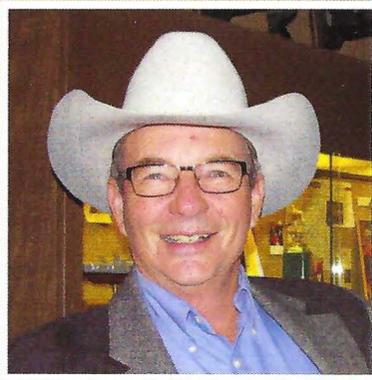


GRANT BOICE

2021 Show Dedicatee

Written by Janice Bryson



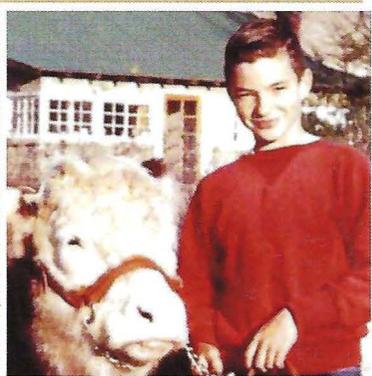
The Arizona National Livestock Show is honored to dedicate the 2021 show to Grant Boice. The Arizona National grew to national prominence under his eighteen years as Director; his leadership led the pathway to the elite event the show is today.

The Boice family is a large part of the history of the cattle industry in Arizona. Great-Grandfather Henry S. Boice (H.S.), born in New Mexico in 1860, formed the Berry-Boice Cattle Company. He neighbored and became friends with Teddy Roosevelt when Berry-Boice operated in North Dakota. H.S. bought cattle outfits around the West and he developed an interest in the Hereford breed. H.S. purchased Hereford bulls from Gudgell and Simpson in Missouri; meeting and marrying Gudgell's daughter LuBelle on his Missouri trips.



Charles Gudgell and Thomas Simpson were not well known in the cattle industry when Simpson traveled to England to search for a Hereford bull that had powerful, massive hindquarters the pair believed the Hereford industry needed to compete and survive. They purchased Anxiety 4th and more than 99% of all modern American Herefords are descendants of Anxiety 4th through the top line of their pedigrees.

H.S.'s first venture in Arizona was in the Holbrook area; later heading to Cochise County where he purchased the Chiricahua Cattle Company with his partners the Gates Brothers and W. D. Johnson. H.S. managed the XIT Ranch in Texas and the Block Ranch in New Mexico and Colorado as well as the Chiricahua Cattle Company. For an interval, H.S. was the general manager of the three ranches. After his death in 1919, H.S.'s sons, Henry Gudgell, Charles and Frank Seymour, Grant's grandfather, continued in the cattle business in Arizona. Frank married Mary Grantham from Duncan; their two sons, Frank "Pancho" and Robert "Bob", Grant's father, grew up on the family's Empire Ranch.



Bob was originally home schooled, then attended the Empire Ranch School as well as boarding in Tucson during the school year. The family eventually bought a home in Tucson and went to the ranch on weekends and during the summer. Bob graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in animal husbandry. He married fellow U of A graduate Miriam Hamilton in 1950. They moved to the Empire Ranch where an army barracks from Fort Huachuca was converted into a one-bedroom house across the drive from the headquarters.

Grant was born in 1953 in Tucson, joining big sister Mary Elizabeth, at the family's Empire Ranch home. When Grant was three, the Empire Cattle Company bought the Slash S Ranch south of Globe. His family moved to the Slash S and Pancho and his family stayed at the Empire. Grant's two sisters Martha and Peggy were born after the move to the new ranch to complete the family. When Mary was six and ready to start school, Bob remembered his unhappy first years in Tucson and insisted Miriam move with the children to Globe, spending the weekends and summers at the ranch. After Baily Foster was hired as a full-time manager, Bob and Grant would stay in the bunkhouse when at the ranch. Grant remembers they only had a party line phone with a single copper wire.

Since 1960, Bob had supported the Arizona National Livestock Show. The family would stay in Phoenix a week while Bob volunteered in various capacities. When his children were old enough to join 4-H, they wanted to show steers. Gila County had two community fairs; but no County Fair much less a fairgrounds. Bob and Pat Gray, the local County agent, started the Gila County Gila-Mon Steers 4-H club in 1964. Bob was the leader with Mary and Grant as two of the original six members. With no fairgrounds, they entered their animals in the Southern Arizona International Livestock Show which at that time was in conjunction with the Pima County Fair in Tucson. Bob was instrumental in Gila County building a race track and fairgrounds east of Globe with the fairgrounds opening in 1970. The 4-H members finally had their own fair and fairgrounds to show and sell their animals.

After graduation from Globe High School, Grant attended the University of Arizona where he was a member of the Livestock Judging Team, Block & Bridle Club and the Rodeo Club. He graduated from the U of A with Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. A fond memory is of all the Ag students gathering in the Student Union playing pitch.

After graduation Grant spent a year at the ranch then went to Colorado where he managed a feedlot the family had built in Loma. He met his wife Kristi Jones, who was the secretary at his bank. They were married in 1978 in Colorado. The feedlot was sold in 1979 and the couple moved to Arizona where Grant worked for Arizona Livestock Production Credit Association in Phoenix. He continued his career in agriculture related businesses as Business Manager/Administrator for John Vanderwey and then hired as office manager for Hebbard and Webb, a





highly respected Ranch Real Estate company.

In the 1980's Grant volunteered and served as chairman of the Arizona National Calf Scramble Committee and was active on the Junior Committee.

In 1995 Grant was appointed Executive Director of the Arizona National Livestock Show. In prior years he was an exhibitor as well as a board member, working his way up to president of the Arizona National. His responsibilities as Director included overseeing all aspects of the organization and the production of the annual livestock show. Grant oversaw a year round staff of three and seasonal staff of thirty as well as countless volunteers. Among the many volunteers were members of the Arizona State Cowbelles and Grant was always supportive of their endeavors; particularly the Pioneer Stockman Association Ranch Histories and the annual Pioneer Stockmen Luncheon.

During Grant's tenure one of the most popular activities he introduced was the Farm Experience which young attendees really enjoyed. Other new events were the Chuck Wagon Cook-Off, the Ranch Horse Competition and the Commercial Heifer Show. Arizona was going through hard economic times and Grant worked behind the scenes to improve funding and the ability to continue the show.

There was no computer program used when Grant was appointed. Jesse Graybill came to the office and initially designed a Junior Entry database with Grant looking over his shoulder. Grant became proficient at using Microsoft Access and designed multiple databases for the Arizona National. He continues to design custom databases for several different county fairs and for private sales.

Dean Fish, who served as Arizona National President, notes "I have worked with Grant at county and state fairs, national livestock shows and in the branding pen. He has always been a top hand in the any arena and never seeks the spotlight for his remarkable achievements. He is quick to credit others for successes and assume responsibility for failure, rare those might be. He is humble enough to work a small county fair with as much gusto as a national show. He led the association through one of the darkest times in recent history and despite close personal relationships did the right and ethical thing. There is not better advocate for the cattle industry, youth and livestock show to be found anywhere."

One of Grant's proudest achievements was the growth of the Arizona National Livestock Show Scholarship Program in partnership with the Arizona Horse Lovers Foundation. Over \$50,000.00 in scholarships is awarded annually to students that have participated in the Arizona National, and to agricultural organizations which encourage youth activities. Marilyn Harris worked with Grant on the scholarship committee. She says "Grant is now and has been for many years the technical brain that keeps the Scholarship Committee running like a fine-tuned machine! Grant, in addition to his vast knowledge of the applicants, the process and the universities, has developed computer spreadsheets for those of us on the committee to easily complete for evaluation of our applicants. Grant compiles our information, ranks applicants and presents results on the big screen at our meetings. Because of Grant, our meetings run smoothly and quickly. His work makes me look good! It is a joy to have Grant on the Scholarship Committee". He is also proud to the Livestock Judging Competitions held each year during the show.

Current Arizona National Executive Director Tyler Grandil writes "I had the pleasure of knowing and working around Grant for many years. It wasn't until I came to work for the Arizona National that I truly began to appreciate that his tenure with the show was one of duty and careful stewardship. The commitment he had and still has for the show is something we feel each day as we still do many things "the way Grant would do it". We regularly speak of him and of his efforts to provide a quality experience for exhibitors. The professionalism and dignity that Grant brought to this position are attributes that all show managers should have and it is an honor to follow in his footsteps".

Grant's wife Kristi spent many years overseeing Cowboy Classics, a celebration of the culture and lifestyle of the American Cowboy presented by the Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation. Their daughters Cheyne, Mary and Stephanie volunteered at Cowboy Classics many hours to make it a family affair. Grant retired as Executive Director in 2013 and left big shoes to fill.

Through the years Grant has been a member of many organizations; his leadership abilities always seem to find him being an officer or serving on a committee. He was treasurer of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association, Board of Directors and Investment Committee Chairman for Project Centrl, President of Arizona Fairs Association, President of North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers Association, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Marketing Committee. Grant also served as Vice-President of the Scottsdale Active 20-30 and served on the Governor's Committee on Livestock and Agriculture. Grant has also served as the Business Manager of the Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation for twenty-eight years.

Many honors have come Grant's way including Honorary FFA State Degree, Arizona Fair Association Member of the Year, University of Arizona Alumni Distinguished Citizen of the Year as well as Arizona Fairs Association Hall of Fame Award and Arizona 4-H Hall of Fame. Also Arizona Cooperative Extension Centennial Honoree, Arizona Fairs Association Lifetime Membership and the Arizona National Livestock Show Hall of Fame. The University of Arizona's Department of Agriculture honored the Boice Family with the Heritage Award in 2011 for three generation of U of A graduates.

In 2005 the Arizona National Livestock Show was dedicated to Bob and Miriam Boice honoring their many years of service. Grant has continued the family legacy with the 2021 show dedication. A pillar of the agriculture community, Grant's leadership and guidance of the Arizona National Livestock Show will be seen for years to come.