

# Tribute

## I Knew Albert Craig . . .

In mid March, 1976 I attended the funeral of Albert Birchfield Craig (see April 10 World, page 8). Thus ended nearly 28 years of friendship with a very unusual man...a friendship which was called upon at times to withstand exacting and sometimes harsh demands of a man who guided the financial destinies of Holstein-Friesian Association of America through many trying and troublesome years.

Many Holstein breeders and members of the Association were acquainted with Albert Craig. Few knew him. This was unfortunate.

To his acquaintances, Albert Craig projected the image of a tyrannical individual who was positive, head strong, demanding and sometimes difficult. There is a sense in which this was a true image, externally, at least.

But for those of us who had the privilege of knowing him, this image was strongly temperate by kindness, understanding and generosity. His apparent rough, stern and foreboding exterior was truly a veneer for a soft and understanding heart. We knew him to be dedicated, sincerely interested and deeply concerned with every project, program or organization with which he was associated.

Albert Craig was willing to accept a challenge to his position or stand on any

issue, but he respected the challenger only when his challenge could be fully and completely justified by indisputable facts. He had no time for the insincere, human fraud.

Albert Craig loved the Holstein Association and everything for which it stood. He was one of the architects of its image of creditability and integrity in its middle years. This responsibility and obligation he wore with deep concern as if his future well being and that of his family was wholly dependent upon it, which, of course, it was not. His Craola herd was managed also as if his economic well being was completely dependent upon its practical and economical operation, which, of course, it was not. In the end, his generosity was further enhanced when he presented his herd to the Pennsylvania State University with the characteristic stipulation that whatever economic residue it provided would be devoted to scholarships for worthy young men wishing to pursue a practical or professional career in dairying.

From a very personal point of view, Albert Craig was one of several great leaders within the Association who guided me as a young man heavily laden with full executive management responsibilities through very troubled waters and through some traumatic times.

I knew Albert Craig! To know him was to love him!

**Robert H. Rumler**  
March 25, 1976