

By Evelyn Weber

We like Appaloosas. We like everything about them. We feel we are fortunate to be able to breed and work with a horse that is versatile, has endurance, speed, intelligence, disposition, soundness, and color that is a trademark strictly their own. Appaloosas make terrific stock horses and their good bone and endurance can take this work day after day in stride. However, like most other light breeds, Appaloosas in this day are used mainly for pleasure, shows, parades, etc., of which color is a very important part of the horse. And who has got more color to offer than we who breed Appaloosas!

Since it has been agreed upon that we all want conformation first, along with cow sense and useability, we also have to admit that color is a must! So why not



• "SUNDANCE" 500.

Color Experience at Money Creek Ranch

breed for it all? It's possible, it's been done, and is being done in many successful breeding programs.

When we first started raising Appaloosas we did much experimenting with the various bloodlines and the color patterns of the Appaloosa. Our main breeding program is and always has been based on breeding Appaloosa to Appaloosa. We found through the years that it is the general pattern for the stud foals to be born with the most color, whereas many of the fillies would be born solid colored, usually bay or black, and then they would later change and develop into beautiful blue or red roans, or sometimes they turned more into what we call the snowflake pattern which is dark with white spots over the entire body. We soon found out that the filly foals that were born real well spotted, would sell the best. It appeared to us that if we could get most of our fillies born with a lot of color we would always have a ready market for them.



• "BAMBI E" 2497.



• "WOODROW SHEIK" 502.

Knowing that pedigree is the backbone to successful breeding of any animal, we began to look into the pedigrees of our brood mares with a new interest. We wrote letters, obtained pictures, checked stud books, and magazines, for anything we could get on the back breeding of our stock. We soon discovered that the mares that were producing the loud colored fillies at birth time and time again carried leopard blood. With this discovery, we set out to purchase some strong leopard blood, being careful in what we chose. We did not go "color crazy" and purchase any horse we saw with spots. We knew what we wanted, we wanted a stallion first, one that was leopard colored, of course, but also a good middle of the road type Appaloosa with all the good qualities an Appaloosa should have, and the stallion we purchased must have a pedigree (some good proven breeding behind him). With all the pedigree checking we did prior to this search for a stallion, we knew all the major Appaloosa blood-



• "MONEY CREEK'S ROCKLEDGE" 4092.



• "MONEY CREEK'S CHECK R BOOK."



• "PEPPER'S SHAMROCK" 4090.

lines by heart, especially those strong in the leopard color.

We had two definite leopard bloodlines in mind; the Hoffman leopards and the Sundance lines. Both of these bloodlines are the permanent color type of leopards. By this I mean they are born spotted, their spots are round, dark bay, chestnut or black on a pure white body, and they keep their color. They never fade and turn white. After many letters, we finally made a purchase, sight unseen. We bought "Pepper's Shamrock" 4090, a yearling stallion from California. He is sired by the leopard "Siri Sheik" 1833 by "Arab Toswirah Alkhar" 2417. He was everything in quality, type and color that we wanted and he carried an eight generation pedigree of known Appaloosa blood. Only four months after we purchased "Pepper's Shamrock" we were very fortunate in being able to buy an own son of "Sundance," "Woodrow Sheik" 502, a 15-year-old stallion. He is a blue roan spotted stallion, not at all a leopard, but he had proven his ability to produce leopard foals and loud-marked blanket foals of both sexes that were throwbacks to "Sundance."

With these two great stallions we bred all our mares, and one crop of foals from them proved to us without doubt that leopard blood is a must to get really outstanding colored foals, especially fillies. We have now gotten three crops of foals by these stallions, and with all three crops averaged up, we found we had 87% fillies, and we believe this is nearly a record in itself. We have raised all these fillies, plus some older "Woodrow Sheik" mares we have that we were able to purchase at the time we bought the stallions. We are now breeding "Woodrow Sheik's" fillies to "Pepper's Shamrock" and vice versa, with amazing results.

We now have our brood mare band established. Every mare is a registered Appaloosa, has leopard blood to her credit, and nearly all of them are now foundation registered. We had been told time and time again when we started this program that we couldn't have both color and conformation, and breed our Appaloosas pure. We never believed this, as to our knowledge a real true old-time Appaloosa is a horse of quality, refinement, good head, good bone; a colorful horse, a rugged horse, a



• "MONEY CREEK'S WEeping WATER."



• "SIRI SHEIK" 1833 (gentleman up) and "Arab Toswirsh Alkhar" 2417 (lady up). They are the sire and grandsire to our stallion "Pepper's Shamrock" 4090.



• "MONEY CREEK'S PRINCESS HIFI" filly, T-16,967; foaled May 11, 1961.



• "MONEY CREEK'S BANDIT" T-18,375.



• "MONEY CREEK'S NICKLES" 4279.



• "MONEY CREEK'S BEATA WARRIOR" 4093.

using horse, not a lead 'em and feed 'em horse which many people are developing today with unwise outcrossing. The people today who refer to the pure Appaloosa—the old-time Appaloosa—as a big, coarse, homely headed, hairy legged, big hoofed animal, I am sure have seen only those unfortunate individuals that were range bred for many generations and got crossed with draft horses and mustangs after the white man settled in the west. I am sure Chief Joseph did not ride an Appaloosa like this. I think our theory of what a real true Appaloosa is really like, has been proven by the quality and using ability of our colts resulting from a continuous program of breeding Appaloosa to Appaloosa.

Although we got mostly fillies from "Woodrow Sheik" and "Pepper's Shamrock," the few stallions we did get were outstandingly well marked individuals. We raised one stud colt by "Pepper's Shamrock" that we call "Money Creek's Rockledge" 4092, who will be our junior sire. We have plans to do some line breeding with him. He's a very good colt and has a good line on his dam's side in addition to his sire. He should be tops as a sire.

We have made a big step towards better color since we have introduced the Leopard blood in our Appaloosas. There is no doubt about that at all. However, we still don't have 100 per cent loud colored fillies at birth. I wouldn't want anyone to think that we do, but our percentage is high enough to really make it interesting. I believe it is quite a strong characteristic of the Appaloosa breed for the female to be the duller on color, much like birds. But we have found that we can breed for better color in our fillies, and we can do it and still retain all the other good points of the breed.



• MONEY CREEK'S WEEPING WATER.