

Facts:

- Dutch air force drives away Russian Tupolev-bomber
- KAVT (now KSMQ) TV channel 15 in Austin, MN (PBS) begins broadcasting
- Norway votes to join common market
- Sandra Haynie wins LPGA Lincoln-Mercury Golf Open
- In a referendum, the people of Norway reject membership of the European Community.

25/09/1972 – Thomas Henry Barnard Joins the Port of Kings Lynn.

Thomas Henry Barnard, born sometime at the turn of the 19th century in North End, Kings Lynn, the last of 4 children and the result of a mistake by the family doctor. He was an old child; I have it on reliable authority that he wore a 3 piece suit and pocket watch when playing out on the street. This look of sophistication has, I'm sure you will agree, followed him throughout his life.

Before coming to work on the docks he served in WW2 in reconnaissance, the skills he learned in spending days on end without moving proving invaluable for his later life on the port. However after a hand grenade went off he paid £50 and de-listed.

Next up was a stint at Man-Eggertons in the body shop, but again this job didn't suit and he moved to Bristow & Copley Timber plant. Then on the 25th September 1972 he joined the British Transport Docks Board Port of Kings Lynn following in the footsteps of His father and brother.

During his time on the port he has done nearly every job on here – “Blakey on the Gate”, Labouring Gang, Weigh Bridge Operator, Tide-man - many a time it has been said a rock was thrown at the North Side Door to wake up a snoozing Thomas Henry – Despite all of these roles at his 40 year presentation the regional manager said there was nearly no record of him working on the dock at **all!**

As we know Tom loves telling a story and there are many about him out there somewhere, although most have been buried in a shroud of smoke and mirrors. I have been told of one instance where after an argument with a particularly obnoxious first mate on a grain boat he turned the elevator towards him and doused him in grain – he has never been one to take fools lightly. He was a keen darts and dominoes player – (once winning a doubles competition with Kevin despite being the dark horses, quietly leaving victorious followed by many fist pumps outside).

He also used to own a pond..... and a greenhouse..... with one grape vine in it.

He has his wife Maria, two sons Jonathon & Paul and now grand children. Which im sure will keep him busy in his retirement, and also a captive audience for his many tales. (although im sure none will be going out to play with their friends in a three piece).

On a serious note Tom has given 43 years of hard work and dedication to this port - a fact borne out by the promotion to Operations Supervisor and then Operations Superintendent “Dock 6” in 2009. He has performed this role with a smile and enthusiasm has always looked after his men and always stood up for them (whether they realise it or not!) – and probably the greatest testament and achievement of his time in this role is that, despite the risks and dangers we face, we have all gone home safely at the end of the day.