

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-OS1

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OSBORNE. Reuben 18 Park Road IRTHLINGBOROUGH

Although Reuben Osborne was operating coaches as recently as the 1950s it has proved quite difficult to find a great deal about him. He lived at 18 Park Road, Irthlingborough but his garage was situated in Victoria Street and the building is still in situ at the time of writing. The garage would hold two coaches and although he never operated more than two at once, vehicles were occasionally parked nearby in George Street, the top end of which terminated at a playing field.

Reuben Osborne's full-time occupation was driving B.R.S. lorries from their Rushden depot and the coach operation was a sideline. It would seem that he bought his first second-hand Maudslay ML3K coach NV 5120 in 1948 and this handsome vehicle carried a Grose thirty-two seat body and had been operated for all its previous life, since 1935, by KW Services of Blakesley and Daventry. Another uncertainty in this story arises from a report in the P.S.V. Circle records that NV 5120 was purchased by Walters & Osborne of Irthlingborough. If Reuben Osborne was ever associated with Bert Walters of New Street Motors, Irthlingborough (NN-NE5) the association must have been very brief as the two men were very much in competition with each other.



The Grose bodied Maudslay ML3K registered NV 5120 looked like this when new to KW Services in 1935 but after War service and its return to civilian coaching duties it was probably not in such pristine condition when operated by Reuben Osborne.

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.

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OSBORNE R J - IRTHLINGBORO'

Surviving records suggest that Reuben ran just the one coach, mainly at weekends, on private hires until he replaced it in February 1951 with a pair of 1929 Leyland Tiger TS1 machines which he acquired from Seamarks Bros of Westoning, Bedfordshire. One was registered MS 8667 and was equipped with a thirty-two seat Alexander body whilst the other, DB 9315, carried a post-War Thurgood body, also seating thirty-two passengers. The two coaches formed the fleet for the next year or two until being superseded by a pair of Bedfords in the 1954/5 period. One of the Bedfords was a 1936 WTB model with Duple coachwork registered WS 8074 and formerly used by G T Owen of Upper Boddington (NN-OW1). The other was EBD 856, a 1948 OB with a body by the coachbuilder Hasker of Northampton acquired from T G Dilks of Desborough (NN-DI3).



On the left this rather grainy photograph of Reuben Osborne's Hasker bodied Bedford OB registered EBD 856 was taken on 15th March 1958. A better image of this vehicle when new can be found in paper NN-ST4 detailing the operations of Stockwood Motors Ltd of Corby. (Photo courtesy DM Bailey).

On the right a little of both Bedford OB-EBD 856 and Bedford WTB - WS 8074 can be seen in this snapshot. Reuben Osborne is leaning on EBD 856 and his driver Len Waterfield similarly stands alongside WS 8074.



OSBORNE R J - IRTHLINGBORO'

As far as it is known Reuben Osborne operated only private hires and in 1957 replaced his Bedford WTB with a Bedford OB model mounted with the usual Duple Vista bodywork associated with this type of coach, and registered FRW 67. Around three years later, circa March 1960, Reuben Osborne relinquished his coach operations.



This photograph depicts the garage building in Victoria Street, Irthlingborough once used by Reuben Osborne for the accommodation of his coaches. It is believed that the premises were rented rather than being owned and this view was taken in May 2015.

OSBORNE R J - IRTHLINGBORO'

Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL	NOTES
	MAKE	TYPE	NO.	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D			
NV 5120	Maudslay	ML3K	5188	Grose	C32R	—	3/35	c-/48	3/51	K W Services, Daventry	No further owner	
MS 8667	Leyland	Tiger TS1	60384	Alexander	C32F	1438	5/29	2/51	c-/54	Seamarks Bros., Westoning	No known further owner	
DB 9315	Leyland	Tiger TS1	60569	Thurgood (4/46)	C32F		5/29	2/51	8/55	Seamarks Bros., Westoning	Hunt, Molesworth	
WS 8074	Bedford	WTB	110439	Duple	C25F	6865	5/36	c-/54	c-/57	G T Owen, U. Boddington	S Hughes (Dlr), Bradford	
EBD 856	Bedford	OB	44129	Hasker	C26F	—	6/48	c-/55	c3/60	T G Dilks, Desborough	No known further owner	
FRW 67	Bedford	OB	29442	Duple Vista	C27F	43043	7/46	c-/57	c3/60	?	Hockey & Jackson, W'borough	
?	Gilford	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	1

Notes: 1 - An Irthlingborough resident recalls an old Gilford single-dek being parked at the top of George Street in the 1950s and left to deteriorate and become derelict. Presumably this was one of Osborne's vehicles but there are no records of him having a Gilford.