

however, Johnson took the position seriously and returned to Colorado with a new conviction — to make the Appaloosa the number one light horse breed in the world.

But conviction wasn't the only thing that travelled down the highway with Johnson; there was also the image of a black and white stallion that had made a lasting impression. Patchy 416 was one of a handful of Appaloosas that was truly ahead of his time. His string of accomplishments is so lengthy that even Johnson has a difficult time remembering everything he won. He was the first National Grand Champion Stallion at halter and even as late as 1965 was the leading sire of National Show Champions.

A few weeks before the 1950 National, Ben heard that Patchy 416 was for sale and immediately got on the phone to owner Herb Camp to arrange the purchase. "My banker at the time was on me about selling off some of my horses and I knew that the last thing he was going to do was loan me money to buy another," Johnson laughed. "I guess I kind of pulled the wool over his eyes though. I drove into town to see him and said, 'What do you think of me selling some of my horses and buying one really good one.' Before thinking, he said, 'That's a great idea' and I left. The next day, I went to see him again and asked for \$500 to buy the horse and he about died. I reminded him of the previous day's conversation and he reluctantly agreed." It turned out to be one of the best investments Johnson ever made.

"I thought it was an awful lot of money to pay for a horse at the time but Patchy was a very good horse. I had arranged to pick him up at the National and got there the day before the show. But he was feeling good and I saddled him up and the first thing he did was try to throw me off. I soon got him lined out however and the next day, I won a second in calf roping, a third in cutting and a fourth in western pleasure. Herb Camp had just brought him up out of pasture where he had been running with the mares since winter, but he was well broke and you could do just about anything on him that you can



Linda Johnson (now Kukal) and Patchy Jr., women's western pleasure champions at the 1963 Golden Spike National Livestock Show. A fast change from the costume class left no time to remove makeup or wash black spray out of hair.



Keeko by Patchy 416 and out of Sun Ray was the National Champion Filly of 1955. Owned by daughter Linda, Keeko had reared up and struck Linda before the show leaving Johnson to do the showing duties. His expression shows his feelings. Keeko earned her Medallion in 1974 as the National Champion Broodmare while owned by Mary Ann Fox, Shelbyville, Tennessee.

do on horseback."

Although there still is some question about Patchy 416's sire and foaling date, there is little question about his contribution to the Appaloosa breed. It was his knack for passing on favorable traits that established him as a premier sire.

At the 1953 National Show, Patchy won the get of sire class, and he came back to repeat the achieve-

ment in 1955 and 1959. Patchy sired Blitz 1251, who was the National Reserve Champion Stallion in 1953, and Gypsy T-93, National Grand Champion Mare in 1951. His grandson, Patchy Jr.'s Shaun Tonga, became the National Grand Champion in 1964. The list goes on and on.

But Patchy is probably better remembered for his athletic ability