



Jim Orton

*Bible Thought: There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in his toil.
Ecclesiastes 1:24*

EDITORIAL

From Angus To Quarter Horses

For the last 15 years we have been with the *Angus Journal*, devoting full time to promoting only Angus cattle, but time marches on, things change, and this will be our last editorial for the *Journal*. We have decided to accept an offer as editor of the *Quarter Racing Record*.

Jim Orton Joins Quarter Racing Record

Editor of the *Aberdeen-Angus Journal* for the past six years, Jim Orton, has joined in a similar editorial position, the *Quarter Racing Record*. The *Quarter Racing Record*, a Quarter-Horse racing magazine, is owned and published monthly by Benny Scott, Fort Worth, Texas. Scott is well-known to many old-time Angus breeders, as he worked for the *Aberdeen-Angus Journal*, and was secretary of the Oklahoma Angus Association for several years.

Orton worked for the *Aberdeen-Angus Journal* for several years as a field representative in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and New Mexico, before coming to the office as editor in 1973. Earlier he was editor of the *Kansas Stockman* for 13 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Orton have four children, the youngest a student at Iowa University. They will make their home in Fort Worth.

As we leave, the registered Angus business is in the strongest position it has ever been in. Sure, the market was good in 1972 and 1973 when cattle numbers were down. The market was good in 1960 and 1961, another low time in the cattle cycle. But after each low time, the market seems to go a little higher, and the top end of the registered Angus bulls and females remained strong in price throughout the buildup and decline in cow numbers. Of course, the average and below average animals followed the commercial market trends.

This time the eyes of the entire industry seem to be on Angus cattle. Commercial bred Angus heifers are selling in groups for \$700 per head or more. The Angus bull sale at Denver this year was better than even the most optimistic breeders and fieldmen expected. When you see breeder after breeder leading their bull around the ring with a big smile on their face as they listen to the bidding, you know the bull is bringing more than he thought possible. Then too, we listened as publication fieldmen and regional managers of the American Angus Association put their guesses on the average in a pot. Only a few guessed higher than a \$4,000 average and several put down a smaller figure. The pot was made up after everyone had watched the Sale Bull Judging on Sunday. It is a strong market when the auctioneer is about ready to sell and two or three other breeders join in the bidding. This happened time after time in the National Western Sale at Denver where the average was above \$6,000 on the 50 bulls. In 1964, the first year we were with the *JOURNAL*, the bulls averaged \$886 at the National Western with the top bull bringing \$10,500.

It is good, in a way, to be leaving an industry when you know that there is a brighter future for your many friends. You know that Angus cattle have made more progress in recent years than any of the breeds. Bulls with yearling weights of 1,000 to 1,200 pounds are common today. Fifteen years ago it was unusual for a yearling bull to weigh 1,000 pounds. Most Angus females now mature at 1,150 to 1,200 pounds instead of 900 to 1,000 pounds. They have retained their fertility and milking ability and will be in strong demand for many years.

Since this is our last editorial, we will comment on the American Angus Association decision to buy the *JOURNAL*. We know that the executive officers and board of directors of the Association intend to increase the circulation, and keep the *Angus Journal* a quality breed

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POSTHOLES

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1976, thereby reducing the taxes each of us had to pay. The Post Office paid no taxes. On the contrary, it collected \$23 billion out of our pockets as taxpayers to help pay for the rest of its bills." ☐

EDITORIAL

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publication. They can succeed in doing that, but the new *Journal* executives need to have authority from the board to act, and make decisions. We know, having worked for the Kansas

Livestock Association Board of Directors for 13 years as editor of the *Kansas Stockman*, that decisions from a board of directors often come very slowly . . . sometimes too slowly when working under the ever present deadlines that magazines must meet.

A problem may have been created for the present *Journal* owners by making the *Journal* purchase announcement early. It may be hard for them to keep key personnel when they know that their job will only last for a few more months. Conversely, the early announcement may have helped me because as soon as Benny Scott, Publisher of the *Quarter Racing Record*, read it, he contacted me to go to work for him. At my age, it seemed best to go to work for him and not speculate on what might be available on the new *Journal* staff. While we will now lose daily contact with the breeders, we will continue to have an active interest in the breed and treasure our many memories of the last 15 years. ☐

Serious Loss To Vet Med Research Center

Research at the only specialized center in the United States for studying hereditary and birth defects in cattle has been seriously disrupted as the result of a fire of undetermined origin which destroyed two large, old, wooden barns and two nearby loafing sheds which were a major part of the animal resource facilities of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Lost in the Saturday evening (January 27) blaze were 10 head of cattle being used for genetic and breeding research by the Center's director, Dr. Horst Leipold, professor of pathology.

Dr. Leipold said the animals, some irreplaceable, were involved in four different projects.

"Three projects have been lost, including one which has been underway for five years, and another has been seriously affected."

Dr. Leipold said the experiments

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BUTS PREDICTS

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shorter breeding seasons 5) shorter calving seasons 6) uniform calf crops. However, he emphasized the need for a proper attitude, realistic goals, taking time to make it work, the use of a quality A. I. program, and making sure animals are "eligible" for breeding, as critical ingredients for a successful synchronization program.



CHAMPION STEER

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Dick Burns and Weaver Angus Farm, Peoria, Illinois.

Reserve Champion Angus Steer was a 1,215-pound entry of Judy Fitzpatrick, West Terre Haute, Indiana. Her steer sold to Billy Martin Western Wear of New York City, owned by Billy Martin of the New York Yankees who was on hand to do the bidding. The animal sold for 90¢ a pound.

Feeder Steer Winners

Grand Champion Feeder Steers was a pen of Angus crossbreds shown by Jim Ellsworth, Leadore, Idaho. The steers were sired artificially by MSU Freestate 343 and out of crossbred cows. The feeder cattle shown as pens of five and six head can be sold at auction. The six steers brought an average of \$3,650 per head, with the top steer cashing at \$5,100.

Reserve Grand Champion Pen of Feeder Steers was the Champion Angus entries of Goldspur Cattle Company, Collinsville, Oklahoma. The steers averaged 628 pounds and sold at auction for an average of \$1,683, with the top steer bringing \$3,700.

Reserve Champion Angus Feeder Steers were exhibited by Uhrig Ranch, Hemingford, Nebraska. The steers weighed 668 pounds and sold for an average of \$891 per head.

Judging the feeder cattle show were Bob Dorsey, Eaton, Colorado; Stanley Butt, Havana, Illinois; and Willard Wilson, Thermopolis, Wyoming.

Carcass Show Winners

The Champion Angus Steers and the Reserve Grand Champions of the show were shown by Orval Hartman, Pueblo, Colorado. The carcasses averaged 649 pounds and graded USDA Choice with an average yield grade of 2.25. The average fat thickness over the 12th rib was .4 inch and the loin eyes averaged 12.91 square inches.

Champion Angus Heifers and

Reserve Grand Champions of the show were exhibited by Reynolds Cattle Company, Longmont, Colorado. The carcasses averaged 600 pounds, graded USDA Choice with a yield grade of 2.8. Fat cover averaged .54 inch and the loin eyes averaged 11.9 square inches.

VET MED LOSS

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involved a hemophilia bleeder trait, an eye defect, a skin condition which makes cattle extremely susceptible to temperature changes, and a reproductive system abnormality.

Twelve other cattle being used by

Dr. Leipold in other research either were outside the barns or were evacuated from the barns. Possibility of losses among these animals is high because of exposure to near zero temperatures and because of smoke inhalation.

Also lost in the fire was a goat used by another professor for teaching purposes.

The fire was discovered at 4:45 p.m. by a Kansas State University student working at the barns. The University and Manhattan Fire Departments responded to the fire alarm and were

able to save six nearby wooden structures.

Dr. Don Trotter, dean of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, said it would take some time to assess the losses.


An investigation of the cause of the fire is underway.

The barns and loafing sheds lost were located just northeast of the new Kansas State University Veterinary Medicine Complex. They were part of a plant built before World War I to manufacture anti-cholera hog serum for public sale. The plant was closed in 1930 and the buildings have been used

by the Kansas State University veterinary school since then.

The loss suffered from the fire which destroyed a major part of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine's animal resource facilities has been placed at \$228,000.

Gene Cross, associate vice-president for university facilities, said this estimate included \$175,000 for the two barns, \$5,500 for the sheds, \$32,500 for feed and equipment, \$12,000 for livestock, and \$3,00 for cleanup.

Cross said the "probable" cause of the fire was a short in an electrical panel. 

Horton Is Missouri Association President

Members of the Missouri Angus Association elected Myron Horton, Maryville, as president for the coming year at their annual meeting recently held in Columbia.

Other officers are vice-president, Richard Pemberton, Marshall; secretary, Jim Hackler, Taylor; and Fred Blades, Holliday, is treasurer.

Directors include Ken Gillig, Aurora; Marshall Simpson, Hartsburg; and Terry Holt, Savannah. 