

Newsmakers

► Items of interest **about** and **for** members of our Angus family. *Compiled by Linda Robbins.*

IN THE NEWS

Temple Grandin, world-renowned animal scientist at Colorado State University (CSU), was named among the 2012 inductees to the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame (CWHF) for her trailblazing work in livestock welfare and autism advocacy. She and nine others will be honored during the CWHF 2012 Induction Gala, March 8, at the Denver Marriott City Center.

Grandin, who has autism, has been a faculty member in CSU's College of Agricultural Sciences for 22 years. During that time, she has earned international acclaim as a pioneer in farm animal welfare and as a champion for people with autism and their families. Grandin impressed the CWHF selection committee as a woman who has overcome many obstacles, both in her historically male-dominated career field and as someone who has struggled with autism, said Lindy Conter, committee chairwoman.

For more information about the CWHF, visit www.cogreatwomen.org. For more information about Temple Grandin, visit www.colostate.edu/templegrandin.

IN PASSING

Richard Jerome Hunter, 56, Bowling Green, Ky., died Sept. 26, 2011, at Macon County General Hospital in Lafayette, Tenn.

Jerome was a deacon and lifelong member of First Baptist Rockfield. He was a graduate of Warren Central High School and was a farm manager with Red Hill Farms. He had been manager of Meng Farms of Bowling Green for more than 20 years.

Jerome always loved being with his family and his church family; he was always cheerful and joyful. He loved comedy, anything John Deere, going shopping, watching football, listening to gospel and jazz music, and his yellow Mustang.

Jerome loved to sing in both the men's and mass choirs. His love of the Lord was clearly evident as he led devotions or led a song. Jerome sang about being "On the Battlefield" and set an example for the church youth about a servant's heart. He was always ready to lend a hand. The only thing bigger than his heart was his smile.

Jerome is survived by his wife, Nicole Fishback-Hunter; daughters Laquita Hunter and Brittany Woodcock; sons Richard Hunter II and Matthew Woodcock; sisters Mary and Linda; brother Charles; and six grandchildren.

Jessyca "Jessy" (Garrett) Reems, 25, Gillsville, Ga., died Oct. 31, 2011, in a Nashville, Tenn., hospital. She was a native of Hall County, Ga., but had lived in Clay County for most of her life. She was a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, receiving a bachelor's degree in English.

She was a member of the Hayesville First United Methodist Church where she had been active and served as a Sunday School teacher. Jessy was an honorary chairperson for Relay for Life in Banks County, Ga. She was elected first vice president of the Georgia Angus Auxiliary and was instrumental in its activities. She was an active member of the Georgia Angus Association.

Jessy was the daughter of Tony and Becky (Scroggs) Garrett.

In addition to her parents, Jessy is survived by her husband, William; brother Brice; paternal grandparents Oscar and Emogene Garrett; three nieces; and two nephews.

Freeman Peek, 88, Winchester, Ind., formerly of Lynn, Ind., died Oct. 31, 2011, at Saint Vincent Randolph Hospital in Winchester.

He was born March 11, 1923, in Martin County, Ind., to John and Mara (Freeman) Peek. He had managed Angus herds, and owned and operated P&F Farm Service in Lynn. He married Marcella Huebner Sept. 8, 1947.

He was a member of the Indiana Angus Association and the American Angus Association, and had been recognized with the Historic Herd Award in 1991 for having a registered Angus herd in his family for more than 50 years.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by daughters Peggy, Rhonda and Christina; brother Bill; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Col. John Riffle (ret.), 95, Pleasant Hill, Mo., died Nov. 1.

John was born Nov. 14, 1915, on the family farm to John and Barbara Riffle. He joined the military four days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and retired from the U.S. Air Force after more than 33 years of service. He was an intelligence officer, advising President Truman regarding the situation in postwar Europe, and received two Presidential Citations and the Air Force Commendation Medal. Truman personally autographed the back of Riffle's colonel insignia with "HST."

John also worked for the American Red Cross in Europe and directed public relations and sales for Williams Meat Co. in Kansas City, Mo., for 25 years. He and his wife, Jean, were married at the Memorial Chapel in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Oct. 16, 1983. His partnership with Jean, whom he cherished, brought him a lifetime of happiness.

He was co-author of a 100-year history of the American Royal during its centennial celebration. He was active in 4-H as a youth and continued his involvement with the organization, receiving a 4-H Alumni Award. Riffle served on the Missouri State Fair Foundation Board and on the Missouri State Fair's Youth in Agriculture Committee. He and his wife received the Missouri Department of Agriculture's 2002 Farm Family Award and were the Department of Agriculture 1996 Family of the Year.

The Riffles lived on a Missouri Century Farm recognized by the University of Missouri (MU). Riffle's father was one of the original Angus cattle breeders in Missouri. In

Montana Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Billings, Oct. 21

► The Montana Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Ron Van Dyke**, Whitehall, treasurer; **Joe Goggins**, Billings, president; **Ken Cook**, Wolf Creek, vice president; **Kelly McCracken**, Turner; (standing, from left) **Brent McRae**, Jordan; **Tim Todd**, Ryegate; and **Clint Stevenson**, Hobson.



1990, John Riffle Angus Farms was recognized by the American Angus Association with the Historic Herd Award. They were inducted into the Missouri Angus Association Hall of Fame in 2006. In 2008, he received an Honorary Alumni Award from the MU College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1978.

John is survived by his wife.

Jane Sayre, 80, Churchville, Md., died Nov. 4 from complications of Alzheimer's disease.

Born Alice Jane Herman in Harrisburg, Pa., to Alice (Scollon) and Edwin Herman,



she grew up in Harrisburg. She married Lawrason Sayre in 1953, and they purchased their beloved Waffle Hill Farm in 1960.

The transplanted city girl adapted quickly to farm life,

taking an active role as tractor driver, cattle herder and nursemaid to chilled calves on the living room hearth. She also took over the farm's egg route, as well as managing freezer beef sales for the Angus herd.

Jane was very active in the Maryland Angus Auxiliary, serving as president and scholarship chair. For many years she coordinated the Angus trophies at county and area fairs. While she often jokingly mentioned that most of her "vacations" away from Waffle Hill involved looking at the back ends of all types of cattle, she truly loved and valued the friendships made across the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, as she and her husband traveled to sales, shows, meetings and farm tours.

She was also an active 4-H leader for 20 years, touching many through local clubs, the county camp and fair. Known more often as Aunt Janie than Mrs. Sayre, she also organized meals and provided motherly encouragement in many forms at countless horse and cattle shows and Pony Club events.

Jane dedicated much of her time to the Harford Day School in Bel Air, Md., and served as a trustee and president of the board for the school. She was a communicant at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, active in the Women's Committee, the Altar Guild and managed the FISH closet to help those in need. She helped lead a project to create a set of needlepoint kneelers for the altar, and they remain as a lasting tribute to her faith and love.

Beyond all her activities outside the farm, Jane's primary devotion was to home and

family. She took great pride in and was noted for her extensive vegetable and flower gardens. These, in turn, provided for her delicious jams, jellies and other treats. She was a wonderful baker, talented cook and gracious hostess. It was no coincidence that Waffle Hill was a popular location for farm tours or agency visits, and that most of those just happened to occur around the lunch or dinner hour.

Jane was a loving wife, devoted mother, caring friend and generous soul. She never sought the spotlight, but was always present and led by example. Through family, farm and friends she touched many lives and will be remembered as a lady of gentle grace and quiet strength.

Jane is survived by her husband; sons Lawrason Jr. and Ned; daughters Nancy Ann (a former editor of the *Angus Journal*) and Sally; sister Sally; and five grandchildren.

Paul Blackmon, 70, Tigerville, S.C., died Nov. 4.

Born July 25, 1941, in Camden, S.C., Paul was the son of W. Paul and Colzie (Watson) Blackmon.

He was a graduate of North Greenville Junior College and attended Furman University.

Paul retired from the Department of

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Natural Resources. He was a charter member of the Tigerville Volunteer Fire Department and later was elected as a commissioner.

He was a member of the Tigerville Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and music director.

Paul is survived by his wife, Doris (Brown) Blackmon; daughter Heather; and brother David.

William Glenn Boger, 79, Union Grove, N.C., died Nov. 6 at his residence.

He was born June 8, 1932, in Iredell County to Thomas and Mattie (Latham) Boger. He was a member of the Union Grove United Methodist Church and was a lifelong member of the Union Grove Ruritan Club. Glenn married Edith Henderson May 31, 1952.

He owned Boger Angus Farms where he raised purebred black Angus cattle. He was a member of the Cattleman's Association and had been a member of the American Angus Association since 1985. Glenn had served as a director for the North Carolina Angus Association for many years. He retired from the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and was a firefighter with the Union Grove Fire Department.

In addition to his wife, Glenn is survived by daughters Libby and Katie; son William "Bill" Jr.; sisters Ruth, Helen and Brenda; two grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and his cherished donkey, Jack.

Robert Boller, 84, Downs, Kan., died Nov. 19.

He was born Oct. 15, 1927, in Beloit, Kan., to William and Fay (McNary) Boller. He and his wife, Shirley, founded Black Velvet Angus Farm in 1956. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1958. He was a member of Downs United Methodist Church.

He is survived by sons Rick and Mark; daughter Debra; sister Wilma; brother Bernard; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

The Missouri Beef Industry Council (MBIC) announced three new board members and elected a new officer team at its October board meeting.

Justin Brown, Rolla, now represents Region 3. **Kenny Lenz**, Bunceton, will serve a one-year term as the Missouri Dairy Association representative. **Jason McCann**, Miller, represents the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

The new officer team includes **John Ridder**, Marthasville, chairman; **Sally Angell**, Centralia, vice chair; **Larry Runyan**, Stewartsville, treasurer; and **Glen Cope**, Aurora, secretary.

Matt Cravey and **Blaine Corners** have been added to the Pfizer Animal Health cattle technical services team as nutritionists.

James Mjelde, department of ag economics; **Patricia Smith**, department of biological and ag engineering; and **Tryon Wickersham**, department of animal science, received distinguished achievement awards for college-level teaching from the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Association of Former Students.

Steve Vale has joined Vets Plus Inc. as vice president, sales and marketing. He will direct the sales and marketing teams in order to grow strategic partnerships with key accounts.

For Accelerated Genetics, **Jill Strangstalien** has been promoted to animal health products and distribution manager. She will be responsible for providing an animal health product line that enables the company's customers optimum performance in their operations through calf care management, nutrition and feed quality, udder health and milk quality, and breeding supplies.

Aaron Palmer has joined as a sire analyst, responsible for evaluating, creating and procuring the highest genomic quality young sires in Iowa, California and other Midwest and western states. He will also represent the company at major breed activities and industry functions in the U.S. and abroad.

Barbara O'Flaherty has been promoted to genetics programs manager. She will be responsible for the direct supervision of the genetics assistants, as well as managing the company's PACE program and providing information on genomic and genetic evaluations to the sire analysts. She will coordinate contracts, genomic testing with Genetic Visions and AIPL, and bull pickups. In addition, she is responsible for all National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) cross-references and correspondences, and will ensure all foreign bulls marketed by the company are registered with the breed associations and enrolled with NAAB.



Editor's Note: This column is compiled by Assistant Editor Linda Robbins. To submit your "Newsmaker" item, email lrobbins@angusjournal.com or call 816-383-5245.