



A NEWER TEXAS HERD—(1) Mrs. McClung and the two younger members of the family are actively interested in the Aberdeen-Angus herd. "If I had taken her advice I would have started with the Blacks, instead of the way I did," says the boss. (2) Roadside signs make the McClung Ranch, north of Ft. Worth, easy to find. (3) Luther McClung, right, and Herdsman Monroe Savage. The latter is a recent convert from another breed, as is the owner. (4) Some weight for age here—this bull calf at six and one-half months tipped the beam at 550 pounds. "You're still selling them by the pound," says this Texas rancher. (5) One of the sires on the 4M Ranch, Prince Sunbeam 215th, by Prince Sunbeam 100th. (6) Built of native stone this sale barn should last for a long time. (7) In their working clothes—some of the older matrons in the McClung herd. (8) some yearling replacement heifers which will go back into this already sizable herd.



Aberdeen-Angus, and wanted to get started with them then. Instead I started running 600 to 1,000 whiteface and Brahma steers," he relates. About this time the war-time building boom hit Ft. Worth and Luther McClung found himself contracting housing for aircraft workers. This meant less time at the ranch than he would like, coupled with the fact that the ranch was quite a distance from town.

All this was corrected in 1944 with the purchase of a ranch north of Ft. Worth, close enough that the skyline of the Texas cow capital is visible most days. And as the building construction tapered off with the close of the war it meant more time could be spent at the ranch. Today he de-

They Knew What They Wanted

But it Took a Little Time to Get Those Black Cows

TAKING your wife's advice usually is good business. In the case of one Texas rancher it would have meant getting into Aberdeen-Angus five years sooner. But as Luther McClung explains it, with a laugh, the experience with whitefaces and Brahmas was not lost time. It just makes him appreciate the Blacks all the more.

Both of them Texans, ranch-born and raised, Mr. and Mrs. McClung had long wanted to get into cattle raising. But first there came a number of years service by Luther McClung in the circulation department of a number of Scripps-Howard newspapers in the southwest.

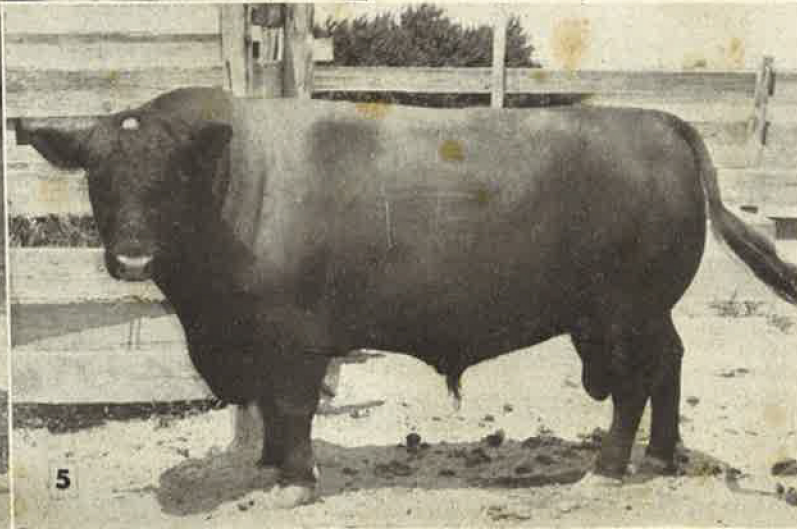
In 1940 he bought his first ranch some distance west of Ft. Worth. "Evelyn has always been partial to

By COLIN KENNEDY

votes virtually all of his time to his ranch

holdings both in Texas and in Oklahoma. The purchase of the new ranch also meant the start of the Aberdeen-Angus breeding herd, delayed a few years.

Luther McClung admits that while he knew what he wanted in a beef animal he was rather green as to Aberdeen-Angus pedigrees. In the Ft. Worth sale of 1945 he saw a bull he liked individually. He was thick and good headed, a double bred grandson of the champion Envious Blackcap B. 6th. "I asked the advice as to pedigree from a number of breeders, including the Simon boys from Kansas. They told me there was certainly nothing wrong with the folks back of him, nor the bull himself. So I bought my first Aberdeen-Angus bull." This bull,







Juanerra 4th of Bates, is still seeing active service in the herd for he is siring calves distinguished by their good heads and deep quarters. As the 4M Ranch herd expanded another bull was necessary. The Fullerton sale of 1947 produced him in Prince Sunbeam 214th, a son of the 29th. In the meantime herd numbers were being increased by female purchases from the herds of the Simon Brothers, of Kansas; Frank McKinney, of Missouri; Penney & James, of Missouri; and the Bates herd in Oklahoma.

However, it was in the early spring this year that the enthusiastic Texas rancher doubled the size of his herd in numbers, and increased the quality and potential production by a considerable percentage. In the division of the Fullerton Estate cattle at Miami, Oklahoma, two heirs decided to sell their share. This group totaled 100 head including cows and several bulls. The man who was on hand with his check book when the time came to sell was Luther McClung, of Saginaw and Ft. Worth, Texas.

When 4M Ranch was visited the original purchase had grown to 160 head with the arrival of the calves, and will be close to 200 head by fall, with the late calves on the ground. In the deal was Prince Sunbeam 202d, a son of Black Prince of Sunbeam. This bull sired a grand champion female at one of the Southwestern Regional sales and

(9) This combined hay and cattle barn finds its major use in the hot Texas summers. (10) Feathered corn crop insurance. The Texan is not in the turkey business by choice, but because the birds are the best grasshopper control he has found.

has several daughters in the McClung herd. A son of the 29th, Prince Sunbeam 315th, also came to Texas with the herd, as did Prince Sunbeam 215th, a son of Prince Sunbeam 100th.

In the Fullerton purchase were eight daughters of Prince Sunbeam 100th, and others sired by Evascus of Page, Revelga, Qualiteer of Sunbeam, Prince Sunbeam 55th, Prince Sunbeam 200th, and others. In the herd are cows and heifers by eight different sons of Black Prince. Nor could any one kick on the families—Barbaras, Queen Mothers, Blackcap Empress, Miss Burgess, Evergreens and Lucys, to give a representative list. And one should not forget two daughters of Black Prince, one out of a Black Prince dam.

Like many other practical cattlemen in the southwest he wonders just how important this family business can be. Not that the Texan does not believe in the combination of good cows mated to good bulls. "Look at this pedigree here," he said, indicating a page in the herd book. "This cow shows the original Juana Erica cow twice in her pedigree, yet she isn't a Juana. She carries more of the blood of the first Juana cow than many others that have that family name."

That the southwest is ripe for Aberdeen-Angus cattle, and that demand is far greater than the supply, is not news. "This condition has been building up for some time now as more and more ranchers come to realize the practical advantages of Aberdeen-Angus on the range—no cancer eye, no dehorning, no sunburned udders and less trouble at calving time. One of the biggest selling points in Texas is the fact that with an Aberdeen-Angus you don't have horn wounds to attract blow flies and get yourself an infestation of screwworms. The fact that you don't have to dehorn also eliminates this source of screwworm trouble. And don't think ranchers don't know these Aberdeen-Angus superiorities."

Ideally located in the great southwestern

range cattle country Luther McClung makes no secret of the fact that he intends to cater to the range trade. In so doing he figures he has an advantage in that his bulls will be acclimated to southwestern conditions. They can go from his ranch to a range herd without a period of waiting. Knowing the likes and dislikes of ranchers the Texan is especially critical of the bone under his cattle and their size. He doesn't like them big and horsey. But he does want them with as much size as he can get and not sacrifice smoothness and the early maturity for which the Blacks are noted.

A thick, husky calf was turned into the corral with his mother. Conversation turned to the matter of weight and the little bull, a son of Juanerra 4th of Bates, was put on the new scale just completed on the ranch. Just before the beam was balanced your correspondent was asked, pointedly, to make his estimate. With a gulp the figure "550 pounds" came out. No one was more surprised than your writer when the final figure was 550 pounds, and he retired from the weight guessing business with a perfect record. It developed that his growthy youngster was just past the six month mark. He was thick and close coupled. "That is the kind of calves we are looking for down here," said his owner. "I am taking five sons of the 'Envious' bull to the Texas Experiment Station at Balmorhea for the progeny weight test they are running down there on all breeds. I don't know where I'll place with them, but I want to know how they stack up against other Aberdeen-Angus, and bulls of other breeds."

Going over the cow herd, and their pedigrees, several thick individuals were spotted that obviously were related. They were daughters of a Canadian bull, Coptus of Windsweep, which Luther had purchased several years ago from a Texas breeder. They have been great producers. "I wish now I had fifty of them." To those not familiar with this breeding it should be mentioned that these cows show a double concentration of the blood of Northlane Blackcap Bard. In the breeding program at 4M Ranch the cows showing the greatest concentration of Sunbeam breeding are being bred to the double grandson of Envious Blackcap B. 6th, and those with a lesser concentration of Fullerton breeding, or daughters of the Envious bull, are being bred to the various Sunbeam sires on the farm.

Herdsmen at the Texas ranch is Monroe Savage, formerly with the Harrisdale white-face herd near Ft. Worth. Asked how he liked the shift to the Blacks he just grinned. "He likes the way they put on that flesh," the owner ventured.

No less enthusiastic about the ranch and the cattle are Mrs. McClung (whose original idea it was, anyway) and their two daughters, Lucien and Barbara. And there interest is not a matter of periodic visits, but keeping up with the new calves and herd progress by daily inspection.

Johnson grass is the main forage at 4M Ranch. Clover is seeded in oats and the two crops cut for hay. The grazing season covers most of the year. Building costs are kept down by the fact that shade from the summer sun and protection from winter rain is all that is required of a barn or shed. However the new sale barn at the ranch, built of native stone, is one building that will last for a long time. And Luther McClung figures on being in the business for quite a spell.



Aberdeen-Angus Live Longest