

**Diamantina Health care Museum Association Inc – Oral History  
Project**

**Interview with: Beryl Hely-Wilson on 13 October 1999**

**Interviewer: Sue Pechey**

*This transcript is a slightly edited version of the conversation on the matching tape/disk.*

*Researchers interested in the fine detail and vocal nuances of the interview are encouraged to listen to the aural version.*

SP: Tell me about your childhood and your education?

BH: Well I was born in North Queensland, in Walkerston, and my father was a Church of England clergyman. He moved from place to place very quickly, very often.

SP: About every two or three years?

BH: About three years each, we went to . . . and then my sister was born in Hughenden and then we moved to Rosewood. My first school was in Rosewood, when I was five years old.

SP: What was your maiden name?

BH: The same, I never married. I'm Harriet Beryl and sometimes Harriet is used instead of Beryl. It's the same person.

SP: So your first school was Rosewood. How big was that school?

BH: Very first school.

SP: One teacher?

BH: No, more. Two or three I think. That was right back in 1913.

SP: That was your first year at school?

BH: Yes, I was born in 1908 and then I got into a little bit of trouble because I'm a left hander and I was not allowed to be a left hander in the early days. I used to be made to write right-handed.

SP: Has that been a burden to you?

BH: No, well it was at the beginning because it was something I naturally did and my mother was very good and she taught me to write right handed. My brother was born when we were there so we had a little brother then. Father joined the First World War as a chaplain – do I tell you this?

SP: Yes that's fine.

BH: Yes, and he was away.

SP: Where did he get sent?

BH: Overseas, in England and France and areas in the Middle East it was, Germany. I'm not sure because we didn't get the details often, but he went over as a chaplain and came back at the end of the war. While he was away we lived in a little cottage in Boundary Street, West End, and I went along to a little home school. I think they took children of clergymen and soldiers.

SP: Somewhere close by?

BH: It wasn't very far away, in West End, Boundary Street. I remember going there

SP: And when he came back what happened?

BH: When father came back we went to St Thomas's parish, North Ipswich, which was a very very different place to me I was just eight or nine or ten then. It was a good school, a wonderful school. It helped me a lot. We were only there for two or three years and then we went to Allora on the Downs, it was lovely, beautiful country.

SP: And a nice little Anglican Church too.

BH: Yes, St David's.

SP: Nice stained glass windows.

BH: Yes they've put those in since. It became one of the historical places.

SP: That was a nice old house to live in.

BH: It was, it was a very happy place and father had two horses to bring his. . . .He used to have to go to. . . . . , eleven miles out and the other way he'd go to Atherton Creek services at certain times, and then he'd go to Allora, St David's.

SP: You must have been nearly into high school by then.

BH: Yes. While we were there I had the opportunity to sit for a scholarship from the Glennie school and I got the scholarship and I spent two years, 1922-24 at Glennie's. It was a wonderful place.

SP: Who was the principal there then?

BH: Miss Laurence. Miss Laurence, did you know her?

SP: No, well I know Glennie yes, my nieces went to Glennie

BH: Oh good, well I think Miss Laurence was there. They looked after us very well. I was a boarder.

SP: How did you like being a boarder?

BH: I didn't mind, because they looked after us

SP: How often did you go home to Allora?

BH: Only when there were holidays.

SP: So three or four times a year.

BH: Yes and we used to go down to a little church in Toowoomba, we used to walk down in a queue.

SP: A crocodile?

BH: Yes. A crocodile to the church on Sunday's, otherwise we had good sports and we were taught various things. I was taught music because I'd learnt a little bit of music and I liked music - not that I kept up with it.

SP: And you were there for two years?

BH: Yes, and wonderfully well looked after .

SP: And what then?

BH: Then Father moved from there to Brisbane and we settled in New Farm because for a couple of years he spent life as a chaplain at the . . . . . Mission. Mother and I, my sister and brother were at school when we lived there, because they started - not my

brother, he went to New Farm, he was able to go to a little school up by the fiveways - but my sister started at Margaret's school, Albion.

SP: What did you do?

BH: There, well I tried to settle down and do what I could do, because when I went there I think I was seventeen and I remembered what they told me. I had two plaits down here and they said now you're seventeen you can put your hair up

SP: And did you?

BH: I did, yes, the lady at the mission there showed me what to do.

SP: What next?

BH: Next we came to a very interesting place, Christchurch, Milton which is now a historical place on the end of Lang Park and occasionally I go back there, but it's a very inner-city place. From there I worked a couple of years while I was there in . . . , because I learned shorthand and typing. I didn't think about nursing then. Then in the meantime, when . . . my sister came back to Brisbane and she was doing well, she did general surgical at Royal Brisbane,. . . in Bundaberg and came back to Brisbane and did child welfare – that was Una. While she was in Brisbane, I was thinking I might be able to get what I wanted in the way of shorthand and typing. I said to her do you think I could do nursing and she said well if I can you can. She was younger than me. I was twenty-six when I started my

nursing career, we went to Royal Brisbane in 1936. I finished my training. I've got it written down here and then I finished the training.....Royal Women's in 1941.

SP: Was that just one year?

BH: Yes, that was the one year and I lived in all the time and then came back to the Royal Brisbane on the staff in 1942 and went to various wards, moving round different wards. But I ended up at the Royal Brisbane. I did nine months in radium, that was the danger ward. I finished up being in theatre.

SP: Was that what you liked best?

BH: I did, I think to do it.

SP: What was about it that triggered you?

BH: I think just the occupation, various types of work that we did there and I needed work.

SP: Was your sister on staff there too?

BH: No, she joined the army just before 1940, 1940-41 that was when they went over, wasn't it - went overseas?

SP: Where did she go to?

BH: Well they went over to England first, then over to the Middle East and were in the place called **El Cantara**, (spelling???)the place there, and she went over with a number of nurses from the Royal Brisbane Hospital and she did there until after the war.

SP: So she stayed in the Middle East?

BH: They stayed in the Middle East and then when we were having trouble in Australia and the Japanese were coming over to north Queensland, the army nurses were still together. When they came back to Australia they went down to Concord in Sydney, that was their base, some went some places, some went up to New Guinea and some went up to North Queensland, what's the place?

SP: Rocky Creek?

BH: Rocky Creek, that's right.

SP: You stayed in Brisbane?

BH: And I stayed in Brisbane. Because they said they wanted staff in the hospital because so many had gone away, but during this period of war, when we were expecting the trouble overseas, the top buildings of the hospital were closed; they only took emergencies in and the hospital theatres were on the first floor...and the hospital wards were more of less for emergencies, because I remember most hospital wards were equipped for thirty eight patients and the wards had fifty three in them and they had stretchers on the balconies and they were packed in

SP: Yes I've heard that it was very crowded.

BH: Yes, because refugees were coming sometimes.

SP: Where were they coming from?

BH: I'm not sure, probably mostly Indonesia or something like that, I don't know.

SP: Were they people that didn't speak English?

BH: Some of them were, but most of them seemed to be all right. We didn't have a lot of them because of the accommodation.

SP: Were they Europeans or Asians?

BH: Europeans probably, I'm not sure.

SP: Not Asians.

BH: I don't know.

SP: Do you remember seeing them?

BH: Well they seemed to be able to understand us, what they wanted.

SP: How long did you stay there?

BH: I was there until 1956.

SP: You must have come in fairly soon then.

BH: Yes, the hospital started after the war started to settle down more and they built more blocks.

SP: It was still very busy though wasn't it?

BH: Yes it was, and Diamantina was for geriatric patients and some infectious cases over there. It was being used as a sub branch for the south Ipswich hospital, from the general hospital. After the war they wanted a south Brisbane hospital and they started building there and when the blocks were completed sufficiently to accommodate people, they didn't have surgical staff, they had a medical ward first and operating theatre. They asked the staff from the Royal Brisbane Hospital if they would be willing to transfer from Royal Brisbane over to certain departments throughout the hospital, so there was somebody for outpatients, in casualty and then somebody for the first. . . and somebody for theatre and so they asked me if I would be willing to go over and start in theatre. I was excited about it

SP: Were you, why?

BH: The responsibility.

SP: Being the first. You were the first theatre sister here.

BH: I was the first theatre sister there, naturally took over responsibility.

SP: Do you remember the first operation in the theatres here?

BH: The first operation happened a couple of weeks after I went over, I went over in 1960, a week before it was officially opened in 1956, by Princess Alexandra, wasn't that right?  
That was only the starting me

SP: Can you remember that first operation?

BH: No I didn't take part in it, it was on a Sunday and I was on my day off, but they rang to ask if I could come in. But in the meantime they had organised staff somehow and by the time I got there – it had taken me an hour to get there because I had to get a train and . . . to get there

SP: Where were you living then?

BH: At Manly, Wynnum – Manly.

SP: Are you still with your family?

BH: I have no family because I didn't marry.

SP: But when you were in your old home, you were living with your parents, with your mother?

BH: Yes, my father died in 1949, when I was nursing.

SP: It would have been at least an hour to get up from there!

BH: It would, so they said get a taxi ride. I did get a taxi, I had to hurry up and change my clothes, . . . . . and see that mother was all right because she was on her own. My sister had gone back early, because she was. . . . . later on Sundays. I got there in time for the 2 o'clock operation for Dr Merritt **OR MELLICK????**. But I can't remember the staff who were present. That was the first operation and it would have been from a medical ward, because they didn't have any surgical wards. They only had theatres seven and eight ready, theatres one to six were still . . . . .

SP: Do you remember in that early period when the hospital was very new, did you do things differently to the way they had been done over at RBH?

BH: We were assisted in that we had autoclaves instead of boiler sterilisers. We had the dressings prepared and packaged, sterile dressings. We had the sutures prepared and packaged. We had plaster bandages prepared and packaged, otherwise at the Royal Brisbane, on the top floor, you'd prepare all these things

SP: So that was a big saving on time and effort, wasn't it?

BH: Yes, and good equipment for the surgeons to use automatically, like suction tubes and electrical things, the anaesthetist could have equipment electrically fitted to the patient..

SP: And this hospital too, very quickly became very busy didn't it?

BH: It did, yes. I think the thing was that with the new equipment and the new things regarding the sterilising of equipment and the sterilising of our gowns we had to put in and the drapes for the patients, these all had to be packed up on the theatre floor and it tended to....

SP: So that meant cleaning the theatres was easier too?

BH: Yes, much easier.

SP: How long did you stay here?

BH: Seventeen years, until 1973, I was sixty-five. Times change!

SP: Were you promoted at all during that period?

BH: I was the sister-in-charge of the theatres at that time, most of that time. Two or three years before I finished they wanted to make me a senior sister and I had to go off duty for a while, to the school of nursing instead of

SP: Did you enjoy being a student again?

BH: It was interesting.

SP: What sort of things were they teaching you?

BH: They really just gave me notes to read and answer..

SP: Were they notes about medical things or about administrative things.

BH: About general things I think they were, little things about theatre, being careful of what everything did and making sure you got all your swabs and dressings and your instruments back at the end of the operation. Because it has happened that something has been left in the patient. I was with the neurosurgeon at the Royal Brisbane and we had little squares of soft material that he was using, but they didn't have any tape on them and I had so many and there was one missing.

SP: You were counting them all the time?

BH: Yes, counting them all the time. We had to check everything all the time, and there was one missing and I said, 'I can't find it'. They all stepped back to see it hadn't been dropped on the floor and we looked round everything. The surgeon said, 'we'll have a look'.

SP: And it was inside the patient's head?

BH: Just one, you see, blood stained and hard to distinguish from the tissue.

SP: Just as well you were counting them.

BH: Yes.

SP: Right, your position was sister-in-charge of theatres?

BH: Yes. We had to have two sisters per theatre, because one was the suture sister and one was the swab sister and then we needed a . . . . . And all the instruments were very carefully checked and had to be noted, the scalpel blades that were detachable had to be very carefully checked and drapes and everything like that.

SP: So you would have had about forty or fifty people working in your department?

BH: We had eight theatres, so I don't know how many, about twelve staff I suppose. I can't remember. It's a pity I haven't kept the programme. I used to have to make out a roster of sisters, which theatres they were into. The responsible sister was called the suture sister and there was one sister who was a learning one, she had to be able to . . . and then the nurse was what we called the runabout nurse, she supplied necessary equipment when asked for it and sterile and she had to open it very carefully so that we could take it out as it was ready and just ran messages for the doctor. If he wanted to send a message

or something else, she had to go outside to do it, or the doctor who was the supervising doctor to pass the message on whatever it was.

SP: Were there times over that period of seventeen years that you were here, were there changes in the procedures in the theatres?

BH: Yes, there were, there were more types of operations that I hadn't seen before.

SP: What sort of operations do you remember?

BH: Transplants, we hadn't seen much of that at the Royal, skin grafts and skin replacement and another one was the laser treatment that didn't require sutures, suturing, the laser treatment sealed the tissues. I had my eyes done, sealed like that way, I didn't have stitches put in, and I shouldn't talk about that should I.

SP: That's all right, why not. Did you have them done here?

BH: At the Royal Brisbane, because the surgeon, the ophthalmologist, he worked from there. That's changed, but now . . . . . used to have to come up to the Wesley hospital for examination. Now they've moved the equipment down in the bayside area.

SP: They moved all eye surgery from RBH: over to here at one stage, didn't they?

BH: Did they? I don't remember that. They did have an eye theatre, theatre 2 I think was the eye theatre and that would have the .....equipment and they would have had an eye surgeon here.

SP: So what other changes do you remember? Do you remember changes in the uniform at all?

BH: Yes, when we went to the PA we had to wear canvas covers over our boots. We had to be careful changing. We had change rooms on the floor, but we took our outdoor uniform when we had uniforms made for us. They were a bluey colour I think, and then the surgeons had a sort of ...uniform, that came later. Of course they've always had the sterile gown. They had to ...before an operation and they always had to have a cap on, always had to have a mask.

SP: Did they change in shape or consistency, those caps and masks?

BH: Much the same when I first went there, I don't remember much change.

SP: The fabric that they were made from, did that change?

BH: I can't remember...cotton.

SP: Was it in your time here that the nurse's uniforms changed and the veils went?

BH: I think it was starting. I don't think it happened in my time. It was more later on. It changed to a university education, and the staff came on as nurses from university. I'm not quite sure of the time of that. I think we all wore the white uniform and the veils and caps.

SP: When you were a theatre sister here, you came to work in the morning and you changed into theatre gear?

BH: Yes, you came upstairs, and you took those off and put the other ones on.

SP: Did you ever go into the wards at all?

BH: If I went out, no. The only section I went in amongst patients was recovery room, and later on Intensive Care was made. But I can't remember whether we had it started on the theatre floor or whether it went down underneath, I can't remember.

SP: So people went from the theatre, to recovery, and then from recovery to intensive care?

BH: No, not unless they needed intensive care. If they were all right, they'd go back to their own ward and the staff responsible, there was the wardsmen and a nurse, probably, who took them back to their ward.. . . . . I can't remember whether it was the recovery room nurse but she wouldn't have been working in the theatre, she would have been in the recovery room or something like that. But intensive care was a separate thing altogether. If a patient needed intensive care after the operation, she would go there.

SP: Do you remember the first transplant operation you ever saw?

BH: I have an idea it was performed in theatre 7, but I can't remember the date. We had a patient , .....treatment and then transferred to the operating table. She'd been sort of semi-frozen, he or she (I don't know) and they were having, I can't remember whether it was a liver transplant or what it was, I can't remember, sorry.

SP: Do you remember it lasting much longer than other operations?

BH: Well, it was more time consuming. They transferred the liver to the patient and it would have taken a longer time, because they had to resuscitate the patient, to warm the patient again before they could be taken to the operating theatre to be ready for transfer to recovery room, as far as I know

SP: Do you remember how long that all took?

BH: No, I'm sorry I can't remember.

SP: You don't remember how tired your legs must have been?

BH: I was always a bit tired. I was short; I used to have to stand on a little square box because the theatre table was elevated to the height of the surgeon. You had to be above the height of the table so you could hand him the instruments, to see what you were doing and you had to be ready so you knew what to give him. He put his hand out for you to put the right instrument in. He didn't say.....

SP: Which surgeons did you work with most?

BH: Over here was Professor Neville Sutton was one of them and Dr Leggett, I can't remember really, because I go back to the Royal Brisbane and I remember more there.

SP: They had two different teams here didn't they with three surgeons in each team?

BH: Different teams yes. Each type of surgery had their own special surgeons.

SP: And each with a different set of instruments and whatnot?

BH: They were all in our cabinet and we had to put out the ones we thought he would require, but it was a basic set of instruments.

SP: How many instruments in a basic set?

BH: I couldn't tell you that.

SP: Would it be ten or thirty?

BH: Twenty-four little. . . forceps, there'd be six little ones, six tissue forceps to hold tissue and maybe six longer tissue forceps. There'd be two or three suture needle holders, there'd be three pairs of retractors of various sizes and scalpels, knives, a couple of those, scissors, curved scissors and straight scissors, one pair of each. That's about all I think.

SP: That's a fair collection.

BH: They had to be exactly right, so that the person could remember. You must remember what you had and you must have them at the end, very important.

SP: And you went into each operation with a certain number of swabs, a certain number of bits of gauze. How did you know how many to take?

BH: They were packaged in about six lots, and then there were sponges, they were about this size with a tape on.

SP: That's about the size of a sheet of paper

BH: Yes. And they would be the ones that would be tipped onto the patient's wound and they would be separated inside. Then there were sponge holders (pudding swabs we used to call them) so that they could dab air into the wound and if necessary they had so many of those. You had to have the right number and know the right number, so that you had them when you finished. Then there were side towels that were taken off when the suturing was started.

SP: Let's talk about your relationships with other nurses. Matron Broomfield would have been the first matron you remember here.

BH: Yes she was. The first ones that came over were deputy matrons, Miss Burbidge who came over from the Royal Brisbane. She's not there, she was the deputy matron over at the Royal Brisbane, she just came over for a few weeks to start until Miss Broomfield took over and Sister Hill.

SP: This is this photograph here isn't it? Matron Broomfield...just a few of them left.

BH: She was a senior sister over at the Royal Brisbane. She came over as deputy matron.

SP: And you on the right.

BH: Yes, I'm right. I was one of the senior sisters amongst the group and Miss Hill was retiring, that's about 1961 I think and we were giving her a . . . and we had to get Miss Broomfield to give it to her. We were probably ..black and white photo.

SP: Why was she retiring, was she going to get married?

BH: No, we had to retire at sixty.

SP: She doesn't look sixty!

BH: No, very active.

SP: You've got two more photographs here, can you tell me about them? This is a photograph of two people here. It's of you and who's the other one?

BH: I haven't written on the back. I'd have to find out. She was just one of the trained staff.  
This is meeting at some of the reunions. I'm sorry, the names are not on it.

SP: And this one here is another reunion?

BH: This is another reunion. That's Sister Lowe. I knew her quite well because she was a transfer from me.

SP: Edie Lowe?

BH: Yes and this looks like me. That's Miss Sprenger and that's me behind her. This is Beryl Hely-Wilson and Miss Otto, she's on the right and that is Miss Barrow lunching in 1993. It could have been about that same time. I don't know because I can't remember. I could get copies of them.

SP: We may get back to you and ask you for copies. I think the black and white one especially is interesting.

BH: That is most interesting, because that was when we used to have the dress. That would be about 1960-61, because she and I went and retired and I had my holidays, went on a trip to central Australia because her sister and brother and herself were interested in the Presbyterian inland mission. I think they had a connection in that respect and she asked if I'd like to go and I thought it would be very interesting I went not as a nurse but as a schoolgirl. One of the ladies who came to Cloncurry, she married Dr Vickers – have you

heard of Dr Vickers, the flying doctor? He was one of the early flying doctors from north Queensland and they married and went over to Port Headland in Western Australia. They married and they came back, I think, to Queensland initially and unfortunately he died earlier. But they had two sons and the two sons are doctors.

SP: So you had that trip to central Australia? How long was that?

BH: That was 1961, we only had a month away.

SP: Did you drive?

BH: No, we went over in a train to Alice Springs, toured round there and then went up to North Queensland, Northern Territory up to Katherine.

SP: Did you go to Darwin?

BH: No, I don't think we went as far as Darwin. But we went to, what's that other one?

SP: Doesn't matter. Then did you fly back to.....

BH: No, we went over in the train to Alice Springs, but we got a bus all the way up the Northern Territory and down to Central Queensland, to Brisbane. That took us a week, the plane took us five hours, from nine to five

SP: So that was a good holiday. Tell me about your social life. You were a young nurse during the war, was that fun?

BH: I was at the Royal Brisbane, but not with my sister. My sister was a nurse during the war, she went overseas, but I worked here at the Royal Brisbane.

SP: Did you never go to dances with the soldiers during the war?

BH: No, I didn't.

SP: Were you not allowed out?

BH: We had to be in before dark in the old days, when they had that cover over. . . This was starting after that war. No we were asked not to go out and on our day off to come home before dark - because all the lights would be shaded (even round the hospital) because the lights that took us up from the street up the hill to the nursing quarters were dimmed.

SP: So you were very well sheltered, what a shame.

BH: We had.....on the windows, to shade the windows.

SP: And what about the social life over here at PA? Did you join in any of the ...

BH: I didn't join in anything very much because I went home. When we had the reunion at the Gabba, we didn't have very much, or we could go to the little room in the quarters or somewhere and have a chat about work during the day.

SP: Did you go to the movies up here at the old cinema up here on Annerley Road?

BH: Not very often, I don't remember going much like that.

SP: And you lived in up here?

BH: Yes I lived in. My room was as you came in the entrance was the first room on the left. It was near the Ipswich Road and when we started here, there were trams. I thought I'd never exist here, because they were terribly noisy. They'd go clank clank clank nearly every night

SP: But as a theatre sister you never had night duty, did you?

BH: No, not myself, but somebody had to be on call. You had one sister in the theatre who worked at night, I think that's right.

SP: What did she do?

BH: She had to be here in case there was a call and she had to get ready.

SP: How did she fill in her time if there was nothing on?

BH: I don't know. There was a room nearby. I don't remember, to tell you the truth.

SP: Was she allowed to just sleep there.

BH: She'd be off during the day.

SP: She'd sleep during the day, but when she was up there in the theatre during the night, what did she do?

BH: Well, whatever happened, or read or something I suppose. Or she may have to prepare some equipment.

SP: I'll bet she wasn't allowed to sit there and read.

BH: I can't remember, I'd have to ask someone. I've forgotten a lot of things.

SP: We'll see if we can find out. But I'll be surprised if they let her sit there and read.

BH: I just can't remember. But otherwise we were called out.

SP: You never remember any big emergencies when you were all called out?

BH: No.

SP: Did you join any of the sporting clubs here?

BH: I wasn't a good sportswoman. Some of them used to do tennis. I think they had a tennis court here, didn't they? I think I was getting older, I was a bit older than the others.

SP: Did you have a good relationship with Matron Broomfield?

BH: Oh yes, I think we all did, I think we all admired her, because after all she had a very responsible position.

SP: What do you remember about her?

BH: That she was good to us, spoke to us, helped us when we wanted some information. She would help us and so did the senior sisters help each other.

SP: So it was a good working atmosphere?

BH: It was, yes, on the whole. You see we were growing, more blocks were going up, expanding. They had to stop at seven states, didn't they?

SP: And now it's all about to come down.

BH: Yes, it seems to be happening, doesn't it?

SP: When the new hospital is finished.

BH: Is that going to be private hospital, up there? They talked about building a private hospital on the hospital grounds.

SP: No, that's a public hospital that's being built up there That's going to replace this big old building that you worked in. It's going to come down, as I understand it.

BH: That would be the first building, that one there. I think they built something more at the back didn't they?

SP: There's been additions and extensions and whatnot.

BH: Because there was still one or two blocks up there, very old, long wooden buildings with patients in.

SP: During your period here of seventeen years, do you remember any outstanding nurses, outstandingly good?

BH: Well, there were some, but I couldn't tell you their names now.

SP: What is it makes a good nurse?

BH: That she is conscientious and doesn't mind being told if she's done the wrong thing because some of them rebel, get their own way. But I found that most of the trained staff I had were quite conscientious.

SP: Is there anything else you want to tell me?

BH: I don't think so. But having the prepared equipment, it saved us having to prepare it, but in the old Brisbane Hospital, up on the top floor where the theatres were, there was a big section there. We used to have to go in there and make these cotton swabs, dressings, bandages and have all this sort of thing prepared.

SP: Wind bandages, very tedious!

BH: Yes, but it's one of those things that had to be done. During the war they prepared all this sort of equipment for the staff to take overseas. I think afterwards it was found useful enough to bring back to the new hospitals. I mean some we had to re-sterilise it. That's another thing we had here once. Over here in PA there was a swimming pool. There was a window above the swimming pool where the students could sit and watch operations, between three and four and people were coming down and standing down and standing behind us, so they could go up there. They had a television, enclosed television, circuit for one session. I think they worked from hospital nurses quarters across or something like that. I had to go away for all the drapes and things. Greens show up better on the television than white things. They asked if I could get the equipment coloured pale green so I did the right things.

SP: Where did you do that dyeing, how did you do that?

BH: I took some of it home at night and did it in the copper tubs you know, because they were clean things, but I dyed them and then they had to be sterilised, of course, dyed and rinsed, but we didn't continue after.

SP: So it was just for the film?

BH: Yes.

SP: Thank you very much. Thank you for your time.

BH: .....Senior Sister retired. An advertisement was placed .

SP: It would have been in the *Courier Mail*, I suppose would it?

BH: I don't know

SP: That would have been about 1973.

BH: Yes, so that there would be somebody who would be willing to take over.

SP: This is the senior sister of operating theatre? Do you know who got the job?

BH: Was the first one Gloria Cook?

SP: That's possible. I think she was. Did she take over from you?

BH: She took over from me. She was on the staff I think here.

SP: Okay, well thank you.

**Transcribed by Sylvia Johnson**

**11 November 1999**

**Edited by Sue Pechey & Jan Leo**

**26 January 2000**

**This transcript has been checked by ..... (Print Name)**

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....