

A SOMSEN GRANNY AS TRUCKER

by Chris Somsen [1382]

On Sunday, June 10, Grandma Somsen from Slagharen, Hennie Somsen-Schetsberg [1348] became 75. This is a very joyful fact in itself.

But for Hennie Somsen this birthday became a very special one.

Hennie Somsen has had a liking for everything connected with trucks and transport for a very long time.

Her husband and sons have worked or worked with trucks for a considerable time.

Bernard (Grandpa) Somsen [1347] travelled around with the Shetland Show quite a lot in the early days of the Pony Park – now Amusement Park - Slagharen.

When Hennie goes on a holiday the first picture she takes is not of the surroundings or the hotel, but of a big Scania truck waiting for the ferry to Ameland.



She really loves it to be a passenger on a truck and then she always says with a deep sigh: *'if I were younger I would like to get a driving licence'*. Her children thought that her 75th anniversary would be a very good opportunity to arrange something special for her.

On June 9, 2001, all the children and grandchildren 'happened' to drop by all at the same time. Grandma thought they would like to enjoy sitting in the sun at the back of the house.

But at half past four Grandma was taken away to Hoogeveen.

There was a big truck waiting for her and Grandma thought: 'Oh, this is nice, I will be offered a roundtrip'.

The big letter L (learner) at the front of the truck, though, predicted that there were more possibilities than just being driven around. After having said goodbye the learner truck left with Hennie, an instructor and a camera-man for a quiet and spacious square.

'Now it is time for you

'now I do get the creeps'

to do the job, the instructor

said and left the driver's seat, making place for Hennie Somsen. And just like *Henk Wijngaard* so beautifully sings: *The truck went forth, the truck went back, just anywhere it wanted to go.*

After this lesson they made a roundtrip through her place of residence Slagharen and finally to her husband, children and grandchildren who were anxiously waiting for her in Hoogeveen.

Here she received a certificate as proof that she had driven the truck herself. Though it also said that the certificate was not a driving licence. Then the whole family returned home to have their Sunday's coffee and to have a chat about it.



Now Grandma can also put in a word when it comes to thrilling stories with lots of horsepower, miles of asphalt, hamburgers, coffee and strong tobacco. ■

Photo's Chris Somsen