



A ROYAL

Traveling. Meeting people. Attending shows and field days. Meeting more people. Presenting ribbons and trophies. And tired feet!

But this is only the beginning! Consumer educational Angus booths to tend. Brunches, luncheons and banquets make a full year of promoting Angus for the national queen.

On Nov. 27, 1967, the decision was made in Chicago at the annual auxiliary luncheon. Mrs. William Volksman of Fresno, Calif., reported that winner of the Angus queen contest also would be the scholarship winner . . . "like frosting on a cake to the scholarship program." Financial support would be provided by the American Angus Assn. to help the recipient travel to the International. The purpose: To encourage more girls to take part in the scholarship program. Thirteen different young ladies have represented the breed in this capacity since the program's inception.

Costume

As times change, so do styles. Our first three national queens wore a black velvet suit and white lace-trimmed blouse, topped with a royal purple ribbon on the left shoulder and caught with a pin fashioned after the Angus charm. The gold crown was to be accented with red as is the lady Angus logo. This was to be the traditional queen costume.

In 1972 a decision was made to give that year's queen her choice of costume. She selected costumes with the predominant colors of black and white, with accents of red.

At the 1973 auxiliary meeting, the manner of dress for the national queen was discussed. It was the concensus of members of the American Angus Assn. board present that the queen should "look like a queen," and they expressed the feeling that they preferred a dress over western pants or pantsuits. The entire group agreed that the queen's attire should in some manner readily identify her as the Angus queen

and the same costume should be used by all succeeding queens.

Mrs. Fred Johnson, Summitville, Ohio, suggested that the Angus tartan wool plaid be used in some manner in designing the costume. In August of 1973, Mrs. Johnson reported at the auxiliary open board meeting that this new permanent costume would be ready for the World Angus Forum. It was at this time that the name of the National Angus Queen was changed to Miss American Angus.

Traditional Attire

From 1973-76 the queens represented the association at various events in the Angus tartan plaid. Black, white and accents of red have become predominant colors of the queen's attire since 1977. Completing the costume is a sparkling tiara and leather banner given to each queen by the auxiliary.

At the time the first National Angus Queen was chosen, the International in Chicago was the biggest Angus event. The queen was becoming more important at shows, although at this time she was only required to go to the futurity and the International. But since 1973, the queen has been required to attend several major shows, including the American Angus Breeders' Futurity, the National Junior Heifer Show, the National Angus Show, the National Western Stock Show and the North American International Livestock Exposition. The futurity has been held in either Lexington, Ky., or Louisville. The location of the national junior show changes from year to year. Queens have attended this show from Kansas to Indiana. The National Angus Show also has been held at various locations ranging from the National Western in Denver to the North American in Louisville. Several other major shows past queens have attended include the American Royal, Western National Angus Futurity, Dixie National, Ak-Sar-Ben and Eastern National. While representing the

Angus breed, each queen also attended many regional, state and local shows and sales.

After the Reign

Representing the Angus breed as the first National Angus Queen in 1968-69 was Sharon Harrold of Akron, Ind. After graduating from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., she married Dr. Richard Sommers, a veterinarian. Mother of two girls, Sharon recently has served as secretary-treasurer of the Indiana Angus Auxiliary and as a director of her district association.

"I cherish the honor of being the first National Angus Queen," says Sharon. "I remember receiving the telegram telling me I was chosen the same day my steer was chosen grand champion at my county fair. It was a real thrill."

The 1969-70 queen was Elaine Wassenburg of Baileyville, Kan.

Nancy Diuble of Ann Arbor, Mich., reigned as the 1970-71 queen. A 1974 graduate of Michigan State University, Nancy was quite active in Block and Bridle and on the college judging teams. Also in 1974 she was selected for the National Block and Bridle Club Outstanding Senior Award. After teaching school for a year and serving as Michigan Angus Assn. secretary, Nancy was coordinator of performance testing and cattle records for Premier Beef Cattle. In March 1978 she joined Curtiss Breeding Industries as a beef sales manager. Since May 1979, Nancy has been Eaton County 4-H youth agent headquartered in Charlotte, Mich. During the past 10 years, she has served on several committees of the American Angus Auxiliary. In highlighting her reign, Nancy says, "I enjoyed meeting the judges, fieldmen, Angus board members, auxiliary officers and show officials. Above all, I was able to meet so many breeders and Angus enthusiasts and formed many lifetime friendships as well as some working relationships."

Jackson, Tenn., was the home of our

1971-72 queen Mary Elizabeth Smith. Mary (now Mrs. Andy McCurry of Burrton, Kan.) received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Tennessee in food technology and science and a Masters from Kansas State in meat science. After marrying, she served as a 4-H and youth agent with the

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TRADITION

Kansas Extension Service. The McCurrys now have a small herd of Angus cows, and Mary works in the quality control assurance laboratory of the world's largest pizza meat manufacturer. She is involved with chemical analysis of their products, microbiology and production line checks. This enables Mary to utilize her meat and animal science education.

Sharon Weingarden of Waldorf, Md., served as the 1972-73 queen.

The World Angus Forum was held in October 1973 at the American Royal. This was a memorable experience for 1973-74 queen Kathy Marie Votaw of Wellfleet, Neb. At the forum, Kathy lead in each class, carrying a different flag of each country represented while mounted upon a "parade type" Quarter Horse.

Kathy graduated from the University of Nebraska in December 1977 with a degree in agriculture honors emphasizing ag economics. During college she was active in Block and Bridle as well as several sororities. Currently the correspondent bank officer for the First National Bank of Lincoln, Neb., Kathy's responsibilities involve working with banks on participation loans to cattlemen, feeders and farmers.

Iowa Queen

A native of Arthur, Iowa, the 1974-75 queen was Debbie Johnson. With a degree in agricultural education from Iowa State University, Debbie served as the county extension director in Adams County, Iowa. She met her husband, Rich Hall, after graduation while serving as an extension service trainee. The Halls are proud parents of a fourth-generation Angus breeder, Jean Nicole. Debbie feels that the national queen should definitely play a vital role in "selling our product—top quality beef" to the people.

Those who attended the 1975 futurity saw Lynn Hagenbuch of Lawrence, Kan., crowned as the new queen for 1975-76. A 1978 Cum Laude graduate of Kansas State

University in animal science, Lynn that same year married Bruce Rinkes of Cadiz, Ohio. One of only two women meat inspectors for the state, she worked for the Kansas State Dept. of Agriculture and was responsible for five meat packing plants, checking their sanitation and compliance with state regulations. She also inspected live animals and worked on points of inspection during the slaughter process.

The Rinkes now live in Guthrie Center, Iowa, working with Bradford Bros. Currently Lynn is working for WALLACES FARMER as an insurance representative. They

also have started their own small herd of Angus.

"As I look back and reflect on that year, the show I enjoyed most was the Western National Angus Futurity in Reno. The enthusiasm, humor, good Angus cattle and warm hospitality made it a very unique Angus event."

Tennessee Queen

Already familiar with the duties of Miss American Angus, Beverly Smith of Jackson, Tenn., was crowned as the 1976-77 queen. (Beverly's sister, Mary, was the 1972 queen.)

With a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee, Beverly is currently employed by CIBA-Geigy Corp. as a sales representative selling agricultural chemicals in North Carolina to that firm's contracted distributors. While in college, she was executive vice president and house chairman of Alpha Delta Phi social sorority. An honor student, she was also an Angel Flight member.

Beverly recalls that her reign as Miss American Angus was "one of the most memorable and best experiences of my life thanks to the American Angus Auxiliary and the best breed of cattle in the world."

Kerri Ann Votaw of Wellfleet, Neb., was crowned the 1977-78 queen. (Kerri's sister, Kathy, was the 1973 queen.) Kerri is currently a senior at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb. A triple major in home economics, human development and the family, and special education keeps her very busy! She is first vice president of her sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, and is a leader in the Block and Bridle Club. She is also a member of the Council for Exceptional Children, Alpha Gamma Rho Little Sisters and Phi Upsilon Omicron honorary. Even with all of these activities, Kerri is an active member of the Nebraska Junior Stock Growers Assn. and presently works part-time for Fred Witt Jewelers.

As her queen's reign ended, Kerri's traveling certainly did not. In 1980 she was a delegate to New Zealand and Australia on the University of Nebraska's animal science tour. She hopes to visit Europe within two years to pursue a graduate degree or gain additional career field experience.

Gilman, Iowa, is the home of 1978-79 queen Jeri Paul. Currently majoring in dental hygiene, Jeri is planning to attend the University of Iowa's College of Dental Hygiene this fall.

One of the most memorable experiences for Jeri was attending the annual luncheon at the North American Exposition at which she read the poem she wrote for her scholarship application. The National Junior Heifer Show in Indianapolis was also a terrific experience. Jeri has attended several national junior shows, and she feels they get better and better. "No matter where the people come from, we all had one thing in common—Angus cattle," Jeri recalls from this experience.

A native of Derwood, Md., Susan Holston was crowned the 1979-80 queen. During her reign, Susan accepted chairmanship of the Public Relations Committee for the auxiliary. Writing for the ANGUS JOURNAL and state auxiliaries helps her keep in touch with those she worked with during her reign. A college sophomore, Susan currently attends Montgomery College. She plans to transfer in the near future and major in animal science and journalism.

Still Active

Susan is still an active member of junior associations, serving as vice president of the Northeastern Junior Angus Assn. and secretary of her state junior organization. She has been seen attending shows across the country since her reign and is planning to participate in various junior events this summer.

The most memorable experience of her reign was receiving a congratulatory call from auxiliary President Patti Rae and the mad dash she made to the futurity to accept the crown. "The experience of traveling, meeting so many breeders and talking Angus cattle as a whole was the most memorable experience of all."

Our present Miss American Angus is Cary Ann Smith of Nicholasville, Ky. Cary was crowned at the national show in Louisville in November. Up to this point, Cary's most special event was the evening she was crowned. Denver also proved to be a memorable experience. As queen, Cary plans to attend the National Junior Heifer Show, the futurity and the North American along with many state and local shows and sales.

The opportunity to represent the entire Angus breed as national Queen is truly a great honor. The reign as queen is indeed a time of traveling, meeting people, seeing some of the breed's best cattle; but most of all it is a time of learning. And a time that has been cherished by those who have reigned as national queen. 