

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-BI6
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BIRD. Samuel
15 Hatton Park Road,
WELLINGBOROUGH & (by c1930)
57 Robert Street,
WELLINGBOROUGH

It is not known what led Samuel Bird into bus operation or why he chose to provide a service on the very short route from the Granville Hotel, Wellingborough to Midland Road Railway Station, which was already served by another operator named Jackie Durrant - NN-DU3.

However, on Wednesday 3rd October 1923 the announcement displayed below appeared in the Kettering Evening Telegraph, advising the public that Sam Bird was operating his service at this time, although the commencement date is not quoted.

New Bus to Station.
S. BIRD
Is Running Passenger 'Bus from top of
Midland-road, Wellingborough, to Midland
Station,
MEETING ALL TRAINS.
Moderate Fares. W8
Private Address: 15, HATTON AVENUE.

Unfortunately details of the vehicle being used by Bird are not known but on 6th January 1925, Sam took delivery of a Ford T registered RP 317 which was supplied by Messrs York, Ward & Rowlatt of Wellingborough with a 14-seat body of that manufacturer's construction. Initially Bird plied for hire between the Granville Hotel and the Midland Railway Station but soon began to take some of his clients to their home addresses, also picking them up from there when required. Evidently the service prospered and Samuel Bird was able to replace his Ford T on 29th June 1929 when he traded it in part exchange to Messrs York, Ward & Rowlatt and acquired a Morris fourteen seat station bus. The vehicle concerned was registered RP 7694 and it plied back and forth along Midland Road, Wellingborough for just over seven-and-a-half years after which time it was finished and saw no further service.

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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Samuel Bird then turned to Messrs E Ward of Wellingborough to supply a replacement vehicle and the Morris was traded in for a Dennis Ace chassis to which was fitted a York, Ward & Rowlatt 20-seat bus body. It was licensed on 30th September 1936 and curiously it had the same numbers in its registration as the Morris, but in a different sequence, becoming registered NV 7946.

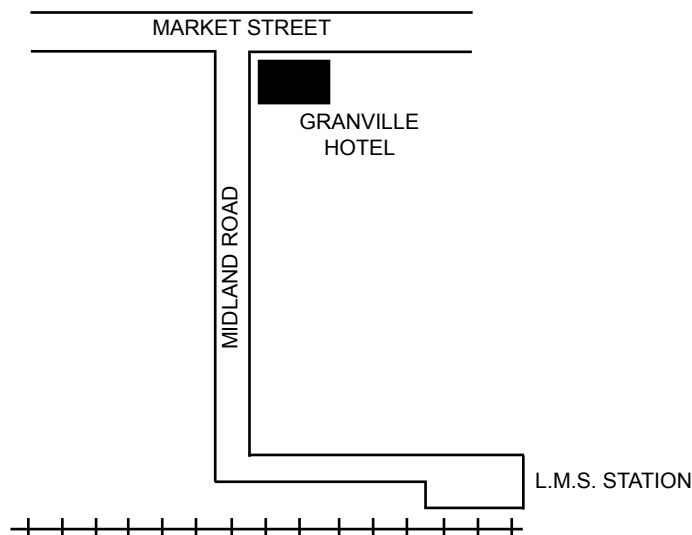
Competition on the Station route had ceased in 1929 when Jackie Durrant withdrew but in 1931 Sam Bird had to licence his route with the Traffic Commissioners and was no longer able to pick-up and set-down passengers at their home addresses. The route from the Granville Hotel to the L.M.S. Station was duly licensed by the East Midlands Traffic Commissioners and apart from a couple of additional journeys and minor variations in the latter part of 1934, the daily operation remained constant throughout the 1930s. At the end of 1938 a revised timetable was introduced when the licensed service ran as shown below

Depart Granville Hotel for Station (daily):

8.30am	12.10pm	4.00pm
9.50am	1.30pm	5.55pm
10.45am	2.15pm	6.20pm
11.45am	3.15pm	6.35pm

Return from Station on arrival of principal trains.

War time circumstances, when many of his customers joined the forces, meant that Samuel Bird could no longer eke a living from his short stage-carriage route. He abandoned it in 1940 and the Dennis Ace was sold to Messrs York, Ward & Rowlatt who urgently required the chassis for a customer. It is understood the bus body was removed and scrapped and a lorry body fitted. In this way Samuel Bird's fifteen years of Station bus service operation came to an end.



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Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL	NOTES
	MAKE	TYPE	NO.	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D			
?	Ford?	T?			B14F?		by 10/23	by 10/23	1/25			
RP 317	Ford	T	10630507	YW&R	B14F		1/25		6/29	Supplied York, Ward & Rowlatt, W'boro.	York, Ward & Rowlatt, W'boro.	1
RP 7694	Morris				B14F		6/29	-	9/36	Supplied York, Ward & Rowlatt, W'boro.	E Ward, W'borough.	2
NV 7946	Dennis	Ace	182660	YW&R	B20F		9/36	-	-/40	Supplied E Ward, Wellingborough.	York, Ward & Rowlatt, W'boro.	3

Notes: 1 - Last licensed to W Robins, Aylesbury 3/35.
 2 - Last licensed to S Bird, Wellingborough 9/36.
 3 - Last licensed to G H Martin, Desborough.