

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-SA4
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SARGEANT. Archibald John t/a Rothwell Bus Company “Sunnylands”, Rushton Road ROTHWELL

It was in 1919 that Archie Sargeant first applied to the Streets, Buildings & Sanitary Committee of Kettering Borough Council to licence a motor omnibus and the necessary documentation was approved on 18th July in that year. It was Archie Sargeant's intention to operate a Rothwell to Kettering bus service, a route on which the Midland Railway, the Wellingborough Motor Omnibus Company and T H Clarke & Company of Rothwell were already providing services when Sargeant felt he also could operate profitably.

In preparation for his new venture, Sargeant meanwhile procured a 28 horse-power Dennis single-deck motor bus which was painted red and cream with yellow lettering, black wheels and black mud guards. This bus was registered BD 1310 on 5th July 1919 but is rumoured to have been a former London bus acquired from the War Department and re-registered at this time. Sargeant garaged his vehicle at the Red Lion public house in Rothwell.

Archie Sargeant set himself up as the “Rothwell Bus Company”, no modest title for a one-bus operation, and as intimated above, plied on the route from Rothwell to Kettering for approximately five years until circa 1924 when he ceased to trade. It seems that the Dennis - BD 1310 - lasted only until the end of September 1921 when it was replaced by a pneumatic-tired Garford saloon bus about which no details have come to light. Unfortunately no photographs of Archie Sargeant's vehicles have been located. Tours and excursions were also operated.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
							New	S/H	W/D			
BD 1310	Dennis	28hp	?	?	B		?	7/19	9/21		No further owner	1
?	Garford		?	?	B		?	c9/21	c-/24			

Notes: 1 - Said to have been a former London bus.

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.