

# Chapman Has Sold More Cattle To Russians Than Any Other Breeder

## Sees No Threat to Herefords From Exotic Cattle Imports

In the stir created by the introduction of the so-called exotic breeds from Europe to the beef industry, one is apt to forget British breeds of Galloway, Angus, Shorthorn and Hereford built Alberta's industry in the first place, and will remain a strong factor in its future development. The greatest of these, the amazingly hardy rustler, is the impressive red breed with white faces. The Hereford industry would be hard to overestimate; its unmistakable characteristics have been evident in the innumerable herds of grade cattle throughout the province, and today its purebred numbers dwarf any other breed.

Like most Hereford cattlemen, W. A. "Bill" Chapman, concedes the exotic breeds and the great crossbreeding experiment has a place in the beef industry, and he readily admits that the exotics have hurried needed changes in carcass characteristics of the conservative British breeds. However, he says, the Here-

fords are not losing the race for size: "When the public demanded more size in calves, Hereford breeders got it and are now also able to equal rate of gain of exotic breeds." Bill points to the results attained by Jim Cross, noted Hereford Breeder of Southern Alberta, with 100 Hereford steers; these cattle averaged a gain of four lbs. a day from the time they were put in the feed lot until they were sold.

Bill says the demand for Hereford cattle has never been as great as evidence, he quotes figures of the 1972 Calgary Bull Sale, which established records for the breed, as 363 head averaged \$1,230, exceeding by \$6 the 1951 average on 507 head.

And, he says, the demand for good females is the greatest in history and will continue high for years, not only by those getting into the crossbreeding experiments, but by many who have found the results of three or four crosses not up to expectations. He foresees a swing back to

purebred breeding, and says it has already begun.

### Beth and Bill

When the Independent's reporter on Mr. and Mrs. Chapman last week, he found them enjoying a mid-morning chat over a cup of coffee. He thought this was typical of these two who have worked together in good and bad times to establish their great beef and grain producing operation.

They have raised eight children, three of whom are still in school. Beth and Bill are offspring of two well-known pioneer couples, the late Mr. and Mrs. Martin Morgenson of the Wild Rose School District, not far from where the Chapman's now farm, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Bill Chapman Sr. of Stettler.

Bill began his farming career as the Morgenson's hired man, and he and Beth began farming on their own on the present site, about 30 years ago. They had two rented quarters which they tackled with a bank loan of \$500 for

fuel and seed. It wasn't long before Bill was covering 1800 acres, mostly rented, with a one-way, six-foot tiller, working almost around the clock. Sometimes he was so tired, he would throw himself down in a furrow to catch a few minutes sleep, and at night his eyes peered for the light on the house, the signal that it was time to get Beth to the hospital as the baby was coming.

Today, Bill says, "if I had my choice of locating anywhere I liked, I would choose the exact spot. It has everything I want, good soil, a lovely setting and a wonderful community".

All but two of the children are at home. The youngest daughter, Vera, married, lives in Edmonton, and the eldest son, Morgan, lives in Stettler, Blain and Blake work with their father and so does Betty's husband, Lyle Smith, while Bryce, Phyllis and Garnet are still in school.

The Chapmans got into the Hereford business 26 years ago

when Bill bought two old bred cows from a district farmer. One of them had cancer and the other wasn't pregnant. Two years after the disaster, they got started with Pine Coulee Herefords by purchasing a good bull for \$2500 and seven heifers from Bryce Campbell. Today, they have 130 cows, four Bar Pipe herd sires and two herd sires from their own production.

Highlight of their cattle raising career was winning the grand championship for Herefords at the Calgary Bull Sale in 1965. This was something they never dreamed of attaining, and their winning bull was one they almost did not enter. They contribute Stettler and Coronation sales. Their top bull at Calgary this year brought \$2700. But their best sales record has been to the Russian buying team that comes to Canada each year. Since 1961, they have sold more cattle — 150 heifers and 50 bulls — to Russia than any other Canadian breeder.



**BULLS FOR STETTLER AND CORONATION** — Bill Chapman inspects some of the dozen or so bulls he still has to sell this spring. His top bull at Calgary Bull Sale brought \$2,700. He intends

to contribute about five bulls to each of Stettler and Coronation's annual Bull Sales. He keeps 130 cows and six herd sires.



**BILL AND BETH CHAPMAN** — in their home, enjoying a mid-morning cup of coffee and talk about their children and activities on their 4,000-acre spread.