

## Vermont Master Breeder

by John Howe

as presented at Vermont Annual Meeting

Bill Week's involvement with Holsteins began early. He received his first 4-H calf at age six, and from then until he sold the last Skyway animal in 1976 he was involved with some of the finest animals of the breed.

After graduating from high school he worked for Carnation Farm. At the age of 18 he was sent to South Africa on a freighter with 24 head of Carnation cattle. After a stay in South Africa of several months he returned home and took a job compiling pedigrees for Backus Pedigree Co.

In 1942 the Rutland Airport was built on farmland owned by his father, Amherst Weeks. Bill took over the herd of 13 cows. He registered the prefix "Skyway" with the Holstein Association and in 1943 the first animal with this prefix was born. She was Skyway Marigold Pride, who later scored EX and was a member of the first place Best Three Females and dam of the first place Produce of Dam at Eastern States Exposition, as well as being a Grand Champion herself at many shows and fairs.

Her direct female descendant five generations later, Skyway Esteem, was the first Holstein cow classified across the board eight consecutive times and was the dam of Paclamar Double Triune. Esteem's full brother, Skyway Esteem Sam, sired Skyway Valla Vista Double who in turn sired Paclamar Bootmaker, undoubtedly one of the legends of the breed.

He bred approximately 25 other EX animals, whose fine influence has been felt across the country. The Skyway herd was also the first in Vermont to win the PBR award twice.

Bill worked as a Holstein Association classifier from 1947 to 1950. He resigned to begin analyzing cows, the business later registered by him under trade mark aAa. Today approximately 18 persons are associated with him using the aAa trade mark to analyze cattle. aAa is used extensively in the United States and in over a dozen foreign countries. All major bull studs in the United States and Canada have their bulls analyzed, and over a million cows have been analyzed since 1950. aAa has been used by over 5000 dairymen, includ-



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ing the breeders of Paclamar Astronaut, Pawnee Farm Arlinda Chief, Round Oak Rag Apple Elevation and Osborndale Ivanhoe.

Through aAa as well as through the many fine animals bred by him, Bill Weeks has benefited the Holstein breed as few others have, and he is thoroughly deserving of the 1982 Vermont Breeder of the Year Award.