

## FOR TORTURING A BOY TWO FEMALE FAGANS SENTENCED - A CRUEL CRIME

*Sunday Times – Sunday 9 April 1922, page 9*

A very unusual case for this part of the world came before the Children's Court during the week. The chief actors in the drama were two women Jean Joynes and Lettie Kennerley and a fourteen-year-old boy. Throughout the proceedings the evidence savoured of the dark days of child kidnapping and misery so strikingly described in Dickens "Oliver Twist."

That such human monsters, and women at that, should be found lurking in a well-ordered place like Perth in the present century was indeed a surprise to many. However, people of this calibre apparently do exist here, and two of them have received their just deserts and for the next few months will indulge in hard labour at Fremantle.

Inspector Smith appeared for the prosecution and Mr. M. Cohn for the defendants. The charge laid against the women was that they, by their wilful neglect and misconduct, contributed to the boy becoming a neglected child.



*The Two Inhuman Women, Lettie Kennerley and Jean Joynes*

In his evidence the boy stated, that he had lived with the women in Adelaide until coming West with the women. At first they stayed in Fremantle, but later went with his task mistresses to Carlisle, near Belmont. A house was lived in at first, but of late all three had been living in tents. Shortly after he arrived at Carlisle he went to work for a Mr. Hawkins and his duties were to mind some 25 cows. His wages were increased from 15s. to 20s. and all his earnings, together with what his employer gave him for himself in addition, were taken from him by the women. He said that on an average, he was thrashed by Kennerley three times a week.

On one occasion when minding the cows he fell asleep and the animals wandered away. On waking it was later in the afternoon, but he brought them all back but one. On his return "home" he told the accused women of this happening, and Kennerley again belted him and burnt him on the back. She held him so tightly by the arm that he could not free himself, and after heating a spoon over a lamp applied it to his back, making a wound 1 ¼ in. in diameter and about 3/8 of an inch deep. He was then sent to bed, and could not sleep for the pain, Joynes was in an adjacent tent while this was being

done, and although he cried loudly for assistance she (Joynes) did not come to his aid. On the next occasion when he allowed the cattle to roam away he was afraid to go home because of being burnt again, he was taken in for the night by a Mr. Lyons and stayed the following day with him also. Following his narration of the way the women were treating him, Mr. Lyons took him to the police station. From his statement made to the police the proceedings were instituted.

Although the women said that the boy's father had given them permission to bring the lad to W.A., the police were in the position to contradict this and inform the bench that he was really kidnapped. The father had been unable to trace him since he left Adelaide. Richard

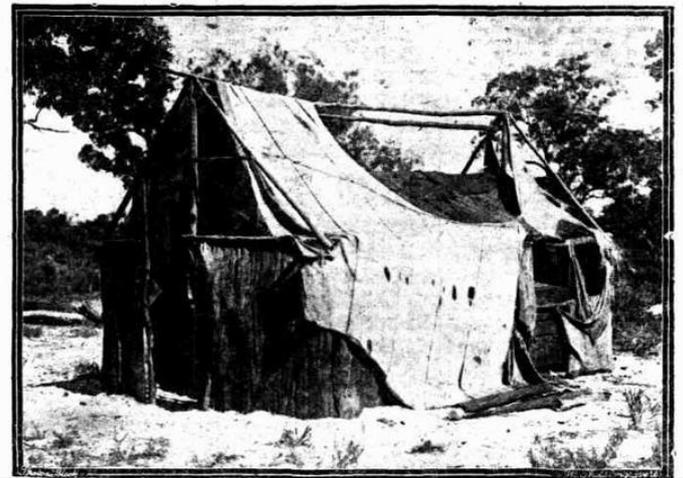
Hawkins, the boy's employer, spoke highly of his work, and said that he was always thoroughly honest. When the boy began to lose the cows Hawkins told him to tell the defendants that he was not wanted any longer. The following letter was written by the women and sent by the boy to the dairyman the next day:-"If you had used more kicks and less kindness you would have had less trouble. I am sure I won't send my little one out to work to keep the useless brute about the place. You have paid the little wretch more than he is worth all along, and I don't know if you are prepared to put up with the blessed humbug any longer, but if so, just give him 15s until the little devil does his work better, and use your horsewhip over him instead of kind words. If he won't work for love, make him with fear."

The only excuse the woman Kennerley gave for her conduct was that she had become "annoyed" with the boy, and had burnt him to give him a "reminder not to tell lies." Jean Joynes denied being at home when the boy was burnt and stated that she "loved animals and children." She was responsible for bringing him from Adelaide, and said she appropriated his wages for debts which, she asserted, were owed her by the boy's parents in South Australia. Lettie Kennerley, in evidence, said she did not mean to be cruel when she burnt the boy, and on that occasion simply called, "Come here Joe," and only touched his back with the hot spoon. When she had done that she told the Bench that she remarked, "I feel a perfect beast." The whole reason for thrashing and burning the lad was to frighten him. She told the Court that she would never try to punish him in that way again, and that it was no pleasure to her to chastise the boy.

Inspector Smith said he was sorry, that the old law of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, and "a burn for a burn" was not in force to-day. The case was unique and horrible, and he hoped there would never be another one. The verdict of the Bench, which stressed the heartlessness, callousness, and inhumanity of the defendants, was that the maximum penalties would be inflicted. Kennerley was sentenced to six months imprisonment and Joynes three months imprisonment with hard labour. The boy was committed to the care of the State until 18 years of age.



**THE BAG HOUSE WHERE THE WOMEN LIVED**



**ONE OF THE HUMPIES OCCUPIED BY THE UNFORTUNATE BOY**