

## Working Appaloosas

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the yearling class and first in the get-of-sire and produce-of-dam classes. Mansfield's Appaloosas number only 40 head and not all are registered; however, they all can be registered at any time.

The local popularity of the Mansfield Appaloosas is widespread. A neighboring ranch foreman, G. W. "Shorty" Kennedy of the LS Ranch, obtained an Appaloosa from the Mansfield stock and now uses the pony regularly for the horse chores connected with working the cattle on his own ranges.

Appaloosas, once the favorite war horses of American Indians, were nearly wiped out by the U. S. Cavalry in one of the final battles of the Indian Wars, when resistance by Nez Perce tribesmen in the northwest was crushed. Of all the Indian tribes, only the Nez Perce, aware of the stamina, versatility, and quiet temperament of Appaloosa horses, attempted to keep the breed pure by preventing mixed breeding with mustangs and other wild range horses.

The Nez Perce lived in a stockman's paradise in the lush northwest country. For 3,000 years they were masters of the broad, fertile valley stretching between the great Snake River and the towering Wallowa mountain ranges of the Rockies. The powerful Wallowa band of Nez Perce held more than a million acres of the most fertile land—a gigantic triangle that now encompasses Steptoe, Wash.; White Bird, Idaho; and Wallowa, Oregon.

The present site of Lewiston, Idaho, was the hub of Nez Perce activity. It was in this area that the Nez Perce bred Appaloosas long before the westward migration of the white man. Aided by rich natural pasture, these Indians became expert stockmen, and their practice of selective breeding helped keep the Appaloosa strain pure. Of the superior horses the Nez Perce produced, estimates today indicate that less than half were Appaloosas. But the Indians were meticulous in their breeding, and kept their Appaloosa strains separated from other breeds—a feature other Indian tribes neglected.

Others besides the Nez Perce and Jack Mansfield are aware of the qualities of the Appaloosa. A noted polo player and general in the Mexican Army, Jaime Quinones, purchased an

Appaloosa stallion from Mansfield in 1934 and presented it to General Lazaro Cardenas who rode the mount in the inauguration parade when he became president of Mexico.

Mansfield points out that while Appaloosas are rare in this part of the country, they are rapidly increasing in numbers and popularity. Bands of the breed are found in Atoka and Fort Gibson, Okla., and along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Texas where they are frequently known as salt horses.

Once almost a lost breed, Appaloosas are now well established with their own stud book after diligent work by the older of the two associations, the Appaloosa Horse Club, headquartered at Moscow, Idaho. Popularity of the breed has increased sharply since the Appaloosa Horse Club began holding its annual shows outside of the Nez Perce country. The fifth and sixth national shows were held in California, and the seventh annual show will be held in Montana this summer.

"The Appaloosa is a top horse for ranch and rodeo work as well as for pleasure, trail riding, and parades," Mansfield claims. "No other breed can boast such a combination of quiet temperament, versatility, hardiness, stamina, and distinctive coloring."

