



# THE PIONEER

RURAL & RESIDENTIAL  
PROPERTY

## Stroud Auto Repairs

DENISE HAYNES - 'R & R' RURAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY



Stroud Auto Repairs was previously known as both the "Blacksmith's Shop", and "Stroud Motors". The photo shown above shows one part of Stroud Auto Repairs' buildings, - where the hoist is located today, when it was the blacksmith's shop. Sometimes it was also known as Lamborne's Garage as Carl Lamborne was the owner. *The following is an extract from the book "Growing up in Stroud" A Memoir of the 1920's 1930's and 1940's written by our local resident Beryl Bowden.*

Breadwinners who were unemployed could rely on the dole, and coupons for food and clothing were issued to relieve some of the financial pressure on families. The very day Mum convinced Dad to pocket his pride and apply for the dole; fate took a turn for the better. He was walking past the blacksmith's shop when the owner, Mr Lamborne, asked him if he would consider taking a job on half pay until things looked up. Would he? He certainly would!

Even though the business was known as the blacksmith's shop it was fast becoming a garage as well. Mr Lamborne, though still very much involved with horses, could see that cars were the transport of the future. Dad's expertise in motors was the main reason the blacksmith employed him and it suited Dad because the shop was only two doors away from our home.

Before I was old enough to go to school Dad often took me to work with him and I would stay until I was bored. Dad would sit me up on the bench where I would happily watch both men at work.

The blacksmith dressed in his leather apron, gloves and protective goggles would always begin the horseshoe routine by saying "The fire has gone out, Beryl. We'd better stir it up." He'd lift me down from the bench and together we would wind the handle of the bellows with his hand placed over mine. He would grunt loudly as he pretended to help me and we would soon have the embers in the forge glowing red. After returning me to my bench he then got on with the business of making a shoe for the horse.

There were other jobs carried out at the blacksmith's shop and garage. Mr Lamborne loved to tease me in later life about a particular day when I helped out. Part of the work included the repairs to sulkies and carts, and on this day the boss had to go out and left Dad to work on a sulky. "Would you grease the axles before you go home, Les?"

Dad agreed and continued on with the task he was involved in. Finishing this job he decided to do as he had been asked. To his horror he found the sulky covered in grease from end to end... my contribution. I had overheard the request and had been very busy giving Dad a 'helping hand'.

Over time more and more motor cars appeared on the roads so the need for horses slowly declined. Bowsers appeared out the front of the blacksmith's shop and gradually the business became a garage. Dad was at last able to do the job that he liked most - work exclusively on engines.

Today Stroud Auto Repairs is owned by David Mayberry and his apprentice is his son Jarred. I would like to thank David for supplying the photo's I have used for this story. I would also like to once again thank Beryl Bowden for allowing us to use material from her book.

