

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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BARKER. Thomas Albert & Son **George Street,** **WELLINGBOROUGH**

Bert Barker was a Cab and Motor Proprietor offering various kinds of horse and motor conveyances for hire during the First World War from premises in George Street, Wellingborough. Below is a typical advertisement of the period, this one appearing in the Wellingborough News on 5th February 1915.

Up-to-date Weddings !

T. A. BARKER has now for hire for Weddings, and for business or pleasure purposes, both

OPEN AND CLOSED MOTORS.

**Rubber Tyred Landaus, Broughams, Carriages,
Horses, Traps, Wagonettes and Brakes.**

TRAINS MET AT ANY TIME.

FURNITURE REMOVED.

For particulars apply—

T. A. BARKER, Cab and Motor
Proprietor,

George Street, Wellingborough.

TELEPHONE 138.

By the early 1920s Bert Barker was describing himself as a Cab and Jobmaster undertaking all kinds of work requiring the use of horse or motor propelled vehicles. Later on he concentrated more on road haulage and after the Second World War that side of his business was Nationalised under the Transport Act of 1947, when his operations passed to British Road services.

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Torestyn" 101 Broadway East, Northampton NN3 2PP, who would be pleased to be advised of any additional information relating to the above operator. The records of the PSV Circle and the Omnibus Society have been consulted extensively for this series and acknowledgement and thanks are due to these organisations.

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BARKER T A & Son, WELLINGBORO'

Telegraphic Address—"Barker, Jobmaster, Wellingborough."
Telephone No. 138.

George Street, Wellingborough,

Mr Mansfield

Sept 1923

Dr. to T. A. BARKER,
Carter and Jobmaster.



MOTOR CARS (open or closed) for Weddings, etc.

HORSES, TRAPS, WAGONETTES & BRAKES for Hire.
LANDAUS & BROUGHAMS. GREYS & BAYS for Weddings.

Horses let by the day, week or month.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE.

Estimates given for all kinds of Draught Work.

T. A. BARKER, 160
Job Master, Cab Proprietor, &c.
Wellingborough, *Sept 12 1923,*

RECEIVED from *Mr Mansfield* *for Wood & bou to 22*

the sum of £ *1 5*:-

per **T. A. BARKER,**

WITH THANKS.

London Rd to Church
to 5 Grove St to 6
th to Woodheads wait
heads to Masonic Hall £ *1 5 0*

Perkins & Co. (Wellingborough), Ltd.

A facsimile of one of Bert Barker's invoices and receipts dating from 1923.

It seems that shortly after the War Bert Barker acquired a Bedford OWB carrying a S.M.T. body fitted with thirty-two slatted wooden seats and with which he operated contract and private hire work. A little later, some improved upholstered seats were fitted to the Bedford, which downseated it to twenty-eight but at the same time made it more suitable for private hire duties.

FOR PRIVATE HIRE
28-Seater Coach
 Dates available include:
ASCOT and AUGUST WEEKS
T. A. Barker & Son
WELLINGBOROUGH
 Phone 2138 W9

Bert Barker advertises the availability of his coach in the Evening Telegraph in June 1948.

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BARKER T A & Son, WELLINGBORO'

In June 1949 Bert Barker treated himself to a brand new coach and chose a Vulcan chassis to which he had fitted a twenty-nine seat coach body built by A E Smith & Son of Kettering. This vehicle was registered ERP 969 on 18th June 1949 and was painted maroon and cream



Vulcan ERP 969 can be seen in this photograph in the ownership of T A Barker & Son.

A report at the time in the local paper said that the coach was absolutely the last word in comfort. It had a Vulcan chassis and the body was built by A E Smith & Sons, Kettering. A powerful Perkins diesel engine ensures smooth running. The coach, designed to give passengers "arm-chair comfort", has a maroon colour scheme and incorporates all the latest developments of coach travel, including liberal space for luggage which is hidden away at the rear.



Another view of Vulcan ERP 969 but photographed after it had passed to Jesse Lawman of Finedon.

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BARKER T A & Son, WELLINGBORO'

No doubt running a single coach, after being used to operating several lorries, was not a particularly economical proposition for Bert Barker and he continued for only a very short period before selling the Vulcan, early in 1950, to Jesse Lawman of Finedon.

Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL
	MAKE	TYPE	NUMBER	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D		
ACS 978	Bedford	OWB	10787	S.M.T.	B32F		-/42	c-/46	c6/49	A E Blackbourn, Grimsby	J Lawman, Finedon
ERP 969	Vulcan	6PF	4569	Smith	FC29F	-	6/49	-	-/50		J Lawman, Finedon

Note: ACS 978 originally owned by Western S.M.T., Kilmarnock. Reseated C28F whilst with Barker.