

PROFILE

British Farrier David Gulley by Judy Gulley

As a small boy, David Gulley followed the local farrier about on Dartmoor Devon, his home. The young man longed to be a farrier. But the year was 1954 and the boom in the horse world that we now take for granted hadn't begun. David's mother took him around to all the local farriers, but none wanted to take on an apprentice. They worried that they would lose what little business they had to an apprentice when the training period was over.

Disappointed, David chose instead an apprenticeship in blacksmithing, welding and fabrication. For four years, he served in Wales, working on silos, grain stores, and quarryhousing. When he finished his apprenticeship, he entered National Service, the British equivalent of the draft, for two years. He was in one of the last groups of men in England to be drafted, since the National Service was abolished the same year.

In the first weeks of military training, David's camp was visited by an officer of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, who was seeking recruits for regular soldiering. David realized that this was a way to get his farriery training and, on the promise of being put in the forge, he signed on for 22 years.

David's farriery training was the responsibility of Farrier Sergeant Major Green of the Royal Army Veterinary School of Farriery. Sergeant Major Green's reputation as a farrier was unequalled in Great Britain at the time. In addition to farriery, David studied dog handling, veterinary training and traditional equitation. After nine years of service, he purchased his discharge, with a dream of setting up business in civilian life as a farrier.

David Gulley's first forge was a stable, which he rented from one of his first customers. As his business expanded he was able to rent and then purchase his present house and forge, known as Thorpe Satchville, in Leicestershire, England.

A successful farriery business like David Gulley's is built not only on obvious shoeing skills but also on the man's personal integrity and interest in the horses



that pass through his forge. Apprentices who are lucky enough to serve their terms at Thorpe Satchville get a very thorough training. Their four years there are full of learning about farriery plus

additional training in corrective shoeing and lectures on veterinary matters. Apprentices also participate in local shoeing competitions.

David Gulley's twenty-year farriery

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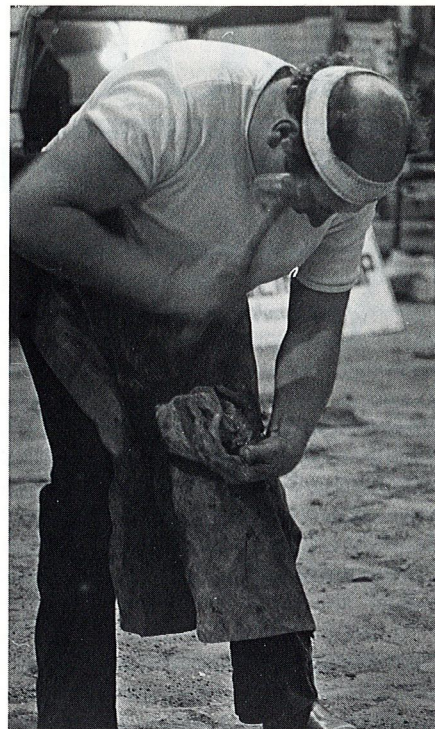
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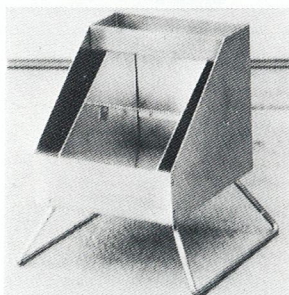
career in England has been highlighted by the honor of representing England four times on winning teams in international competition. He also has won the individual trophy at the Dublin competition. In 1982, David was chosen to serve as a judge at the contest by the Irish Horse Board, a great honor.

A busy man, David Gulley's personal activities mirror his professional interests. He is chairman of the local branch of the National Master Farriers Association for the fourth year and is responsible for planning competitions and social events.

David has two sons; the oldest has just finished an apprenticeship in engineering and has passed his city and guild examinations. The younger son is apprenticed to his father and is making a promising start in the farriery trade and will hopefully carry on the high standards of his father into another generation of farriers.

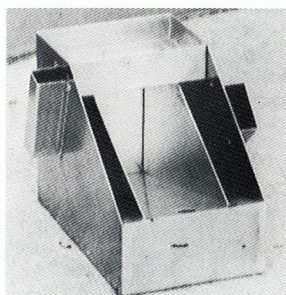
Involvement with horses for the Gulleys does not begin and end with their feet. David's first love is horses, and they are never far from him, as any visitor to Thorpe Satchville will attest. In the winter, the local hunt, which is known as the Quorn, welcomes David to ride to the hounds and he gallops across the beautiful Leicestershire countryside with many of his customers. During the summer, he can be seen driving a gig around the local country lanes, stopping by the local pub — aptly named The Three Horseshoes — for a pint. 

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