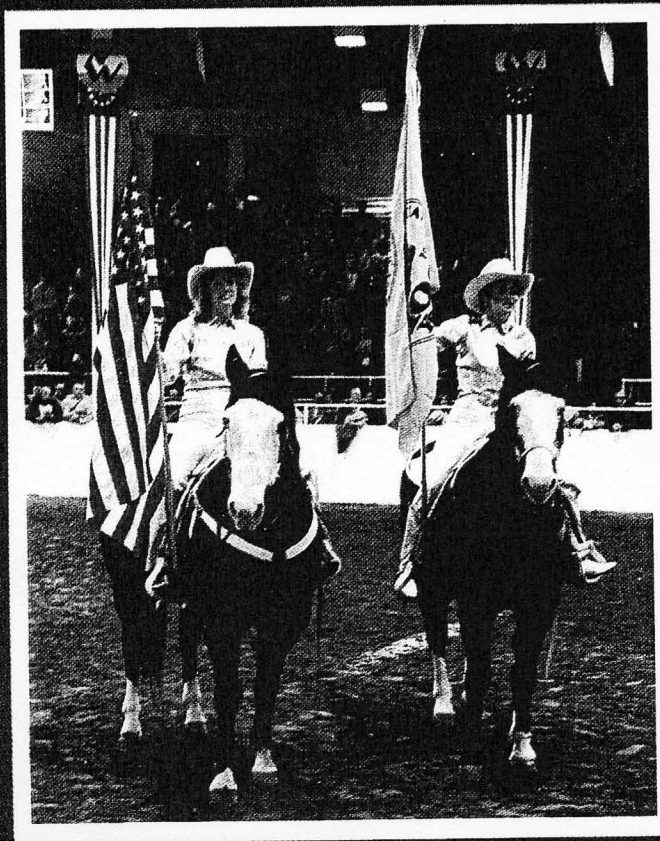


DENVER

Opens

CENTENNIAL

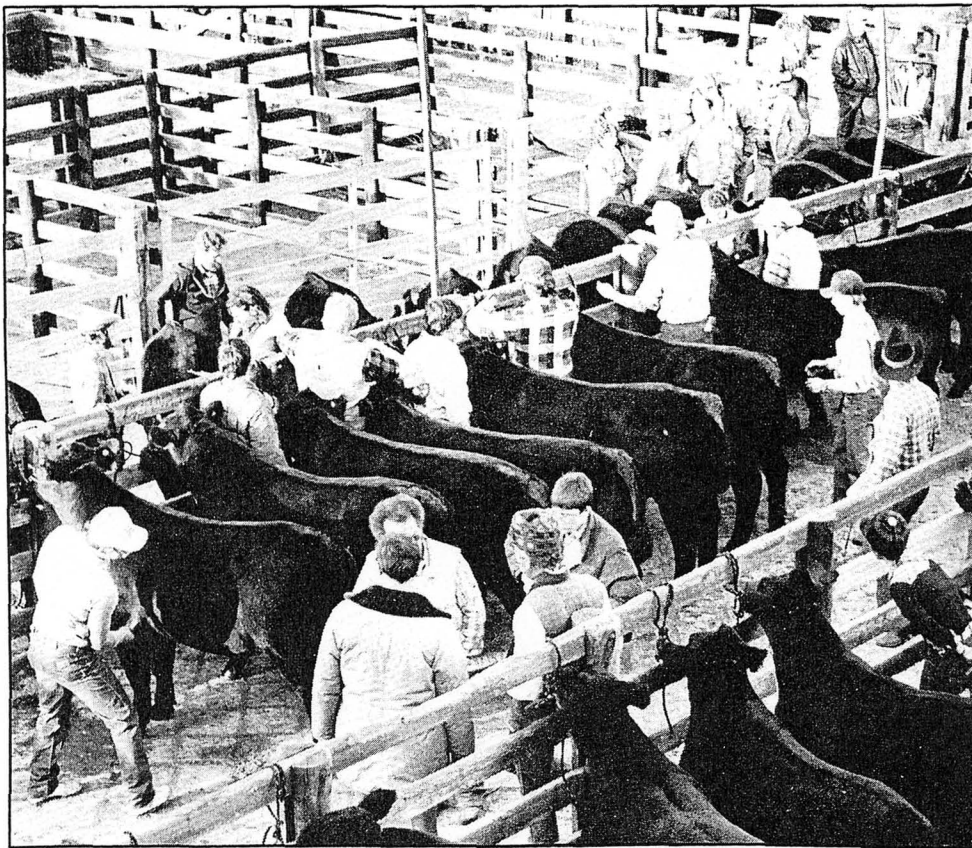


ANGUS CAPTURE INDUSTRY ATTENTION
IN SHOW THAT SPARKLES WITH QUALITY

DENVER— WHAT THEY THOUGHT



The 1983 National Western. It's history now, but Denver happenings are still the center of many cattlemen's conversations. Talk has included comments suggesting change as well as compliments. Topics ranged from the crowds to the depth of classes, from promotion opportunities to the expense of competing. We asked a few exhibitors, spectators, judges and others involved with the show for their views. It seems to be a general consensus that the Centennial kickoff was the strongest gathering ever and that the Angus breed was well represented—but everyone had some interesting points. Read on to see what your fellow breeders thought.



Finishing touches prepared the grand champion Slagle carload for the show.

Gregg Butman, Pipestone, Minn.

Judge Gregg Butman placed bulls in the yards for the second year running. Although numbers in that category may be down, he feels the quality was stronger than ever.

"I was very pleased with the quality we got to judge, and the depth of classes on the hill was unbelievable—some great heifers were standing way down in class—breeders don't bring cattle these days unless they're really good."

And in Butman's mind, that is exactly what the breed needs to have on display so that the public can see the changes and progress made in the Angus industry.

"We've gotten our cattle bigger framed and more useful to the beef industry...it's better to have fewer numbers of this quality than lots of cattle that don't represent the breed as well."

As for changes at the National Western, he had several comments. He would prefer to judge the groups outside (for judges' and exhibitors' sakes), but he realizes you can't always count on this year's beautiful weather. Different class breaks yielded closer age groups, a plus from his standpoint.

Crowds? It was good to see so many people out for the show, but the weekend city visitors coupled with limited barn space made things on the hill more congested than ever. Time was too scarce also. The show is getting so big out there, Butman says, that it is difficult for people to see everything or visit.

"If a breeder spends the time and money necessary to show, he needs the opportunity to visit and talk about his operation."

Ben Houston, Platteville, Colo.

Not only an Angus breeder, but vice president of the National Western as well (and director for 15 years), Ben Houston has a deep-rooted interest in Denver happenings. He dubs this year's show a success—and takes all credit for the excellent weather!

On a more serious note, he comments that the Angus event was well coordinated

George Becker, Blue Top Angus, Enderlin, N.D., made the comment, "I just wanted to do something for those juniors," after his bid bought the heifer donated to the Centennial Angus Sale. His \$20,000 goes into the Angus Foundation Fund for use toward junior activities.



and well organized. Bob Tallman's remarks during the opening ceremony highlighted the Centennial kickoff in Houston's mind, and the Angus show was the best yet. "More good ones and less that you don't like" is his description of the breed's representative group; "an indication of progressive breeding I guess."

A broader reflection on the National Western includes these remarks: "We look forward to the sales here to be trend setters for the remainder of the year in our industry. All of our junior sales—steers, barrows and market lambs—were up substantially. More people have indicated their attitudes in the future of our industry by their response in these events...people are getting more involved and we have more support of the show all the time."

For Houston, one of the key events of the 1983 show was the featured Stockman Days, a special two-day schedule directed specifically to commercial breeders, the backbone of the entire industry. The new program was very well received in its first year, he says.



"If you're going to do it, do it right." Dan Wagner, Uptown Acres herdsman, Holstein, Iowa, gets down to some serious clipping.

Jim Bradford, Guthrie Center, Iowa

As a pen and carload judge, Jim Bradford of Bradford Bros. studied cattle in the yards as thoroughly as anyone. He feels we saw more growth in the bulls and stiffer competition than ever before. He was impressed by breeder interest as well.

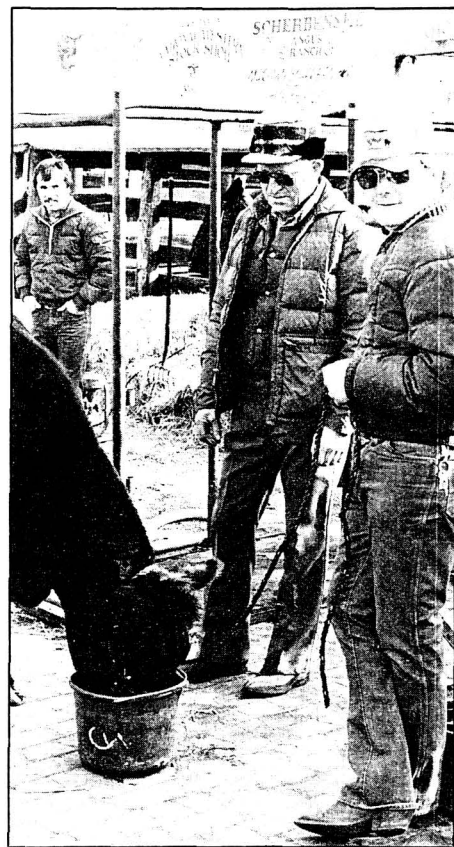
"If measured by the crowds attending Angus events in Denver," he says, "enthusiasm for the breed seemed unequalled. It's almost mind bending to see the tremendous change in growth of our cattle as evidenced in the Denver exhibits (some has to be attributed to management differences).

"When the percentage of cattle being shown is so small, I only hope that greater use of Sire Evaluation by show winners as well as others can give us some common ground to base our selection and breeding decisions upon."

Bradford does not want to sound negative, but he feels the flag needs to be thrown up with respect to fertility. He is concerned that indirect selection against testicle size through strong selection for long bone growth is surfacing.

"As I watched the bull show, it often appeared that the testicle size of our bulls has decreased. Is this what we are observing, or is it an optical illusion of relativity? I definitely think we need to present the judge with testicle measurements and AHIR data. Fertility is still the first requisit for a profitable commercial industry.

"Perhaps the Angus industry is analogous to riding a sled down a wooded mountain slope. Avoiding the trees at 20 miles an hour isn't so trying, but if we accelerate to 100



Don Wick, (right) Wintred, S.D., holds the reins of the South Dakota Angus Assn. presidency as well as this heifer; Steven Sibernagel (left), Napoleon, N.D., and Charles Hart, Hart Angus, Frederick, S.D., look on.

I would hope emphasis in the yards continues because this is really where you get the commercial people...there was a time when it was the only place to buy bulls with any uniformity...

—Myron Fuerst

If a breeder spends the time and money necessary to show, he needs the opportunity to visit and talk about his operation.
—Gregg Butman

miles per hour, we hope our guardian angel takes over...or we hope we can throw into operation a guidance system more sophisticated than the eye. This is where historical records through AHIR becomes mandatory to avoid that deadly collision with the trees on our accelerated course."

June Hagenbuch, Lawrence, Kan.

June Hagenbuch, president-elect and chairman of the hospitality committee for the American Angus Auxiliary, was looking ahead last spring to the Centennial show—she made sure there would not be any calving duties to keep her home from Denver.

Many of her hours at the National Western were spent in the Angus booth and, although she did not have much of a chance to watch the Angus events, her reflections on the show are certainly positive. She feels the Centennial really had an impact on the crowd and that many people made a special effort to get to Denver this year. If business at the booth is any indication of that fact, she's right; all the Centennial jewelry sold, the belt buckles enjoyed a similar demand, and interest was strong in the Association's posters and decanters as well.

Along with the many Angus breeders who visited the booth, reports June, numerous school teachers, 4-H leaders and others interested in education stopped by. The response to the Auxiliary's beef promotion kit and Association booklets was evidently fabulous.



Last minute touch-up is given by Roger Bowers of Kadence Ranch, St. Ignatius, Mont.

"I was really impressed," comments June in summary, "with the help we had at the booth. In the past it's been a problem, but not this year...ladies came by and offered to help from all over the country. We especially appreciated the help of so many juniors, too."



Official Association "ear men" in action were John Barton and Bill Powell.

Myron Fuerst, Rhinebeck, N.Y.

To Myron Fuerst, who has attended many National Western shows in his Angus career, the audience and crowds for Angus events not only seemed larger than ever this year, but folks seemed much more attentive as well. Both were indications of the show's 1983 power.

"The opening ceremony for the Centennial was very impressive and well-conceived," says the New Yorker. He also complimented the American Angus Assn. on simplifying things for breeders trying to make their way back and forth to the stock show. "It might be a minor point, but I think the buses (from the Hilton to the show and back) should be continued in the future. It will encourage people to come if they know there is that kind of transportation—it sure beats fighting for a taxi.

"And the badges were a great idea too (each breeder could purchase a special season pass when they registered)...Denver is the cattlemen's show of the country, so anything the Association does to encourage people to come is great."

As for the actual show, Fuerst's comments zeroed in on participation in the yards. "I would hope the emphasis here continues because this is really where you get the commercial people...there was a time when it was the only place to buy bulls with any uniformity in makeup and pedigree."

Now, of course, there are many other good

(Continued on page 103)



Steve Radakovich (left), Earlham, Iowa, braved the wind and provided a nice display of The Radakovich Cattle Co. for visitors in the yards.

DENVER—WHAT THEY THOUGHT

(Continued from page 76)

Angus bull sales across the country, but Fuerst feels that the bull sale on the hill in Denver has had an effect on people buying bulls in the yards as well (they tend to wait and see what happens in that sale before buying).

Still, the National Western is one of the greatest places to see people—that keeps him coming back.



What's your pleasure . . . a sweet roll from Byron Beukema, Newton, Iowa, or a chew of Mail Pouch from Dale Runnion. *ANGUS JOURNAL?*

Eloi Stassen, Marshall, Minn.

"We were caught between a rock and a hard spot in class with Dr Spock and High Voltage," offers Eloi Stassen. His bull was the product of 32 years in the business and the best they ever raised—yet Stassen feels it has become almost impossible for a breeder to compete on this level without buying the extreme tops. And, he says, large firms seem to have a hold on all the winners; if they don't own them, they go out and buy a piece of them, creating a very fast track for small breeders.

The same goes for the Denver sale in Stassen's mind. Without an extreme top, it is hard to justify the expense of going. With all the costs involved, it is pretty expensive to sell a bull in Denver.

What makes it worth taking cattle to the stock show, then? The publicity and exposure, the opportunity to visit with so many cattlemen in one place. Stassen had many people express interest in his cattle even though they were not big winners. Crowds were larger than ever this year, he noticed, but he thought enthusiasm of breeders wanting to buy cattle or semen seemed subdued in the barns.



Terry Cotton is attended by his North Dakota personal bodyguards, Bob and Larry White (left and center), White Angus Ranch, Bowman.



In thoughtful contemplation, Angus show judge Howard Hillman, Canova, S.D., rests between classes.

Otto Uhrig, Hemingford, Neb.

"I really wish the American Angus Assn. would participate more strongly in the feeder show right up to the steer show...we started showing in Denver in 1974 and since then we've seen the straight Angus classes drop almost completely out. Hereford classes, on the other hand, have had the support and those classes have grown."

Otto Uhrig was only able to watch the feeder show (in which Uhrig Ranch participated quite successfully) and the Catch-It-Calf show for which he provided the calves. He



Ankony Shadow Isle's crew spares a few smiles before fitting up the Ankony carload.



Judging the Angus judging are these Montanans. Pat Goggins, Western Livestock Reporter, Billings and Merrill Ostrum, Gold Block Angus, Boyd.

The blacks have so much to offer, but anything we hear now is about a "something-Angus" cross—Angus have always had to take the back seat. —Otto Uhrig

Angus breeders right now can find about any kind of animal that a breeder could want...things look good and the turnout in Denver reflects breeder enthusiasm even in depressed conditions. —Wayne Smith

did a lot of visiting in those circles, though, and feels that many share his thoughts about Angus steer classes.

"The blacks have so much to offer, but anything we hear now is about a 'something-Angus' cross—Angus have always had to take the back seat." We need to capitalize on black steers that win, he explains.

Uhrig was glad to see Angus steer classes return to the National Western schedule this year, but he encourages Association support of that type of event.

Greg Krueger, Coatesville, Pa.

Greg Krueger of Genetics Unlimited Inc., West Grove, was at the halter of the 1982 National Western grand champion female and was named herdsman of the year in 1981. This year he was a spectator—and really enjoyed watching the show.

"Both the bull and female shows were excellent. Folks have to keep what they see out there in perspective, though, and realize that those animals are some of the tops in the nation. You don't just walk in and win. Breeders certainly shouldn't be discouraged with their own cattle because they don't match up to Denver entries—those cattle are outstanding."

Krueger analyzed the cattle much more since he was not fitting or showing, and he was extra impressed with the females. (Most of his studying was done in the makeup area...there were too many people to see things from ringside, he says.) He did express a concern about the young calves that are pushed extremely hard for growth, however.

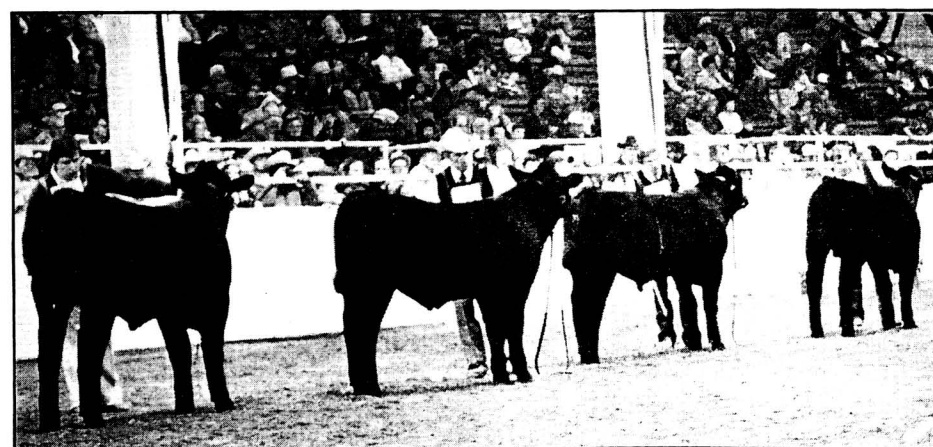
"There is a limit to what we should do for



Doug Worthington, Quirk Angus show cattle manager, Hastings, Neb., starts filling another of his charges.

the sake of winning a show. We certainly can't sacrifice milk in these females."

The general attitude of breeders was good, he thought, but economic hard times were reflected in the Centennial sale—Krueger did not feel the sale action matched the caliber of cattle consigned.



From this junior bull calf lineup Judge Howard Hillman pulled Crackerjack Brutus 512 (left).



Getting close to his work is Bill Bowman of Sydenstricker Angus, Mexico, Mo.

Wayne Smith, Winigan, Mo.

Dr. Wayne Smith, Missouri Angus Assn. fieldman, says Denver was the strongest show he had ever been to and was particularly impressed with the depth in the bull classes.

"All the barons of the Angus business were there competing...the showdown of all the highly promoted bulls...everyone got to see what the breed has to offer. And the pavilion was full for every Angus event—Angus people turned out in the greatest numbers."

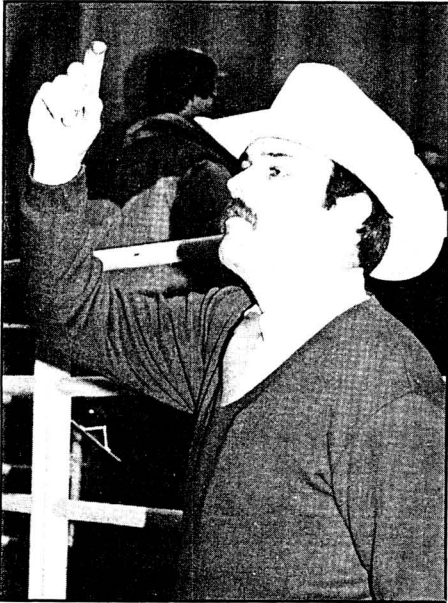
Smith was especially pleased to see so many Missouri breeders at the show; he visited with about 140 folks from the "show-me" state himself. A very competitive year in tan bark circles accounted for the outstanding attendance, but the Centennial year held some extra drawing power too, he says. The opening ceremony was great, kicking off a year that looks to be a good one for Missouri Angus breeders. Smith explains:

"Decreasing interest rates, lower cattle numbers, more pasture acreage resulting from the PIK program...things are in our favor and many cattlemen who have been criss-crossing for years are now returning to a basic black cow herd. Angus breeders right now can find about any kind of animal that a breeder could want.

"Things look good and the turnout in Denver reflects breeder enthusiasm even in depressed conditions."



Proud as she can be, Sara Bowers of Kadence Ranch, St. Ignatius, Mont., leads out her junior show grand champion heifer, Kadence Betty Erica 114.



A keen eye watches the crowd as Mike Darnell asks for a little more in the Centennial Angus Sale bidding.



The Centennial Angus showing was well worth these California smiles bestowed by Ralph Clark, Plymouth, a former WSAA executive secretary, and Buck Stevens, S/2 Ranch, Point Reyes.

Folks have to keep what they see out there in perspective, though, and realize that those animals are some of the tops in the nation. —Greg Krueger

Fred Knop, Kansas City, Kan.

As editor of *The Drovers Journal*, Fred Knop took in more facets of the National Western than the average Angus show spectator. And according to him, our events stacked up well.

"The Angus judging was very well presented," he comments. "The way the ring was divided and the view that spectators had resulted in many positive comments and in my mind was much superior to the arrangement of previous years. A good job of organization allowed classes to move in and out efficiently—the show moved very fast.

"As for the cattle themselves, I don't think there was another show there with the depth or quality throughout the classes of the Angus show—that aspect was excellent."

The Conovers. Al and Dee, North Platte, Neb., sat at ringside during the carload show.



Joe Huckfeldt of Huckfeldt-Krebs, Gordon, Neb., takes congratulations from Merrill Ostrum of Gold Block Angus, Boyd, Mont., as son Tom Huckfeldt looks on.

The Centennial? From an editor's viewpoint, it was very clear that Denver was a major event in the observance of the American Angus Assn.'s 100th year celebration. Knop also came away with the feeling that the Centennial promotion was responsible, to a degree, for the numbers and interest of the audience.

"The National Western ranks up with the finest stock shows in the nation, perhaps the world," he adds, "and I was very impressed with the efforts of the show management to bring people to Denver. The gallery was most impressive and it was evident that people were there out of interest and were paying close attention to what was going on in the ring."



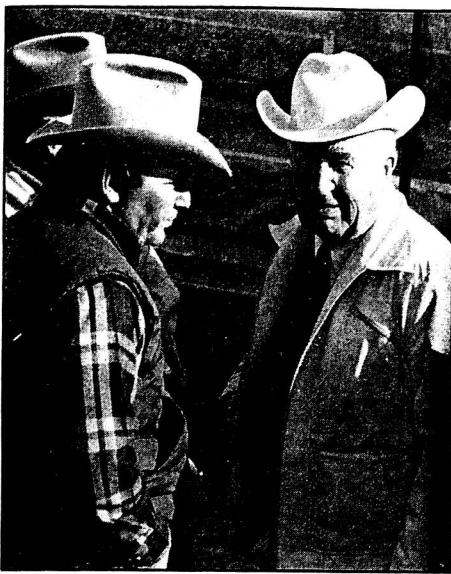
The enthusiastic Centennial Angus Show crowd filled the stands and stood five deep around the show ring wall.



One of the pen and carload judging trio. Jim Bradford, Guthrie Center, Iowa, looks over an entry.



Andy Schuler, Chapman, Kan., holds the attention of Dean Hurlbut, director of activities for the Association.



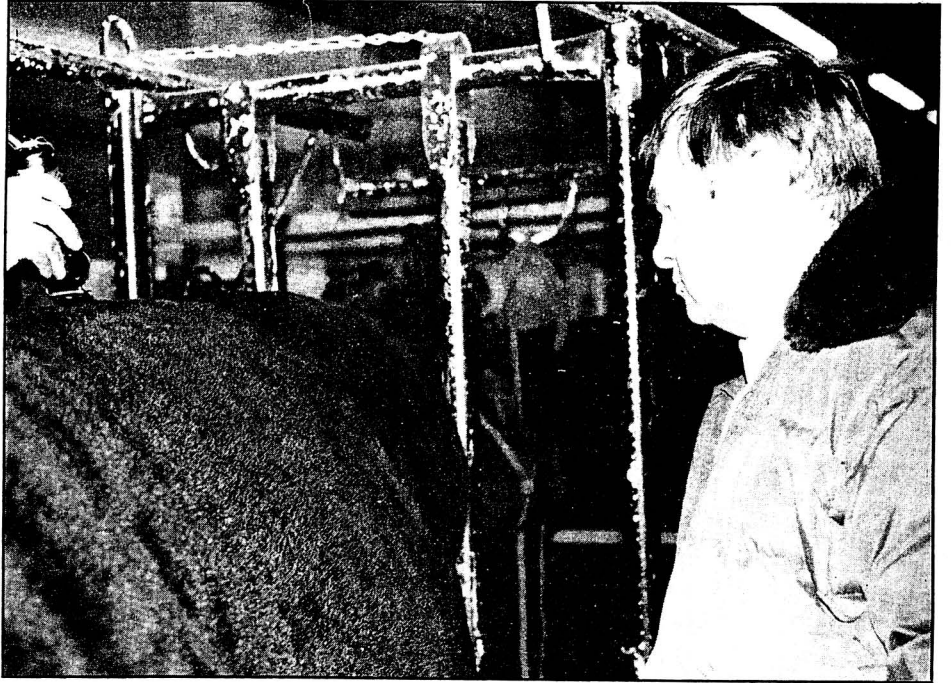
Near shirtsleeve weather in the yards brought these two together to chat: Pat Griswold, Collinsville, Okla., and Tim Pierce, Loyalton, Calif.

Fred Johnson, Summitville, Ohio

President of Summitcrest Farms, a successful exhibitor at the 1983 National Western, Fred Johnson comments: "As usual, Denver was a great cattle event. All Angus events conducted by the American Angus Assn. were well staged and managed with credit to our breed...I particularly liked the way the yard show was conducted. The judges were competent and it's rewarding to have the cattle analyzed carefully after one goes to all the time and expense of exhibiting a carload—certainly a tremendous improvement over 1982 when the judges never saw the carloads lined up in competition in class."

Johnson offers some constructive criticism along with his compliments, though. "We certainly can do without two handlers on one animal in a bull show...I question the Association's endorsement of embryos and flushes in our National Western bull sale. Guess I must be a little old fashioned when

If measured by the crowds attending Angus events in Denver, enthusiasm for the breed seemed unequalled...the flag needs to be thrown up with respect to fertility, though. —*Jim Bradford*



Overseeing Dr Spock's precision clipping is Windy Acres Angus general manager, Jerry Fitzgerald, Harrison, Neb.



Tom Adams, Lovana Farms, Clarkesville, Ga., enjoys the cattle talk in the yards after the feeder steer judging.

We look forward to the sales here to be trend setters for the remainder of the year in our industry. All of our junior sales were up substantially. —Ben Houston

The Brothers Baldrige, Jeff (left) and Jud, North Platte, Neb., showed heifers to first and second places in Class 7.

it comes to selling a pig-in-a-poke... The Brown Palace show is hardly representative of our industry... Groups should be shown last—Denver 1983 proves that.”

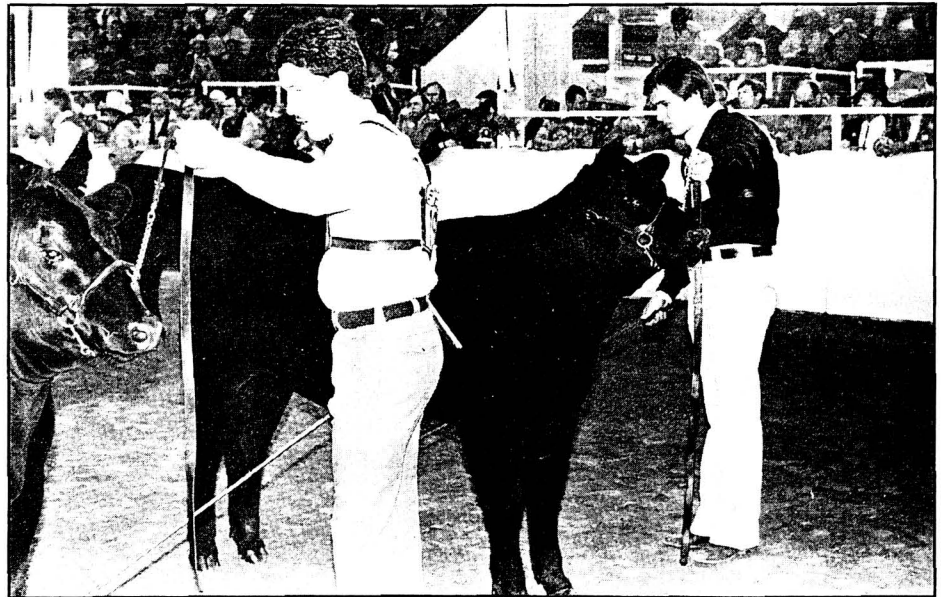
**Dean Hurlbut,
American Angus Assn.**

Director of Activities Dean Hurlbut returned home from Denver in a good mood... for the first time in many years. The reason?

“The cooperation from everyone was excellent this year—more so than ever before. Attitudes of the stock show staff, breeders, exhibitors, spectators, and the ANGUS JOURNAL and Association staff were different—the change was a positive one.

“Of course,” he adds, “good weather can do wonders, but that wasn’t all of it. Enthusiasm of everyone there—those connected with the show and those who just came to watch—helped make the events go smoothly. We hoped for the Centennial show to be the best ever and it was.”

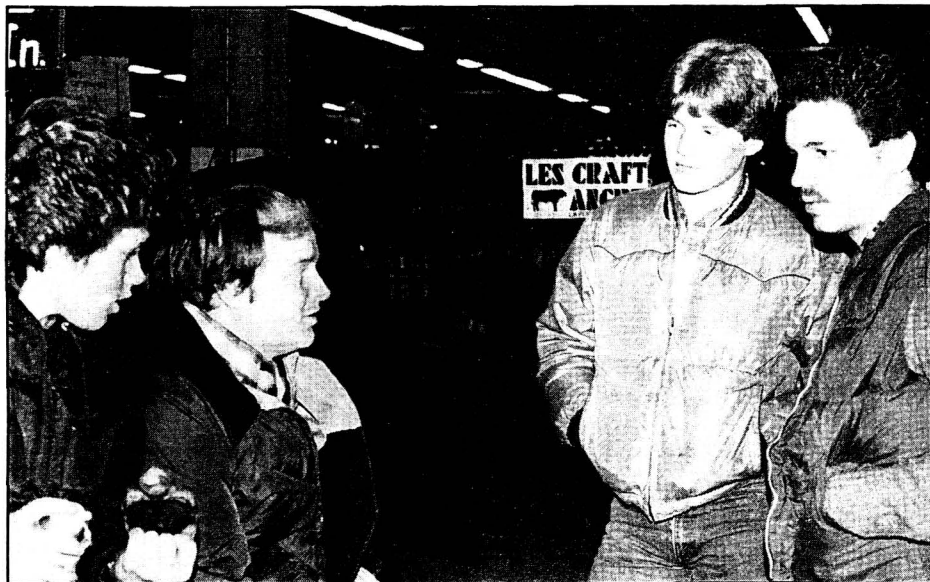
Hurlbut and other Association staff heard many comments from people not in the Angus business, too. Their remarks compli-



mented the Angus industry on its breed promotion, type change, breed improvement tools such as AHIR, junior programs and much more.

With positive feedback from those observing progress in the Angus breed as well as from those active in making those advancements happen, you could help but come home with a smile.

—We hope everyone did!
AJ



“More women becoming active in the Angus industry would be a definite plus,” says Joyce Bell, Green Brae Angus, Rocklin, Calif., and Maraleigh Kiefer, Docs’ Angus, Quincy, Calif. Where was Carol Silveira?

Kent McFarland (second from left) shares some words of Angus wisdom in the barn with Susan Patton (left) and Scott Bohlen of Premier Beef, Fowlerville, Mich., and Kevin Seese of Les Craft Angus, LaPorte, Ind.

I was very impressed with the efforts of the show management to bring people to Denver. ...It was evident that people were there out of interest and were paying close attention.
—Fred Knop