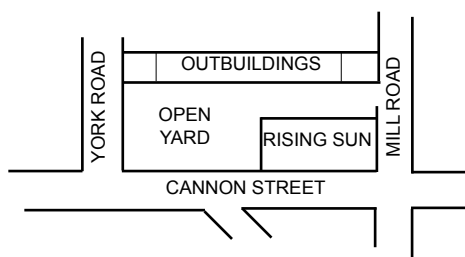


LEABERRY. Arthur Harry Rising Sun, Cannon Street, WELLINGBOROUGH

Arthur Harry Leaberry was born in about 1886/7 and was brought up at the Rising Sun in Wellingborough where his father was landlord. In due course Arthur succeeded his father as the licensee of the Rising Sun, which was situated at the corner of Cannon Street and Mill Road. The grounds of the property ran through from Mill Road to York Road and apart from the public house, the premises comprised an open yard and a number of outbuildings which were later to be used to garage various vehicles. Access to the site was via an entrance in Mill Road.



On 31st December 1918, Arthur Leaberry purchased an Austin covered van, registered BD 3682, from George Keeber of Wellingborough who had himself bought the machine new on 3rd April 1918. Leaberry used this vehicle for local haulage work during the day time and ran the Rising Sun during the evenings. BD 3682 appears to have had a fairly short life and

on 18th February 1921 it was replaced by a brand new model T Ford registered BD 5378. This was described as a dual purpose bus which was painted in a green livery. Although no photographs are available of BD 5378 it was, from accounts of those recalling it, of van-like construction with full width double doors at the rear, complete with entrance steps. The fourteen seats were located by pegs and when removed the vehicle became a van.

Arthur Leaberry used BD 5378 in its van form for much of the time and according to Wharton's local timetable booklet for July 1921, he was operating a carriers service from Wellingborough, Rising Sun at 10.00am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to Finedon, Burton Latimer and Kettering. It seems that Arthur Leaberry made little effort to promote the passenger carrying potential of his business, preferring to concentrate on the freight side. He would, however, if approached by groups or organisers, operate private hires to the seaside or to more local events, together with the occasional excursion. Unusually, private parties brought together through the social activities of the Rising Sun, do not seem to have generated the usual darts and skittles match type of transport requirement often associated with bus-operating public house landlords of the period.

LEABERRY A.H. - WELLINGBOROUGH

LEICESTER RACES.
A. H. LEABERRY'S MOTOR 'BUS
Will run on
MONDAY AND TUESDAY NEXT TO
LEICESTER.
RETURN FARE 10s.
Leaving Wellingborough at 10.30.
Now Booking Seats. 'Phone, Wellingboro' 231.

When Arthur Leaberry initially obtained his Ford T van-cum-bus he advertised an excursion to Leicester Races and the above advertisement was placed in the Evening Telegraph of Wednesday 23rd February 1921. Thereafter little evidence of Leaberry providing further excursions has been found.

The Ford T - BD 5378 - was Arthur Leaberry's only passenger carrying vehicle and it remained licensed until January 1930. Leaberry operated other lorries and vans, including a drop side Ford T lorry obtained second-hand from Mallard's Transport of Earls Barton. The Ford T - BD 5378 - was replaced in February 1930 by RP 8445, which was a Leyland box van which had been returned from abroad. Generally, Leaberry operated one vehicle at a time and, in the 1930s, employed a driver so that he could concentrate his efforts on running the Rising Sun. The carriers service was, by the 1930s, operating daily except for Saturdays, on which day the van was often used for furniture removals.

The Leyland was in due course replaced by a Bedford truck but unfortunately Arthur Leaberry died in January 1939, aged 52 years. The haulage business was subsequently sold to Harry Dunnett's Direct Transport Service of Wellingborough.

Rolling Stock

BD 5378 - Ford T - 4116387 - B14R convertible - Left hand Drive - Registered 18/2/21 and last licensed 1/30.