

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

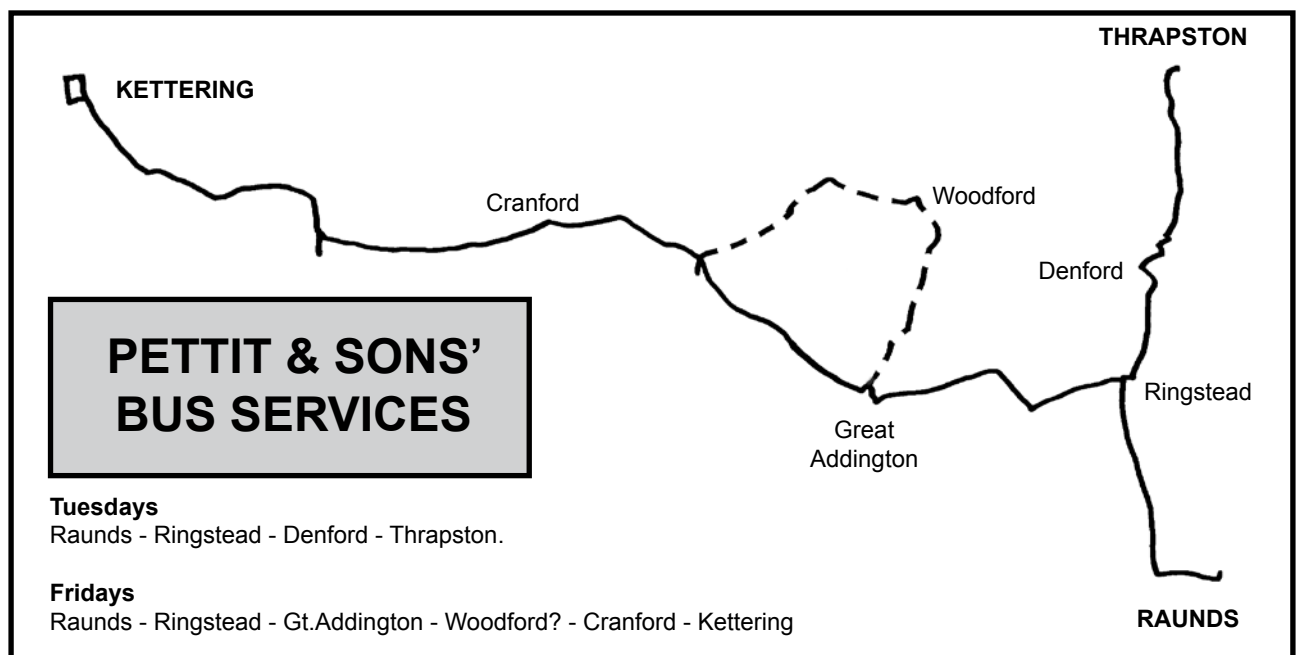
NN-PE7
Page 1

PETTIT, Harry & Sons Axe & Compass RINGSTEAD

It is known that Harry Pettit kept the Axe and Compass public house at Ringstead and, after the first World War, he and his sons operated bus services for a short period.

It was on 10th January 1919 that Harry Pettit purchased a Mercedes lorry which was at that time registered BD 438 and was used as a public conveyance. Evidently this Mercedes was adapted to carry passengers on a regular basis and probably had transverse seats fitted within an open or enclosed body. In the absence of photographs it is impossible to tell exactly how the vehicle was modified.

By January 1920 it is clear that Harry Pettit was providing a Tuesday market-day service between Raunds and Thrapston via Ringstead and Denford, leaving Raunds Square at mid-day. In addition, a Friday market service was provided at 11.00 am. from Raunds to Kettering, via Ringstead for sure, and then possibly via Great Addington and Cranford. The village of Woodford may also have been served



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.

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-PE7

Page 2

PETTIT, Harry & Sons - RINGSTEAD

H. Pettit & Sons, Ringstead,

WILL RUN THEIR

MOTOR BUS

From RAUNDS TO THRAPSTON ON
TUESDAYS,

And from RAUNDS TO KETTERING ON
FRIDAYS. for PASSENGERS. From

THE SQUARE, RAUNDS.

TUESDAYS at 12 to THRAPSTON, and to
KETTERING on FRIDAYS at 11 a.m.,

Commencing FRIDAY, Jan. 9th.

Pleasure Parties catered for at the **LOWEST**
TERMS.

Harry Pettit & Sons advertised their services in the Kettering Evening Telegraph in January 1920 with their bus or buses also available for hire by pleasure parties at the lowest terms.

To operate the services noted above Harry Pettit either replaced his Mercedes or added to his rolling stock a Vulcan fifteen-seater bus registered BD 3913. Fortunately an illustration of this vehicle is to hand but photographed a little later in its life after having been bought by Messrs Lack Bros. of Rushden. As will be seen, it probably seated six or seven people each side on transverse benches with the remainder alongside the driver



PETTIT, Harry & Sons - RINGSTEAD

It is assumed that Harry Pettit's sons were named Arthur and John Thomas as licences were applied for in March 1920 from Kettering Urban District Council for an omnibus, a driver's licence for John Thomas Pettit and a conductor's licence for Arthur B Pettit.

After 1920 nothing has been found relating to the Pettit family and no doubt stiff competition from Dix of Raunds and possibly others prevented the Pettits from expanding their operations. It seems likely that their services ceased at some point during 1920.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
						New	S/H	W/D			
BD 438	Mercedes	?	?	?	B12/14?	1/19	—	c1919/20	—	?	1
BD3913	Vulcan	?	5484	?	B15R	11/19	—	c1920/1	—	Lack Bros., Rushden	2

Notes: 1 - Possibly ex-War Department and a salvaged German lorry.

2 - Described as a van and also used as a public conveyance.