

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-RO3

Page 1

ROBINSON. George 21 High Street South RUSHDEN

After the first World War George Robinson, who was born in 1879 and had previously worked in the shoe industry, had a garage built on the site of the former "Coach & Horses" public house in High Street South, Rushden. He repaired motor cars and retailed petrol from these premises but within a year or two extended his property by the acquisition of Albert Okins' garage (see NN-OK1) which was adjacent to Robinson's garage and subsequently became the latter firm's car showroom. This extension has been quoted variously as 16 or 17 High Street South, Rushden.

George Robinson had an older sister - Annie - and older and younger brothers, Arthur and Charles respectively. None of George's immediate family were involved in the garage business although Charles' son Ray Robinson later joined his uncle and eventually became a partner in the business.



High Street South, Rushden in the early 1930s showing George Robinson's garage and showroom.

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Forestyn" 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-RO3

Page 2

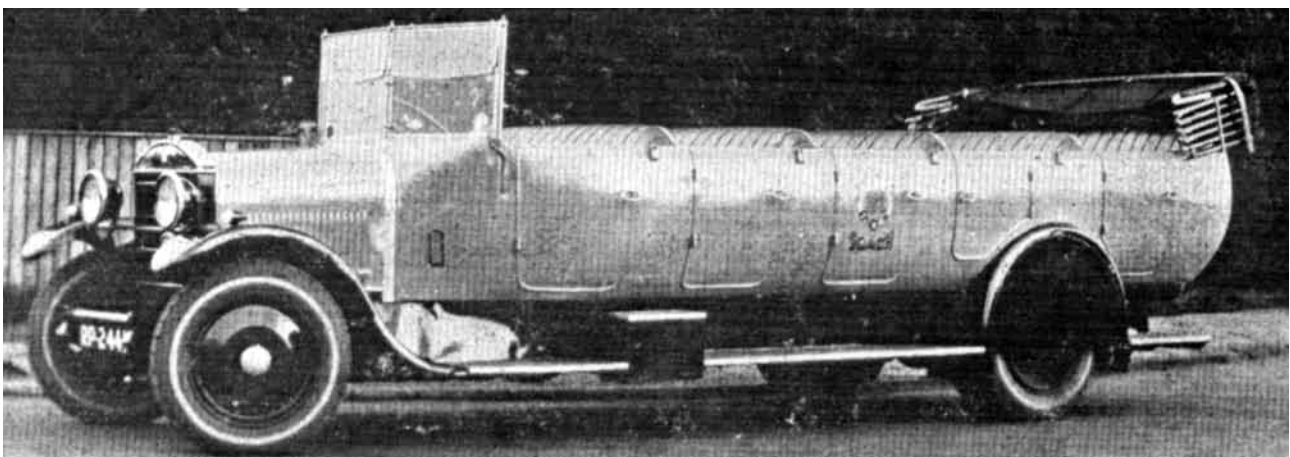
ROBINSON. George - RUSHDEN

To venture into bus operation George Robinson bought himself a handsome Daimler CK charabanc which was duly registered BD 5433 on 21st February 1921 and thereafter he operated excursions and private hires. The livery of this vehicle was grey.



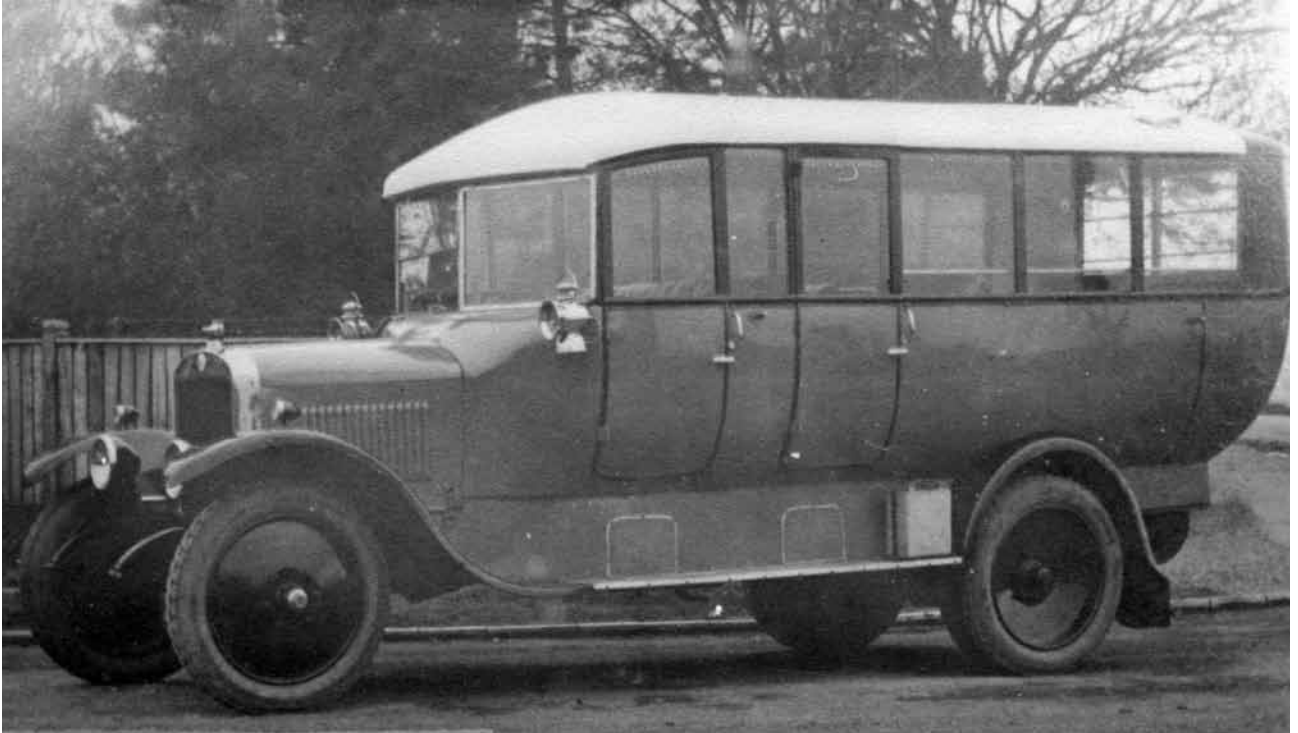
Fortunately it is possible to illustrate all of the rolling stock purchased by George Robinson over the years and in this view his immaculate Daimler CK charabanc registered BD 5433 is shown.

George Robinson added a Berliet saloon bus registered BD 7959 to his fleet on 12th June 1923 and thereafter ran two vehicles at a time. The Daimler provided good service for five years after which time he traded it in part exchange with Messrs Allchin & Son of Northampton for a new REO Pullman charabanc which seated twenty passengers. This machine was registered RP 2441 on 14th April 1926. Whether or not Allchin's ever used the Daimler on their own excursions is unknown but in any case it was last licensed in September 1926.



RP 2441 was George Robinson's 1926 REO Pullman charabanc, photographed at the junction of Hayway/Northampton Road, Rushden.

ROBINSON. George - RUSHDEN



This photograph, which was also taken at the junction of Hayway and Northampton Road, Rushden depicts George Robinson's Berliet registered BD 7959. It has rather unusual bodywork inasmuch that fourteen passengers accessed the bus via one door whilst a second door permitted two passengers to sit on a full-width bench seat alongside the driver.

It is assumed that George Robinson was pleased with his REO Pullman as a year later he replaced the Berliet saloon with a REO Sprinter which was duly registered RP 4205 on 14th April 1927. This carried an "all-weather" body seating sixteen passengers and, as with the Pullman, was supplied by Messrs Allchin & Son of Northampton.

In this illustration we can see George Robinson's REO Sprinter all-weather coach registered RP 4205.



ROBINSON. George - RUSHDEN



Another photograph of George Robinson's REO Sprinter all-weather coach RP 4205. although probably photographed in the possession of a subsequent operator.

As previously stated, George Robinson ran only two buses at a time and in January 1930 he replaced his REO charabanc RP 2441 with a G.M.C. T19 saloon bus which was both supplied and bodied by Messrs Grose Ltd of Northampton. This twenty-seater model took the registration RP 8304 on 7th January 1930.

As indicated earlier in this account, George Robinson operated only excursions and private hires. When additional buses were required he worked closely with Asher Abbott and Charles Scroxton of Rushden and each would help out the other two. Subsequent to the introduction of the 1930 Road Traffic Act, George Robinson applied to the Traffic Commissioners in September 1931 for a Road Service Licence for his group of excursions starting from Rushden Church. The required licence was granted in November 1931 and thereafter remained virtually unchanged.

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-R03

Page 5

ROBINSON. George - RUSHDEN



The only picture of RP 8304 available is this view showing it and another coach conveying Rushden news-delivery boys on an outing in August 1933. George Robinson's younger brother Charles kept a newsagent's shop at 19 High Street and J F Robinson was another member of the family. The lettering "G Robinson Rushden Northants Phone 151" appears in gold leaf on the G.M.C's louvres.

By 1935 Robinson's REO Sprinter was in need of replacement and once again George turned to Messrs Grose Ltd to supply a suitable vehicle. This time a Commer B3 chassis was chosen to which Grose fitted a fully-fronted twenty-six seat body and the complete vehicle was registered NV 5107 on 28th March 1935. Photographs of this vehicle appear on the next page.

In this way George Robinson continued to operate his coaches until April 1938 when Messrs Birch Bros of Kentish Town, who were looking to consolidate their operations, concurrently purchased the Goodwill of the businesses of George Robinson, Asher Abbott and Charles Scroxtan. Birch's took over Commer NV 5107 and applied to the Traffic Commissioners to operate Robinson's excursion licence reference TER 483/1 which comprised day excursions to Clacton, Felixstowe, Hunstanton, Leicester, Mablethorpe, Northampton (football), Sandy Flower Show, Skegness, Whipsnade Zoo and Yarmouth and circular tours to Huntingdon, Old Warden, St Neots and Woburn Park.

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-R03

Page 6

ROBINSON. George - RUSHDEN



Not the most elegant vehicle ever built but NV 5107, a Commer B3, was certainly distinctive. This time the gold lettering on its louvres reads " G Robinson Sunsaloon Rushden Northants". The garter on the side contains the initials G.R. and "Sunsaloon".
(Photograph courtesy Messrs Grose Ltd)

The interior of Commer NV 5107 was altogether more attractive than the outside view might suggest. Typical 1930s style moquette seating, corded side and roof panels, luggage racks and sliding roof combine to give a warm and comfortable feel to the coach.

(Photograph courtesy Messrs Grose Ltd)



Bygone Buses

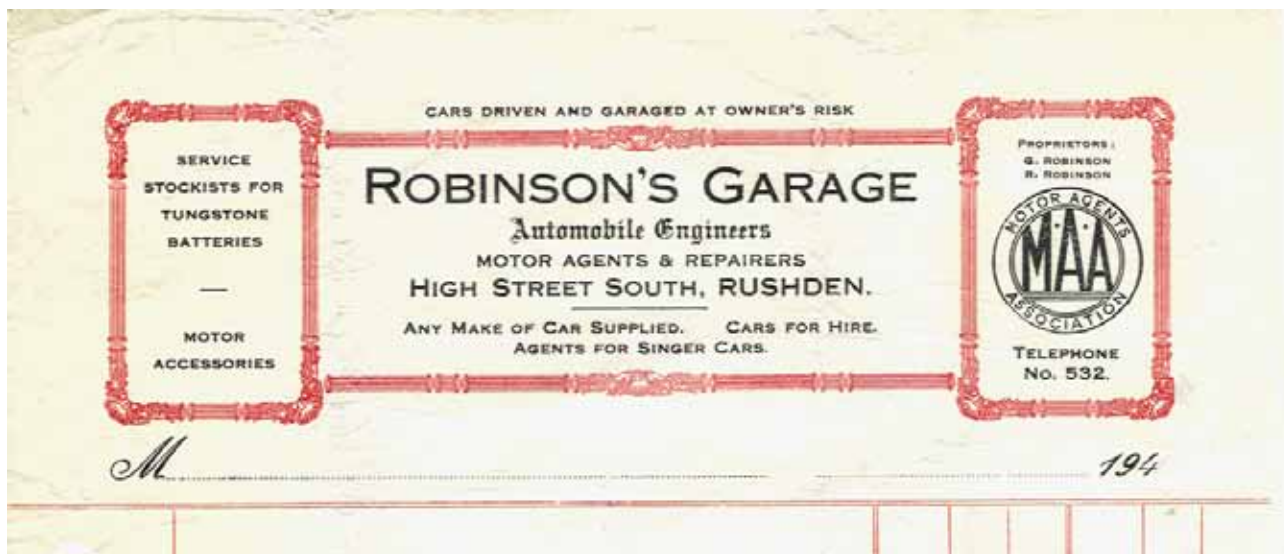
of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-R03

Page 7

ROBINSON. George - RUSHDEN

After the sale of the passenger side of his business to Birch Bros George Robinson continued to operate his motor garage from the High Street South premises and below is shown a facsimile of a 1940s invoice. After the War ownership of the garage passed to Ron Coles, a long-time employee of Robinson's.



I am grateful to Eric Fowell for certain of the photographs used in this paper.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
							New	S/H	W/D			
BD 5433	Daimler	CK	3401	?	Ch26	—	2/21	—	4/26	—	Allchin & Son, Northampton	1
BD 7959	Berliet		10537	?	B16D	—	6/23	—	4/27	—		2
RP 2441	REO	Pullman	W1972	?	Ch20	—	4/26	—	1/30?	Supp. Allchin & Son, Northampton		3
RP 4205	REO	Sprinter	145273	?	AW16D	—	4/27	—	3/35?	Supp. Allchin & Son, Northampton		4
RP 8304	G.M.C.	T19	16366	Grose	B20D	—	1/30	—	by 4/38	Supp. Grose Ltd, Northampton		5
NV 5107	Commer	B3	59013	Grose	FC26F	—	3/35	—	4/38	Supp. Grose Ltd, Northampton	Birch Bros (K27)	

- Notes:**
- 1 - BD 5433 - last owned by Allchin & Son, Northampton and last licensed 9/26.
 - 2 - BD 7959 - last owned by Basford, Greens Norton and last licensed 5/28.
 - 3 - RP 2441 - at some stage rebodied C20F but probably after disposal by Robinson. Last owned by C J Payne, Buckingham and last licensed 12/39.
 - 4 - RP 4205 - last owned by A E Bakwell, Biddenham, Nr Archbridge? and last licensed 3/38.
 - 5 - RP 8304 - last owned by Dunn, Weedon as goods vehicle and last licensed 6/47.