

# Bygone Buses

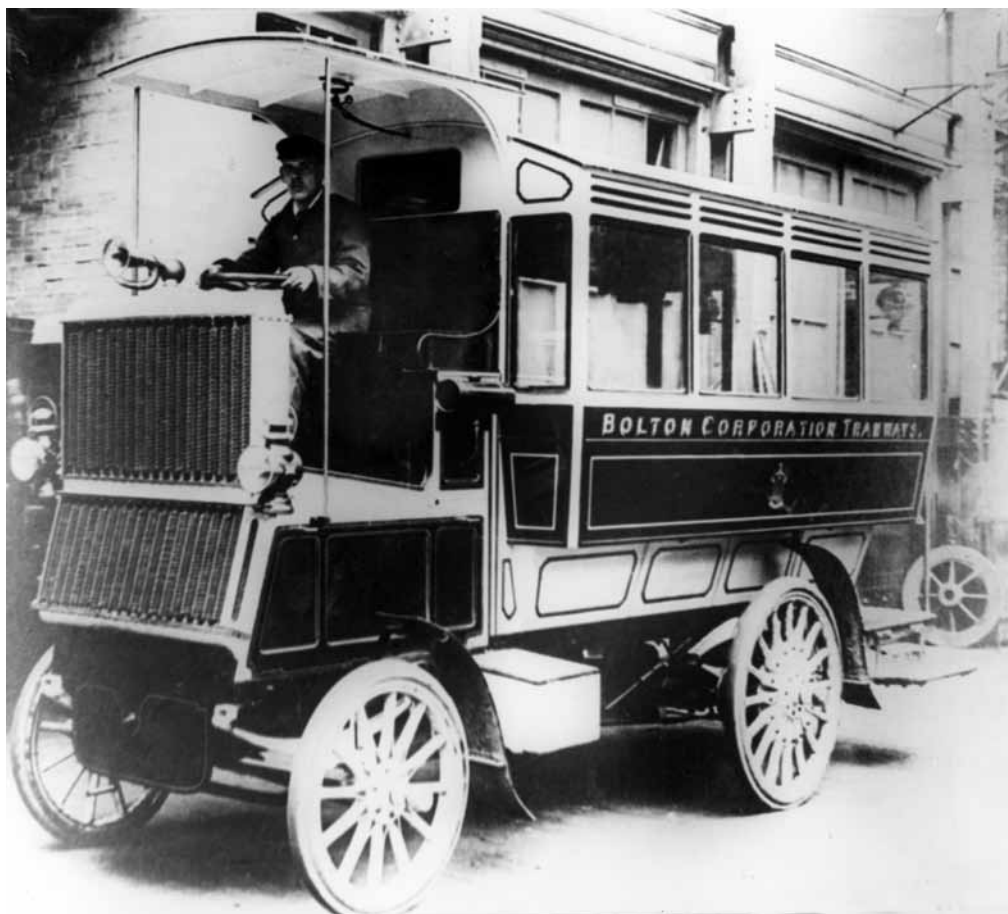
of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-LE3

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## LEE Jack or LEA F. P. 100 King Street KETTERING

It would seem that Bolton Corporation Tramways Department purchased a 12hp Stirling motor bus fitted with a sixteen seat body, which was registered as BN 140 on 5th September 1904. This vehicle was used on an experimental service between Darcy Lever and Bradley Fold for just a fortnight. Apparently a further experimental service was conducted over the same route in 1905, but with no more success.



*The handsome Stirling bus photographed when in service with the Bolton Corporation Tramways Department in 1904/5. (Photo courtesy Roy Marshall collection)*

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.

**LEE. Jack or LEA F. P. - KETTERING**

Following the two experimental services, Bolton Council decided to sell BN 140 and in September 1905 it is recorded as passing to F P Lea of Kettering.

Now, in Kettering, a Jack Lee, who is reported to have been employed as an engineer by Charles Wicksteed & Company, (of Wicksteed Park fame and makers of children's playground equipment such as swings, slides and roundabouts), is noted as the pioneer of a service between Kettering, Royal Hotel, Rothwell and Desborough. Presumably Jack Lee and F P Lea are one of the same, but which spelling of the surname is correct is unclear. Anyway, in terms of motor bus services, Jack Lee's route preceded that of the Midland Railway by at least two years but sadly the service was not profitable and the operation ceased after a period. The Author has scoured the local newspapers for reports of this service but, despite the novelty of such an operation in 1905/6, nothing has been uncovered. However, fortunately a photograph of the Stirling bus was taken and is shown below.



*What a fine sight BN 140 must have made in 1905/6 at Kettering, with the route "Kettering - Rothwell - Desborough" signwritten on its side and carrying an advertisement board for Messrs. Learner & Woodward's Millinery Store.*

#### Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Type	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
						New	S/H	W/D			
BN 140	Stirling	12hp	?	?	B16R	9/04	9/05	-/06?	Bolton Corp'n Tramways	?	