

'Dallas' Star Jim Davis Dies In His Sleep



PLAYED JOCK EWING
Actor Jim Davis

From Press Dispatches

LOS ANGELES — Jim Davis, the gravelly voiced actor who played a lifetime of starring and supporting roles before hitting the jackpot as the tough-as-nails Jock Ewing on the "Dallas" television series, died in his sleep here Sunday, a spokesman for the series said.

Davis, who was in his 70s, died at his Northridge home where he had been recovering from abdominal surgery. His wife of 36 years, Blanche, was at his side, the spokesman said.

The 6-foot-3-inch Davis, who appeared in more than 150 films and 300 TV shows, looked as if he was born to

play a Texas oil baron. He was known as "The Man" on "Dallas." In a series filled with characters everyone loves to hate, he was the toughest.

"I think Jock had his day," he said in a 1979 interview, comparing the tough-but-not-as-nasty Ewing father with his son, the villainous J.R. (played by Larry Hagman). He was young, tough, ruthless. I think J.R. may be doing some of the things Jock did when he was younger.

"He's a diamond in the rough who thinks young. He has compassion for people, but on the other hand he can be ruthless if he feels his legs are being chopped off."

Davis was born in Edgerton, Mo., and attended William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. He spent a year as a tent rigger with a circus before becoming a salesman for an auto company. A promotion brought him to California and he changed careers after first turning down a standard movie contract at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

He appeared opposite Anne Sothorn in the "Maisie" series then spent a hitch in the Coast Guard during World War II before returning to acting.

Davis also starred on television in "Stories of the Century," "Rescue 8," and "The Cowboys." He also made hun-

dreds of guest appearances on other popular shows.

A veteran of more than 150 motion pictures, Davis' film credits included "Winter Meeting" with Bette Davis, "El Dorado" and "Rio Lobo" with John Wayne, "Last Command," "Monty Walsh" and "The Choirboys."

A memorial service for Davis was planned for Friday at the Encino Community Church in Tarzana.

