

Foxhunting: past, present, future?

Transcript of interview extract for Peter Ripley

Peter Ripley

Retired Tailor

Interview date

22.05.2006

Brief description

Talks about the growth of the tailoring business and the impact of the Hunting Act on trade.

Duration

2mins 13secs

Interview extract

Peter Ripley: ... Um, one of the customers was Sir John Miller who was the Crown Equerry at the time, and through him really and truly we then got the honour of getting the Prince of Wales feathers which was, if you like, a feather in our cap [laughs]. And from there the business went from strength to strength until, until really and truly in the late eighties, um, the anti-hunting campaigns were beginning to be really heard and felt and um it didn't make a big difference while the Conservative government was in but when Labour got in in '97, well then there was a real down flow in business. Um, where we were making a hundred hunting coats a year, um, we cut that in half really and truly and we were, we were very worried but we kept going. But in nowhere near, nowhere near the strength of business that we'd had until 1997 and really that carried on er, right until hunting was banned a couple of years. And um that was a very worrying time then and we were, as you know, we were all marching and doing what we could but the government really were, were sort of hell bent on er, banning hunting. I don't think Mr Blair was particularly but his backbenchers were. And um, and so you know two years

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ago we really didn't know what the future was going to hold. [Edit] Anyway they banned the hunting, I'd sold the business to David and agreed to stay on for two years with him um, but since then you know the business has upturned. People seem to have decided that the ban isn't going to make a big difference and we've been very busy for the last two years, incredibly. I mean none of us really foresaw this and there seems to be a much greater, um, support for hunting since the ban um, than there was before it. This is really from the general public.

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Contact Melton Carnegie Museum to hear or read the full interview.
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