

BENSON. William Thomas
t/a The Squirrels Bus Service
Squirrels P H, OLD DUSTON

(later at Black Boy Garage, Dychurch Lane, NORTHAMPTON)

(later still at 25 Warren Road, NORTHAMPTON)

It is suggested that readers consult papers NN-WA3, NN-AN3 and NN-BI2 prior to reading this account.

William Thomas Benson was a partner in the "Shakespeare Omnibus Company" formed early in 1923 with Charles Billington. It is rumoured that William Benson was at one time employed by Messrs Grose Ltd of Northampton in their Pike Lane Works, Marefair, Northampton, on the opposite side of the road to the Shakespeare Inn and whilst there he unofficially repaired Billington's bus in the firm's time and was dismissed. It is alleged that after this time Benson entered partnership with Billington. In November 1923 the partnership was dissolved and William Thomas Benson, together with his three sons - Archibald, William and Percy - formed the "Squirrels Bus Service" based on the Squirrels Public House at Old Duston where Benson was lodging at the time.

Benson wished to continue operating from the Shakespeare in Marefair but, as he could no longer use the pub yard and the Council would not permit him to stand in Marefair, he applied to stand in Dergate but was instead granted permission to use a terminus in St Andrew's Road. By 1927 the Benson's were able to operate further into town and terminated on private land at the Black Boy Garage in Dychurch Lane. At the Duston end of the route Benson terminated at either the Squirrels or Berrywood Gates.

With regard to rolling stock, Benson operated a model T Ford, a Morris and a coach named "Ideal". Nothing more is known about his vehicles other than that they were painted blue and white.

The bus operations could never generate enough revenue to provide a living for William Benson and his three sons and at an unknown date William Thomas Benson left the business in the hands of his sons who thereafter traded as Benson Bros. Late in 1927 the Benson Brothers themselves gave up and ceased to trade.

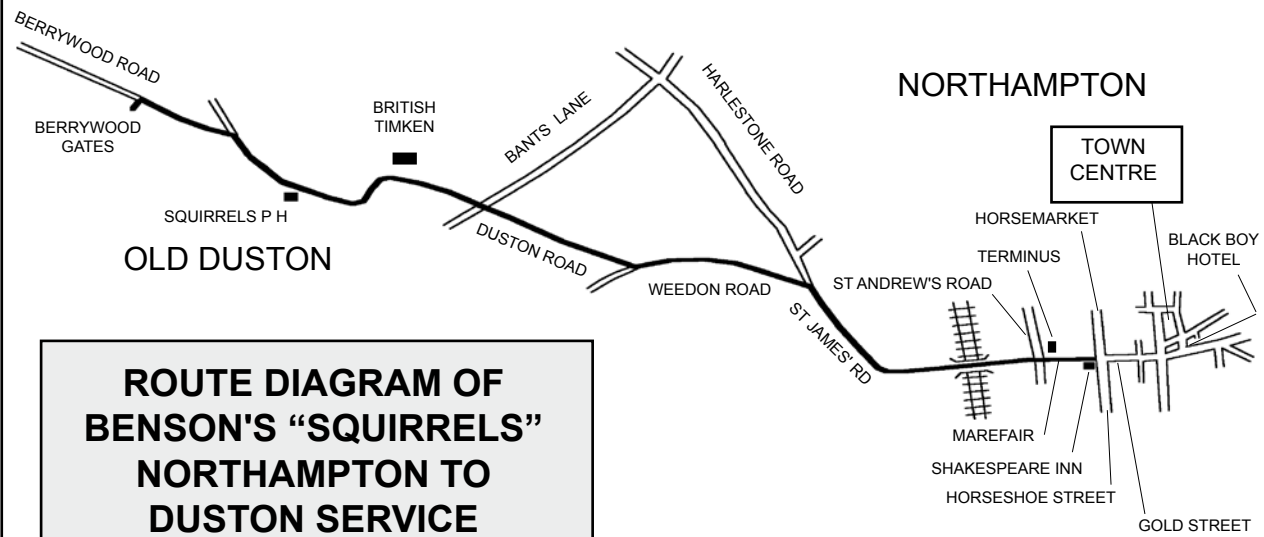
Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-BE3

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BENSON W.T. - OLD DUSTON



Benson's Morris single-deck which is said to have been fitted with a Billington body and on which the words "Squirrels Bus Service" can be seen below the windows.

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BENSON W.T. - OLD DUSTON
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MOTOR COACH TRIPS.

SEATS VACANT in Coach leaving for
SKEGNESS, AUG. 2nd, Fare 12.6.

AUGUST 3rd, BEDFORD, Fare 4 -.

AUG. 4th, THAMES VALLEY and LONDON
Fare 12.6.

AUG. 6th, YARMOUTH and LOWESTOFT,
Returning AUGUST 13th, Fare 25 - (return).

Special Quotations for Private Parties.

Apply—**BENSON BROS.** (Phone 975),
BLACK BOY GARAGE, Northampton.

*An enlarged facsimile of an advertisement for Benson Bros. tours appearing
in the Northampton Independent for 23rd July 1927.*

Rolling Stock:

- ? - Ford T - B14
- ? - Morris - Billington - B16F
- ? - Coach named "Ideal"