutory notice to the Station in order that the matter may be attended to as required by law. In that case all expenses should be payable by the Insurance company, presuming that the Station has complied with the law and insured its native workers.

Signed, A. O. Neville

Chief Protector of Aborigines

Received on 2/11./34

Marble Bar,
Police Station.
6th November, 1934.

Chief Protector of Aborigines
Perth.

I have to report further to my letters of the 24/9/34, and 11/10/34, to you, and your reply by wire on the 29/10/34 and by letter on the 2/11/34.

Since writing you I have made numerous inquiries re these children from old and respected identities of this district who have known the children from birth. They state there is no doubt whatever about them being quarter-castes, and that a man named Wager is the father of Ethel who was born on Corunna Stn in Feb 1920, and of Mervyn who was also born on Corunna in 1922. About Marjory there is a doubt whether Wager or a man named Swanson is her father – Marjory was born in 1926 at Shaw Patch near Cooglegong.

The mother of these children a half-caste named Minnie, died about 4 or 5 years ago, and as Mr Mitchell states the children were cared for by Lucy who claims to be their Aunt and her full-blood husband Aleck, at Hillside Stn. Mr Mitchell referred to Lucy as a full-blood, but there is some mistake, as Lucy is a half-caste about 49 years of age.

The girl mentioned as Marjory 12 years of age, by Mr Mitchell is evidently Elsie a half-caste who was born at Top Fall near Hillside in 1918 or 1919, Elsie's mother a full-blood named Anne died when Elsie was born, and the child was reared on Hillside – Elsie's father is unknown.

In my report 24/9/34, I stated that I had received a confidential report that Ethel was pregnant, this information was from a man who left Hillside with a grievance. Upon making further inquiries for more reliable sources, I was informed that it was not Ethel but the half-caste Elsie that was pregnant and that when she was noticeably so she was married to a full-blood named Billy and sent bush and that she later returned to the Station and had lost the child – I reported this information to you on the 11/10/34.

It is alleged that Elsie was sent away with Billy when the Royal Commission inquiring into aborigines affairs was operating in the Marble Bar district.

Mr Champion (Mgr of Hillside) said Elsie was married to Billy when he took over the Station 12

months ago, said that he noticed Elsie looking rather stout and drew Dr Gillespie's attention to her about June or July this year. Mr Champion said the Dr remarked "she is full of something it might be wind". Elsie denies that she had a child, none of the other natives will admit that Elsie had a child. Dr Gillespie is the owner of Hillside and spends a month or so on the Station each year.

Elsie is certainly not pregnant now, she states she likes the Station and her husband and does not wish to leave. Billy is the garden boy at Hillside, he said a chinaman married Elsie to him "might be two years ago". The chinaman is not about now.

The half-caste Sarah, mentioned by Mr Mitchell is now married to Full-blood named Nipper and is in an out-camp on Hillside. Sarah is about 35 years of age.

I have prisoners in the Gaol and have been unable to get to Hillside, but upon receipt of your wire on 29th and letter on 2/11/34, I paid a hurried visit to the Station, leaving Marble Bar on Sunday afternoon 4th and returned early on Monday 5th inst.

I brought in the three quarter-caste children; - Ethel age, 14 yrs, Mervyn age, 12. and Marjory age 8. You are right, the boy I referred to as Vernon is Mervyn, it was my mistake in taking the name down wrongly.

These children are very light in colour and are exceptionally well mannered. They are staying in my house and I will see they are not interfered with until you decide what should be done with them.

I might mention that I understand Dr Gillespie and his wife were anxious to take Ethel to Perth with them as a house-girl, but Ethel did not care to leave the Station. Probably Ethel could now be placed with the Dr, I should think it would be a good home for her and he is an exceptionally good girl in the house.

Mrs Marshall would like to keep Ethel here but I do not think it advisable as she is too young and the chances of her running astray I should think, would be greater here than if placed with the Dr and his wife in Perth.

The boy Mervyn I should think would grow up more useful if allowed to return to the Station than if placed in a Mission – I was doubtful whether to bring Mervyn in or not, but as you said in your report to me; - if there children are quarter-castes they should be promptly removed, therefore I bought him in pending further instructions from you.

Should you decide to have these children sent to Perth probably arrangements could be made from some one of the Station women who will be visiting Perth at the end of this Month on early December to take care of them going down on the boat.

With regard to the half-caste Elsie please advise me whether she is to be removed or left on the Station. The injury to the boy Vernon – Mervyn's foot, this was caused by the boy standing on a needle. His foot is now quite all right.

Dr Davis is expected here on Monday 9th inst, I will ask him to examine Ethel to verify whether she has been interfered with or not.

Please find copy of your wire and letter attached.

W. G. Marshall

Const, 1557.

Protector

Marble Bar.

6/11/34.

MARBLE BAR
1ST June, 1935.

Chief Protector of Aborigines
PERTH.

On 29-5-35 at 4PM native woman Wadwari @ Dina, wife of half-caste Billy Swan of Hillside Stn., returned by train from Lock Hospital where she and her husband had received treatment as V.D. Patients. The husband (Swan) returned to Hillside a few weeks ago.

Wadwari @ Dina was provided with 8 meals at 1/- each at Police Station and placed on Mail truck to return to Hillside at 9 AM 1-6-35.

Native woman Cowanbong @ Ever and Eriwabong @ Sarah returned from Hedland Hospital by same train. These women inform me they are employed on Bamboo Springs Station with their husbands. They were brought to the Marble Bar Hospital in April last by the Manager of the Station suffering from wounds received in a fight between themselves (the two women). Dr Davis examined them at Marble Bar Hospital on 16-4-35 and requested me to issue them with ticket to Hedland, which I did. Ticket Order No. D. 52055 and marked "Bamboo Springs Station" not V.D. Cases.

These two women received 9 meals each at Police Station, at 1/- per meal – 18/- and left for Bonny Downs Station at 2PM 1-6-35, in Constable Liddelow's car. Accounts enclosed.

W.G

.C. Marshall

Pc. 1557. Protector.

(COPY)

Original on Police File no.50008/35

Broome

19/8/35

Constable Marshall.

Marble Bar.

For particulars please.

(sgd) W. Carroll.

Inspector Carroll.

In connection with this matter, I herewith submit a full cop of my reports to the Chief Protector of Aborigines, also a duplicate of the account in question.

No. 1 Duplicate copy in aborigines letter book page 96 at this station and dated 24/5/15 reads as follows:-

"Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

I have to report that at 8am. On 20/5/35, Mailman J Thompson brought to the station from Hillside, an aged native woman named Moolonbong @ Annie – Thompson also handed me a letter from the Manager of Hillside station which reads as follows:-

Constable Marshal, Marble Bar, Bu the mail I have sent along a native woman named Annie for inspection on her own complaint and information received on the case.

Sgd. J. E. Champion

Manager, and dated 18/5/35

This woman was examined by Dr. Davis on 23/5/35, who certified her a case for the Port Hedland Lock Hospital – I issued this woman with ticket order No. D52056 and put her on train for Hedland at 8-30am 23/5/35. I am attaching account for meals to this woman for your approval.

Sgd. W. Marshall Pc1557."

Note: Moolonbong @ Annie recently returned from Hospital and on 26/8/35, I issued her with rations to walk back to Hillside.

Duplicate copy in Aborigines letter book page 100 and dated 1/6/35 reads.

"Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

On 29/5/35 at 4pm native woman Wadwari 2 Dina, wife of half-caste Billy Swan on Hillside Station, returned by train from Lock Hospital...The husband (Swan) returned to Hillside a few weeks ago. Wadwari 2 Dina was provided with 8 meals @ 1/- each at police station and placed in a truck to return to Hillside at 9am. 1/6/35 account for meals enclosed.

(Sgd) W. Marshall.

The mailman conveyed this woman to Hillside where she ascertained that her husband swan was holidaying in the vicinity of Split Rock Station – on the mailman's return trip he brought the woman back to Split Rock station to join her husband – this station is on the mail route, he only charged the usual fee of one pound and made his account out as from Marble Bar to Split Rock station...

Chief Protector of Aborigines

Perth

The Commissioner of Native Affairs

Native Medical Fund Contributions at Hillside Station.

On 21/5/44 while visiting this Station, I discussed with the Manager in the presence of Constable Woodlands of Marble Bar, the matter of the above contributions in view of the fact of there being 37 natives present and only six covered under the Native Medical Fund.

It was finally by myself with the Constable and Manager agreeing, that the following additions should be made in the year 1944 – 1945 :-

- (1) Geoffrey, male, 16 yrs.
 - (2) Gordon, male, 15 yrs.
 - (3) Mallet, male, 45 yrs.
 - (4) Billy Swan, male half-caste, 48 yrs.
 - (5) Charlie Ball, male, half-caste, 16 yrs.
 - (6) Lucy, half-caste, 50 yrs.
 - (7) Archie Ball, half-caste, 14 yrs (birthday July next).
 - (8) Andy Coffin, half-caste, 15 yrs.
 - (9) Dodger, female, 45 yrs.
 - (10) Coffin, male half-caste about 40 yrs.
 - (11) Elsie Brockman, half-caste, aged 22 wife cook if Albert Brockman Corunna who is exempt
- Should this woman be successful in getting an exemption and she seems to be suitable for this certificate, her name will be deleted.

The manager (Mr Thompson or Thomson) further stated that he proposed to take out a general permit for 18 natives in the next year and this would allow him to cover another native or two (if no 11 becomes exempt) without taking out an additional permit.

Few women are actually being employed on this station and a child Queenie, aged about 12 years, a daughter of Crab (who is under the Native Medical Fund) is assisting with the general house work.

The remaining natives (25) are made up of

- (1) on present remit: six men.
- (2) Old pensioners etc: 4 natives.
- (3) Wives of working boys, but who are not working themselves and 1 child: 7.
- (4) May Coffin, wife of Billy Coffin , not working plus 4 children: 5
- (5) Billie Ball (exempt), wife Sophie (not working) and 1 child Malcolm, aged six: 1

Total: 25

H. M.

13/6/44 Port Hedland