



Photo 1967





1999.



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# MAJESTIC MEMORIES OF 1977

*Leo Pratt takes us back to 1977 with a visit to Harry Cawthorne's Majestic Motors.*

**M**ention of Harry Cawthorne in January's issue prompted me to look back through my photo albums, and I wonder if the enclosed prints would be of interest.

Harry ran Darton, Barnsley-based Majestic Motors, with his sons and had a varied fleet, plus coaches on Continental Tours.

Most of his tippers were employed on coal haulage including artics, some of these

being Gardner 240 (straight-eight) powered.

Harry made a point of stating that any new vehicle he bought had to have a Gardner engine, so Foden, ERF and Atkinson were his choices.

The photos include what I believe to be the Albion (in the article mentioned) when it was standing out of use at the top of his Darton yard. Harry also had a couple of Bristol SC4LK buses, used on a school contract. For pleasure he rallied his old ex-Portsmouth Leyland TD open topper.



*The last Albion in the Majestic fleet was this long wheelbase dropside, seen in 1977.*



*And no-one saved them as far as we know! Albion lorry and Bedford OB coach seen in 1977.*



*Extra greedy boards on this Atkinson defender. Would such things be tolerated today? This photo was taken on a bitterly cold January in 1977, by the way.*



*Harry Cawthorne was originally convinced that this ERF A-series would not cope with colliery stacking yards, but it turned out to give sterling service.*



*What a sound this beast must have made - Atkinson Borderer had a straight-eight Gardner 240 engine.*



*Oldest operational vehicle in the fleet was this tired Gardner 62X - removed Atkinson sinker.*