

LAFLIN RANCH — 100 Years Of Angus Influence 1900-2000

By Tom Burke

"The American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association boasts many honored names upon its rolls. And, among its officers and directors have been many men of sterling character and wide influence."—*A History of Aberdeen-Angus Cattle*, Alvin H. Sanders, author

Reading that particular quote brings one name to mind by many people



*l. to r. Lewis E. (L.E.), Eugene B. (E.B.),
Lewis H. (L.H.) Laflin*

associated with the Angus cattle industry, "Laflin."

Only three families remain in the United States who have had continuous family involvement in the Registered Angus business for over 100 years. The Laflin family is among those three, and is proud to be included in such a distinguished group. The other two legendary herds that hold this distinction are the world-renowned Woodlawn Herd at Creston, Illinois, which was founded in 1881 by the late B.R. Pierce and the Sunnyslope Angus Herd at Lanesboro, Minnesota, which was established in 1898 by Peter Abrahamson.

Roots of the Laflins can be traced back to 1799 in Rochester, N.Y., when Parley Laflin was born. He was involved in the lumber and mill busi-

ness for many years and was also employed in the construction of the Erie Canal. He married Mary Swift Harrington in 1836 and moved his family to Illinois where he began buying and selling cattle on a large scale. Parley would frequently walk the 150 miles between his home in Rock Island County, Illinois, to Chicago, driving his cattle ahead of him to the market. This was before Chicago had any stockyards to accommodate the incoming cattle.

After Parley's death, Mrs. Parley Laflin moved her four children to Nebraska Territory in 1857 and homesteaded in Crab Orchard.

Much of the success they encountered was due in part to Mrs. Parley Laflin, who was one of the most determined and courageous pioneers of Nebraska's Gage and Johnson counties. Immediately, she made several preemption claims which allowed her to settle upon the public land with the first option to buy. She also owned land in the area that is now part of the city of Beatrice. Through her blind determination and spirit to succeed, Mrs. Laflin labored for 20 years to make her livelihood from the wild and untamed prairies.

At 15 years old, son L.H. Laflin was at just the right age to help his brave mother upon their arrival in Nebraska. Three years later he began transporting goods across the plains with an oxen team. Bob Laflin was fortunate to obtain one of the origi-

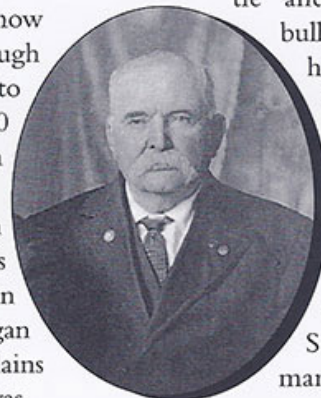


100 Years of
Registered Angus

nal oxen yokes which will be on display at this 100th Anniversary Celebration. L.H. Laflin's work was interrupted in 1862 when he responded to a call of patriotism during the Civil War and enlisted in Company I First Nebraska Volunteers under Colonel Robert R. Livingston.

This company engaged in many battles. In August 1864, L.H. was captured by Confederate General Shelby at Grand Prairie, Arkansas. He was held as a prisoner of war for five months before being exchanged with other Union soldiers. Thereafter, he continued serving his country until the close of the war. He fought hard for his beliefs and was honorably discharged October 24, 1865, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He proudly served 3 years and 18 days in the military with Company I First Nebraska Volunteers.

After the war, L.H. returned to his home in Crab Orchard, NE, where he continued to transport goods and began farming. A born animal breeder, he also began breeding Shorthorn cattle and used imported bulls from England in his program. He demanded only the best livestock he could buy and produce.



Lewis H. (L.H.) Laflin

In November of 1866, L.H. married America Scott. Throughout many happy years together, they became proud

parents of 10 children.

L.H. had at all times shown himself to be a loyal and public-spirited citizen. He was an avid member of the Republican party and was very influential in community affairs. His interest in politics allowed him to serve as a Nebraska legislator from 1873-1875, during which time the territorial boundaries of Johnson County, Nebraska, were established. He also later served as a county commissioner in Johnson County.

Bearing his full share of the hardships associated with pioneer life, L.H. pressed steadily forward toward his goal of worthy prosperity. Gradually, he added to the farm and became the owner of a very large and valuable land estate.

During the late 1800s to early 1900s, the Laflin family operated with approximately 500 cows and worked 35-40 horse and mule teams. Regular trips were made to the Memphis, Tennessee horse and mule market where the animals (mainly browns and bays) were purchased and then transported back to Nebraska so the family could break them out. As their horse and mule success became known, the military complex at Fort Robinson became interested in purchasing the Laflin stock. The Laflins supplied them with horses and mules — the military especially liked brown and bay geldings which stood 15.1 hands tall.

To many people in the Angus business, the Laflin estate became much more valuable when L.H. dispersed his Shorthorn herd in 1900. At that time, L.H.'s son, E.B., established their Angus program because of dwarfism problems which had surfaced in the Shorthorn breed.

A NEW ERA BEGAN.

The year was 1900. William McKinley was president of the United States. Airplanes and automobiles were still a distant dream. The American Angus Association's (AAA) office was in Chicago, Illinois and had registered

right at 30,000 head of cattle at that time. The American population was 75,994,575. Congress passed an Act making gold the single standard of currency in the United States. The Republican

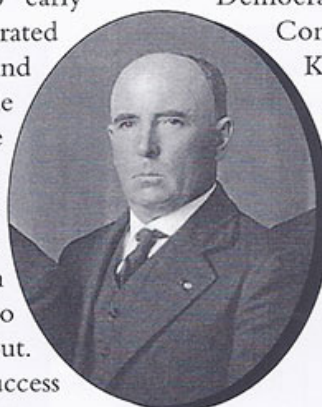
National Convention was held in Philadelphia and nominated Governor Theodore Roosevelt of New York, much against his own will. To run as the Vice Presidential candidate was William McKinley. The Democratic National Convention met in Kansas City and nominated William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska for Presidency and



The Eugene B. Laflin Family, Fannie, Ruth, Eugene, and Lewis.

eries in the United States and that he would become one of the first breeders of registered Angus cattle in the state of Nebraska. The early foresight of E.B. is to be commended as he introduced the polled black breed to a Hereford stronghold.

His early dedication and determination to turn the West "black" was E.B.'s inborn desire. However, during the late 1800s a profession was learned through an apprenticeship. Salmasius



*Eugene B. (E.B.) Laflin
1867-1932*

Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois for Vice President.

A man was about to purchase his first Angus cattle in 1900, and his name was Eugene B. (E.B.) Laflin (son of L.H.). Little did he know that his initial purchase would lead to the Laflin herd being recognized as one of the three oldest seed stock nurs-

Angus Sale Averages For 28 Years 1900-1927

	Number of sales	Number of cattle sold	Averages
1900	8	541	\$288.00
1901	15	894	277.45
1902	17	1,065	259.80
1903	14	1,041	220.15
1904	21	932	132.80
1905	22	1,084	130.35
1906	25	1,259	154.90
1907	18	1,119	134.75
1908	18	955	165.10
1909	18	935	189.00
1910	19	995	167.36
1911	13	723	143.16
1912	12	627	138.95
1913	15	797	171.95
1914	16	925	202.80
1915	26	1,425	206.45
1916	30	1,668	248.75
1917	44	2,358	309.34
1918	82	4,102	385.64
1919	114	5,412	511.59
1920	115	5,342	705.90
1921	52	2,332	272.39
1922	33	1,364	201.48
1923	37	1,403	143.25
1924	24	870	150.62
1925	14	626	150.00
1926	12	590	146.00
1927	16	650	170.00

Harrington, E.B.'s half brother, had studied law in Columbus, Ohio, and had become a very successful attorney in Beatrice, Nebraska. He encouraged E.B. to become a man of the legal profession. So, E.B. studied law and soon became a practicing attorney.

When E.B. began building his Angus herd, some of his foundation stock came from the Escher herd in Iowa. The late Charlie Ryan (Sr.) had married one of the Escher daughters, and that herd was later known as "Escher and Ryan." (Incidentally, Charlie Ryan Jr. was the son from their marriage, and he is the father of present American Angus Association board member Abbie Nelson from California.)

As the herd gradually increased in size, Nebraska commercial men realized the advantage of this then-controversial black breed. The Laflin herd began to prosper. E.B. stressed efficiency in cattle with exceptional size and bred-in performance in the early 1900s. Much of the same tradition and economic values have continued to be principles of today's herd.

The Laflin herd began supplying

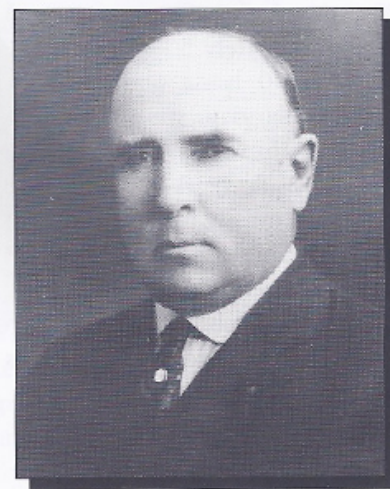
seed stock to many new herds in the early 1900s (1910-1920). The Laflin program was a stronghold for the best of the old line of Earl Marshall and Revolution bloodlines. In the early history of the Laflin herd, the numbers grew to 200 females — mainly Blackbirds, Ericas, Barbaras, Heather Blooms and Queen Mothers. Among the bulls used included Louis of View Point 7, Registration #172452, one of the good sons of Louis of Meadowbrook. He was preceded by Glen Eyrie Black 91203, a particularly good bull which left a strong impression upon the herd. Other bulls used at that time were Primrose 291158. As time moved on, Aline's Marshall 374528, a son of Earl Marshall from Eline E13, one of the great Escher cows, was used for four years.

In the early history of the herd, E.B. did not make it a practice to show his stock at competitions, contending that he had sufficient demand to absorb all his surplus stock without exhibiting. He did, however, judge many Angus events including the American Royal and National Western In 1928.

In the early 1900s, E.B. served as the

second president of the Nebraska Angus Association. His son, L.E., served as the fifth president. The Laflin's again made their presence known during the 1981-82 term when Lew Laflin, E.B.'s grandson and L.E.'s son, served as president of the Nebraska Angus Association. E.B.'s leadership qualities were singled out early as his fellow Angus breeders selected him as the first man ever from the state of Nebraska to serve on the National Board of Directors of the American Angus Association as well as serving as the Vice President of the American Angus Association. He was elected to the board during one of the most turbulent times in the 127-year history of the American Angus Association. During the "Proxy Revolution," members were of the opinion that considerable damage was being done to the American Angus Association by persons who were elected delegates, but who did not attend the annual meetings. These persons simply sent in the proxy votes to the association.

Among those who recognized the problem with the proxy system was



E.B. Laflin

Judge S.C. Fullerton of Miami, Oklahoma. He realized that the breed could not attain its destined position in the trade, as long as the American Angus Association was a house divided against itself. After a study of the subject, Judge Fullerton and his supporters concluded that the use of the proxy, or probably its misuse, was largely the cause of the strife which had resulted. Therefore, he sided with those persons seeking to abolish the use of the proxy. He believed instead that a delegate or representative form of government should be practiced. At the annual convention in 1923, the Progressives (who were in favor of

Nebraska Angus Association Past President's Club

Early 1900's ...

1st President	Joe Harrison	1972-1973	John Votaw
	E.B. Laflin	1973-1974	Tim Stiefel
	Wm. Williams	1974-1975	Bud Gottschalk
	C.E. Vanderkolk	1975-1976	Vance Uden
	L.E. Laflin	1976-1977	Lowell Minert
1940-1945	Dr. Chas. A. Anderson	1977-1978	Marvin Folken
1945-1946	Robin A. Spence	1978-1979	Richard Waller
1946-1949	Darwin Williams	1979-1980	Paul Eveland
1949-1953	Russ J. Vanderkolk	1980-1981	Ron Sabata
1953-1954	Chas. F. Beemann	1981-1982	Lew Laflin
1954-1955	Howard Taylor	1982-1983	Richard Weers
1955-1956	Burt A. Randall	1983-1984	Ken Glaubius
1956-1957	E.L. Miner	1984-1985	Jerry Fitzgerald
1957-1958	William Drahota	1985-1986	John Quirk
1958-1959	Ortha F. Lovitt	1986-1987	Miles Groseth
1959-1960	Russ J. Vanderkolk	1987-1988	Fred Kraye
1960-1961	Denzel J. Anderson	1988-1989	Alva Max
1961-1962	Glen B. Ralsback	1989-1990	Brian Thompson
1962-1963	Vern Domeier	1990-1991	Vaughn Domeier
1963-1964	Wm. J. Chavet	1992-1993	Chuck Pohlman
1964-1965	Richard J. Bruner	1993-1994	Lowell Minert
1965-1966	Don Popken	1993-1994	Rod Gray
1966-1967	Jack Todd	1994-1995	Ed Hall
1967-1968	James R. Schafer	1995-1996	Darrel Wagner
1968-1969	Hugh Renard	1996-1997	Scott Adams
1969-1970	Wm. P. Snyder	1997-1998	Tim Marlatt
1970-1971	Dale Crom	1998-1999	Arlen Sawyer
1971-1972	Roger Peterson	1999-2000	Mick Cox

the delegate system) were greatly in majority, both on the floor of the convention and represented by proxies. On a question of rejection of what the Progressives called a "tricky ballot" regarding cumulative voting, the chairman ruled they were out of order. Upon the advice of attorneys, and in order to protect their rights, the Progressives proceeded to elect a chairman whom they believed would rule fairly. Judge Fullerton was elected temporary chairman and took the chair. John V. Arney, Des Moines, Iowa, was elected temporary secretary after Charles Gray stepped down, and the business of the meeting proceeded.

Judge Fullerton was elected president for the following year, and nine members of the board of directors were also elected. Later, the opposition held a meeting and also elected officers, with Charles Gray as secretary and L.H. Lamar as treasurer. This group refused to recognize Judge Fullerton as president. The matter was settled in the courts. The Progressives won, and the course pursued by Judge Fullerton as their leader was approved.

In December 1924, the representative form of government was adopted and declared legal by a decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Judge S.C. Fullerton was elected president; J.M. Tudor vice president; and John C. Mills, Jr., treasurer. E.B. Laflin was among 15 persons declared by the court to be the acting directors of the American Angus Association.

September 22, 1932, marked the death of E.B. Laflin, but the legacy continued when his son, Lewis E. (L.E.), became interested in the herd in the 1920s and carried on the Laflin tradition. In the 1930s and 1940s, L.E. Laflin became a true spokesman for Angus cattle.

"Lou Laflin, L.E., is another booster,



Lewis (L.E.) Laflin

looking always for an opportunity to do something for the breed and insisting that something be well done. To him and his father before him can be credited much of the good that has been done in the western country this side of the Rockies, for they have bred and sent to the plains country perhaps thousands of bulls whose calves came back to claim top prices at the markets. It is to the lads like Lou Laflin that the *Journal* bows graciously in recognition of what they have meant in the past and what they really mean to the future advancement of Aberdeen-Angus cattle in the wide open spaces, as well as among the breeders in the more confined areas of this country. Cattle have gone from the Laflin herd into most every beef growing section of the United States, only to be well

And, like his grandfather L.H., he was a soldier serving in the armed forces during World War I.

After being discharged from the military, L.E. returned to Crab Orchard, Nebraska, to practice law. Also, L.E. immediately became



The late L.E. Laflin viewing the Laflin cow herd in the late 30's.

involved in the family cattle operation and joined his father in the livestock



L.E. Laflin and a set of Laflin Angus steers in the 30's.

received later and to give a good accounting for themselves and their progeny.

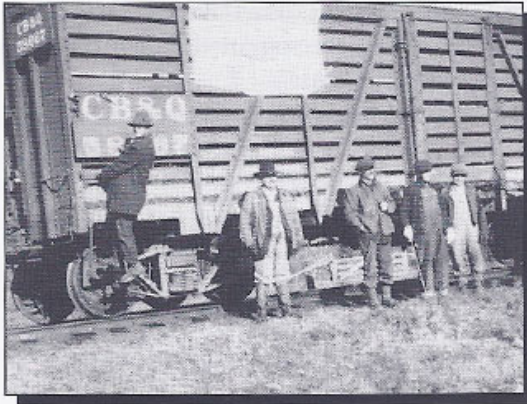
"L.E. Laflin is an exceedingly active member of the Nebraska Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association, as well as a director of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association . . . Mr. Laflin's influence, as well as his splendid breeding herd, means much to the development of the Aberdeen-Angus breed in the West."—*The Aberdeen-Angus Journal*, May 1938. Quote from Fred Hahne, editor and publisher, Webster City, Iowa.

L.E. graduated from the University of Nebraska Law School in 1918.

enterprise. He loved the Angus breed. At that time, L.E.'s dad (E.B.) was managing about; 200 Registered Angus cows.

L.E. was a very strong supporter of the Nebraska Angus Association and was very involved in its activities. Times were very tough in the 1930s, and on many occasions he provided his own money to keep the state association in operation. His son, Bob, remembers when they were "dirt poor" (shoes were put away in the spring and brought back out to wear in the fall), and how L.E. gave \$500 to the Nebraska Angus Association. His wife almost divorced him over it.

It was during the drought of the



A railroad car loaded with Laflin foundation females in route to the famous Wickwire Farms in Maryland.

'30s when a major decision had to be made. With no rain and no crops to feed their large herd, L.E. knew he had to find a place to take the cattle so they could pasture and feed. As a result, he looked into the northern Flint Hills of Kansas, which was located around Bigelow. (This area is no longer in existence, as it is now part of Tuttle Creek Reservoir.) The location seemed to be good, so the Laflins leased a lot of grass in that area and railroaded the cattle from Crab Orchard to Bigelow, Kansas.

Although the cattle did extremely well on the leased grass, it was quite an intensive process for the family. After pasturing in Kansas during the summer, the herd was always hauled back to Nebraska in the fall of the year. There the cattle would be wintered on cornstalks or whatever crop could be raised during the Nebraska drought. But even beyond the hardships, they experienced such good result with the Flint Hills grass that this activity became a yearly tradition after that one hot summer drought of 1933.

L.E. served on many American Angus Association committees, and fellow Angus breeders elected L.E. to the national board of directors from 1935 to 1941. Judging state fairs and national shows were also a highlight during L.E.'s years he spent advocating the Angus breed.

In 1937, L.E. sold a major shipment of 30 cows to Wickwire Farms in Maryland to start their Angus program. And, in 1947, L.E. sold a major ship-

ment of Angus to the southwest. Milt Miller from the American Angus Association brought a buyer from San Saba, Texas, Mr. Tommy Brooks, to Crab Orchard, Nebraska. After viewing the Laflin cattle, Mr. Brooks purchased 150 Angus cows and 50 Angus bulls for his ranch in the heart of Texas.

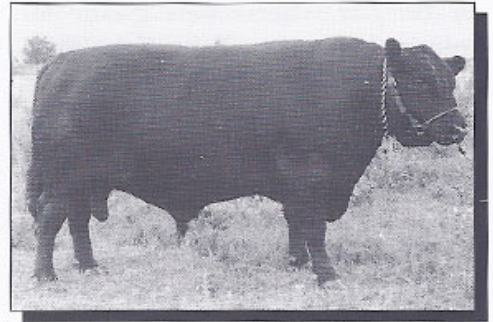
Like his father, L.E. believed in strong, community participation. He was involved in the banking business, served on the elementary school board, and was very involved in the political processes of the county, state and federal governments.



L.E.'s daughter, Patricia was featured on the cover of the July 1952 issue of The Aberdeen Angus Journal.

Although a Republican, he was a great defender of President Franklin D. Roosevelt because of the poverty in rural America. He was also the originator of the much publicized lawsuit to equalize 100% assessment of taxes in the state of Nebraska in 1953.

The Laflin family continued their yearly transportation of cattle between Nebraska and Kansas until 1962. It was at that time that L.E.'s sons Bob and Lew realized they should go to Kansas, relocate and live there instead of leasing grass and moving back and forth. A decision was made to buy a ranch south of Olsburg,



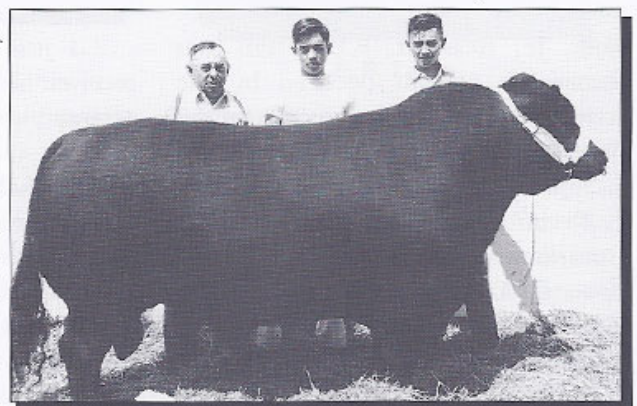
Revolution K-7 a line-bred Revolution bull that was used in the Laflin Program in the 30's and 40's.

Kansas, which was located in the area where they were leasing the grass.

The Laflin legacy continued to expand with L.E. Laflin practicing law as well as now being the father of five children: Bob, Lew, Shirley, Lois and Pat. The Angus heritage was branded into the souls of Bob and Lew. Both boys were now busily involved breeding Angus cattle with their father at the ranch near Crab Orchard, Nebraska. The 1940's and 1950's would find Bob and Lew Laflin in a partnership farming and breeding Angus cattle.

The year 1956 marked the passing of the legendary L.E. Laflin, one of the all-time great builders of the Angus breed.

The boys were very committed to breeding superior cattle, but still found time to serve their country. Bob served



Quality Pride W the featured herd sire in the Laflin Program in the 40's. L.E. Laflin and his two sons, Bob and Lew.

in the military during the Korean War. He was stationed in Europe from 1951-1953 on a secret mission transporting top secret documents from Berlin to Frankfurt. On being dis-

charged from the military, he journeyed directly back to the Crab Orchard ranch. At that time, Lew, opted for his military obligations and served from 1953 to 1956.

During these years, the herd continued to expand and the partnership was prospering. A large number of bulls were being produced and sold to commercial cattlemen. Many new herds were being started as Angus cattle were on a growth cycle in Nebraska. In fact, there was so much growth and expansion in the breed that in 1962 Bob and his wife and children journeyed to Olsburg, Kansas. With both operations



The late L.E. Laflin with the Laflin cow herd at the Crab Orchard Ranch in 1937.

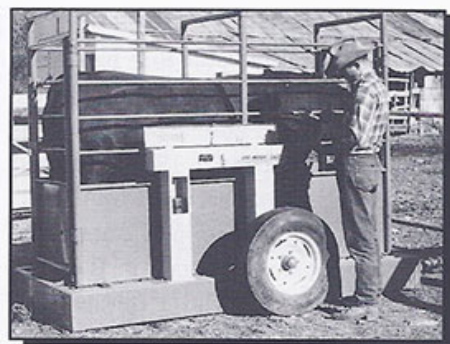
now moving forward in Crab Orchard, Nebraska, and Olsburg, Kansas, the decision was made to dissolve the partnership. Yet today the Angus spirits continue to burn brightly in Crab Orchard as Lew Laflin, 38 years after the partnership was dissolved, continues to be instrumental in the Angus industry. He served as president of the

Nebraska Angus Association, served as a delegate to numerous national Angus conventions, and hosted many successful production sales. He, along with his family, continue to be a superior source of Angus seed stock from the same farm, Maple Dell Angus, where it all started 100 years ago.

In 1962, Bob, Barbara, and their three children, Sharee, R.D. and Karen, were comfortably settled in their new home, which was to be known as Laflin Ranch. This ranch was located in the Flint Hills of the fertile Kansas plains outside of the small town of Olsburg, Kansas, just north of

Manhattan, Kansas. The new ranch consisted of 1,000 acres with a commitment to produce the best Angus seed stock possible. Now on his own, Bob looked to his long-time friend and mentor, Carlton

Corbin, the owner of Stoneybrook Angus at Fitztown, Oklahoma. Carlton was the founder of the Emulous strain of cattle. It was back in 1946 when Bob Laflin met Carlton Corbin as a 16-year-old boy when he came to their Crab Orchard Ranch to see his father to inquire about some foundation females for his Stoneybrook ranch. Bob recalls



Performance Testing at Laflin Angus—First and Foremost.

his intrigue about the knowledge and wisdom of this master breeder. In 1962 Bob Laflin acquired his first Emulous bull from Carlton Corbin. Noting the success that they had enjoyed with the Corbin bull, Bob now on his own and having been a student of the Carlton Corbin program, decided once again to enlist the guidance of his long-time friend, Carlton Corbin. Keep in mind, that it was Carlton Corbin who encouraged the Laflins to gain test their bulls, taking them to the Tishomingo, Oklahoma bull test station. It was in this head-to-head gain test combat, that Bob was quick to realize that Corbin was a master at blending genetics of fast-gaining effi-



Emulous of Tail N 9 (CMS) 2922543



Coye and Eldon Flinn and Carlton and Geneva Corbin, longtime Laflin friends at a Laflin Production Sale.

Weaning Weight No Creep 500 lbs.	Yearling Weight 1020 lbs.	140 day gain per day 3.39 lbs.	Present Weight 1900 lbs.
Second High in Test			

Emulous of Tail N 9 (CMS) 2922543

Certified Meat Sire No. 12

Calved: December 2, 1958

Owned by Laflin Bros., Olsburg, Kansas and Murray Corbin, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

Emulous of Stoneybroke 693442	}	Emulous of Sangamon 468989
Emulous of Ada 17 1407268		Edwina of Ballindalloch 4
Princess Barbara of 4M 1101222	}	Prince Sunbeam 214 932042
Erivans Peer 513571		Barbara W D 3 807074
Elira of Coalgate 9 1044590	}	Black Peer of St. Albans
Elira Page of Coalgate 544891		Erivans Lass 455522
		Everelegant Page 506226
		Elira 32 of Muskogee 507205

cient Angus cattle.

A non-Emulous bull that had been used in the Laflin program was Prince Rowley of BAR 260, a bull that was born on November 10, 1959, and bred at the Burch Angus herd at Mill Creek, Oklahoma. He was topped out to the famous imported Prince of Rowley. He was a bull that had a tremendous amount of influence in raising the weaning weights in the Laflin program. Another bull that was used was a home-raised bull, Laflin's Bard 568, born on October 18, 1963. He had excellent performance data for that time, weaning at 645 pounds with a 365-day weight of 1,160 pounds and gained 3.68 on test.

The first Emulous bull that Bob Laflin was to purchase was Emulous of Tail N 9, a bull that was born on December 2, 1958. He was sired by Emulous of ADA 17th. He had a weaning weight of 500 pounds with no creep, a 365-day weight of 1,020 pounds, and was the second high gaining bull in his test gaining 3.39 pounds per day. He had the distinction of being Certified Meat Sire #12. It is obvious to see that as early as the 1960's, Bob Laflin had superior carcass traits on his mind.

Also in service at Laflin Ranch was Emulous 54, born on July 26, 1961. He had a weaning weight of 586 pounds with no creep, a yearling weight of 1,090, gained 3.60 on a 140-day test, and was recognized as Certified Meat Sire #55. He was sired by Emulous 7000 who was the world's first Certified Meat Sire as well as being a member of the Curtis AI breeding stud.

Another important sire in the Laflin program was Emulous 507, born on September 15, 1965. He had a weaning weight of 597 without creep, a 365-day weight of 1,135, and gained 3.68 pounds per day on an official 140-day test. He was sired by Emulous Bob of K Pride. He, too, was a Certified Meat Sire. It was Emulous 507 that sired the grand champion steer at the 1970 Mid-America Fair in Topeka, Kansas.

Another important sire was Emulous 335, "THE CONTENTED BULL," born on January 13, 1963. This bull had a weaning weight of 555 pounds with no creep, a 365-day weight of 1,170 pounds, and gained 4.14 on an official 140-day test. Emulous 335 became known as "THE CONTENTED BULL" and was one of the leading sires of 4-0-pound plus bulls on official tests.

Another important bull in the pro-

Reprint—the Laflin ad as it appeared in the 50th Anniversary of the Aberdeen Angus Journal in 1969.



Emulous 335 (CMS) 4071166

gram was Emulous Para, a bull that weaned at 535 pounds, had a 365-day weight of 1,180 pounds, and an average daily weight gain on an official 140-day test of 4.57. He had long been one of Carlton's pride and joys. Bob chose to use him in the Laflin program.

With all these power-packed genetics in place, the Laflin program was off and running like a wild fire. The decision was made to host the first sale at the Kansas ranch on March 16, 1968. It would feature 50 bulls and 50 females. That would mark the beginning of the Annual Laflin Ranch Production Sale. And every year since 1968, including the 2000 sale marks the 33rd year that the annual sale has been held on that same corresponding date.

The year 1968 was to mark a significant time in the history of the Angus breed. Angus breeders across the country were beginning to search for cattle with more frame and more performance. Bob Laflin had truly made a master step several years preceding. He had brought the Emulous bulls into his program. As the 1970's approached, the Laflin herd was in its finest hour. On April 1, 1969, marked a very important happening at the Laflin Ranch. On that day, T N 9 Duplicate was born. He had a weaning weight of 540 pounds, a yearling weight of 1,100 pounds and gained 3.5 pounds per day on the 140-day test.

In January of 1971, the Laflins made the decision to take TN9 Duplicate to the Arizona National in Phoenix. Up to that time, they had done absolutely no showing just like the two preceding generations of Laflin Angus breeders.

Weaning Weight No Creep	Yearling Weight	140 day gain per day	Present Weight
555 lbs.	1170 lbs.	4.14 lbs.	2415 lbs.
Emulous 335 (CMS)			
Calved: January 13, 1963. Tattoo 335-335			
Owned by Laflin Bros., Olsburg, Kansas and V. K. Pliura, Le Roy, Illinois.			
Emulous Bob of K Pride (CMS) 3336024	Emulous Bob 2 2778061 K Pride of Quality 1959859	Emulous Bob 2455264 Lucy of Ada 48 902457 Quality of Stoneybroke 1275690 Princess Pride Mc 1199960	
Heather of Ada 978 2942349	O Bardoliermere D C 2292620 Sunshine Heather 2437963	Bardoliermere 2 1080807 Effleen of Red Top 1283944 Quality Revolution 5 1791298 Heather of Ada 2063951	



T N 9 Duplicate 6409651

Phoenix was a long ways away. The Emulous cattle had not been popular or winning in the show ring. But Bob thought TN9 was special. They took him to the Arizona National and showed under Judge Dave Canning from Staunton, Virginia. TN9 was selected as the Reserve Grand Champion Bull. Two weeks later, he was to journey to the National Western Stock Show

in Denver, Colorado where the Laflins encountered a unique experience in their lives. It was here that S&W Angus, owned by Shelton Z. Wert of Minneapolis,

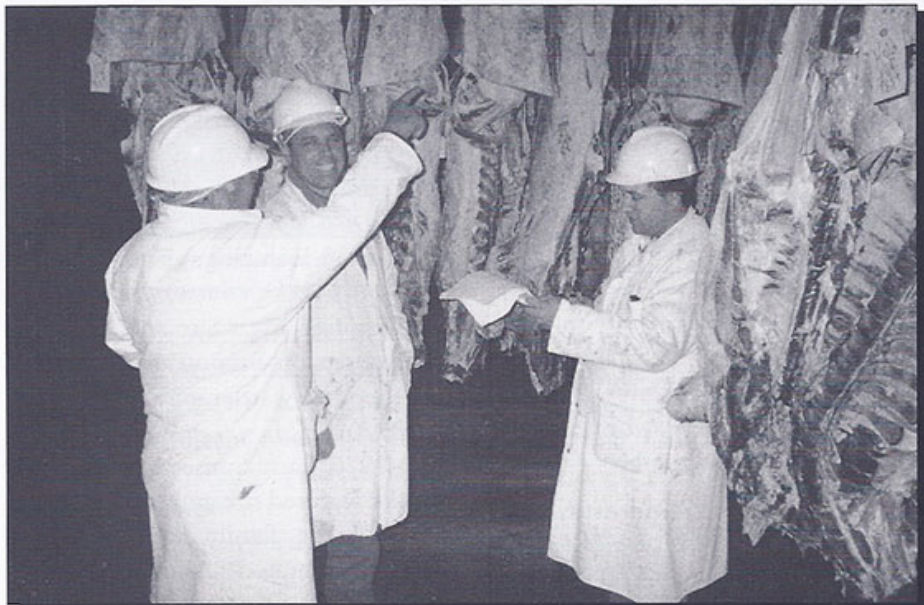
Weaning Weight 540 lbs.	Yearling Weight 1100 lbs.	140 Day Gain 3.5 lbs.
T N 9 Duplicate 6409651		
Calved: April 1, 1969. Tattoo 9209-9209		
Emulous of Tail N 9 (CMS) 2922543	Emulous of Ada 17 1407268	Emulous of Stoneybroke 693442 Princess Barbara of 4M Ervans Peer 513571 Elira Page of Coalgate 544891
Elira of Coalgate 9 1044590	Blackcap Minstrel of Modena 1231368	
Eulima of Ar Bee 1629492	Eulima L 5 1133228	Bertillon of Modena 989690 Blackcap Mischief of Modena Belle Boy Elluna 871988 Eulima A 5 549465

Minnesota, and located in Purdum, Nebraska, under the management of Walt Haberman, offered the Laflins \$75,000 for this bull. After long and intense deliberations, the Laflins turned down the lucrative offer. They believed that T N 9 was the next step in their breeding program.

In that summer of 1971, Pat and Bernie Scheer at Empire Angus at Pleasant Hill, Missouri, negotiated with the Laflin family to show T N 9 Duplicate. His first outing was the 1971 All-American Angus Breeders Futurity where he was selected as the Reserve Senior Champion Bull. His



For 33 consecutive years, production sales have been held at the Laflin Ranch the first Saturday of March. This photo is typical of the capacity crowd—standing room only!



Bob Laflin has talked about carcass quality and breeding high quality Carcass Angus cattle for over half a century. The early Laflin ads prove that to be a fact.

next show was the 1971 International Stock Show in Chicago, Illinois. Disaster was to strike. Going into the show, T N 9 Duplicate was the odds on favorite to be the 1971 International Grand Champion Bull. At that time, it was the highest honor and prestige to be bestowed to a Angus bull in the world. While returning from the wash rack at the Chicago International Amphitheater, T N 9 Duplicate lunged at a competitive bull, slipped, and severely fractured his hip. His show career was now over. The bull was sent to the University of Illinois at Urbana where his hip was put into a cast. This began his long and tedious road to recovery. He eventually returned to the Laflin Ranch but never really recovered from that injury. He was, however, used artificially in the Laflin program.

The herd continued to grow and develop. In the fall of 1972, the Laflins made a decision to have a mature cow herd dispersal. It was one of the most successful events in the breed. Topping the sale at \$16,000 was Emulous 16, Certified Meat Sire #223. He was sired

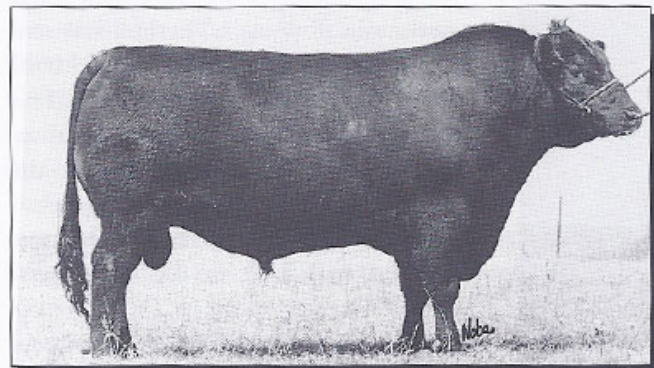


Emulous 16—a Certified Meat Sire, a \$16,000 Laflin bull back in 1972 when he sold at public auction.



Two Angus Legends—John Riffle of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, and Clint Thompson of American Livestock Insurance, who has been in attendance at nearly every Laflin Ranch Sale.

by Emulous 59 and sold to Chilton's 3 C Angus Ranch in Weatherford, Texas.



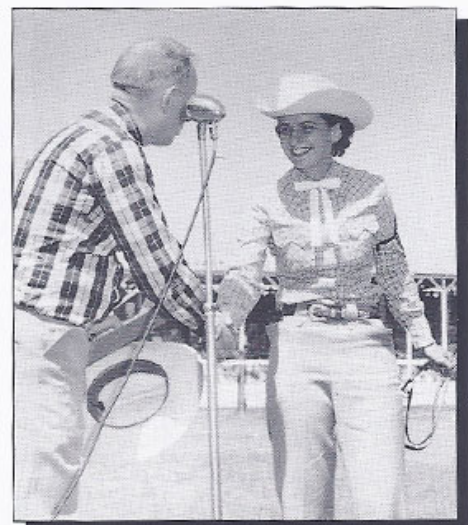
Early Sunset Emulous 44D—a western Canadian import and a landmark sire in the Laflin herd.

The 1970's was to find Bob and Barbara's children, Sharee, R.D., Karen and Guy all having that burning Angus desire. You would expect that to be the

case as they were now fourth generation Laflin Angus breeders. Their mother, the former Barbara Arendt, was the 1953 Burwell, Nebraska Rodeo Queen. So their pedigrees were deep in Angus agricultural tradition.

March 25, 1972 was to mark a very special day in the Laflin Ranch breeding program as it was the day Early Sunset Emulous 44D was born. He was bred in John Grant's Early Sunset herd in Edam, Saskatchewan. This bull reigned as the Reserve Grand Champion Bull at the 1973 Canadian Royal Winter Fair in Toronto while begin

Michigan State University at East Lansing, Michigan. Early Sunset Emulous 44D was selected by the Laflins as the second top selling bull at the 1975 National Western Bull Show



Barbara Laflin, 1953 Rodeo Queen, Burwell, NE.



MSU Miss Emulous 436, a Junior and Grand Champion Female at the 1975 All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity, sired by Early Sunset Emulous 44D, the Laflin feature herd sire at that time.

and Sale and was immediately added as the Featured Angus Sire in the Coddling N.O.B.A. AI Stud. In his first calf crop, Early Sunset Emulous 44D CMS sired the famous MSU Miss Emulous 436 who reigned as the Junior and Grand Champion Female at the 1975 All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity. Early Sunset Emulous 44D, of course, was to qualify as a Certified Meat Sire and left a lasting impression among purebred and commercial cattlemen throughout North America.

In 1976, Early Sunset Emulous 44D was the featured sire and was on display as the Laflin family and the Angus world celebrated America's 200th birthday.

As the years rolled on, the Laflin children became very involved in the



New directors for 1983 were elected to the National Junior Angus Board during the Centennial National Junior Angus Show in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20-22. They are, front row, l to r: Paul Kiesewetter, Farmington, Illinois; Lisa Bohlen, Howell, Michigan; Gayle Hunt, Milton, Indiana; Diane Krause, Slatington, Pennsylvania; Malcolm Landry, Jeanerette, Louisiana; and Cary Ann Smith, Nicholasville, Kentucky. Back row, l to r: Jeff Neumeyer, Bonners Ferry, Idaho; Leroy Billman, Ostrander, Ohio; Mark Kreul, Fenimore, Wisconsin; Rick Blanchard, Medota, California, chairman; Guy Laflin, Olsburg, Kansas; and Jud Baldrige, North Platte, Nebraska, vice chairman.

ranged all the way from the Kansas Preview Show to the Kansas State Fair, American Royal, Fort Worth National Western Stock Show, and a host of state fairs including Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas and Missouri.

April 2, 1980 was to bring another era to the Laflin program. It was the birth of Baldrige Oscar, the son of Loma Lane Crackerjack 12J out of the famous FV Queen 399. He had a 365-day weight of 1,180 pounds with an impressive 118 weaning ratio. He placed second in the largest bull calf class at the 1981 Western National Angus Futurity. Oscar was also first in



Karen Laflin, National Junior Champion Showman



R.D. Laflin as a finalist at the national Junior Showmanship Contest in 1976.



Guy Laflin, Champion Showman at Kansas Junior Angus Show

Kansas Junior Angus Association and the American Angus Association Junior Program. Sharee, R.D. Karen, and Guy all played significant roles in positions of leadership. They proved to be extremely competitive in leading shows throughout North America. In 1976 at the National Junior Showmanship Contest, R.D. Laflin finished in the top four. At the 1978

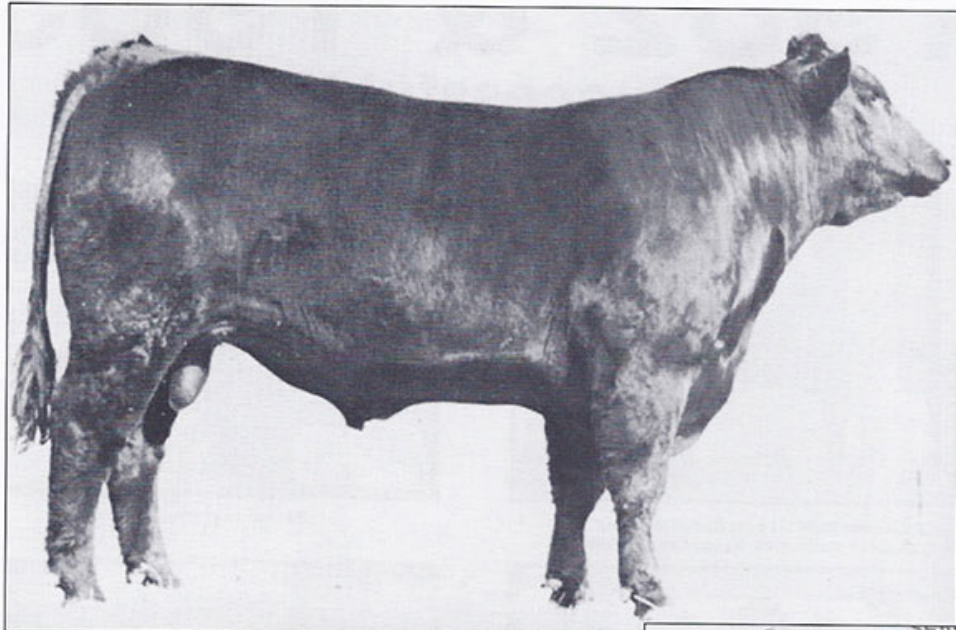
National Junior Showmanship Contest in Des Moines, Iowa, Karen Laflin was declared the National Champion with Bruce Kroecker of Hutchinson, Kansas, being second.

Two other Laflin children received recognition. Sharee received Honorable Mention in Kansas City in 1973, and Guy received Honorable Mention at the National Junior Show Showmanship Contest.

As time progressed, the Laflins proved that they could be extremely competitive with cattle produced on their own ranch. These achievements



Sharee Laflin, Champion Heifer, Junior Heifer Show at the National Western, Denver, Colo.



Baldridge Oscar, a bull that served a long and faithful tenure of service in the Laflin herd.

Baldridge Oscar. Laflin's Big Pine 4061 is a power packed breeding son of Pine Drive Big Sky. Laflin's High Flame 331 is a home bred bull that carries on the tradition. Laflin's Steak House 8000 leaves a legacy that lives on. A strong blending of the best AI sires in the breed continue to be used in the Laflin program.

January 13, 1994 proved to be a significant date. It was on this day that Circle A Western Hauler 4018 was born. This son of Hoff Great Western SC 456 out of the great Pathfinder

the April yearling class and went on to win Reserve Junior Champion next to High Voltage at the 1981 Nebraska State Fair. He reined as the Reserve Junior Champion Bull at the Kansas State Fair and was Reserve Junior Champion at the 1981 American Royal and the 1982 National Western. He received the Grand Champion honors at the Northern International Livestock Exposition in Billings, Montana. Laflins showed the Reserve Champion pen of 3 bulls at Denver Stock Show sired by Oscar. He proved to be a landmark sire in the Laflin program. Today, in the year 2000, Baldridge Oscar still has daughters in production in the Laflin program that are 15 and 16 years of age.

As the Laflin herd continued to expand and grow, new bulls came into

the program. Laflin Drakkar Noir was a Grand Champion Bull at the Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and New Mexico state fairs. Hoff High Flyer SC 7134, a power packed breeding son of Scotch cap



Oscar Sons, Reserved Champion Pen of Three at Denver National Stockshow.

from Doug Hoff in South Dakota, Hoff Galaxy SC 9147, a calving-ease bull from the Hoff program in South Dakota, Leachman BC Bando 317C from the Jim Leachman Cattle Company in Billings, Montana, Hoff Prototype SC 357 was the high-selling bull at the National Western Bull Sale Angus astronaut, Mark Lee took his photo into space. This bull was jointly owned by Doug Hoff and Summitcrest. Laflin's Hydraulic Jack is a home bred bull that really proved to be a spectacular sire and is sired by the Laflin-owned

cow Blackcap Lady 3187 GDAR proved to be one of the all-time greats in the Laflin program. Circle A Western Hauler 4018 began his show career as a bull calf in the fall of 1994 at the American Royal where he was selected as the Junior Bull Calf and Reserve Grand Champion Bull by Judge Howard Hillman of Bon View Farms of Canova, South Dakota. He then journeyed two weeks later to the North American International Livestock Show in Louisville, Kentucky, where he once again was



Hoff Prototype SC 357 goes into space.

WESTERN HAULER



“THE COMPLETE BULL”⁹⁹

Pedigree—Confirmation

Carcass—EPDs

“Western Hauler” was

*American Angus Association
Roll of Victory*

Bull of the Year 1995

Junior Get of Sire 1997

BIRTH		WEANING		MILK		COMB	YEARLING	
EPD	ACC	EPD	ACC	EPD	ACC	VALUE	EPD	ACC
+3.7	.94	+39	.89	+17	.66	+31	+79	.82

Calved: 1-13-94 • Bull +12137193 • Tattoo: 23-4

Hoff Great Western SC 456 +11656499	{	+R&J DFW 1388 #Hoff Miss SC 1112	{	+Dameron FT Worth +R&J Katherine 1276 #Scotch Cap Hoff Warpath of SC 618
Blackcap Lady 3187 GDAR #10388872	{	#QAS Traveler 23-4 Lady Blackcap 936 GDAR	{	#Band 234 of Ideal 3163 QAS Blackbird Eve 601 1 #Candolier Forever 376 Blackcap Pride 383 GDAR

Carcass Wt. +.26 Marb. +.10 Rea +.41 Fat -.02 %RP +.4 Scr +.67

Champions Sire by Western Hauler



Dam of Western Hauler
“Blackcap Lady 3187 GDAR”
Top daughter of
“QAS Traveler 23-4”
Pathfinder Cow

- 1997 Grand Champion Bull Fort Worth Stock Show
- 1997 Res. Champion Bull All American Angus Futurity
- 1997 Grand Champion Female Oklahoma State Fair
- 1997 Grand Champion Female New Mexico State Fair
- 1997 Grand Champion Female Kansas Angus Preview Show
- 1997 Grand Champion Female Jr. Heifer Show, Houston, Texas
- 1997 Grand Champion Female Jr. Heifer Show, Louisville, Kentucky
- 1997 Res. Junior Bull Calf Champion, Western States Futurity
- 1997 Grand Champion Jr. Get of Sire, Western States Futurity

- 1998 Reserve Jr. Champion Female Denver National Western
- 1998 Grand Champion Female, Jr. Show Denver National Western
- 1998 Grand Champion Female Fort Worth Stock Show
- 1998 Res. Senior Champion Female Fort Worth Stock Show
- 1998 First Place Jr. Get of Sire Kansas City American Royal
- 1998 Champion Summer Heifer Calf Kansas City American Royal

- 1999 Grand Champion Female Arizona National, Phoenix
- 1999 Supreme Champion Female, Over All Breeds, Arizona National

WESTERN HAULER – “THE CARCASS BULL”

Pedigree — Confirmation — Carcass — EPDs



*Doug Stanton FSBA, Dr. Herring & Bob Laflin.
 Dr. William Herring, University of Missouri meat specialist, said
 “Western Hauler is right where he needs to be, right across the board, for
 today’s market.”*

FED AT SUREME FEEDERS UNDER
 SUPERVISION OF DOUG STANTON, FSBA

Fat Thickness49 in.
 FEA Ave. (16 steers)12.0 sq. in.
 Marbling90
 (Upper Choice)
 Ave. Carcass Wt.722 lbs.

STEERS SLAUGHTERED
 AT 12 & 13 MONTHS OF AGE

Steers Fed Sired by
 Western Hauler16
 Total Steers Fed316

CW.....	+2.6
MB.....	+10
REA.....	+41
Fat.....	-.02
%RP.....	+4

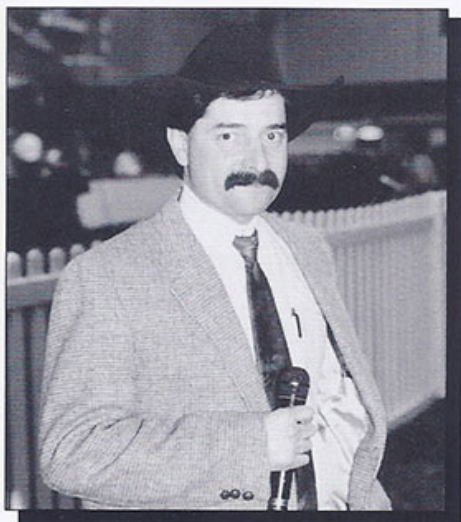
**“MUSCLE IS
 STILL
 THE NAME
 OF THE GAME.”**



Jeana Sankey, Council Grove, KS led C & S Miss Mariah 702 to Supreme Champion Female honors at the 1999 Arizona National Livestock Show, Phoenix, AZ. Being unanimously chosen by a panel of four judges this Feb. 23, 1997 daughter of Western Hauler was also the Champion Angus Female of the Open Show.

Junior Bull Calf and Reserve Grand Champion Bull.

Circle A Western Hauler 4018 has proven to be a landmark sire in the Laflin program. He has sired that extra length and bone and frame that purebred and commercial cattlemen are demanding today. Today he resides with pride at the Laflin Ranch where he has obtained the seniority as resident senior herd sire. His sons have eagerly been snapped up in the Laflin production sales by progressive cattlemen looking for more growth and pounds. Equally as



*R.D. Laflin judging
Houston Livestock Show, 2000.*

significant is the fact that his progeny have dominated major shows from border to border and coast to coast. In 1999, a daughter was selected as the Supreme Champion of Overall Breeds at the Arizona National. Even more stimulating is the fact that Western Hauler has become acknowledged as the carcass bull due to his ability to sire cattle with sensational carcass data.

The year 2000 brings much joy and excitement to the Laflin family as they celebrate a century — 100 years in the Angus breed. Only two other families in the history of this industry have had that privilege. The year 2000 is indeed exciting as it is the best year yet. The year 2000 finds Barb and Bob contin-

uing to breed and develop superior Angus cattle along with their son, R.D. and his son, Josh, at the Olsburg Ranch. R.D. is one of the hardest working young men around. He really enjoys showing cattle, and he has proven that Laflin-bred Angus can withstand the keenest of competition at the toughest shows in the land with Angus cattle backed with seven to eight generations of Laflin breeding that were bred, fitted, and exhibited right from the ranch.

As we look in on Guy, we find that he resides at Preston, Kansas. He has a young son, Clinton, who is a junior member of the American Angus Association. Together they carry on that burning desire to breed and develop Angus cattle. It is my prediction that Clinton will contribute greatly to the next 100 years.

Sharee is a past Kansas Angus queen and married Chris Sankey whose fam-



These young men are among the top five applicants that were chosen to receive scholarships from the American Angus Auxiliary. They were recognized for their achievements at the 1998 National Junior Angus Show held July 20-25 in Indianapolis, Ind. Pictured from left is Mary McCurry, American Angus Auxiliary vice president; Cody Sanky, Council Grove, Kan., first; Michael Rueber, Arlington, Iowa, second; Michael Harrison Jr., Woodbine, Mo., third; and Renee Driscoll, American Angus Auxiliary president.

ily, like the Laflins, are steep and deep in the Angus tradition. Born to this union are two children, Jeanna and Cody. They both excel in Angus activities. Cody was the first prize winner in the 1998 American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship Program and is presently serving as President of the Kansas Junior Angus Association. He was top



Laflin's Lady O 633, grand champion female at the 1998 southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show, Fort Worth, Texas. photo by American Angus Association.

placing individual at the FFA Livestock Judging Contest as well as being a member of the National Champion Livestock Judging Team at the 1998 National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. They both bred, fitted, and showed the Supreme Champion at the 1999 Arizona National sired by Western Hauler, a bull owned by Grandpa Bob and uncles R.D. and Guy. Their fate in the Angus industry is chiseled in stone, and their



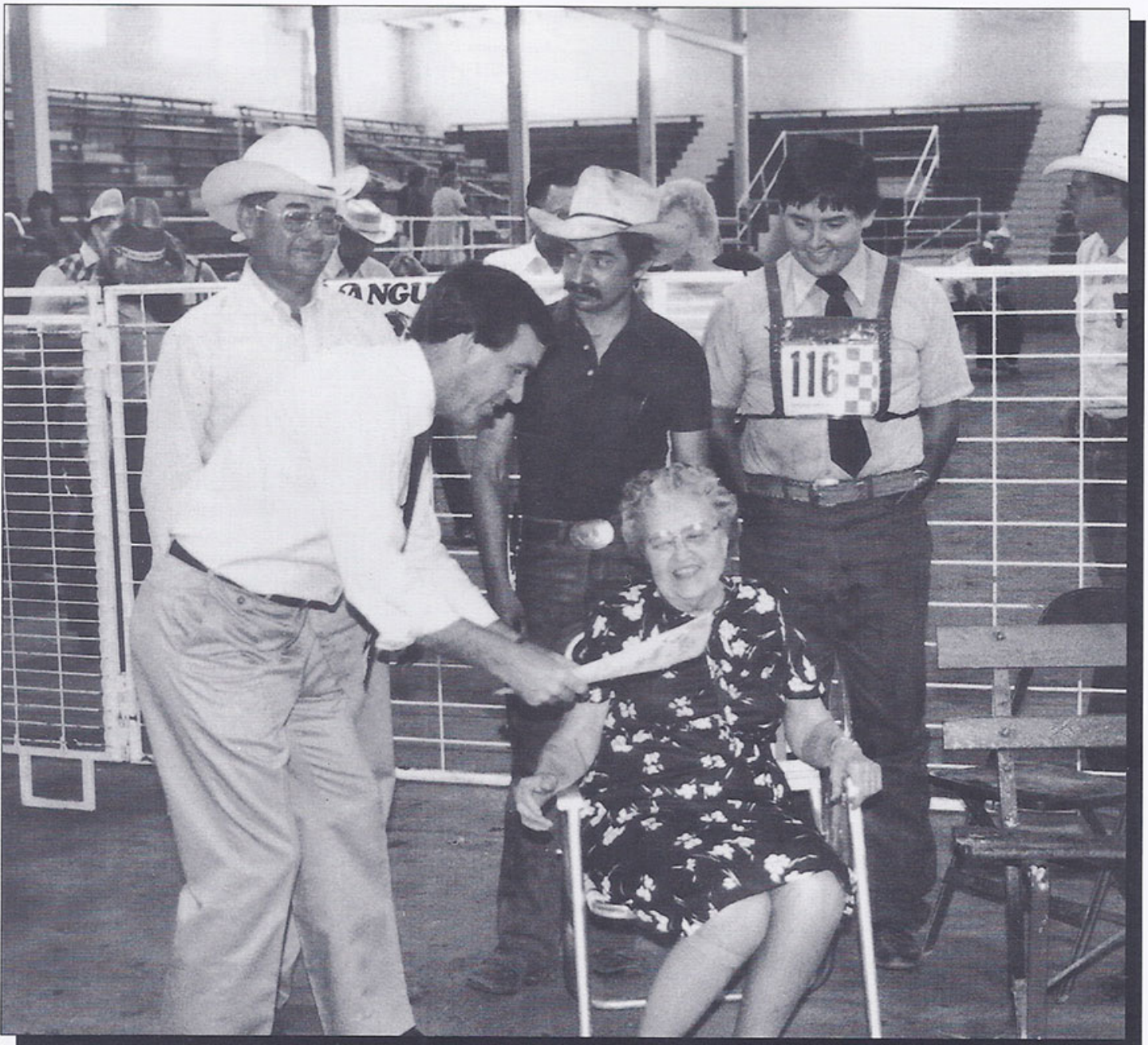
legacy will be long and exciting.

The year 2000 finds daughter Karen, past National Junior Showmanship first place winner. She is a graduate of Kansas State University and is now working on her Doctorate Degree. She is a past international missionary. She now resides in Council Grove, Kansas and just recently accepted a position with the Manhattan Public School System in establishing a new counseling program.

The Laflin family is truly the symbol

of the American tradition in its finest hour. As you have read their history, we have talked about the perseverance of Parley Laflin who was born in America over 200 years ago. We covered the foresight and wisdom of L.H. Laflin, an American institution. E.B. Laflin had statesman's qualities and the ability to lead. L.E. Laflin — an Angus sage and statesman. The influence he had on his sons, Bob and Lew, is shown by the fact that today they are pillars of rural America and reside on ranches. They

both continue to breed registered Angus cattle. The three sisters have all been immensely successful in their own chosen fields. We descend to Bob and Barb's children, Sharee, R.D., Karen and Guy, whose lives are intertwined with agriculture or agricultural people. And now, the seventh generation consists of Clinton, Jeanna, Cody and Josh. They are already sending bright signals, seven generations later, of their love and devotion for American agriculture and Angus cattle.



Bob's mother, Maree Laflin, resided in Crab Orchard, Nebraska. She died in 1986 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She always was a cheerleader for Bob and his family, never failing to attend major happenings of her Laflin family. Maree is receiving the Centennial Angus Herd award from Governor John Carlin, 1983.