

# BRIEF HISTORY OF A PIONEER CATTLEMAN IN MISSISSIPPI

By SLIM SCROGGINS

The Spring of 1922 should be marked in red in the history of cattle raising in Mississippi. In April of that year Harry Graves, a Missouri cattleman, moved with his family to Vaiden, Miss., and there engaged in the business of raising, feeding, buying, and shipping cattle. In the course of time he worked up a cattle trade in the southern territory which extended to the boundaries of the State itself. His boys grew up in this tradition and followed in his footsteps, the whole working into what is now known as H. E. Graves & Sons Sales Co., first established twelve years ago at Vaiden and later moved to Winona where it now operates one of the most successful livestock sales in the South.

It has been truthfully said by those "in the know" that Harry Graves has done more toward the breeding of better beef cattle in Mississippi than any one person. After coming to Mississippi he began buying Missouri's good registered bulls and female breeding stock, bringing them South and selling them to farmers in the territory at prices which the average man engaged in cattle business could afford to pay. Year after year he continued to import this registered breeding stock until in a few years

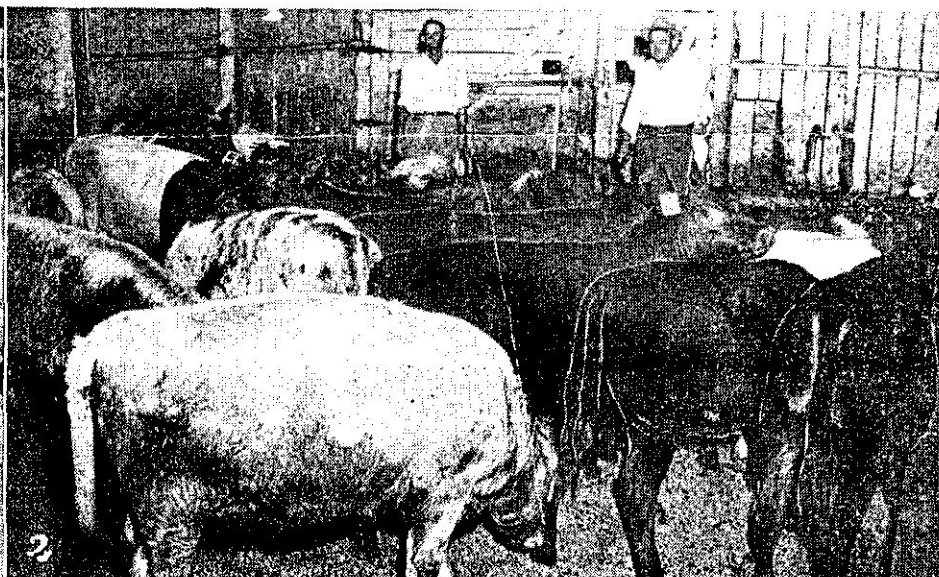


H. E. GRAVES, Sr.  
The Old Master Cattleman

the number of good calves was definitely and noticeably on the increase. During the years of drouth in Missouri — 1934-1936 — Mr. Graves and his sons returned to Missouri and bought several herds of fine registered cattle which had to be

disposed of for lack of water and failure of feed crops. These cattle were brought to Mississippi and were the foundation on which some of the finest herds of registered and commercial cattle in the South have been built. But to the average man, rather than to the big cattle man Mr. Graves and his sons have provided the greatest help. They were the originators of the now popular cattle auction in Central Mississippi, thus providing a market where the farmer, the trader and the cattle raiser could either sell their stock at fair market prices or buy stock on the same level. They made contact between the buyers from the packing houses and the man who sold the cattle and introduced this most convenient and profitable way of handling cattle to this section of the state. Not the least of the factors contributing to the success of the H. E. Graves & Sons Sales Co., has been the fact that before coming South Harry Graves was closely connected with the packers, cattle feeders and grazers of the Central States and this connection served to give his business the much needed outlet for countless commercial cattle and feeder pigs.

Harry Graves and his sons, Lee Graves and Billy Graves, own and operate the



PICTURE No. 1: Reading left to right: Mrs. J. L. Ors born, secretary; Mrs. H. E. Graves, Sr., office manager.

PICTURE No. 2: Pictured above are fine cattle, well conditioned, ready for the auctioneer at H. E. Graves Community Sales.

—Staff Photo

H. E. Graves & Sons Sales Company at Winona, Miss. Both Lee and Billy are high calibre auctioneers and do all the selling for the company. Another son, H. E. Graves, Jr., better known to the cattle trade as Buddy Graves, is located at Greenville, Miss., as manager of the Tri-States Stockyards there. The sale barn at Winona is located one mile south

of the city on Highway No. 51 and it is there you will find Harry and the boys the greater part of the time — always ready to talk cattle. It is a point of pride with the Graves family that they have never had to do extensive advertising to carry on their business — that the results of the business they do is their best advertisement.

# H.E. GRAVES AND SONS SALES CO.

.COMMUNITY SALE.  
**AUCTION EVERY TUESDAY**



LEE GRAVES

BILLY GRAVES

H. E. GRAVES SR.

## Greetings Folks . . .

If you are an old friend we say thanks a million for your fine cooperation through the years — Keep 'em rolling!

If you would be our new friend be assured of a warm and friendly welcome — Because the latch string is always out at . . .



## H. E. GRAVES AND SONS SALES COMPANY

WINONA,

MISSISSIPPI