

# The Appaloosa In Florida

By MRS. WILLIAM AMICK

A NEW type of tourist has come to Florida, bringing his own loud shirt with him. Not one to loaf on sunny beaches, the Appaloosa is rapidly gaining favor in the deep south as a permanent resident with a bright working future.

We joined the fast-growing ranks of Appaloosa owners in 1951 with the purchase of two fine specimens: Chief Handprint, No. 1310, a yearling stallion of the Knobby-Toby bloodlines, and Ralstin's Sheba, No. 753, a Stewart's Shiek two-year-old filly. They proved to us the claim for Appaloosa endurance during the 3,600 miles to Florida. We took the long way home via Los Angeles, Yuma, and Laredo in the first part of July. Not a swelling nor a bruise developed, though we averaged 500 miles a day, stopping only at night and for gas.

As new owners, we were interested in comparing notes with other owners



• Mrs. Red Simpson on her trick riding Appaloosa mare, Simpson's Sugar.

of "blankets and spots." First off, we contacted those listed in the club stud book. After many turns down the wrong roads, we arrived at the home of Red Simpson. He is doubly hard to find since he is a traveling professional rodeo showman. We found him high in the praises of Appaloosas in general and his Simpson's Sugar, No. 679. On circuit, the mare is a dependable mount for Red's trick riding wife. Off season, she is the horse most in demand by the judges of the Orange County open field dog trial. Red has been looking for an identically marked, leopard-type Appaloosa to pair with Sugar, but without success.

Dr. J. M. Strickland of Jacksonville gave us a welcome surprise when he trotted out Fla Mite, No. 794, one evening, and put him through his paces. This fine stallion has seen a lot of hard use in riding stables and under various owners. Easy on his riders, he has the natural "Indian Shuffle" so often characteristic of the Appaloosa. Dr. Strickland added to his band of Appaloosas a broodmare, Gala Rose, No. 1116, from the Finck Breeding Farm in North Carolina. One of her colts was just sold to J. P. Young, also of

Jacksonville. Fla Mite has since been purchased by J. E. MacDonald of Coconut Grove, president of the Western Riding Club. South Miami audiences have been treated to an exhibition of Mite's "bag of tricks." He is one of the few horses we have seen who is able to drop directly into a sitting position. Mac plans to keep him active in local parades and horse shows as well as in the stud.

There are two tentative registered mares that are working on their perma-

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• Chief Handprint is owned by the William Amicks of Tampa, Florida.



• Handprint's Frosty Britches was the first registered Appaloosa bred and born in Florida.



• Okeechobee Squaw, owned by Dr. R. J. Elliott of Homestead, Fla., and held by eight-year-old Rush Elliott.



• Chief Handprint, Ralstin's Sheba, and Thonotosassa, owned by the William Amicks.



• Fla Mite, owned by J. E. MacDonald, Coconut Grove, Florida.