

Like Snow Falling on Herefords

by **Susan Turner**, *AHW secretary*

The glow of Hereford hospitality drew many a visitor to the second floor of the Livestock Exchange Building during the 101st annual National Western Stock Show (NWSS). Rocky Mountain air plunged wind chills to minus 18 degrees, but proved no match for the warm atmosphere, hot coffee and smell of fresh popcorn permeating the historic halls.

The cozy enclave of Room 220 was once again the site of the Hereford hospitality suite. The American Hereford Women (AHW) rolled up their sleeves to work alongside generous sponsors and American Hereford Association (AHA) staff to provide a place for folks to warm their feet, have a snack or just enjoy NWSS atmosphere from the comfort of a soft chair. The best part was a bird's eye view of the Yards.

AHW members were pleased to join the AHA in serving gallons of coffee, mountains of cookies and the occasional cold drink. Peanuts

and popcorn were also on the menu, and I consider it a personal accomplishment to have mastered the intricacies of delivering freshly popped corn from a genuine popcorn machine — none of those microwave shortcuts.

Though our duties kept us hopping, there was ample opportunity to appreciate this time and place, to soak up its history, and to revel in its relation to our future. The conversations bouncing around the room could have come from today or from any point in the past 100 years. Just as now, discussions of recent blizzards, snowfall amounts, the price of corn and sale bull pedigrees must have passed many an hour in days gone by. Train whistles and bawling cattle only added to the illusion.

Friday morning, as I wondered for the umpteenth time what we could learn if the walls could talk, they just about did. A group tour of newly minted NWSS volunteers strolled into the suite. Their leader, a local historian, politely asked if he might take a few minutes to present a bit of information to his volunteers as part of their orientation.

Never one to miss a lesson in history, I sauntered up near the back of his group with a plate of cookies to hear what he had to say. I was not disappointed. The speaker was well versed in the building's architecture, pointing out that the colored lead glass windows and tiger oak paneling of our hospitality suite were the marks of a prominent commission firm. This company was one of four firms at work in the stockyards in 1906, when 2,000 people were on the stockyards' payroll. He expounded on the daily operation of the Denver stockyards and its historic personalities. He painted portraits of horseback commission men shaping up carloads in a

bygone era, emphasizing the unparalleled role of Herefords.

Seeing my interest and my obvious association with the Hereford breed, our history-buff visitor asked me to accompany the group to the staircase in the hallway to "give him some feedback" on information he was about to present to his fresh volunteers.

He proceeded with a lesson in basic beef cattle economics and the importance of genetics in getting the most from available resources — namely grass. Feed efficiency was his bottom line. He then asked if I had anything to add regarding Hereford cattle. Was he kidding? How much time did he have?

Immediately my mind was filled with information regarding the efficiency of Herefords and their superiority in this and other areas. I went on to mention our efforts to provide a consistent consumer product through Certified Hereford Beef® (CHB).

I was armed with information, but I was wishing so much that I could have been more articulate, handed this golden opportunity to speak to someone not sitting in the choir. I thought of the newly created CHB Ambassador Program. I was reminded again of how important this program will be in preparing young and old to be ready to give an answer. Because we never know when we will be given the floor to speak up for Herefords and the cattle industry, we can never stop learning how to communicate. Watch for the announcement of this year's winner.

Friday afternoon the sun shined its brilliance down on history. Snow had disappeared from the cattle below. The hospitality suite became wall-to-wall people stopping by on their way to the Mile High Night National Hereford Sale that evening. Many left with a Bud Snidow DVD in hand. It was so good to be a part of it all. **HW**

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Hereford Works at www.herefords.net

The Power of Positive Poll-ettes

by Ruth Espenscheid, NOP secretary

The National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) had its annual meeting in January during the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver. The meeting was at the Renaissance Hotel, followed by a social hour for all Hereford breeders. The board is planning an array of junior activities for the coming year and is also proud to be working with Certified Hereford Beef (CHB) LLC and the American Hereford Women (AHW) promoting CHB® in 2007, through the CHB Ambassador Program.

Three new directors joined the NOP board in January. Susan Rader is

the new director from Area 6. Susan and her husband, Mike, and their two children — Steven and Sara — own a ranch near Mt. Vernon, Texas. Susan has been extremely active in the Texas Poll-ettes, Texas Polled Hereford Association and the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association.

Katie Peebles is the new director for Area 3. Katie is from Hotchkiss, Colo., and has been raising polled Hereford cattle on the western slope of Colorado all her life. She is a past director of the Junior Polled Hereford Council.

The new Area 8 director is Brook Herring-Gandy from Beaumont, Miss. Brook was born and raised in the Hereford business and has been actively involved in Hereford activities at the state and national levels since she was 7. The NOP welcomes these fresh faces to the board.

Taking over the helm of the NOP is Starr Whaley. Starr and her husband, Truman, reside in Dalton, Ga. The new vice chairman is Betsy Beck. Betsy and her husband, Andy, hail from Bainbridge, Ind.

Ruth Espenscheid has taken over secretary responsibilities. Ruth and her husband, Marv, live in Argyle, Wis. Rounding out the executive committee is Susan Gebhart, who has assumed treasurer responsibilities. Susan and her husband, Richard, make their home in Claremore, Okla.

The board is also excited to have the following area directors return to the board in 2007: Paula Tracy, Rupert, Idaho; JoAnne VanEck, Kelseyville, Calif.; Anna Rhodus, Greenwood, Mo.; Brenda Teeter, Mooresville, N.C.; and Martene Firestine, Womelsdorf, Pa. Dianne Peebles, past NOP chairman, will serve as an ex-officio member.

The NOP board is also in the process of creating its own Web site, which will be linked to the American Hereford Association (AHA) Web site. All junior scholarship and contest rules will be available, along with other information.

The NOP welcomes the involvement of all ladies in the Hereford industry. For more information, contact Ruth at (608) 543-3778 or wlbaosf@mhtc.net.

HW

A note from Lynn

After what seemed a short four-year term, I retired from the National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) board during the Denver 2007 meeting. It has been a wonderful experience working with and meeting new people with similar goals. This awesome group of women works together to promote Hereford cattle and to become a stronger force in the support of our youth. In the past year, we provided more than \$17,000 to promote the breed through youth activities, scholarships and programs. I will continue to support the Poll-ettes through my Texas organization and wish the best to the new board.

— Lynn Sumner, retired Area 6 NOP director

National Organization of Poll-ettes

Chairman

Starr Whaley, Dalton, Ga.

Vice chairman

Betsy Beck, Bainbridge, Ind.

Secretary-reporter

Ruth Espenscheid
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Treasurer

Susan Gebhart, Claremore, Okla.

Directors

Paula Tracy, Rupert, Idaho
JoAnne VanEck, Kelseyville, Calif.
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Susan Rader, Mt. Vernon, Texas
Anna Rhodus, Greenwood, Mo.
Brook Herring-Gandy, Beaumont, Miss.
Brenda Teeter, Mooresville, N.C.
Martene Firestine, Womelsdorf, Pa.

NOP chairman message

Greetings from the great state of Georgia! My name is Starr Whaley and I represent Area 10 for the National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP). I have just been elected NOP chairman.

I follow in the footsteps of some inspiring women who have paved the way for our organization with new goals and great promise. It is an honor to represent this wonderful group of women and I approach the opportunity with much humbleness.

We have great potential to become an influential part of the lives of our junior members — the future of this industry. Our sole purpose as an organization is to provide money and support for this exciting group of young people who will continue the programs that we, as their elders, have started.

Our continued support and influence in their lives will determine the destiny of our breed. That is my entire focus and goal this coming year. This board looks to our membership to give us guidance and direction. We solicit and encourage your comments and feedback. This is your organization and we are here to carry out the wishes of the membership. Please feel free to express your opinions to your area director or any director.

I'm very excited about the next 12 months. We have three new board members with youthful and exciting ideas. Each retiring board member leaves their footprints on our program as we continue to grow with each new director and their ideas. Please join us in becoming a part of the progress and success of this great organization. We look forward to your participation in all of the programs planned for our juniors. See you in Denver in July for the 2007 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE)! HW