Next Generation

POSTCARD FROM AN NJAA DIRECTOR

A Season to Remember

Believe it or not, it is the holiday season again. If your family is anything like mine, you are so caught up in the hustle and bustle of buying the right gifts that you probably don't even acknowledge the true reason for the season.

Christmas is usually associated with lights, presents, trees and enough food to feed a small army. As a child, these were the exact things I thought about when

Heath Johnson

anyone mentioned the word *Christmas*. Two years ago, however, I experienced a Christmas that totally changed my perspective on what this wonderful holiday is all about.

My father remarried two summers ago, and my stepmother has two daughters. Of course, I thought that Christmas would be a disaster due to merging our families and the changes that we all had been through. I'm a stickler for tradition, and that year was definitely going to be a change.

On Dec. 23, we had a horrible ice storm that caused the power to fail. All that was going through my head was how Christmas was going to be terrible. But

something amazing happened later in the evening. We all gathered in the dining room and began talking. Soon, minutes became hours. God was working that night because the ice storm gave us the opportunity to spend time with each other and, in turn, develop a love for each other. That love is what Christmas is all about.

I am thankful for that Christmas. It taught me the holidays should be spent with family and close friends.

One piece of advice: Do not take loved ones for granted. Spend this Christmas season with the wonderful people who have had a tremendous influence on your life. Merry Christmas, and God bless you!

- Heath Johnson, Tupelo, Miss.

Angus Foundation donors

Without the generous contributions members make to the Angus Foundation each year, many programs would not be available, especially those that involve youth. Scholarships are available through the Angus Foundation that enable juniors to take advantage of leadership programs and to gain recognition for their leadership efforts. These are just a few examples of how your support through the Angus Foundation is making a difference. A special thanks goes to these contributors:

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Leading the Mississippi Junior Angus Association are (kneeling, from left) **Christy Franks**, Mantachie, reporter; **Dana Hancock**, Myrtle, secretary-treasurer; **Kirk Johnson**, Tupelo, vice president; and **Heath Johnson**, Tupelo, president. Directors are (standing, from left) **Chandra Stokes**, Ripley; **Julie Sims**, Booneville; **Jamie Overall**, Potts Camp; **Andrew Thornton**, Courtland; **Britt Magee**, Mendenhall; and **Emma Collins**, Forest.



Mississippi Angus royalty for 2000 include (from left) **Karen Woods,** Benton, princess; **Christy Franks,** Mantachie, princess; **Jamie Overall,** Potts Camp, princess; and **Chandra Stokes,** Ripley, queen.



Dusty Miller, Cedar Fort, Utah, will reign as the 2000-2001 Utah Angus queen.

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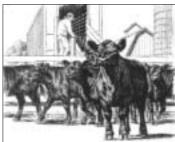
New Angus Foundation fund-raiser

The Angus Foundation has commissioned the printing of a set of four black-and-white grease-pencil drawings (shown here) from a series of works by Angus artist Frank Murphy. To be offered as the "Profitmaker Prints" collection, these four 11-by-14-inch images were used in the Association's advertising campaign from 1966 to 1970.

The set is available for a \$100 donation to the Angus Foundation. For more information, call the Junior Activities Department at (816) 383-5100.









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