

## Jerry Friend

I was born in Clinton, Oklahoma, March 12, 1947, the 4th of eight children. At the age of five I joined the family in the cotton fields. On one occasion when my brother Rodney and I were not old enough to pick cotton, we were left to hang around our old Studebaker while the rest of the family was in the field. Now, our intentions were good but we found a small hole in the back seat and began to pick out the stuffing. With each hand-full we would say, "Pit taah put in ma sact, Pit taah put in ma sact." Needless to say we did not get paid well when the family returned and witnessed the total destruction of the back seat of the family car. Another very early farm memory was of a huge traction engine with a thresher operating in the farm area where we lived near Cave Springs, Arkansas. It was a very impressive machine.

We moved to Arkansas when I was six years old. All the children helped on the farm while Dad worked in town. Our farm was northeast of Cave Springs at the corner of Rainbow and Wallis roads, an area now filled with modern homes. For a while, we lived on a share-crop basis on a farm owned by our aunt. The forty-acre farm was about the middle of what is now Har-Ber Meadows at Tontitown. This enterprise failed when a chicken disease wiped us out. Our first farm tractor was a late 1940s Ferguson with a Sherman transmission. At Cave Springs, we had a 1951, 8N Ford, which is still in the family as it is now owned by my brother Joe of Crossett, Arkansas.

The first school I attended was called Oak Grove. This school was two rooms with grades one through six in one room and grades seven and eight in the other. I attended it for only about a half year. The next school was Spring Creek School with one room for all grades. The room did include a small kitchen. I attended Spring Creek through the second grade. The rest of my schooling was in Bentonville.

I graduated from Bentonville High School and went to work for about seven years at Daisy Air Rifle Manufacturing at Rogers, Arkansas. I worked on the manufacturing line. For a short time, I, having been raised in the Pentecostal faith, left Daisy and served as a preacher in Newton County, Arkansas, at a place called Low Gap near Jasper. When I got married and needed money, I went back to Daisy Air Rifle.

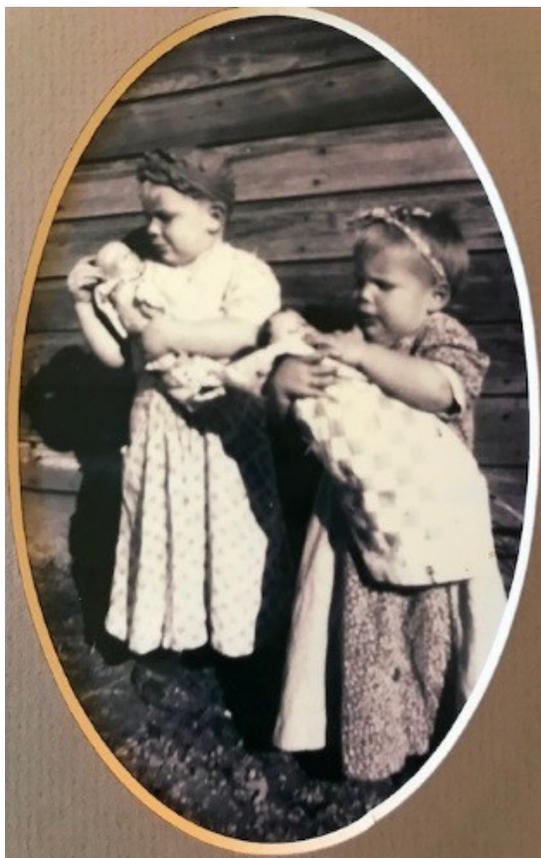
On my return to Daisy, I worked in the Research Department. I shot BB guns and 22s all day long for two or three years to test the guns' longevity. The mention of Daisy 22s might surprise some people, but a man by the name of Jules Van Langenhoven invented the V/L Caseless Ammunition System, which used a propellant for 22s that was an explosive paste rather than gun power. The firing of the case-less bullet was activated by super heated air. Obviously, the experiment didn't work too well. Examples of the guns and of the firing system can be seen at the Daisy Museum near the square in Rogers, Arkansas.

After I worked about seven years at Daisy Air Rifle Manufacturing, I was hired by the Fayetteville Police Department. I spent twenty years as a Fayetteville police officer and retired as a sergeant. It was a very demanding but enjoyable career. I retired in 1996 and went on to serve as a probation officer in the Washington County Juvenile Court for another fourteen years. I very much enjoyed this job since I was able to revamp and utilize a program to help kids caught up in the court system. I really retired in 2014 after thirty-four year of public service. My varied career also included a year as a bondsman and about a year with the Razorback Credit Union. I didn't care too much for my job as a bondsman since my clientele involved dealing with people who often were not truthful with me.

I joined Tired Iron of the Ozarks in 1995 while meetings were still being held in the Highfill Community Center. I talked my brother-in-law Howard Hodson and my brother Rodney Friend into joining. No one would deny that Howard contributed a lot to Tired Iron and other tractor and engine clubs all across America. Rodney continues to be deeply involved with Tired Iron, especially when considering his excellent displays at club shows. I was out of the club for a while due to personal reasons but re-joined a few years ago.

I have owned a 1947 D John Deere, a 1939 Alice Chalmers B. I shared ownership with Rodney in several other tractors and engines. I sold all my interests to Rodney when I became inactive. Upon rejoining, I now have an old Ditch Witch that I plan to turn into a dozer and a John Deere Miniature D built by Clarence Wooley. The little John Deere needs some work but, hopefully, by the spring show in 2018 it will be shiny again. I also bought a Cushman Minute Miser from Carl Wood. I am restoring it to use on the show grounds at Tired Iron.

While Tired Iron is a major interest for Linda and me, we also involve ourselves in the Meal On Wheels program in our community. We deliver meals on Tuesday. And, since Linda still owns property in Michigan, we travel a lot. Between Meals on Wheels, travel, and Tired Iron, we stay busy. Incidentally, Linda worked for 37 1/2 years as a civilian employee of the United States Army Tank and Automotive Command in Warren, Michigan. Her job was to negotiate with General Dynamics for the purchase of Abrams tanks for the U. S. army, especially as new versions of the Abrams offered many improvements over the years. If anyone wants to know about tanks, ask Linda.



This is what happens when two brothers have older sisters.

Which is Rodney and which is Jerry?



Rodney and Jerry hauling bean poles for the garden.