

# Murphy Painting Depicts Angus Association History

by Keith Evans

The history of the American Angus Assn. is capsulated in this new acrylic painting by Frank Murphy who has been the official American Angus Assn. artist for many years.

At the top center of the picture is the front entrance to the Association headquarters in St. Joseph. The scene reflecting in the window is actually a reproduction of a Murphy scenic painting that hangs in the entrance lobby.

In the upper left is one of the original handwritten registration certificates, and standing in front of it, holding a bull representative of the type being imported from Scotland in 1883 is the first secretary of the Association, Charles Gudgell. Gudgell was a farmer, cat-

tle breeder and importer who served the Association from 1884 to 1888.

The white haired, bearded man in the upper left is Thomas McFarlane, the first full-time executive officer of the Association (from 1888 to 1907). Under his administration the Association headquarters were moved to the Chicago Stockyards. Behind McFarlane is the "Stone Gate" entrance to the Chicago Stockyards. Behind the gate (not the way it would have actually appeared) is the famous Stock Yard Inn.

Below the Stone Gate is a portrait of the late S.C. Fullerton of Sunbeam Farms, Miami, Okla. In the mid-1920's Judge Fullerton was instrumental in saving the American Angus Assn. from bankruptcy, and in lead-

ing the fight to abolish the proxy voting system and institute a progressive form of representative government, much like the one used today. Fullerton served as president of the Association for six terms, from 1925 through 1928 and again in 1937 and 1938. No other president ever served more than three terms. Throughout the past century most presidents have served only a single one-year term.

The International Livestock Exposition held from 1900 through 1975 in the International Amphitheatre and sponsored by the Chicago Stockyards, helped establish the Angus breed as the premier beef producing breed in the world. The carcass with an International grand championship rosette on it represents the Angus breed's domination of the historic quality beef contest at the International. All but three of the International grand champion carcasses were Angus, and two of these three were Angus crossbreds.

In the center of the painting is a representation of a modern Angus bull and beneath his nose is a grand champion carload of fat steers at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. It was the National Western that helped expose Angus cattle to many Western cowmen and establish the breed in the West.

The man standing in front of the computer at lower left is Richard Spader, executive vice president of the Association in its 100th anniversary year. The computer and the weighing scene at lower left represent the modern age of cattle breeding. The adoption by the American Angus Assn. and by Association members of performance records programs has helped the Association and the Angus breed maintain its No. 1 ranking in the United States.

The young woman showing the heifer (lower left) represents the thousands of young people who have been involved in the junior activities programs of the American Angus Assn. The Association established the first junior activities department in the country and designed many junior programs that have been adopted by the other major beef breed organizations.

The poster itself is representative of the Association's long standing advertising and promotion program. For many years the American Angus Assn. has led the way in breed advertising and promotion and won many national awards for its advertising and public relations programs.

The painting has been made into a full size poster to be used throughout the Centennial year. If you would like to have a copy suitable for framing send \$3 to the Association. The print will be shipped to you postage paid in a protective mailing tube. **AJ**

