

Nash-Deewall Herefords Named Century Breeder

Nash-Deewall Herefords celebrates 100 years in the business of raising low-maintenance Hereford cattle.

by Sara Gugelmeyer

Franklin Nash served his country proudly in World War II, but other than that stint, his entire adult life was spent in the pursuit of the greatest Hereford bull he could produce. That's according to his daughter, Jane Nash Deewall, who, along with her husband, Mike, operates the family Hereford herd today.

It was Franklin's father, Walter, who acquired the first Hereford in the family in 1914. For that reason and in celebration of 100 years in the Hereford business, the Nash-Deewall family of Deewall Herefords, Coldwater, Kan., was honored as a Century Hereford Breeder Oct. 31, 2014, during the American Hereford Association Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

"My granddad Walter originally came to Colorado from Missouri," Jane says. "He married Elizabeth Savage in 1914, and they bought their first registered Hereford cattle."

Walter bought the cattle, which were of Gudgell & Simpson breeding, from fellow Colorado breeders William MacKenzie and George Crow. He grazed them on the Nash Ranch in the high country north of Canon City, Colo., west of Pikes Peak.

"He and my grandmother had seven kids who all worked on the ranch growing up," Jane says, "Hereford cattle were their main source of income and all of them went to college on income from Hereford cattle."

Army man

But Jane's father, Franklin, didn't stay in college long. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he joined the Army.



"It wasn't long before his superiors saw something special in him," Jane says. "They sent him to the Solomon Islands, which were occupied by the Japanese. Franklin was the only American coastwatcher on the islands. Much of the time he operated behind the Japanese lines, and with the help of the island natives, he reported on the Japanese movements, and rescued downed pilots."

Jane adds that many of his coastwatcher experiences are documented in Walter Lord's book "Lonely Vigil." And in his letters home, he asked his father and mother to use his Army pay to purchase more Hereford heifers.

Besides his time serving his country, though, Franklin Nash was all cattleman.

"He just loved those cattle and it was his purpose," Jane says.

After the war, Franklin and Walter added more land and were running 500 commercial cows and 200 registered Hereford cows on 40,000 acres. Franklin also met and married the love of his life, Clara Louise Giem, and together they had six children.

Then, tragically, at the age of 62, Walter was killed in a horse accident. Franklin then bought half of the ranch from his mother and sisters.



Franklin Nash & Family Herefords and **Mike Deewall Family Herefords**, Coldwater, Kan., were honored as a Century Hereford Breeder Oct. 31, 2014, in Kansas City, Mo. Pictured sitting (l to r) are: Jeff Nash, McCloud, Okla.; Mike and Jane (Nash) Deewall, Coldwater, Kan.; and Julie Nash, Colorado Springs, Colo. Back row (l to r) are: Eric Walker, 2015 AHA president, Morrison, Tenn.; Sherry Nash, McCloud, Okla.; Mary and Kent Deewall, Norman, Okla.; Nathan and Dr. Kelly (Deewall) Shupe, Ashland, Kan.; and Steve Lambert, 2014 AHA president, Oroville, Calif.

He bought all the registered cattle and called his operation Franklin Nash and Family Herefords.

“He had an idea, and didn’t care what anybody thought about what he should have,” Jane says. “He basically linebred. He knew what he liked and he worked diligently to pursue it.”

Although he would occasionally buy a bull, it was almost always from one of his customers that had an exceptional cow that raised a special bull calf sired by one of his bulls, Jane explains.

“His intent was to raise a set of daughters sired by these outcross bulls,” she says.

Advance Domino 84 from Fred C. DeBerard. Those were two of the few outside bulls purchased, and most of today’s herd traces back directly to these bulls.

In 1938 one of the first landmark sires for Nash Ranch was born, a son of Dominant Mischief and out of a Hazford Tone 33 dam: Tonie Mischief. Then, ten years later, Pres Mischief 33 was born, a double-bred Dominant Mischief calf. The 33rd — as Franklin called him — sired Pres Mischief 68 in 1954. This one was special, Franklin would say: double-bred Dominant Mischief and double-bred Advance Domino

84. His dam produced her last calf at 18 years old.

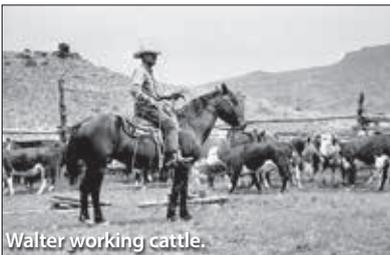
“Nobody had a better one than this bull in his time,” Franklin was quoted as saying. “He came as near to having it all as any bull in the breed in the late 1950s.”

The 68th would go on to sire three strong sons that Franklin really appreciated. Mischief AB, AB Misch 86 and Real Misch 110 were full brothers. “They were truly magnificent bulls that showed a lot

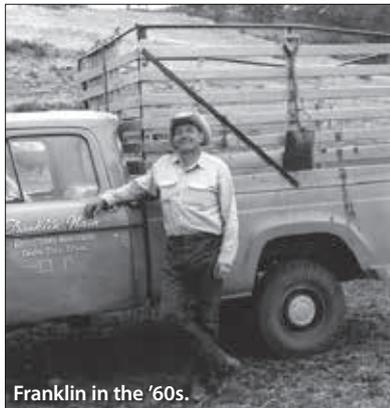
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The bloodlines

When Franklin was only 16, he and his father bought Dominant Mischief from W.N. Balyney and



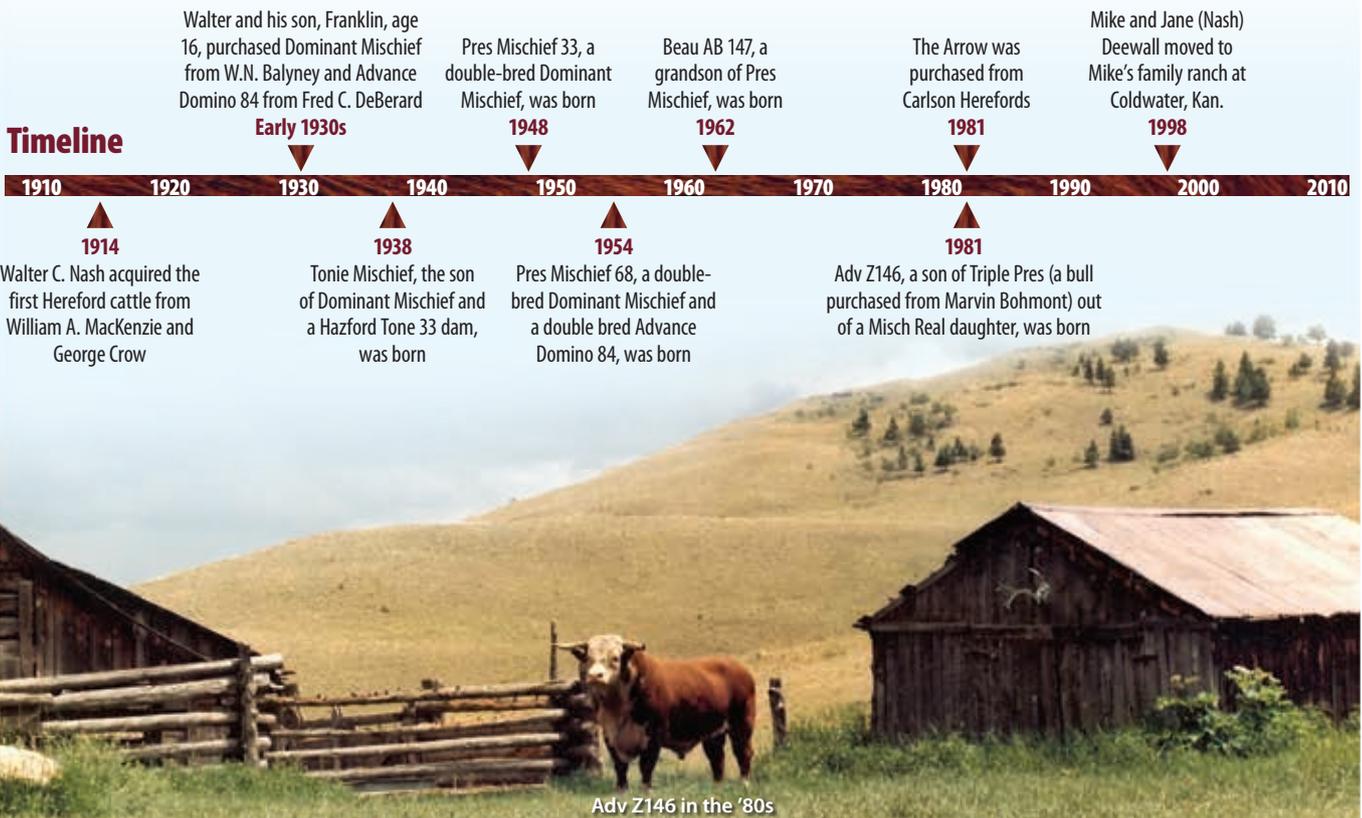
Walter working cattle.



Franklin in the '60s.



Franklin riding his favorite horse, Buck, in the late 1980s.



of size, muscle and correctness,” Franklin said.

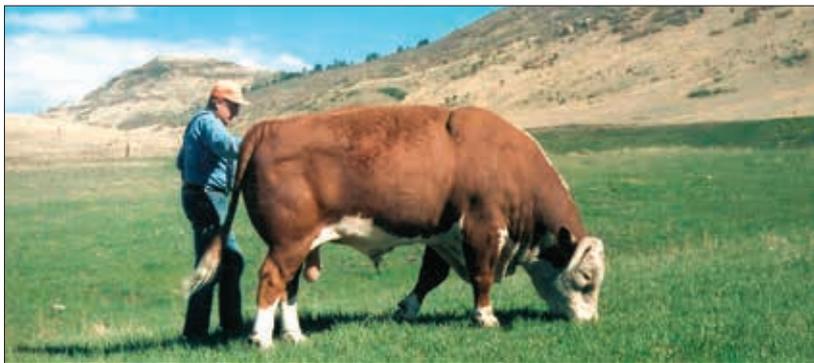
One of the ten sons of these three bulls that were used heavily was Beau AB 147. He was born in 1962. Franklin sold interests in Beau AB 147 to Middleswarth Herefords of Wyoming and Reynolds C. Johnson of California.

Two bulls bought by Franklin from other breeders but sired by ones he raised were Misch Real and Triple President.

Adv Z146 was by Triple President and out of a Misch Real daughter. Franklin wrote about this bull, calved in 1981, in one of his ads, “We can say that he fits our criteria,

producing sons that are big, fancy, smooth, good-doers. They sell well, are extremely trim and meaty with just the right amount of daylight to be impressive. The daughters out of Z146 are excellent. They retain their condition in the winter and milk great.”

Then in 1981 Franklin stepped out and bought a monumental sire, The Arrow, from Carlson Herefords. His bloodlines traced back to the original Fred DeBerard cattle the Nashes had bought in the early 1930s. Since the purchase of The Arrow, the Nash herd has been closed and utilizes linebreeding only. The Arrow has sired genetics that are easy keeping and work in an all-grass program or add a lot of efficiency to any herd, Jane explains.



Nash at 74 years old with The Arrow at 13 years old.



The Nash-Deewall operation prides itself on raising cattle with easy fleshing ability.



The 2014 sale bulls a couple months post-weaning.

No exceptions

Those types of traits were critical to Franklin’s operation, as Jane describes him as a ruthless culler of cows.

Part of his herd management was a function of his location in high country that was not easily accessible.

“In the winter, Franklin put all his cattle in a basin that faced south,” Jane explains, “He would take a load of salt-limited protein supplement in every three weeks. He never hayed those cows all winter. They calved in May and came out with a calf. If they didn’t they were sent to slaughter.”

There were no exceptions, Jane explains. Cows and heifers were never coddled through snow storms or through calving. It made his cows tougher and eliminated the slightest problem.

“It was no problem for him to run in a two-year-old sale bull that had gotten sick and cut him,” Jane says. “He treasured his customers enough that he just wouldn’t sell them one that had ever been sick.”

She adds, “Those cows had to really tough it out and do it on their own,” Jane says. “He never saw them have a calf. He calved his heifers as 3 year olds right with the group. If they came out with a calf, great, if they didn’t they went to

slaughter. He also didn't keep a bad cow, if they had a bad eye or if they got sick, they went. He would not tolerate it."

She adds, "That's one reason we have such a nice herd today. We are benefitting from his knowledge and his wonderful ideal of what a Hereford cow should do for herself."

Today's operation

Today the operation is run by Jane Nash Deewall and her husband, Mike Deewall. They both attended Oklahoma State University, were on the livestock judging team and graduated with animal science degrees. Mike grew up on Parker Hereford Ranch at Chelsea, Okla., where his father, Orville, was manager. After graduation, Mike worked on other seedstock operations like Turner Ranch in Sulphur, Okla.; Oklahoma State University; Higgins Ranch; LeForce Herefords in Oklahoma; and Middleswarth Herefords. In 1991 Mike and Jane had already been purchasing some cattle from Franklin, and when they moved to the Deewall Family Ranch at Coldwater, Kan., in 1998, all the Nash Hereford cattle found their way to Kansas.

The Deewall family had been in the commercial Hereford

business since 1892, and when Mike inherited the land, it was a perfect fit for the newly combined Nash-Deewall herd.

Jane explains that five years of drought hit them hard, and although conditions are improving, their numbers are down. This year, they'll calve out around 100 cows, but if the land continues to heal, 130-140 head is their target.

The operation sells about 30 bulls a year private treaty, mostly to commercial cattlemen. The bottom eight to 10 head of bulls are castrated, and the Deewalls feed them and market them as beef. Most heifers are retained, although a few are occasionally sold as replacements.

"We sell hardly any calves through the sale barn," Jane says. "We either retain them or feed them through our beef program."

Mike and Jane have two children, Kelly and Kent. Their daughter, Kelly Shupe, is a veterinarian in nearby Ashland, Kan. She and her husband operate a commercial cow herd and plan to take over the Hereford herd when Mike and Jane retire.

Mike worked as the Comanche County Extension agent for eight years and is recently retired. Jane works part-time in an accountant's

office in addition to operating Nash Originals, a food gift box company.

Jane's mother passed away about five years ago, leaving Jane and each of her siblings a small portion of the original Nash Ranch in Colorado. For several years since, Jane and Mike have sent their yearling replacement heifers there to grow and get bred every summer.

"They went up there and grew like crazy and came back in such good shape," Jane says. "But it's gotten to the point where the trucking is so expensive to get them there and get them home. And then we have to hire a guy to check them and get them brand inspected."

So, they leased their Colorado land to a local man, and they will keep their heifers home this year.

It may be in a different state, but the Nash Hereford brand and philosophy live on, something Walter and Franklin would, no doubt, be proud of.

"Herefords raised my father and six siblings and put them through college," Jane says. "There were six of us kids and we all went to college on Hereford cattle. Both my grandparents' and parents' sole income was Hereford cattle. We are proud and very lucky to be continuing their legacy." **HW**



The Nash-Deewall herd's home is now on the ranch in southern Kansas.