

ATKINS. John Thomas & Sons **196 Mill Road and** **Durban Road** **KETTERING**

From the little information there is available concerning John Thomas Atkins it would seem that he was a late comer to bus operating in the pre-Road Traffic Act, 1930 period. However, he was not a stranger to motor vehicles as on 7th April 1921 he registered as BD 5933 a black Ford van which was described as a "War type" vehicle. He no doubt ran this van in connection with his business, which was that of a boot repairer based on premises in nearby Durban Road.

Atkins was probably known as Thomas rather than John and for reasons unknown to the Author, he decided to venture into bus and coach operation in 1930 when, on 21st July of that year, he purchased RP 9295 new from Messrs. Grose Ltd of Northampton. RP 9295 was a Chevrolet U-type which seated fourteen passengers and, as likely as not, Grose built its body.

In the following month Thomas Atkins applied to Kettering Urban District Council for licences for the Chevrolet, for himself to drive and for his wife - Winifred - to act as a conductress. At the meeting of the Streets, Buildings & Sanitary Committee held on 3rd September 1930, the required licences were granted. It would appear that Atkins operated some sort of service from Rockingham Road, Kettering to Wicksteed Park, which is no doubt why Winifred Atkins was needed for conducting duties. Seaside excursions and country trips were also provided. The Atkins' had at least two sons but it is unclear whether they took any active part in the business and it is assumed that the boot repairing venture continued as before.

The Road Traffic Act, 1930, came into force from April 1931 and accordingly Thomas Atkins applied to the Traffic Commissioners for a Road Service Licence to continue to run the group of excursions and tours he claimed he had operated during the previous year. Unfortunately Atkins did himself no favours by submitting forms to the Commissioners that were incomplete inasmuch as they gave no information as to the excursions and tours the applicant desired to operate. Not surprisingly, therefore, Atkins'

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application for a licence was refused on 14th January 1932. It is doubtful that the Wicksteed Park service was viable and Atkins made no attempt to obtain a licence for that operation in 1932. As there were other regular bus routes passing the Park, it is unlikely that the Commissioners would have entertained granting a licence to Atkins.

Although having bought a new bus in July 1930 Thomas Atkins could have gained little more than one summer season's revenue from his venture before having the rug pulled from under his feet when he failed to secure an excursions and tours licence. By July 1932, probably through Messrs. Grose Ltd of Northampton, RP 9295 had passed to Tucia of Rhoshirwaen, North Wales and in due course to Crosville Motor Services Ltd.

Nothing further has been learnt of John Thomas Atkins' career after his two year foray into bus operation.

T. ATKINS & SONS,
DURBAN RD., KETTERING,
Phone 383.

HAVE A 14-SEATER 'BUS FOR HIRE
PARTIES, COUNTRY TRIPS, ETC.

Bus runs to and from Wicksteed Park
(Rockingham-road Schools to Canteen).

SATURDAYS AUG. 2nd and 9th.
YARMOUTH.—Fare. return £1, single
10/6.

SUNDAYS AUG. 3rd and 10th.
FELINSTOWE.—Fare. return £1, single
10/6.

Book at Durban-road or 155, Mill-road, Kettering.

A facsimile of an advertisement placed in the Kettering Evening Telegraph at the end of July 1930 by Thomas Atkins.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
						New	S/H	W/D			
BD 5933	Ford	T	2651099	—	Van	?	4/21	9/30	Ex-War Dept.	No further owner	1
RP 9295	Chevrolet	U	67439	Grose?	B14F	7/30	—	c1/32	Supplied Grose Ltd, Northampton	Tucia, Rhoshirwaen	