

Lorena Barnum, being duly sworn deposes and says:

I was in the Leesburg Stockade from Aug. 31 to Sept. 1, 1963. I am eleven years old. The room was about 40 feet long and about 15 feet wide and about 12 feet high. There were between 8 and 10 windows which had broken panes and no screens. There was no furniture nor mattresses, blankets or pillows. The floor was filled with the cardboard boxes used to bring in hamburgers which we were given once a day. The hamburgers were cold and stale and half-uncooked. I wouldn't feed it to my pets.

The floor was covered with a thin layer of sandy dirt and dust. We slept on the floor at night and it was cold. I woke up in the morning with cramps in my back.

The walls were damp and felt slimy. The paint on the ceiling was peeling off. During the time that I was there, the only time we had light in the room was when the sun shone into it.

There were two toilet bowls. The feces and paper stuffed into the toilet filled it so that the toilets were not usable. The smell was so bad that I got sick and had to hold my nose. There was no toilet paper. During the time I was there no one moved their bowels. My cousin, Billie Jo Thornton, had not moved her bowels since she had gotten there sixteen day before I did. There was a drain in the center of the floor where the toilets and shower was: we used that to urinate into.

There was one shower that was always leaking and another faucet that was attached high on the wall. The only water available came from the shower. There were two tin cups for the 32 children. The water was warm and sometimes hot. It tasted rusty and sometimes looked kind of cloudy. The shower was so filthy where you had to walk with your shoes off that no one took showers when I was there. The floor of it was filled with burned paper and ashes stuffed in the drain.

In some of the places where the girls slept the girls had urinated and therefore there was an odor in the sleeping or front part of the room.

.... One late evening two of the girls were sick. One girl had a bad heart and the other a bad appendix. One girl was trembling so bad and the other was crying and asking for help so we called for the guard. He ignored us for about 15 minutes and when he came, he said that he wouldn't come again until the other white man would come home. We called again and after several hours the other man came. He said there was nothing wrong with the girls. He said "If they aren't dead by morning, we'll come and look at them again."

Sworn to before me this 13th day of September, 1963

Lois Barnum Holley

Lorena Barnum

Notary Public Ga. State at large  
My commission expires Aug. 29, 1967

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