

than even his impressive record as a sire. At the 1952 National Show, he was named the National Champion Performance Horse. To those not acquainted with the National Show of that time, the performance division of the show consisted of 13 classes and races, all held in one evening. Patchy worked in 11 of these events, including running the one-eighth and quarter mile races with Ben in the saddle, then ran the half mile race with Tommy Redheart as jockey. According to show accounts, he did all this without sweating under saddle. Depending on which foaling date you accept he was either 13 or 17 at the time.

For many years, showing horses was an integral part of Johnson's life. With the help of their three children, Jerry, Linda and Claire, Johnson and Dorothy would load as many as 11 horses onto a flatbed truck with stock panels and head out in search of competition. "In those days," said Dorothy, "you could go to the National Show and even if you won every class you entered, you were lucky if you left with \$350 in your pocket. By the time you got home and paid the gasoline bill, you'd be back where you started."

Even though the prize money wasn't anything to brag about, winning had its reward. Patchy and Patchy Jr. became well known from such shows and for many years, the demand for their offspring was great. The Johnson Ranch became a familiar stopping point for people in search of good breeding stock. Well-known horseman Monty Foreman once commented that Patchy Jr. possessed more natural ability than any horse he had ever seen. That kind of endorsement created demand for the Patchy bloodline. While Ben specialized in training western stock horses, he often found that his best prospects were sold before they were old enough to go into training.

"When you're in the horse-for-sale business, you sell when you have a buyer. You can't get married to your horses."

In the mid-sixties, Ben also trained a number of good race horses. Probably the best known is



Claire Johnson (now Diers) and Patchy Jr. at a show in Spanish Fork, Utah.



AphC Board of Directors, Club officers and field men gather in Denver for their annual meeting in 1967. Those in attendance were: (seated left to right) Richard Stanger, E.L. Janeway, Robert Peckinpah, Howard Poor, Bill Moore, George Hatley, Phyllis Parmenter, Iola Hatley. (Standing) George Stephens, Roy Young, Ben Johnson, Carl Miles, Don Marshall, Ron Kavanagh, Elvin Blevins, Bob Blair, Cecil Dobbin, Pete Smith, and Dale Harlan.