

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-SM14

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SMITH'S (Burton Latimer) TRANSPORT SERVICE Ltd Rosebery Street (365636) BURTON LATIMER

Messrs Sudborough & Eady built a shoe factory in Rosebery Street, Burton Latimer but it was gutted in a catastrophic fire in the 1920s. A few years later, in the early 1930s, Frank Smith acquired this site for his general carrier's business, operating lorries to London, Leicester, Coventry and Birmingham. At an unknown date around 1939/40 a limited company was incorporated under the title Smith's (Burton Latimer) Transport Service Ltd.

Frank Smith's company continued carrying goods during the 'thirties and 'forties until the Transport Act of 1947 dictated the acquisition of part of his business by British Road Services. Presumably, the fact of having lost part of his livelihood led Frank Smith to consider coach operation and in December 1950 he purchased an A.E.C. Regal with thirty-three seat Burlingham bodywork - registered HTB 194 - and with this he operated private hires until the end of 1955.



HTB 194 was a pleasing Burlingham bodied A.E.C. Regal of 1947 vintage purchased by Frank Smith in December 1950.

(Photo courtesy R Marshall).

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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SMITH'S (B.L) Transport Service Ltd



An Aerial view of Frank Smith's yard and sheds in Rosebery Street, Burton Latimer in the early 1950s.

At some stage soon after acquiring HTB 194, Frank Smith is said to have bought a 27-seater Bedford and presumably it is this vehicle that is visible in the picture of Smith's yard above.

In 1954 Frank added a nearly new Tilling-Stevens coach to his fleet that had previously been operated by Taylors's of Meppershall and carried the registration MMJ 359. It was equipped with a Plaxton Venturer body seating thirty-seven passengers.

SMITH'S

(BURTON LATIMER),
TRANSPORT SERVICE, LTD.,
FINEDON ROAD,
BURTON LATIMER
(Prop.: MR. SMITH. Phone 283)

This March 1954 advertisement shows a line drawing of a coach that was probably based on a Plaxton Envoy bodied machine rather than the Venturer acquired at this time.

SMITH'S (B.L) Transport Service Ltd

Following the partial de-nationalisation of goods haulage under a newly elected Conservative Government, in May 1954 Smith's Transport Service announced that it had successfully tendered for a fleet of British Road Services vehicles and was recommencing an express parcels collection and delivery service. With this move back into the carrying work Frank Smith preferred, concentration on the passenger side of the business waned, with the Tilling-Stevens coach being disposed of in April 1955 and the rest of the fleet at the end of the 1955 summer season.

Frank Smith suffered a heart attack in 1959 and retired from his transport business in 1961, the company being wound up and dissolved on 1st June 1973.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
							New	S/H	W/D			
HTB 194	A.E.C.	Regal	06625000	Burlingham	C33F	2822	3/47	12/50	12/55	Milton, Colne	?, Hants 1/56	
?	Bedford	?	?	?	C27F	?	?	-/51	-/54?	?	?	
MMJ 359	T.S.M.	L4MA8	9920	Plaxton Venturer	C37F	?	1/54	-/54	4/55	Taylor, Meppershall	Northend, Leicester	

Notes: