

"A few of us got together in 1961 and formed the Center of the Nation Regional," says Warne. "That was the only year I campaigned Bambi for high point, and he wound up the club's high point halter stallion and over-all high point performance horse. There weren't a lot of breed shows in those days so we competed in quite a few open shows with him, too. That same year he won the open reining at both the Scottsbluff, Nebraska show and the Rapid City, South Dakota Range Days Celebration against all breeds.

"From 1961 on, the old horse just stayed at home and took care of his mares."

Where Bambi E left off in the show ring, his sons and daughters soon took over.

By this time, the Warne children — son, Randy and daughter Nancy — had decided to get active in the show ring, and their father saw to it that they were well-tutored and well-mounted.

"The more we got into the showing end of it," Warne recalls, "the more I could see that the horses weren't the only ones who needed training. So I hired a young man by the name of Tom Eliason to work with both our show horses and us.

"Tom was only with us for about 11 months, but we sure learned a lot from him. He was then and still is quite a hand with roping, reining and cutting horses.

"Among the horses that Tom showed successfully for us was Sully's Pattern, a son of Bambi. In 1965 Pattern was the CON high point cutting, junior reining, and aged halter stallion. We sold Pattern to some folks over in Minnesota and he just passed away last year at the age of 26.

"During the '60s, the kids and I showed a bunch of Bambi's foals. Randy showed Sully's Little Sparkle. She was grand champion at the South Dakota State Fair in '63 and '64, won her class at the Minnesota State Fair and went grand over a tough bunch of mares at AK-SAR-BEN, in Omaha, Nebraska. A couple of my favorites during those

years were Sully's Baby Grand and Sully's Hummingbird, both daughters of old Bambi. Baby Grand was a CON high point halter mare and both mares won at the South Dakota State Fair with Hummingbird going grand.

"Nancy's top show horse would have to be Sully's Nugget, a Bambi E gelding. She won all over the country with that little horse, including the youth stakes at the 1967 National in Walla Walla, Washington. Nugget is still kicking and sort of leads the "life of Riley" back at the ranch.

"Some mares that came along later that stand out in my mind

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*"The word got around Pierre that Lee Warne had gone off his rocker and bought some crazy colored horse..."*

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were Sully's Starlet and Sully's Lady Venture. Starlet was undefeated in 11 shows in 1970 including the Denver National Western, and Lady Venture went back to Waylo Acres in Pennsylvania and stood junior grand champion at GEAR.

"Then there were my look-alike sisters, Sully's Foxy Lady and

Sully's Little Sis, who won the GEAR produce of dam class in 1976. There really were so many good colts that left the ranch during the past 30-plus years that I can't possibly remember them all. Some of their new owners kept us abreast of how the horses were doing and some didn't. About the only thing I can truthfully say is we enjoyed every last one of them."

A special year for both Lee Warne and the Appaloosa breed was 1970, explained Warne.

"The Center of the Nation Club hosted the National in 1970 at Huron, South Dakota," says Warne. "I was on several of the show committees and furnished all the cattle for the working classes free of charge. I couldn't help but reflect then and later about how far the Appaloosa breed had come on the Northern Plains, from the time Bambi and I put on that little exhibition in Huron 12 years earlier to the time when the most prestigious show in the nation was held at the very same place."

Even as the popularity of the spotted breed grew by leaps and bounds during the '70s, so did the reputation and popularity of the Bambi E/Sully horses.

"I imagine that we've sold our Sully horses to every one of the continental states and Canadian Provinces," states Warne. "In the late '70s we exported Sully's Lancey Boy and Sully's Lancer II to Australia. Lancer II went on to be one of the leading sires down there.



Tom Eliason, a horseman who Warne credits with training both the horses and the family members, shows Sully's Pattern in junior cutting at the 1986 World Show in Scottsdale, Arizona.