

Angus Stakes

by Shauna Rose Hermel, editor



Christmas Eve clatter

A parody of Clement Clarke Moore's "Twas the Night Before Christmas," which was written in 1822.

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of trophies danced in their heads;
And pa in his union suit, and I in my wrap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to the window to see what was the matter.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear —
Eight yearling bulls and a 4x4 in high gear,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be Neighbor Vick.
More rapid than eagles his yearlings they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, Stockman! Now, Fame! Now, L.B. and Dateline!
On, Traveler! On Scotchcap! On, Saugi and Right Time!
Back home, boys! You should have heeded my call!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away, all!"

As I moved from the window and turned myself around,
Through the back door, Vick came with a bound.
He was dressed all in Carhartt, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with cow pies and soot.

"You know them heifers at the end of the lane,
The ones you been checkin' morning and night with great pain?
Your checkin' is over, my bulls did the trick."
The words, as he said them, cut to the quick.

All the planning and selection — was it in vain?
Fall show prospects for the kids was our aim.
"You need not worry," he said, "the bulls are good stock;
Good EPDs — they're the best that I've got."

Now Vick's a good neighbor, and the damage was done.
He spoke the truth, accolades those bulls had won.
Still, without a known sire, registration nightmares would lurk.
I spoke not a word, but went straight to work.

Eight potential natural sires and an AI sire, too!
The guidelines for parent verification were needed, I knew.
A new protocol has been adopted, in the December *Journal* I read,
DNA-marker-typing is the procedure, on page 66, it said;

To the Animal Genetics Lab at OSU I wrote,
Requesting the new filter-paper cards in my note.
Easier and better, that's what the story said.
I'd done all I could as I crawled back into bed.

Now a year later, with the fall calves on the ground,
It's Christmas future, and Neighbor Vick comes around.
"Those calves look amazing! My bulls did the trick;
Complementarity — I knew the genetics would nick."

"Well, two did, six didn't," is my quick reply,
"And three AI breedings stuck, well worth the try."
Registration certificates I hold in my hands,
Those not the sires, ruled out by DNA bands.

Good fences make good neighbors, some would say;
But it was a simple test that saved our day.
Separating the elite from the common lot,
Those papers add value to the calves that we sought.

"That bull calf's a beauty," said Vick, a gleam in his eye.
"Would a partnership be in order? Let's give it a try."
A Christmas deal done with the shake of a hand,
A gesture of friendship from those who work the land.

Vick sprang to his truck, to his dogs gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like a souped up missile.
Then I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



Notice to advertisers

The *Angus Journal* has adopted a new advertising policy, effective Jan. 1, 2001 (which will affect advertisements beginning with the March 2001 issue): "Advertising for sales scheduled in the month of publication accepted at the advertiser's risk. *Angus Journal* assumes no financial responsibility for timely distribution."

Due to increased magazine size and postal delivery times, it has become necessary to take a look at advertising deadlines and policies. Deadlines already seem to be set as early as is feasible, so it has become necessary to shift the guaranteed advertised sale dates.

As of the March 2001 issue, sale dates must be advertised in the month prior to the respective sale month. In other words, all March sale dates should be published in the February issue. No longer will delivery within a reasonable amount of time ahead of the date be guaranteed for sale dates of the 20th or later in the month of publication.