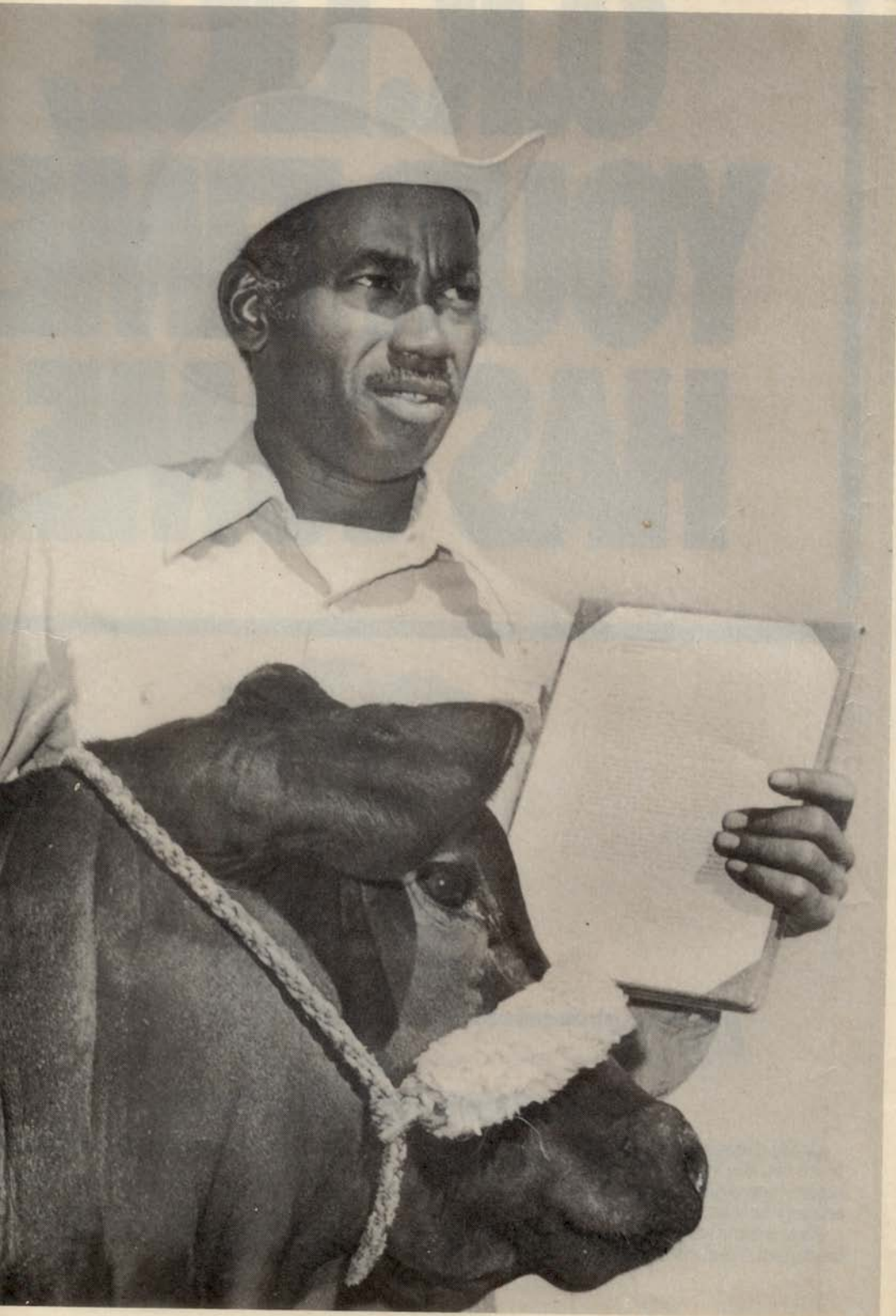


Portrait of a Stockman

Alex Dees
Yuma, Arizona



Prominent Brangus breeder and livestock judge Alex Dees has established a reputation for integrity in business as well as the production of quality cattle. Dees maintains approximately 250 head of Brangus on his ranch at Yuma, Arizona. He's been exhibiting at the Grand National in San Francisco for the past seven years.

Dees is a past member of the board of the national Brangus association and the West Coast Brangus Assn. His interest in cattle was aroused in 1959 while showing cattle on the road with Darrel Chapman, manager of the Cow Palace. The rest is history.

The letter that Alex is holding in his photo at left is from Alice S. Ilchman, associate director of Educational and Cultural Affairs for the International Communication Agency of the United States of America. Dees became interested in this agency's International Visitor Program in 1976. The program is designed to develop mutual understanding between current and emerging leaders of foreign nations and leaders and people of the U.S. through direct, people-to-people contacts.

In 1976, *Ebony* Magazine ran an article on Dees' ranch. Stewart Edwards of the International Communications Agency saw the article and contacted him, asking if he'd like to become involved in the program. Dees has been with the program now for three years.

"We were with cattle-inclined people," says Dees. "It's something different to do. They learn of my operation, and we learn a little of theirs. We've had six or seven groups, ranging anywhere from one to three people. They spend full days with us, seeing our program. If they want to see breeding, we show them those areas of our ranch. If they want to work with crops, we get farmers to show them crops. Most of my visitors have come from Africa. And we had another group from Central America."

Sixty percent of the people who visit Dees' ranch can speak English, he says, "so it's a nice one-to-one basis. We pick their brains and they pick ours. Personal things come up, too. We had one young man that told us he had five or six wives."

Says Ms. Ilchman in her letter to Dees: "Those participants who have had the opportunity to visit your ranch have returned to their countries with a richer understanding of the breadth of the American experience and the most important of all our resources, our people."