

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-DU3

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DURRANT. John

15 Waterloo Buildings, Waterloo Yard,
WELLINGBOROUGH

Jackie Durrant was a well known character in Wellingborough who spent most of his life connected in one way or another with horse transport. Durrant was in business in the latter part of the nineteenth century as a shoeing and general smith and in addition he ran a cab hire business and was a coal merchant. His smithy was located at the far end of the Bee's Wing PH yard in Sheep Street and he later moved to premises in Market Street where his horses were stabled. Additionally, for a year or two, he had an office at 2 Midland Road and premises at 15 Waterloo Buildings in Waterloo Yard.

Up to the first World War, Jackie Durrant seems to have traded quite satisfactorily and possibly he faced little competition. However, his business was reputed to have fallen into decline by the end of the War and in May 1920 he applied to Wellingborough Urban District Council for a Hackney Carriage driver's licence, which was not granted as the General Purposes Committee were not satisfied that Durrant was competent to drive. Jackie must have taken a crash course in driving as a month later the U.D.C. felt able to grant him a licence, which it did on 16th June 1920.



**J. DURRANT, CAB PROPRIETOR
& COAL MERCHANT.**

For Greys or Bays for
Weddings.

Up-to-date Cabs (silent
Tyres), Horses, & Pony
Traps. Ring up 2x.

Cabs always in readi-
ness, day or night.

Good House Coal delivered from **14/-** per ton.

OFFICES: 16, SHEEP STREET, WELLINGBOROUGH.
STABLES: MARKET STREET, WELLINGBOROUGH.

Private Residence: DEBDALE ROAD. Telephone—Sheep st. Tr. Debdaled, 944.

*One of Jackie Durrant's many advertisements
- this one dating from December 1909.*

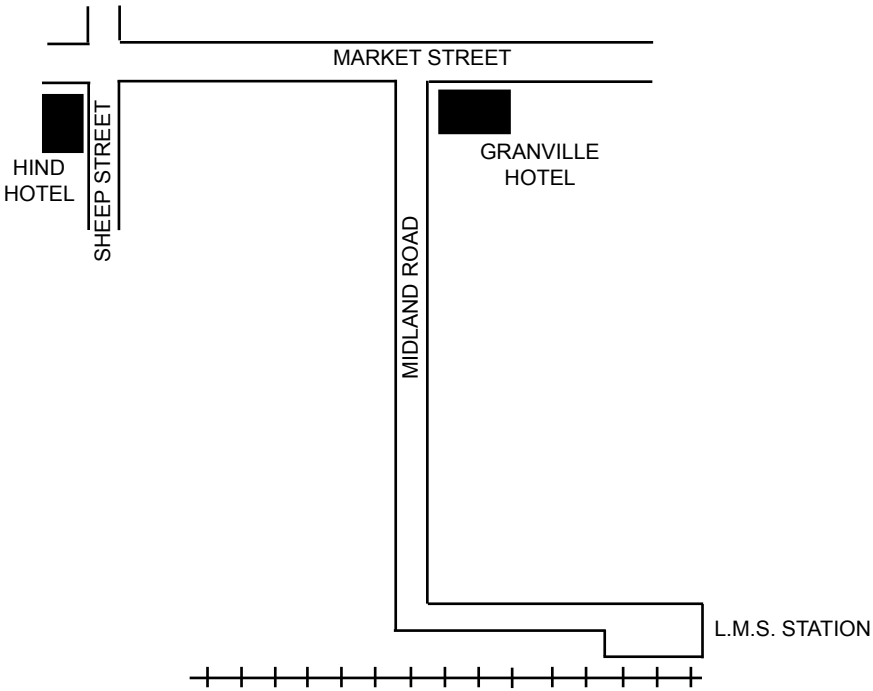
At about this time Jackie Durrant bought what is alleged to have been a 1908 Sunbeam 14-seater wagonette which was registered BD 4419, probably in April 1920. It may well have been used during the War for military purposes and lost its original registration, taking up BD 4419 when Durrant purchased it. The vehicle was not glazed and entry was via a rear door, and Jackie painted the word "Sunbeam" on its side panels. He also fitted a very early form of trafficator to the bus, in the form of large wooden painted hand shapes, which were swung out when turning was intended.

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.

DURRANT J - WELLINGBOROUGH

A horse bus service had for many years operated from the Hind Hotel, Wellingborough to the Midland Railway station and knowledge of this operation, together with his experience with cab operating, gave Jackie Durrant the idea of running a bus service from the Hind Hotel via the Granville Hotel to the railway station. Another novel idea introduced by Durrant was the positioning of clocks on the Granville Hotel and near the Rail station to show the times of his next journeys.

From 1923 Durrant had competition from another Wellingborough operator named Samuel Bird who ran between the Granville Hotel and the Station, but it seems there was enough business for both men. Jackie Durrant continued with his operation until early in 1929, when he was involved in an accident with his bus, in which a boy was killed. This event unnerved him and he ceased operating, thereafter buying a horse and four-wheeled cart which he used in conjunction with a venture selling vegetables. For a period, after the War, he was employed as a conductor by United Counties.



Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL	NOTES
	MAKE	TYPE	NO.	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D			
BD 4419	Sunbeam				B14R		-/08	4/20	4/29		Scrapped after accident.	