



Newsmakers

► Items of interest about and for members of our Angus family. Compiled by **Linda Robbins**.

IN PASSING

Creighton Barner, 83, Munden, Kan., died Feb. 17.

Creighton was born June 25, 1932, in Martelle, Iowa, to George and Gladys (Leinbaugh) Barner. He graduated from Martelle schools in 1949. He then went to the University of Dubuque in Dubuque, Iowa. While there he was a walk-on for the football team. After that first year he was granted a full-ride football scholarship. He majored in history and physical education. He was also on the wrestling team. His most famous wrestling opponent was later a linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers, Art (Boom Boom) Mahaick.

After attending college, Creighton entered the Air Force in 1952. He joined the 1st Airborne Cadets in San Antonio, Texas. He came home and married Lola Horstmann on June 27, 1954, in Wheatland, Iowa. From that union there were five children born. Brenda, Bret, Becky, Bonita and Bart all live in Iowa.

Creighton operated the family farm for many years, raising purebred Angus cattle. He bought his first registered-Angus cow in 1954. He was also a county 4-H leader and an independent livestock truck driver for many years.

Later in his life, he married Mary Miller on June 3, 1982. Creighton continued raising Angus cattle and livestock trucking. He and Mary also enjoyed horses.

In addition to his wife, Creighton is survived by his children in Iowa; brother

Steven; a stepson; nine grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Robert "Bob" Koch, 91, Colorado Springs, Colo., died peacefully on March 10.

Bob was born in Sioux City, Iowa, May 15, 1924, to William and Geneva Koch. He had an older brother, Bill Jr., now deceased. Their mother, Geneva, passed away when they were 11 and 14 years old. Later, their father married Marian Tait, and after several years, a sister, Susan, was born. He grew up in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon and Montana, graduating from Billings Senior High School in 1942.

Bob enlisted in the Army during WWII after a semester of college. After basic training, he was assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) in Stephenville, Texas. The ASTP offered fast-track degree programs for bright young recruits. Because of the heavy casualties during D-Day, ASTP was disbanded and he was assigned to the rifle companies of the 99th Infantry Division, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 395th Regiment.

In Europe, he participated in the Battle of the Bulge and received many medals and awards, including a Bronze Star. He attended the first Officer Candidate School in Europe (Paris) and left the service as a First Lieutenant in 1946. Bob enjoyed attending many reunions of the 99th Infantry Division, including one in Krinkelt, Belgium, where the local people unveiled a monument

honoring the 99th and hosted a reception in their honor.

Bob married his high school sweetheart, Virginia Terrett, in July 1946 and then returned to college. He graduated from Montana State University with a degree in animal science in 1948, and he received a master's degree in 1950 and a doctoral degree in 1953 from Iowa State University. He joined the Animal Science Department faculty at the University of Nebraska in 1950. His career with the university included serving as superintendent at the Fort Robinson Beef Cattle Research Station, Crawford, Neb., consultant at the University of Nebraska Mission in Colombia, South America, and as chairman of the Animal Science Department (seven years).

In 1966, Bob returned to research full time and in 1972 moved to the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Clay Center, Neb. There he, along with L.V. Cundiff and K.E. Gregory, launched the Germplasm Evaluation Program. The program was designed to characterize diverse cattle breeds and their utilization in alternative crossbreeding systems. He wrote and published his last research at the age of 80 in the *Journal of Animal Science*.

Bob received many research awards, including the Animal Breeding and Fellow Awards from the American Society of Animal Science and the Pioneer Award from the Beef Improvement Federation. Bob's research contributions are documented in more than 150 refereed scientific publications. He was invited to make numerous presentations at scientific meetings and beef industry meetings in the United States and in other countries, including Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Spain, the United Kingdom, France and Canada.

His hobbies included gardening, woodworking and hunting. His grandchildren loved to visit and help him pick ripe vegetables. In the summer, their dinner table included a freshly arranged summer bouquet of flowers from Grandmother Virginia's flower garden and fresh vegetables from Granddad Bob's garden. Each visit also included a trip to the university or research center to see the cattle involved in his research studies.

Bob has a loving family; his wife, Virginia,

Iowa Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Feb. 17, Des Moines



► Officers and directors for the Iowa Angus Ass'n are (seated, front row, from left) **Jim O'Neill**, Corning; **Chris Miller**, Clermont, past president; **Colby Holmes**, Benton; **Cody Jensen**, Plainfield, vice president; **Joseph Becker**, Diagonal, president; (standing, back row, from left) **Erle Driscoll**, Williamsburg; **Mike Wells**, Columbus Junction; **Edward Wiederstein**, Audubon; **Doug Schroeder**, Clarence; **Ted Greiman**, Garner; and **Kirk Brandt**, Corning.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN ANGUS ASS'N

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█ **Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 11, Oklahoma City**

▶ **Right: Jim and Nancy Wann, Poteau,** were inducted into the Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Hall of Fame. Pictured are (from left) Allen Johnston and Jim Davis, Oklahoma Angus Ass'n president, presenting; Nancy and Jim Wann; and Danny Wann.



▶ **Left: Butch and Cindy McCray, Manchester,** received the Commercial Producer Award. Pictured are (from left) Davis; and Butch and Nancy McCray.



▶ **Right: Jennifer Callahan (left), Edmond,** receives the Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Mr. Angus Award from Davis.

█ **South Carolina Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 18, Clemson**



▶ Officers and directors for the South Carolina Angus Ass'n are (front row, from left) **Nancy Blumer, Chesnee;** **Sharon Furr, Blackstock,** secretary; **Steve McPhail II, Inman,** vice president; **Larry Olson, Barnwell,** president; **Michael Johnson, Kinards,** treasurer; **Kevin Renwick, Iva;** (back row, from left) **Neil Boyd, Clover;** **Lynn Shealy, Chapin;** **Dixon Shealy, Newberry;** **Cody Bright, Gaffney;** **Jody Watt, Iva;** and **Heather Collins, Tigerville.**



▶ **Thomas Hugh Shaw, formerly of North Augusta,** was inducted posthumously into the South Carolina Angus Ass'n Hall of Fame. Pictured accepting the award are (from left) Mark and Beverly Shaw, son and daughter-in-law of Thomas; and Walter Shealy, presenting.



▶ **Lydia Yon, Ridge Spring,** was honored by the South Carolina Jr. Angus Ass'n (SCJAA) for her dedicated service as a past junior advisor. Pictured are (from left) Madilyn Ryan and Kaylen Ryan, both SCJAA members, presenting; Lydia Yon, recipient; and Jared Carnes, SCJAA member, presenting.

▶ **Right: Kevin and Lydia Yon, Yon Family Farms, Ridge Spring,** were honored with the 45th Annual Carolina Angus Futurity dedication. Pictured are (from left) Corbin, Drake, Kevin, Lydia and Sally Yon.



died in 1996 after almost 50 years of marriage. He is survived by sister Susan; sons William, James and Richard; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

He is also survived by his wife of 18 years, Mary Jane Huxtable-Koch, and her children Tom, Paul, Anne and Jean, and their families. Mary Jane has 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Bob moved to Morning Star Senior Living at Mountain Shadows in Colorado Springs two years ago to be near his sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He loved scenic drives through the mountains along with many family dinners and celebrations. Bob's ashes will be placed with his beloved Virginia in the columbarium at Holy Trinity Church in Lincoln, Neb., and also next to his beloved mother, Geneva, in Sioux City, Iowa, where he wanted his marker engraved "Loving Son of Geneva."

Gordon Ferguson, 75, Columbia, Mo., died March 15 at Boone Hospital Center surrounded by his loving family.

Gordon was born May 2, 1940, in Saint Charles, Mo., to Arthur and Olivia

(VanHouten) Ferguson. He was their only child. He graduated from Centralia High School in 1958 and went on to graduate from the University of Missouri–Columbia with a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1962 and a master's in education in 1987. He proudly served in the United States Army National Guard from 1962 to 1968. He was also a member of Rising Sun Baptist Church.

Gordon was a true cowboy. He grew up showing cattle and helping his father at various Angus farms around the country. In 1962 Gordon left home to work at Blue Sky Farm in Kearney, Mo. Often hailed as "the best times of his life," he went on the road with Blue Sky's string of Angus cattle and showed many champions along the way.

He exhibited at the Missouri State Fair, the American Royal in Kansas City, the International Live Stock Exposition in Chicago, the National Western Stock Show in Denver, the Grand National Livestock Show at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, the Arizona Livestock Show, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Fort Worth Livestock Show and the Western States Angus Futurity, where they had supreme champion heifer in 1965 and were recognized on stage at the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas.

He cherished this time in his life and the many lifelong friends he made along the way.

Gordon was a talented calf roper and was a member of the United Rodeo Association. In the summer of 1969 he was able to spend the entire summer competing at rodeos all around the Midwest with his horse, Punk.

On Feb. 10, 1973, Gordon was united in marriage to Sandra (Graham) Ferguson in Richmond, Mo. They settled in Columbia close to his parents and raised their own herd of Angus cattle. He raised club calves and was proud to have raised the 1993 champion steer at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville and several champions his daughters exhibited at local shows, county fairs and the Missouri State Fair.

Gordon spent 13 years as an over-the-road driver for Ward Trucking and went on to work at Dimensions in Wood for 25 years. He loved to read and learn, becoming a talented woodworker and machinist. The last several years he fabricated and machined parts and built small hit-and-miss engines. Gordon made many friends throughout his life and was always there to lend a helping hand. He always had a good story to tell and will be missed by many.

Gordon and Sandra had 43 wonderful years together. He passed on his love of livestock, showing and hard work to his daughters, Carrie and Amy. He especially loved watching his children grow up and loved the family vacations they took to Florida and Branson.

In addition to his wife, Gordon is survived by daughters Carrie (John) and Amy (Jason), granddaughters Jillian and Adrienne, and mother-in-law Beulah Graham.

David McMahon Sr., 84, Fort Smith, Ark., died March 23 due to complications of mitral valve failure. He was born March 26, 1931, in Clarksville, Ark., to Donald and Marguerite Dixon Tyson McMahon. He was the owner of Belle Point Beverages Inc. and Belle Point Ranch. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Church and a follower and patron of Subiaco Abbey.

David was a man of vision and integrity. He celebrated imagination and worked to develop his innovative ideas. He eagerly served God, his family and his fellow man. He was a connector of people, a collaborator in projects, and a collector of friends. He embraced giving as an opportunity.

In 1936, David's parents and their three sons returned to Fort Smith where his father was engaged in a wholesale grocery business. Ten years later, his father began distributing Anheuser-Busch products. David was educated at Immaculate Conception School, Fort Smith Public Schools, and Oklahoma A&M College in Stillwater. In 1953, he earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture, majoring in animal husbandry. While in college, David was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and served in the Army ROTC program. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and earned the rank of captain. His two years of active duty included one year in Korea. He served four years as an officer in the Army Reserve.

In 1955, David rejoined his family's Anheuser-Busch distributorship. Upon his father's death in 1965, he assumed leadership of the company now known as Belle Point Beverages Inc. He served on the first Anheuser-Busch Wholesaler Advisory Panel from 1968 to 1971. This panel established the Wholesaler Equity Agreement, a standard of business that is still honored today. This year marks 70 years of exclusive partnership with Anheuser-Busch, providing sales and service to retailers in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

David married Mary Ann Lovoi in 1953, having known her since kindergarten. They raised five children on their 40 acres in south Fort Smith, educating them at Immaculate Conception School, Saint Anne's and

Southside High Schools, in the 4-H program, the University of Arkansas and Oklahoma State University (OSU). Although David grew up showing gaited horses, he discovered a passion for purebred cattle in his college years. In 1975 the McMahons established Belle Point Ranch in Lavaca as a second family business. The ranch quickly grew to national prominence in the Angus breed. His children, their spouses and his grandchildren are all involved in the annual Angus production sale each spring.

David served on the American Angus Association Board of Directors, the first Board of Directors of Certified Angus Beef LLC, and as co-chair of the Angus Foundation Leadership Cabinet.

In the local community he provided leadership to the Subiaco Monastery President's Council; Immaculate Conception Church Finance Committee; the Catholic Education Endowment Fund, serving as general chairman; Saint Edward Mercy

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Medical Center Board of Advisors; Sparks Hospital Foundation Board; and the University of Arkansas—Fort Smith Foundation Board.

He was a devoted contributor and tireless worker for youth development. In addition to employing hundreds of high school students over the years at Belle Point Ranch, he was passionate about Immaculate Conception School, 4-H, Boy Scouts, junior livestock auctions, the Boys Shelter and Girls Shelter, and state and national junior Angus associations. Because he believed that youth programs shape individuals into productive citizens and the leaders of tomorrow, he supported these programs, and many others, with his time, knowledge and checkbook.

He was twice distinguished with Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellow Award, as well as OSU's Graduate of Distinction, and the University of Arkansas Animal Science Award.

In addition to his wife of 62 years, David is survived by daughters Mary Lynn, Kathleen, Julie and Susan; son David Jr.; brother Jim; 11 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. The McMahons wish to recognize and thank many loyal employees and business associates — present

and past — who were truly family to David.

As one of six projects chosen by the family to honor David's memory, contributions to the Angus project can be sent to the National Junior Angus Show Endowment Fund, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Cody Jensen, Saint Joseph, Mo., has been hired at BioZyme as quality control and production efficiency coordinator. In his new position, Jensen is responsible for ensuring that quality parameters are met during product receiving, manufacturing and delivery. Additionally, he will work to maximize mill efficiency and throughput on a daily basis.

Jeff Howes has been appointed vice president of marketing for Universal Trailer Corp. Howes is expected to help drive new marketing initiatives and further advance product development within each of the company's brands.

Kendal Frazier has been named the CEO of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. He has served as the interim CEO since June 2015.

Nearly 20 artificial insemination (AI) technicians, sales representatives, Select Mating Service™ (SMS™) genetic consultants, marketing staff and interns took part in Select Sires' employee orientation March 15 and 16 at the Select Sires headquarters in Plain City, Ohio. Employees from eight member cooperatives and Select Sires Inc. were present for the two-day event.

Orientation and sales training participants included **Brandon Boogerd**, Outlook, Wash.; **Loren Hoekema**, Everson, Wash.; **Kory Tjoelker**, Lynden, Wash.; **Kirby Pair**, Stephenville, Texas; **Brian Badtke**, Benton, Wis.; **Nick Fischer**, Germantown, Wis.; **Ben Sarbacker**, Edgerton, Wis.; **Derek Hjelm**, Glenwood, Minn.; **Brian Landis**, Goshen, Ind.; **Jesse Ramer**, Goshen, Ind.; **Brad Cromer**, Marshfield, Mo.; **Andy Reed**, Reedsville, Pa.; **Jason Mearkle**, Clearville, Pa.; **David Miklic**, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; **Elizabeth Pereira**, Anderson, S.C.; **Lidia Pedrozo**, New Albany, Ohio; and **Sarah Ellingwood**, Richmond, Ind.



Editor's Note: This column is compiled by Assistant Editor Linda Robbins. To submit your newsmaker, email lrobbins@angus.media or call 816-383-5245.