

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-HA5A

Page 1

## HARDWICK & MANN t/a "The Cobblers" Moore Street Garage NORTHAMPTON

Messrs. Hardwick & Mann operated from Moore Street Garage in the Kingsley area of Northampton and a facsimile of this firm's advertisement which appeared in the Northampton Independent for 8th March 1924 is reproduced on the next page.

It is not known when the business was started but coach operation commenced in the early part of 1924 when, as far as can be ascertained, the Maxwell twenty seater saloon bus illustrated in the advertisement was possibly the firm's only coach. It will be seen that Hardwick & Mann traded as "The Cobblers", a name later used by Ben Hasker of Northampton. It is interesting to note from the advertisement that "This luxuriously equipped vehicle will accommodate 20 passengers. It is fitted with pneumatic tyres and the seats are so beautifully sprung and upholstered that it travels smoothly over the roughest roads with the minimum of vibration. Fitted with electric light, it is also furnished with double emergency exits".

Joseph Mann was granted a Hackney Carriage licence by Northampton Borough Council Watch Committee to ply for hire from the Market Square and Campbell Square, from 14th December 1925 to 25th March 1926. It can be presumed that prior to December 1925 Hardwick & Mann were in the private hire business and after this date added excursions to their repertoire. The use of the Market Square would have been authorised for days of the week other than Wednesdays and Saturdays, when the market was held, on which days the departure point would have transferred to Campbell Square.

Few excursions were destined to be operated, however, as in February 1926 Messrs. Allchin & Son took over the business, the vehicle and the Hackney Carriage Licence that went with it.

### Vehicles:

Maxwell - 20 seater saloon. New c3/24.

It is possible, but as yet unconfirmed, that the above bus could have been NH 5713

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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Page 2

HARDWICK & MANN, Northampton

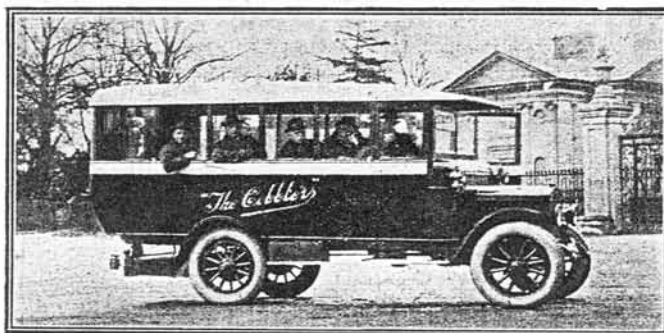
which, if this theory is correct, after leaving Allchin's ownership, passed eventually to A Germany of Docking, Norfolk. NH 5713 was last licensed in November 1937.

Hardwick & Mann also acquired a 26cwt Overland which may, or may not, have carried a bus body. It too would have dated from 1924 and had a very short life, being last licenced to the above proprietors in January 1925 at an address at 30 Cowper Street.

## Travel in Comfort

BY THE

**Latest Luxurious Saloon Motor Coach.**



A "PULLMAN" OF THE ROAD. Photo: "Northampton Independent."

Our New 21 h.p. "Maxwell" Saloon is at your service for.—  
**PLEASURE PARTIES. FOOTBALL OR CRICKET CLUBS.**  
**WEDDING & CONCERT PARTIES. SEASIDE OR COUNTRY**  
**EXCURSIONS. For Long or Short Distances.**

This luxuriously equipped vehicle will accommodate 20 passengers. It is fitted with pneumatic tyres, and the seats are so beautifully sprung and upholstered that it travels smoothly over the roughest roads with the minimum of vibration. Fitted with electric light, it is also furnished with double emergency exits.

This Motor Coach may be Hired on the Most Reasonable Terms from:—

**HARDWICK & MANN,**

TAXI-CAB & MOTOR COACH PROPRIETORS.

**Moore Street Garage, Kingsley Park, Northampton.**

Smart, Comfortable Landaulettes for Hire.

Telephone 1044.

A facsimile of Messrs. Hardwick & Mann's advertisement appearing in The Northampton Independent of 8th March 1924.