

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-WE1

Page 1

WEBB, Harry

The Old Windmill PH, STAVERTON

Harry Webb was born in June 1898 and in the mid-1920s worked at the B.T-H. Factory at Rugby. At this time he cycled to work but left the Company's employ in about 1927/8 only to rejoin again in 1929. After cycling for a short period Harry hit upon the idea of operating a workers' bus to cater for many of the people who regularly cycled to work. He bought a dark green second-hand Reo from a person at West Haddon - possibly by the name of Cook - who had recently ceased trading*. With this vehicle Harry Webb commenced a service from Staverton picking up at Daventry, Welton Turn and Kilsby before proceeding to the B.T-H. Factory.

The Reo was not too reliable, so Harry Webb bought a new Ford AA from the Agent in Albert Street, Rugby. It was bodied locally by a Mr Pyke of Rugby and it seated fourteen passengers in its maroon coloured body. It is possible that this Ford was registered VC 7790 but this is by no means certain.

The service ceased in the mid-1930s, as so many of Harry Webb's patrons failed to pay him, and he seldom pressed them for money owed. At this point the remaining passengers transferred to the bus of F C Gibbins of Daventry who was already providing a similar facility. Throughout the time Harry Webb was running his bus service he was employed full-time by B.T-H. and on Sundays he operated private hire trips. His bus was garaged at the Old Windmill PH until about 1931 when he moved to 1 Council Houses, The Green, Staverton.

Vehicles:

Reo - B14F - New ? - Acqd. c-/29 - W/D c-/31.

VC 7790? - Ford AA - Pyke - B14F - Acqd. new c-/31 - W/D c-/34.

* So far an operator of this name trading at West Haddon has not come to light.

