

# Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 4

July – September 2009



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**Contents**

Greetings from Lowell .....	3
Red Oak II Updates.....	4
Lowell's Steel Sculpture for Jasper MO Completed.....	6
32 <sup>nd</sup> Midwest Gathering of the Artists...	7
Foxfire Farm Collection .....	7
Tell Us about Your Favorite Lowell Davis Art Work .....	11
Restoration of Lowell Davis Cold Cast Porcelain Figurines.....	11
Collectors Exchange .....	11
Lowell Davis Books .....	12
Lowell Davis Collectors Quiz.....	13
Contact Us .....	15
Web Links .....	15
Credits.....	15

**Greetings from Lowell**



Hello my friends!!

I hope you are all doing well.

The summer of 2009 was unusually cool in SW Missouri as it was in other parts of the country, a welcome break from our typical high temperatures and high humidity. Our vegetable gardens at Red Oak II yielded bumper crops and we

preserved much of the harvest for the upcoming winter.

**I am very excited to tell you that I am painting again!!!** I have found a way to support my wrist that allows me to paint without too much discomfort. I am now focusing on completing the art for my next book based on three Border Terriers as the Dalton Gang.

On September 11-13, I participated in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Midwest Gathering of the Artists that was held in Carthage. It was good seeing a number of you there.

In this issue of my newsletter you will find Red Oak II updates plus a feature article by Erik Koolhof of the Netherlands on his ERTL Foxfire Farm tractor and figurine collection.

We did not have a winner in the 2009 Q3 Collectors Quiz so we are extending the same quiz for 2009 Q4. This quiz tests your knowledge of my Border Fine Arts figurines.

If you are not on the list to receive my newsletter and would like to be or know of someone else who would like to receive this newsletter, please send us an email: [lowelldaviscollectors@att.net](mailto:lowelldaviscollectors@att.net). You can always view and download all issues of my newsletter from my web site: [www.redoakiimissouri.com](http://www.redoakiimissouri.com).

Remember you are always welcome to visit Red Oak II.

Best wishes!

Your friend,  
*Lowell Davis*

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## Red Oak II Updates



There is always a lot going on at Red Oak II. Here are the happenings of the third quarter of 2009:

### **Bountiful Harvest at Red Oak II by Patty Shanks**

The Davis family worked hard on their garden this spring and summer and got excellent results. The potatoes, green beans, cucumbers, zucchini, watermelon and tomatoes have all done well. They canned much of their bountiful harvest for the coming winter. It was a blast for everyone involved. Lowell is very proud of everyone's participation as a family. They are bringing back an almost lost and forgotten tradition. It has everyone excited and looking forward to the next project. (Bountiful Harvest photos courtesy of Patty Shanks).



Evelyn with her prize tomatoes



Everyone helped with making the preserves



Wren canning tomatoes



Lowell's sister Evelyn with her prize watermelons



Lowell stirred the pot



Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter  
Volume 3 Issue 4  
July – September 2009



The cupboards are full with preserves from the bountiful harvest of 2009



School Marm's House

The Frank Yant House is also undergoing external and internal restoration work.

### Red Oak II Renovations

Renovations continue at Red Oak II. The exterior of the General Store is being refreshed and Lowell even retouched the Pepsi sign.



Red Oak II General Store

Lowell's male peacock seems to approve and likes showing off on the front railing of the General Store.



Lowell's peacock on front railing of General Store

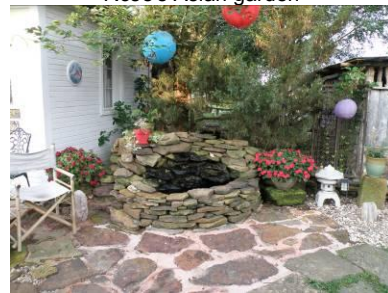
Restoration of the School Marm's house continues with a new coat of exterior paint and a new wood shingle roof.



Frank Yant House

Lowell continued working on Rose's Asian garden behind the Belle Starr House.

Rose's Asian garden



Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter  
Volume 3 Issue 4  
July – September 2009



Even the Red Oak II spiders were busy this summer keeping up their webs.



Photo courtesy of Patty Shanks



**Family YMCA Visits Red Oak II**

On July 27<sup>th</sup> we welcomed a group from the Freeman Southwest Family YMCA at Red Oak II. They all had a wonderful time.



Freeman Southwest Family YMCA at Red Oak II

Red Oak II is always open for visitors.

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**Lowell's Steel Sculpture for Jasper MO Completed**

Lowell's steel sculpture of himself riding a tractor pulling a plow with Hooker running in front was completed in September. This sculpture welcomes people to Jasper MO when they arrive off Interstate 71 at the Missouri H exit.



Lowell with his Jasper Welcomes U sculpture



Lowell Davis signature plate



Lowell painted the driver (himself) and dog (Hooker)

The sculpture was completed in time for Jasper Appreciation Days on Saturday, September 19. Lowell participated in Jasper Appreciation Days autographing copies of his books in the Jasper Christian Church.

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## 32<sup>nd</sup> Midwest Gathering of the Artists

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Midwest Gathering of the Artists was held on September 11-13 at the Memorial Hall in Carthage MO. The auction on September 11 was well attended. Lowell didn't enter an original painting in the auction this year but his long time friend Danny Hensley entered a 12" x 18" Lowell Davis oil painting titled "Missouri Canaries" that he owned. That painting went \$1000, an excellent price considering that pocket books were tight this year due to the economy.

Lowell had a booth at the art show and sale on September 12-13 which had good crowds. Lowell enjoyed talking about his art and Red Oak II.



Lowell at his booth at MGA



Lowell explaining The Backsliders

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## Foxfire Farm Collection

We would like to thank Erik Koolhof of the Netherlands for contributing this excellent article on his collection of ERTL Foxfire Farm tractors and figurines.

### Foxfire Farm by Erik Koolhof

Why does a person collect certain things? I had to dig deep to find the answer on my Foxfire Farm collection. Was it the fact that the figurines almost make the tractor come alive? That must have some thing to do with it.

I think it started with a Farmall H that was one of the first tractors in my 1/16 collection. This tractor has a cast figurine on it. Thing is there are only two ERTL tractors with cast figurines and the second one is green, not that I don't want green tractors in my collection. What I am trying to say is the cast figurine is green like the JD tractor it is sitting on and what I find most important in my 1/16 collection is things have to look as real as possible.

Since my collection exists out of mainly red tractors, I try to spot a red model at a toy show that I do not have and is to my liking.

This is how I found my first Foxfire Farm model. It is Miss Charlotte on a Farmall 826. So what happens next, I get home and take the tractor and figurine out of the box. Now usually the first question my wife asks when I come back from a toy show is what did you spend, but this time the first thing she said was, "Now that is a neat little figurine, and it is a lady too."



**Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter**  
**Volume 3 Issue 4**  
**July – September 2009**

Now my wife, unlike Miss Charlotte, is born and raised on a farm so she knows a thing or two about tractors.

So now this is interesting, I collect tractors and the wife finds the figurines neat. So next time I go to a toy show the wife goes along and try's to spot a Foxfire Farm model, and she does. It was Tractor Talk, not even a tractor with this figurine, but still a real nice little scene and the guy in the red shirt even looks like a farmer I used to work for.

And as the saying goes, "Two make a collection". So all the more reason to try to find more Foxfire Farm models and we did find quite a few of them. I even got one for a birthday one year from my dad. It was Red on his John Deere Model A.

Now my biggest problem was that I could never find much documentation about the Foxfire Farm series. A list of all the Foxfire Farm models would be great, but I have never found such a list. The only list I have is the list of what I have collected and what I know that is still out there and do not have. A complete list of all the Foxfire Farm figurines would be nice and I hope to achieve that one day.

An extra handicap is that some of the boxes do not have a Foxfire Farm number on them, only an ERTL stock number. These are the farm scenes like Tractor Talk, Helping Dad and such.

So a few weeks back I was behind my computer trying to find some info on Foxfire Farm, and I came across an email address for Lowell Davis collectors. So I wrote a short message

and only a few hours later I get an email from Larry Sernyk. So we send some emails back and forth and he asks me to send him some pictures of my collection and he sends me some scans of documentation he has on the Foxfire Farm collection, and best part is he even gets in touch with Lowell Davis to ask him how this series started. So this collection gets better and better all the time, the fun in collecting is not only the things you collect, but also the people you meet and the back ground stories you hear about the things you collect.





Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter  
Volume 3 Issue 4  
July – September 2009



**Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter**  
**Volume 3 Issue 4**  
**July – September 2009**

**ERTL Foxfire Farm Collection**

<b>FF #</b>	<b>Figurine Name</b>	<b>Tractor</b>	<b>ERTL #</b>
# 1	Frank		1511
# 2	Eva		1516
# 3	Mac		1509
# 4	Henry & Jimmy		1508
# 5	Red	John Deere A	5702
# 6	Miss Charlotte	Farmall 826	4273
# 7	Jim	Ford 901	3092
# 8	Grandpa's girl	Ford Golden Jubilee	3074
# 9	Last Cowboy	Case 1170	4301
# 10			
# 11	Uncle Ernest		1031
# 12	Tomboy		1044
# 13	Big John		1046
# 14	Future Farmer		1049
# 15			
# 16			
# 17			
# 18			
# 19	Elery & Dog	John Deere AR	5093
# 20	Warren	Farmall 1206	4440
# 21	Dan	Ford 5000	3322
# 22	Matt	Massy Harris 44	2046
# 23			
# 24			
# 25	Ty	John Deere 40 Crawler	15020
	Easy Pickin's		1041
	Tractor Talk		1042
	Helping Dad		1043
	Welcome Home Present		1207
	She's Fit as a Fiddle		1211
	Headed to the Field		1220

**Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter**  
**Volume 3 Issue 4**  
**July – September 2009**

At Erik's request, we checked with Lowell as to how he got started working with ERTL on figurines for their tractors. Lowell's account of this follows.

For a number of years, Lowell had an exclusive agreement with Schmid for his figurines so he couldn't work with any other distributor. These figurines were being made for Schmid by Border Fine Arts in Scotland. With the demise of Schmid in the 1990's Lowell felt OK pursuing other distributors.

Lowell and his wife at the time Charlie decided to approach ERTL with the idea of putting figurines on their die cast tractors to make them "come alive". He really wanted to get them interested in making a die cast model of his Crap Duster (they never did do this). So he made some prototype figurines and he and Charlie took them on tractors to the ERTL Tractor division. ERTL loved them and proceeded with producing the figurines to sell with their tractors. They were quite successful and there is still good trading in them on eBay.

ERTL also tried entering the retail figurine business (without the die cast tractors) trying to recreate the channel themselves instead of working with someone like Border Fine Arts to manufacture the figurines but their retail figurine business was not very successful and it eventually went out of business. These ERTL figurines are also still sold on eBay.

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**Tell Us about Your Favorite  
Lowell Davis Art Work**

Thanks again to Erik for his article for this edition of the newsletter! We would

love to hear about your favorite Lowell Davis art, what your first Lowell Davis art piece was and how it got you started collecting his art. Please send via email to: [lowelldaviscollectors@att.net](mailto:lowelldaviscollectors@att.net). Attach photos too. We will put your story in a future edition of the newsletter.

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**Restoration of Lowell Davis  
Cold Cast Porcelain Figurines**

Do you have a damaged Lowell Davis figurine that you would like to have restored? Lowell's daughter April Davis, an outstanding artist in her own right, can do an excellent restoration of your figurine. If you want to contact April about repair/restoration work, send an email to [lowelldaviscollectors@att.net](mailto:lowelldaviscollectors@att.net).

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**Collectors Exchange**

If you have Lowell Davis art or collectibles that you would like to swap, buy or sell, just email a detailed description of the item to: [lowelldaviscollectors@att.net](mailto:lowelldaviscollectors@att.net). We will list your items so that other interested collectors can contact you.

**Wanted:**

The Lowell Davis Art Gallery is looking for:

- Wildlife and farm bronzes
- Early original paintings

If you have any of these items for sale, please send us an email at [lowelldaviscollectors@att.net](mailto:lowelldaviscollectors@att.net) stating which you have, condition and asking price.



**Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter**  
**Volume 3 Issue 4**  
**July – September 2009**

**For Sale:**

We frequently received emails from collectors wanting to sell off all or part of their collections. We recently received the following collections that are for sale:

**Collection 1:**

- Tribute to Hooker #225340 (signed by Lowell Davis To Dona)
- His Master's Dog (signed by Lowell Davis To Dona)
- Meeting of Sheldon #225293
- Mama #225277 (signed by Lowell Davis To Dona)
- Featherin' Her Nest
- Woman's Work #225232
- Country Christmas Barn #223507
- Luke 12:6 #25372
- A New Friend #225288
- Thirsty #892050
- Ice Cream Maker #892052 (club renewal)
- Fleas #225272
- After the Rain #95079
- Gonna Pay for His Sins #225243
- Garden Toad #892055
- New Arrival #892054 (club renewal)
- Not a Sharing Soul #892053
- Ozark Belle #252264
- One in the Hand #97011
- Welcome #B0100
- Making a Beeline #225274
- Chow Time #221003
- Fair weather Friends #225236
- 2 plates Company's Coming #3035 and On the Move #2247 and also a Lowell Davis Farm cap.

**Collection 2:**

- Blossom and Calf
- Blossom (original)
- Country Road (original)
- The Critics (original)
- Broken Dreams (original)
- Slim Pickin's (original)
- Birth of Blossom framed print

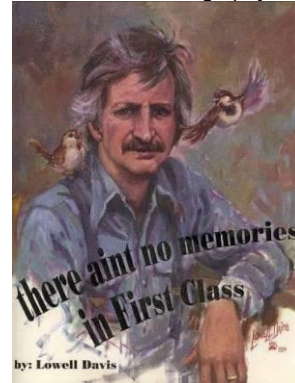
If you have an interest in these collections, please let us know and we will put you in touch with the sellers.

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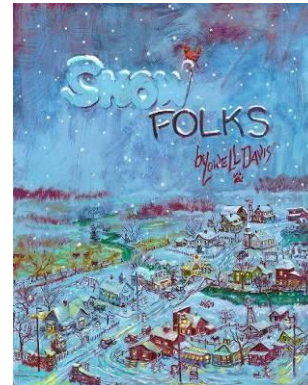
**Lowell Davis Books**

Rose asked me to include a reminder about Lowell's three books that are a must have for Lowell Davis collectors.

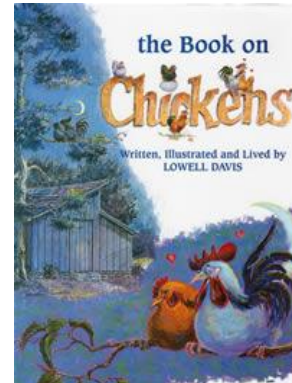
Lowell's Autobiography



Snow Folks



The Book on Chickens



An order form for these books can be found on the Red Oak II website at: <http://www.redoakiigeneralstore.com/lowell-davis-books/index.html> or you can send an email to Rose at: [redoakrose@ecarthage.com](mailto:redoakrose@ecarthage.com).

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Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter  
Volume 3 Issue 4  
July – September 2009

## Lowell Davis Collectors Quiz

### *No Winner for Lowell Davis Collectors Quiz 2009 Q3*

We would like to thank all who entered the Lowell Davis Collectors Quiz 2009 Q3. Although some entries were quite close to being correct, they missed on a couple of figurines so we are running this same quiz again in 2009 Q4.

### *Lowell Davis Collectors Quiz 2009 Q4*

For the 2009 Q4 Lowell Davis Collectors quiz, the winner will receive a Giclée print of Lowell Davis' painting "Brer Fox", the original of which hangs in Lowell's Belle Star house,



Lowell Davis "Brer Fox"

or \$40 credit towards any item of combination of items in our eBay store: <http://stores.ebay.com/Red-Oak-II-General-Store?refid=store>.

In case of a tie, there will be a random drawing from among all correct entries to select the winner.

This month there is a bonus question which is for an additional prize for the Quiz winner if she/he also answers the bonus question correctly.

To enter, send your answers to the following questions by email to [lowelldaviscollectors@att.net](mailto:lowelldaviscollectors@att.net). Entries

must be received by 12:00 midnight US ET on December 31, 2009. The winner will be announced in the next issue of this newsletter.

Here are the questions, all relating to Lowell Davis figurines:

- 1) What's the name of Lowell's cow that is depicted in the following figurine?



- 2) What's the name of the following figurine and why is it so named?



- 3) What is the name of the following figurine and what series is it part of?



Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter  
Volume 3 Issue 4  
July – September 2009

- 4) What is the name of the following figurine and where are they headed?



- 7) The title of the following figurine reflects the thoughts of the cat on top of the bird house. What is that title?



- 5) What is the difference between the two versions of Slim Pickin's as shown in the following photos?



Slim Pickin's version 1

- 8) What's the name of Lowell's horse in the following figurine and why is he laughing at Lowell?



Slim Pickin's version 2

- 9) Why is the junk yard mouse in the following figurine staring at its reflection?



- 6) What is the name of Lowell's pig in the following figurine?



- 10) What are the names of the boy and girl depicted in the following figurine?





**Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter**  
**Volume 3 Issue 4**  
**July – September 2009**

Bonus question: Who was Lowell fishing with when he saw the family of raccoons depicted in the following figurine?



Good luck and have fun!

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## **Contact Us**

**Lowell and Rose Davis:**

[lowelldavis@ecarthage.com](mailto:lowelldavis@ecarthage.com)

[redoakrose@ecarthage.com](mailto:redoakrose@ecarthage.com)

**Lowell Davis Collectors:**

[lowelldaviscollectors@att.net](mailto:lowelldaviscollectors@att.net)

**Red Oak II General Store:**

[redoakiigeneralstore@att.net](mailto:redoakiigeneralstore@att.net)

**Larry Sernyk, Collectors Newsletter:**

[lowelldaviscollectors@att.net](mailto:lowelldaviscollectors@att.net)

## **Web Links**

**Red Oak II Missouri:**

[www.redoakiimissouri.com](http://www.redoakiimissouri.com)

**Red Oak II General Store:**

[www.redoakiigeneralstore.com](http://www.redoakiigeneralstore.com)

## **Credits**

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Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter  
Volume 3 Issue 4  
July – September 2009

