



SAYRE FARMS

...the final chapter

by Linda Wells

Sayre "Pat" and Eugenie MacLeod



For the past two decades, Sayre Farms of Phelps, N.Y., has been quite a familiar name to Angus folks across the country. Sayre has excelled in the show ring, and their cattle (at private treaty and in consignment sales) have been among the highest averaging in the nation. So when the announcement swept the country that Sayre "Pat" and Eugenie MacLeod had sold their herd, reaction from those in the business was disappointment. But Eugenie assured everyone, "The time was right to sell."

The time was right for several reasons. (1) Mr. MacLeod's health had been slowly declining for the past six years. And (2) the MacLeods felt their program had reached its peak. Last fall they consigned 16 lots to the Cow Power VIII sale and grossed nearly \$295,000. A breed record was set when one of those lots, a March 1980 heifer calf by Sayre Patriot, topped the sale at \$110,000 for one-half interest. "Success in the cattle business involves a lot of luck," states Mrs.

MacLeod, "and we felt it was best to get out while we were still near the top."

Sayre's show career ended in style when Kendall First Lady was named grand champion heifer at this year's National Western Stock Show in Denver. She is a March 1979 Sayre Patriot daughter that had claimed reserve grand champion standing at the 1980 National Angus Show in Louisville. But Sayre's winnings didn't stop there. They also claimed National Western intermediate champion female title with a full sister to



Charles Garney (right) of Garney Cattle Co., Afton, Okla., purchased the entire Sayre Farms herd earlier this year. And so far as Eugenie MacLeod (center) is concerned, she and her husband Sayre couldn't have made a better deal—the herd that manager Mark Richardson (left) helped establish will remain under his supervision at Garney Cattle Co.



Sayre Miss America set a breed record when one-half interest sold for \$110,000 in Cow Power VIII.

Patriot, Blackcap 434L of Sayre, an Ankonian Dynamo daughter, and took top seat in the get-of-sire class with progeny by Sayre Patriot.

1,200-Mile Journey

The entire Sayre Farms herd sold for an undisclosed amount to Charles Garney of Garney Cattle Co., Afton, Okla. The herd consists of Sayre's interest in twice North American International and National Western grand champion bull Sayre Patriot, his mother and five of his full sisters along with 83 mature females—many of which are daughters of Ankonian Dynamo and Sayre

Patriot. Also included was Sayre's interest in Continental (reserve grand champion bull at the 1980 National Angus Show) and several young bulls.

Also making the 1,200-mile journey to Oklahoma was Mark Richardson, manager of Sayre Farms for nearly eight years, and Don Wilson, herdsman for Sayre. Richardson, his wife Janet and their four children are now living on the Garney ranch, where he is now managing-partner. Wilson also has resumed his former duties. Mrs. MacLeod credits Richardson for the advancements the Sayre herd made in the last

decade. And so far as the MacLeods are concerned, they couldn't have made a better deal—the herd Richardson helped build through the years will continue to remain under his supervision at Garney Cattle Co.

As for the MacLeods, they are in the process of relocating to Long Island. "Our family originated there and now we're moving back," states Mrs. MacLeod. All property at Sayre Farms is being sold—all 550 acres—along with various facilities and four homes on the farm.

Established in 1840

Sayre Farms was established in 1840, just after the opening of the Erie Canal. At that time, it was a registered sheep operation. But when Mr. MacLeod took over in the early 1930s—making him the fifth generation to oversee the family operation—the sheep were phased out and a prominent Guemsey herd was established. Nearly 30 years later, the MacLeods became interested in Angus cattle through their friends, the late John Miller, former professor at Cornell University, and Alan Ryan of Ankony Angus in Rhinebeck, N.Y. In 1961 they purchased their first cows from these two herds.

Mr. MacLeod retired as senior vice president of the Prudential Insurance Co. in 1967, and he and Eugenie moved to the farm on a permanent basis. By that time, it was stocked with black cows and the MacLeods put all their efforts into the Angus business.

As a type change began to take place within the breed, the MacLeods realized their cattle needed more frame and size. In the early 1970s they acquired a number of females from western Canada, including some from Valleymere Ranch at Alliance,

Many of the MacLeods' first cows were purchased from Ankony Angus of Rhinebeck, N.Y. This daughter of Chicago International champion Dor Mac Bandoliermere 10 and one-half interest in her bull calf by Banner of Belladrum were the top-selling pair at \$17,000 in Ankony's November 1963 sale.



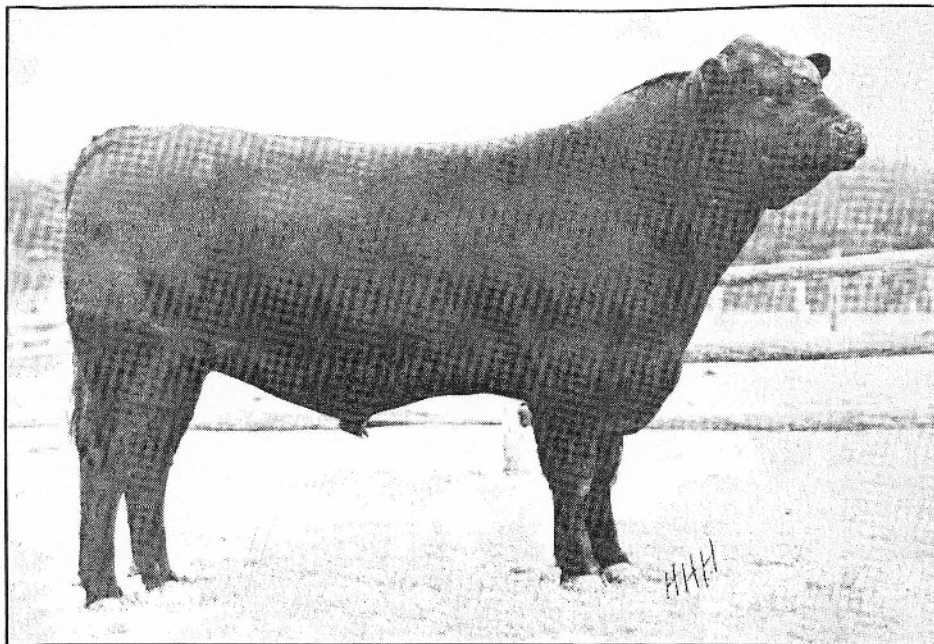
Alta. One of the females from this group, Georgina of Valleymere 44, went on to be the first major champion exhibited by Sayre Farms when she was named grand champion female of the 1971 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago.

Ankonian Dynamo

Shortly after that the MacLeods were advised to buy an interest in a 9-month old bull calf from the new Ankony Angus unit at Highmore, S.D. So they set out for South Dakota. But when they arrived, it was snowing so heavily they were unable to look at the calf. Nevertheless, they bought one-third interest, with no possession, sight unseen. The bull was Ankonian Dynamo. And this is where the success of Sayre Farms began. In both 1971 and 1972, Dynamo reigned as grand champion bull of the National Western and at the Chicago International in 1972. And even today, many of the females in the Sayre herd are daughters of Ankonian Dynamo—a sire that was instrumental in the development of the herd.

The MacLeods then added two more herd sires. They were Willabar Gay Gordon 15A and Camilla Eileenmere 17 64, called "Q-Bar." And to keep up with the modern trend, 16 young females were purchased from the Ankony Angus Highmore unit—daughters of Canadian Colossal, Emulous Pride 70 and Megaton of Wye. Many cows in the present Sayre Farms herd stem from these females.

Canadian Colossal started gaining momentum at Sayre Farms when 35 of his daughters were purchased from Triple L Ranch of Hotchkiss, Colo. Richardson comments that Colossal backs up a lot of their pedigrees even though only two of his daughters remain in the herd today. "Colossal was responsible for initiating a big



Sayre Patriot, acclaimed the most popular show ring champion since his sire, Ankonian Dynamo, has been used extensively in herds across the country.

change in Angus cattle and has, undoubtedly, had a big effect on the breed," continues Richardson.

Patriot Was Born

Sayre's greatest claim to fame was yet to be realized. On July 4, 1976, Blackcap D611 of Sayre, an Emulation 31 daughter, produced a Dynamo bull calf. "He was an unusual calf weighing 96 lb.—and all legs," states Richardson. His name—Sayre Patriot. "We knew this calf was going to be an exceptional bull when he hit the ground," Richardson adds. The MacLeods and Richardson, however, had some bad luck the first time Patriot was taken to a show. It was

at the 1977 American Angus Breeder's Futurity that they discovered, unfortunately, Patriot did not have a legible tattoo number in his ear—a strict requirement for exhibiting an animal. Needless to say, the bull could not show. But from that point on (with the prerequisite tattoo) there was no stopping him. He has since been called the most popular show ring champion since his sire, Ankonian Dynamo. Sayre Patriot captured grand championships at the North American International twice, once at the National Western in 1978 and was National Western reserve grand champion in 1979. He was named Sire of the Year at the 1980 American Angus Breeder's Futurity and at the 1977 National Angus Show was given the 9-millionth registration number by the American Angus Assn. when he was named grand champion there.

Since his first exposure to the public, Patriot has been used extensively in herds across the United States, Canada and South America. His popularity is not difficult to understand when considering the unlimited number of show ring champions he has sired. One such winner was Sayre Patriots Lena, 1980 National Western grand champion female. His progeny have accumulated a list of winnings that goes on and on.

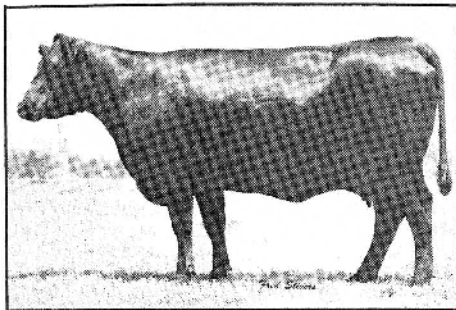
The people at Sayre, however, have tried to keep their breeding spectrum open by using bulls outside their herd. Bulls such as LEMAR Eileenmere Lad 549, Thomas Flash, PS Power Play, Rosebank Connection 69, Ankonian Cornerstone and General JJ Patton.

Merchandising

The show ring has been an important tool in Sayre Farms' merchandising program. But they've had to do more. Nestled in the northeast corner of New York—only

Sayre Farms' success began when the MacLeods purchased one-third interest in Ankonian Dynamo, sight unseen, at nine months of age. He later became grand champion at both the 1971 and 1972 National Western and 1972 Chicago International.





Sayre Patriot's dam, Blackcap D611 of Sayre, was one of the first females used in the farm's embryo transplant program.

miles away from Canada—Phelps was not one of the heavier traveled areas in the state. And that's not because the cattle weren't worth driving the extra miles to see but because they were situated many miles away from other breeders in the state. "After you merchandise your top bulls, the rest are hard to sell in this part of the country. It's just not profitable," says Richardson. So they coped with the problem by relying on out-of-state consignment sales as well as their own. Such sales as Cow Power, the National Western Bull Sale and the Illinois Bull Power, just to name a few. And on occasion, they've sent 8-10 bulls to a ranch in Colorado for merchandising there.

Sayre Farms was initiated into the embryo transplant program in 1978 when they used Blackcap D611 of Sayre, the dam of Sayre Patriot, and Chicago International grand champion Georgina of Vallemere 44. Their first endeavor was termed a success when they acquired 13 progeny from these two cows. The program continued in 1979 with the dam of Sayre Patriots Lena, Ronan Lena 26H. As a result, six brothers and sisters to this grand champion female were born. In 1980 their transplant donor number was increased to eight. And the program will be continued at Garney Cattle Co.

The early management of Sayre Farms was handled by brothers Ed and Bill Rishel. When Bill left to manage Topp Hill Farms,

Sayre Farms' early management was handled by brothers Ed (right) and Bill Rishel, pictured with their wives Sandy and Barb.



Ed continued as manager until 1973. Mark Richardson came to Sayre in 1974 from Purdue University, where he had been herdsman for seven years. Assistant manager at that time was Poe Smith. When Smith died in May of 1977, the job was filled by Greg Krueger, a La Crosse, Ind., native. Like Richardson, Krueger was herdsman at Purdue before coming to Sayre.

Denver 1981

At this year's National Western Stock Show, Krueger was named Herdsman of the Year. And rightly so. His influence on

number two, it improves the cattle's appearance." And that doesn't hurt, especially when visitors stop by. The crew started out every day at 5 in the morning and didn't stop—not until all the work was finished. "If you're going to be in this business, you've got to put a lot of work into it," he comments. Krueger declined the offer of going to Oklahoma with the cattle. Instead, he hopes to have a herd of his own some day. And with Krueger's capabilities and knowledge about the cattle business, that's not highly unlikely.



This is the last Sayre Farms work crew. Standing (from left) on the back row are manager Mark Richardson and assistant manager Greg Krueger. Herdsman, Don Wilson (second from left on the front row) moved to Oklahoma along with Richardson to join the Garney staff. Krueger, who was named 1981 Herdsman of the Year, plans to start an Angus herd of his own. Mrs. Madalaine Yanrotti, center, was in charge of administrative work.

Sayre's show cattle and breeding program proved him worthy of the honor. Krueger graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in animal science and a master's in beef production. At Sayre, he was in charge of the work crew, the show cattle and did most of the farm's A.I. work. Every morning (regardless of whether they were at a show or at the farm) the show cattle were exercised at least 2 miles. "They're just like athletes," Krueger explains. "They need to stay in good condition." After the 2-mile walk, the cattle were rinsed, brushed and clipped. Weights and measurements were taken on the show cattle each week to check their progress.

In the spring, everything from the show string to the cow herd was clipped. This was done for several reasons. Krueger explains why: "Number one, because the cattle are going to shed their winter coat anyway, and

Sayre Farms' major priority has been to emphasize individuality with performance. Each calf was weighed at birth and a rear cannon measurement was recorded. All calves were weighed and measured when weaned, a procedure that was periodically repeated through 365 days of age. Strong maternal traits have been an important selection criteria along with sound udders and high fertility. All of these things have played important roles in Sayre's success. But more important, "It's been a combination of several things—a good farm, good cattle and good people," states Richardson. And as Mrs. MacLeod puts it, "a lot of luck."

The final chapter at Sayre Farms has drawn to a close. But the heritage of the breeding program and capable staff that made Sayre what it is will continue to grow at Garney Cattle Co. It's not an ending—but a new beginning. 