

From David Harman and others:

Eastern National "slang" (1960s: Brentwood depot)

"conker-box" = K, KS, KSW (not sure of origin, but either something to do with hitting your 'conk' on the lower-deck offside sunken gangway, or the somewhat challenging gearbox) Who else remembers the almost lyrical notice: "Please lower your head when leaving your seat"? !!

"sixty" = LD type Lodekka (early 58-seater LDs were honorary "sixties"). Incidentally, what WAS under those panels next to the two longitudinal seats on 58-seater Lodekkas? And where did they put whatever it was on 60-seaters?

"seventy" = FLF

"tram" = LS (from the single, centrally-mounted spotlight. MWs, which had asymmetrically-placed spotlights were honorary "trams")

"luxury" = any coach or DP

"Big Bertha", "best bus in the fleet", "the LiNO bus" = 1541 (later 2510), the only LDL (reg: 236LNO)

Other slang (some used officially):

"Main Road" = the 151/251, the old City Coach Co. Wood Green - Southend route

"the City" = as above (even passengers used that)

"the town" = Brentwood town routes (252, 262, 264), but strictly, the 262 (Bishops Hall Estate - Hornbeam Close)

"ace driver", "ace crew" = usually reserved for elite Main Road men

"ice cream man", "ice cream jacket" - coach driver, so called, because they had white dustcoats with green collars instead of the standard olive green-grey/green collar ones.. Thus, coach driver enters canteen, fresh from seven-day Scottish tour, to cries of "two choc ices and a Mivvi please!" etc. (Oh dear, who remembers Mivvis?)

"domino load" = full bus

"scratching" = 'hanging back' so the bus in front did all the work. Frequent canteen disputes occurred between Main Road and local crews over alleged scratching by the latter.

"slashing", "slash" = duplicate. "Southend slash" = dead to the Seaway, then duplicate service car on summer Sundays, carrying longer distance passengers in London direction. On ENOC, a duplicate always ran in front of the service car; a 'relief' ran behind.

"jumper" (and other terms unsuitable for a family website) = inspector

"rounder" = round trip, as in "we've got 3 rounders on the town to do".

"the Board" = London Transport; at the time the London Transport Board, but it actually referred to the LPTB (1933-1947).

"scroll" = destination blind

"car" = bus

I don't know how many of these terms were specific to Brentwood (BD) depot or even Eastern National. Ian Banks may be able to say whether Southend (SD) used the same. And what about bus crew slang from other areas?

Ian Banks replies:

At Southend FLFs were "Big Bertha", the LDs were either "5-pots" or "6-pots" [according to the number of cylinders, ie LD5G or LD6B].

Moving to Southend Corporation buses, PD2s were "short Leylands", PD3s "long Leylands", the later PD3s with C & F regs (333-347). were "highbridges", PD2's with concealed radiators "bull noses", AEC EHJxxx "crash boxes", all others by their make or fleet numbers.