

breeding.

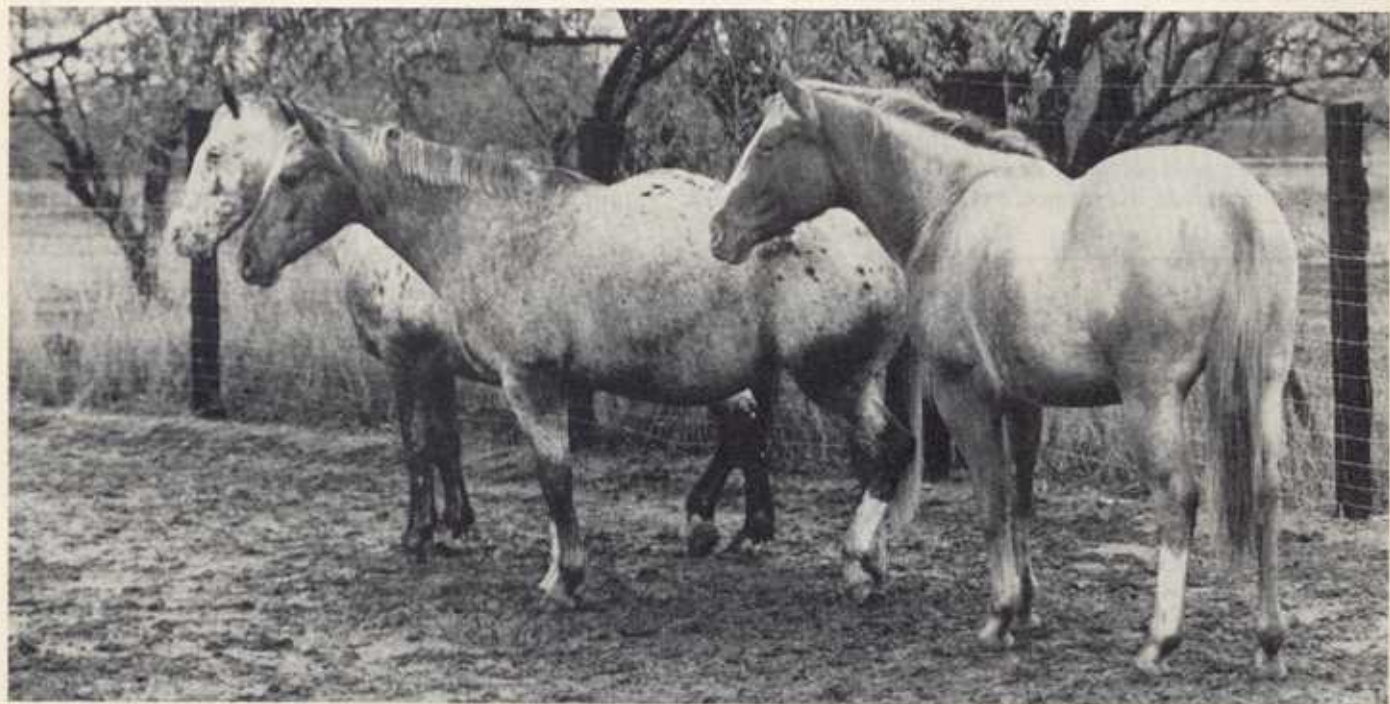
Myrtle, who breeds to improve on conformation, color, and bloodlines, has definite ideas on registering Appaloosas. "If both parents are registered Appaloosas, then all of their offspring should be registered alike, whether they're solid or have a color pattern. We're not just a color breed. It's like parents with two daughters: One daughter is brunette, the other blond; one has brown eyes, the other blue.

But both daughters have the same parents."

She points out that when Chief Joseph and his tribe lost the Nez Perce War of 1877, the United States government attempted to castrate all of the Indians' stallions and sold the mares to farmers, who crossbred them with every breed imaginable. Bloodlines, in most cases were nearly impossible to trace with the rejuvenation of the Appaloosa in the 1930's. "Back then,"

she noted, "stock was scarce, and people breeding Appaloosas were ignorant of ancestry. But today that's not the case."

Myrtle's stock horse background reflects her feelings of what the breed is best suited for. "The Appaloosa is a Western horse and had been bred for bridle horse competition. No one breed or person can do everything well. Maybe they're really good at one or two things, but mediocre at others



*Top:* Although she has fewer broodmares than in past years, each is expecting a foal, which Myrtle says are due to arrive "when nature intended"—after the weather improves and the grass has begun to grow again. *Lower right:* Quintas Kandy Bar, by Quintas Mr Goodbar out of Quintas Blondechic, is feeling frisky on a cool wet autumn day. (Photos by Arlis Groves)