

STARBUCK LEOPARD in 1919 or 1920 before John Campbell, rider, sold Leopard to John Starbuck. Picture furnished courtesy of P. S. "Doc" Edwards, Ft. Morgan, Colo. (left)



# Accent On Spots

By Mary P. Hare

*The definition of a "true" leopard is: "An Appaloosa that is white with dark spots over its entire body . . . foaled this way, with the exact pattern remaining for life. The True Leopard Will Never Fade."*

## INTRODUCTION:

Not long ago this fellow, knowing I had a keen interest in leopard spotted Appaloosas, asked me the following question in a letter:

"Is it true that basically the leopard pattern Appaloosas come from one or two breeding lines—the Siri line and the Sundance line?"

I felt that I should do some checking before I could give him an acceptable answer, and in doing so whet my own curiosity. I began studying the past several issues of Appaloosa News, which actually turned into a five-year span of back issues before I felt that my theory could be considered checked out enough to base an article on.

From the sheets of bloodline tracings I worked up six major groups. Then with the help of some of the owners of these "old time" leopard lines I was able to collect pictures and brief histories to round out the article. A very special thanks to P.S. "Doc" Edwards of Ft. Morgan, Colo., and Mrs. Evelyn Weber, Money Creek Ranch, Houston, Minn., for their contributions!

Hopefully, these "findings" might be interesting to the leopard-loving readers of the Appaloosa News. Above all, this article should not be construed as

"conclusive" in any manner. It is intended solely to point out a number of recorded facts which can be obtained by anyone inclined to browse through all the APHC Stud Books, etc. More intensive research would, of course, turn up even better material.

Mrs. Evelyn Weber, who has been researching leopard horses for a number of years, states: "The last few years their (leopard) numbers have been increasing some, but there are still very few 'true' leopard horses . . . One thing about a leopard, you have to have leopard blood to produce a leopard. It is impossible for other color patterns to produce a leopard foal, whereas leopard bloodlines will produce blankets or any other Appaloosa coat pattern."

This "true" leopard pattern is the type I am striving to present in this article. It is pointing up the small, round-spotted variety as opposed to the Appaloosa that may "roan off" only to spots scattered over the hind quarters. Appaloosas born with these symmetrical spots which are distributed evenly over their entire body, face and legs which are retained throughout life and transmitted consistently. Also mentioned are several well known near-leopard offspring of these base groups which can, in turn, transmit "true" leopards in subsequent generations.