

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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FLOYER. Hubert & Leonard John t/a FLOYER BROS.

Kingsway Garage, Nether Lane, FLORE

It was on 14th April 1924 that Hubert Floyer was born and prior to the second World War he worked in the office of Messrs Heygate's Mill at Bugbrooke before joining the Railway as a booking clerk. During the War Hubert served in the R.A.F. but returned to his former occupation with the Railway after demobilisation in 1945. About a couple of years later Hubert Floyer resigned from his employment in order to set up his own business running taxis from his home at 35 Kings Lane, Flore.

It is understood that in 1948 Hubert Floyer's father gave a plot of land he owned in Nether Lane, Flore to Hubert to facilitate the construction of a double garage in which the latter's taxis could be housed. The business continued in this way until 1952 when Hubert's eldest brother - Leonard John Floyer - who was born on 26th October 1922 and who had previously worked on the Railway as a signalman, went into partnership with Hubert. The total commitment of the two brothers to their new venture ensured the business was a success, so much so that by the mid-1950s Hubert and Leonard Floyer were able to build a larger garage and filling station on the Nether Lane site and henceforth traded as "Kingsway Garage".

By 1960 Floyer Bros had bought their first minibus, which was a 12-seater Morris but was not a P.S.V., so it was used for general contract work. Meanwhile Leonard Floyer had been undertaking part-time driving work for KW Coaches and held a P.S.V. Driver's Licence. It was not surprising therefore that the Floyer brothers should obtain a second-hand coach in 1962 with which to undertake private hire work. The chosen vehicle was a full fronted Burlingham bodied Daimler CVD6 registered JWK 97, which had previously been operated by H&H of Coventry but probably bought by Floyer Bros through either Fleet Car Sales of Dunchurch or Yeates of Loughborough.

As mentioned above, Daimler JWK 97 was acquired principally for private hire operation but over the next few years schools contact work became fundamental to the business. Over the ensuing fifteen years at least another eleven second-hand buses and coaches are known to have been bought for private hire and school contract operation. Nearly all the vehicles were supplied by Yeates of Loughborough and amongst the most interesting models operated were a Bedford OB registered LNN 875, an A.E.C. Monocoach registered DCN 912, with Park Royal 44-seat bus body, and an ex-Northampton Corporation Daimler CVG6/Roe double-decker registered GVV 206.

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.

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A front view of the Floyer Bros Daimler CVD6 registered JWK 97 with which Hubert and Leonard Floyer commenced their P.S.V. operations.



This time a side view of the elegant Burlingham bodied Daimler JWK 97, showing its age in the early 1960s.

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MTE 383 was an attractive Harrington bodied Leyland Royal Tiger Cub which was bought by Floyer Bros in 1964.



454 PMV was a Duple Vega bodied Bedford SB8 which was photographed in Nether Lane, Flore opposite the Kingsway Garage. This coach had been repainted cream and red by Floyer Bros.

FLOYER Bros., FLORE



Another Duple bodied Bedford SB was PHO 731 and this picture was taken on the parking area alongside Kingsway Garage.

Amongst the Education Contracts awarded to Floyer Bros by Northamptonshire County Council were runs from Weedon and Flore to Bugbrooke School, from Great and Little Brington and Harpole to Bugbrooke School and from Kislingbury to Bugbrooke School. The fleet built up to a maximum of four vehicles but usually there were only three operated at any one time. When coaches were in the fleet long enough to require a repaint they were adorned in a red and cream livery.

In 1977 illness struck the Floyer family when Leonard was the victim of a heart attack. This event put a lot more stress on Hubert and the brothers decided to withdraw from bus and coach operation in September 1977. In January 1979 Hubert Floyer suffered a stroke and brother Leonard died in the following June. Hubert continued to run the Kingsway Garage on his own until 1980 when he ceased trading and sold the business to his nephews in the following year.

I am most grateful to Hubert Floyer for the supply of information for this paper.

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FLOYER Bros., FLORE

Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL
	MAKE	TYPE	NO.	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D		
JWK 97	Daimler	CVD6	14472	Burlingham	FC33F	4367	-/50	-/62	c9/65	/H & H, Coventry	
MTE 383	Leyland	R.Tiger PSU1/1	502964	Harrington	C39F	838	-/51	8/64	7/66	/Brown, Warboys	/Lowe, Carryduff
607 FRA	Bedford	SB8	62498	Plaxton Consort II	C41F	2310	6/58	7/65	9/65	/Billson, Mansfield	/Singh, Leicester
WDF 600	Bedford	SB1	66437	Plaxton Consort IV	C41F	582377	1/59	6/66	c9/66	/Wiltshire, Bristol	/Arlington/ Chapman, Bodmin
454 PMV	Bedford	SB8	60764	Duple Vega	C41F	1090/252	3/58	7/66	5/73	/Wren, London NW9	/Racing Car T'porter
LNN 875	Bedford	OB	140252	Duple Vista	C29F	44254	7/50	9/67	12/68	/Butler, K-in-Ashfield	
PHO 731	Bedford	SBG	46509	Duple Vega	C41F	1060/331	6/56	9/67	5/68	/Kent, Aldborough	/Emmerson, Immingham
FJP 508	Ford	570E	510E31420	Plaxton Consort IV	C41F	592722	4/60	5/68	4/72	/Dew, Somersham	
DCN 912	A.E.C.	Mono-coach	MC3RV021	Park Royal	B44F	37212	-/54	4/69	7/71	/Staples, Leominster	/Amos, Eydon
DVM3 58C	Morris	J2M16	135008	Williams Deansgate	12		11/65	9/69	9/77	/Baker, Northampton	
602 JOL	Bedford	SB5	92398	Duple Bella Vega	C41F	1159/381	6/63	2/72	9/77	/Doughty, King's Lynn	Lancaster, Wootton
GVV 206	Daimler	CVG6	19321	Roe	H33/26R	G04589	10/57	6/73	9/74	/Northampton C Trnpt	/Lewis, Morriston