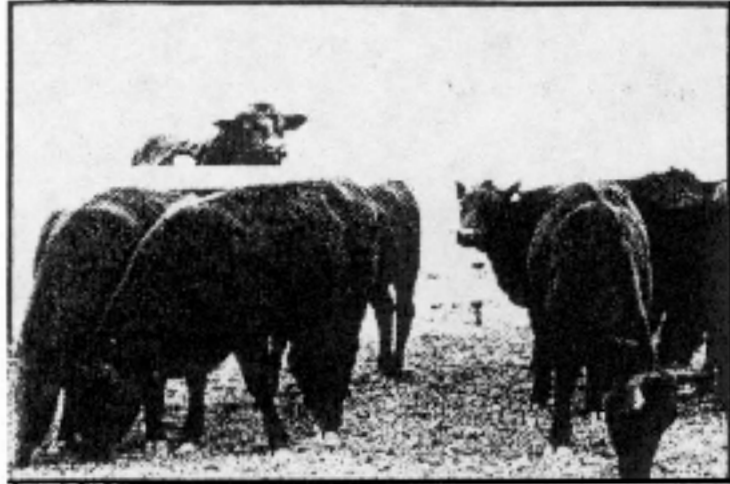




With hunt "Whip" Bob Tallyday and some of the 108 charges he cares for. Hunts are staged through the autumn months at mid-week events and over the weekends.



Gayleward Kennels is the love and endeavor of Gayle Bontecou where she raises Scottish Deerhounds. Gayle is acknowledged as one of the nation's few premier dog breeders and is authorized to judge internationally as she has recently in New Zealand and Norway.



The young herd sire Prince of Wildwood admiring a pen of his daughters. He's a son of Rosebank Connection 69, "10" and from an Ankonian Dynamo dam.



The spirit of Dutchess-Columbia is ever near its surface. And now as in the days of Ankony, Briarcliff, Thorn-dale, and those other farms fondly re-remembered, the exchange, the har-mony, the shared heritage rises to heights rare and fine.

For this is an area of cross-pollina-tion . . . traditionally and for the future.

Our piece has found its theme. Let the strings be muted now so only a brass fanfare sounds, building its cres-cendo, then cascading down and over the notes and lyrical voices we've heard—with the buds budding, the cows cudding, it's April 10, it's spring, it's like coming home.

Encore, please . . . encore. **AJ**

Spring fever at Rally Farms!

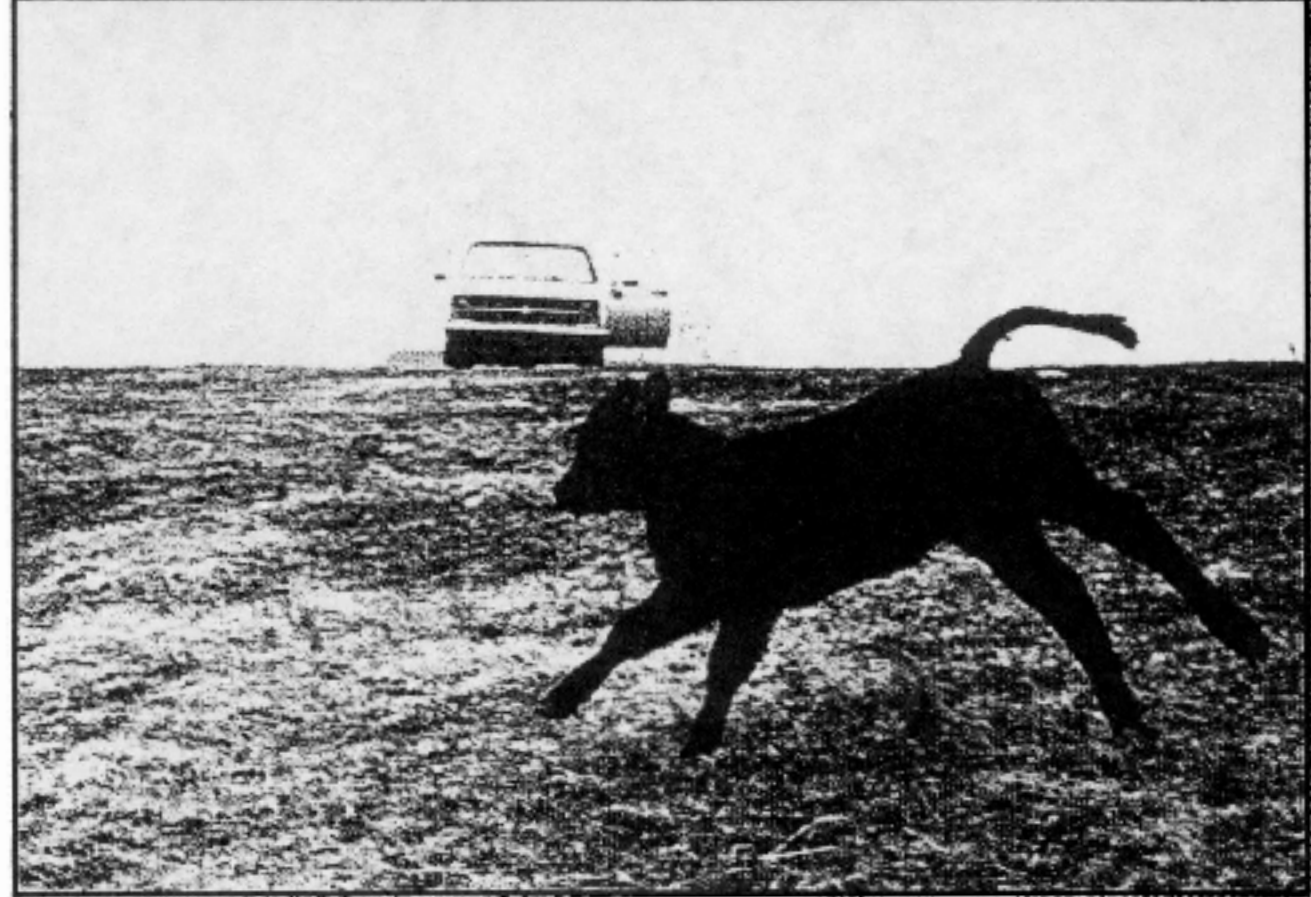


Son of the soil and ocean sailor as well, Jesse Bontecou, Rally's owner and manager. He carries on the tradition of the late Senator Fred Bontecou.



Barbara Smalstig, expert on antiques and particularly fond of butter molds with a cow motif.

It's a 1949 model.



Millbrook and the surrounding countryside is "Hunt Country," that of red-coated riders, hunters and jumpers, "lally-ho," and of course, the fox and hounds. Rally manager Fred Smalstig demonstrates a "ride gate" for those not wanting to leap the hurdles. Every farm is obliged by local ordinance to provide hurdles and ride gates.



The "cowboys" at Rally: Allan Lawyer, Jeff Kading, and cattle manager Fred Smalstig.

Rally





Rufflands



Bill Landauer, Rufflands Angus. "I was very lucky as I listened to Dale Fletcher (Briarcliff and Dal 'bairn)—one man—and I stayed with Dale, right or wrong. In those days, families were important."



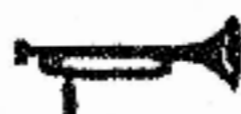
Serendipity—that category of experience which provides for happy accidents—tells part of the Richrose Angus story. "I backed in" says owner Leonard Shankman of his farm near Millbrook, Dutchess County. "I wanted a country place but I wanted it to be a place where things were done. The name? It's a combination of my children's names, Richard and Rose Ann."



Richrose



Ankony: Was it an empire, a turning point, a once-in-a-lifetime performance?



There are those rare times in nature or human affairs when bodies or forces collide for a greater good. The effect is so startling, one can only pause to wonder.

"Ankony" was one of those fortuitous happenings. It served Angus in America well, and its illustrious chapter in the breed's annals remains undimmed by the years. The impact, the innovative and precedent-setting programs reverberate through the business today. It was unorthodox.

They were forceful personalities, that Ankony bunch. It's a tribute to their singleness of purpose and respect, yes, even admiration for each other that kept everyone in harness and pulling together.

Consider the vision of industrialist Allan Ryan, the seasoned cattle expertise of Lee and Les Leachman, the vigor and enthusiasm of their sons Bill, Jay, and Jim, the showmanship of Harold Arendt, the intelligence of master merchandiser Myron Fuerst—a dream team that knew it had a destiny to fulfill. As the excitement mounted, Angus scribe and salesman Dale Runnion added his skills and special touch to the firm's public relations thrust, and Dr. Robert Long joined to head up the research and development arm of Ankony.

Veteran breeders may remember the Ankony program as founded on four cornerstones. The Ankony Line was the Les and Lee Leachman contribution of 30 years' selection. The Canadian Line included the Camilla Oakleaves, producer of the legendary Colossal bull. Then came the Emulous Line from the Murray Corbin herd at Tishomingo, Ok., stressing performance and carcass merit. The fourth leg of the foundation was the unusual pure Scottish unit established by Lee Leachman's inspection tour and import efforts in the late 1950s. Ankonian Jingo 2 was just one of several breed giants that influenced the American herd so widely in the years that followed the importation.

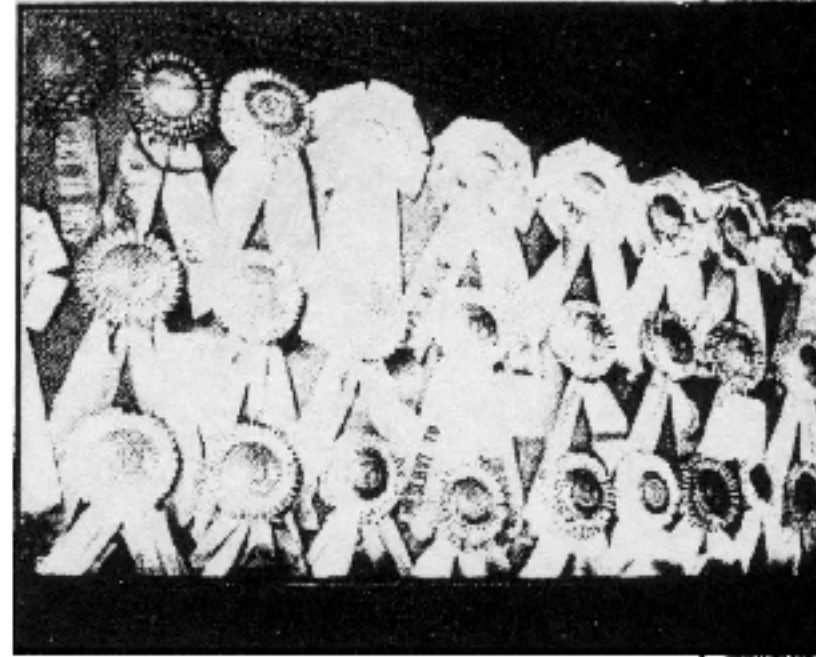
Assembling a gene pool of such stature was no mean achievement, and it obviously sparked infectious enthusiasm throughout the Angus community.

But, there was more.



Leonard Shankman, Richrose Farm: "The Leachmans who were running Ankony Farms at that time . . . really helped me. They set the herd up, redid the fencing and the barns. I also became a fairly good customer for bulls and parts of bulls. I held a piece of a bull which was grand champion at the International and reserve at Denver. That gave me an appetite."

A cluster of awards from the Dutchess County Fair, the years 1919-28. The farm: from the stables at Hyde Park and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt home. Photographed in the coach house.



Specification seed stock may be a popular lecture topic in these mid-1980s, but Ankony was promoting the concept two decades ago, helping buyers select bulls geared to traits needed in their cow herds or demanded by their areas' marketing.

Proving young sires and searching for those truly superior was an expensive undertaking for Ankony as was the testing for dwarfism and the red gene. The elevation of records in selection and the employment of Dr. Long's scoring system were key features in securing customer confidence.

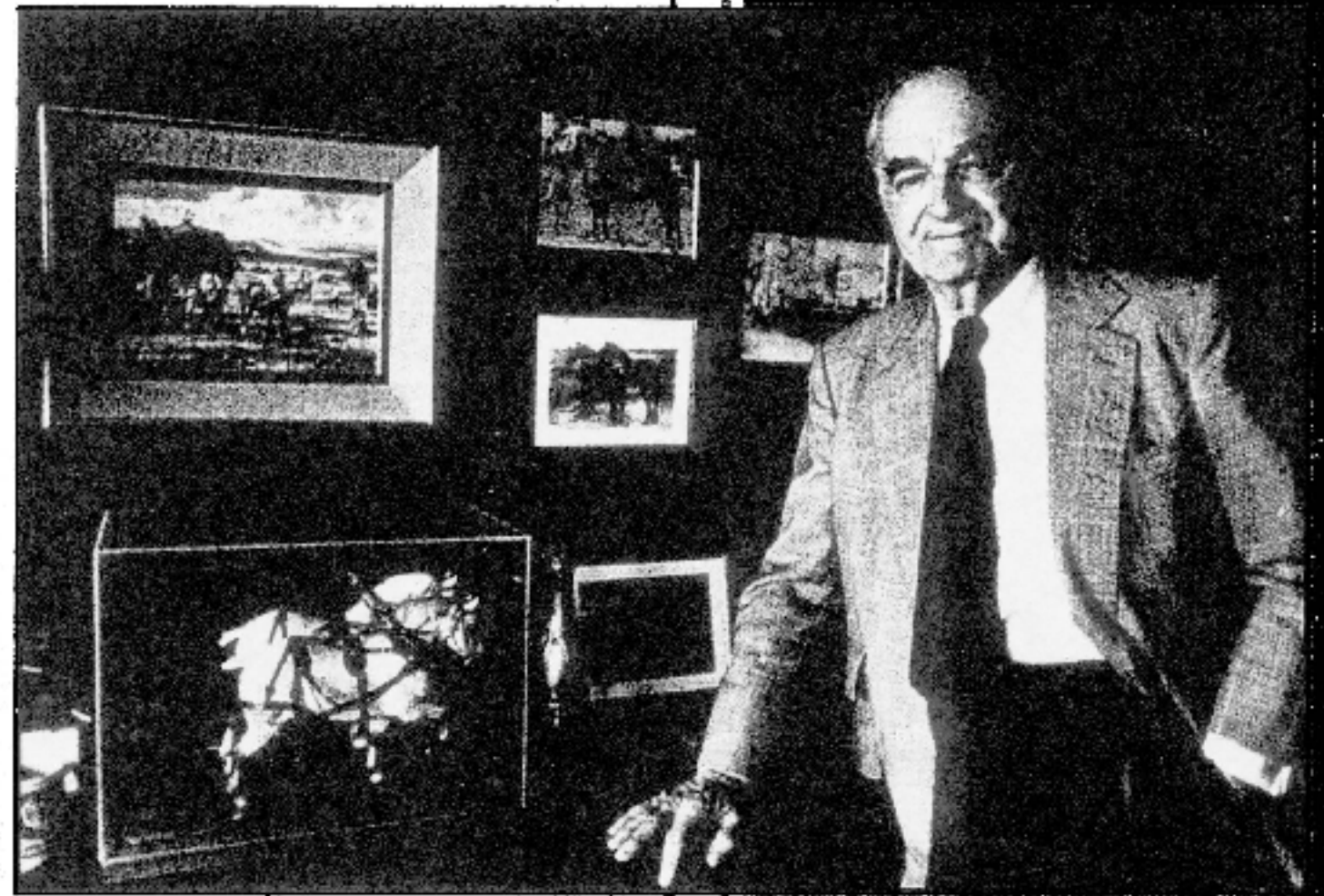
One innovation seemed to beget another, and it must have been a fertile field for ideas. Myron Fuerst is credited as the author of such stimulating components of a total program. Included were the Ankony Junior Incentive Program, a management school, the Ankonian newsletter, utilizing consultants, providing a photo service, devising a Beef Performance Calculator, and selling bulls with price tags affixed. Top it off with an impressive string of show ring triumphs, and it's not surprising Ankony became a household word in Angus homes across the nation. Its magic is felt even today for it broke ground and pioneered many of the concepts and practices essential to modern beef production and marketing.

And, as a name, "Ankony" deserves an explanation. An Esopus Indian named Ankony was the first to sign a deed selling a tract of 2,200 acres along the Hudson River. The price paid Esopus and his companions was four blankets, five kettles, four guns, five horns, ten cases of powder, eight shirts, eight pairs of stockings, forty fathoms of wampum, two drawing knives, two adzes, a half anker of rum, one frying pan, and six buffalo tethered (!) nearby. The year was 1686, 300 years ago. The first Angus on the Ankony Estate were those of Allan A. Ryan, 1937. Ten heifers from the now-fabled Briarcliff herd were the beginnings. A price of \$150 a head paid for it was an Angus depression then as well.

But the cattle and the farm would not be denied. Dutchess County was just too agreeable—rolling hills of abundant grass, row crops in the bottomlands, markets for both the domestic trade at New York City and international shipment within easy "droving" distance.

The guiding lights that founded the Ankony herd nearly 50 years ago capitalized on these natural advantages. They coupled their collective foresight to enhance and accelerate the impact of a pivotal beef cattle enterprise in the United States.

Ankony was a natural. Perhaps, given its place, time, and the personalities that shaped it, Ankony was inevitable.



He first fostered his love for good stock with Percheron horses. Then, Myron Fuerst—the sage of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, N.Y.—turned his devotion to Aberdeen-Angus, founding his Globe Hill Farm which he later dispersed when taking the reins at Ankony.

He stands beside a presentation matched pair, symbolizing one of the guiding principles of his life: pulling together. The citation accompanying this presentation reads:

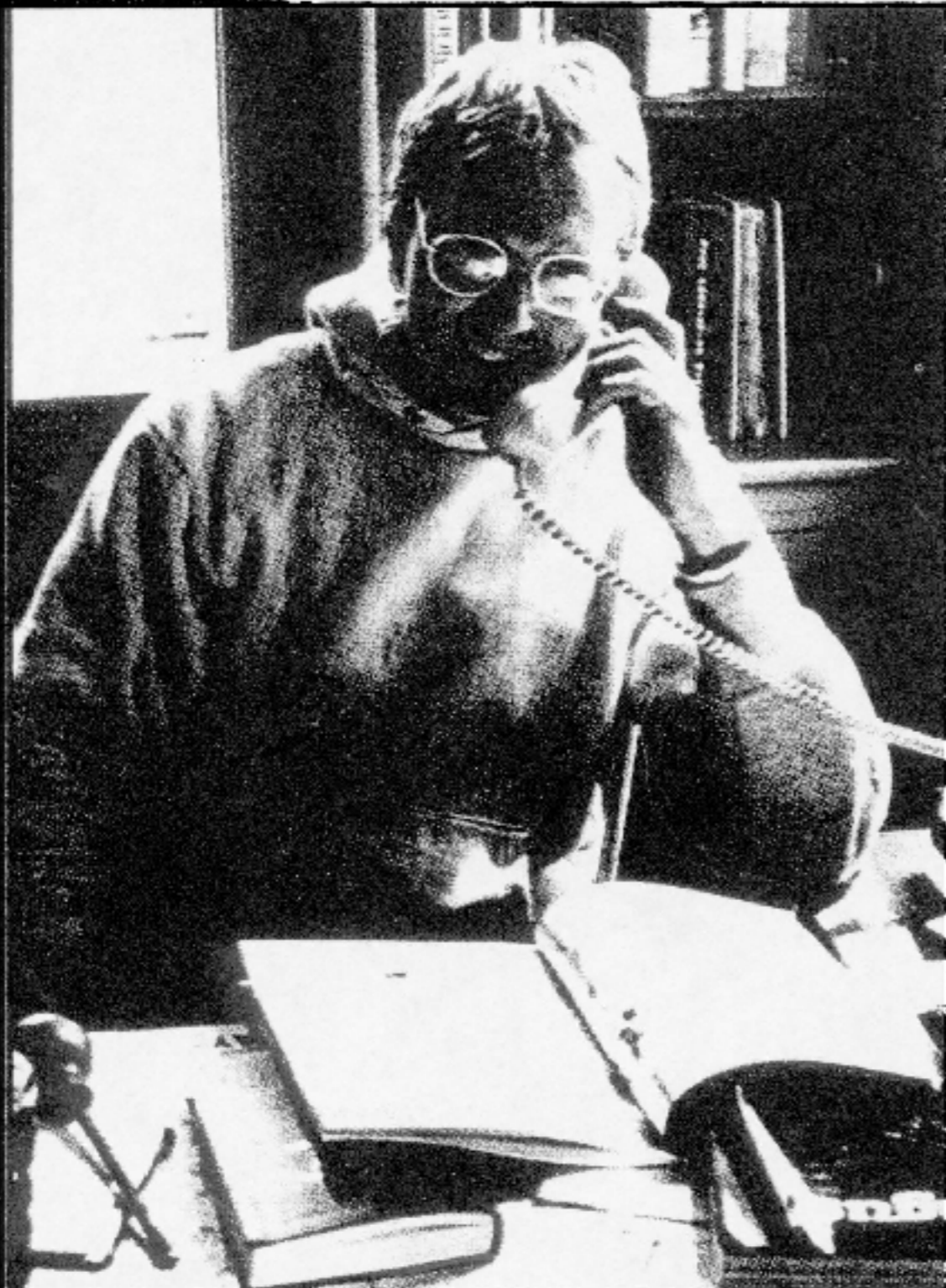
Man's life is made up of a series of personal encounters; most are fleeting and bittersweet with unfilled promises and expectations, only a few are long and enduring with shared triumphs, heartbreaks, and challenges forming the basis for genuine friendship and love. Myron is often quoted: "There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn't matter who gets the credit." That, a prescription for statesmanship, a formula for pulling in perfect step.



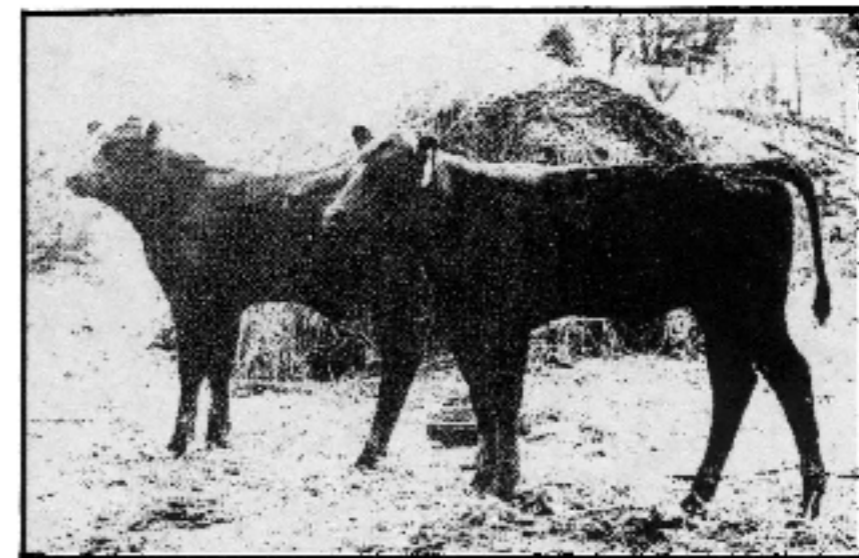
Rasweiler



A creed appropriate to cattle folks surely.



If you call and get Bill Rasweiler's answering machine you'll be treated to the poetry of William Blake: "To see the world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wildflower. Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour . . ." Then, he cautions you have only one minute to leave your name, phone number, and so forth. A nice touch.



Wrangler calves this year complement some promising Yukon Jack offspring in the calving pasture.



"A lot of us need to go out and buy those really good cows, I think." Bill considers converting the bulk of the herd to a recipient status while seeking out donor caliber stock to upgrade the herd and its opportunities.

Along with managing Rasweiler Angus near Craryville, Columbia County, Bill is a student aspiring on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays toward a veterinary career. Selling hay is part of making the farm pay.





Two pillars of the Angus breed, Rachel H. Breck and Myron Fuerst. Both have been honored at the American Angus Futurity in recent years. Said Mrs. Breck of the experience:

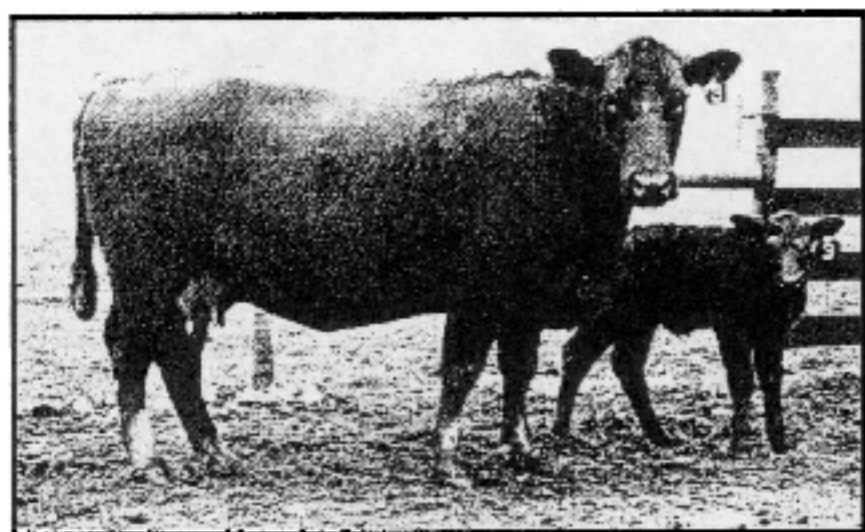
"The day they honored me at Louisville, I thought I'd die from the excitement. I never knew I'd done anything that would be appreciated. I was just a small breeder, but I enjoyed it all.



"Hedgerows (her farm) made a name for itself with the success of Hedgerows Jestress. I did hate to sell my farm and herd, but the priority of educating my two older grandchildren, getting them through college, seemed to outweigh keeping the farm."

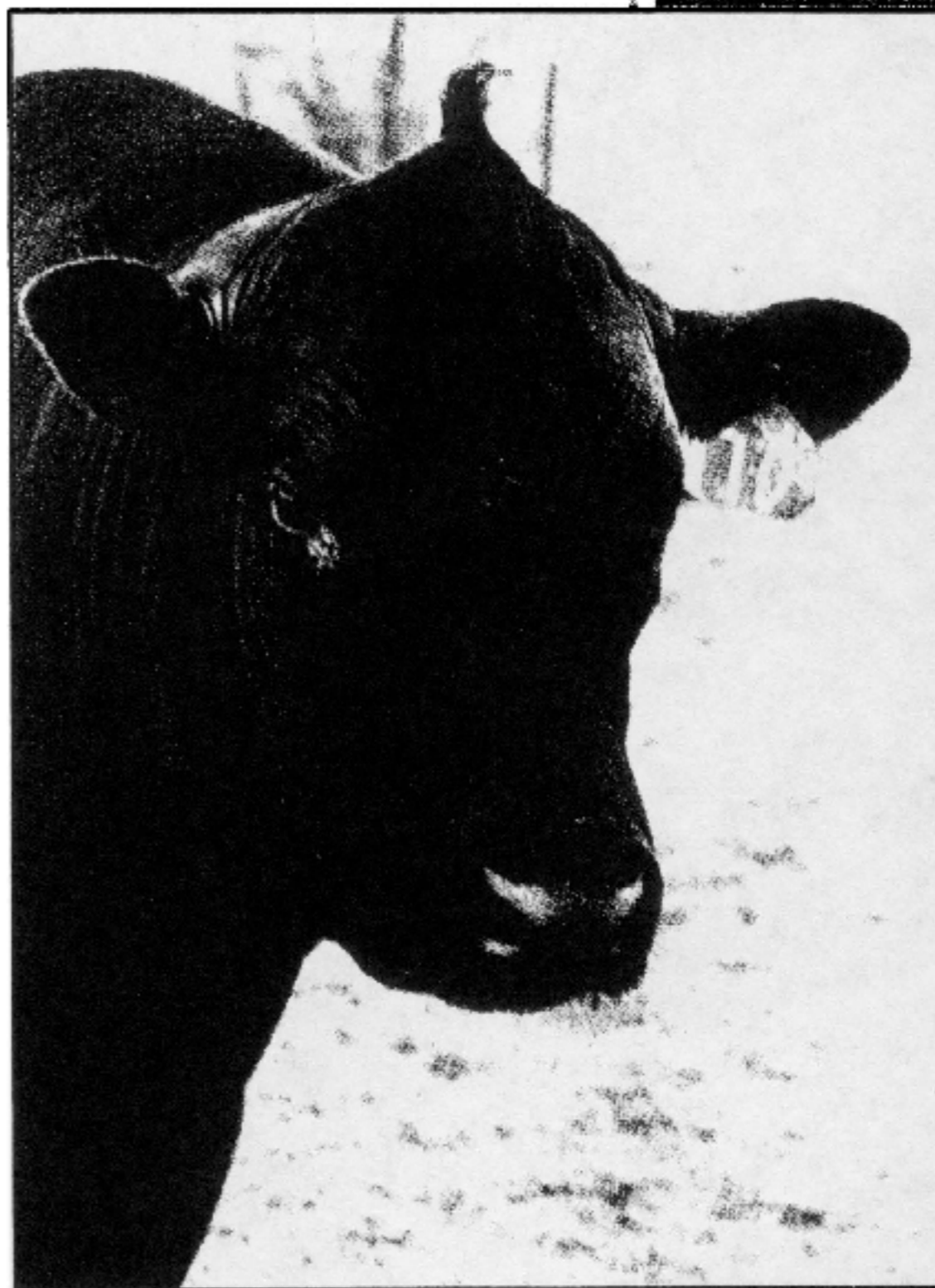
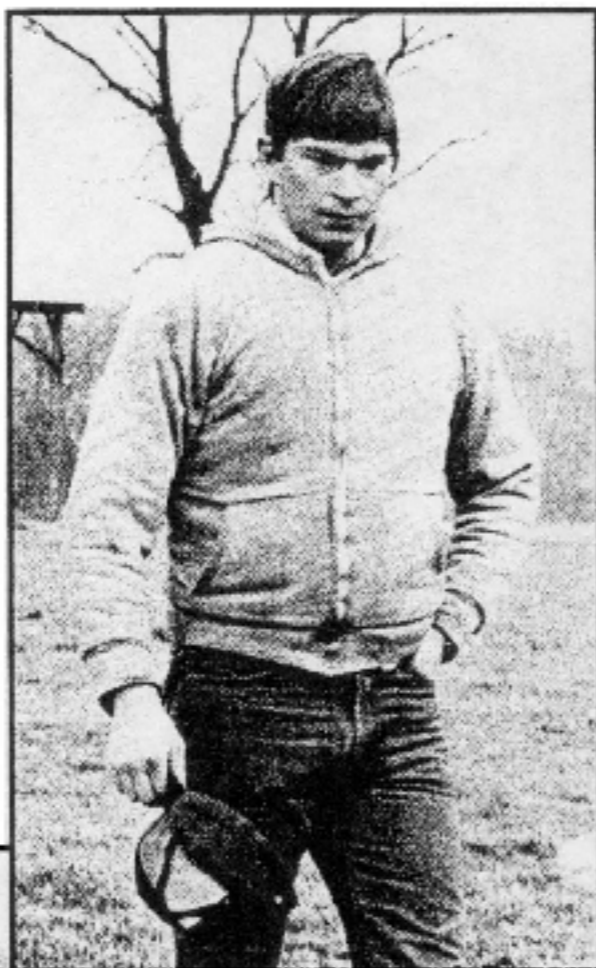
Typical, those who know her well might say, of a spirit dedicated to youth and the Angus friendships she's won all over. Mrs. Breck is fondly remembered by many grateful parents for her efforts at the Goshen, Ct., show held on a village green with a band playing and the renown Herman Purdy judging.

"Yes!" she exclaims. "I got him there two different years. He often kidded me about making him suffer along on one of my diets—I'm frequently on a diet. He claimed I fed him nothing but carrot sticks and celery all the while he was there with us."



Jessies Progression Gal, a three-year-old with her Cobble Pond New Yorker heifer, born March 19.

Carl came out of Western Pennsylvania to attend The Pennsylvania State University, become president of the block & bridle club, and join Dr. Erskine Cash's judging team. "The judging team and a course our professor called 'barnyard sex'—large animal reproductive physiology—were two of the most helpful things to me."

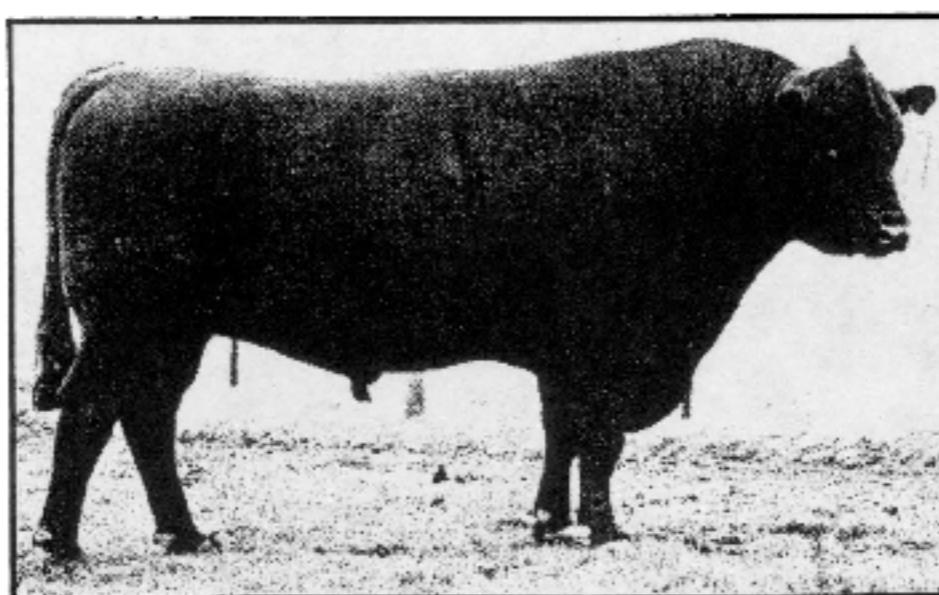


Rosebank Connection 69—the ten millionth registration of the American Angus Assn. (hence the nickname "10") arrived on this former orchard, former dairy farm April 3. Rosebank Angus manager, Carl McCullough, came aboard April 7. The year was 1979 and the two have been in tandem ever since.



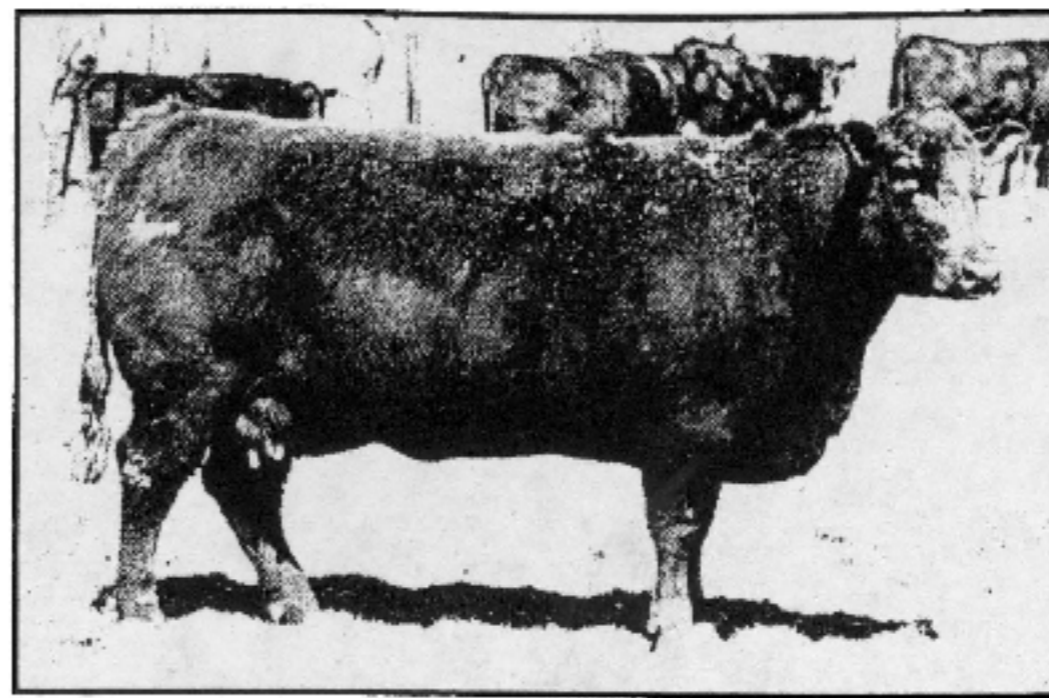
Rosebank


"Oh yeah," Carl remembers his first encounter with "10." "I knew his mother was a pretty good cow, but I wasn't expecting a calf quite as good as he was. He was the most extreme calf I'd ever seen plus he had some meat on him too." Photograph taken three days after his seventh birthday, weight 2,540 pounds.





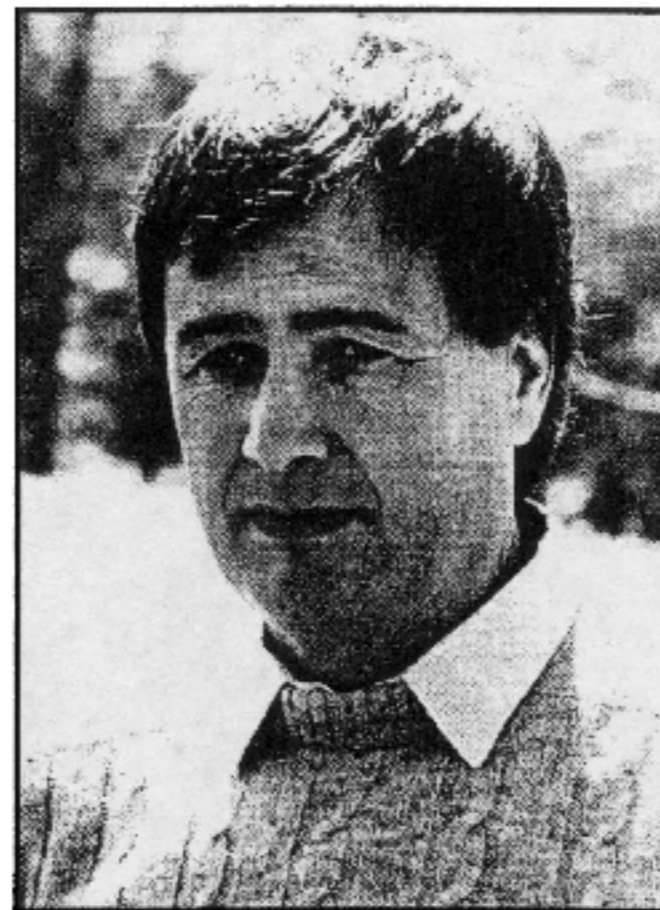
Sir William



The mother of Dr Spock, #2396 is a Black Revolution 427 daughter, also a Sir William-Erdmann partnership cow, and the mother of Mandrake by Black Magic.



Bruce Conover has been associated with the Sir William name for the past 15 years. He's a manager in motion.



Jorge Fullone who with his fellow Argentine Dr. Antuna owns the Sir William tract and manages the land resource, has been close to the Angus scene worldwide for 10 years.

"Angus is the king of beef," he says of his homeland. "Of the 45-46 million head of beef cattle, over 50 percent are Angus. Beef is the number one business in Argentina; per capita consumption is 230 pounds. There's no grain fed, no fertilizer on the pastures. Steers are slaughtered at two years of age. It tastes better but is not as tender.

"I like the aggressiveness of the American people," Fullone says. "Americans love the farm."

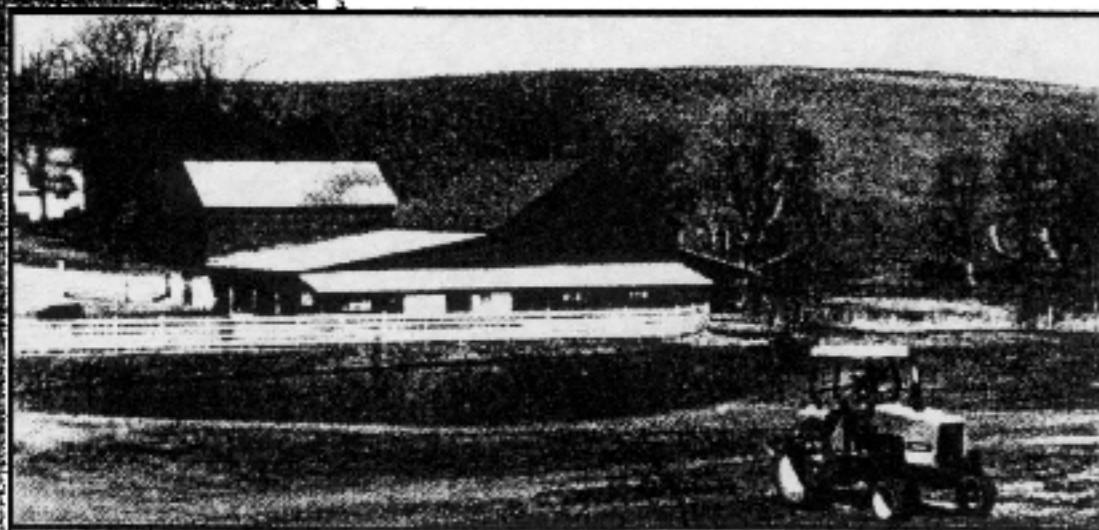


Bruce expresses confidence in the cow herd: "We can trace back eight generations in our dams and grandams. We know something about what to expect in the matings or from E.T."

Drawing from his young memory, five-year-old Justin Conover associates spring with fuzzy and crawling critters, this one a prize found while helping drag the meadows at Sir William Angus near Claverack in Columbia County.



Planting oats with Dan Freese. Dan normally is keyed to the show cattle but takes up the slack when there's farming to be done. Oats are an important ingredient in the overall and home-grown approach of Sir William.

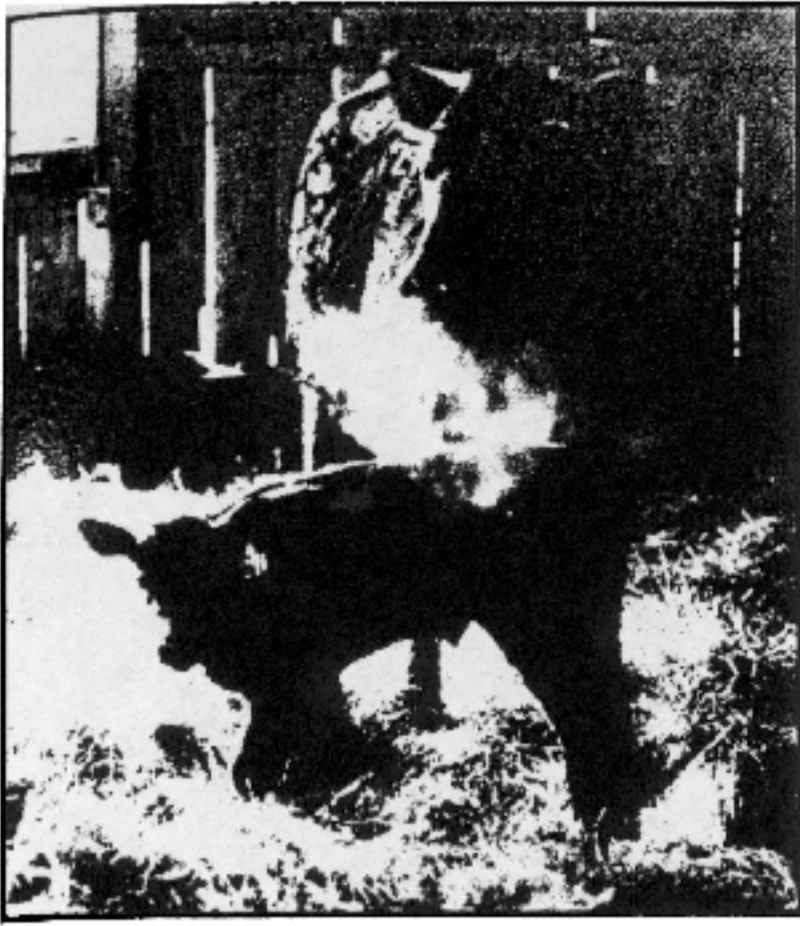


In high range, gear five, stirring the meadows awake is a pleasant spring chore. "If we skip a spot, it sure shows up later," says Bruce.

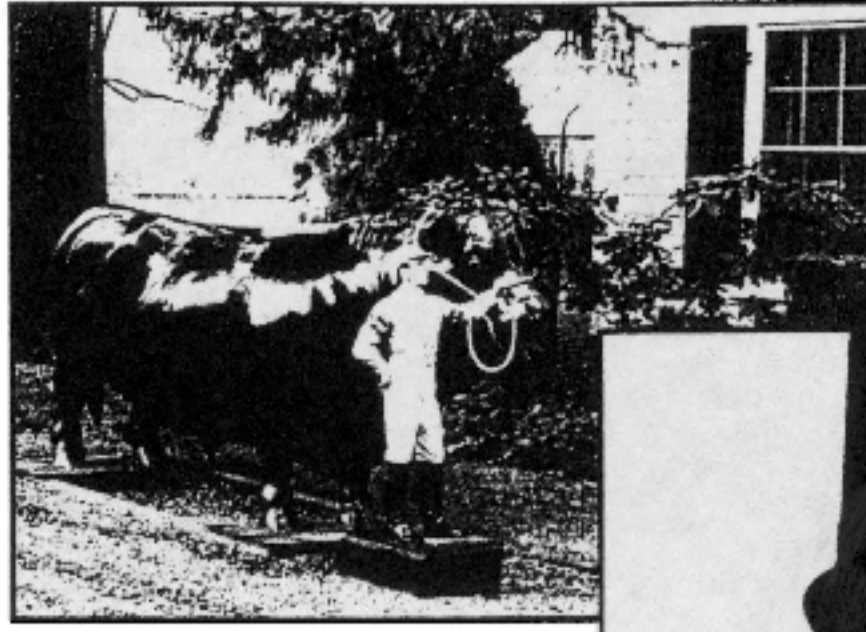


Cow #107 exemplifies the brood cow profile of the Sir William herd. Crackerjack Baros, Pine Drive Big Sky, Dr Spock are some of stellar sires represented in the unique Sir William-Erdmann partnership herd here.





Mother and newborn doing fine one foggy, misty morn.



A whimsical pair greeting visitors.

Walbridge



Walbridge owner George W. Perkins, commenting on Ballot of Balladrum, remembers the farm being a Johnny-come-lately on the bull. "Everyone used him before we did, but he was responsible for the first different calves we had on this farm. They were very long, for that day. Other memories: "We partnered with the Erdmanns. Bart Glass did the showing and the cattle did well. We exchanged that service for semen. "We did send a group of cattle to Italy along with Rally Farm and also a bunch to South Africa. But the principal in that venture died and the thing went by the wayside, unfortunately. That gentleman would have been an excellent merchandiser."



Harold Armstrong, a 20-year veteran of Walbridge Farm, Millbrook, Dutchess County. A native of Virginia, Harold is no stranger to the show circuit and its golden era. "We used to show on the state fairgrounds there in Lexington (Kentucky). Horse people didn't like us trampling their grass." He's traveled: a housing project took him to Europe; he cared for cattle on a United Nations shipment to Egypt, 1956. "Had a calf born on board. It was doing poorly, and I found the crew was milking the cow."

Walbridge may be one of the very few farms in the United States with its own church, a remnant of the Little Rest community and preserved by the Perkinses.



A promising son of Thomas Chaps out of a Mr Omega cow. Harold's most memorable or favorite bull? "Ankonian Jingo 2 for his time. Ballot of Balladrum was good. One of his daughters out of a Walbridge cow was the International champion in 1968." On another topic: "We're big enough. I think we need to put some correction in the frame. If they're not sound, they don't last very long."

