

**- Eulogy -**  
**Carl J. Davis**  
**August 6, 1942 - September 27, 2010**

I first met Carl about ten years ago on a spring day that I had spent driving a few hours south down I-69 to Berrien County, Michigan, to the small town of Eau Claire, though that was not in my original plans. I was searching for a Dearborn Cultivator for my collection and had found a tractor/implement dealer there at Roland's Farm Equipment. I had spoken to Roland about a week before and he said he had a few pieces of Dearborn Equipment and he had a few cultivators. After arriving there around 10:00 AM I introduced myself and proceeded to inquire about the Dearborn Cultivator in the yard. He then said it was sold the day before and he thought that the guy who bought it was me. Disappointed, I looked at the other equipment as I drove all that way with my new trailer and was determined to leave with something chained to it. I found another cultivator, and although it was missing some parts and one piece was farmerized, I bought that one instead. I spent maybe an hour there looking at the odds and ends he had in his shop and found a Taurus tail light too. I was getting ready to leave when I asked him if he was interested in trading or buying some items I had, namely some NOS Ford Tractor grease guns. He said, no, but then inquired if I had asked Carl Davis as he was a Ford Tractor collector and just so happened worked a short distance away at the Farm Bureau Oil Company garage down the road. I said I had never met him but knew he was member of the Ford-Fordson Collectors Association as was I. So I headed down there, asked for Carl, and was directed to the garage area where he was working on, what else, a Ford Tractor.

After introducing myself and exchanging a few tractor quips, we seemed to hit it off. He showed me around, as we talked of old iron and how he had been a Ford Tractor mechanic for several years. I told him I had some NOS grease guns for sale and he looked at them, still sealed in the plastic bags, and bought the three I had brought with me. He talked about the Select-O-Speed transmissions and all the problems they had with them. I said that I really didn't know too much about them other than they had big problems with them and that any buyer today should avoid them. He said that was nonsense, that if rebuilt correctly and maintained correctly, they work fine. Carl then asked if I had time to go over to his house and look at his collection. I said of course so we drove to his home -a quick five-minute drive away.

Arriving at Carl's home he took me to the barn area where he had his collection of restored Ford Tractors and a Model TT truck, 'manure hauler', and other goodies. He had footlockers full of Ford memorabilia –manuals, tools, buttons, badges, and old newspaper and magazine ads. We talked of other F/FCA members and their collections and the fact that there was no member on the F/FCA board of directors from Michigan. We were in agreement that they needed to have an annual show in Michigan as that was the birthplace of the Ford in the first place. Carl was finally elected to the board in late 2008.

I was very impressed with Carl's collection and his hospitality. He went out of his way, took the afternoon off from work just to spend time with me talking old Ford Tractor talk and carrying on. I mentioned that I was in the process of rebuilding my '48 8N and he said he had an original governor setting gage, made by Manzel. He offered to rebuild my governor and water pump so when I returned home I packed them up and shipped them to him for rebuild. When we returned to the garage it was late afternoon and he showed me the Manzel Setting Gage. It was time for me to hit the road so I left around five for the trip home.

I would run into Carl at the annual shows and watch him put on his SOS Demonstrations. Occasionally I would call him to see if he had a part I needed or to ask him a question about Ford Tractors. He always had time to talk. Then last year when it was known he had cancer and would have to quit his job, I called and spoke with his wife, Janet. She filled me in on the whole story and then I talked to him for a bit. He had already had the surgery on his lung and was in good spirits. Subsequent calls weeks after that would prove he was having good days and bad days. Chemo will do that. He was thankful for the letter I sent him and also for all the concern, prayers, and support from everyone around him. He liked the idea that I suggested he could now spend time writing a manual on the SOS transmissions. The SOS guru. He was a class gentleman. I will never forget him and keep him and his family in my prayers. God Bless you, Carl. You were loved by many and the Ford Tractor world has lost another great. You will be missed.

-Tim Daley  
F/FCA Member