



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

Clearwater Farm, Springfield, Mo., has been recognized by the American Angus Association as a Historic Angus Herd.

In 1933, W.H. Pipkin and his son, Morris S. Pipkin, started their Angus herd with a purchase from the Johnson Workman family in Kansas. Clearwater Farm has been a member of the Association since 1936, and enrolled in Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) since 1962. The Pipkin family was an early adopter of artificial insemination (AI) technology in the 1940s, and continues to use only the top AI sires of the Angus breed to market bulls to commercial cattlemen.

Throughout their many years in the Angus business, the Pipkin family has received multiple awards, including the Meritorious Service Award from the Missouri Junior Angus Association and Centennial herd award. The Pipkins were the first-ever family to receive a dedication at the Missouri State Fair. Morris Pipkin was also inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation posthumously in 2005.

Today, the herd has been passed down through generations and consists of 300 Angus cattle. W.D. Pipkin and James D. Pipkin are the current family members who manage the herd.

The Historic Angus Herd Award is presented to Angus breeders or immediate families who have been in continuous production of registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more.

Virginia Angus Breeders' Show, July 27, Chatham



► The **Peebles family**, Stuarts Draft, was honored with the Breeders' Show Dedication Award. Pictured are (from left) Tanya Peebles; Chris Wojociechowski, presenting; and Cheryl and Johnny Peebles.

IN PASSING

Pearl Irene Edwards, 82, Middletown, Mo., died July 27 at her home with her loving family by her side.

Irene was born at home in McBaine, Mo., to Orel and Ruth (Limerick) John Jan. 12, 1931. She attended first grade in McBaine. The family moved to Harg, Mo., where she attended school through sixth grade. The family moved to Linn, Mo., where Irene's father became the first vocational agriculture teacher at the new high school.

She attended seventh grade there and began piano lessons with Mrs. Nilges. The following year the family moved to Huntsville, Mo., where her father took the vocational agriculture teaching job. Irene began eighth grade and finished high school there. She was an outstanding athlete, playing basketball, tennis and running track, which included high jump, shotput and long jump. She set records in all track events in which she participated during her last two years of high school. Irene was also in 4-H and showed sheep at the fair.

After graduation from high school, Irene attended the state teachers' college in Kirksville, Mo., staying in the dorm during the week and riding back and forth to Huntsville on weekends. She majored in physical education with a plan to teach athletics. She transferred to the University of Missouri in 1950. There she met Ruben Edwards. He remembers her as the girl with the little white shorts and a tennis racquet in her hand. He didn't know her name but he knew he would marry her.

Ruben was in Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. They spent many evenings there with Irene playing the piano and a group of young men and women gathered around singing. Ruben convinced his fraternity brothers to serenade Irene because he "couldn't carry a note," and he gave her his fraternity pin. They married Sept. 2, 1951, in Huntsville.

They lived in Columbia while Ruben completed his final year at the university. They were active at the Baptist Student Union. In the spring of 1952 Ruben graduated, their first child was born and they

moved home to the farm at Corso, Mo.

Irene had changed her major to home economics when she met Ruben. She managed the household and worked with Ruben to create a nationally known farm, HampAn Farms. Irene kept up with registering all animals, named each individual hog registered, took care of advertising, bookkeeping and became a renowned hostess. She continued this as the hog production changed to an emphasis on selling Angus bulls.

She has been known as "Miss Irene" by at least three generations of folks who were fortunate enough to arrive in time for a meal at her table. Ruben has said many times that he would show the livestock to the buyers, but Irene would close the deal with her wonderfully and lovingly prepared meals.

Along with her own children, who became an integral part of the production team at HampAn Farms, Ruben and Irene had 15 young adults come for summer internships and/or to live and work on the farm. They also hosted two exchange students, one from Australia and one from Brazil.

Irene loved her gardens, both vegetable and flower. She created a beautiful setting for all to enjoy. She had canned and frozen vegetables and beef and pork to have on hand for her wonderful meals. She served as 4-H leader and extension president.

Irene joined the Baptist Church in Huntsville when she was 10 years old. When she and Ruben moved to the farm they joined his home church, Olney Baptist Church. There she faithfully served by teaching Sunday School, Training Union and Bible School. She has led congregational singing and worked with the children's choir to prepare musicals to share at other churches. She has played and sang in nursing homes in the area as an outreach for the church. For the past 60 years, she has served as the church pianist and song leader.

Irene has been a devoted wife and partner to Ruben for 62 years. As Ruben began to lose his eyesight, Irene stepped into new roles to help him continue his love of farming. She has read to him and been his driver.

In addition to her husband, Irene is survived by daughters Patricia, Linda and Teresa; sons John and James; brother Russell; 14 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

DeWayne Costin, 66, Greencastle, Ind., died Aug. 17.

Born March 9, 1947, in Greencastle, DeWayne was the son of Noble and Lois (Williams) Costin and was a 1965 graduate of Greencastle High School.

DeWayne was a lifelong farmer in Putnam County, active in the American Angus Association and West Central Indiana Angus Association. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1975.

DeWayne is survived by wife Micky; his parents; son Andy; stepson Gerry Singleton; stepdaughter Charity Craig; sister Wanda; brother Mickey; and 11 grandchildren.

Lee McKellar, 85, Mount Pleasant, Texas, died Aug. 19.

Lee was born July 27, 1928, in Evangeline, La., to Joseph and Cleo (Hurst) McKellar. He graduated from Baylor University and the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston. He moved to Mount Pleasant in 1957, where he practiced family medicine for 56 years. He was also an active member in the First Baptist Church in Mount Pleasant.

Lee was an avid cattleman. He had a great passion for the purebred cattle business. He ranched in Titus County near Mount Pleasant for more than 50 years beginning in 1960. Through the years he was involved with several breeds of cattle, including red Brahman, Fleckvieh, Simmental and black Angus.

Lee was one of the early innovators of nonsurgical embryo transfer and artificial insemination in purebred cattle. In 2002, he was part of the decision for the McKellar family to pursue exclusively black Angus genetics. McKellar Ranch has been a member of the American Angus Association since 1983.

Sons Morris and Mark and grandson Joseph McKellar will continue to operate McKellar Angus and host their annual production sale. The McKellar family will carry on Lee's legacy of enthusiasm and positivity for all facets of the cattle industry.

Lee was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruby McKellar.

He is survived by wife Delores; sons Morris, Mark and Matthew; daughter Zena; 12 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Edwin Wessel, 84, Trafalgar, Ind., died Aug. 20.

Edwin was born Nov. 27, 1928, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Louis and Helen (Coughlin) Wessel.

He graduated from Western Hills High School in Cincinnati and from Ohio State University, where he was a member of ROTC. He married Shirley Bradbury Jan. 3, 1953. He is a veteran of the Korean Conflict and served from 1953 to 1954 as a first lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

After returning from Korea, he worked as a cattle buyer for Hy-Grade Cattle Co., pioneering the direct buying of fat cattle from individual farmers. A highlight of his buying career was traveling to farms by helicopter to purchase the cattle. In 1961, he joined Stadler Packing Co. in Columbus, Ind., as a cattle buyer, retiring in 1984.

Edwin purchased his farm in Trafalgar in 1967, fulfilling a lifelong dream of living on his own farm. By 1972, he began pursuing another goal of having a herd of "good black cows" by purchasing his first registered-Angus cattle and establishing Wessel Angus, which continues today. He enjoyed gardening and farming and took great pride providing food for his family and friends. An average tomato crop was more than a hundred plants.

Edwin was a member of Saint George Lutheran Church, Edinburgh, Ind., the Masonic Lodge in Cincinnati, the Indiana Beef Cattle Association, the Johnson County Beef Cattle Association, the Indiana Angus Association and Southern Indiana Angus Association. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1973.

In addition to his wife, Edwin is survived by daughters Barbara, Elizabeth and Linda; son Richard; and six grandchildren.

► INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Michael Latimer has been named the executive director of the Canadian Beef Breeds Council. He is the former general manager of the Canadian Angus Association and a fifth-generation purebred cattle producer.



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