

Donald N. Chew

Guest Book

March 30, 2018

Don and I both worked at the Old Frontier Airlines. We were neighbors in Arvada. Such a wonderful person. Don fixed me a tool box of replacement parts for our car and many rolls of film for my trip on the Alcan Highway in Alaska. Made many trips to Don's Farm when he first moved out to Brighton. Helped him plant flowers for a party he was having. He loved his trucks. Drove by last June, the gate was chained shut. We lost touch when I moved to Lamar, CO to be with my Sister. You will be missed, Don.

Your Friend. Connie

~ Connie. McAlister,

Lamar, Colorado

September 15, 2017

Don was a walking encyclopedia on truck history and I worked with him a number of times on research projects for historical articles. He was one of those colorful characters that you could never forget. Sometimes my interactions with him were years apart but when we met up, the conversation started up right where the last one had left off. I didn't hear until very late of his passing but it just feels like a foundation pillar has been knocked out from under the historical truck community. If I look hard, I can just see him in the sunset at the top of a big hill, with a gearshift lever in one hand, a wooden-rimmed steering wheel in the other and that big Don Chew grin on his face. Ride in Peace, Don!

~ Jim Allen,

Cloverdale, Ohio

April 24, 2017

Don, today I found out about your passing, and with saddened heart I wish you peace. You came into my life when you needed extra medical assistance, and you stayed in my life as if we had known each other all of our lives. I enjoyed spending time with you talking about your travels around the world, walking through your barn and learning about what you were working on, or parts that you were searching for, and enjoying your infectious smile and personality. You will be greatly missed by myself and those whose lives you have touched. As you said before, its never good-bye, its always till we meet again, my friend.

~ Karen Elshof,

Commerce City, Colorado

April 22, 2017

RIP Don

~ Wayne Krentz (359er),

Alpena, Michigan

April 21, 2017

We met Don in 2003 when we ran with their group to the Syracuse, N.Y. show. Since then we paid many visits to Don through the years, summer and winter. Always the gracious host, we always gave Don the red carpet treatment whenever given the opportunity. Don had friends everywhere he went and often traveled the U.S. and Canada, never having to get a motel room for the night. We felt privileged several years ago to have Don stay with us a few days while we gave him a truck tour of our area. I learned so much from his vast knowledge of the Canol Project and would have never ventured up those remote roads without Don's input. A master of restoration and history and a true friend, we will miss you Don. This is truly the end of an era in our lives. Until we meet again.

~ Tom & Stephanie White,

Haughton, Louisiana

April 19, 2017

Don you were a wonderful man and father. I have known you well for 48 years and we have been friends for a little longer. I treasure that friendship. Not everyone knows that you started in aircraft with your education at Spartan Aircraft in Tulsa Oklahoma or your incredible time with Flying Tiger Freight Lines. Or that you lived in 60% of the world. You eventually went to work for Air California as a mechanic but even designed their orange and yellow paint scheme as well as the stewardess's dresses.

Then taking a leave of absence you started a dune buggy shop where you designed 3 identical racing dune buggies that raced in the 1968 Baja 1000. Also in the 1969 1000 then the Baja 500 and the Parker Dam 500. After that the Mint 400 where you drove backward over a terrible hill because your buggy was breaking in half you went ahead and came in 10th and in the money!!

After all those experiences you moved to Brighton, Colorado and began the rest of your life.... Trucks....BIG TRUCKS!!! Starting with the Marmon Harrington, your first love you used your incredible photographic memory and ability to catalog obscure facts into an available encyclopedia in your mind. Those of us who have been in your home know of the strange pile of papers that was your filing system and how you could pull a sheet of paper from somewhere in the middle and refer to it and return it to the middle again until further need.

Don you will be missed by so many people and with God's grace your trucks will go to the museums that you told me about. I know the museums and future visitors to them will benefit from them for years to come. Goodbye dear friend until we meet again on the other side of the veil that keeps us apart now.

~ Robbi "Chew" Tomsen,
Hemet, California

April 17, 2017

My heartfelt condolences to the Chew family. Always cherish the memories that you have and remember that God is always there for us like it tells us at 1Peter 5:6,7. I hope you continue to feel the love and support from your family and friends.

~ Bob,
Colorado Springs

April 13, 2017

Don Chew was a fine man, a walking library of things mechanical. He was an enormous help to me as I started my hobby of collecting four-wheel drive trucks. He was patient; he had literature; and he had help. He came to Maine and stayed at my house on a couple of occasions and went to the Owls Head Transportation Museum truck show with me. I took only one truck then, but I filled the entire back of it with tools. When I asked Don to help me load them, his comment was, "It's a wretched excess, but I'd be glad to help you." He will be missed, as will his talents, but his effect will always stay.

~ Jon Doyle,
Augusta, Maine

April 12, 2017

I became friends with Don 20+ years ago when he came to Maine to visit Owlshead Museum and pick up a Porsche Diesel Tractor from an elderly neighbor to Don's parents summer home. A mutual friend Jon Doyle, who befriended Don because of a Marmon Harrington disease, told Don I had some Porsche Diesel tractors, and he should visit me while in Maine. Don spent 2 days helping me put together a 4 cylinder engine and the rest is history. Don was a consummate host while visiting his projects in Brighton, and sharing stories of his past. Don was truly one of a kind, and will be missed.

~ Fred Best,
Manchester, Maine

April 12, 2017

All Don's friends at the Yesteryear Farm Show in Longmont are saddened to hear of Don's passing. He was a great individual and it was a pleasure to have known him. He was fun to be around, and he will be greatly missed.

~ from the Yesteryear Farm Show Committee

April 10, 2017

Don: We will miss you. You were always helpful and approachable. You were a backbone in the ATHS for many years, and you will be greatly missed.

~ Bob Johnson,
Sherkston, Ontario

April 10, 2017

Don was a special member of the American Truck Historical Society family. Don's vast knowledge coupled with his passion for our mission made him one of our most avid supporters. Don was a friend as well as fellow board member. I will miss him as well as his contribution.

~ John Vannatta
Past Chairman ATHS
Leonardtown, Maryland

April 08, 2017

~ Janet Mitchell,
Sandusky, Ohio

April 07, 2017

So long Don! We'll miss you and looking at all your trucks and "Stuff". You were a good example of doing the right thing.

~ Jack and Gloria Frost,
Colorado Springs, Colorado

April 06, 2017

Yes, we will all miss Don with his colorful stories and his knowledge of antique trucks. He was a walking encyclopedia when it came to early truck..

~ Ken Kafka,
Pierce, Colorado

April 06, 2017

Don was a truly wonderful friend and mentor to all who shared his love of "Trucks." A highly-skilled restoration specialist, researcher, author, and avid collector, Don was also a very active member and supporter of the American Truck Historical Society (ATHS) for 35 years. Don will be truly missed beyond measure.

~ Craig H. Trout,
Loudoun County, Virginia

April 05, 2017

There is soo much more to this wonderful man. Don touched the lives of soo many and was a walking wealth of knowledge-you will see! R.I.P. Don, you will me missed by many!!

~ Betty B.

April 05, 2017

May the father of tender mercies comfort you during this difficult time.

~ RH

