



BR(S) 3-car demu 1108 approaches Corfe Castle station with a Wareham to Swanage service during the summer of 1969. W Ryan/ Online Transport Archive (K02549)

## Obituary: Fred Ivey (1926-2024)



Online Transport Archive (CCR080649)

Since news broke that Fred died on 24 September 2024 at the age of 98, many private and public tributes have been paid to one of the most well-known and respected figures in the transport enthusiast world. OTA President Martin Jenkins spoke for many: "For many of us he was a legend in his own lifetime – a font of knowledge, a remarkable photographer and a man of great generosity of spirit. We have lost one of the true greats of our hobby." Following our own Facebook posting, there were comments such as: "A true gentleman. I knew him in the late '60s

and his knowledge seemed to know no bounds" (Howard Piltz) and "A lovely tribute to a true gentleman. Several trolleybuses may not have survived were it not for Fred's generosity" (David Lawrence).

Such was Fred's status, that his life story was profiled many times over the years, including a sound recording of him reminiscing on the LT Museum website. Published by Bandwagon in 1979, *London's Transport Photographers: Fred Ivey* includes a detailed biography

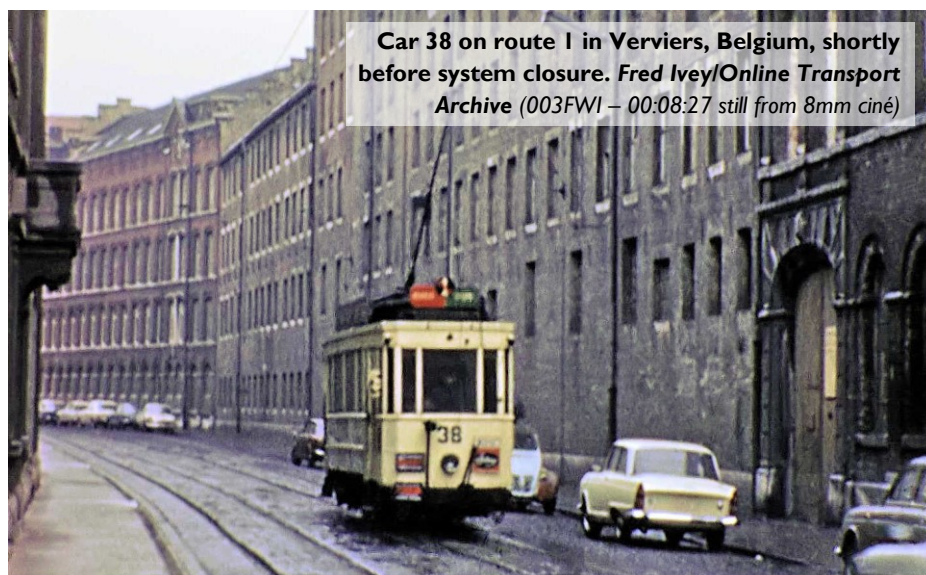
of the man himself, based on an interview he gave to author Colin Stannard. If you don't have your own copy, try and track one down. In summary, Fred was born in Streatham on 26 July 1926, began working for London Transport in 1944, served as a 'Bevin Boy' in South Wales during WWII, returned to LT in 1947 and remained with them until his retirement after 47 years and 4 months of dedicated service.

He was actively involved with many



A Scammell recovery vehicle tows ex-LT trolleybus 260 (CUL260) along the North Circular Road following its purchase by Fred and Tony Belton Fred Ivey/Online Transport Archive (FWIvey\_1962-08a\_028)





Car 38 on route 1 in Verviers, Belgium, shortly before system closure. Fred Ivey/Online Transport Archive (003FWI – 00:08:27 still from 8mm ciné)

enthusiast and preservation organisations, including the LT Museum, the Bluebell Railway and the East Anglia Transport Museum. In 1962, having got wind that LT were selling C2 Class trolleybus 260 (CUL260) for scrap, having initially set it aside for preservation, Fred and his friend and colleague Tony Belton intervened and bought the vehicle, which subsequently operated special trips on other systems such as Reading and Bournemouth. It now resides at Carlton Colville.

Using a borrowed camera, Fred's earliest pictures were taken in Wales in 1946. On his return to London, he bought a second-hand 620 Kodak 'Duo', taking 16 frames per film. With this he was able to cover the latter days of London trams, before moving on to trolleybuses, motor buses and the Underground. With inside information, Fred could always be relied on to be in the right place at the right time. Subsequently, railway closures across Britain attracted his attention, as did provincial trolleybuses and buses, with ex-London examples often being his target. He moved on to a Kodak 'Ensign' camera and then to an Agfa 'Sillette' 35mm model, which enabled him to start taking colour slides in the early 1960s.

In 1967, he purchased a ciné camera and spent years concentrating alternately on stills and ciné (and later video), before returning to the other for a while. In 2019, through OTA, he self-funded the high-quality transfer of his ciné films to the latest digital

standard and was mesmerised by the quality of scenes he hadn't seen for decades. Stills from some of his ciné footage are reproduced alongside this article. He also took the unusual step of making sound recordings as well.

For many years, Fred lived a stone's throw from Wembley Stadium, and would go out every day by bus or Tube, faithfully making notes of every journey he undertook. Sadly, enforced Covid lockdown did not treat Fred well and he moved into a care home in Harrow in 2021. On the occasion of his 96th birthday, he was treated to a ride on John Herting's preserved AEC Regal T792.

OTA President, Martin Jenkins, was among those paying tribute to Fred at his funeral on 30 October 2024, when a large congregation came together to pay their last respects to someone they all admired for everything he had done – always quietly and conscientiously – for the transport movement. He would have been pleased that RMI and an RT brought some of the mourners.

**A busy scene at Clapham Junction in 1967. Fred Ivey/Online Transport Archive (001FWI – 00:06:49 still from 8mm ciné)**



## Profile: Bill Ryan



Bill Ryan's collection of slides and negatives were, for many years, a hidden treasure. OTA was put in touch with him by Altrincham-based Peter Thompson, who had made some of Bill's B&Ws available through his Photosales business. Since 2009, Bill has been passing his slides into the care of the Archive, and examples of his work have graced quite a number of OTA fundraising publications.

Bill – or to give him his full name of William Francis Walter Stephen D'Arcy Ryan (and known as D'Arcy within his family) – was born in 1943 in Prestwich, Manchester. Remembering his earliest interaction with transport: "I was transfixed by tram rides with my grandfather, who would take me out all day to ride on the cars." This triggered



Bill's interest, which subsequently extended to all forms of transport, overlapping into industrial archaeology and social history.

The family moved to Stockton Heath, near Warrington and Bill was educated at St Francis Xavier's School in Liverpool. Qualifying as a pharmacist he worked in many places including the Potteries and Lancashire, before settling in Garstang in Lancashire, where he still lives in retirement. He is a deacon at his local church.

His photography covers many formats, including black and white negatives from 1954, colour slides from 1963, and later colour prints and digital. He is a remarkably good photographer rarely bothering with a 'front three-quarters' view. Each of his exposures is carefully framed to include some form of human or architectural feature. Thus his images track the changing face of some of the towns and cities he knows well: Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stockport, Manchester, Preston, and of course his adopted home town of Garstang. Many different cameras were used over the years, but the quality and versatility of Canon eventually ousted the other makes.

He also ventured abroad on a number of early trips, one taking him behind the Iron Curtain to places like Dresden and Prague, where his photography of railways and trams had to be conducted with care for fear of upsetting the authorities. When asked to choose some of the most interesting places he has visited, Rome and

**From Bill's first day of colour photography on 2 March 1963, Beckett's JXC212 (ex-LT Cravens-bodied RT1449) is seen at Hanley Town Hall shortly before the company was taken over by PMT. W Ryan/Online Transport Archive (K00025)**



Portugal are near the top of the list, but he wouldn't swap anywhere for the UK.

His mantra has always been 'never be without a camera', something which is commonplace in today's world of mobile phone cameras, but this was something Bill practised throughout his photographic career. Thus his chance shots of unusual buses passing down the road or parked in laybys are commonplace throughout his collection. Bill was also on hand, camera at the ready, to record an accidental 'coming together' between a Lancaster Leyland Leopard and a brand new Ford Cortina (thankfully in which no one was hurt) and this remains OTA's most viewed image on Facebook, having reached over 600,000 people.

OTA has recently been able to access some of Bill's early black and white negatives so these can be seen by a wider audience. We are grateful to Bill and his family for entrusting his unique collection to our care.

*We should like to thank Bill's wife Catherine for the help she has given us in compiling this profile.*

**Below left: A reflective scene of Harrison Line's 'Barrister' with a Manchester Ship Canal tug near Warrington. W Ryan/Online Transport Archive (K02322)**



**Below: MÁV (Hungary) 4-8-0 424.351 heads a rake of coaches from the carriage sidings at Budapest Nyugati station. W Ryan/Online Transport Archive (K02156)**



## Overseas legacies

OTA was recently contacted by a firm of solicitors acting as executors for an enthusiast and photographer who had recently died. "Pursuant to the terms of his Will he provided for all of his transport photographs, postcards, transport tickets and timetables ... to be offered to the Online Transport Archive. The above items have been set aside. We enclose a photograph of boxes containing the items." The picture is reproduced on the right.

This presented us with a number of problems, including the fact that our collections policy does not run to tickets and timetables (other than in exceptional cases where they may provide help with caption writing). As might be expected, the agents had made no attempt to logically allocate different parts of the collection to particular boxes, their concern being to fill the boxes as efficiently and quickly as possible and get them off the premises.

The other problem was perhaps more significant: the 17 boxes were at the time in Adelaide, Australia, and no provision had been made in the will to support their transportation to the UK.



We are hence in the position of having to fund the freight movement ourselves, not exactly sure what we're going to receive. We have been in touch with another organisation who may be interested in the contents which we don't want, and hopefully some agreement can be reached over sharing the cost.

We have faced this problem before and have been speaking to someone else outside the UK who is not well

enough to sort his collection. His executors are of a similarly advanced age and can't be expected to help, putting the problem into the hands of a solicitor with potentially a similar outcome to the Adelaide problem.

We have several pieces of advice if you are in this situation. If you are leaving material to OTA in your will, it would help us greatly if it could be pre-sorted so that only the material intended for OTA is sent. Ensure that your executors know this, so they aren't taken by surprise. (Better still, have you thought of passing material over now, while you are able to deal with it?) And, as we know some people have already done, leave a supporting financial legacy which will at least cover the cost of transportation. The is vitally important for any collection currently based outside the UK. Equally, the cost of uplifting and transporting collections within the UK is expensive – for example, a recent legacy involved hiring a van for a 500 mile round trip, at a total cost of over £250.

So, please let us know if OTA is in your will so we can advise in advance and aren't taken by surprise.

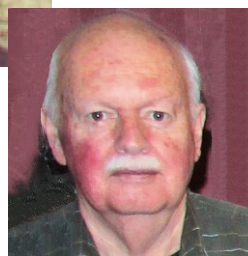
## News in brief

**Geoffrey Tribe:** We regret to report that Geoffrey died on 22 October 2024. He was a strong advocate for OTA and had passed his collection of slides to the Archive some years ago, fully catalogued and scanned to publishable standard. We were preparing a profile for publication. This should now appear in the next newsletter to his memory. We send condolences to his family and friends.



**Geoffrey Tribe.**  
**Facebook**

**Nigel Eames.**  
**Online Transport**  
**Archive** (CCR080649)



**Nigel Eames:** As preparation for this newsletter reached a late stage, we received notification that Nigel had died. He had passed his collection to OTA only a few months ago and we were working with him to obtain biographical details and cataloguing information relating to his collection. Hopefully, this information will still come to light. We send condolences to Nigel's friends and family.

**Publications:** After a hiatus in progress, work has restarted in earnest on the *Tramways and Light Railways of Barcelona, Mallorca and Valencia in colour (1954-1980)*, based to a large degree on early visits by contributor Ray DeGroote. That title should be out in the new year, and work is continuing on a London Underground volume, a British municipal buses title, and further books in Cr cy Publishing's *Railways Remembered* series.

**Trustee changes:** We would like to thank Caitlin Salt, who has recently stood down as a trustee after a period of three years because of business pressures. She has been our IT guru and led the project to set up a NAS-based mass storage system for our scanned still and moving image collection. She has offered to provide ongoing assistance on an *ex-officio* basis, but if there is anyone out there who would like to get involved, please get in touch. Similarly, as we move towards the next stage with property ownership and more complex finances, we would be interested to hear from any of our followers with experience in the fields of corporate finance, the law (particularly relating to property) and general company legal compliance. Again, please contact us if you can help.

**Christmas wishes:** This is our last newsletter of 2024. We'll be back in March with issue 27, but in the meantime, may we wish you all the best for the festive period and the new year.