

A.W. “Ham” Hamilton



A.W. “Ham” Hamilton, a native of Booneville, Arkansas, first came to West Virginia after graduating with a B.S. degree in Agriculture from Oklahoma State University in 1933. He began work on an M.S. degree at West Virginia University, where he was a coach of the Livestock Judging Team. The next year he accepted a job as county agent. After five years, he became a liaison officer of the Monongahela Power Company, and was subsequently employed as an assistant to Agriculture Commissioner J.B. McLaughlin.

He got his first taste of auctioneering when, as a ring man, he was pressed into service for about 20 minutes when the auctioneer was late—an occasion he recalls as “the longest 20 minutes of my life.” Later, while serving in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific in 1944 and 1945, he decided that his future would be in auctioneering and, after graduating with honors, became the manager of the world famous Morlunda Hereford Farms at Lewisburg.

Mr. Hamilton’s auctioneering abilities soon became apparent to the livestock world and he became a full-time and ultimately famous auctioneer. He is believed by many to be the “Dean” of livestock auctioneers and has sold cattle in most of the 50 States and several Canadian Provinces since 1950, mostly polled purebred Herefords.

In 1981, Mr. Hamilton was inducted into the American Hereford Heritage Hall of Fame. He has been an active citizen of Lewisburg for many years, and an active member for 10 years of the Board of Directors and seven years as vice-president of the West Virginia State Fair.