



Iowa Angus breeders dedicated the 1983 National Junior Show to Lyle Haring with the words below. They've been said before, and the statement's truth is a summation of the lifelong accomplishments of this man.

American Angus Assn. regional manager in Iowa for more than 30 years, Lyle retires this month. He leaves many a smile and has touched Angus breeders across the country.

Lyle has contributed to the Iowa beef industry as a whole, as much as to Iowa Angus breeders. Though focused on Angus, his work has reached far beyond the Angus breed. Early in his career he realized the economic importance of hornless cattle and the benefits of the Angus breed. He has made breeders—adults and juniors alike—more aware of the breed's impact on farm families, its potential to strengthen the beef industry and the importance of every link in the chain of beef production and merchandising. He has a clear understanding of reality, of what makes things happen, of the importance of educating our youth and speaking out for personal beliefs. Throughout his career he has continually worked with young people. His work with them and in promotional activities have been his long suits.

Born and raised in Iowa, Lyle was the youngest of six on a purebred livestock farm that included Chester White hogs, Belgian horses and Hereford cattle. Fond childhood memories are of the constant companionship of a Collie cattle-dog named Queen, Fishing (which

LYLE HARING

by Terrie dark, Advertising Assistant

"No man, living or called beyond, has had a more profound effect on the well-being of Iowa Angus breeders and their families, or upon the improvement of the breed. . . ."

has become a lifelong hobby) and showing livestock in 4-H. "I didn't show too many hogs as I got older," he says. "I did show colts one year, but mostly I showed Hereford steers and heifers."

After faming for a few years with his father, Lyle began his career as Clinton County (Iowa) 4-H assistant. This position was highlighted when in 1948 two Clinton County 4-Hers won, with Angus steers, the grand and reserve grand championships over all breeds in the junior division of the 1948 International Livestock Exhibition in Chicago—the only time in the International's history that both champions were from the same county.

Lyle's career broadened in scope in 1950 when he became secretary of the Iowa Beef Producers Assn. under J.C. Holbert. Holbert, always highly respected by Lyle both as an individual and as a cattleman, is credited with the foresight to hire Lyle as secretary of the Iowa Beef Producers.

Since many fieldmen traveled together in those days, Lyle spent a lot of time with some of the American Angus Assn. representatives. And when the Association was looking for a fieldman in the Iowa area, staff members had been impressed with Lyle and approached him for the position. He joined the staff July 1, 1953.

More than a fieldman

In addition to the usual responsibilities of a regional manager, Lyle has been an innovator, a leader in coming up with new ideas, challenges and activities. In 1956 he, Ed Stout (then fieldman for the Missouri Angus Assn.) and Earl Rogers, Kirksville, Mo., organized the first junior association—the Missouri Junior Angus Assn. The Iowa Junior Angus Assn. was started in January 1958. Lyle was instrumental in putting it together and also has continued to be an advisor since that beginning.

Lyle has also been instrumental in many activities coordinated by the state and area associations, from production and consignment sales, to various programs at the Iowa State Fair and the smaller fairs in Iowa. Recently, Lyle played an important role behind the 1983 National Junior Angus Show, but his energies help boost annual events such as the Iowa Futurity Beef Show continually.

To a great extent, Lyle has been an initiator and organizer of yearly state-

wide tours. Touted annually as "probably one of the best activities of the year," they typify Lyle's extra efforts. In addition to providing an opportunity for registered and commercial breeders to see what others are doing, Lyle has always done his best to try to add something of human interest. Non-Angus stops have ranged from apple orchards, to a cheese factory, to an old house of architectural interest.

Always promoting

Breeders in Iowa describe Lyle as being "a cohesive influence in promoting



Calling himself a "sucker for fishing" Lyle is pictured here with catches from his favorite places—a catch of more than 120 fish from one of his first fishing trips to Canada and with a string of rainbow trout from the Walt Olson Sr. farm, Calamus, Iowa.



Now an antique shop and pecan cracker, the Calamus, Iowa, railroad depot is pictured before Lyle and his partners moved it to DeWitt.



"One of the most interesting things that tells a little about Lyle happened one day when a young man was very, very unhappy and disgruntled about what an animal had brought at a sale. He literally tore into Lyle and badgered him hard. I went over to the young fellow and suggested he should not be saying what he was saying because someday he would regret it. Lyle said, though, 'Let him go ahead. Let him get it off his chest. He'll feel better when he's all done.' I think that depicts his tolerance of people."

—Oliver Hansen, Durant, Iowa



The Centennial Junior Angus Show was dedicated to Lyle Haring. Here Paul Stueland, Calamus, Iowa, presents the Hawkeye State's own "Mr. Angus" with a montage.

the breed" and displaying a contagious enthusiasm. He is one that takes the time to learn what all the breeders in his territory are doing. He listens to their needs, lets them tell him their ideas, opinions and goals; but yet offers ideas on how to accomplish them.

Iowa breeders have come to rely on Lyle. They feel a sale or a show is not complete without him. He works for everybody, large or small. He knows everybody and communicates well with them. Many people, both breeders and buyers, have depended on him for his selections, relied on his judgement and sought his opinion before making commitments.

Lyle never seems too busy to come to any association meeting, regardless of size. He's been to meetings of no more than seven or eight people, perhaps even traveling 300 miles or so to get there. He is known to sit back and let meetings be conducted, but when he has something relevant to say, he'll say it.

Encouraging juniors

Lyle started his career working with young people and has never lost interest. He seems to have a way of making them have fun, while at the same time encouraging them to be very serious and shoot for goals. Juniors like him, he's always optimistic. And instead of standing on the perimeter tell-

ing them what to do, he gets in the middle of things and becomes a part of it.

Encouragement to continue working toward goals is a valuable part of what Lyle imparts to junior members. He discourages their being too hard on themselves when things don't go well, yet cautions them not to go "overboard" if things do go well.

Rich Werner, president of the Iowa Junior Angus Assn., attributes his involvement with the state junior association to Lyle's influence and encouragement. "He kept on me if I wasn't doing something right or just wasn't doing something at all," he explains.

Many others have counted on Lyle for guidance and direction, too. Although he may not be responsible for their involvement with Angus initially, his influence has helped keep them in the business.

The key to Lyle's vital energy and enthusiasm may be that he is a positive thinker and that he enjoys what he does. "I think, let's think positive. Let's look at the bright side of life," he says. "You know the old story about the positive and negative person—the positive person gets up in the morning and looks out the window and says 'Good morning, God'. The negative thinker gets up in the morning and looks out the window and says 'Good God, mor-

ning.' So you know it's just how you say it and how you feel and how you think."

Obviously, Lyle enjoys what he does. "I think everybody ought to enjoy what they're doing," he emphasizes.

"I think when you have something to do, you should work your tail off and get it done," he'll add. "Then when you want to go play, you can go and nobody's going to care."

Goals and accomplishments

If Lyle Haring has any regrets—anything he'd do over—it would be to accomplish more. He says, "I'm sure there's lots of things I should have tried. I'm a great believer in trying things. I've told young people we'll never know if it fails unless we try it."

When he looks back, Lyle sees he didn't encourage Angus breeders or livestock people to be good enough salesmen. "The power of advertising is tremendous," he explains. "I think we in the Angus breed have to keep stressing the merits of Angus cattle and not ever let down and say everybody knows that. They don't know it."

Another need Lyle sees is the need to be organized. He sees numbers and organizations as the means for Angus breeders and agricultural people to have more of a say or control over the factors that influence their industry.

Lyle is also sold on the Certified Angus Beef program and its potential. "I think maybe we've just seen the tip of the iceberg on that one. I hope we get it started within a short time here in Iowa. If I can get that done before I'm through, I'll put another mark on my list of accomplishments," he says.



In the true spirit of the 1976 occasion, Lyle is pictured leading a grand march at the Bicentennial National Angus Show held in Des Moines at the Iowa State Fair.

Practicing his philosophy of getting the job done and then playing, Lyle has found time to develop some satisfying hobbies—fishing, hunting and collecting antiques.

Of the antiques, Lyle says "... I grew up with them." Most of the furniture he grew up with was the original furniture of his parents and it looked better with time. Lyle started collecting bottles then became more interested in antiques and started buying them as an investment.

"In those days," he says "you could invest your money in antiques and they would appreciate much faster than collecting interest on your money." Today together with three others Lyle owns an antique shop. They bought a railroad depot to save it, moved it to DeWitt and decided to sell antiques and cracked pecans out of it.

The key to Lyle's vital energy and enthusiasm may be that he is a positive thinker and that he enjoys what he does.

Lyle's love for fishing also spills over from boyhood days, and heading to Canada once or twice each year is something he really enjoys. He says it's not too far from home he can get there easily in a day and drive back in a day. The fishing is good and a person can "get away from it all." The best part of the whole fishing trip though is the noon cookout with Walleyes. Everybody does the cooking but word has it that "Lyle's the specialist when it comes to getting the fish brown."

Good times ahead

Lyle's retirement plans include more hunting and fishing, less travel, but trips to the places he wants to go (such as a month each winter down south visiting friends).

"When I was young, almost every Sunday bright and early I'd be out on a trout stream. I want to do more of that," he summarizes.

"I was born in north central Iowa, but I was raised and spent most of my life around DeWitt. I like it. It's not a big town 3,500 people. I know people. I think I can help do more community work. The town has been good to me and so I can go back and help some," he says.

Whatever he does we're sure it will involve people. And we're sure he'll enjoy what he's doing.