



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

MARCH 2026

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

who was FRED ARCHER?

If you wander through an antique store and come across the name Fred Archer on a fine piece of porcelain, you have stumbled across something special. Fred Archer was a Victorian jockey known for his success in flat racing and during that era he was as celebrated as any modern-day celebrity. His namesake was not only on figurines, but serve ware, clothing, and even horse saddle pads. Most common porcelain pieces were made by Staffordshire pottery of England; these figurines typically display Fred Archer on a horse, with details such as his colorful clothing and black or red hat. Here's a little history about Fred Archer:

Born in Prestbury, Cheltenham, the son of Grand National-winning jockey William Archer, Frederick James Archer (Fred Archer) was among the most famous sportsmen of the Victorian era, earning the public's esteem as no other jockey had done before. A champion jockey 13 years in succession from 1874 to 1886, he

rode 21 Classic winners including five of the Derby.

Archer served his apprenticeship with Mat Dawson at Heath House, Newmarket. His first win is said to have come in a steeplechase at Bangor-on-Dee in either 1869 or 1870 on a horse called *Maid of Trent*. Weighing just 67 lbs. (4 stone, 11 lbs.), the tiny, thirteen year old boy who arrived at Chesterfield racecourse exactly one hundred and fifty- six years ago on September 28, 1870, belied his size, youth and lack of experience when he rode his first winner – a horse called *Athol Daisy* -to victory on the flat under official Jockey Club rules.

He achieved his next important success on the horse *Salvanos* in the 1872 Cesarewitch Handicap horse race. Two years later he won his first Classic, the 2,000 Guineas on Lord Falmouth's colt *Atlantic*, ending the season as champion jockey for the first time.

The combination of Lord Falmouth, Mat Dawson and Fred Archer became one of the most potent

forces in British racing. Twelve of Archer's Classic wins were on horses Dawson trained for Falmouth. Fred Archer would go on to ride 2,747 more winners - five of them in the Derby, sixteen in other Classic races- - from 8,084 rides. His services were widely sought by top owners and trainers. Tall for a jockey at 5ft 9ins, he fought a constant battle with the scales throughout his career.

Archer, though, would ride for just 17 years - as champion jockey for 13 of them, and the phrase 'Archer's up' rapidly became a popular greeting amongst London cabbies before spreading to the wider population. As Fred booted home winner after winner for grateful punters - one of the biggest of these on *Sterling* in the 1873 running of the Liverpool Autumn Cup after which delighted owner Thomas Roughton presented him with a short-barreled pistol - he acquired the nickname 'The Tinman', from the Victorian slang word for money.

Continued on page 11

WHAT'S TRENDING NOW

FLAIR® Equine Nasal Strips

Developed by veterinarians, FLAIR Strips are drug-free, self-adhesive nasal strips that promote optimum health of equine athletes, in all disciplines and every level of competition. The Strips gently support the soft tissues over the nasal passages to reduce airway resistance and improve airflow when your horse needs oxygen most.

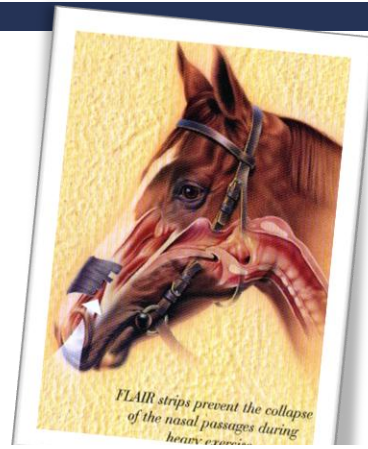
The spring-like action in FLAIR Strips supports the soft tissues over the nasal passages (the narrowest part of the upper airway) to reduce the tissue collapse that occurs in all horses during exercise, making it easier to breathe in oxygen.

By reducing resistance to airflow to make breathing easier, horses don't tire as easily so they can work longer and harder.

Horses wearing FLAIR Strips have been shown to exert 5-6% less energy during intensive exercise.

When horses' nasal passages are supported during the cool-down phase of recovery, they are able to move air more easily to cool down and recover quicker.

FLAIR Strips reduce resistance to breathing, which puts less stress on the fragile pulmonary blood vessels in



the lungs, resulting in fewer ruptured pulmonary blood vessels.

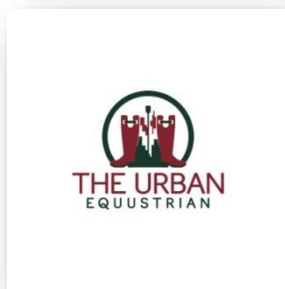
Unlike humans, horses are obligate nasal breathers, meaning they cannot breathe through their mouth during exercise. All oxygen needed to provide fuel for working must come through their nose. Any resistance in the airways makes it more difficult to breathe. Think about the resistance you feel breathing when you have stuffy nose. But at least you can breathe through your mouth. When running, horses can't.

Whether horses have ongoing and recurring problems that leave them struggling to breathe or not, FLAIR Strips are trusted by riders to help alleviate horse breathing problems. Because a horse's airway is one long tube from their nostrils to their lungs, reducing airflow resistance in one part of the airway positively impacts other structures in the tube.

www.flairstrips.com



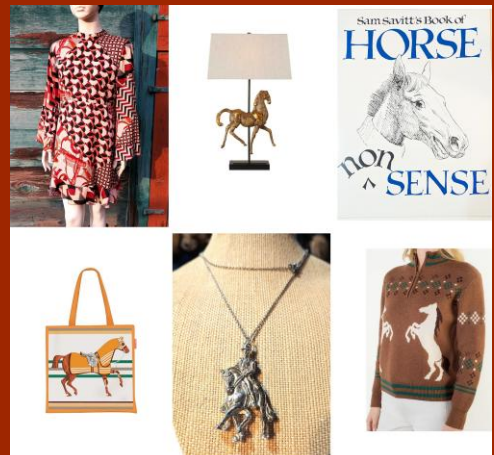
Our Store is currently open by Appointment.



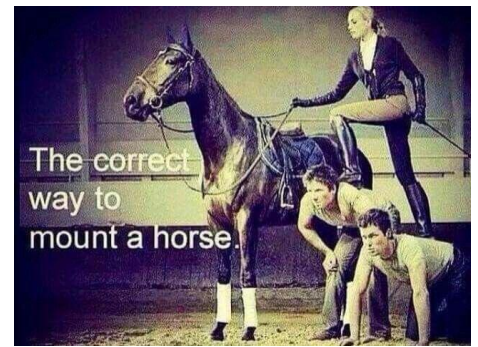
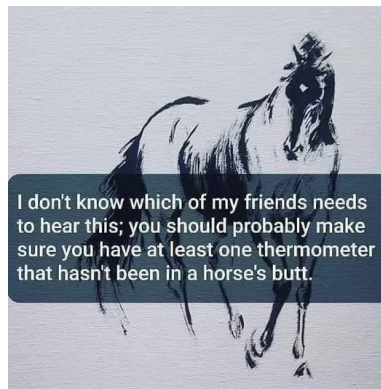
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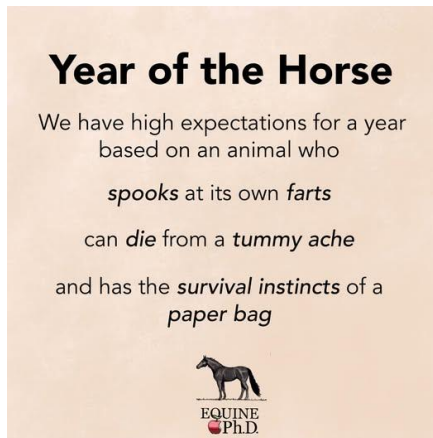
New Items for March



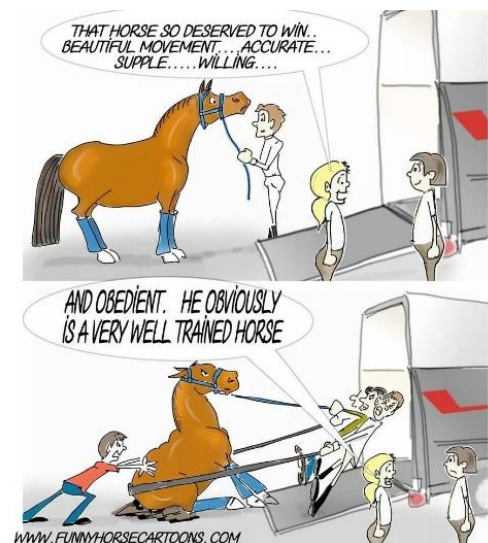
When I'm leading two horses at once and they start acting up



When you catch that one horse that refuses to be caught



When the waiter stops by and asks how your food is, and you're just like..



WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B

A Policy Analyst realized...

Inspiration is what you call anger after you make it socially acceptable.

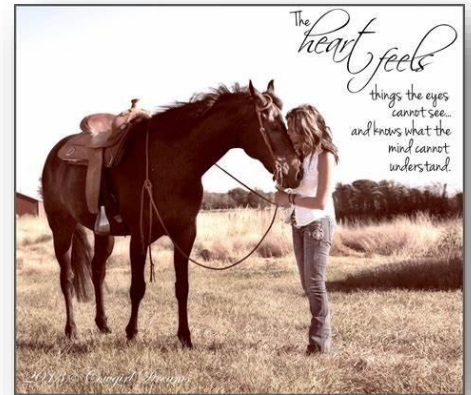
Immerse yourself in the equestrian world at Wildwood Farm B&B located on beautiful Whidbey Island.

Our ranch has a long history of igniting the spark between horses and humans, whether you want a small introduction or total immersion.

Come experience the power of possibility with these magnificent creatures and explore the abundance of silent repose.

www.wildwoodfarmbandb.com

WILDWOOD FARM HAS IT ALL!



WWW.PNWRiding.com

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RIDING ACADEMY

A Blessing

By James Wright

Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota,
Twilight bounds softly forth on the grass.
And the eyes of those two Indian ponies
Darken with kindness.
They have come gladly out of the willows
To welcome my friend and me.
We step over the barbed wire into the pasture
Where they have been grazing all day, alone.
They ripple tensely, they can hardly contain their happiness
That we have come.
They bow shyly as wet swans. They love each other.
There is no loneliness like theirs.
At home once more,
They begin munching the young tufts of spring in the darkness.
I would like to hold the slenderer one in my arms,
For she has walked over to me
And nuzzled my left hand.
She is black and white,
Her mane falls wild on her forehead,
And the light breeze moves me to caress her long ear
That is delicate as the skin over a girl's wrist.
Suddenly I realize
That if I stepped out of my body I would break
Into blossom.

Nutrition Corner

Feeding the Foot: Nutrition for Equine Hoof Health

Your horse's diet plays a crucial role in the quality and durability of the horn that makes up his hooves. Horses require certain nutrients in specific amounts and ratios to grow and maintain strong hooves. However, even the perfect diet is not enough by itself to grow good feet—several other factors come into play. Management, exercise, metabolic rate, hoof care including trimming and shoeing, overall health, genetics, and climate (moisture levels, in particular) can all affect the appearance and strength of horses' feet—and not always for the better. The bottom line is hoof health requires a very holistic (whole horse) approach.

The Hoof Is a Living, Breathing Organ

You've probably noticed those well-defined horizontal ridges that encircle some horses' feet, but do you know what they are or how they came to be? Growth rings, as they're known, show how the hooves have responded to the horse's diet and health over time. They can appear following a period of systemic illness or reflect changes in nutrition—for example, when a horse consumes rich grass in the spring or suffers a bout of starvation. Monitoring the appearance of your horses' hooves regularly will help you track progress and identify potential nutrition-related problems.

Energy

Starting on a very basic and fundamental level, horses grow strong and healthy hooves by consuming enough energy. A horse that burns more calories than he consumes will save these precious energy-packed calories for vital organs and bodily functions, while external structures such as hooves and hair get the short end of the stick.

Protein

Certain ingredients affect hoof health specifically, and protein is high on that list. This is primarily because the hoof horn is composed of an insoluble protein called keratin.

Biotin

Nutritionists consider vitamin B7, better known as biotin, to be the single most important vitamin for hoof health. Biotin contains sulfur, an element that contributes to the strength of the bonds between collagen strands in connective tissues, including in the hoof wall.

Fat

This nutrient by itself doesn't improve hoof quality. However, it contributes greatly to energy intake, indirectly supporting hoof health.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior to other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading-edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top-level riders and trainers

Down Memory Lane at Wildwood Farm MEET TOBEE THE TIGER

In the fall of 2005, we received a call from a frantic horse owner who lived in Langley. She was convinced her neighbors were trying to poison her horse's drinking water and was desperate to relocate him. The call came in at 9:00pm on a Sunday evening in October, and we were quick to hook up the trailer and head on down to the south end of the island on a rescue mission.

When we arrived we were greeted by a woman wearing pink pajama bottoms, a Donald Duck tee shirt and bunny slippers. She was holding the most downtrodden, lean horse we had ever seen; he definitely looked like he had seen better days. The frantic woman – we will call her Debbie – told us she had been out of town and that when she left her horse was bright eyed with a glossy coat, but when she returned, she was shocked to see the condition of her horse. She went on to tell us that she knew her horse's water was being poisoned because when she drank it her lips burned.

Debbie reached in her wallet and handed us \$500 in cash for the hauling and board until she could find a safe place to keep him. We really did not feel we had an option at this point, and loaded the poor old guy in our trailer – he was quite willing when he saw the nice net of hay – and proceeded to bring him home to Wildwood Farm and house him in our quarantine barn in the lower part of the property. Debbie said his name was Tobee



The Tiger after her son's favorite breakfast cereal.

Tobee was ravenous and did not stop eating in the trailer or when he arrived and was put up for the night in his stall. He was not so thin that we were worried about his feed intake, but we could tell it had been a while since he had a full stomach.

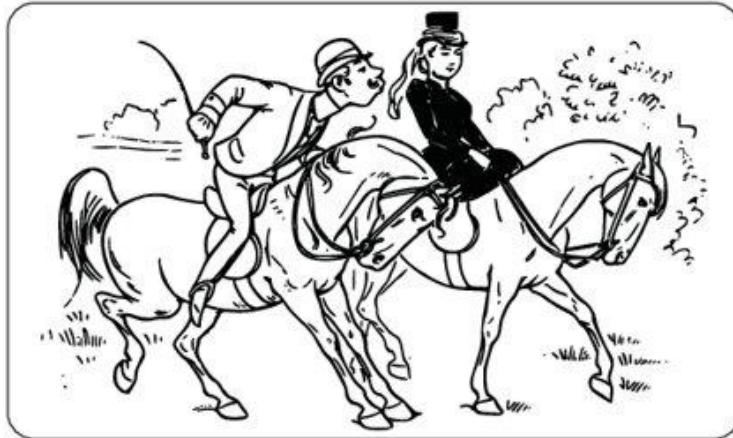
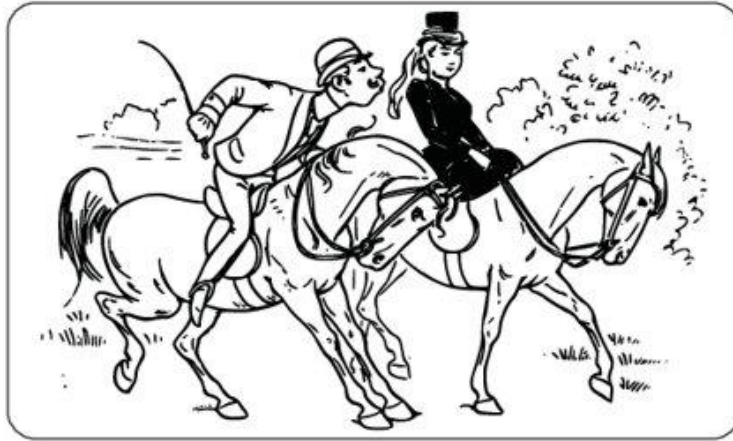
The next morning, we were able to get a better look at him and with his eye a little brighter he looked much better than the night before. We were hoping for an update from Debbie and waited patiently for a week; Debbie never showed up or called and the phone number we had for her automatically went to voice mail.

Finally, we called the Island County Sheriff to report an abandoned horse, and we discovered that Tobee had been reported missing by his real owner a couple of days prior. She did not know who Debbie was nor did she recognize the description of her. To this day it is a mystery who Debbie really was.

His owner told us that she was out of country and asked her son to look after Tobee, which he obviously failed to do. Tobee was released to his owner and was back home with his family after a thorough vet exam – and stern reprimand to the son by animal control.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Find and circle 10 differences between these pictures.



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**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

We celebrate these Birthdays in March!

**Nola Butler March 6th, Renee Chong March 8th,
Sami March 1st, Zendaya March 1, Luna March 9th, Tango March 10th,
Patrick March 17th, LJ March 18th, Picobella March 18th, Piper March 18th,
Picasso March 19th, Pepper March 29th, Leon March 30th, Luce March
30th.**

MOST FABULOUS HORSE FOOTWEAR!



Mouth of Wilson, Virginia

Mount Rogers

The highest point in Virginia can only be reached by passing through ponies and flowers.



Feral ponies and an immaculate forest await hikers atop Mount Rogers, the highest point in Virginia at 5,729 feet above sea level.

The mountain itself is named after William Barton Rogers, Virginia's first State Geologist and later, the founder of MIT. The standard route to the summit starts from the parking lot in Massie Gap in Grayson Highlands State Park, and winds four miles up, mostly using the Appalachian Trail.

On the first part of the hike visitors have a good chance to see the famous ponies that were introduced to the park. This community of feral ponies, which is kept to a reasonable number of 120, keep the wild grasses manageable. To prevent overcrowding and grass depletion, each September excess ponies are rounded up and auctioned off at the Grayson Highland Fall Fest. The ponies are comfortable around humans and may even approach them, but if one has a foal nearby they may be protective.

The Appalachian Trail that leads to the high point also runs through Rhododendron Gap with some great views of dense flowering bushes before meeting the Mount Rogers Trail to the summit. A dense spruce-fir forest, the northernmost of its kind, surrounds the summit with moss-covered trees. Some Fraser fir also grows here and while the balsam woolly adelphid has infested the area, the dead trees aren't there to the degree that they are at Clingmans Dome further south. The dense forest obscures any view from the summit, but the peak is a magnificent end to a long hike.

Know Before You Go

From the parking area in Massie Gap in Grayson Highlands State Park, hike up the Rhododendron Trail, then the Appalachian Trail, then the Mount Rogers Trail to the summit. Total distance is 4 miles one-way.

The Ardennes Horse



Also Known By: Cheval de Trait Ardennais or Ardennais (French), Belgian Ardennes

The Ardennais or Ardennes is one of the oldest breeds of draft horse, and originates from the Ardennes area in Belgium, Luxembourg, and France. They are heavy-boned with thick legs and are used for draft work.

Their history reaches back to Ancient Rome, and throughout the years blood from several other breeds has been added to the Ardennes, although only the Belgian breed had any significant impact. The first Ardennes were imported to the United States in the early 20th century, and the first breed registry was established in Europe in 1929. The horses have been used throughout history as war horses, both as cavalry mounts and to draw artillery, and are used today mainly for heavy draft and farm work, meat production and competitive driving events. They have also been used to influence or create several other horse breeds throughout Europe and Asia.

Their history reaches back to Ancient Rome. The Ardennes breed could be a direct descendant of the prehistoric Solutré horse, and is claimed to be descended from the type of horse described by Julius Caesar in his *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*. Caesar described these horses of Belgium as "rustic, hard and tireless", and recommended them for use in heavy cavalry units. The early type was used by many later Roman emperors for military applications. The breed's ancestors are thought to have been bred for 2,000 years on the Ardennes plains, and it is one of the oldest documented European heavy draft breeds.

In France, Ardennes stallions stand about 16 hands high, and mares about 15.3 hands, while in Belgium these are the maximum allowable heights. They weigh 1,500 to 2,200 lbs. and their heads are heavy, with a broad face and a straight or slightly convex profile. Their conformation is broad and muscular, with a compact body, short back, and short, sturdy legs with strong joints. Their fetlocks are feathered. Their coats may be bay, roan, chestnut, gray, or palomino. Bay and roan are the two most common colors. Black is very rare and is excluded from registration. White markings are small, usually restricted to a star or blaze. The breed matures early, and they are said to be easy keepers, economical to feed despite their size. The Ardennes is a free-moving, long-striding breed, despite their compact body structure.

Cont'd from page 1

Like many jockeys of the time, he would bet on and against his own mounts - but was so honest that he often cost himself dear by beating his own chosen investments.

In 1874 he became Champion Jockey - and never surrendered that title for the rest of his life. He won the Derby of 1880 on Bend Or despite having had his arm savaged by a horse which also knelt on him just three weeks before the big race, for which he rode with his arm strapped to a steel brace under his silks, and having had to fast continuously while he was out of action through the injury.

By now, though, he had grown to be unusually tall for a jockey at 5ft 10ins and was finding it difficult to keep his weight under control, resorting to virtually permanent wasting when all else - including a dreadful purgative known as Archer's Mixture, which he would drink with lunch - consisting of a biscuit or slice of toast, warm castor oil and a tiny glass of champagne.

The continual wasting affected him both mentally and physically. Always introspective, he became increasingly highly-strung and melancholic. He was a solitary figure, rarely socializing with fellow riders, until in January 1883 Archer married Helen Rose Dawson, daughter of John Dawson, his trainer Matthew Dawson's brother.

The newlyweds took up residence at Falmouth House, which they had built for them with Fred's earnings; they named it in honor of one of Fred's main loyal owner, Lord Falmouth, who supplied a dozen of his Classic equine triumphs.

Sadly, the marriage was beset by tragedy. In January 1884, Helen Rose gave birth to a son who died within a few hours. By the autumn she was expecting another child and gave birth to a daughter. Archer, who had just won Liverpool's Autumn Cup, received a telegram in the weighing room saying all was well and returned to Newmarket that night, only to find his wife in convulsions and dying in agony without recognizing him. His grief over the loss of Helen Rose never subsided, though it did not impinge on his riding. Fred visited America in an effort to overcome his sorrow, and slowly he seemed to be recovering from his loss, achieving a career-best score of 246 in 1885 and won the Derby in both 1885 (after which fellow rider and great friend, Fred Webb, who had finished second on Paradox declared, 'It is not wasting that makes Archer so thin and worn. He wears that worried look because he cannot ride two winners in one race') and yet again in 1886 when he won his fifth Derby on the Duke of Westminster's *Ormonde*, then adding the St Leger at 7-1 on. During that autumn he developed a fever but continued to ride despite his deteriorating health.

Later in the second of those years, he had to waste particularly hard to win on two mounts in Ireland in October, and he was clearly sickening on his return. When he was beaten by a head shortly after on the horse St Mirrin in the important Cambridgeshire race, he was riding at a pound above his allotted weight as he had found it impossible to shed the final small amount, which made the difference between winning and losing. He was also said to have lost £30,000 by backing his horse to win.

He developed a raging fever but rode on for a few days before illness got the better of him. On Thursday 4th November he finished unplaced on the odds-on favorite horse Tommy Tittlemouse at Lewes, gave up his remaining rides and returned to Newmarket and, once home, went to bed. The balance of his mind was badly affected and, despite the presence of his sister, who tried desperately to prevent him, he grabbed the gun he had been given as a prize after that 1873 victory on Sterling and shot himself. It was a day shy of two years since the death of his wife. He was 29 years old.

The verdict of the jury at the inquest into his death was: "That the deceased committed suicide whilst in a state of unsound mind". His death at the age of 29 occurred on 8 November 1886; his wife had died on 7 November, two years earlier.

Tens of thousands lined the streets for his funeral.

Archer's ghost, riding a grey phantom horse, is said to haunt Newmarket and occasional sightings occur, including one in 1993 after stable lads held a seance at his former stables.....

Fed Archer rode a total of 2,748 winners during his career. His record 246 winners in a season stood for 62 years until surpassed by Sir Gordon Richards, (born May 5, 1904, —died Nov. 10, 1986) who was an English jockey that rode a total of 269 winners in a season in 1943 - and the first to ride 4,000 winners and the leading rider in British flat (Thoroughbred) racing for 26 of his 34 seasons (1921–54). He was the first jockey ever to be knighted.

Archer was buried in Newmarket cemetery on 12 November. Wreaths were sent by the Duke of Westminster and the Prince of Wales. His burial plot can be found there to the right of the chapel.

He left a fortune of £66,662 (equal to about £9.2 million today) to his only daughter; the inheritance being looked after by trustees during her minority. At one time, he was rumored to be worth £250,000 (£34.5 million). Some of his effects are now on display at the National Horseracing Museum, including the gun with which he shot himself.

News of Archer's death reached far beyond racing. In London, special editions of the evening newspapers were issued, with crowds queuing in Fleet Street to buy them, and omnibuses stopped to allow commuters to read the billboards. The adoration the public showed for him was close to that shown for Diana, Princess of Wales over a century later.

He was survived by his second child, Nellie, who was brought up by her grandparents in the Newmarket area. She married shipping magnate Max Tosetti in 1911.

Archer's life has been fictionalized in two books: *The Tinman's Farewell* by Michael Tanner and *Just One More Smile* by his great-granddaughter Diana Foster.

His death is the subject of Peter Lovesey's "Bertie and the Tinman", in which the Prince of Wales, dissatisfied with the coroner's verdict, sets out to investigate the death.

