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IRTHLINGBOROUGH CO-OP SOCIETY Ltd

22 High Street, IRTHLINGBOROUGH

Prior to perusing this account it is suggested that readers examine paper NN-NE5 which details what is known of Bert Walters' New Street Motors coach operations.

Research so far has not established exactly how Irthlingborough Co-operative Society came to be running hire cars and coaches during the 1950s but they ran a Travel Agency in the High Street and possibly they used Bert Walters' facilities for the transport requirements their clients required. The circumstances appear to hinge on problems Bert Walters was encountering with his New Street Motors in Irthlingborough. Whatever these problems were, in about February 1952 the Co-operative Society acquired Bert's two Humber eight-seater cars and his 1930 Leyland Tiger coach registered CK 4188 which enabled them to have direct control over their requirements.

It is assumed that one thirty-two seater coach gave little flexibility and very soon after this event a Dennis Lancet III with Yeates bodywork was acquired secondhand from Blankley's Coaches of Colsterworth. This full-fronted coach was registered LVO 528 and painted in a silver and maroon livery. A couple of years later a virtually identical replacement coach was bought secondhand, again from New Street Motors, registered URF 763 but painted cream and maroon. It was possibly at this time that Bert Walters was declared bankrupt and the second Dennis Lancet may well have been offered to the Co-op Society at a competitive price, enabling them to replace the elderly Leyland Tiger CK 4188.

The Co-operative Society's final coach was a Commer Avenger II with Duple Vega coachwork that was again sourced locally but this time from Messrs Seamarks Motors of Rushden in April 1955. The registration of this machine was KRP 688. By 1957 the Irthlingborough Co-operative Society's rolling stock was down to one coach and this they decided to sell in March 1959, thereafter ceasing public service vehicle operation and instead making use of Abbott's Coaches of Great Doddington for their subsequent requirements.

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.

Of NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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The best that can be done to illustrate Commer Avenger KRP 688 is this snap shot which shows just the front of the Duple Vega bodied coach.

Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES				
	MAKE	TYPE	NO.	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D	PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL
CK 4188	Leyland	Tiger TS2	60790	Leyland	B32F	?	3/30	2/52	4/54	New Street Motors, Irthlingborough	Barker (Showman), Mkt Harborough
LVO 528	Dennis	Lancet III	102J10A	Yeates	FC37F	214	1/51	-/52	2/54	Blankley, Colsterworth	Rugby Co-op Socy
URF 763	Dennis	Lancet III	117J10A	Yeates	FC37F	220	1/51	by 1/55	by -/57	New Street Motors, Irthlingborough	Smith, Murton
KRP 688	Commer	Avenger II	44A5012	Duple Vega	C41F	1057/1	9/54	4/55	3/59	Seamarks Motors, Rushden	Lambert, Guildford