

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-GI2

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## GIBSON. Ernest Jeffrey The Crown PH GRENDON

Ernest Jeffrey Gibson, the proprietor of the Crown Public House at Grendon, was apparently always known as "Hoot" Gibson. Possibly when he was driving his bus he would always toot the horn at the several blind bends and road junctions in his home village.

The first reference to Hoot Gibson running buses comes from the Minutes of Northampton County Borough Council's Watch Committee in March 1930 when he submitted a timetable for a proposed service between Grendon and Northampton. This was approved in May 1930 and at the same time permission was given to Gibson to ply for hire from Campbell Square, Northampton with a fourteen-seater motor omnibus. Unfortunately for Hoot Gibson, Messrs York Bros of Cogenhoe had started their Grendon to Northampton service a few months earlier in November 1929. It would seem that the competition was too great for Mr Gibson and he did not continue his service for long and never applied to the Traffic Commissioners for a Road Service Licence once the 1930 Road Traffic Act had come into force.

Hoot Gibson does not appear to have purchased a new vehicle for his operations and he may well have sourced a secondhand machine from a local dealer such as Messrs York, Ward & Rowlatt of Wellingborough.