

Norwich and then on to Yarmouth. Forty years later this service still exists and Eastern Counties claim that it is quicker and cheaper to "send your parcels by bus". Taking the example given above, I do not think that the GPO could get a parcel to Yarmouth, the same day that it was posted! The Company has always considered that their parcels service is a useful public service which is also lucrative source of revenue. They also claim to operate the fullest parcels service of any bus company.

Another useful service that Eastern Counties inherited was the Post Box on the bus. This service lasted in Norfolk, for example until just after the Second World War. One ex-conductor spoke of those days. He recalled how only certain buses had the Post box on, so that it was just like an ordinary collection, except the people had to "catch the bus" and not the post. He spoke of how on "many a night there would be a crowd by the bus stop at Drayton all waiting for us. Two people would get on the bus and rest disappeared after dropping their letters in our box. There was one gentleman who could never arrive on time and always had to flag us down to give us his mail".

The only service left today (1970) is the fact that on some routes, GPO mail bags are carried between the villages and the larger sorting offices. An example of this is the 1000 hrs from Ipswich to Stowmarket which picks up a mail bag at Needham Market and takes it to Stowmarket, where it is collected by the GPO. This service is no longer available to the public however. Nevertheless it is a reminder of the days of the Mail Coaches galloping the length and breadth of Britain with the Post Horns announcing their arrival.

In 1931 Eastern Counties was only operating Stage Carriage Services and Express Services were the province of private operators in the area.

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