



• BREEDER'S HERD, owned by Fernie Hubbard, Bozeman, Montana. 1st. Northwest Appaloosa Horse Show, Great Falls, Montana.

ten about in the past tense. Chicago is still very much alive. Both possess wonderful qualities of virility and prepotency, and have been most successful in stamping the best Appaloosa characteristics on their progeny.

Earlier, I stated that 35-years of concentrated breeding would either accomplish success or complete disaster. In thoughtless, incapable hands disaster is practically inevitable. In capable hands, by thoughtful and knowledgeable planning of matings, a breed can be established or a dying breed be saved from annihilation.

It is my opinion that the conformation of the old Appaloosa horses bred by the Nez Perce differed in many respects from some of the Appaloosa horses of 40 years ago, and from many so-called Appaloosa horses today. How this came about has little or nothing to do with the purpose of this article, but the legend of those Nez Perce horses superiority over cavalry is one of my reasons for believing this. I am convinced that the coarse, thick, heavy type of horse resulting from introduction of draft blood in some strains and known as the Appaloosa horse 40 or so years ago could never have successfully competed against the cavalry of the time of Chief Joseph. In spite of the great Chief's known strategic prowess the type of horse needed for such successful competition would have to be virile, strong, hardy, a thrifty feeder and reasonably fleet of foot, in short a horse fitted for, and capable of, hard traveling through rough mountain

country for days on end. A horse, in fact, that even after several long hard days of difficult mountain riding would still give the rider a feeling of being well mounted at the end of each day. To my mind this is the kind of horse an Appaloosa should be, to be such a horse it would naturally have to be of the conformation suitable for such work.

A knowledgeable and experienced person with horses knows what conformation is required in a horse suitable for such work. Obviously, he would follow a breeding program with the objects mentioned in mind. To breed such a type he would mate sires and mares until he had obtained the nearest possible conformation to it. He would then 'fix' the breed by concentration of the blood lines, using horses with the qualities required, eliminating horses that did not possess them. Broadly speaking, and in a concise explanation, this is how a breed is obtained — there is no other way, it has been done for thousands of years and has still to be done if a type is to achieve the dignity of a breed.

In such planned breeding prepotency is valuable, or valueless, according to whether it transmits to its progeny the virtues required or the faults that should be eliminated. Rex and Chicago are what one might call the 'tap root' studs of Fernie Hubbards herd. Both of these studs played a part in 'fixing' the breed, and Rex played perhaps a more important role by his part in helping towards the conformation required in the beginning of the

program. Both horses have been and are prepotent, giving to their progeny those valuable qualities of Appaloosa which they both possess.

Rex has been dead many years, in his day he did his job of handing on the heritage of the Appaloosa. In Chicago is seen not only Rex's good points but also a finer line, an improvement in balance and a definite step towards what, I feel sure, is most nearly like those hardy enduring horses of Chief Joseph's braves.

Chicago is a virile stud and has proved himself as a getter of fine Appaloosa colts, passing on to them his own fine qualities. In his progeny are to be found the long supple pastern, so necessary for quick moving sure footedness and that feeling of easy riding, the nicely sloping shoulder that gives good head carriage and balance to the forepart of a saddle horse, the depth of body for soundness and room for heart and lungs, short back for strength and mobility, strong straight legs that are placed slightly under the hind quarters giving poise and the balance so necessary on rough terrain, hard feet and strong cannon bone. He also passes on intelligence, a quality appreciated by trainer and rider alike, also temperament which is pleasant and makes for companionship and peace within the herd. Studs can be turned out together without fear of injurious bickerings or battles. He passes on his hardiness which enables him to withstand climatic change as well as work under difficult conditions. Chicago has bred many blanket type colts.

To compare the photographs of Rex and Chicago is to have a good illustration of what I have been trying to say. To sit on that round top rail of the corral fence and observe with critical, knowledgeable eyes is to see proved, beyond any shadow of doubt that Fernie Hubbard's 35 years of Appaloosa breeding has been well spent and rewarding. All the thought, and care, and planning, based on his knowledge and experience has produced what I think is a wonderful herd of saddle horses of the Appaloosa breed.