

HASKER. Benjamin. t/a "The Cobblers" 2 Semilong Road, NORTHAMPTON

Ben Hasker was a wheelwright by trade who became noted in the Northampton area for the quality of his work, particularly with regard to the construction of carts and wagons. After the War he took to building motor-bus bodies, mainly for the numerous independent operators who mushroomed during the post-First World War years.

Ben Hasker was joined in his business by his adopted son Alwyn in 1938. When Ben died in 1945, Alwyn took over the business but ceased trading in 1956.

Alwyn Hasker, when interviewed in the late 1970s, stated that in the 'twenties Ben Hasker decided to run a bus of his own and bought what Alwyn thought was a REO, to which Ben fitted a body of his own construction. He operated excursions from Northampton Market Square under the name of "The Cobblers" which was painted on the sides of the bus. Alwyn thought the venture lasted for only one season or at the most, two, as Ben Hasker's driver disappeared along with the takings! Following this episode Ben Hasker sold the bus.

The Sales Ledger of Messrs. Henry Oliver Ltd of Northampton (Motor repair, garage business and vehicle supplier) shows that on 2nd December 1926 Ben Hasker ordered a FORD 1-ton chassis which was supplied and delivered on the same date at a price of £10-15s-0d second-hand.

Presumably this is the vehicle mentioned by Alwyn Hasker who was mistaken in thinking it to be a Reo.