

In honor of Olin Carlisle “Carl” Lewis...

Carl Lewis was born in Galivant's Ferry, South Carolina on March 27, 1909 to Olin & Viola Turner Lewis, the second of twelve and oldest of seven sons and five daughters. He lived and worked on the family farm until he left for Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina in 1927.

He graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in Agronomy in 1931 and a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves. He was also a member of Alpha Zeta, a national honorary agricultural fraternity. After graduation, Carl accepted a Graduate Assistantship in Soils at Ohio State University and devoted the summer to soil testing as a basis for fertilization. In the fall, he transferred to Penn State University for a teaching Graduate Assistantship in Soil Science. He graduated in 1933 with an M.S. in Soil Technology.

He began his employment with the federal government in 1933 as a supervisor in the Land Uses Survey Agency in South Carolina, then transferred to the Soil Erosion Service (later to become the Soil Conservation Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture). Carl helped organize the first soil conservation district in Wadesboro, North Carolina and was active in initial efforts to use aerial photography in soil survey. He devised the current Land Capability Classification for interpreting soil survey information for agricultural use.

In 1936, Carl married Edna M. Waters. They have two daughters (Twila Jo in Interlachen and Carlene in Tallahassee), six granddaughters, three great-grandsons, four great-granddaughters, and two great-great-granddaughters.

Early in 1941, Carl was called to active duty as a 1st Lieutenant of Infantry. He served in the Army for over four years in the United States, Africa, England, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and Germany. He was awarded three Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart, and was discharged in 1946 as Major of Infantry. Carl returned to the USDA Soil Conservation Service and transferred to Gainesville as State Soil Scientist. He retired in 1971 with 38 years of federal service. He and Edna traveled the country in a motor home—painting, sketching, and writing about old mill sites.

He and his late wife, Edna, were charter members of Trinity United Methodist Church and served on the Board of Trustees. Carl wrote years ago that, in the beginning, a small group had a vision of forming not only the largest Methodist church in Gainesville but also the most responsive to community needs. They started with a title to five acres of land, a retired minister, no members, and no money. But they had a common purpose and deep conviction that by organizing a new church they were serving to further the ministry of Jesus Christ. After the first building was completed, before there was any furniture, they stood in a small group and prayed for a miracle—that they might succeed when success seemed so very remote... The rest is history.

Carl's favorite hymns are *This World Is Not My Own*, *Amazing Grace*, *Softly and Tenderly*, and *Lead Me On*. His favorite bible verses are the 23rd Psalm, John 3:16, and Philippians 4:13—All things are possible through God, Jesus Christ. Happy 98th birthday, Carl!