



Carl Christian Hansen

October 12, 2016

Carl Christian Hansen

1927-2016

Carl Hansen was born on a small farm outside of Copenhagen Denmark in 1927. He was the oldest of 6 children. At the age of 14, as was customary, Carl was sent to a larger farm in faraway Jutland so he could earn money and learn the farming trade. He would go back and forth between Jutland and Zealand on rare two-day weekends and Christmas by riding his bike. As a young man, he was conscripted into the Danish Royal Hussars Regiment, where he drove a tank in the motorized infantry. In 1950, he won the U.S. Visa Lottery and was given 6 months to emigrate. With a loan from his Aunt and Uncle, he arrived to the United States in 1950.

He lived in New Jersey and bought a car at his first opportunity. In 1953, that Hudson became extremely popular with his fellow U.S. Army Servicemen, who didn't have wheels and wanted to get off the base during leave.

His service in the Army, in a Construction Engineers Battalion, gave him an interest in Engineering, and with a 7th grade education and a Danish-English dictionary, he took the College Entrance Exam, passed, and enrolled in a small Danish College in Des Moines, Iowa, Grandview College, on the GI Bill.

He later went to the University of Minnesota, where he earned a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering. As a young engineer working for Otis Elevator, he met his future bride, Jane Ann Mikkelsen, on the SS Bergensfjord as the ship was departing New York Harbor on the way to Copenhagen. She was sprawled on a deck chair with a camera in hand, and Carl asked if she wanted him to take a picture. She said yes. Her father had emigrated to the U.S. in 1929, and she was going over to visit her father's family, while Carl was going home to visit his. They didn't see as much of their families as they expected, and were married in 1959.

In rapid succession, Jane and Carl had 5 children. Carl (Chris) in 1959, John in 1960, Joe in 1962, Jim in 1964 and Karen in 1966. They lived in a small brick house in a working-class suburban neighborhood west of Chicago. Carl rose in the ranks at Otis Elevator, where he was the "super-adjuster" of the elevators being installed in the John Hancock building.

On a trip with the whole family to Denmark in 1969, Carl stopped by the local Otis office and was instantly offered a job. Carl accepted the one-year position, moved his family to Denmark and stayed 9 years. While in Denmark, he had been "loaned out" by the Danish branch, and at one point held positions in France, Denmark and Finland simultaneously.

In 1979, he returned to the US, having accepted a job with Otis in Palm Beach Gardens as an international field auditor for the company. With his new job in Florida, Carl traveled the world, and visited up to 100 companies on all continents, except Antarctica. He took Jane with him on many of these trips. He flew First Class with Pan Am to Asia, and became one of their early million milers.

Upon retirement, Carl took a consulting job, but otherwise spent much of his time with Jane visiting their five children who were building families of their

own. Carl took a strong interest in his church, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Palm Beach Gardens, and many charities and service organizations in northern Palm Beach County, including Rotary and Club 100.

Jane passed away in 2003, and their second oldest son, John, in 2012. He is survived by 4 siblings, 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. The great grandchild, who was born just 2 months ago, is named Carl Hansen, and lives on a farm outside of Copenhagen. Memorial contributions may be made to the Museum of Danish America, 2212 Washington Street, Elk Horn, IA 51531, www.danishmuseum.org.

Tribute Wall



“ *Carl Christian Hansen*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *So sad news! I met Carl every year at the Danebod Folk Meeting and enjoyed conversing with him, also in Danish. One of the good moments we had together was in fact the reading in Danish class after lunch. Curious, kind, with an excellent memory, it was a joy to be with Carl. We also talked a lot about his church and how he supported the young people and the new ideas. He enjoyed life, and also had a deep belief in that no matter what, we will be in God's hands. I will miss him in Tyler and offer my condolences to all Carl's beloved.*

Andres Albertsen - Minneapolis, MN - Friend - October 31, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ We met Carl and Jane when they visited my parents in The Netherlands. (my father worked for Otis in The Netherlands). We already knew them of the stories and their lovely and warm letters and ofcourse through the good feelings both my parents had for Carl and Jane and the stories they told us when they met them in the USA. They came to visit my parents several times and we enjoyed their company. Many years later my Family and I had the luck and opportunity to come to Florida and stayed with Carl for a week. He was so nice to lend us his house and he stayed with his friend Halina. We spent a lot of time together and also with one of his sons Jim and his Family. They were as hospitable as Carl and we felt so welcome. We were Family, one big Family. Now eight years later, I still get that feeling of warmth, happiness and so many things you cannot put into words. Is that not wonderful, that one man and his Family can give you that for such a long time, knowing that you have only met such a short time in live and he living so far away. I believe that that was his strenght in life....bringing a lot of joy into the life of other people...even in those living so far away in Europe. We miss him dearly, but not the thoughts of him and the good feelings he is still giving us. With all our love and as we used to say in our emails: big hugs for you and your Family xxxx Karin Buisman-Muller, Jan Kees, Christiaan, Annefleur and Daniel

Karin Buisman - Groet - Friend - October 31, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ I met Carl at the Folk Meeting at Danebod when I first came to Tyler. Carl always had a smile on his face. I will miss this gentle, kind man. Blessed be his memory.

Pastor Jennifer Thul - Tyler, MN - Acquaintance - October 31, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ My condolences and prayers go to all of Carl's family. It was such a pleasure to have known Carl and all the memories that we as family had shared together.

Pearl Miller - October 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I am sorry to hear of Carl's death. I saw him frequently at Danebod Folk School in Tyler. In October he sent material to me for publication in *Church and Life*, the periodical I edit. I will be publishing it in November and December and will also be including his obituary. We will miss him! He was a cheerful soul. We all loved him. Joy Ibsen Editor, *Church and Life*.

Joy Ibsen - Ontonagon, MI - Friend - October 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ I offer my condolences to Carl's family and friends. Carl and I entered Grand View College together in the Fall of 1953 and enjoyed many good events together at Grand View. In 1955 Carl enrolled at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and I enrolled at Macalester College in St. Paul. We compared our college experiences while in the Twin Cities. When I was completing my Master's Degree at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, my wife Janice and I visited with Carl, Jane and their children. In later years during our retirements Carl would fly to Minneapolis and we would drive together to Tyler, Minnesota to participate in the Danebod Folk School Fall meetings. The last meeting occurred during August 2016. Carl was a colleague and a true friend. We shared many joyous occasions. Carl and Jane will always be in my memory. Ed Andersen

Ed Andersen - Minneapolis, MN - Classmate - October 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Knew Carl from the Danebod Folk Meeting. Carl and my father could have a great conversation in Danish. I will miss him and was privileged to know him.

Ricke Bly - Marshall, MN - Friend - October 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Carl - the true epitome of a gentleman, friend, servant and inspiration to everyone who was blessed to have gotten to know him. Carl will truly be missed and never forgotten. Carl's many many contributions to the VOT General Employees Trustee's Board will always be appreciated and remembered!

Mike Rhodes - Tequesta, FL - Friend - October 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ From what I noticed, everyone who know Carl...loved Carl! I can definitely tell you that's how it was for me. Carl was a very, very special human being. Rarely have I met anyone who was so willing to help others, especially those less fortunate. Truly the embodiment of a servant leader! Sending prayers and condolences to the Hansen Family and to all the people whose lives were touched by Carl's kindness.

Bob Burg - Jupiter, FL - Friend - October 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Carl's family can take heart in the extraordinarily positive person Carl was. Warm embraces to all of you.

Cary Moore - Jupiter, FL - Friend - October 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM