

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-SP3

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SPRUELS. Maurice Henry West End Garage, SCALDWELL

It would seem that Scaldwell garage owner Maurice Henry Spruels tested the water with regard to the operation of bus services when he bought a blue REO in September 1923, which he had registered BD 8326 on 7th day of that month. Rather strangely this vehicle is reputed to have been fitted with a 1916 engine.

Having acquired a passenger vehicle, Maurice Spruels inaugurated a service on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays to Northampton, presumably terminating at one of the Sheep Street public houses, as the Borough Council did not licence him to use *en street* bus stands. Whilst probably initially starting from Scaldwell, the route was soon extended to serve Old - Scaldwell - Brixworth - Pitsford Turn - Boughton Turn - Northampton. On Fridays Maurice Spruels ran in the opposite direction starting from Brixworth and proceeding via Scaldwell and Old to Kettering. It is assumed that on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays Spruels let his vehicle out for private hire trips.

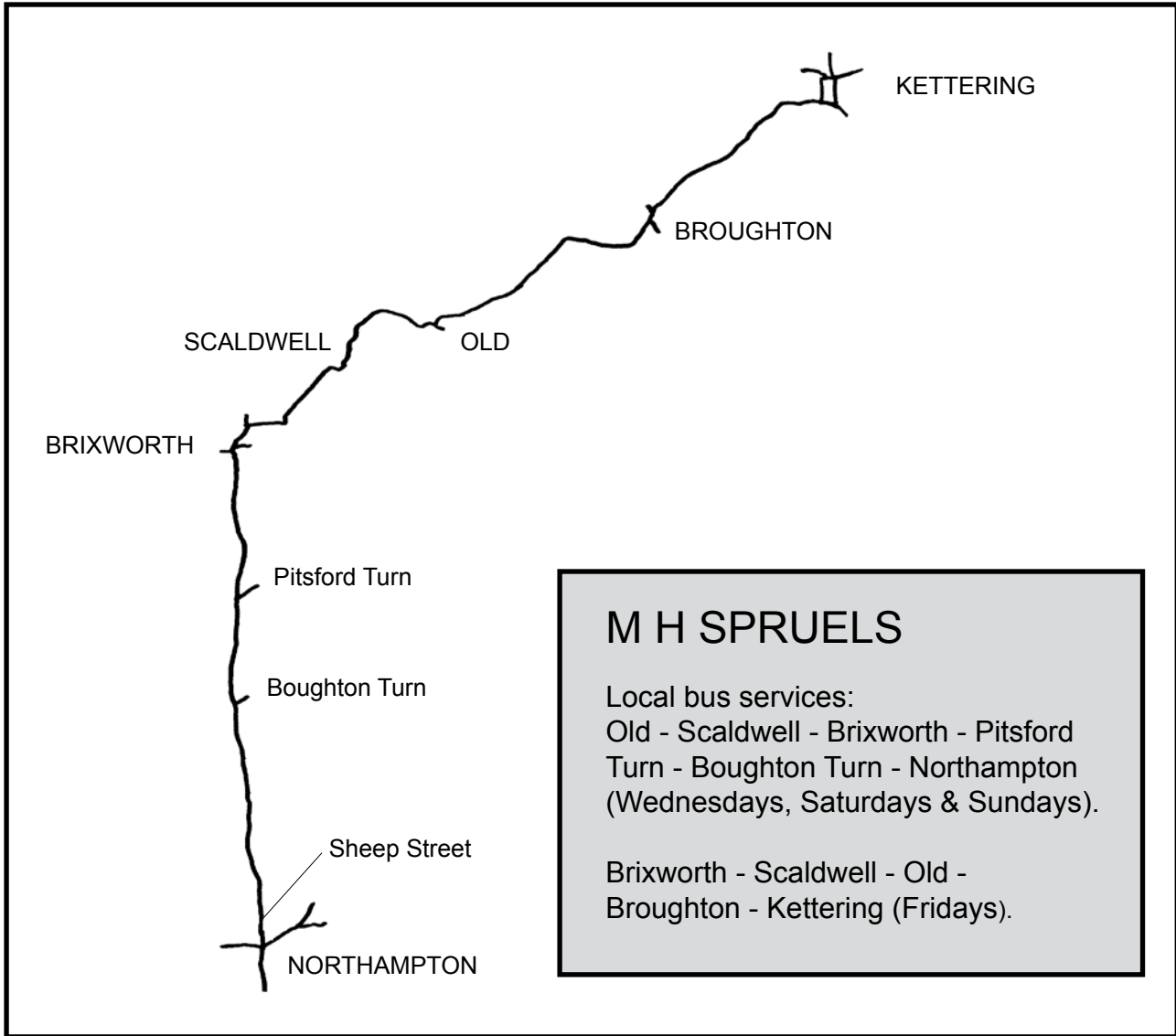
It is unclear how long Maurice Spruels retained his REO BD 8326 for at some stage, maybe in 1926, he sold the vehicle and it ended up at Farnham where it ran either in bus or lorry form until the end of March 1929. Clearly Spruels must have acquired a replacement saloon but its identity has not been discovered. This mystery bus was itself replaced in due time and the chosen model was a Chevrolet LQ fourteen-seater bus registered RP 7790 on 17th July 1929.

With the advent of the 1930 Road Traffic Act Maurice Spruels applied to the Traffic Commissioners for Road Service Licences for his two stage-carriage routes in September 1931 but both applications were withdrawn prior to the licences being granted. In the meantime United Counties reached agreement with Maurice Spruels on 17th October 1931 to purchase the Goodwill of his services for the sum of £50. The purchase was concluded on 2nd December 1931 and United Counties extended its Kettering to Old service 6A to Scaldwell on Fridays and incorporated the Northampton route within its existing service 12.

Maurice Spruels' Chevrolet was not purchased by United Counties' and it was subsequently sold to a Mr H C Hamson of Old for use as a goods vehicle and was last licensed in September 1935.

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.

SPRUELS. Maurice H - SCALDWELL



Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
							New	S/H	W/D			
BD 8326	REO		14370		B14F		9/23	—	?	—	E Wakeford, Farnham	1
?	?		?		?		?	?	7/29?			2
RP 7790	Chevrolet	LQ	55206		B14F		7/29	—	11/31	—	J L Hamson, Old	3

Notes: 1 - Last licensed by Wakeford 3/29
 2 - Spruels must have owned a vehicle between the withdrawal of BD 8326 and the arrival of RP 7790.
 3 - Last licenced by Hamson 9/35.