

# WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

## Do You Believe in Signs?

Do you believe in signs and destiny? I am truly not the superstitious type, but there have been moments in my life when looking back I could see some intriguing connection or event that led to another one.

For example, when I was 16 years old, I attended a Christmas party at a horse ranch about a mile from my husband's family cattle ranch.

We went on a hayride singing Christmas carols, and I think it is highly likely we rode by where I would live six years later and then spend the next 40-plus years of my life.

Considering I was a city girl, born and raised, attending a youth group Christmas party in the country at least 70 miles from where I was growing up, I certainly never could have imagined I would one day live nearby with the love of my life.

I have shared before how I met my husband at Six Flags Over Texas.

We both were dating other people who both had to work the day we met. We met in line for a ride and ended up spending the day together. It was one of those, "I knew the moment we held hands," that I had met the man I would marry someday.

I even called my mom when I got back to my apartment that evening and told her so, and I did marry him seven months later. I have always believed our meeting and marriage was written in the stars.

My latest story of providence is



Annette Bridges and her husband found the perfect new bull for their ranch. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

actually about the purchase of our new bull who has been affectionately named "Jimbo."

My husband and I attended a bull auction we saw advertised in North Texas Farm & Ranch. It was the Historic Howell Ranch Spring Bull Sale.

We were walking around the stalls perusing the many fine-looking bulls.

It was a rather breezy day, and unfortunately my favorite black hat blew off my head before I could catch it. It landed inside a

stall a few feet from a handsome Angus bull. The only way to retrieve my beloved hat was to enter the stall which is exactly what my sweet hubby did.

After we enjoyed the pre-auction lunch, we grabbed our front row seats to review the catalog and watch the looping video of all the featured bulls for sale.

Honestly, we had our eye on several that looked perfect for our herd. We found "Jimbo" halfway through the sale and could not wait to go back to his stall to take

photos.

Can you guess which stall our new bull was in? Jimbo was in the very stall where my hat blew into and landed almost at his feet. It made my heart so happy when I realized it, and it was certainly a sweet surprise.

Whatever you believe about fate and fortune, it was one that made me giggle.

I could hardly wait to get back home and write this story. It is certainly one for our cattle ranching history book. 🐮