

organized. As testimony to the care and importance she placed on recording her stock's lineage, there are no blanks in the pedigrees of the foundation horses Myrtle bred. Included among them are: Mistep, F-301, Bun-ny, F-521, Paisano, F-1,023, Bonny B, F-1,024, Piasaro, F-1,451, Paisetta, F-1,818, Royal Flush, F-1,848, Poquita Pariso, F-2,745, Miss Bitty Bounce, F-3,112, Paisaro's Azucar, F-4,211, and others. Through the years, Myrtle has maintained her interest in a breeding program to improve the Appaloosa and her present herd reflects this.

*"Rock and I were among the top 10 finalists, and during the slide stop, that gelding threw tan bark higher than this house. But the judge didn't even watch . . ."*

Myrtle was born near Visalia, Calif., in 1898, and first became acquainted with horses through her grandfather, who bred American Saddlebreds and Thoroughbreds. He raced the latter at county fairs, including Tulare and Fresno. Myrtle's parents and their family of five children eventually moved north to Courtland, located on the east bank of the Sacramento River. Her father was constable and then mayor of the delta settlement, where he raised Durham cattle.

Myrtle's family traveled by surrey, and five days per week, Myrtle made an 18-mile round-trip journey by horseback to the nearby town of Franklin.

"All the kids rode to school in those days," she reflected, "and then there were always trail rides on the weekends, too." Myrtle is amused by the current Appaloosa Horse Club medallion and 1,000-mile award programs for distance riding; during her childhood, horses were ridden primarily for transportation—not awards.

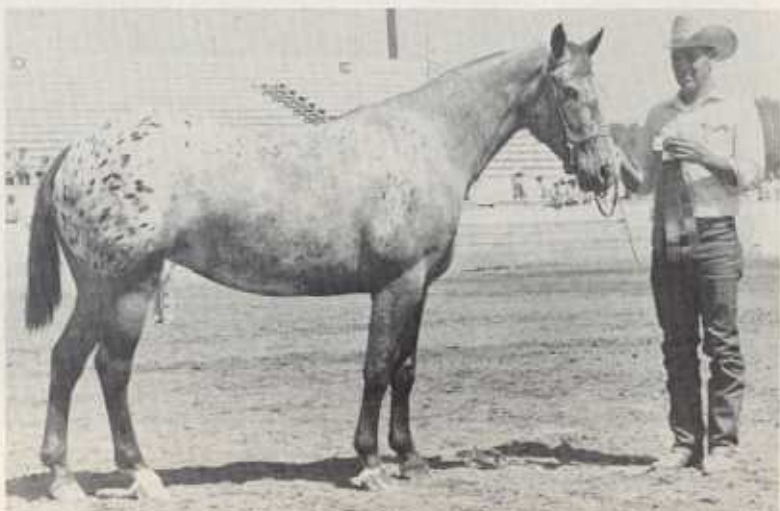
When Myrtle was 8, her grandfather exchanged one of his Thoroughbreds with a band of gypsy horse traders for a 2-year-old spotted mare. At that time, all horses with spots were referred to as "Indian ponies," and not only was this mare Myrtle's first horse, but she would also play a major role in Myrtle's eventual Appaloosa breeding



Myrtle and her husband Ed shared a common interest in raising horses. Myrtle is riding Blanco, the Appaloosa gelding she showed at the World's Fair on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay, and Ed is on Bonnet.



Myrtle is showing Paisano, F-1,023, at the 1952 National Appaloosa Show held in Quincy, Calif. The stallion placed second in halter and second in Western pleasure. (Photo courtesy of Robert Peckinpah.)



Ed Howard shows Miss Bitty Bounce, one of Myrtle's foundation mares who was many times grand champion at Appaloosa shows and state and county fairs. At age 23, Miss Bitty Bounce is still as frisky as a filly according to Myrtle.