

## Ove Tang Barfod 1911-2009

### An Engineer's Engineer

- Ove came to England in 1948 to work as a civil engineer because projects were few in Denmark and there was a surplus of young Danish civil engineers.
- He joined the Danish owned civil engineering contractors Peter Lind & Co Ltd. He remained with them until retirement in 1976 having become their Chief Engineer in 1959 and being appointed to the Board in the 1960s.
- He joined both the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Institution of Structural Engineers and qualified as a full member with both institutions. Later he was appointed a Fellow (ie a leader of the profession) by both institutions. He presented several learned papers to both bodies.
- At Peter Lind he was responsible for many of their major projects over 28 years. Among his notable projects were the **Post Office Tower** in London, the second **Clifton Bridge** over the river Trent in Nottingham, major developments at **Beckton gasworks** and numerous **marine projects** particularly on **Merseyside**.
- He was by character a perfectionist and expected the best quality work from all his staff. He himself never gave less than his best.
- Never a great one for hobbies he devoted his off-duty time to his family. He was a splendid Morfar to Jennifer and Peter and in his last years took great pleasure in his great-granddaughter Eleanor.
- He was a member of the Danish Church committee for over 40 years and was responsible for the fabric of St Katharines.
- He was an active member of the Danish Club in London, the Anglo-Danish Society and the Society of Danish Civil Engineers in UK.
- He encouraged his son-in-law William Kemp in the profession, perhaps regretting that William was a Consultant not a Contractor! However he applauded William's success in becoming a Director of his company and Vice-President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He was even more pleased when his granddaughter Jennifer followed in the profession, as an environmental scientist with a major consulting practice.
- A seemingly stern man, almost Victorian in some ways, he had a dry and mischievous sense of humour and delighted in playing small practical jokes on both his daughters and his grandchildren.

Ove Tang Barfod was born in Frederiksberg, Denmark. 26.7.1911.

Parents were Poul David Tang Barfod [20.3.1881-26.3.1968] and Anna Elisabeth Raffenberg [4.12.1880 – 19.9.1974]. Poul was a master carpenter, he was part owner of Julius Nielsen & Son, and buildings assessor for Bikuben (la building society). He was awarded "Ridder af Dannebrog". Anna was a teacher and worked in Brazil and Switzerland.

Siblings: Anna Marie Elisabeth Tang Barfod (Lis) [27.2.1914 – 28.2.2005]. She was a teacher (taught Princess Margrethe and her sisters 1946 -1953). She married Vagn Schrøder Poulsen 7.8.1959. Agnete Tang Barfod [26.7.1917]. She was a nurse. She married Knud Steen 7.10.1944 and they had 5 children Ole, Kathrine (Tine) and Morten (twins), Poul and Claus. In Evald Tang Barfod [26.9.1902] He is a chemical engineer and lives in Maine, America. Married 1. Emily Ruth Xanten 5.9.52. They have 3 children Elisabeth, Hans Peter, Kirsten. 2. Lee Humphreys 27.8.1996.

Qualified as Civil Engineer (Cand.Polyt.from Polyteknisk Lærestanstalt) 1934.. He did his national service 1934 – 35. 1935-1948 he worked for various Danish Civil engineering firms and was in charge of the building of the largest electricity power station in Denmark (Issefjordværket) just before the war and army barracks on Bornholm just after. In June 1948 he came to England to work for Peter Lind & Co. He became chief engineer in 1959 and director of the firm in 1970. He specialised in marine works but also was on the Post Office Tower. He retired 7.8.1976. He was on the council for the Danish Church (St. Katherine in Regents Park) and had responsibility for the actual building and its repairs. He was also on the council for the Soc.of Danish Civil Engineers in England for a number of years and of the Danish Club.

Married Inger Regitze Hansen [4.1.1912 – 9.3.1988] in 22.5.1942.

Children Twin daughters, \_Annette Tang Barfod [13.11.1943] a qualified librarian who has worked in Denmark and America but mostly for Sutton Libraries. Took early retirement 1.1990 to take up fine art colouring and look after her father. Birgitte Tang Barfod (Gitte) [13.11.1943] She was a secretary who worked in Denmark but mostly in England. She married William Ronald Kemp 26.4.1969. He was a Civil Engineer who worked for Scott Wilson & Partners. He was a partner in the firm and retired in 2005. They lived in Hong Kong 1976 – 1983 where he was in charge of building Tsun Mun, a new town. She has two children. Jennifer Anne [26.12.1972] and Peter Nicholas [9.1.1975] Both have degrees from Nottingham University. Peter works for the government. Jennifer works as an environmental engineer for Golders. She married Terence Boniface (Terry) [24.3.67] on 21.3.2003. They have a daughter Eleanor Primrose [24.10.2005] Ove's first great granddaughter.

## **Ove Tang Barfod**

Born 26,7,1911 Died 02.11.2009 98 years

Son of Poul Tang Barfod (20.3.1881 – 26.3.1968) and Anna Elizabeth Barfod nee Raffenberg (4.12.1880 – 19.9.1974)

Oldest of 5 children and 1 brother and 1 sister survive him. 1 brother died in infancy.

Married Inger Regitze Barfod nee Hansen ( 4.1.1912 – 8.3.1988)

Father to identical twin girls Annette and Birgitte

Grandfather to Jennifer and Peter

Great grandfather to Eleanor

Lived and was educated in Denmark where he became a civil engineer and was in charge of building Issefjordværket.

Then he emigrated to England and worked for the Danish contractors Peter Lind and Co Ltd until his retirement. He became chief engineer in 1959. He was very proud of that though he complained that he did more admin than engineering work and became a director in 1970. He worked partly on silos for the big firms like Quaker Oats but later mostly on marine work like large piers for the new mega tankers and oil jetties. We used to watch the news and every time yet another tanker crashed into the dock we would phone him at work so that he could get all the plans out ready and go to look at the damage first thing next morning. He was also in charge of the building of the Post Office Tower.

Was a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers for over 60 years and became a fellow and was also a member of the Institution of Structural Engineers for over 60 years and became a fellow.

He was a Kirkevæge for most of the 70s and 80s being in charge of the church structure , maintenance and repairs. He had to give it up when Mor became ill with cancer.

After his wife died he lived with his daughter Annette until he had to move to Heatherwood Nursing home 4½ years ago after a hip replacement operation that didn't go well.