

## Interview with Lloyd Barnet - 2nd November 2022

Interviewer and Summariser: Rozanne Gomes

- Born 1934, Jamaica.
- Joining the railways - printer by trade, there was a printing plant at his school. Left at 16 years old and went straight to the printing trade. He had also wanted to be an accountant, as he was good at figures.
- Early days - Closed shop for printers in London - you needed to already be in the Union or in the print trade in order to join either. At the Exchange, there was a railway job advert and he applied to be a fireman at Euston in 1956. Still went to college at night to keep up with printing.
- First days as a fireman - cleaning engines to becoming a driver, he explains the footplate links and grades.
- Exams needed for passing driving, he was a fireman for 10 years. When there's a vacancy in the seniority list, you get an opportunity for the next new job.
- Lloyd says King's Cross was a family unit for everyone. The best depot in the country!
- Social life - parties were at different people's houses, a social club in a nearby hotel, annual dinner/dances, dominoes, Christmas parties for the kids, boat trips, day trips to Clapham.
- Funny anecdote about strikes.
- Hierarchy - anecdote about his wedding and having time off which was unusual.
- Nicknames - about a guard called Morris, 'Steamer'. Anecdotes given.
- Perks - long service award after 10 years he was given a clock which he still has.
- Anecdote given about draughts on diesel trains.
- Pay & Conditions- When he first started the pay was better in Jamaica. He could take his holidays as days in lieu he could bank them and take annual leave. Mileage was useful.
- Technological changes -He saw steam, diesel and electric engines. Staff were given time to learn the new engines, he liked the electrics most.
- Privatisation impact- On British Rail there were two drivers and he could split the journey. Once privatised, only one driver per cab, so he had to be more vigilant.

- On the railways for over 40 years and always looked forward to going to work.
- Interview concludes with Lloyd giving a description of his training, typical day as a fireman man and a little about the Windrush generation workers.