

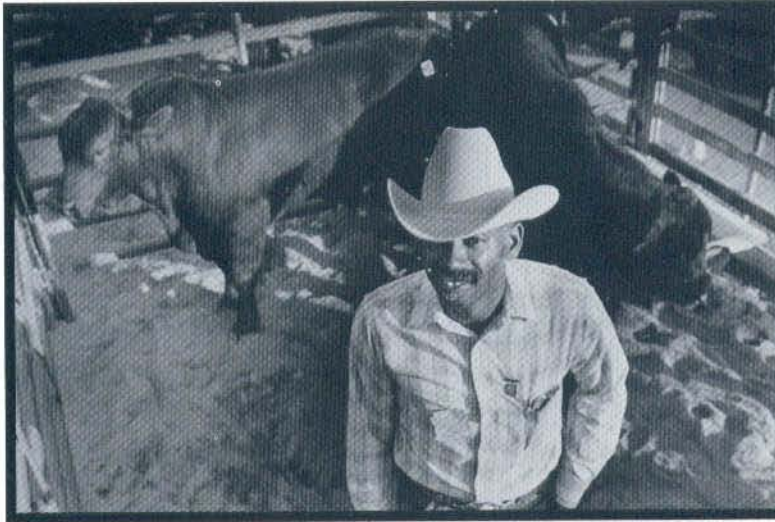
# 2002 Arizona National Stock Show *Dedicated to Alex Dees*

By AnnaMarie Aja

The Dedicatee of the 2002 Arizona National Livestock Show (ANLS) is one of the most famous Brangus cattle breeders in America and a member of the Brangus Hall of Fame. Alex Dees, a Yuma rancher and the owner of Dees Brothers Brangus, has more trophies on his shelves than anyone wants to count. A close look at the livestock on his ranch reveals his "lazy A.D." brand, but the word lazy is in contrast to everything Dees is. Dees commitment to his work began at an early age. "I've been doing man's labor since I was eight years old," he notes. Likewise, agriculture and hard work are synonymous, and they have always been a part of Alex Dees life.

Palmer Keith, a longtime Stock Show member and volunteer, recognizes Alex Dees as, "One of the finest people in the Show." He adds, "Alex is a fine member and exhibitor. As far as the Livestock Show is concerned, he's done everything that's been asked of him." And that's quite a bit, considering that he's been a

member of the Show since the late 60's. Alex began showing cattle at the ANLS in 1962. As a result of his commitment and perseverance, his first year at the Show he



*Alex Dees at the 1983 Arizona National Stock Show*

received an award for Reserve Grand Champion Brangus Bull. Remarkably, at the Arizona National Stock Show, Alex has shown as many as 50 head of cattle at one time. In addition to showing cattle, Alex has participated in ANLS on a variety of levels. He has served in various leadership capacities, and has also contributed as a judge for many of the competitions.

His loyalty to the ANLS is illustrated in his vast involvement. He served for more than ten years as Superintendent of the Open

Cattle Division. He then went on to become Vice President of the Show as well as an avid committee member. His contributions continued, and he served as a Board member for nearly twenty years. Throughout the more than 40 years in which Alex has been involved with ANLS, he has grown quite fond of the many people he's met. "I really enjoy seeing my old friends who have been so involved through the years, and all the old-timers who continue to show," he says. He still reflects

on his early years at the Show. He remembers the days when the Stock Show was slower paced and there was more time to visit and enjoy the friendships he'd made. He adds, "We looked out for each other."

Alex is the oldest of sixteen children born to John and Allily Dees. His father was a row crop farmer on land near the Colorado River, settled in the 1920's, and primarily owned by African-American farmers. As a youth Dees' time was spent working on the family farm while

## 2002 Dedicatee Alex Dees

attending school. He was also a member of Future Farmers of America, where he won numerous awards for showing cattle, swine, and sheep. One could say that this was where it all began. Alex attended Arizona State University for two and a half years, but when a lack of funds forced him to drop out, he returned to his home in Yuma. This was 1960. Dees then went to work for Floyd Newcomer at the Yuma Valley Cattle Company.

Originally, Newcomer hired Dees to halter break Brangus cattle for shows. However, it didn't take long before Dees was put in charge of the ranch's breeding program. Encouraged by Newcomer, Dees was slowly starting to build his own herd as well. When his

Originally, Newcomer hired Dees to halter break Brangus cattle for shows. However, it didn't take long before Dees was put in charge

the mainstay of the Brangus breed. He has in his herd that are outstanding." Not only a first-rate Brangus breeder, Jim maintains that Alex is a top notch person. His integrity and will be beat."

In addition to running his operation Alex judged junior competitions for many

the early 80's his career and he began professional shows as well. Alex puts it, "Judging is his enjoyment is seen through hundreds of shows he has judged during his career. Just a few of the shows he has judged are those of Denver, Houston, Kansas City, as well as the National Brangus Show at the Palace. This year he was

Alex puts it, judging is his enjoyment is seen through hundreds of shows he has judged during his career. Just a few of the shows he has in

