

of it with Appaloosa horses. He first selected this breed for his own use and for breeding when they were little known as a breed and their good qualities even less appreciated.

I first heard of Fernie shortly after crossing the border into Montana on my return from Canada where I had been visiting horse ranches, including the government establishments of the R.C.M.P. breeding ranch and the ranch where they are breeding saddle and pack horses for use by forest wardens. On hearing he had spent 35 years breeding Appaloosa horses I was seized with an overpowering desire to see the results of so many generations of concentrated breeding. Ten generations or more of such breeding ought to produce something well worth while or complete disaster. It cannot be denied that expecting one or other of these results indicates something of an open mind, or at any rate a broadminded approach. Add to this the fact that, like most people with a background of foxhunting, I did not have much admiration for, or liking of, colored horses. But my interest had been sharply aroused and I made the journey through the Montana countryside to the town of Bozeman where I found Fernie's ranch some five miles west and a little south of Highway 10.

It was well worth the journey. To talk with Fernie was justification alone. To see the horses and in them the results of his time, thought, labor and experience much more than justification. The horses I saw and handled at Fernie's ranch gave me ample reason to change my mind about colored horses. It was a revelation to see his good job of breeding Appaloosa horses. His program has been aimed at producing a good horse suitable for ranch and stock work, mountain use, and with good action, pleasurable to ride, possessing stamina and endurance as well as good to look at. Along with these qualities he has also tried to retain and fix the Appaloosa type most nearly like those bred by the Nez Perce Indians. A remarkable horse then possessed of stamina, com-

parative fleetness and with a hardiness and thriftiness in feeding that enabled them to outmaneuver and outlast the cavalry horses of their day.

To me the most valuable horse is the one which will do the work required of him in the most satisfactory manner. To do this, a horse must have the conformation that is most suitable for the job and must also have the intelligence to respond to training for that job. Obviously if a horse has thrifty feeding habits and is hardy these are qualities to enhance his value and must be appreciated as an advantage to the general sum total of his worth. It was pleasing to me to find that Fernie agreed with me in this, and had always strongly appreciated its importance when selecting the horses he used for breeding.

Fernie first used the Appaloosa stud, Rex. Bred by Sam Fisher, a Nez Perce Indian. Rex was bred by an Appaloosa stud out of an Appaloosa mare and so far as is known all the ancestors are pure Appaloosa on both sides. Rex is one of the oldest known Appaloosa sires of the Palouse country. He was sire of Trixie, herself granddam of Chief of Fourmile. Rex



• **MISTIE REX.** Champion Performance Horse, Northwest Appaloosa Breeders Show, Great Falls, 1959; Reserve Champion Performance, Montana State Show, 1959; Champion All Around Horse, Wyoming State Appaloosa Show, 1961; Top Montana horse at Great Falls and State Show in performance and cow cutting for National Playoff. Ridden by Wayne Beus, Outpost Training Stables, Bridger, Montana.

was also sire of Chicago, who was foaled in 1942. Chicago has many honors to his name, among them Reserve Champion Stallion, Montana State Appaloosa Show 1957; First Aged Stallions at Northwest Appaloosa Show, Great Falls, Montana, 1959; First Get-of-Sire Montana Appaloosa Horse Show 1955, 1957 and 1958; First Get-of-Sire Northwest Appaloosa Show 1959 and '60 and '61. Both Rex and his son, Chicago are wonderful studs. Actually Rex is now dead and should be writ-



• **CHICAGO.** owned by Fernie Hubbard, Bozeman, Mont. 1st Get of Sire. Northwest Appaloosa Horse Show, Great Falls, Mont.