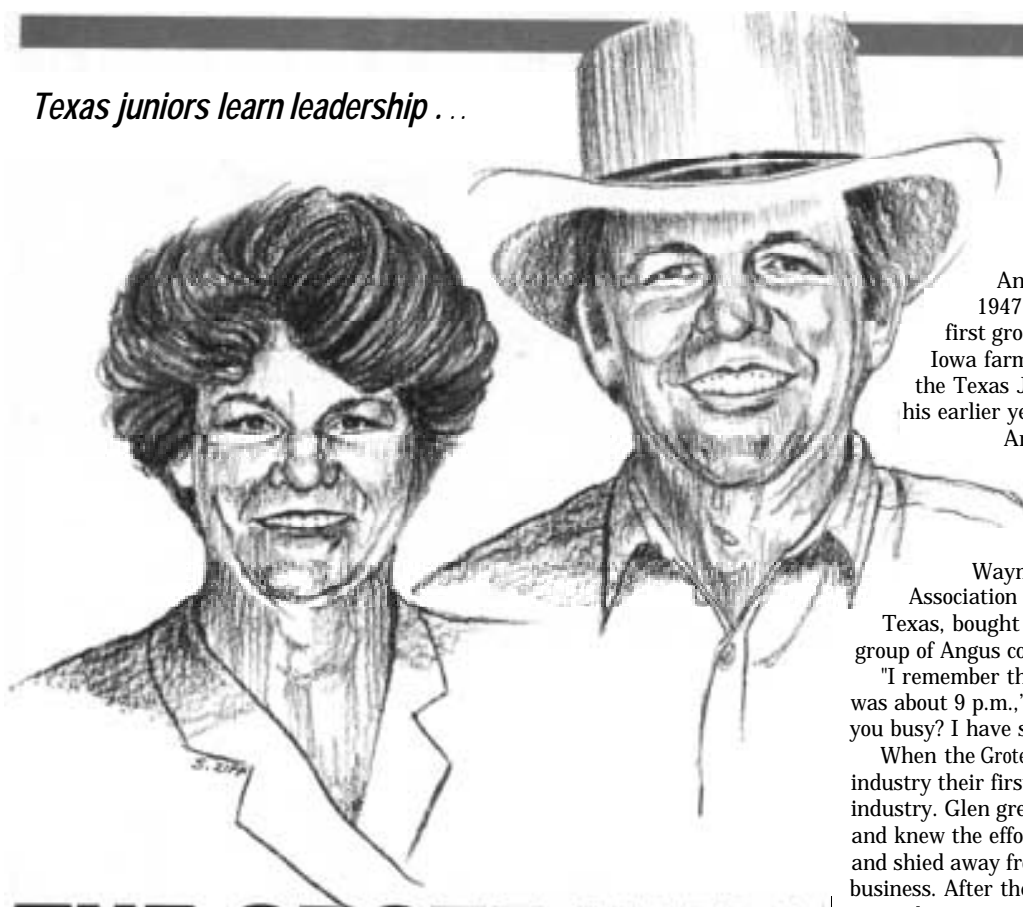


Texas juniors learn leadership . . .



THE GROTE WAY

*Pat and Glen Grote
make every junior
member feel like a
champion by treating
them like an
individual. . . that's
the Grote way.*

BY TANIA MICHELS

Whether they're helping out at an Angus event or being chaperones at the prom, Pat and Glen Grote always have time for young people.

Natives of Mason, Texas, the Grotes have served as Texas Junior Advisors for the past eight years.

"But when you're having fun, who keeps track?" Pat says.

After years of dedication and devotion the Grotes are well deserving of the Advisor of the Year award presented to them at the National Junior Angus Show in Des Moines, this past July.

The Grotes treat every individual in a special way. Walking through the Texas aisle in the old brick cattle barn of the Iowa State Fairgrounds Pat stops and talks to every scurrying junior Texas member. Making individuals feel special is the Grote way of life.

"The Grotes are always willing to help out or show you fun, even if you're not from Texas," says Rhonda Nida, Red Rock, Okla. "There are not enough words to describe their sincerity."

Glen has been in the Angus cattle business since 1947 when his father bought their first group of Angus cows from an Iowa farmer. Glen became president of the Texas Junior Angus Association in his earlier years and continued to show Angus steers and heifers. After Glen and Pat were married their children Will, 19 and Shannon, 18 began showing cattle.

Waymon Ashley, American Angus Association regional manager from Texas, bought the Grote kids their first group of Angus cows.

"I remember that night Waymon called, it was about 9 p.m.," Pat says. "The said Patti, are you busy? I have something for the kids."

When the Grotes became active in the cattle industry their first choice was not the purebred industry. Glen grew up showing Angus cattle and knew the efforts and heartaches involved and shied away from Angus cattle as a business. After the kids became involved it only seemed economically and traditionally right. Glen and Pat today operate 200 cows and are involved in selling Angus bulls to commercial breeders.

The Grotes credit their success to the children and their involvement in the purebred Angus business.

"Every award or scholarship our children have received is because of Angus cattle and their involvement with other kids with a common interest," Glen says.

The Grotes became involved as junior advisors when their children became actively involved in the National Junior Angus Association and after Jerry Williams, former Texas junior advisor asked them to take over his role.

"Our main objective when we started as advisors was to make every kid feel like a champion," Glen says. "There can only be one champion in the show ring and that's why we get them involved in other Angus events."

Making kids feel special is what Sheena Grote, Forney, Texas credits the Grotes for.

"It's what they say and how they say it that makes you try harder the next time," Sheena says. "Even if you didn't do your best they'll tell you what you did wrong and then give you a smile."

"If you take care of them and make them feel important everything will work out right," says

Pat. What little bit we can do to help, we're glad to do."

The Grotes don't see themselves different from other advisors. "We have that 2 percent who want to cause trouble, but hey that's when you have to be the bad guy," Glen says. "It's no fun to be around grumpy people and that's why we plan events and fun for our juniors to eliminate some of the friction"

The attitude of the Texas juniors reflects that of their advisors as they like to have fun and meet people.

"If you have a ship that's sailing everyone wants to get on, but if something fails everyone wants to get off," Glen says. "Our kids go and get kids for our ship. It's a lot easier when the ship is sailing."

If it's a state or national show the Grotes plan events for their juniors and make them feel welcome.

"When our kids check in at a major show we greet them in the check-in line and usually give them a flyer inviting them to a get together," Pat says. "We want them to feel welcome, instead of lost."

The Grotes try to eliminate just showing up and exhibiting at a cattle show. Instead, they plan tours and activities around the event.

"We want these young people to not only show together, but play together," Pat says. "The extra functions eliminates some of the competition and inspires friendships."

Learning from their advisors, Texas juniors plan events at shows, whether it's a dance or just playing cards in the hotel lobby. "Our junior kids organize the fun, they enjoy the work it takes to meet new kids," Pat says.



Together as a family, the Grotes accept the Advisor of the Year plaque at the National Junior Angus Show in Des Moines. Not pictured is daughter, Shannon.

"We really try to keep competition in the show ring," Pat says. "The friendship these kids have lasts a lot longer than a blue ribbon."

One event the Grotes heavily emphasize is 'Cooking Texas Style.' Glen enjoys cooking and he also feels good about being able to make a junior feel involved by helping cook at shows.

"It saves kids money and it gets them involved; when

they're involved they're happy," Glen says.

"The cooking gives us a reason to congregate," he says.

The Grotes and the Texas crew have been asked to cook at several regional and national events and they are always willing. If you provide the food we'll cook it, Glen adds.

Glen and Pat agree it takes three things to be good advisors. First of all, tough-

skin. People have to realize their rewards come from their kids. "If they're not going to jump in and help out unless their kids are winning then they'll always be unhappy," Glen says.

Secondly, the Grotes agree everything they do has to be good for the association and not just a specific group. "You have to be good to everyone, that is the key."

The third tool the Grotes practice is to dwell on the positive and not the negative.

"We always keep in mind that we're doing something to change these kids lives," Glen says. "We have kids who left us five years ago, but still have enough confidence in us to call us and ask for advice."

When asked what is the one thing they give to Texas juniors as advisors they both responded quickly, "They give to us."

The Grotes teach their junior members to be responsible and courteous.

"We remind them that if they screw up someone is always waiting to take their spot, because their junior association is going somewhere," Glen says. "It's like the national junior board, it's working so therefore it's going somewhere."

The Grotes believe the enthusiasm is there and if the kids put forth their responsibility to get something done it will. "Who cares if something goes wrong along the way as long as they're trying," he says.

"I truly believe the junior program is the backbone of the Angus business," Pat says. "And our juniors truly are the cream of the crop."

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