

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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HAWES, James Ephraim

Laburnum Cottage

WOODFORD

James Ephraim Hawes' father was the village baker at Great Addington, who owned a Mill situated between Ringstead and Great Addington, where corn was ground for his bakery business. James helped his father with corn milling and baking prior to serving in the First World War but, on his return to civilian life in 1919, he set up as a carrier and soon became a coal merchant running three Ford T lorries.

In the early 1920s James Hawes, who by this time was living at Laburnum Cottage in nearby Woodford, obtained a second-hand bus of unknown manufacture and used it for private hires. This vehicle was lorry based and had a hooped canvas hood over its body which was said to have given the vehicle the appearance of a caterpillar! Whatever this machine was, it was quickly replaced by a second-hand Vulcan saloon which seated eighteen passengers. The Vulcan's registration was NB 5207 and so, presumably, it had started its life in the Manchester area either late in 1919 or early in 1920.

James Hawes used his Vulcan to convey employees of Islip Furnaces on various outings as well as for general private hire purposes, but no local bus services were provided. Apparently, to start the Vulcan, a procedure was adopted whereby the rear wheels were jacked up and rotated whilst the vehicle was in gear, a practise that sounds even more hazardous than cranking a starting handle.

The Vulcan was operated for two or three years only during which time the occasional seaside excursion was advertised. James Hawes afterwards continued with his haulage and coal merchant's business.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Chassis No.	Body	Seating	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
					New	S/H	W/D			
BD 1323	Ford T	2599212	?	Lorry/ Bus	6/19	c-/21	c-/22	J T Hawes, Woodford	No further owner	1
NB 5207	Vulcan	?	?	B18F	c-/19	c-/22	c-/25			

Notes - 1 - BD 1323 is not thought to have been Hawes first bus of unknown manufacture but probably one of his coal lorries.

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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HAWES. J. E. - Woodford



When this photograph was taken, Vulcan NB 5702 had ventured to The Langham Arms at Walgrave. It is not clear whether it was still in James Hawes' ownership at this point or whether it had passed to one or other of two Walgrave operators, as the people photographed with the bus are said to be locals. On the other hand neither Walgrave operator is known to have run a Vulcan bus.



A head-on view of Vulcan NB 5702 taken at Woodford.

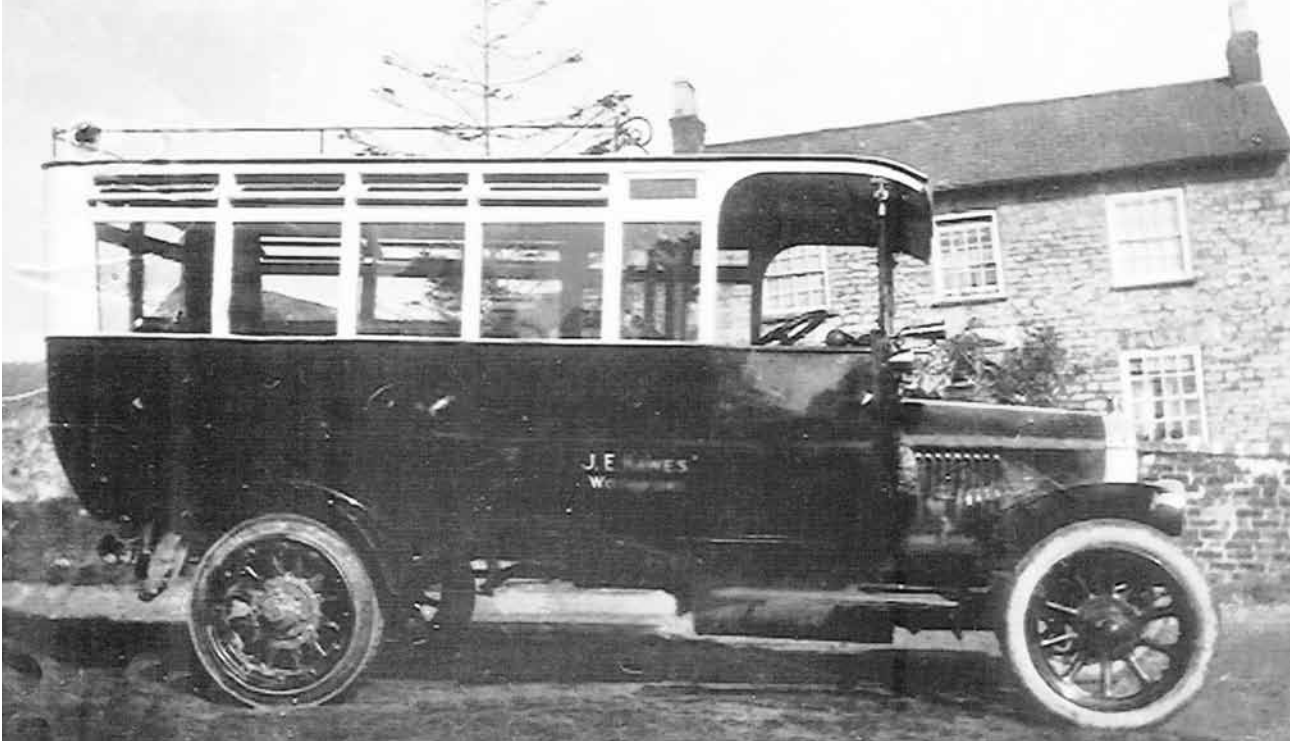
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HAWES. J. E. - Woodford



This side view of James Hawes' Vulcan NB 5702 shows it to have been fitted with quite an attractive eighteen-seat body. Woodford is again the setting of this photograph.