



The Warne family (Lee, Helen, Randy and Nancy), line up with the brightly colored horses that used to attract visitors from far and wide, including the grandpappy of the Sully horses, Bambi E, with Lee at his head.

and before long there was a steady stream of weekend visitors to the ranch to take a look at him.

"To be sure, not everyone fell for him the way I had. It was like that with leopard Appaloosas back then, and it's like that with leopard Appaloosas today. A bunch of people did like him though, and he got so popular so fast that my "relaxing hobby" turned into a full-time business overnight."

Reacting to Bambi E's mushrooming popularity, Warne hastily assembled a band of ten mares to breed to him in 1957. Mostly unregistered (which was allowed by the ApHC at the time) they nonetheless carried good foundation Quarter Horse breeding.

From that first crop, out of an unregistered daughter of the great Quarter Horse sire, Plaudit, came Sully B, a colt that would have a great deal to do with firmly establishing Bambi E as the founder of a great family of horses. (The prefix "Sully," which would appear on the Warne-raised Appaloosas from Sully B on, was of course derived from the county in South Dakota where they were foaled.)

"One of the first times we showed

our Appaloosas was at the 1958 South Dakota State Fair in Huron," recalls Warne. "There were no classes for them, just an exhibition sort of deal during the Quarter Horse show. I can still remember standing off to one end of one of the barn aisles with Bambi and three of his foals — feeling kind of like a stepchild at a family reunion.

"Pretty soon someone came up and started asking us about the horses. Before you knew it, there was a regular mob of people, all interested in learning more about Appaloosas. I was almost embarrassed over all the attention we were getting, but at the same time I couldn't help but feel a little proud."

Shortly after the 1960 National at South Sioux City, Nebraska, Sully B was sold to L.F. McDonnell of Fort Worth, Texas. At the 1961 National held at Fort Worth he was the champion junior reining horse. (There were 79 junior reining horses in the class — the largest performance class of the show.)

The following year, Sully B was named the national champion junior cutting horse at Springfield, Illinois, and capped the year by being named the high point perfor-

mance horse of Texas competing against the Joker Bs, Quannahs and Rustler Bills at their toughest.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the Warnes and Bambi E continued to build on a reputation that had gotten off to an excellent start.

With grassroots support for the young Appaloosa breed cropping up all over the country, the formation of a regional club in South Dakota was inevitable. When it came about, Lee Warne was deeply involved.



Nancy Warne was South Dakota Rodeo Association's "Rookie of the Year," using Sully's Hummingbird, a mare that also placed well in halter classes.