
They Made A Difference

Four men who have had a strong, positive influence on the U.S. Angus industry will be inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation during special ceremonies in Louisville, Ky.

They are Robert C. Snyder, former director of public relations for the American Angus Association, and now pastor of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Kansas City, MO.; Dale Davis, PAPA Ranch, Belgrade, Mont.; Louis "Mick" Colvin, executive director of American Angus Association's Certified Angus Beef Program, West Salem, Ohio; and the late Wayne Stevenson, Basin Angus Ranch, Hobson, Mont. Presentations of the certificates will be made during the Annual Banquet which follows the Annual Meeting of Delegates of the American Angus Association on Monday, Nov. 14, in Louisville, Ky.

Founded in 1983, the Angus Heritage foundation recognizes people who have contributed significantly to the Angus cattle business and the American Angus Association. Each recipient, or a family member, will receive a framed gold embossed certificate. In addition, the names of the individuals are engraved on an Angus Heritage Foundation plaque in the American Angus Association office.

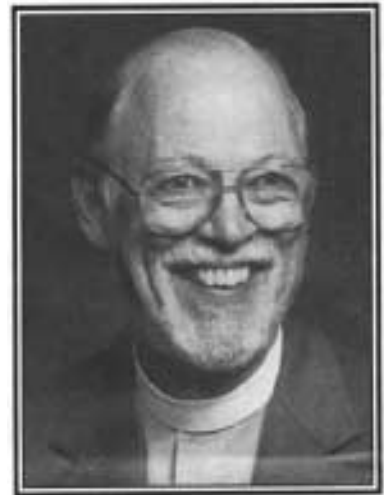
PR Man with Perseverance

Robert C. Snyder, a 1946 animal husbandry graduate of Michigan State University, East Lansing, joined the public relations department of the American Angus Association in 1958. In addition to his regular public relations writing and communications functions, Snyder was committed to the idea that the duty of registered Angus breeders is to serve the commercial beef industry. This was reflected in his writing and editing of feature stories and Association publications.

He was the driving force behind the American Angus Association's Challenge of the Future Tours. Their purpose was to show breeders the commercial cattle industry and the industry's needs. He also was major planner of the Angus portion of the 1971 American Beef Cattle Symposium at the University of Wisconsin. He organized the program for the 2nd World Angus Forum at Kansas City, Mo., in October 1973. It was attended by a record 1,400 people.

Through his work and perseverance the Angus postage stamp was issued by the U.S. Postal Service in 1973. It was part of the Angus Centennial Celebration. He also organized and promoted the 1976 Liberty Bell Angus Sire Evaluation Contest.

In 1978 Snyder left Association work to attend Nashotah House Seminary in Wisconsin, graduating in 1981. He has been pastor of five churches, including his present one in Kansas City. He also served four years as Dean of Southern Deanery, Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri.



Robert C. Snyder

Performance & Marketing Pioneer

Dale Davis, Belgrade, Mont., was a pioneer in beef cattle performance evaluation. He helped develop the Montana performance evaluation program in the mid-1950s. While serving on the American Angus Association Board of Directors from 1973 to 1980 he was a constant member of the Breed Improvement Committee and was influential in adopting the Angus Performance Pedigree.

Davis owned and developed the Rollin' Rock Angus herd which is now owned by his son Bill. Today he owns and operates the linebred PAPA herd with his wife Carol and daughter Pat.

He is a member of the Performance Breeders group. These Montana breeders successfully market their registered, performance tested yearling Angus bulls through their annual sale.



Dale Davis

A Strong & Willing Leader

Louis M. "Mick" Colvin has spent virtually all his career in the Angus business. In 1978, after serving 10 years as regional manager of the American Angus Association, he was named executive director of the American Angus Association's new and unique Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Program.

Today CAB Program is the largest branded fresh beef program in the world, with projected sales in the 1994 fiscal year of 173 million pounds. This has had a significant impact on the growth of the Angus business, and has demonstrated the value of high quality beef as it relates to consumer satisfaction and increased sales.

CAB Program has 33 employees who work with 33 licensed packing plants, 20 fabricating plants, 44 retail distributors, 64 food service distributors, 32 regional food procurement servicers, 24 exporters and 12 international distributors. There are 1,571 retail stores and nearly 1,100 licensed restaurants. All in all, more than 10,000 restaurants, licensed and unlicensed, sell Certified Angus Beef™ product.

A native of Bedford County, Pa., Colvin earned a bachelors degree in animal husbandry from Pennsylvania State University in 1960. He was herdsman for Moles Hill Farm, Sharon, Conn., from 1960-66. He showed three grand champions at the International Livestock Exposition and the National Western Stock Show and was named Angus Herdsman of the Year. He worked as manager of Longleaf Plantation, Aiken, S.C., before joining the American Angus Association in 1968.



Louis M. "Mick" Colvin

A Dream Passed On

The late Wayne D. Stevenson, an Angus cattle enthusiast, and a strong advocate of performance testing and National Sire Evaluation, built one of the largest Angus herds in the United States before his death in 1994 at 51 years of age.

He worked with his parents, Jamie and Jeanette Stevenson, on their Angus operation until 1972 when he started Basin Angus Ranch near Kolin, north of Hobson, Mont. He was the breeder of many internationally known sires, and he sold cattle, embryos and semen throughout the United States and into many foreign countries.

Stevenson was co-owner of some of the top bulls of the breed. In addition, he bred such well known bulls as Basin Q Bar 163 and Basin Emulation 5653. He was also a booster of junior Angus activities, and encouraged many young people to become involved with the Angus business.

A strong promoter of Montana Angus, Stevenson served two terms as president of the Montana Angus Association, and several terms as director. A second generation Angus breeder, Stevenson has children and grandchildren following in his footsteps.



Wayne D. Stevenson

Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Award Earned by Harlan Ritchie

The Saddle and Sirloin Club announced its prestigious Portrait Award, regarded as the livestock and meat industry's highest honor, will be presented this year to Dr. Harlan Ritchie, Michigan State University Distinguished Professor and Extension animal science program leader,

Ritchie was raised on a livestock and grain farm in northwest Iowa.

He earned a B.S. from Iowa State University in 1957, and Ph.D. degree at Michigan State in 1964.

Ritchie is cited for his industry leadership on many fronts during his 36-year career at Michigan State. In the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s he worked with swine breed associations and pork industry leaders in the pursuit of a leaner, more muscular hog,

With the advent of beef yield grading in 1965, it became apparent to Ritchie and his colleagues that the U.S. cattle population was not fully equipped genetically to meet the needs of a rapidly-expanding commercial feedlot industry. He soon became one of the nation's foremost leaders in the movement to select for faster-growing, more efficient cattle that could be finished at a more ideal weight and younger age than small cattle of that era.

By the early 1980s Ritchie sensed the potential problems associated with cattle breeding programs based solely on maximizing lean growth. These concerns culminated in his leadership to organize the National Beef Cow Efficiency Forum in 1984, which was instrumental in redirecting the industry's focus toward balanced multi-dimensional breeding programs,

Ritchie's greatest contribution to the animal industry has been his visionary perception of issues before they arise and his leadership in developing educational programs to address those issues. He is considered one of the industry's leading authorities on the health and safety of animal products and collaborates with a number of food safety groups.

Ritchie's portrait will be presented at the Saddle and Sirloin Club's annual banquet Nov. 13 during the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky. It will hang permanently in the club's gallery of 332 portraits of all-time industry greats, dating back to the mid-1700s



Photo: Librarian, Michigan State University

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