

Norbert Borwege

devoted to Nebraska

Norbert Borwege of Roseland, Neb., had been interested in purebred Herefords since he was a child. He collected sale catalogs and studied Herefords while raising a herd of commercial cattle. In 1946 he purchased 12 head of registered Hereford heifers. In Denver in 1948 he bought the bull that would "make" his herd.

WHR Helmsman 107 came from Wyoming Hereford Ranch's Champion Pen of 10 bulls at the National Western. Norbert paid \$3,500, an enormous amount at the time, but it paid off in spades. This bull has the outstanding record of having sired more champions and reserve champions at the Old Reliable Hereford Show in Grand Island than any other bull. His first bull calf, NB Helmsman 1, topped the sale in 1950 for \$3,325 at the Old Reliable and almost paid for the price of his sire. Another bull, NB Royal Duke, was the first Register of Merit bull (on points) in Nebraska, in 1956. Also in 1956 Norbert was named Nebraska Hereford Breeder of the Year by the Nebraska Stock Growers Association.

Norbert showed cattle in Chicago, where the senior yearling first prize went to his 1955 Reserve Champion at the Ak-Sar-Ben Hereford show and blue ribbon winner at the National Hereford Show at the Iowa State Fair. This bull was his NB Super Return by NB Royal Duke. He also won third-place honors on NB Royal Duke 41st at this show. At Ak-Sar-Ben he showed a senior bull calf to Reserve Champion, and this calf went to Denver, where he won his sale class and stood seventh in the open class. Norbert showed six head at the National Western, getting a second with a junior bull in the open class, a seventh and eleventh with senior bull calves in the open and a tenth with three head of bull calves.

His four daughters, Sharon, Bonna, Diane and Colleen, helped fit the cattle. After Norbert chose his show calves the girls halter broke, fed, washed, cleaned stalls and generally did most of the chores. Their reward was getting to go along to the shows and help with it all.

Norbert had a herd of about 70 good Hereford cows and usually sold the bull calves that he didn't keep to neighbors and other breeders. His daughters sometimes showed these bulls to the buyers when Norbert was busy in the field. He farmed 400 acres of land, 100 acres being irrigated. He also rented 300 acres of pasture. He had the first drilled irrigation well in Adams County.

Norbert won many championships and reserves over the years and usually dominated the Old Reliable Hereford Show and the Republican Valley. One of his favorites to win was Premier Exhibitor, the overall trophy. Norbert also judged many Hereford shows in Nebraska and Kansas and was considered a great judge. He was past president of the Old Reliable Hereford Association, president and director of the Republican Valley Hereford Association and a member of the Nebraska Hereford Association and Nebraska Stock Growers Association.

In the mid-sixties the cattle type changed to more of a rangy look, and Norbert didn't want to conform to this. He let his cow herd go commercial and retired from the show circuit. Being in the cattle show business for only 20 years, he accomplished much and made many friends. Some of the people he competed against were his good friends Charles Warner, Alfred Meeks, Orville Kuhlman, Rich Peckham, Leland Herman, Jack Beeson, Hubert Mayer and Clare Clement. Norbert passed away on Christmas Eve 1989 at the age of 74.

