

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-LA2
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LACK Bros. Robert, Fred & Bert
62 Moor Road, and
Sartoris Road
RUSHDEN



The early history of the firm of Lack Brothers of Rushden is not clear cut. Local sources say that the Lack Brothers started just after the First World War, late in 1918, when it would appear that Jabez Lack provided the capital to set up two of his sons in business. The eldest son was Robert and his younger brother was Fred, both being in their very early twenties when starting the business. They were later joined by their younger brother named Bert.

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.

LACK Bros. - RUSHDEN

The Lack Brothers' first vehicle is reputed to have been a fifteen-seat hire bus and the illustration on page 1 no doubt represents the vehicle in question. Clearly the body has been well constructed, with rear access, two longitudinal bench seats and, if it did accommodate fifteen as rumoured, each bench must have seated seven passengers with the fifteenth ensconced alongside the driver. Perhaps it is Jabez Lack who can be seen in the driver's seat?

However, the information available in respect of the vehicles owned by the Lack Brothers does not correspond entirely with the story related above. The first vehicle the Lacks are known to have acquired was BD 4758 which was a 40hp Thornycroft lorry new in July 1920 and it was at this time that the Lacks probably commenced their business venture. It is unlikely that BD 4758 was used as a passenger carrying vehicle.

The bus illustrated on Page 1 is a Vulcan which was registered new as BD 3913 on 28th November 1919 to Harry Pettit of the Axe and Compass at Ringstead. At this time it was classified as a van but also licensed as a public conveyance. Precisely how long Harry Pettit retained it is uncertain but it had passed into the hands of the Lack Brothers by June 1922 at the latest. Thus Vulcan BD 3913 was no doubt the Lacks' second vehicle rather than the first, indicating that the carriage of goods preceded the carriage of passengers.

Clearly there was insufficient passenger work for the Vulcan to be used full time for excursions and private hire purposes but the vehicle could easily be used for the carriage of parcels. The Lack Brothers built up a successful carriers' business operating to Northampton and Birmingham. The Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Wellingborough boot and shoe trade provided many local carriers with their bread and butter business.

In the mid-1920s new lorries were bought at least at two yearly intervals and these are listed at the end of this paper. Leyland and Thornycroft models were favoured. It is not known that any of the listed lorries were used as public conveyances but it is possible that at least one or two were. In addition it is impossible to say whether passenger carrying work was continued uninterrupted from 1922 but what is certain is that the Lack Brothers bought a Chevrolet R-type charabanc on 19th January 1926. This machine was registered RP 2076 and was available for hire at that time but probably not for more than a couple of years or so.

The Lack's home was situated at 62 Moor Road, Rushden but their garage property was at Sartoris Road, Rushden. The Lack Brothers were quite successful with their goods transport service to Birmingham and over the years grew to running a fleet of six lorries, continuing until November 1949 when taken over by British Road Services.

The Lack Brothers clearly had a flair for advertising and in the 1930s issued a series of blotters adorned with period illustrations with humorous gardening tips captions. Two such blotters are illustrated on the following page.

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Gardening Hints :-
A little heat will be required in the conservatory, and things should be forced gently

Services from
Rushden & District to
Birmingham & Northampton

PHONE: 91

ALL GOODS COVERED
BY INSURANCE
DAILY COLLECTIONS

OFFICE, GARAGE:
SARTORIS ROAD

LACK BROS.
TRANSPORT SERVICES
RUSHDEN, • NORTHANTS.

Service that Serves

Service is our doing just what YOU want done, when YOU want it, and at the price YOU want to pay. That, as you see, is three parts YOU and one part US. Our service puts YOUR wishes first and foremost all the time. Our equipment and facilities and the men we employ are all inspired by the idea of service. You can always depend upon us.



Gardening Hints :-
Now is the season for nuts and filberts

Services from
Rushden & District to
Birmingham & Northampton

PHONE: 91

ALL GOODS COVERED
BY INSURANCE
DAILY COLLECTIONS

OFFICE, GARAGE:
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"Gardening Hints" Blotters issued by the Lack Brothers in the 1930s.

Phone your *Carrying Problems* to Rushden 91

LACK BROTHERS for efficient and reliable transport service between BIRMINGHAM, WOLVERHAMPTON, DUDLEY, WELLINGBOROUGH, KETTERING, NORTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT.

Head Office and Garage
Sartoris Road, RUSHDEN, Northants.

A Lack Brothers' letterhead dating from 1938.

LACK Bros. - RUSHDEN



It is a pity that a photograph of the Lack Brothers' Chevrolet charabanc is not available but the picture above shows a rebuilt Leyland RAF lorry registered RP 1970 standing in the garage, with Thornycroft RP 4694 parked in the roadway.

Rolling Stock:

Stock No.	Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
							New	S/H	W/D			
	BD 3913	Vulcan		5484	?	B15R	11/19	by 6/22	by 4/28	H Pettit, Ringstead	E Wardle, Ashton, Roade	1
	BD 4758	Thornycroft	40hp	9101	?	Lorry	7/20	—	by 1/35	—	H Billson, Wellingborough	2
4	BD 9413	Leyland	RAF (reblt)	23040	?	Lorry	5/24	—	1/31	Supp. Leyland Motors Ltd	No further owner	
	RP 1970	Leyland	RAF (reblt)	23837	Leyland	Lorry	12/25	—	by 6/35	Supp. Leyland Motors Ltd	W Dale, New Bilton	3
5	RP 2076	Chevrolet	R	7068T	?	Chara	1/26	—	by 9/31	—	Reliable Tpt. Serv., Wellingborough	4
	RP 4694	Thornycroft	A2	14584	?	Lorry	7/27	—	by 9/36	—	F Boswell, Wellingborough	5
	RP 4963	Thornycroft	A2	15232	?	Lorry	9/27	—	by 3/34	—	C Tompkins, Apethorpe	6

Notes: 1 - BD 3913 last licensed as a goods vehicle by Wardle 4/28. 2 - BD 4758 last licensed as a goods vehicle by Billson 1/35.
3 - RP 1970 last licensed as a goods vehicle by Dale 6/35. 4 - RP 2076 last licensed as a goods vehicle by Reliable 9/31.
5 - RP 4694 last licensed as a goods vehicle by Boswell 9/36. 6 - RP 4963 last licensed as a goods vehicle by Tompkins 3/34.