



Carl Grisham

July 23, 1918 - October 18, 2008

Carl Edward Grisham passed from this life to his heavenly home on Saturday, October 18, 2008, at the age of 90 years. He had lived at the edge of Mosley Prairie near Watts, Oklahoma, for sixty years. Carl was born July 23, 1918, in Alpena Pass, Arkansas, to William "Willie" Green and Martha Tennessee (Plumlee) Grisham, one of nine children. Carl married Lucille Robertson on September 23, 1940, in Pryor, Oklahoma. He worked as a milk truck driver and a factory worker at Boeing Aircraft Company in Wichita, Kansas, before entering the service in June of 1944. He served honorably in the American Theater during World War II in the U.S. Army Infantry and the Army Air Corps. In later years he worked for Allen Canning Company, Pure Milk Company and Foremost Dairy. Carl was a member of the Masonic Lodge and of the American Legion. Carl played rhythm guitar and sand country swing from his early teens until a short time before his death. He usually played with a group of other musicians who played for local events such as pie suppers, fox hunts and special occasions. He was also known as a local storyteller who had a story or a joke about almost any subject. Watching televised professional baseball brought him many enjoyable hours. Carl is survived by his wife Lucille of the home; two daughters, Clara Swank of Watts, Oklahoma, Wilma Baldrige and husband Orvel of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; one son, Tommy Grisham and wife Julie of Fayetteville, North Carolina; two brothers, Vernon Grisham of Bismarck, North Dakota, Donald Grisham and wife Rea of Sumner, Washington; one sister-in-law, Mildred Grisham of Webb

City, Missouri; four grandchildren, DeWayne Leggett and Shawn Porter of Watts, Oklahoma, Shane Grisham and wife Jessica of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, and Melissa Grisham of Fayetteville, North Carolina; eight great grandchildren, Bobby Leggett and wife Kendra of West Siloam Springs, Oklahoma, Raelyn Goodman and husband Matt of West Siloam Springs, Jesse Leggett, Ryan and Christopher Porter of Watts, Oklahoma, Jakkson, Peyton and Emily Grisham of Prairie Grove, Arkansas; one great great grandson, Jet Tucker Leggett of West Siloam; and many loving nieces, nephews and friends. Carl was preceded in death by his parents, six siblings (Daniel, Zula, Leonard, Elmer, Ruby, and Lorine) and a daughter Marva Lea. Funeral services will be held 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Officiating will be Pastor Ken Lawson of Grace Memorial Church in Edinburg, Illinois. Burial will be at Johnson Cemetery, West Siloam Springs, Oklahoma. Visitation will be 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, October, 21, 2008 at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs. Pallbearers are Curtis Shelley, Logan Shelley, Will Shelley, Kevin Pittman, Calvin Pathkiller and Roger Hughes.

Tribute Wall

SS

“ Although we got to meet Orville only once, we have heard so many wonderful stoires about him and Aunt Lucille over the years. We're so sorry to hear of his passing but from the sounds of Wilma's letter at C'mas, which we just recieved, there are many more stories of a life well lived. We trust Aunt Lucille is well and taken care of by her close and loving family. Till we meet again,
Much love, Steve and Crissie Swift and family

Steve and Crissie Swift - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM

AL

“ To all of the family, this is truly a sad loss. You are all in my heart and prayers. Carl was a wonderful man and as a kid I remember how funny he was. Haven't seen much of all of you for several years but still think about you alot. Shawn and Dewayne, I want you to know, I know how hard this is to lose your Grandpa and my deepest sympathy goes out to you, so take good care of Grandma now. I love you all and I am here if you need me.

Love,
Ann

Ann Luper - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM

CR

“ Lucille,

Sorry to hear about Carl. Please accept our sympathy. Hope you are in good health. Really enjoyed working with you at Ben Franklins. You & Your family our in our prayers.

Chyle & Marie Rollins

Chyle & Marie Rollina - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM

TG

“ We love you Dad.

Tommy & Julie Grisham - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM

JH

“ On Remembering Carl Grisham

October 22, 2008

By Jay Hannah

Carl Grisham was a neighbor, friend, and if ever there were a man who I would honor as "my second Dad" it would be Carl Grisham.

Carl and Lucille moved to the farm just down the road from my Grandparents in the 1940s. Carl was an unwavering friend to Si and Josie Jones. He never passed their home without stopping to check in on them or honking his horn in a distinctive way that you just knew "there goes Carl." And, when my Mom and Dad moved back home from Washington in 1948, a friendship was kindled that would endure for the remainder of their lives. Carl and my Dad Dennis; Hanner as Carl liked to call him, soon discovered that they both shared a deep passion for music. And, in short order a duet was formed with Hanner on lead guitar and Carl on Rhythm Guitar and not just lead vocals.. Carl did all the vocals. They added other musicians to their combo throughout the years; Thurman Langford, Boob Taylor, Cal Butner, Buck Ales, Rusty Phillips, Virgil and Irene Pitman were just a few of the pickers and gridders that joined Carl and Dennis on stage.. some doing more gridding than picking. They played dances in every venue imaginable. From the back of a flatbed truck traveling throughout northeastern Oklahoma and Arkansas to promote the Siloam Springs Founders Celebration to the second floor the Cates building in Watts where the dancers and the floor both literally bounced with every number. Carl and Dennis were the mainstay of a musically team that endured almost 50 years of making music and more importantly making people happy. If there was a pie supper to raise funds for a family in need, Carl and Dennis were first on the list to provide the entertainment. One-roomed schools houses with names like Carnes, Moseley, Chandler, Scrapper, and countless others were constant venues. Two of which mysteriously burned to the ground the day following their performances; whether by faulty wiring, over-zealous wood-stoves, or just plain "hot lick" guitar picking; the mystery still

endures. I do believe their favorite theatre was in the Grisham's front yard where music and the smell of grilled hamburgers fill the summer night. Kids chased lightening bugs, home-made ice cream was cranked by hand and Carl sang plaintiff melodies.. "I see candlelight down in the little green valley."

I grew up, literally at Carl's side; watching every chord and listening to every lyric of every song. Carl's songs were classics. San Antonio Rose, My Mary, The Waltz you saved for me, and the song that came to be Carl's most requested and signature number; Milk Cow Blues. I guess I was well into my teens before I discovered that these songs had actually been written and recorded by other people. To me, these songs were not just sung by Carl; they belonged to Carl Grisham and he sang each with an expression that would visualize in your mind a "moon-lit path by the Alamo." And, to this day, when I hear one of these songs on the radio, in my mind, its Carl's voice and steady guitar that register in my mind.

When I started playing guitar and singing, my Dad was so proud. He was a lead guitar player and I know he thought I too would follow his "lead." I never told Dad that it was not his style of playing that I aspired..I knew that when I "grew up" it was Carl Grisham that I wanted to emulate. Hanner may have been picking lead, but it was Carl who was the star in my assessment. It was Carl's strong voice and steady rhythm that was the foundation of that duo.

And, by my assessment; that is exactly how Carl lived his life; for all to see. A rhythm guitar player understands that a steady beat and flawless chord transitions are the foundations of any melody. Carl's love for Lucille, this family, and his care and respect for his friends and neighbors was always in tune, always on key, note for note in harmony, and just as rhythmically steady as a heart beat.

I have no doubt that in heaven today the microphone is hot, the guitars are well tuned, and the Angle Ban

MG

“ Carl has always been one of my favorite people I know. He always had stories and jokes to keep you entertained, and treated me like a friend instead of a child...relative or not. I'll always remember the weekend hamburger feed, cold watermelon, and everyone taking a turn on the old ice cream bucket. Heaven just got a new rhythm guitar player...

Mike Grisham - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM

KB

“ I had so many wonderful hours at their home i will never forget as a young girl i thought carl was my boyfriend & he was all my life will never forget this man & his family .

Kathy Eads Birkes - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM

AL

“ When I heard the song "Waiting On A Woman" by Brad Paisley I thought of Carl. How he would wait on you after work. I always enjoyed the days we worked together. When Carl would come in I knew there would be advice and life lessons to be learned in his stories. I enjoyed all of them.

Your Friend,
Anita

Anita Long - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM

KB

“ My parents were Bill and Sharon Boswood and they thought very highly of the Grisham family. My prayers are with you at this time!

Kim Boswood - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM

DG

“ Lucille and family,
you just, dont know how much we enjoyed our visit earlier, and we
are blessed to have seen Carl one more time,I promise you we wont
forget you and will keep in contact with you as usual, Love to you
and Family.Don Rea and Veronica.

Don Grisham - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM

DT

“ I remember going to Carl and Lucille's many years ago as a boy
and listening to him, Dennis Hannah, and my dad playing music.
My prayers and thoughts go out to the family.

Dr. Tim Taylor - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM

MP

“ Lucille and family,
My prayers of comfort are with you during this time. Uncle Carl was
a very special man to us all.
We love you all and will most likely be able to come to the visitation.
Love
Mindi

Mindi (Grisham) Phillips - September 19, 2012 at 11:28 AM