



Newsmakers

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

IN THE NEWS

American Angus Association members **Frank and Beth Plain**, White Rock, B.C., Canada, were presented the 50-Year Heritage Award by the Canadian Angus Association. The awards were introduced in 1998 to recognize those breeders who had been a member for 50 consecutive years within the Association.

Frank was born and raised on a farm in Shedden, Ontario. He showed his first Angus calf at a school fair there. When he was 14 years old, his family moved to a farm in the central Alberta town of Pibroch. Times were tough, and with a lack of funds for university, Frank continued to work on the family farm.

He met Beth, a farm girl from Westlock, and they married in 1946. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 2010.

Beth became a schoolteacher and taught in a one-room school for grades 1-8 in Fawcett, Alta. Frank took over the 5,200-acre family farm consisting of mixed farming. His father had always used Angus bulls and, in 1946, the Plains started an Angus herd with the purchase of three Angus cows from Walter Willett, a breeder in Morinville, Alta.

In 1950, due to Frank's health issues, they moved to White Rock and purchased a 17-acre farm they named Sunniebend Farm after the school district in Alberta. They raised Angus, Holsteins and chickens.

Frank became a realtor and began a very successful 25-year career in the real-estate business. In 1958, they purchased an Angus

cow from Woodwyn Farms, Sanichton, B.C. This female, Pride Henderson 56E, became the foundation cow for their purebred herd. They joined the British Columbia Angus Association (BCAA), and Frank was president for two terms. Beth served as treasurer of the BCAA.

The herd grew to 70 cows and at times they had up to 110 head.

Frank and Beth showed in many British Columbia shows. Frank served on the board of Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) for several terms. Sunniebend hosted the Norm Wade, many 4-H events, field days and meetings. Frank served on the Canadian Angus Association board as a director for five years.

Frank was president for many years of the Fraser Valley Angus Association, which was formed in the 1950s. The Fraser club often got together with other British Columbia clubs for Angus events. The Plains attended World Angus Forums in Scotland, Argentina and Australia, as well as those hosted in Canada.

In 1990, the Plains sold Sunniebend Farm and sold the herd to Tom Hillman in Quesnel. They continue to attend Angus meetings and events.

In 2012, four other operations were also recognized as 50-year Heritage Award winners: Noiseux family of Quebec; Silver Willow Stock Farm of Saskatchewan; Mac Angus Farm, Quebec; and Rolling Stock Farm of Saskatchewan.

IN PASSING

William "Billy" King, 90, Gaithersburg, Md., died Sept. 3.

Billy was born Dec. 21, 1921, the first child of W. Lawson and Elizabeth King.



After living on his grandparents' Fulks Farm, the family moved to what became the Irvington Farms homeplace in 1924, where Billy's lifelong love of farming began.

A 4-H club member since he was 14, Billy was an avid student in judging cattle, and advanced to the Maryland 4-H Club's judging teams from 1939 to 1941. He competed at the National Dairy Shows.

In his teens, Billy was also a member of the FFA and displayed his prowess in public speaking by placing first in the state and eastern state FFA speaking contests. In October 1942, at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo., Billy was one of 50 public speaking competitors. He placed fourth.

After graduating from Gaithersburg High School in 1940 and finishing Randolph-Macon Academy in 1941 as an honor student and track member, he came home to begin his farming and business career in earnest.

By the early 1950s, Billy, working with

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Kentucky State Fair Angus Show, Louisville, Aug. 25



► The Kentucky Jr. Angus Ass'n presented **Dianne Cowles**, Rockfield, with the Kentucky Jr. Appreciation Award.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

his father, built a world-renowned purebred registered Holstein-Friesian herd. Farming 1,500 acres and operating five separate milking parlors, they did what the sign on the homeplace barn still advertises: They produced "Milk for Thompson's Dairy."

At the time, their herd was the largest herd of registered Holsteins in the United States and was the largest privately owned dairy operation in the world. Folks came from all over the world to see their cattle, as well as their many innovations in farming and cattle management.

In 1966, competing for labor in an expanding urban area became economically impossible. Billy had to sell the remaining herd, but he did not end his farming career.

The next breed in which he excelled was registered purebred black Angus. Purchasing 150 head from herds in Canada and 50 from a Maryland herd, Billy used the skills and talents he had honed in the dairy business to make improvements to his beef herd, focusing on milking ability to produce high-weaning-weight calves while also producing high-quality beef products. He became the largest-scale purebred black Angus breeder in Maryland and one of the largest-scale breeders on the East Coast.

In 1977, with the encroachment of developments around the Maryland farm, Billy moved his herd and the Irvington Farms name to a farm in Georgia near West Point. Remaining a resident in Gaithersburg, he continued farming 1,500 acres in Maryland. His beef herd in Georgia improved under

his direction with the help of various managers, with one making him the proudest, his grandson Chris Throne. The Georgia Cattlemen's Association named Billy Purebred Cattleman of the Year in 1996.

While Billy's share of the herd was sold in 2006, Chris continues the family's 10 generations of farming with his operation in Georgia.

Billy was active in his community. He was one of the founding directors of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center in 1949 and served as its president from 1975 to 1977. He continued to support the Montgomery County 4-H Club.

Other notable achievements include serving as director and president of the Maryland Holstein-Friesian Association; director and president of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America; director on the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Association; inductee into the Dairyman's Hall of Fame by the Maryland Artificial Breeding Cooperative (ABC); director and president of the Maryland Angus Association; charter member of the Gaithersburg Lions Club; Gaithersburg Chamber of Commerce; and director of Citizens Bank. He had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1967.

He was christened in and became a lifelong member of the Epworth United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg.

A dedicated family man with a countless number of friends, and always a friend and/or supporter of those with needs, Billy lived

his life in a manner that will be missed by those who knew him.

He is survived by son Thomas; daughters Ann and Katherine; sisters Betty and Lois; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Paul Ooley, 88, Bedford, Ind., died Sept. 9 at his home.

Paul was born Dec. 23, 1923, in Wabash, Ind., to Luther and Verma (Kiser) Ooley. He was a 1942 graduate of Shawswick High School, a member of the Church of Christ at Pinhook and a World War II veteran. He was married Nov. 2, 1946, to Betty Thomas.

Paul was a farmer all his working life. His father died when Paul was 11 years old. When he was 15 he went to the farm on which his father died to live and work for Everett and Lydia Foster, who became his foster parents.

For several years he operated a dairy farm and was a member of the Indiana Holstein Association. Since 1986, he raised beef cattle and with his son and his family owned a herd of registered black Angus cattle.

He recently received an honorary lifetime membership in the Southern Indiana Angus Association. In 2010, the Lawrence County Cattlemen's Association honored him with a Lifetime Achievement trophy.

He was a member of the first Lawrence County 4-H Fair Board and served as Building Committee chairman when the present fairground was developed. He was an active member of the Farm Bureau for more than 65 years and maintained an interest in agricultural activities until his health began to fail. For several years in the 1970s and 1980s, he was a seed dealer for DeKalb Seeds in Lawrence County and worked with the district manager in southwest Indiana.

In addition to his wife, Paul is survived by daughter Polly; son Michael; brothers Wilmer Hunter, Dale Thomas, Harry Thomas, Don Turpen and Thomas Fletcher; two grandsons; two stepgrandchildren; four stepgreat-grandchildren; and stepbrother John Nelson.

Walter Zimmerer Jr., 94, Colts Neck, N.J., died Sept. 15 at his home, Big Brook Farm.

Born in 1918 to Walter and Catherine Zimmerer of Nutley, N.J., he was the eldest of five children and soon followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather in the building of homes. Walter married wife Erma in 1941.

Walter and Erma worked together to build a construction business, Mawal Construction, and proceeded to build hundreds of homes in the Cedar Grove, Bloomfield and Montclair area throughout the 1940s. A leisurely Sunday drive and some bad directions took them down to the shore area, and the lure of a "retirement" to farming led them to a "For Sale" sign in Colts Neck.

At the time one of the largest farms in the state, Big Brook Farm consisted of five farms and 611 acres. What began as a pheasant farm with some dairy cattle Walter soon transformed into a sweet corn- and apple-producing operation that provided the local A&Ps with fresh fruit and produce.

His love for animals later turned his attention to bringing Aberdeen-Angus cattle to Big Brook Farm, with more than 600 head at one point. In 1983, Big Brook Farm received a Historic Herd award from the National Cattlemen's Association. Walter had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1950. He was a partner and friend to Jim and Mary Bradford, Brad Z Ranch, Guthrie Center, Iowa, who used the "Z" in their ranch name to honor him.

Not one to stay "retired" for long with a successful farming operation, Walter soon turned back to his original career of homebuilder. In partnership with Erma and son Walter, he began to make his mark locally by building more than 1,400 single-family homes in Colts Neck and Holmdel, a record for housing construction in Colts Neck. Walter and his son made attention to detail part of their business model and took great pride in building a quality home.

Recognizing the need for more stringent zoning laws in Colts Neck (then Atlantic Township), Walter was a forerunner and advocate for one-acre minimum zoning, serving on the Colts Neck Board of Adjustment. He, along with others, was also instrumental in changing the name of Atlantic Township to Colts Neck, which had a positive effect on the town and helped shape the character of the pastoral town to this day.

In 1972, Walter shifted the family business, now called Walter Zimmerer & Son, toward the construction and remodeling of office buildings in Red Bank. Walter's legacy continues to the present with Red Bank Corporate Center.

Walter always found time to give back. He was a trustee of Saint Mary's Church in Colts Neck and was very active in the early days of the church on Heyers' Mill Road,

including the moving of the church to its current location. Walter even built the parish house that stands there today, as well as the parish house at Saint Catherine's in Holmdel. He also served on the board of directors of Central Jersey Bank & Trust.

Walter's success in business paled in comparison to the love he felt for his wife, who died in 2006, just days after celebrating their 65th anniversary. "Pop," as he was called, will be remembered as an inspiration to a productive life well-lived with a loving wife and family, a sense of humor and a no-nonsense attitude to wasting time.

Walter is survived by son Walter; daughters Mary Ann and Carol; 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Alva Hite Jr., 88, Deerfield, Mo., died Sept. 17 at Mercy Hospital.

Alva was born May 22, 1924, in Fort Scott, Kan., the son of Alva Sr. and Gladys (Cox) Hite. He married Joyce Larcom May 3, 1952, in Fayetteville, Ark. Joyce died Aug. 1, 1985. Alva married Neva Bunn Dec. 11, 1992.

Alva graduated from Uniontown High School and, after a semester at FSCC, he went to Wichita for tooling courses and also to Fort Monmouth, N.J., for signal courses. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1947 until 1950 as a staff sergeant. Alva was a member of the Uniontown First Missionary Baptist Church and the Ruritan Club of Uniontown. He worked for 26 years at Beech Aircraft and Boeing doing tooling and retired in 1986.

In addition to wife Neva, Alva is survived by sons Mike, Tom, Gary and Joe; stepdaughters Debbie, Kay and Margaret; brother John; sister Alvera; grandchildren Bryanna Hite and Tanner Hite; numerous stepgrandchildren and great-grandchildren; and one stepgreat-great-grandchild.

Col. Ray Sims, 90, Raymore, Mo., died Sept. 18.

Ray was born May 9, 1922, in Windsor, Mo., the son of Emmett and Ethel (Hamlin) Sims. Raised on a diversified livestock farm, Ray developed an early interest in the auction business. While still in high school he decided to become an auctioneer, and, after graduation, attended Reppert's School of Auctioneering in Indiana. He returned to Missouri and initially worked for an older auctioneer and then on his own.

Ray entered the army during World War II, serving in the South Pacific before returning to Missouri to resume his auction career. Purebred livestock sales at the time were a slow-paced event, with auctioneers

often stopping to make long speeches about the cattle or the breeder. Ray's rapid, rhythmic chant speeded events, pleasing both buyers and sellers.



► To see the *I am Angus* video about Ray Sims and his contribution to the Angus breed, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMcbhX2cag>.

In a more than 45-year career with an estimated 7,000 sales, he was largely responsible for helping shape the modern cattle auction. As one of the nation's

most prominent purebred cattle auctioneers in the 1950s and 1960s, he made auctions fast-paced, efficient and exciting events. Ray was the inspiration for fellow Missourian and second cousin Leroy Van Dyke's hit song, *The Auctioneer*. Ray was later featured in the movie *What Am I Bid* starring Van Dyke.

At the peak of his career, Ray traveled to 200 or more purebred sales per year. He conducted the Kansas City Stocker/Feeder auction for 15 years, and conducted sales for three U.S. presidents, including Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy.

Ray was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation in 1989 and the National Auctioneers Association Hall of Fame in 1990. In 2010, he was inducted into the Saddle & Sirloin Club Portrait Gallery in Louisville, Ky., the first auctioneer in more than 55 years to receive the award. Upon his induction, he was profiled on page 252-253 of the September 2010 *Angus Journal*.

Once expenses were satisfied for the portrait painting of Sims, now on display in the Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Collection in Louisville, Ky., the portrait committee donated the remaining funds of more than \$20,000 to the Angus Foundation to establish the Ray Sims Scholarship Endowment Fund for Angus youth scholarships. Ray and his wife, Melva, were at the National Junior Angus Show in Louisville, Ky., this summer to present a \$1,000 scholarship to this year's recipient, Paige Wallace of Stotts City, Mo.

Ray is survived by wife Melva; daughter Virginia; son Tullis; stepsons Lee, Chris and Hal Sankey; and granddaughter Hanna.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ray Sims Angus Scholarship Endowment Fund at the Angus Foundation, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506.

Ted Dyer, 52, Rising Fawn, Ga., died Sept. 25.

He began his college career at Young Harris College and then transferred to the University of Georgia (UGA), where he attained a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1982. He then attended Western Kentucky University and attained a master's in reproductive physiology in 1985.

Ted's latest position was with the UGA Department of Animal and Dairy Science as Extension animal scientist in Calhoun. He served more than two decades as UGA Cooperative County Extension agent/coordinator in Dade and Floyd counties. He ran the Bull Evaluation Program in Calhoun.

Ted set an example of leadership and touched many lives through the Georgia 4-H program. He developed many young people through county, district, state and national levels. He received numerous awards and recognitions during his extension career. He was chosen as Dade County Citizen of the Year for 2006.

Ted is survived by wife Carla; sons Jeremy and Brett; parents Jack and Jane; and one brother, Jeff.

INDUSTRY EXTRAS

Clint Rusk has been selected as the head of the Animal Science Department at Oklahoma State University (OSU). Rusk served as the dean of the Animal Science Department at South Dakota State University. He began his duties at OSU Aug. 1.

Richard Coffey has been named the director of the University of Kentucky (UK) Research and Education Center in Princeton. The director of the center is a 50% appointment and includes managing all aspects of the center. Coffey will continue to work as a swine extension specialist and coordinator of UK youth livestock programs.

Coffey replaces Lloyd Murdock, UK extension soils specialist and the center's founding director. Murdock will likely take a post-retirement appointment with the college.

Rene Ward has joined Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. (BIVI) as associate director, public relations and internal communications. In her new role at BIVI,

she is responsible for media outreach, community relations, and external and employee communications.

Genex Cooperative Inc. and **Superior Livestock Auction** have partnered to offer cattle producers a combination of services. Genex will provide Superior's customers with a source of genetic options, and Superior will provide Genex members and customers with a nationwide marketing outlet.

Alan Lee has been named south Arkansas and Louisiana area sales manager for BioZyme Inc. He will provide customer support and assistance to the company's dealer network.

Brian Crouch has been named director of sales and marketing for Art's Way Manufacturing Co. Inc.



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.