

Nurse Harvey's Hospital Geoffrey Bolton OH0150

Well yes, I was born on 5th November 1931 and that was at Nurse Harvey's Hospital at 30 Bulwer Street in Perth. My parents tell me I really started by being spoilt because it was the middle of the Depression and I was the only child in the hospital at that time and because it was Guy Fawke's Day. My father had been at work during the afternoon when I was born so he came in the evening and held the baby in his arms and across the road in Perth Oval there was a fireworks display going on. Between that and having the hospital to myself, my parents reckoned I began spoilt.

ML: Yes, I quite agree. Can you recall seeing the building later on?

Yes because when I was not quite six my younger brother was born and I was taken along several times to see him and my mother when they were in hospital. The thing I remember most about it was that in order to keep me amused they had a big, old Webster's Dictionary with a lot of wood-cut illustrations. They were illustrating various animals or implements or that sort of thing and they could keep me amused by just sitting me down looking at the pictures trying to spell out the words. That was my big memory.

Nurse Harvey, I have a vague recollection of, but by 1937 when my brother was born they were a good deal busier than they had been. I suppose it had been a private house to start with. There were two or three big houses that side of Bulwer Street. There was the "Loton House", which is actually on the corner of Lord Street, and this one was just a bit further along.

ML: It was two-storeys as well?

BOLTON: Oh yes. That, of course, was fairly unusual to a North Perth boy.