

Michuksus,

My name is Desiree Acosta, I'm the granddaughter of Frank Edward Porter, Jr who was enrolled with his brothers in the Lone Band of Miwok Indians. I'm writing in support of H.R. 5444 the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

I inherited my relative's testimony when he passed away as I was a young person. Our family strain suddenly made more sense to me as I learned more and more about why things were the way they were. So much bad happened within our community and specifically my family as a result of our relatives including my grandpa being targeted and taken to Stewart Indian School in Carson City, Nevada. These issues persist ranging from, self esteem struggles, mental health issues to substance abuse and addiction issues, financial hardship, and more. I'm so thankful for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition's work to gather these testimonies and focus on healing wounds that oftentimes even still feel so overwhelming two generations later. This Act offers one path toward healing part of this historical trauma.

I am submitting my grandfather's testimony post-humously after a discussion with family members. This is an important moment. He left these words to be read, they are hard to. For many years my grandfather was one of the oldest living polio survivors, he distributed thousands of life-saving vaccines after surviving what I can only describe as torture on stage for Settler-funded medical professionals alongside the US Federal Government that was funding Stewart Indian School at the time of his treatment. Thank you for bearing witness to his words. I have not changed the grammar, these are how they were left behind, along with his documentation.

Tangi kamu, thank you, to the Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, for the time and for supporting H.R. 5444 the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

Desiree Porter Acosta (Miwok)
Grand-daughter, Frank Edward Porter, Jr.

I WAS BORN AT THE AMADOR COUNTY HOSPITAL IN JACKSON, CALIFORNIA ON OCTOBER 14, 1931. WHEN I WAS JUST STARTING TO WALK I FELL BACK. MY LEGS WOULD NOT SUPPORT ME. MY FOLKS DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. ABOUT A MONTH LATER AT THE COUTY HOSPITAL MY ILLNESS WAS DIAGNOSED AS POLIO. BOTH MY FEET, SPINE, AND MY RIGHT SIDE WAS INJURED. MY TOE COULD TOUCH MY HEEL. THEY TOLD ME IT WAS CALLED A CLUB FOOT.

FIRST THEY CAST BOTH FEET. BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BE EFFECTIVE WHEN YOU HAVE AN OUTHOUSE.

SOMEHOW I TOOK MY CONDITION ON BILL. I WOULD HIT HIM WHEN HE WAS SLOW IN PULLING ME IN A WAGON, OR JUST MAKING FUN OF HIM.

BROTHER BILL AND I WAS ATTENDING THE IONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. I WAS IN THE SIXTH GRADE AND BILL WAS IN THE FIFTH.

GOVERNMENT AGENTS WOULD CHECK ALL SCHOOLS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS. LATER I LEARNED THE SCHOOLS MADE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS ON INDIAN STUDENTS. IT WAS THE AGENTS JOB TO CHECK THE

BACKGROUND AND SEE IF THEY COULD HELP IN SOME WAY.

THE AGENT CAME TO OUR HOUSE AND TOLD US ABOUT THIS WONDERFUL SCHOOL. WE WOULD EQUALIZE IT TO DISNEYLAND THESE DAYS.

AT MY AGE I WAS TIRED OF THE FIGHTING GOING ON ALL THE TIME. ABOUT FOOD AND MONEY.

THERE WAS A GUM BALL MACHINE ON THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF THE STORE, GILLHAMS. ONE NIGHT ABOUT 3AM I WENT DOWN, TOOK THE MACHINE AND ROLLED IT FROM ONE TELEPHONE TO THE NEXT. IT HAD LEAD WEIGHT ON THE BOTTOM. ABOUT ½ MILES BEYOND OUR HOUSE, I TOOK A 22 RIFLE AND PUT 6 HOLES IN IT. I COUNTED 122 PENNIES IN IT. THE NEXT DAY, I WENT TO THE BUTCHER SHOP AND BOUGHT HOT DOGS AND A HAMBURGER.

I HAD MY EYE ON A 30-30- RIFLE AT THE GUN SHOP. I PLANNED TO BREAK IN THE BACK WOODEN DOOR THEN BUST THE MAIN LOCK. MY PLANS WERE SHATTERED BECAUSE THE NEXT DAY WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO SACRAMENT FOR THE BUS TO NEVADA.

THE STEWART BUS WAS A RECONDITIONED YELLOW BUS THAT HAD SEEN BETTER DAYS. WE ARRIVED ABOUT 3AM.

WHEN YOU ENTER STEWART, THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IS ON YOU RIGHT ON YOUR LEFT WAS THE PRINCIPALS COTTAGE. DIRECTLY IN FRONT WAS THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. TURNING LEFT WAS THE POST OFFICE AND FURTHER DOWN WAS THE SMALL BOYS DORMITORY, THE AUDITORIUM, THEN THE NURSES QUARTERS, HOSPITAL AND FARM. IN THE MIDDLE WAS A SMALL STORE THEN THE LARGE BOYS COTTAGES. TURNING RIGHT WAS THE TRADING POST, SMALL GIRLS DORMITORY LARGE GIRLS COTTAGES SHOE SHOP AND GYM.

PATS FATHER WAS A MASON. HE DID MOST OF THE ROCK BUILDINGS. HE WOULD HOLD A LARGE ROCK IN HIS HAND AND CHIP IT DOWN TO ANY SIZE HE WANTED.

IN THE LATE 40S WE VOTED TO THE NAME STEWART INSTEAD OF CARSON CITY INDIAN SCHOOL.

THE SMALL BOYS DORMITORY HAD BEDS ALL AROUND THE INSIDE WITH 4 BEDS IN THE INTERIOR CORNERS. BILL AND I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE INTERIOR CORNERS. EACH PERSON WAS ASSIGNED A LOCKER IN A ROOM, WITH 4 PERSONS PER ROOM. THE SHOWERS AND TOILETS WAS IN THE MIDDLE. TOWARDS THE LEFT WAS THE CHECK ROOM WHERE YOU PICKED UP YOUR CLOTHES. AFTER BEING WASHED. EACH PERSON WAS ASSIGNED A NUMBER, BILL 34, MINE 32.

WHEN I WORKED IN THE CHECK ROOM, I LOOKED FOR THE NUMBERS AND PUT THEM IN THE PROPER BOX.

IF A PERSON FORGOT TO NUMBER HIS CLOTHES, GUESS WHAT? I HAD A NEW PAIR OF PANTS, SHIRT, ETC. THAT'S THE WAY I LOST MOST OF MY CLOTHES WHEN I ARRIVED.

MY UNCLE, THE SUPERVISOR LIVED IN THE FRONT APARTMENT WHILE THE MATRON LEAVED IN THE REAR. FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS OBVIOUS THEY DID NOT GET ALONG. CONSEQUENTLY WHEN WE ARRIVED, BILL AND I TOOK THE BLUNT OF A LOT OF THINGS.

WHEN JIM WAS DRAFTED INTO THE COAST GUARD HE GAVE US HIS PERSONAL THINGS INCLUDING A FISHING ROD AND A TELESCOPE. I WAS LOOKING AT THE MOON ONE NIGHT THE MATRON CAME BY

AND TOOK ALL OF THE ITEMS. WHEN I WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE LARGE BOYS DORM, I TRIED TO GET THEM BACK. I WAS CHASED OUT OF THE BUILDING WITH A SWITCH.

THE FIRST NITE, BILL AND I LOOKED AT EACH OTHER AND CRYED. WE CRYED FOR 2 WEEKS ONLY RELIEF WAS JACKSON WHO PLAYED WITH US ON THE LAWN.

WE LEARNED THE WORST NAME ANYONE COULD CALL YOU WAS A "HOSPITAL BABY"

MR COLTON, FRESH OUT OF THE ARMY TOOK JIMS PLACE. INEXPERIENCED HE DID A LOT OF THINGS THAT WAS WRONG. WE RECEIVED AN ORANGE FOR BREAKFAST. ONE TIME HE GOT THE IDEA WE COULD TAKE THEM AWAY WHEN THEY RETURNED TO THE DORMITORY AND KEEP THEM FOR CHRISTMAS. HE TOLD ME TO HIDE BEHIND THE DOOR AND TAKE THE ORANGES. FIRST FEW WAS FINE. THE BOYS CAUGHT ON AND WAS EATING THEM OUTSIDE. BECAUSE HIS PLAN NEVER WORKED OUT, I GOT 2 HOURS OF DETENTION.

WE MARCHED TO THE DINING ROOM LIKE SOLDIERS DOWN THE SIDEWALK. WHEN THE LARGER BOYS SAW US COMING, THEY WOULD CUT ACROSS THE GRASS AND BEAT US THERE. THEY WOULD EAT THE BREAD AND DRINK THE MILK BEFORE WE GOT THERE. IF YOU HAD A GIRL FRIEND IN THE SERVING LINE, YOU GOT MORE. WE HAD ONE FRIED EGG IN THE 4 YEARS WE WERE THERE.

THERE WAS A HONOR PRISON NEXT TO STEWART. THEY WERE IN THE DESERT DOING THE SAME THING WE WERE DOING. WE HAD A CACHE WHERE WE HAD COFFEE, AND WHATEVER WE COULD FIND. BUILD A FIRE, THROW POTATOES IN THE COALS AND PUT SNOW AND COFFEE IN THE COFFEE CAN TO BREW. BILL WAS A GOOD SHOT WITH A SLINGSHOT SO OFTEN WE HAD RABBIT. WE WOULD SEIN THE SMALL STREAM WITH A SCREEN FOR TROUT. WE WOULD TRADE OUR FOOD FOR WHATEVER THE PRISONERS HAD TO OFFER.

MOST OF THE TIME I WAS HUNGRY. DRIVING THE TRASH TRUCK ONE TIME, THE BAKERY DUMPED A LARGE BATCH OF COOKIES. THIS WAS ONE TIME I ATE UNTIL I WAS FULL. FOR EXTRA FOOD, I WOULD STOP THE MILK MAN AND THE BAKERY TRUCK FOR FRENCH BREAD.

MR HAWEE WAS THE PRINCIPAL AND LIVED IN THE COTTAGE WITH HIS WIFE A SON AND A DAUGHTER. I MET THE DAUGHTER AT A DANCE. SHE WAS ABOUT 5 YEARS YOUNGER THAN I WAS. HER MOTHER SAID THERE WAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. SHE SAID IT WAS INFATUATION AND IT WOULD PASS. SHE WOULD MEET ME AT THE COMMISARY AND ONE TIME UNDER THE SCHOOL HOUSE.

WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL SHE WOULD COME TO THE WINDOW AND TALK FOR HOURS. THE NURSE WAS AFRAID TO DO ANYTHING TO THE PRINCIPALS DAUGHTER. ONE NITE, FOR DINNER WE WERE SERVED ROAST BEEF, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY, GREEN BEANS A ROLL WITH BUTTER, MILK AND PIE FOR DESERT. ON MY TRAY WAS 2 SLICES OF BREAD, CUT DIAGONALLY AND A GLASS OF WATER. THAT WAS ONE WAY THE NURSE GOT EVEN.

THE NURSES QUARTERS WAS NEXT TO THE BOYS BEDS IN THE HOSPITAL. WE USED TO SAY THE BUILDING WAS CONDEMED AS THERE WERE TOO MANY CRACKS IN IT. IN THE EVENING, THE NURSES WOULD PULL DOWN THE SHADE AND STRIP. ALL THE SICK BOYS WOULD KEEP THEIR EYES GLUED ON THE SILOUTTE EACH NITE.

AN UPPERCLASSMEN NAMED DOG WAS ALWAYS BRAGGING ABOUT HIS CONQUESTS WITH THE GIRLS IN THE DORM. ONE NITE HE HAD A DATE SET UP AND HIS BUDDIES WERE IN THE BUSHES. HE THOUGHT HE WAS DOING GREAT WHEN SHE SAID "IS THAT ALL YOU GOT?"

ONLY ONE TIME I WENT INTO A DORM NEXT TO THE FOOTBALL FIELD WHILE A GAME WAS GOING ON. A

LARGE NUMBER OF BOYS WERE MILLING AROUND A ROOM. FOUR BOYS WERE ENGAGED IN SEX AND OTHERS THERE WERE KEEPING OTHERS OUT. THEY TOLD US LATER, THEY HAD SESSIONS ABOUT SEX AND DISEASES.

I ATTENDED SCHOOL ON A REGULAR BASIS, BUT ONE DAY THE THIRD GRADE TEACHER GOT SICK. THEY PULLED ME OUT OF CLASS AND ASK IF I WOULD TEACH THE CLASS. THIS CHANGED MY ENTIRE WORLD. IN THE MORNING I WOULD HELP THE KIDS THAT WET THE BED HANG THEIR MATTRESS OUT THE WINDOW TO DRY. MAKE SURE THEY WASHED AND DRESS PROPERLY FOR SCHOOL. AND IN LINE FOR BREAKFAST, IN SCHOOL, CHECK THEM IN AND TEACH THE LESSONS LAID OUT FOR ME. HAD EACH BOY AND GIRL READ THEIR LESSONS. AFTER SCHOOL, BACK TO THE DOMATORY TO DO THEIR CHORES.

STEWART HAD BOXING EVERY FRIDAY NITE, EVEN THE FIRST GRADERS WITH GLOVES AS BIG AS PILLOWS WENT INTO THE RING.

MOM USED TO WRITE CONSTANTLY. I WAS READING A LETTER WHEN THE MATRON CAUGHT ME. SHE MADE ME TAKE ALL MY LETTERS OUT OF MY SUITCASE AND HAD ME READ THEM IN FRONT OF THE OTHERS. THEN SHE BURNED THEM.

EACH FRIDAY, WAS BATH NITE. ALL THE KIDS GOT INTO THE SHOWER. WE HAD SCRUB BRUSHES AND GOVERNMENT LYE SOAP. THE MATRON WAS SITTING AT A TABLE WITH A TOWEL. IF YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE CLEAN YOU WENT TO HER. SHE WOULD TAKE A TOWEL AND RUB YOUR LOINS, ELBOWS, LETS AND ACROSS YOUR NECK. IF ANY DIRT OR SKIN CAME OFF, YOU GOT SEVERELY BEATEN AND BACK TO THE SHOWERS.

I WAS TALKING TO SOME FRIENDS AND SAID THIS IS A HELL OF A DAY. NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF THE MATRON, SHE GAVE ME THE BIGGEST PIECE OF LYE SOAP I HAD EVER SEEN. FOR SWEARING SHE GAVE ME A BIT OF IT. IT TASTED TERRIBLE. WHEN I LEFT, I QUIETLY SAID IT TASTED LIKE SHIT. SHE HEARD ME, SO HERE COMES THE SOAP AGAIN. SHE MADE ME CHEW IT SO LONG IT CAME OUT MY NOSE.

WHEN THE SUPERVISOR WANTED HELP, HE ASKED FOR VOLUNTEERS AT ASSEMBLY. AS USUAL HE HAD NO VOLUNTEERS. HE ALWAYS SMOKED SO WHEN HE WAS DONE HE THREW HIS LIT CIGARETTE ON THE GROUND AND TURNED AROUND. THERE WAS SCRAMBLE AND THE FIRST ONE TO PICK IT UP WAS THE VOLUNTEER.

WHEN I WAS SCHEDULED FOR MY SURGERY AT THE CHILDRENS HOSPITAL IN SAN FRANCISCO, ONE STAFF MEMBER DROVE ME FROM STEWART. HE HAD TO STAY OVERNITE AT A HOTEL, SO HE ASKED ME WHAT I WANTED TO DO. BASEBALL IN TOWN, BASEBALL, ICE HOCKEY. THE ONLY THING I WANTED TO SEE WAS JANE RUSSELL IN THE OUTLAW, THE FIRST SO CALLED DIRTY MOVIE.

I REMEMBER STANDING ON A STAGE AT THE CHILDRENS HOSPITAL IN SAN FRANCISCO IN MY SHORTS. THE DOCTOR ON STAGE WAS EXPLAINING THE OPERATING PROCEDURE TO THE DOCTORS IN THE AUDIENCE.

I WENT THROUGH AT LEAST 12 OPERATIONS ON MY FEET. AFTER ONE FOOT WAS DONE, THEY WOULD OPERATE ON THE OTHER. AFTER THE CAST WAS TAKEN OFF AT ONE TIME, THE TOP OF MY FOOT WAS GREEN AND INFECTED. THEY SAID I HAD GANGREEN.

LATER IN LIFE THE THERAPY WAS TO PUT MY FOOT IN A BUCKET OF WATER, INSERT A BARE ELECTRICAL WIRE AND TURN THE SWITCH ON. WHEN THE WATER BUBBLED AND I COULDN'T STAND THE PAIN, THEY LEFT ME THERE FOR 1 HOUR.

AFTER SURGERY, I WAS SO SICK I WANTED TO DIE. SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO TAKE MY LEG OUT OF TRACTION AND CRAWLED HALFWAY ACROSS THE FLOOR BEFORE THE NURSE CAUGHT ME. I WAS HEADED FOR THE 9TH FLOOR WINDOW, READY TO JUMP.

WE HAD AN ATTENDANT WHO CALL HIMSELF LARD ASS BURT. EACH DAY HE WOULD GO OVER THE ROSTER TO SEE WHO PASSED AWAY THAT NITE. THEN HE WOULD ORDER DINNER UNDER THAT NAME AND COME BACK LATER TO EAT.

I WAS SO SICK, I COULDN'T EAT THE HOSPITAL FOOD. ONE NITE ALL OF US IN THE WARD HAD BURT GO OUT AND BUY US SOME HOAGIE SANDWICHES. I ATE MINE WITHOUT A PROBLEM. AGAIN, I CAUGHT HELL WHEN THE NURSE CAUGHT ME. I NEVER GOT SICK.

WHEN I WAS TO BE RELEASED, I TELEPHONED STEWART WITH THE NUMBER THEY GAVE ME. NEXT MORNING, A TAXI CAB WAS WAITING FOR ME. THE DRIVER PUT ME IN THE BACK AND ASKED IF A FRIEND COULD GO. THEY TOOK ME TO THE RENO RESERVATION TO A LADY'S HOUSE. SHE MADE ME COMFORTABLE ON THE COUCH AND WENT BACK TO HER DRINKING PARTY. SHE PARTYED ALL NITE, AND TOOK ME TO STEWART THE NEXT DAY.

I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A FOOTBALL PLAYER LIKE BOBBY O. HE WAS SHORT, STOCKY AND ALL MUSCLE. BEFORE THE FOOTBALL GAME, ALL THE GIRLS WOULD KISS HIM FOR GOOD LUCK. IT WAS SNOWING, I TOOK MY BLANKET OFF MY BED AND WRAPPED AROUND ME. MATRON CAUGHT ME ANOTHER 3 HOURS OF DETENTION.

AT THE FARM THERE WAS A LARGE ROOT CELLAR WHERE THEY STORED FRUIT, POTATOES AND OTHER PRODUCE. AT THE TOP WAS A LARGE AIR VENT. THE KIDS WOULD SLIDE DOWN ON A ROPE AND THROUGH UP THE PRODUCE. I WAS BLAMED BECAUSE I WAS SO SMALL. NOT ME, I WAS TOO SCARED.

WE FOUND A 30-30 RIFLE WITH A CROOKED BARREL TIED TO A ROPE AND LOWERED DOWN BETWEEN BAILS OF HAY. I WAS A GOOD BROTHER BY LETTING BILL SHOOT THE GUN BECAUSE OF THE BARREL.

KIDS WOULD COME TO ME WITH ALL THEIR PROBLEMS. LARGE OR SMALL. ONE DAY A BOY CAME UP TO ME, HE COULD HARDLY WALK. HE UNZIPPED HIS PANTS TO SHOW ME HIS PENIS. THE END LOOKED LIKE EXPLODED POPCORN. HE WOULDN'T GO TO THE INFIRMARY UNLESS I WENT WITH HIM.

AT THE FARM I FOUND A WHITE RABBIT THAT GOT OUT OF HIS CAGE. I CLEANED OUT MY DRESSER DRAWER AND KEPT HIM THERE. MY CLOTHES BEGAN TO SMELL, SO I MOVED HIM TO THE TOP SHELF OF MY LOCKER. WHEN THE RABBIT PEE BEGAN TO SHOW ON THE OUTSIDE OF MY LOCKER, THE SMELL WAS BACK. THE MATRON FOUND OUT AND TOOK IT HOME FOR DINNER.

I WEIGHED 80 POUNDS SOAKING WET. EVERYDAY THE NURSE GAVE ME CASTER OIL. ONE DAY THE NURSE CAUGHT ME SPITTING IT OUT. ON PROBATION AGAIN.

A FARMER WAS HAVING TROUBLE WITH RABBITS EATING HIS CROPS. HE HIRED THE WHOLE SCHOOL TO HELP ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM. ALL THE BOYS AND GIRLS FORMED A LONG LINE. WITH BATS AND CLUBS THEY STARTED FROM STEWART TO THE RIVER ABOUT 2 MILES AWAY. THEY RAN, YELLED AS LOUD AS THEY COULD. ANY RABBIT IN THEIR PATH WAS INSTANTLY KILLED, LOOPED OVER THEIR BELT AND WENT ON.

ALMOST 200 RABBITS WERE BROUGHT BACK TO THE KITCHEN AT STEWART. THE COOK MADE A HUGE RABBIT STEW IN THE LARGEST KETTLE I EVER SAW.

ANOTHER TIME, THE SCHOOL WAS HIRED TO PICK APPLES IN A ORCHARD NEAR MINDENVILLE. EVERYBODY HAD A GOOD TIME. I VOLUNTEERED THE SECOND DAY I WAS SO LIGHT, I COULD REACH THE HIGHEST BRANCHES, WHERE THE BEST APPLES WERE. OF COURSE, I GAVE THEM TO THE PRINCIPAL.

WE FOUND 2 12 FOOT OVENS IN A VACANT LOT NEXT TO THE KITCHEN. WE MADE A LADDER AND CRAWLED INSIDE. WE HAD A BUNSON BURNER THAT WE LITE AND COOKED WHATEVER WE COULD FIND. WHEN THEY FOUND OUT, THE DOORS WERE TAKEN OFF.

IN OUR TRAVELS IN THE DESERT, WE CAME ACROSS OUR CESS POOLS. THERE WERE ABOUT 4 OPEN POOLS ABOUT 20 FEET ACROSS IN THE WINTER. A FEW OF US WOULD BE OUT THERE EACH DAY AFTER SCHOOL TO PLAY HOCKEY. AN OLD BASEBALL FOR A PUCK. WHEN THE WATER BEGAIN TO RAISE ALONG THE EDGES, IT WAS TIME TO QUIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

I WAS ASKED TO JOIN THE POLAR BEAR CLUB. TO JOIN, YOU HAD TO STRIP ALL YOUR CLOTHES OFF AND JUMP INTO A SMALL POND. I WAS COLD, BUT DIDN'T MIND THE CLOTHES OFF, BUT JUMPING IN WAS SOMETHING ELSE. WHATEVER I HAD, SHRIVELED UP, I TOLD THE OTHERS WHILE I FUMBLLED WITH MY CLOTHES WHERE TO GO, AND I LEFT.

SOMEHOW I WAS THE RECORD HOLDER FOR HOURS OF PUNISHMENT. I WAS ALWAYS OUT OF BOUNDS OR IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.

ANOTHER PUNISHMENT, I WAS ASSIGNED TO WASH THE WINDOWS IN THE GYM AND TAKE THE BLACK MARKS OFF THE FLOOR. THE HOURS OF WORK DIDN'T BOTHER ME THAT MUC, BUT IT WAS A NICE SUNNY DAY AND ALL THE KIDS HAD BLANKETS UNDER THE TREES, EATING ICE CREAM. WHAT HURT THE MOST WAS MY GIRL FRIEND WAS WITH MY BEST FRIEND, AND THEY WERE TOGETHER.

EVERY DAY, A NEW CHALLENGE. I WENT TO THE BATHROOM WHEN THE TOILET DIDN'T FLUSH. A GROUP OF BOYS IN THE BATHROOM GRABBED ME AND FORCED ME BACK INTO THE STALL. DOWN WENT MY HEAD IN THE TOILET. UNKNOWN RULE, YOU MUST FLUSH FIRST.

THE MATRON WAS CHECKING ROOMS AND FOUND A WHISP OF LINT BEHIND THE DOOR. SHE CALLED FOR AN ASSEMBLY AND ALL THE BOYS CAME RUNNING. THE BOYS HAD BADS, STICKS, AND BELTS. AND FORMED TWO LINES. MY PUNISHMENT WAS TO RUN THROUGH THIS HOT LINE. IF A BOY DID NOT HIT YOU, HE HAD TO RUN THRU TOO. I TOOK MY SHIRT OFF, BUT THE MATRON SAID SINCE I WAS CRIPPLED, MY BROTHER WOULD TAKE MY PLACE. BILL STRIPPED DOWN AND STARTED TO RUN. THE SECOND BOY HIT BILL IN THE FACE WITH A BELT. HE TURNED AND STARTED TO BEAT THE BOY UP. THE MATRON CALLED IT OFF. I UNDERSTAND BILL FINISHED THE JOB WITH THAT BOY LATER.

ANOTHER FORM OF PUNISHMENT, YOU SAT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS SOMETIMES IN THE SNOW WITH YOUR FEET UP. AVERAGE TIME TWO HOURS.

MY FRIEND WAS BRAGGING ON HOW HE STOLE LIQUOR FROM A STORE IN CARSON CITY. HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN THE BACK, SO HE ORDERED IT. WHEN THE CLERK LEFT, HE WOULD GRAB A BOTTLE AND RUN. I WENT WITH HIM AND WHILE HE TALKED TO THE CLERK, I GOT IMPATIENT. I GRABBED A BOTTLE AND LEFT. LATER, WE MET INSIDE THE THEATRE. I TOOK ONE DRINK AND SPIT IT OUT. MY FRIEND DRANK THE REST.

LATER, I CONFESSED TO THE DEED, THE SCHOOL MADE ME PAY FOR IT AND FACE THE CLERK.

ALWAYS BORED, STUDENTS WERE BRAGGING ABOUT RAIDING THE SMALL STORE. THE GLASS PANEL NEXT TO THE DOOR WAS REPLACED AND HAD SOFT PUTTY. ONE NITE I WENT WITH 3 OTHERS. WE WENT TO OUR BASEMENT AND WENT THRU THE SCREEN PARTITION. I STOLE 1 PIE, AND 3 DONUTS. I WAS REALLY SCARED. I RAN BACK AND JUMPED INTO BED. THE DOOR FLEW OPEN AND AN UPPERCLASSMAN WAS THERE DEMANDING WHAT I STOLE. I WAS SHIVERING AND TOLD HIM IT WAS IN MY LOCKER. HE SAT AT THE FOOT OF MY BED AND ATE IT ALL. HE THREATENED A PUNISHMENT WORSE THAN DEATH IF I TOLD. WHEN WE WERE ALL CAUGHT, I NEVER TOLD ON HIM. I GUESS BECAUSE OF UNCLE JIM, I WAS NEVER SENT TO JAIL. I PAID THE BILL, AND AGAIN TOOK MY HOURS OF PUNISHMENT.

EACH MONTH, WE GOT HAIR CUTS. THE STUDENT BARBER TALKED ME INTO A MOHAWK. WHEN THE MATRON SAW IT, SHE HAD MY HEAD SHAVED CLEAN. SHE TOOK AWAY ALL MY HATS. WHEN I LOOKED INTO THE MIRROR, I JUST CRYED.

IN SCHOOL, I LEARNED TO PLAY THE FLUTE. SINCE I COULDN,T GET ANY NOISE OUT OF THE OTHER INSTRUMENTS.

AT ASSEMBLY, I WAS SITTING DOWN WITH MY CRUTCHED NEXT TO ME. THE PERSON BEHIND ME SET MY PANTS ON FIRE. I SMELLED SOMETHING BURNING AND NEXT THING I JUMPED UP. IT WAS FUNNY TO EVERYONE BUT ME.

IN THE WINTER, WE TOOK TIN, CARDBOARD AND ANYTHING ELSE WE COULD FIND TO GO SLEDDING. THE HILL WE USED HAD A STRAND OF BARBED WIRE HALF WAY DOWN THE HILL. I LEARNED TO DUCK WHEN I SAW IT. OTHER NEW KIDS WASN'T SO LUCKY. THE INFIRMARY WAS ALWAYS BUSY THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

IN THE SUMMER WE USED TO GO UP ON A SAND DUNE NEXT TO THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY. WHEN WE SAW A CAR COMING WE WOULD START DOWN. WE WOULD CROSS THE HIGHWAY IN FRONT OF THE CAR AND SCARE THE DRIVER.

BRO BILL AND I FOUND A CANOE AT THE RIVER, NEXT TO THE CABLE CAR. THE CABLE CAR WENT ACROSS THE RIVER. I WOULD LOAD LARGE ROCKS IN THE CABLE CAR. WHEN BILL CAME DOWN THE RIVER, I WOULD CROSS AND TRY TO SINK HIM.

BEING CRIPPLED, I COULD HARDLY WALK. ONE PERSON ENJOYED TRIPPING ME OR SHOVING ME AGAINST THE WALL. I GOT TIRED OF IT. ONE DAY I TOOK A STICK AND HIT HIS WRIST HARD. HIS WRIST WAS BROKEN. I GOT PUNISHED, BUT IT SURE FELT GOOD.

I WANTED TO TAKE A BUSINESS COURSE IN SCHOOL, BUT THEY LAUGHED AT ME. THIS WAS FOR GIRLS. THEY TOOK TYPING AND SHORT HAND, ETC THE MEN WAS TAUGHT A TRADE TO MAKE A LIVING.

I DID JOIN THE DRAMA CLUB. I WAS THE ONLY MALE STUDENT. AT THE END OF THE YEAR, WE DID A SKIT AT ASSEMBLY.

THE FIRST OF THREE REPLACEMENTS WAS THE SHOE SHOP. I LEARNED TO MAKE A PAIR OF SHOES FROM THE SOLES UP. I MADE A BRACELET WITH A GLASS FACE FOR PICTURES. THIS PLACEMENT LASTED 3 MONTHS.

THE SECOND PLACEMENT WAS IN THE CARPENTER SHOP. WE WERE ALL STANDING AROUND AN ANVIL, WAITING FOR INSTRUCTIONS. MR SMITH SAID THIS IS MY BEST HAMMER, AND HE SLAMMED THE HAMMER ON THE ANVIL. A CHIP FLEW OFF AND WENT CLEAN THROUGH MY ARM. THE NURSE PUT ONE STITCH IN MY ARM AND SENT ME BACK TO WORK. WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR THE STITCH TO COME OUT, SHE TOOK A SCISSORS WITH A FLAT BOTTOM AND GOUGED IT OUT. OUCH !!!

I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE GIRLS DORM TO FIX A BROKEN TRANSOM WINDOW. WHILE I WAS WORKING, THE GIRLS KEPT COMING AROUND IN THEIR BATHROBES AND TALKING TO ME. THEY TOLD ME IT WAS BATH NITE. I WAS DISTRACTED AND CHISELED DEEP INTO THE WOOD. THEN I SAW IT WAS AFTER 5PM. I GATHERED UP MY TOOLS, AND HEADED TOWARDS THE FRONT DOOR. I WENT DOWN THE HALL AND SAW AT LEAST 100 NAKED GIRLS. I SCREAMED THE SAME TIME THEY DID. I MADE A U TURN AND JUMPED OUT THE FIRST WINDOW I CAME TO.

MY THIRD PLACEMENT WAS THE FARM

THEY GAVE ME 4 PILES OF GRAIN TO MIX WITH A SHOVEL. AFTER I WAS DONE, I LOOKD LIKE A SNOW MAN TRIED TO TAKE A NEWBORN CALF ACROSS THE BARNYARD. IT HAD OTHER IDEAS AND ALL I COULD DO WAS FOLLOW. I HELPED A BULL FIND ITS MARK IN BREEDING. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DRIVE, BUT IF I GOT TO WORK FIRST, I COULD DRIVE. THE TRASH TRUCK. WHILE DRIVING, I NEARLY TOTALED A CAR,.2 TREES AND 4 TRASH CANS.

FINALLY THEY PUT ME IN THE OFFICE. I ANSWERED THE TELEPHONE AND DID THE NECESSARY PAPER WORK FOR THE DAIRY. LATER, I LEARNED THE DAIRYMAN'S PRIZE CAR WAS SLAUGHTERED AS IT WENT DRY. IT APPEARS I ENTERED ZEROS ON THE WRONG LINE....

MRS SMALL WAS A TEACHER HERE. HER FATHER HAD A NURSERY IN CARSON CITY.

SINCE THE GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO LET US GO HOME, WE HAD TO STAY AT STEWART. MRS SMALL HIRED BILL AND I FOR THE SUMMER. WE STAYED AT HER HOUSE FOR THE SUMMER. WE WASHED WINDOWS AND DID ALL THE YARD WORK FOR \$30 A MONTH WITH ROOM AND BOARD. EACH NITE WE WANTED MONEY FOR THE CIRCUS IN TOWN OR THE SHOW.

IF WE WERE EXTRA GOOD, WE WOULD ALL GET INTO THE CAR AND GO TO THE PRISON ROAD. THERE, WE WOULD BE QUIET AND LISTEN TO THE BULL FROGS.

BACK TO SCHOOL. MR. FAREY HIRED ME ON SATURDAYS TO WORK IN HIS NURSURY. I LEARNED TO PLANT, FERTILIZE AND CUT FLOWERS FOR BOUQUETS. I EVEN HANDLED THE NURSERY FOR A WEEK WHILE HE WAS GONE. ONE DAY HE CAME TO STEWART TO PICK ME UP. BEING LAZY THAT DAY, I DIDN'T WANT TO GO. SO I HIDE. LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW ABOUT NOON, HE WAS STILL THERE, PATIENTLY WATING FOR ME. ALL I COULD DO WAS GO TO WORK. I GOT 2 SILVER DOLLARS WORKING. EACH SATURDAY

ONE EVENING A GOVERNMENT CAR PULLED UP IN OUR DRIVEWAY. THE MAN FROM STEWART SAID, WITH A TEAR IN HIS EYE THAT BILL WAS EXPELLED, ALONG WITH HIS FRIEND FOR STEALING FROM THE COMMISARY. THEY WERE TAKING THE GOODS OUT INTO THE DESERT FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL USE. BILL SAID HE WAS SELLING THE GOODS TO THE NITE WATCHMAN , ONLY THIS NITE THE WATCHMAN WAS SICK AND ANOTHER TOOK HIS PLACE.

THE PEOPLE AT STEWART CAME FROM BROKEN HOMES, POVERTY HOMES. SOME HAD A CHOICE OF REFORM SCHOOL OR STEWART. ONE BOY HAD 4 SCARS ON BOTH ARMS ABOUT 12 INCHES LONG THAT HIS FATHER INFLICTED ON HIM.

THE TALK 24-7 WAS ABOUT LEAVING. THE MOST POPULAR PLAN WAS TO MAKE A SAP, GO TO RENO, HIT SOMEONE OVER THE HEAD FOR MONEY. THEY HEAD FOR CALIFORNIA. ONE KID DID JUST THAT, BUT WHEN HE HIT SOMEONE, HIS SAP BROKE. HE WAS ARRESTED AND BROUGHT BACK. ONE WINTER, TWO BOYS RAN AWAY AND TRIED TO CROSS THE SIERRAS. THEY WERE BOTH FOUND FROZEN TO DEATH NEXT TO THE HIGHWAY.

THE NEXT DAY WE WERE ASSEMBLED AND WAS TOLD ANYBODY WANTED TO LEAVE IT WAS OK. I WAS THE FIRST TO PACK MY BAG, I SAW BRO BILL AND TOLD HIM GOODBYE SINCE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT. HE WAS BETTER OFF UNTIL I COULD FORMULATE PLANS. WE BOTH CRYED AND I LEFT.