

20-year tradition comes to an end at sale barn

By Karen Krien

After 20 years, Skip and Betty Petersen are quitting the sale barn business.

In 1985, they came to St. Francis to run the St. Francis Livestock business. They were already running the Oberlin Livestock Barn which they continued to run while living in St. Francis.

The Petersen's last livestock sale was held Wednesday, Sept. 28, with a whopping 1,300 head selling. Mrs. Petersen said they had sold up to around 2,000 head before.

Mrs. Petersen said the highlight of running the sale barn has been meeting lots of nice people.

"We had many loyal customers — buyers and sellers," she said, adding that through the years, their children, Robin and Brett, were also growing up with the happenings of the sale barn around them.

"It was a neat place to be."

Most of the employees helping out in the back have been with the Petersens since they came and some of those were there before they came. The Roberts boys, Rex, Russell and Royce, have also been around and helping. Royce still works on sale day.

The sad moments came on the last sale day.

"We are going to miss the people

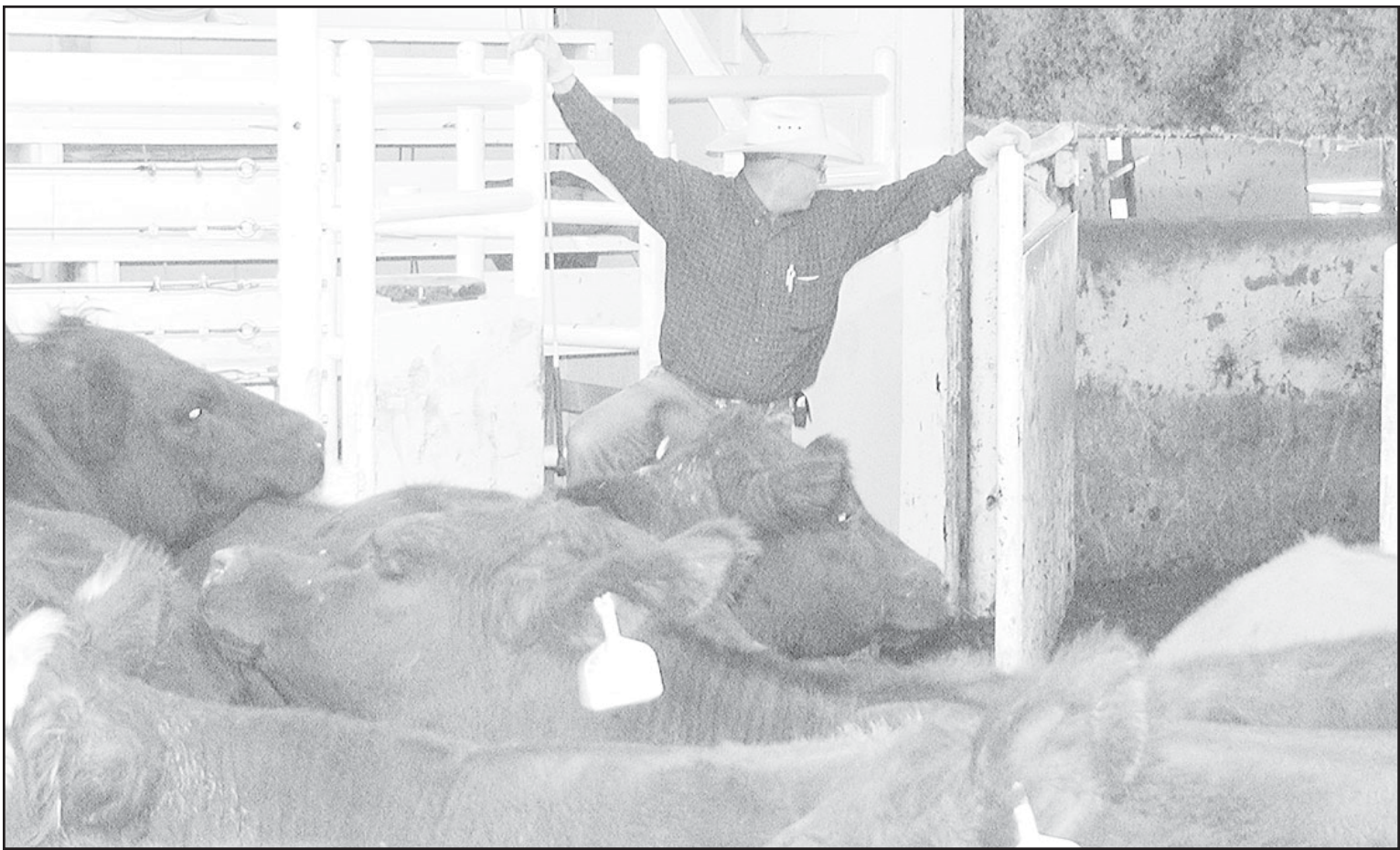
coming in and out every week," Mrs. Petersen said.

The Petersens, along with their children will be pursuing their real estate careers, Western Auction & Real Estate. They also have livestock endeavors.

"We feel that the livestock auction needs to be open and running — it benefits the town," Mrs. Petersen said. "Times have changed. It used to be that families made one trip to town in one vehicle each week."

The majority of the employees have indicated they will continue with the new owner, Lloyd and Sandy Wilson, Imperial. Rosemary Bierig will also keep the sale barn cafe running.

"We certainly have appreciated the patronage through the years and will probably be seeing many of the people around town and when we come to the sale," Mrs. Petersen concluded.



THE LAST SALE! (top) Betty Petersen waits on a customer. (above) Skip Petersen runs his last herd of cattle through the

sale barn. (left) One of the many longtime employees, Russell Roberts, helps out on the last sale.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

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MANNER OF SALE: Real Estate will be auctioned in one tract with the highest acceptable bid representing the sales price.

TERMS OF AUCTION: 20% down day of sale with the balance due at closing, on or before November 15, 2005. Personal or corporate checks are acceptable for the down payment with the final payment to be in certified funds. Bidding is not contingent upon survey, inspection, appraisal, or financing. Financing, if necessary needs to be arranged and approved prior to the auction. Announcements made day of sale shall take precedence over printed material.

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS: The successful bidder will be required to enter into a Western Auction & Real Estate, LLC contract to Buy and Sell Real Estate immediately following the auction. Copies of these contracts will be available for review prior to the sale.

EVIDENCE OF TITLE: Sellers shall provide title insurance to the Buyer(s) in the amount of the purchase price with the premium to be paid one half by the Buyer(s) and one half buy the Sellers. Title insurance shall be provided on sale day.

POSSESSION: Possession of this property shall transfer to Buyer at closing, on or before November 15, 2005.

REAL ESTATE TAXES: Sellers shall pay all of 2004 and prior years taxes. The real estate taxes for 2005 shall be prorated to the date of closing. 2004 Real Estate Taxes: \$596.53.

INSPECTIONS: Each potential bidder is responsible for conducting their own independent inspections & due diligence concerning pertinent facts about the property. Neither Sellers nor Western Auction & Real Estate, LLC and its agents are making any warranties about the property, either expressed or implied.

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AGENCY: Western Auction & Real Estate, LLC and its agents are Exclusive Agents of the Sellers and will not be agents for the Buyer(s). The information contained here-in, while not guaranteed, is from sources believed reliable. Buyer(s) shall satisfy themselves with information they deem important.

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