

Thomas Price Pollard 1855-1951

AROUND PENZANCE AND ST. IVES

Ninety-two Today

Mr. T. P. Pollard, living with his daughter at 23, Adelaide-street, Penzance, is 92 today and readers will join "The Cornishman" in sending best wishes to Mr. Pollard. Born in Church-street, Newlyn, in 1855, lived there until two years ago. Passionately fond of the sea, Mr. Pollard, as a boy of nine, used to make tea for his father and the crew of a Newlyn fishing boat. For 14 years he took net, rope and wire classes for Truro Council, and at the Y.M.C.A., Penzance, his net-making class had a stall during Boer war days. He recalls speaking to the popular old Gen. Buller. In the 1914-18 war and for 15 years, Mr. Pollard served in the R.N.V.R. He tried to re-enter the Navy in the recent war — without success, of course, and turned to net making, including camouflage nets. He was in charge of the barometer at Newlyn for 20 years, and misses the cheery query "How's the glass, Cap'n?" A member of the Queen of the West Lodge of the Independent Order of Foresters, he is the oldest Forester in Cornwall. He formed a Newlyn Male Voice Choir, sponsored by the Harbour Commissioners, which sang at Scarborough Fisherman's Church. The money they gained by the trip was used for the building of the south arm of Newlyn harbour, and the stone laid by Mr. Tom Bolitho was purchased with the prize money. Birthday greetings today will come from all parts of the world to Mr. Pollard, for his seven children, six of whom are living, have not all stayed by the shores of Mount's Bay. He has 25 grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter. On looking back over his eventful life Cap'n Tom has no regrets. "If I was the youngest instead of the oldest persons in the borough, and had my life before me, I should go to sea again."

Transcribed by Irene Flaxman from: The Cornishman, Thursday, June 19th, 1947

Obituary

96-YEAR-OLD NEWLYN SAILOR

Penzance district lost one of its most well-known personalities on Saturday, when Mr. T. Price Pollard, generally known as "Captain Pollard," died at the age of 96. He leaves a son and three daughters.

Mr. Pollard, a Newlyn fishing skipper and boat-owner, whose father had owned a fleet of boats, was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church and a keen singer; he sang his first solo at the age of seven.

He was choirmaster for 70 years, and in 1881 took a choir to Scarborough to give a concert to help the fund for the building of the South Pier at Newlyn. In his later days he was the moving spirit behind the formation of a choir of elderly women.

With his peaked cap and beard, he was a favourite model for the artists of the area; he had his portrait painted several times, once as "Cap'n Kettle."

He was until recently a familiar figure at old folk's parties at Penzance.

Transcribed by Irene Flaxman from The Cornishman, Thursday, May 17, 1951