

## **The Fords Square Dance History**

The Fords had been approached several times if they had any interest in square dancing. After a brief discussion, Rod and Lois decided to take lessons. Along with over twenty other students Rod and Lois Ford graduated from Don Main's Red-Carpet Square dance lessons in the spring of 1990. Immediately after graduation they were elected to fill the position of Red Carpet Squares Vice President.

Rod was first introduced to square dancing in 1952 by his parents in Glazier, Texas. The Ford's called their first tip in 1992 during an amateur caller night held in Gage, Ok. Because of a full time job with the family feed manufacturing business, demands as councilman/ vice mayor with the Town of Gage and duties with the USMCR Rod was unable to attend a caller college. Lois agreed to attend Jim Woolsey's and Wayne Morvent's caller's college and recorded all the sessions for future study. Together they spent many hours listening to the tapes and working the various figures with their dolls.

They held many Northwest District offices including secretary, delegate, insurance chairman and educational director. They served as secretary/treasurer of the Oklahoma State Callers and Teachers Association for well over twenty years. They were involved as Oklahoma State Insurance Director for one year. They held numerous positions with the Red Carpet Squares of Gage, OK. and the Alva Oklahoma Twisters. Rod and Lois recently served as President/Caller of the Twisters. They were longtime friends with Toots and Junior Richardson and called with them at Red River, NM Community House for several years.

The Ford's covered all the bases pertaining to caller's organizations. Lois was a member of Callerlab who recently received her 25 year recognition pin. Rod was a longtime member of the American Caller's Association.

Together, they served as team caller for the Red Carpet Squares, Northwest Singles and Doubles, Levis n Lace, Swinging Rebels, Alva Twisters and served as longtime instructor for the Perryton, Texas Promenaders. They called in several states and both loved calling at the Red River, N.M. Community House and at South Fork, Colorado. The Ford's had several mentors including Toots Richardson, Don Main, Jim Woolsey and Jerry Junck.

With the untimely passing of Lois in March 2022, Rod is currently serving as caller for the Alva Twisters and as instructor for the Perryton Promenaders.