

# TED History - A Successful Life



## 2021

**I remember clearly the words my teacher Miss Smith said to me in primary school. “You will never be academic, but you will be good with your hands”.**

How true her words turned out to be. I made my living as a carpenter/ joiner, getting the nickname of ‘Curve It Harris’. I couldn’t resist adding a curve into a piece of work.

In the 1980’s my wife and I regularly visited craft fairs, where I would often say “I can do that”. When I was threatened with redundancy, I did do that. I started by making 6th scale (apprentice size) display cabinets and dressers. My wife Hilary organised our first appearance at the local church hall. I found it very hard to sell what I had made, but Hilary loved meeting the customers, we sold out making £60.

As time went on, I started making copper plates, kettles and frying pans to adorn the dressers. It soon became clear that the kitchenalia was as popular as the furniture. I was constantly being asked to do 12th scale (standard dolls house size).

We decided to only do Dolls House Shows, I learnt new skills so I could make more intricate kitchenalia which ‘worked’, becoming ‘the man that makes things work’. We were invited to attend shows across the UK and abroad from Canada to New Zealand. We attended a Dolls House 5 day convention in Philadelphia. My models can be found in collections worldwide, which proves you don’t have to be academic to be successful in life. Just have a determination ot be the best you can be.



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