

# Appaloosas In Canada

By LOIS McLEOD



• A group of Appaloosa mares and colts line up on the Foster Ranch near Lloydminster, Sask., Canada. They are headed by Polka Dot Prince, who is registered in both the American and Canadian associations. Photo by Park

THOSE horses with the fairy tale color and the romantic history are making many friends in Canada. They are not really newcomers to this country, but only recently has the hardy breed attracted the attention of lovers of light horses.

A Canadian Appaloosa Horse Association was formed early in 1947 with V. C. Foster of Lloydminster as the president. Some progress has been made, and a number of Canadian breeders have recorded their Appaloosa horses with the association to provide a foundation for a breed. On the Foster Ranch, northeast of Lloydminster, where some Appaloosa horses have been maintained and bred for some 40 years, a more intensive breeding effort is now being made. The foundation of 25 spotted breeding horses there at the present time is headed by Polka Dot Prince, recorded in both the United States Appaloosa record (AphC 211), and that of the Canadian association (No. 1). The breeding program for the future in-

cludes the production of stock horses, hacks, hunters, and jumpers.

The western provinces have several successful breeders of Appaloosas, one of the best known being James Wyatt of High River whose famous stallion, Speckel Boy, has had a strikingly consistent record of wins in stock horse classes throughout Alberta and beyond over several years. Wyatt recently sold a foal by Speckel Boy to the internationally-known rodeo clown, Slim Pickens, of Rex Allen West Pictures in California. This attractive foal, which will be delivered after weaning time, may have a future as a trick horse or its destiny may be in moving pictures.

Eastern Canada is displaying new interest in the spotted strain. At St. Genevieve de Pierrefonds, Quebec, the Appaloosa has a staunch supporter in Mrs. M. Van Every. Her stallion, Fantissimo (Canadian No. 52), with Arabian blood from his dam's side, gives promise of becoming one of the great breeding horses in the country. The same owner has a showy gelding,

Aladdin, which has attracted much interest to the strain.

Good saddle horses will continue to represent a clear-cut need in Canada. They will be sought for pleasure purposes by people who have discovered the refreshing and healthful recreational values in good horses, and they will be needed on the thousands of farms and ranches on which cattle must be handled. Canadians should adopt a breed or strain and give the promotion and the improvement of that strain their best efforts. The Appaloosa could be a logical choice, especially in the west.

A tourist visitor from the United States, after seeing the Canadian Mounties performing their musical ride, said she had a pleasant vision of those mounted officers, in whom Canada has so much pride, riding Appaloosa horses. What could be more striking? Some may argue that the Appaloosas belong to the United States, but the Indians who gave them a distinctiveness recognized no bounda-



• Fantissimo is an Appaloosa stallion owned by Mrs. M. Van Every of St. Genevieve de Pierrefonds, Quebec, Canada.



• Flint, an Appaloosa gelding, shows the ancient bloodsweating marks of the breed on his shoulder. An accomplished show horse, he is owned by Allan Rogers of the Foster Ranch. Photo by Park



• James Wyatt of High River, Alberta, Canada, recently sold this foal, Speckel's Three Dot, to Slim Pickens, the rodeo clown. Sired by Speckel Boy and out of Flicka J, Speckel's Three Dot gets its name from a very distinct marking on the left hip—a number three with a dot above it. Photo by Stout