

THE APPALOOSAS AT TY FARM OF TYPTON, INDIANA

By Harold Tyner

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles about Appaloosa breeders, their ranch and their horses. We will use stories about large owners, small owners, western owners, and eastern owners. New owners and old owners.

In the Spring of 1954, we had a 2 yr. old Thoroughbred filly, called "Prairie Pearl," which we had raised and with 3 other Indiana Breeders and their 2 yr. old crop made up a small stable of 12 two-years-olds to be broken and readied for the race track. We employed a trainer and the colts were sent to Louisville, Kentucky, and each of the owners agreed to furnish a percentage of feed, transportation and etc. We were to furnish a lead pony for the group.

Meeting a friend, who is also a Palamino Breeder, at a truck stop one day about a gelding, he mentioned of seeing a 3 yr. old, unbroken Appaloosa gelding running in a field, nearby his home. I went to investigate and bought the gelding at \$135.00, because he had bucked so hard the first and only time he had ever been ridden. What a change has taken place in the purchase of geldings in six years. In 1959, we gave \$1475.00 for the top gelding we believe to date of the Appaloosa Breed, at an auction sale, in Springfield, Missouri. We broke the \$135.00 gelding, here at the farm, and was sent to the track, to be used as a lead pony. He soon became the favorite pony at the track because of his stamina, disposition, soundness and unusual markings. The colored boys there, all referred to him as the "Injun Horse." The stable was shipped to Chicago along with the pony and at times, we attended the races and in the saddling paddock, we often observed people taking photos and hearing the humorous remarks concerning the

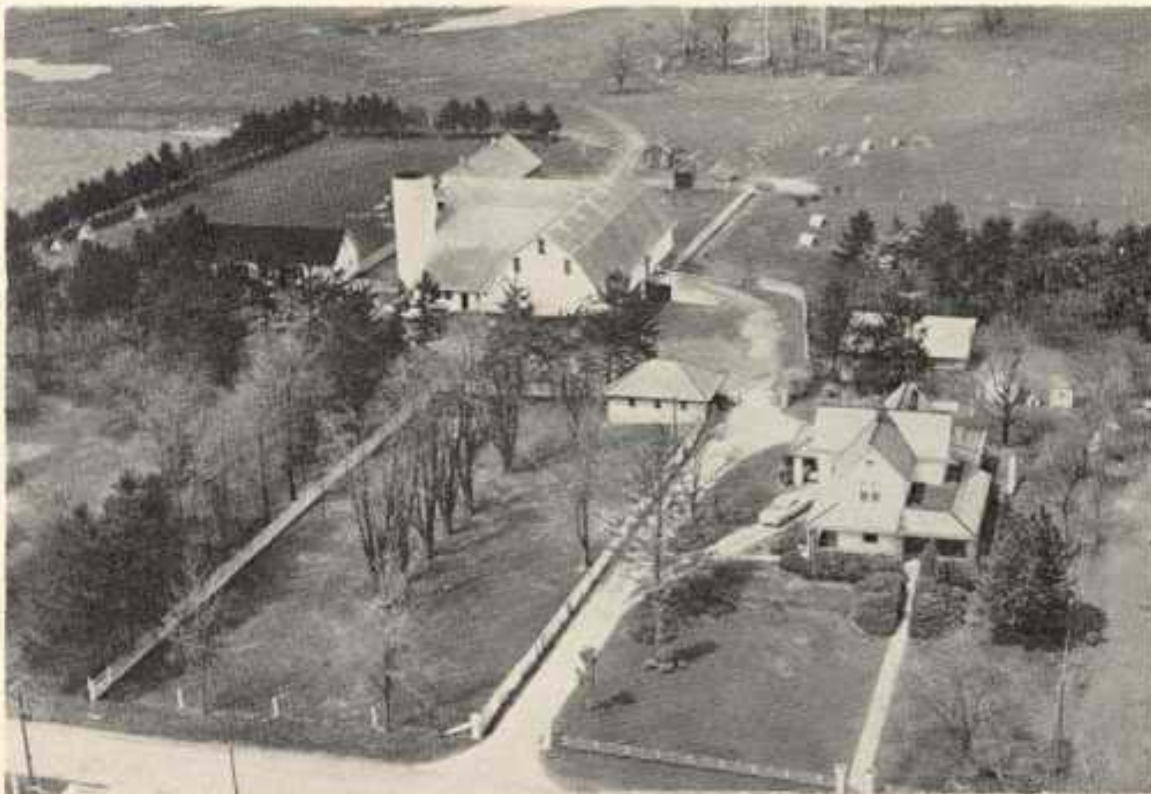


Harold Tyner at the halter of Shavano

Polka Dotted horse. In due time, along with Chicago prosperity, our trainer, finally succeeded in training us, instead of the horses. So he was fired and the syndicate stable broken up. Our mare was leased to another stable and made into a very useful race mare. We advertised the Appaloosa gelding for sale and were deluged by inquiries and phone calls, from race track owners and trainers. As fate would have it, this gelding's name, who is responsible for our being in the Appaloosa business was "The Clown."

We soon began to search for Appaloosa Breeding Stock and wrote many letters

of inquiry receiving few replies. Through our association in the Registered Cattle business, we finally succeeded in locating dealers in the West, who began supplying us with Appaloosa horses, for re-sale and for our foundation herd. From Elvin Blevis, Wynnewood, Okla., came many fine geldings and one daughter of "Buttons B" who is now a prize matron in a New York herd. Over \$9,000.00 of business was done in the Oklahoma area by purchase of horses from that state. We soon became known as the Appaloosa Angel and The Indiana Idiot both being used in the same sentence and the same breath. We bought 'em, paid the top money to get them, all sight unseen, sold them the same way. Our quest for breeding stock continued and we made arrangements to attend the sale of the Mountains and Plains group, in May, at Colorado Springs. The night before we left on the plane for Colorado, we talked by phone with Ben Johnson of Grand Junction, Colo., concerning a stud prospect, he had for sale. He agreed to bring the stud, "Shavano," his sire, "Patchy, Jr." and dam, "Blossom," all to Colorado Springs for us to see. We had often made the remark that when we could buy a stud, that looked like his head had been carved out of granite, we would buy him. And we did, a \$2000.00 yearling purchase, "Shavano." At the same time bought a truck load of mares and the highest priced



Arial view of Ty Farms, Tipton, Indiana

gelding that year at the sale, "Chief Liverpill," at \$610.00. Later to end up in the spacious stables of Mrs. Myron B. Merry, in Ohio, where he is used for hacking and hunting purposes by Mr. Merry. That fall, after purchase he was the only Appaloosa horse exhibited at the Indiana State Fair, where 432 Western horses participated for prizes. Needless to say, he caused much comment in the area, in the Western Pleasure Class, where at least 10,000 people saw their first "Leopard Horse." We received a great thrill that night, riding with the great and greatest horses and professional riders, in the Middlewest. We didn't win any ribbons, but we had won the ringside approval and stolen the show from some \$10,000 horses and irked many of the stoic faced nerved riders in the class when "Liverpill" and I passed, causing their horses to break gait or to spook at the "Indiana Idiot" and his flee-bitten horse.

A growing demand for our horses and a unified promotion was needed to promote the breed in the state, so we contacted several purchasers of our stock and other owners of Appaloosas and an Indiana Appaloosa Club was organized. It now numbers over 60 members and we believe we have some 250 horses in the state. We have the largest monthly meeting state horse group in the Middlewest. Easily over 200,000 people saw our horses and our breathtaking Costume Classes where we invariably steal the show, due to the fact that we do not do anything like the other horses do, but throw tanbark and mud out of the ring, jump and prance, scream and yell, much to the delight of the spectators.

We travel by use of 2-horse trailers and a truck, to shows every week throughout the summer where our horses participate in races, pleasure classes, equitation, stock horse, barrel racing and "Shavano" was high point horse of Indiana and champion pleasure horse and the only horse in 1224 Indiana horses, in the point system to be used in varied classes. Another highlight of 1959 when one of our geldings, "Chief Kokomo," led all the trotters and pacers to the post at the Anderson, Frankfort and Indiana State Fair, where we led "Bullet Hanover" to win the \$50,000 Fox Stake, in 1:57, world's record time. Much credit should go to Mary Massar and Rita Milner, for their training and tireless efforts in showing "Shavano" and "Chief Kokomo," throughout the 1959 season.

Our stock has been exhibited at San An-

tonio, Pauls Valley, Okla., National Show Hutchinson, Kansas, where we won the Brood Mare Class and topped the National Sale with a pair of mares, full sisters, who were sold to start our twin daughters college fund. We have also exhibited at Ohio, Michigan and Illinois, plus Indiana State Fair, where we have shown Grand Champion geldings, mares, stallions and much to the satisfaction of our family, animals and foals, from our herd have won and are winning championships for their new owners in many states east of the Mississippi River.

A recent trip to Florida was the delivery of a permanent Stallion, to the Carnegie heirs, owners of Cumberland Island, which is 8½ miles out in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Georgia. Around 70 head of wild horses of Thoroughbred and Spanish blood are on the island and he will be used with them for cross breeding. The island is three miles wide, 18 miles long and has some 15,000 acres used for grazing land. This can be a separate story within itself.

We have sold over 400 Appaloosas to new owners and usually have some 30 head at the farm at all times, with Standard Breds and Thoroughbreds. We are extremely proud of "Tanker T," champion 2 yr. old trotter, Indiana 1959, one of the top ten in the nation and youngest horse ever voted Indiana Horse of the Year. He and his dam were raised and raced by us.

Our breeding plans are first for a quality, middle of the road type horse, for varied usage, color secondary. Our suggestions for improved promotion of the Breed are, Tattooing of all Permanent horses, more education and a certified group of Appaloosa judges, who are promotional minded for the breed in general, not personal minded for their personal type of Appaloosa. Greater publicity in newspapers, magazines and films made for educational purposes, telling of the origin, history, peculiarities and varied usage of the breed, toward the 4-H club group, which will be shortly one of the largest projects in the United States, in 4-H club participation.

Ours has and is a pleasurable and profitable investment, in distinctive horses of beauty, rarity, and usefulness for particular people.

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