

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-SM11

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SMITH, Stanley Central Garage, High Street IRTHLINGBOROUGH

Stan Smith was the owner of the Central Garage in High Street, Irthlingborough and operated excursions and tours and private hires only, between the years 1926 and 1938. His first coach was a Chevrolet X type which carried a fourteen-seater Willmott body, this machine being registered RP 3455 on 8th November 1926. Stan Smith retained this vehicle for just over three years before he replaced it with a G.M.C. chassis onto which a Grose sixteen-seater body was mounted. The seats were more "bus" than "coach" but the longest excursions Smith operated at the time were to the East Coast. This replacement vehicle was registered RP 8303 on 7th January 1930.



Stan Smith's Grose bodied G.M.C. - RP 8303 - was an attractive and well proportioned vehicle. The garter on its sides carried the word "Sunsaloon" and, as can be seen, a large section of the roof could be opened to let in the sun's rays when the weather permitted.

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Torestyn" 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.

SMITH. Stanley - IRTHLINGBOROUGH

The enactment of the 1930 Road Traffic Act meant that in the Autumn of 1931 Stan Smith had to apply to the Traffic Commissioners for a Road Service Licence to enable him to continue the tours he had operated during the previous twelve months. The application for sixteen excursions was submitted in October 1931 and granted in November. The longer distance tours included Clacton, Felixstowe, Great Yarmouth, London, Lowestoft and Skegness. As time progressed a handful of additional destinations were added to the group, amongst which were period excursions to Blackpool and Southsea.

Stan Smith bought his next new coach on 24th March 1932 and again Messrs Grose Ltd of Northampton was selected to supply and body a Bedford WLB chassis, with the complete twenty-seater machine taking the registration NV 1186. It is believed this Bedford was an addition to the fleet rather than a replacement.

The last coach to be purchased by Stan Smith was one of the unusual Leyland Lion Cub SKP5 models and this was registered NV 3605 on 26th March 1934, displacing the G.M.C. RP 8303. Clearly Smith was well satisfied with the quality and price of Grose coachwork as Messrs Grose Ltd were once more commissioned to supply a twenty-six seat body for the Cub chassis.



Whilst not the prettiest coach ever built by Grose, NV 3605 was certainly unusual, as this nearside view of the Leyland Lion Cub shows.

SMITH. Stanley - IRTHLINGBOROUGH



An offside view of the Grose bodied Leyland SKP5 is also available. The emblem on the side of the vehicle reads "Smith's Luxury Coaches" whilst the legend "S Smith Luxury Coaches Irthlingborough Northants" appears on the louvres.

On 8th February 1938 Stanley Smith reached agreement with United Counties to sell the Goodwill of his Excursion & Tours Licence starting from Irthlingborough Garage for the sum of £800 together with a further £700 for his Leyland Lion Cub NV 3605. Thereafter United Counties duly applied to the Traffic Commissioners for licences for Smith's two period excursions, sixteen day excursions and four half-day excursions. The deal was concluded on 3rd May 1938 after which Stan Smith continued to run his Irthlingborough Central Garage.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
							New	S/H	W/D			
RP 3455	Chevrolet	X	11192	Willmott	14		11/26	—	1/30	—	Grose Ltd/ Green, H on Hill	
RP8303	G.M.C.	T19B	15186	Grose	B16F		1/30	—	3/34	Supp. Grose Ltd	Grose Ltd/ Oakley, Wboro	
NV 1186	Bedford	WLB	108194	Grose	C20		3/32	—	5/38	Supp. Grose Ltd	Surrudge, Harpole	
NV 3605	Leyland	Lion Cub SKP5	2694	Grose	C26F		3/34	—	5/38	Supp. Grose Ltd	United Counties (510)	