



STORY 15

## HERE COME THE YELLOW TOPS!

In 1933, Wearne Brothers brought in the first Yellow Top taxis to Singapore in response to public demand, according to the book *Wheels in Malaya – The Wearne Brothers and Their Company* by Christopher Fyfe. Their success saw 25 more taxis being put on the road within six months.

The press praised the conspicuously coloured, clean taxis and the courtesy of the drivers, which they said stood in sharp contrast to the larger dirty taxis and their

overbearing drivers.

Taxi services were also launched in Malacca, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Penang and Rangoon. By 1934 the venture had become so successful that a new subsidiary, General Transport Company, was formed.

It is not known what make the earlier cars were but by 1936 the fleet consisted of Morris 8 saloons. Charges were 20 cents for two kilometres and S\$50 for a 12-hour hire of no more than 80 kilometres.