

The study of the Texas Longhorn bloodlines is one of the most fascinating aspects of raising this breed of cattle. The names of the people whose efforts to save the Longhorn from extinction while unknowingly creating the "Seven Families" of Texas Longhorns are legendary: Milby Butler, Emil Marks, Graves Peeler, Jack Phillips, John Hatton and Will Barnes, M.P. Wright II, and Cap Yates.

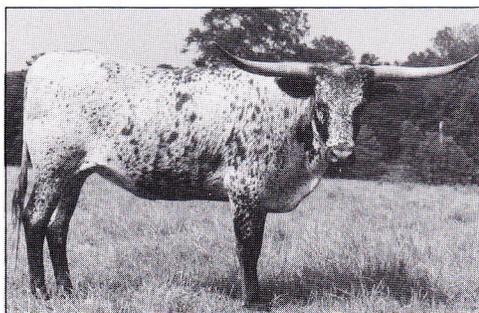
In this exclusive two-part *TLJ* feature, longtime owners and producers of these different families (along with what is sometimes called the "eighth family," the U.S. herd of Nebraska's Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge) present, in their own words, overviews of each family and its impact on today's Texas Longhorn industry. Part I looks at the Butler, Phillips, Wichita Refuge (WR) and Yates families.

**TODAY'S BUTLER BLOODLINE: Better Than Ever**

By Kaso Kety

*Ace Cattle Company, Folsom, Louisiana*

The Butler bloodline, one of the most popular and profitable of the "Seven Families", has its roots on the Butler Ranch at League City, Texas. While the bloodline is more associated with Milby Butler, it was actually his son, Henry, who started the herd. Henry's foundation cattle were those he received working as a hand during the roundups between Houston and Galveston, Texas. Henry always took his pay in heifers and always chose the biggest horned ones. Their origin was "just old big-horned Texas Cattle."



*Delta Rockette, a 1991 F.M. Graves 102 granddaughter bred and owned by Johnnie Hoffman.*

The Butlers also ran an extensive stock pen and slaughter house business. The best cattle were sifted over the years and added to the growing Texas Longhorn herd. In 1923 Milby separated the Longhorns from the rest of the cattle and while he was interested in preserving the native Longhorns, it was not until Henry was away in the service during WWII that Milby took over full responsibility for the ranch's Longhorn breeding program.

# The Seven Families (Plus One) Revisited

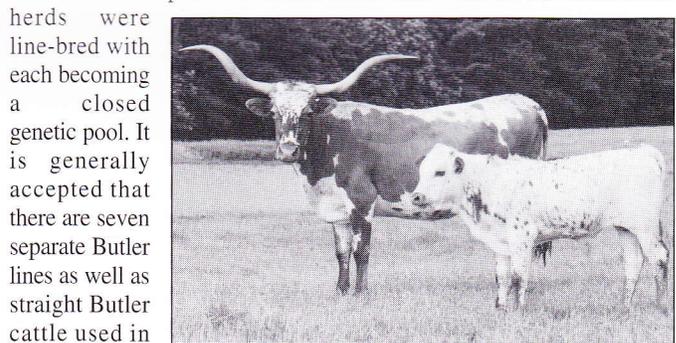
No one will argue with the fact that Milby bred for horns. His cows were carefully selected and put with bulls he thought would produce length, base and corkscrew shape in the horns of their offspring.

Milby was very reluctant to part with any of his Longhorns and only in a few cases did he release any of his prized genetics. Some of the cattle were part of Milby's wife's estate and were sold upon her death a year or two before Milby's passing. Immediately following Milby's death (October 16, 1971) virtually all the remaining cattle were sold at auction.

Approximately eighty percent went to slaughter; the other twenty percent were purchased by Longhorn breeders fortunate enough to learn of the sales. Twenty of the best Butler cattle were kept by Milby's secretary, Pauline Russell, which she eventually sold in 1977, keeping only the legendary cow Beauty at that time.

It is only by chance that any survived at all. Through the efforts of a few breeders a precious number of the cattle were saved. These small herds were line-bred with each becoming a closed genetic pool. It is generally accepted that there are seven separate Butler lines as well as straight Butler cattle used in other herds (outcross) that do not fall into these established programs. A listing of these distinct Butler "lines" and a partial list of three or four of the most well known and influential bulls and cows from each is as follows:

**THE PARTLOW FAMILY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS**



*F.M. Graves 102, a 1976 daughter of Man O'War and Miss Dayton, shown at age 17 with her 1993 bull calf by Conquistador.*

*Conquistador, Colorado Cowboy, Dode's Boy, Conquistaroon, Rose Red, Maressa, Princess 2/7, Alicia of '83.*

**BLACKIE GRAVES OF DAYTON, TEXAS**

*Sam, Man O'War, Classic, Monarch, FM Graves 54, Graves 68, FM Graves 102, Classey Nicole.*

**MICHAEL MCLEOD OF VANDERBILT, TEXAS (LEPPER BLOODLINE)**

*Thomas, Pappy "L", He's A Ten, Royal Ten, Sissie "L", Camille "L", Maribeth 74, Maribeth 77.*

**DEWITT AND SAMMY MESHELL OF TRINITY, TEXAS**

*Lone Ranger 72, Blue Horns, Superior, Little OT, Droophorns, White Horns 68, MF Droopy, MF Dynamite.*

**LUMAN HOLMAN OF JACKSONVILLE, TEXAS**

*Holman B1, Holman B3, El Patron, Holman Cow 1, Holman Cow 3, Holman 6.*

**PART I**



*Ace's Dayton Desperado, one of the modern generation of Butler sires. He's a 1990 son of Ace's Mojo and F.M. Graves 54.*

Longhorns. When these distinct Butler gene pools have been crossed, resulting offspring have shown the size, color, and outstanding horn growth of the original Butler herd.

Butler Longhorns are unique in several ways. The primary difference is a geographical one. These east Texas/Gulf Coast cattle evolved to fill a niche much different from their brethren living on the plains and desert to the north and west. The Butler breeding program went far beyond horns. It was an effort to reproduce a specific type of Longhorn. It seems that Milby was not content to simply preserve the breed, but had a desire to be able to duplicate the purist and most outstanding examples of it. The Butler cattle also possess several unique skeletal differences including topline, tailhead attachment, and "crocodile eyes". Additionally there are several color patterns found only in the Butler cattle. TLBAA registration inspector Garnett Brooks visited the Butler ranch during the mid-1960's and recalled, "again we saw the identical type of twisted big-horned cattle. The cattle were very uniform. They were selected for a specific type of [Milby's] own desire. He felt he had a true type of the Old Blood." While the Butlers are quite unique, they excel in all traits Longhorn and are first and foremost performance cattle. They are Longhorns right down to their hairy ears, "foxtail" switches and Texas Twist horns, maybe even more so.

While the Butler Bloodline is best known for extraordinary horn growth, Butler cattle offer much, much more. They are true Texas Longhorns in every sense, not just the obvious.

## THE PHILLIPS BLOODLINE: One of the Oldest Foundation Herds of the Seven Families

By Darol Dickinson

Dickinson Cattle Company, Calhan, Colorado

**J.G.** Phillips, Sr. of Brazoria County, Texas was raising Texas Longhorn cattle tens of years before the Congress of the United States determined to preserve the breed from extinction. This herd of Phillips Texas Longhorns, numbering many hundreds of head, was later increased through the enthusiasm of J.G. "Jack" Phillips, Jr. during the early 1920's. Jack, who later served as president of the TLBAA, purchased the old historic Melgaard herd and increased the Texas Longhorn herd to possibly the largest herd of this breed in the state of Texas. (A more detailed account of this family is featured in the *Texas Longhorn Journal's* summer 1980 issue in an article titled "The Texas Ranger Legacy.")

The Melgaard herd was not that much different from the Phillips

**RUEL SANDERS OF MAGNOLIA, TEXAS**

*Bevo, Bimbo, Jumbo Horns, White Lace Miss Magnolia, Easter*

**VIRGIL SHINN OF IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

*Elmer, White Milby, Red Milby.*

The future is brighter than ever before for the Butler Bloodline as modern-day breeders are using different combinations of cattle from these established "lines" to produce today's Butler

main Longhorn herd. They were mostly red paint, dun and brown, twisty-horned old Longhorn cows. These cows were roped and dragged out of the brush by young Jack Phillips and his Gulf Coast cowboy associates. These cattle were range delivery. Some of the best cattle were added from another herd found in the Bernard Bottom west of Brazoria. These cows had real horn spreads with a lateral twisted style that was unique even in that day. Young Jack Phillips purchased these cows for \$25 each for singles or pairs range delivery.

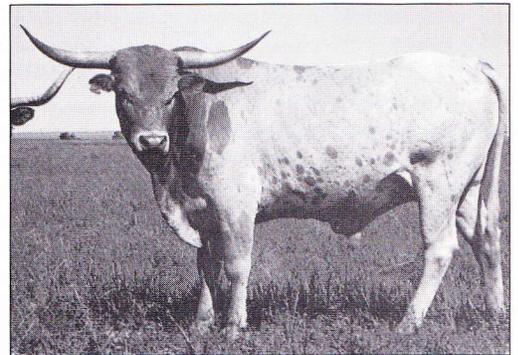
There were no corrals or facilities to hold the cattle. These cattle were hauled out of the brush and loaded in wooden wagons and taken up to the main Phillips ranch headquarters.

These were "high water" cattle—a type that stood tall off the ground, somewhat rangy, with long rib cages and lots of daylight under them. The origin of some of the original Phillips herd traced back to Mexico with some coming out of East Texas. One particular dun bull from Mexico had a strong influence on the early Phillips genetics. Later, another unrelated bull was selected for the herd from Winslow Brothers of Magnolia, Texas. Much later a light red, mealy-nosed, good-horned bull was purchased from the Milby Butler bloodline that had a significant impact on the Phillips herd.

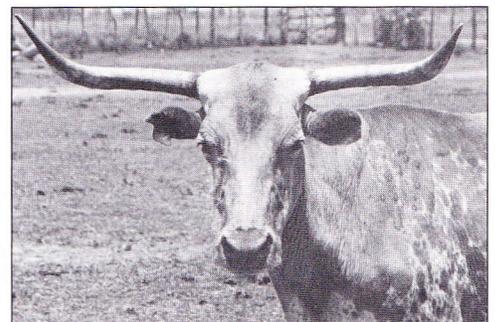
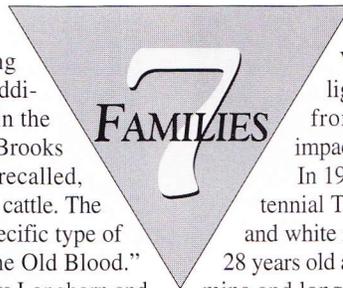
In 1966, Jack Phillips ran an ad in the Texas Longhorn Centennial Trail Drive publication which showed a picture of a dun and white raw-boned, wide-horned Texas Longhorn cow that was 28 years old and had just weaned her 24th calf. This is the kind of stamina and longevity the Phillips cattle are known for. They live in a country filled with parasites and frequent downpours of rain. To be able to have 24 calves in 28 years and put up with all of the insects, parasites and flooding speaks of a very rugged and tough family of cattle. Today many of the Phillips cattle trace back to this grand old cow which continually gave her life for her progeny.

Phillips cattle tend to be taller and longer than other herds, noticeably more than the other six families. The Phillips cattle can be as colorful as

other Texas Longhorns but are usually more solid-colored, as a result of the sunburning of white cattle in the extremely hot coastal climate. Nature has selected more pigmentation on the Phillips cattle than the more colorful speckled, polka-dotted and white cattle often seen in the modern shows. More large-horned and big, beefy bulls were used in this herd in the early years than many of the other Longhorn herds. Some of the almost-lost Texas twist horn factor still remains in the Phillips cattle today. The Phillips bloodline is truly one of a kind. The cattle are true individuals and no other herds look exactly like they do.



*The Texas Longhorn sire of sires, Texas Ranger J.P. His dam, Brazos Belle 182, is pictured below. She died in 1984 at the age of 20 on Jack Phillips' ranch.*



They have very long legs, slightly coarse bone, and some almost-homely heads and narrow faces may be found.

Texas Ranger J.P., the all-time leading Texas Longhorn sire, was raised by Phillips. The longest, tallest and most rapid-gaining Longhorns all trace to this great bull. At this writing, every World and International All-Age Champion Bull traces to Texas Ranger somewhere in their lineage. Texas Ranger blood is the favorite of leading commercial ranchers and the modern show circuit. Their gainability is believed to be by far the best in comparison to the other families of Longhorns. This family, when properly mated, will produce adult bulls weighing 1,800 lbs. to 2,100 lbs. with horns in excess of 55" tip to tip.

Prior to the divisions of what we today call the Seven Families, the old cattle herds of Texas possessed Spanish, Oxen and European blood. They were and are today a blend of breeds mixed and refined by the elements of time, stress and survival. At the beginning of the national registry in 1964, a 100% visual inspection program was implemented to insure purity of type. The Phillips cattle, as well as all other registered Longhorns today, trace to a full ancestry verified for purity by this careful visual inspection. The association employed knowledgeable cattlemen who had the ability to determine visually the true Texas Longhorn traits. The Phillips herd was one of the first inspected for approval into the registry. Modern bloodtyping methods today determine that among the seven families there is very little variation from the original genetic base. Even though these families had seven distinct origins, the blood types found within the breed are very closely related. Most families have very few blood types that are not found in all the other families.

In the late 1960's, Jack Phillips went to Mexico and acquired four unrelated Spanish bulls to add to his Longhorn breeding program. They were bulls of typical Texas Longhorn type—with horn growth as good or better than the better bulls of that era day. The most famous offspring of this Spanish importation was the bull Hondo, which was the product of a dam of the old, traditional Phillips bloodline. Hondo is known for beautifully speckled black/brown brindle cattle with huge horn development. His sons and daughters have topped a number of sales and are found in major herds of cattle all over the United States.

Although Texas Ranger J.P. is no doubt the most famous bull in the Longhorn breed and the Phillips lineage, another Phillips-raised bull, Oso Negro, also received a lot of prominence through his use in the King Ranch herd. Jack Phillips raised the black bull (his name translates in Spanish to "Black Bear") and used him extensively in his herd. The King Ranch of South Texas utilized this bull for a number of years and he totally dominated the genetics of the King ranch herd. Many people feel Oso Negro was the best early bull used on the King Ranch. His name may be found in prominent pedigrees at almost every registered Texas Longhorn auction. Some other well-known Phillips bulls are Sir Noonie, Phillips Spot, Little Spot, Two Tone (Texas Ranger's sire) and Ted.

Today, Longhorn producers may purchase cattle from the Phillips family which are directly traceable back to the original foundation Phillips cattle. The herd remains basically unchanged and is one of the few families still available in its pure form. The Phillips family still breeds beautiful Texas Longhorn cattle, working to harvest the rugged Gulf Coast foliage and turn it into big, rangy cattle with long, twisted horns.

In the beautiful Texas Gold Bronze (which stands on land owned by the TLBAA in the Fort Worth Stockyards), hand-crafted by T.D. Terry Kelsey, is a huge Phillips Texas Longhorn steer representing one of the seven families. As a memorial to the Phillips family's great bull, some of the bones of Texas Ranger J.P. were placed inside the bronze sculpture of the Phillips steer. The dedication to the Texas Longhorn breed by the Phillips family is certainly appreciated by all Longhorn producers today as evidenced by the tremendous influence of this particular bloodline throughout Texas Longhorn herds all over North America.

## THE WR BLOODLINE

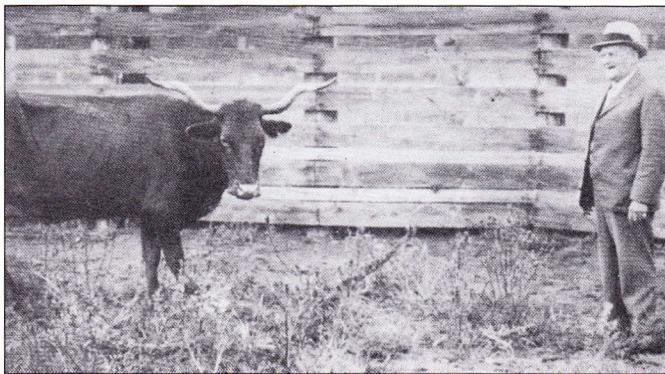
By Gene Bartnicki  
Spring Lakes Ranch, Aquilla, Texas

In general, cattlemen and historians alike concede that by the year 1920 the breed of cattle known as "Texas Cattle" had all but vanished from the United States. Actually, these Texas cattle had been nearly "bred out of existence" via crossbreeding with the early-maturing British breeds, namely Hereford, Black Angus and Shorthorn.

Fortunately, a few individuals recognized the breed's plight and began a chain of action that brought about the preservation of a small herd. This small herd of Texas cattle was eventually perpetuated, culled, and selectively bred to become the WR Bloodline, a prolific and true-to-type Texas Longhorn family!

The earliest recorded idea for a herd of Texas Longhorn cattle to be acquired and preserved from extinction is credited to Mr. Joseph B. Thoburn, Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society. In a letter dated February 5, 1919, Mr. Thoburn briefed Mr. Frank Rush, Supervisor of the Wichita National Forest and Game Preserve, Cache, Oklahoma, about the history of the breed and stated "...this breed should not be suffered to become extinct." Thoburn then posed the question "...if it might not be possible to find a place on the Wichita Mountains reservation for the maintenance of a herd of these cattle, just as the buffalo have been fostered and protected there?"

The U.S. Forest Service responded favorably to Mr. Thoburn's idea and a search for funding was begun. In 1927 the 69 Congress appropriated a sum not to exceed \$3,000 that "...shall be expended for the purchase and maintenance of a herd of longhorned or Spanish breed of cattle for the Wichita National Forest in Oklahoma to the end that the present comparatively few living examples of this historic breed of cattle may be preserved from complete extinction."



1932 photo of Will C. Barnes with cow No. 20A of the original Wichita Refuge herd in the historic "round corral" at the Refuge. (Forest Service photo courtesy of Gene Bartnicki)

Upon receiving this authority and funding, the U.S. Forest Service sent two dedicated forest officers, Will C. Barnes and John Hatton, on a search for suitable breeding stock. (Will Barnes had practical experience with this breed as he had ranched in northeastern Arizona during the heyday of the Texas cattle.) The two men searched an area from San Antonio to Laredo (crossing into Mexico), then toward Brownsville and up the Texas Gulf Coast nearly to Beaumont. They tarried and criss-crossed through the country as they proceeded. Barnes reported that they inspected nearly 50,000 head of cattle in their travels. They selected and purchased 20 mature cows and three mature bulls with which to begin the restoration of the true-to-type Texas Longhorn.

When the cattle arrived at the Wichita Mountains Preserve, Forest Ranger Earl Drummond was assigned the responsibility of their well-being and breeding. He was to perpetuate for the "old type" Longhorn

*Continued on page 39*

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horns provide  
the first clue  
that an animal  
is of the WR  
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are high in  
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year-olds and  
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highly produc-  
tive through  
20-plus years  
of age.



*The cow WR 3723 displays excellent conformation along with the femininity and Texas twist horns typical of the WR bloodline.*

The WR Bloodline is appreciated and sought-after in today's Longhorn market. The annual sale of surplus cattle at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge draws a tremendous response from Longhorn breeders everywhere. For some, this is the only sale that is attended on a regular basis. During the 1930s, '40s, '50s and '60s the WR sale was the *only* source of Texas Longhorns available at auction. Most of the popular bulls used by today's breeders have WR cattle somewhere in their pedigrees.

It is difficult to single out any particular "line" of the original cattle that contributed the most to the success accomplished by Ranger Drummond in bringing about the WR type. Bull No. 83 most certainly had the greatest early impact. Bull No. 2B, which was followed by "6" then the Mexico bull "829" (obtained from Mr. I.G. "Cap" Yates) were also important early WR sires. No. 829 went on to sire "963" which in turn sired "1290" whose son "1014" sired the still-popular WR 2935. Since the number of animals making up the breeding herd was relatively small, considerable linebreeding was done of necessity. Much credit must go to the managers of the Refuge herd for maintaining a minimal herd inbreeding coefficient.

The success of the development of the WR type must be credited to Ranger Drummond. However, not to be forgotten is the continued work of Drummond's successors, namely Claude "Heck" Shrader, Joe Bill Lee, and Elmer Parker, Jr. (The author, too, shares in some of this success as he was responsible for the matings that produced the bulls WR 2935, WR 3465, and other outstanding bulls and cows of the late 1970s.)

Today's private breeders of WR Bloodline Texas Longhorns appreciate the vigor and stamina that the type offers. Bulls are high in libido with a mature muscular frame of 1,500 to 1,800 pounds, depending on range conditions. Cows are protective mothers and good milkers that calve on a regular basis. A mature cow in range condition may weigh 850 to 1,100 pounds based on environment. This type is proven in longevity, with bulls servicing to age 15-plus and cows calving regularly to over 20 years of age under range conditions. Their longevity is directly related to the strong teeth that this bloodline possesses. These cattle retain their "baby" teeth until two years old before replacements begin coming in. Horns on both sexes are functional and in balance with the body. Colors are varied, though most of the cattle display earthen tones. They are calm of disposition (though that may change if the owner so desires!). Simply put, the WR type Texas Longhorn is very fertile and functional whether used as a purebred, outcross or in crossbreeding. And it is my strong belief that had it not been for Joseph Thoburn's letter of February 5, 1919, there would be no true-to-type Texas Longhorns in existence in 1993!

*More "Seven Families" on page 42*

## "Seven Families" continued from page 26

of the late 1800s. Drummond had previous experience as a cowboy during the early 1900s when the Texas cattle were still numerous and he knew the characteristics of true-to-type Texas cattle.

Earl Drummond was not pleased with the bulls that Will Barnes had acquired, and he persuaded the Forest Supervisor to begin another search for bulls. Meanwhile for a period of four years no progress was being made in perpetuating true-to-type cattle. All the offspring from the original bull, No. 42, were culled from the herd. Finally, in August 1931, two new bulls were obtained near Monterrey, Mexico. One of these, No. 83, was immediately put with the cow herd. Calves by this sire began arriving in June 1932. This was really the beginning of breeding for the WR type that is known today as the WR Family.

Additional bulls and cows were acquired by the Refuge from time to time, with the majority of them having originated in Mexico. By the mid-1950s, the WR-type was secure, and the efforts and dedication of Ranger Earl Drummond were finally realized and rewarded!

The WR-type Texas Longhorn that Ranger Drummond redeveloped presents a balanced appearance from birth until maturity whether the animal be a bull or female. Mature bulls display a thick neck and deep, muscular forequarters. There is no evidence of a hump or peak at the neck or shoulders. The horns are heavy-based and extend outward at a right angle to the head, then forward, and slightly upturned. These are functional horns designed by nature for survival. WR cows also present a balanced appearance—balanced in length, depth and amount of horn—beginning as heifers and continuing through maturity. They present a feminine look from their moderate-sized head that blends in at the neck to shoulders, clean underline, and square rump. Horns are of

**FAMILIES**

## "Seven Families" continued from page 39

### THE YATES BLOODLINE: Old-Time Range Cattle for Modern-Day Cattlemen

By D. Phillip Sponenberg  
& Jeff Burhus

**Y**ates cattle are a very distinctive family line within the Texas Longhorn breed. The Yates line is named for I.G.

"Cap" Yates, who assembled this line of cattle in far West Texas by using both local and Mexican Cattle. On occasion he would buy entire truckloads of cattle from which he may select only three or four head that he felt were true Texas Longhorns. Cap Yates had a passion for the traditional rangy twisty-horned, highly fertile Texas Longhorn cow, and made certain that these were the kind he kept in his herds. He kept his Texas Longhorn herd scrupulously separated from any other kind of cattle, even when Texas Longhorns were out of favor with the beef livestock industry. He knew that these old-fashioned cattle were the best type suited for his rugged rangelands, and no one could persuade him otherwise.

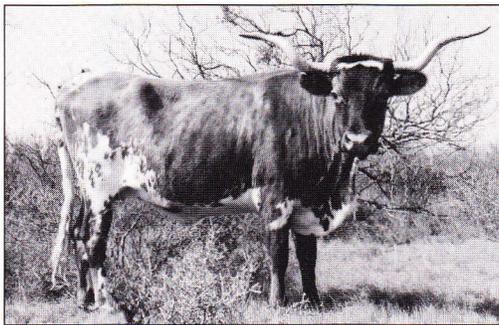
The Yates cattle had their origin in the early part of this century, and have had very few introductions of outside Longhorn blood since that time. Yates did swap cattle with the Wichita Refuge and Longhorn enthusiasts may be surprised to find Yates cattle listed in the foundation generations of many WR pedigrees. The Yates and WR families are very close cousins, the main difference being that Cap Yates ran multi-sire herds under traditional extensive management, while the Refuge kept single-sire herds. As a result, the WR cattle have specific pedigrees and the older Yates cattle do not. One will find, however, that this lack of pedigree information is in keeping with the traditional breeding programs that laid the foundation for today's Texas Longhorn industry.

Cap Yates also did a bit of trading with fellow Longhorn legends Emil Marks and Graves Peeler. The traded cattle were few in number, and left no lasting mark on the huge herds that Cap ran on the rough West Texas Range. As a result, the Yates cattle remain more closely related to the WR cattle than to the other families of Texas Longhorns.

Unlike the WR bloodline, however, cattle from the original Yates bloodline are becoming increasingly hard to find. The line is still valued for its long-living, highly fertile cows, and their traditional Texas twist horns are sought after by hobbyists and serious breeders alike. Indeed, Yates Longhorns excel in producing all those traits traditionally associated with the Texas Longhorn breed, securing for the Yates bloodline a place in cattle production systems. Only a handful of breeders are keeping the pure Yates line as the primary focus of their programs. These breeders are raising Longhorns as truly self-sufficient range cattle; as is the case in any business, bottom-line productivity is the key for ranchers making their living Texas Longhorns.

Today's Yates cattle all trace to a few herds which were founded from the original Cap Yates herd. One of these was a group of "old-timer" type cattle used by Elvin Blevins (creator of the famous Spear E brand of Oklahoma) and others in the years prior to the formation of the TLBAA. These cattle included Yates 33, YO Chip and Whitey Yates, among other notables. This old breeding is nearly gone now, but does figure in the pedigrees of a number of present-day Yates Longhorns.

The Lely Ranch herd forms another distinct family of Yates line cattle. These were purchased from Cap Yates in 1960, and this line was raised continuously on the Lely Ranch near Presidio in West Texas up until the herd was dispersed earlier this year. Many Yates cattle have



"Miss Twisty," a cow from the Fayette Yates herd of Abilene, Texas. "She's the kind you keep bulls from," says Fayette.

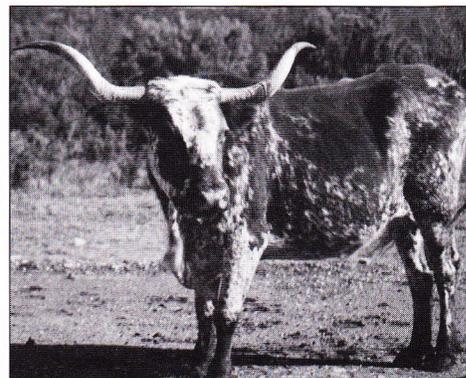
Lely animals in their pedigrees, and the Lely line has been used a great deal among Yates breeders. Straight Lely-bred pedigrees are a rarity these days, although Jeff Burhus and J.B. Hutto of Texas both base their breeding programs upon the Lely line. A few Lely semen sires are also available, and the Yates herds of breeders such as the "Dr. Joes" (Joe Knowles of New Mexico and Joe Graham of Missouri) include a variety of Lely animals.

One particular bull widely used within the Lely line, YO Toro 323, has an interesting pedigree in that he traces back to all old-time Yates breeding. One of his granddams is listed in his pedigree as "Unknown." This

cow was purchased from Cap Yates by the well-known Y.O. Ranch of Texas, and carries the YO brand, but she was registered before the days that breeders began taking care to track family lines within their own herds. That this cow did in fact come from the Cap Yates herd was overlooked at the time, but YO Toro 323 is recognized today as an important early Yates bloodline sire. The herd of Darrell York of Marfa, Texas also includes cattle from this breeding background.

Schaleben Longhorns are another source of Yates blood that may escape the attention of all but the most dedicated students of the Texas Longhorn. The Schaleben cattle came from the herd of Rocky Reagan, whose cattle were all of Yates breeding. Only much later in the development of the Schaleben line in South Texas were any non-Yates Longhorns used, and all of the early Schalebens are of Yates breeding (breeders should note that the mention of "Reagan Longhorn" in pedigrees does indicate Yates blood).

Although Schaleben cattle have had a relatively small impact on the Texas Longhorn industry, a



Dos Rios Yates 9/9, a Lely cow from the Ed Paynter herd of Buffalo Gap, Texas.

number of Schaleben bulls have made important contributions to the breed. The well-known bull Tinhorn is half-Schaleben, and Heck's Best, a familiar name to Longhorn archivists, was of 100% Schaleben breeding. The Schaleben line is one of the oldest and most traditional in type of the Longhorn bloodlines.

The Y.O. Ranch once had one of the largest collections of Yates cattle next to the Cap Yates herd, and some present-day Yates cattle trace back to Y.O.-bred and raised Yates animals. YO Avalon Chief was a good Yates bull which went back to the herd which the Yates family dispersed (following Cap's death in the late 1960s). Other Y.O. cattle which trace back to Cap Yates' own program serve as a reminder of the importance of the Yates line as a foundation strain for many historically important herds of Texas Longhorns.

The Texas Longhorn breeder of the 1990's is the beneficiary of Cap Yates' stubborn insistence on clinging to the old type of Texas Longhorn range cattle. The Texas Longhorn breed is better for having the original family lines, not only of Yates cattle but of all the different families, available for breeding stock. The Yates line, though a little harder to find than some of the other bloodlines, is a true cattleman's Longhorn, and has a lot to offer in terms of genetic potential—regardless of the specific emphasis of your breeding program.