



Acadia Primula 3rd, by Calrossie Sportsman, grand champion female of the National Shorthorn Show at the 1954 Ohio State Fair, shown with Betty Royon, vice-president of Acadia Farms and director of American Shorthorn Breeders' Association. A member of this Primula family was grand or reserve grand champion at the Ohio State Fair and/or the Ohio State Shorthorn Show in 1951, 1953, 1954, and in 1955, a full brother (Acadia Sportsman 60th) to the heifer shown was grand champion of the Ohio State Shorthorn Show.

tween frequent skids from one side to the other, our native chauffeur made a valiant effort, while we six foreigners quavered and quaked each time our limousine lunged for the ditch or passed oncoming cars on the left and overtook cars going in our direction from the right. Unshaken physically, but shattered nervously, we pulled up at the front door of Calrossie House twenty minutes late.

Captain MacGillivray met us with a marvelous combination of unstinted cordiality for our presence and unmistakable disapproval of our tardiness. The conflict was not completely and finally resolved until a couple of hours later at the luncheon table, when one of our party was bold enough to ask, "Would you rather have had us dead and on time or a little late and alive?" The Captain in a forthright and outspoken man who responds to those who pay him in his own coin. He laughed, and the hatchet was buried for good.

A dozen or more overseas visitors, from Canada, South Africa, Australia and the Argentine, were already gathered in the Captain's living room when we made our overdue entrance. Still the amenities were preserved, and the entire party obliged to wait, while our gracious hostess Mrs. MacGillivray and her kindly daughter saw to it that we were

thoroughly warmed close to the coal fire on the hearth — Scotland's substitute for central heating—and refreshed first with the national drink and then with coffee and cake. After we had signed the guest book we were ready to see the cattle. The Shorthorn fraternity of the United Kingdom is wonderfully hospitable, and this same ritual was observed at the beginning or end of almost every farm visit we made in Scotland and England.

An inspection of bulls

We drove a short distance through woods to the Captain's barns, and as soon as we had all assembled in a sheltered spot on the sunny side of the buildings, a quartet of Calrossie's 15 Perth bulls was led out for our inspection. In the lead, with head herdsman Alistair Forbes at the halter, was Calrossie Paramount, a roan son of Calrossie Welcome we found hard to fault except for his gay color. As Paramount moved majestically toward us, the Captain quietly commented, "This is one of the best bulls I have ever bred." A week later, Paramount was to be crowned supreme champion at Perth and to realize the sale's top price of 8,500 guineas, or approximately \$25,000 for his admiring owner from an ambitious Australian buyer.

The Captain's able son and partner, Donald,

and his attractive wife Diana, as well as the Captain's equally able son and competitor, Willic of Glastullich, enthusiastically assisted in from the crowd as we watched the well-staged parades of the sale bulls and then examined the cow herd and the stock bulls at the Captain's and Donald's barns, or byres as they are better known in Britain. Donald and Willic both tower well over the six-foot mark, while the Captain hardly more than matches my five feet eight inches.

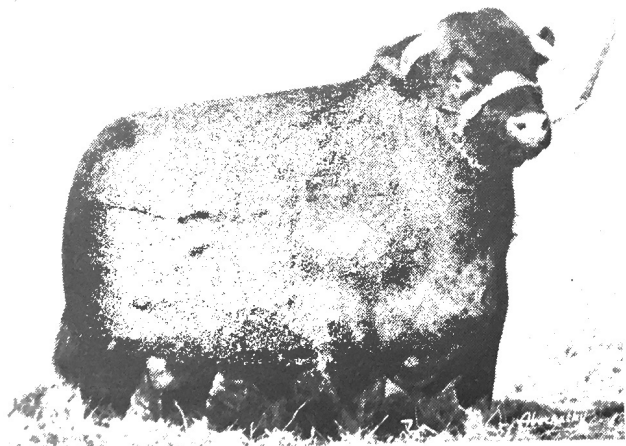
In his handsome knickerbockers and cap, with his cane hooked over his arm as he tamps his pipe, the Captain is the story-book ideal of the successful Scotch Shorthorn breeder. He good-naturedly but firmly objected to the handling of the sale bulls by his overseas visitors, with the observation, "What the eyes can't see, the hands can't judge." Then he translated his injunction into the native ver-pummelers, "Did ye come all the way across the Atlantic just to bake bannocks on the backs of my bulls?" Anyone who has watched a Scotch judge work can understand the Captain's attitude, for the Scotch system is to keep a class of cattle on the walk while the placings are made, and rarely to change the order after the animals are lined up.

Seeing a cow herd to good advantage is difficult in Scotland in wintertime, because the cattle are kept completely confined indoors, with the dry cows tied up in stanchions and the cows with calves crowded into pens in comparatively close quarters. There was more light and air at Calrossie than at many of the other farms we visited, but it still was not possible to do justice to what we saw. Being there as part of such a large group also added to the handicaps. For good reason, Captain MacGillivray several times remarked, "We'll wait until everybody gets here, as there's no need to say all of this more than once."

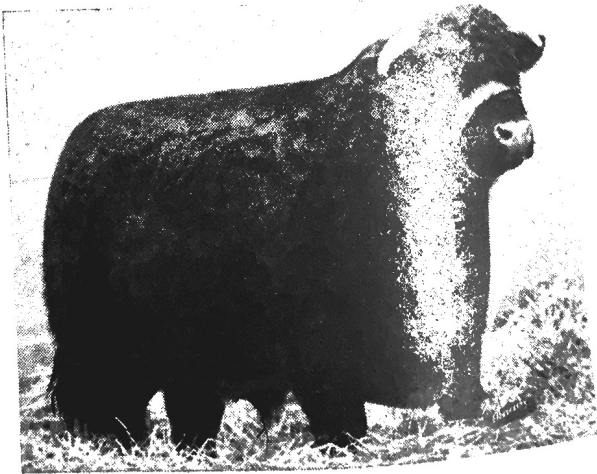
A great cow herd

Nevertheless we could readily tell from what we were able to see that we were looking at one of the world's great cow herds—perhaps the greatest. Probably no other cow herd compares with Calrossie's for breed character and uniformity throughout. Picture one dark red cow after another, neither too large nor too small, but roomy enough, proudly wearing a feminine head and carrying a deep, thick body on four short, strong legs, and you have the impression of Calrossie's brood matrons that we carried away with us.

Arriving at and fixing this type has been the remarkable work of one far-seeing man's lifetime. Captain MacGillivray got his grounding in the livestock industry as cattleman for his father's herd of pedigreed Highlanders.



Left: Imported Calrossie Sportsman, Acadia's \$16,500 senior stock sire of champions at major shows in four successive years.



Right: Imported Calrossie Troubadour, Acadia's \$6,600 junior stock bull.

Later, father and son shifted from purebreds to crossbreds, and used white Shorthorn bulls on both Highland and Aberdeen-Angus cows to produce early maturing calves. The Captain credits the Shorthorn bulls for the many prizes he and his father won with these calves, for they had found that the Highlanders and the Aberdeen-Angus alone were rather slow maturing.

When the Captain started farming on his own in 1905, he had 50 black cows and a Shorthorn bull. The following year he bought his first registered Shorthorn females. By his own confession, he was not then very well acquainted with Shorthorn pedigrees, but he was an expert on the correct conformation of a good beef animal. He made a point of picking foundation females of the best type to be found, and then making his own pedigrees by the use of the best bulls he could afford to buy.

The Captain states his ideas

This early experience of Captain MacGillivray's should not be construed to indicate that he takes bloodlines lightly. Far from it, as is demonstrated by the following summary the Captain has given me of the ideal breeding program:

"You should buy sires which are likely to rectify any weaknesses you may have in your herd, and when you have them graded up to a very high standard, you should practice a bit of close breeding, so as to hold your uniformity. I want you to understand that a very severe outcross in bloodlines is just pedigree cross breeding, and will get you an up-and-down lot of calves.

"I have found in the past with sheep and cattle that it is not the expensive sire which I buy that does me good but a son out of one of my favorite cows or ewes where certain bloodlines had nicked, for example Calrossie Control by Collynie Royal Leader and several others. In the sheep world I got Calrossie Mighty Fine, Cheviot tup, by a purchased tup out of a Calrossie ewe. He won the Royal Highland four times for Glastullich, a record for Scotland, and remade the breed.

"At the same time, you must have your herd *top notch* before you are safe to practice the foregoing, and you must have them rugged and make *sure* they remain rugged. If they become fine, you require another 'Rectifier,' as I call it."

Among the cows we especially admired at Calrossie, we were happy to find Calrossie Clipper Evangeline, daughter of Kirkton Baronet and dam of our Calrossie Sportsman as well as a Perth supreme champion, and Calrossie Elspeth Broadhooks, daughter of Calrossie Welcome and dam of our Calrossie Troubadour. The Clipper cow was extremely rugged, with a tremendous amount of natural

Hon. Robert Winters, Canadian Minister of Public Works, and Mr. Cyrus Eaton, with two of Acadia's three first prize winners, Deep Cove Scottish Monarch 3rd and Acadia Primula 3rd, reserve junior champion female, at the 1954 Canadian Royal Winter Fair. This picture was taken the evening that the Governor General of Canada, Hon. Vincent Massey, awarded the coveted prize known as the Kings Guineas, hence the formal attire.



fleshing and swinging a large udder. The Broadhooks was easily one of the best-headed cows we saw in Scotland, and one of the lowest set. Both of these grand brood matrons struck us as perfect specimens of the Calrossie type.

In addition to the Clippers and the Broadhooks, the famous families at Calrossie include Augustas, Flosses, Miss Ramsdens, Rosewoods, Paulines, Princess Royals and Butterflies. All of these families have been at Calrossie for many years, and all have been prolific breeders. Captain MacGillivray believes that families which are not highly fertile should be allowed to die out. He also stresses the importance of retaining only the best females in the herd.

When I asked the Captain how many females there were at Calrossie, he answered, with a twinkle in his eye, that he disliked ever to make an exact count, as bad luck with one of the cows was bound to follow. Not wishing to cast the evil eye on Calrossie, I said I would be quite content with a rough approximation, and the Captain replied that he had about 80 cows. Of the 15 bulls offered at Perth by Calrossie, five were out of Floss dams, three out of Clippers, two out of Paulines, two out of Miss Ramsdens and one each out of cows of the Augusta, Broadhooks and Princess Royal families.

The role of the sire

In weighing the relative importance of females and bulls, the Captain does not entirely agree with the old saying that the stock sire is more than half the herd. His irrefutable logic is that one bull takes the herd only part of the way, and then another bull has to be

selected to correct the mistakes made by the previous bull. The Captain, it should be noted, seems to have an uncanny knack of determining quickly when a bull is likely to make too many mistakes, and disposing of him before he does undue damage to the herd.

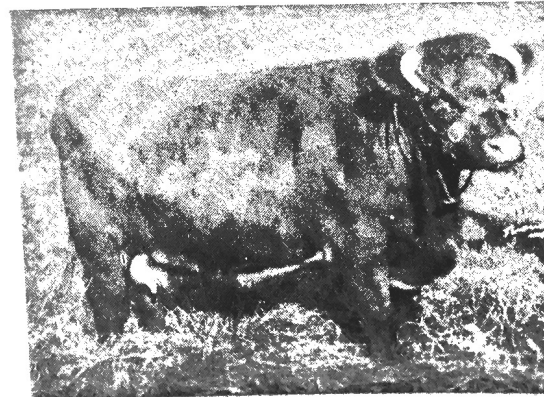
The stock bulls at Calrossie, and almost everywhere else in Scotland, impressed us for their massiveness. Exactly why we expected to find smaller bulls I am not sure. I have heard it said that imported bulls sometimes stop growing when they reach this side of the Atlantic, but have always regarded that as an "old wives' tale. Yet the typical North American herd sire, imported or home bred, is distinctly smaller than his Scottish counterpart. For all their massiveness, the best Scotch herd sires are lowset and walk on extremely short legs. The accent is also on ampleness of bone and on depth and thickness of body. Fleshing quality is another important consideration. Last, but by no means least, character is heavily stressed; the stock bull with an indifferent head is distinctly the exception.

Calrossie now has three principal herd sires. We spent a long time going over the seven-year-old red-roan Calrossie Welcome; there was an amazing amount of him to go over. He displays all the attributes of the typical Scotch stock bull to a marked degree. We also had a good opportunity to examine the two-year-old red Calrossie Hyperbole, certainly more of an image of his sire than any of the other sons of Calrossie Welcome we have seen in Scotland or North America. Of 58 calves born at Calrossie up to mid-June this year, there have been 30 by Hyperbole, equally divided between bulls and heifers, so that he is



Left: Calrossie Highland Pride, sire of Calrossie Troubadour, junior stock bull at Acadia Farms.

Right: Calrossie Elspeth Broadhooks, dam of Calrossie Troubadour, junior stock bull at Acadia Farms.



evidently being used heavily. The score for the 1955 calf crop so far is, incidentally, 31 heifers to 27 bulls. This must be bad news to the Calrossie cattlemen, who get a bonus for each bull calf born.

We were allowed little more than a fleeting glimpse of the recently purchased yearling, Millhills Liberator, a red son of Banchory Jason by Bapton Eldorado. Liberator's dam is by Calrossie Highland Leader, a son of Kirkton Baronet. In type, Liberator appears to resemble the bulls he is to follow, and in bloodlines, he brings a further intensification of strains already strongly infused in the Calrossie herd.

Lunchtime had arrived, and Captain MacGillivray was anxious that Calrossie's numerous guests should not be late in reaching the table at his house or Donald's. Several visitors wanted to train their cameras on Welcome, so the Captain relented long enough to have the old bull led out onto the pavement just outside his stall for a quick snapshot. Despite his desire for speed, however, the Captain did not object to momentary delay while his cattlemen forked some stray out onto the courtyard before posing Welcome. The Captain gave the amateur photographers quite a kidding as he hustled them along with their work. He observed that he had known North Americans to try to take such pictures with no film in their cameras, and that he hoped no one would be so foolish on this occasion.

Lunch at Calrossie

Mrs. MacGillivray sets a bounteous board, and the Captain was in top form, so that the group of us who gathered around the table enjoyed a festive meal. Calrossie House is full of trophies and pictures of champions, but the most impressive memento of all is the full length oil painting of the Captain that hangs on the dining room wall behind and to one side of his chair. The portrait was presented to the Captain at Perth on February 11, 1952, as a token of admiration and appreciation from Shorthorn men the world over. The presentation ceremony had been planned far in advance and, by happy coincidence, occurred on the date when Calrossie registered its twelfth supreme championship and all but swept the boards in the classes and groups.

After luncheon, the Captain led us on a rewarding expedition to adjoining Glastullich where Willie MacGillivray maintains a smaller herd having much the same quality and bloodlines as Calrossie. Willie's chief stock bull is Calrossie Claymore, a good two-year-old red son of Calrossie Welcome that more nearly resembles the kind of herd sire we are used to looking at on this side of the water than most of the other stock bulls we saw in Scotland. After inspection of the Glastullich herd, we were welcomed into Willie's home by his attractive wife for our afternoon "warm-up," and then we were on our way to Inverness.

At Phopachy the following day, the Captain's niece, Miss Jean MacGillivray, gave us as fine a lunch as we had in Scotland and showed us as typy a cow herd as we saw. Jean's father, the late Kenny of Kirkton, was the breeder of Kirkton Baronet, and there is probably more Baronet blood in Jean's herd than anywhere else in the world. Our observation throughout our Scottish and English travels was that herds needing more character were hunting it through Kirkton Baronet

bloodlines. Jean has been using Crichton Grand Duke by Calrossie Baronet and the exceptionally good-headed Kirkton Grandee by Kirkton Baronet, and will follow them with Calrossie Triumphant, a white son of Calrossie Welcome out of a Kirkton Baronet dam. Many Scotch breeders come back to white bulls at frequent intervals after using red or dark roan bulls. This helps guard against "ginger on the head" and makes for better fleshing qualities and a more pliable hide.

Emphasis on bulls

From Prestwick to Perth, our Acadia-Deep Cove delegation visited a total of 21 herds in Scotland, and we saw two more in England on our way home. Counting return visits, we paid 27 farm calls in the United Kingdom during the ten days we had free for travel before and after the Perth Show and Sale. My 315-page Perth catalog — clean and uncreased at the start of our travels, but now dirty and dog-eared — lists 463 bull entries. Actually, only 341 of these entries put in an appearance at Perth, and we had managed to see 126 of them on their home farms before they were shipped to the big show. By the time the three-day show and sale ended, 291 bulls had new owners and the remaining 50 were heading back for home unsold because they had not brought the minimum prices stipulated privately to the auctioneers by the sellers before the bidding began.

The pedigrees of 133 females were printed in the catalog, but only 86 heifers and cows were exposed for sale, with 69 of them being sold, and the other 17 withdrawn. With a few notable exceptions, including the daughter of Crugleton Balmoral that we bought, the females were a pretty plain lot. Autumn is the time when better heifers are available in Scottish auction sales.

At Perth in February the emphasis is distinctly on bulls. A tremendous crowd gathers in the drafty barracks where the classes are paraded and lined up. The judging starts at 8:30 Monday morning, pauses an hour at lunchtime and then continues until completed in the late afternoon. The luncheon break brings the absorbed spectator the realization that he is practically paralyzed with the cold, and sends him out into the relatively warm but frosty fresh air to stamp the circulation back into his feet on the Perth pavements. The sensation of the 1955 show was Calrossie's capture of the supreme championship for the thirteenth time in the forty years that such awards have been officially made at Perth. The record is the more amazing for the fact that 21, or more than half of the 40 championships have been won by bulls either bred at Calrossie or sired by Calrossie-bred bulls.

The sale begins at 9:30 Tuesday morning, and moves rapidly through the day to better than the half-way mark in the catalog. Except for the bull champions and reserves, which are sold about midday Tuesday, first the females and then the bulls go through the auction ring in the order in which they appear in the catalog, by date of birth from oldest to youngest.

Sandwiches in the side pockets set the style for lunch both on Tuesday and on Wednesday, when the selling starts up again at 10:00 a.m. and continues until the last page in the catalog has been reached. Fortunately for those

in the seats, the sale pavilion, although completely unheated, is considerably less frigid than the deep freeze where the show is held. Action throughout the two days is rapid. This year's entire offering of 427 bulls and females were disposed of in a total selling time of twelve hours, so that the amount of time devoted to each animal averaged less than a minute and three quarters.

The snappy Scotch system is a far cry from the combination of campaign oratory and prayer meeting that characterize our typical American and Canadian auctions. The Australians say that their sales consumes even more time than ours; a Scotchman who had recently attended a sale "down under" told us he thought he was going to die of old age before the proceedings were finished.

Exporters made the sale

There were a lot of good bulls at Perth this year, as well as some distinctly tail-enders. The top third of the offering would rank as really outstanding, I think. The 292 bulls sold averaged £653, or approximately \$1,890. Export buying made the sale. While the 292 bulls grossed £191,000, the 90-odd bulls bought by breeders from the Argentine, Australia, Canada and the U. S. A. accounted for £123,000 of this amount. The Argentinians, alone, took 60 bulls totaling £68,000.

The chief social event at Perth is the Annual Dinner of The Scottish Shorthorn Breeders' Association on Monday evening, after the classes have been placed. The six-course banquet featured Roast Baron of Shorthorn, and the dessert was good old American-style ice cream. After the coffee had been served and the traditional toast to the Queen offered, there ensued a rich variety of addresses and presentations by, from and to representatives of Scotland, England, the Argentine, South Africa, the United States, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

High spot of the evening was Captain MacGillivray's acceptance speech when he and Donald received the championship cup. In his mid-seventies, the Captain has more spirit and fire than most men half his age. Noting that a good cattleman was subject to insomnia if he did not have an outstanding herd sire, the Captain stated that he certainly was able to sleep soundly as there were three exceptional breeding bulls in the boxes at Calrossie. Squarely facing the rivalry between Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn, the Captain asserted that another two years would see the Shorthorn bull back in his rightful role of leadership in the cross-breeding business in Scotland. The Scotch farmer who has lately switched to Angus bulls, stated the Captain, is going to find that he is sacrificing 75 to 100 pounds per calf at weaning age that he can recover only by turning back to Shorthorn bulls.

Captain MacGillivray recalled that the indifferant state of his health several years ago would have forced the abandonment of operations at Calrossie had it not been for his son and partner, Donald. Then, breathing the competitive spirit and the will to win that have carried him from one triumph to another throughout his illustrious career as a Shorthorn breeder, the veteran warrior brought down the house when he proclaimed, "But I am still the boss of Calrossie, and Calrossie will carry on!"