

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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W. H. MASON (W'boro) Ltd 39 & 41 Midland Road WELLINGBOROUGH

W H Mason was a cycle and motor engineer of long standing and his business was listed in a Trades Directory of 1916. Nine years later Mason was again described as a Motor Engineer and held agencies for Alvis, Rhode, New Hudson cars and Montgomery, Gloria and Swan side-cars. Apparently his showroom was in Midland Road, Wellingborough and his garage was situated behind the showroom and with access to Victoria Road.

W H Mason became a coach operator after the second World War by which time he had formed a limited company W H Mason (Wellingborough) Ltd and was now an agent for Austin cars and commercial vehicles. By May 1949 Mason was advertising 20, 26, 29 and 30 seater coaches for hire as shown below.

MASON'S COACHES

39/41, MIDLAND ROAD, WELLINGBORO'

Telephone 2756

20, 26, 29, 30 Seater Coaches

AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PARTY

COMPLETE CATERING ARRANGEMENTS AND THEATRE
SEATS RESERVED Wc14

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

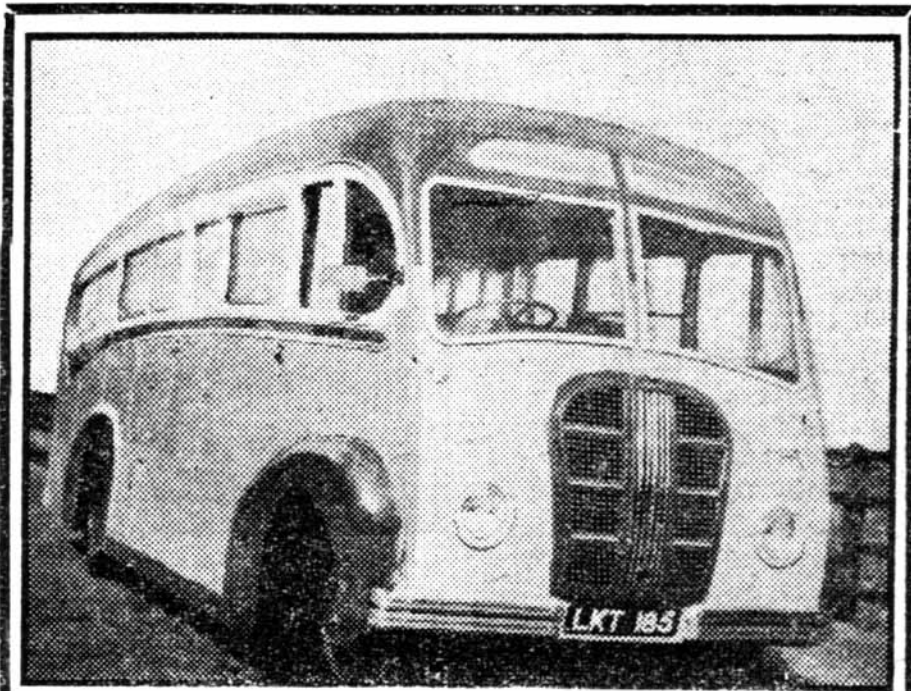
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W H MASON (W'borough) Ltd

At the time of the advertisement on the previous page, in May 1949, Mason is known to have owned a Dodge, an A.E.C. Regal, a Guy Wolf and a brand new Austin. The Guy was no doubt the 20-seater referred to in the advertisement, the 26-seater could have been the Dodge which originally accommodated twenty-five passengers but Mason could have fitted an extra seat whilst it was in his possession. The new Austin seated 29 people and the A.E.C. was a thirty-two seater rather than a 30-seater as mention in the advert.

As Mason was an agent for Austin vehicles it was perhaps no surprise that he chose this make for his new coach and it was quickly followed by another new Austin CXB in September 1949 when LKT 185 took to the road.



Mason's Coaches

(LUXURIOUS 33, 32 and 29-SEATERS)

PRIVATE HIRE SPECIALISTS

— FOR —

THEATRE :: ALL SPORTS EVENTS

Catering and Theatre Reservations a Speciality.
Inquiry and Booking Office—

39, MIDLAND ROAD, WELLINGBOROUGH

TELEPHONE: 2756.

At the time Mason's Austin CXB registered LKT 185 was new in September 1949 the above photograph was used in an advertisement in which luxurious 33,32 and 29 seaters are promoted. LKT 185 represents the 32-seater, Austin GMJ 720 was the 29-seater which leaves the 33-seater unidentified.

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W H MASON (W'borough) Ltd

The above advertisement gives the impression that Mason now had just three coaches in his fleet which in turn would suggest the demise of the Dodge, the A.E.C. Regal and the Guy Wolf, which may or may not be the case. Mason is known to have acquired one other coach in June 1950 and that was WJ 3497, a 1932 A.E.C. Regal with slightly newer 1936 Burlingham bodywork.

It would seem not all the facts are available to tie up the loose ends surrounding W H Mason's fleet. The firm operated private hires and possibly contracts but no service work and is believed to have ceased coach operation sometime between 1956 and 1958.

The Omnibus Society in their records have a note suggesting that Mason also operated from The Hoo, Wootton Green, Bedford but the significance of this is not apparent to the Author. It is of course possible that Mason had a contract to convey workers to or from the Bedford area that might have made Wootton Green a logical place from which to operate but if that is so, confirmation has yet to be forthcoming.

The list of W H Mason's rolling stock will be found on page four.



Another view of Kenex bodied Austin LKT 185 photographed after it had passed to Charles Cook of Biggleswade.

W H MASON (W'borough) Ltd

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis			Body			Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
	Make	Type	Number	Make	Type & Seats	Number	New	S/H	W/D			
RD 7766	Dodge	?	?	Real	FC25F	?	1/36	by-/48	by -/55	West, Bray	?	
TG 2466	A.E.C.	Regal	6621126	Weymann	B32R	C181	12/31	-/48	-/49	Martin, Wootton	?	
GV 3222	Guy	Wolf	CFP11235	Waveney	C20F	?	4/35	by 5/49	by 5/58	Originally Wigley, Chadwell St. Mary	?	
GMJ 720	Austin	K4/SL	122075	Smith (Sandy)	C29F	?	5/49	—	by 5/58	—	?	
LKT 185	Austin	K4/CXB	143810	Kenex	FC32C	?	9/49	—	5/56	—	C J Cook, B'wade	
WJ 3497	A.E.C.	Regal	6621176	Burlingham (1936)	C32F	?	3/32	6/50	6/51	Sheffield United Tours	Seamarks, Westoning	