

## Summary: Our Place for Dreams Today

Over a century ago, three men had a dream and turned it into a club...a place for those doing business in the Chicago Union Stock Yards... to dine, entertain and to relax...a meeting place for stockmen and their associations. The idea of honoring one of their own for his contributions to the industry with the hanging of an oil portrait of him in the club became the part of the dream that lives today and has world wide respect. For 76 years, 4-H Club members, college students and exhibitors to the International, and visitors world wide were awed that any industry should show such respect to its acknowledged leaders.

With the wrecking ball ordered for the Livestock Records Building at the edge of the Chicago Yards, a search for a new home for the portrait gallery was started. It is providential that Louisville became the site, more specifically the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

The two cities had so many similarities. In the early days... water traffic, plank roads, railroad trunk lines. Chicago had to dredge sand out of the river to let the Great Lakes ships into port (1833). Louisville had to build a canal around the Ohio

River Rapids to expedite river traffic up and down the Ohio (1830). Chicago had Packingtown...Louisville had Butchertown. Railroad drop offs in Chicago became the Chicago Union Stock Yards (1865). Holding pens behind drover's inns in Louisville became the Bourbon Stock Yards (1875). Men in the yards encouraged livestock improvement with fat stock shows... the International in Chicago (1900)... the Louisville Fat Cattle Show (1921)...the Bourbon Beef Show (1946).

Now the famous gallery is in the halls of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center and the Executive West Hotel. The center hosts four million visitors of the world each year. Many enjoy a personal stimulus from the portraits of the eminent industry leaders who hang there.

The authors have done their best to utilize the information both new and old to share with you. We want to communicate a reflection of the ideals of the first Place of Dreams and the new Place FOR Dreams, so you will aspire to serve the livestock industry in such a way that those of another age can look down from their golden frames with mute approval.



Eight former Saddle and Sirloin honorees and their wives met for lunch at the club after the traditional hanging during the 2002 NAILE. Seated: Dr. Don L. Good '87; Ben R. Houston '02; Standing: Dr. Robert Totusek '97; Dr. Ronald H. Nelson '90; Dr. Harlan D. Ritchie '94; Dr. O. G. Daniel '01; Fred H. Johnson '97; Dale F. Runnion '98.



Dale F. Runnion



Harlan D. Ritchie



Richard L. Willham