

account for the strength of **Bambi E** as a sire of quality and color which continues right up to the present!

Sundance died in 1954 from a clog of alfalfa. Doc Edwards tanned and preserved his beautiful hide.

**GROUP TWO:
MAY'S URPRISE T-3
(and the Montana
CROWLEY tie-in)**

Leo Cremer Stud x Sox (Morgan), chestnut spots; born June 1, 1945

When Accent on Spots was published, I put that I was told by a couple of reliable sources that **May's Surprise** and **Sundance** were half brothers. Once in print, I received substantiating material that the ApHC stud books were correct. So, let's try this version!

Everett & "Granny" May took their Morgan mare Sox to Roy Barnes' Livery Stable in Denver to be bred to a registered Morgan stud there. At the same time, Leo Cremer, a rodeo promoter from Montana, was boarding an unregistered black leopard stud there. "The boys" at the barn decided to play a "joke" on Granny by breeding Sox to Cremer's stud. Everett took his mare home and settled down to await his good Morgan foal. Lo and behold, on June 1, 1945, a LEOPARD stud colt arrived ... **May's Surprise** was just that, a surprise!

In 1972, Arlin Davidson wrote me that years ago (about 1958) he was selling some of his horses at a sale in Denver. "A lot of good horses sold that day and since quite a few

of May's Surprise's colts were in the sale, his pedigree was mentioned quite often. I am almost positive they said he was by Cremer's stallion they called '**Pahsimeroi**', who was either a son or grandson of **Antelope**."

This leads us to Marcus Crowley, a very early breeder of "Nez Perce horses" (as they were called back then) in Montana. Crowley was born in 1894. According to his son Marc Jr., he wasn't sure if his father got his first Appaloosa **Esther** from Bert Babcock or not, but since they were next door neighbors and great friends for many years, long before he (Marc) was born, he thought this quite likely. In a 1971 Everett Grewell visit with Crowley, he told Everett that he did get **Esther** from Bert Babcock.

According to the Three Forks Historical Society written by Lauren Rice, Bert Babcock was born in 1875 in Indiana to Amanda Heath. He was raised by a John Babcock in Michigan and moved to Montana when around 25 years old, making his home with the Darlington family most of the time. Years later he purchased a small farm next to the Darlington and Rice spreads, across the road from where Marcus Crowley was raised. This was many years before Crowley moved to Whitehall, Mont. Reportedly, Babcock got his seed horses from Billy Buttleman. Buttleman and his uncles ran about 6,000 range and stock horses near Three Forks. Bert Babcock always kept a few Appaloosas until his untimely death in 1938. He died from a 30-foot fall from a tree while pruning it.

Esther was a small thoroughbred-type mare, never weighing more than a thousand pounds. She was a roany white with sorrel points on the ears, above the hooves, kneed points, etc., and red specks on her body. The ApHC registration of **The Wagtail Kid** F226, by Wagtail TB x Esther, shows her dam as "Dolly." Esther was also the dame of **Pigeon** F225 (by Bryson TB) and **Antelope** (unregistered; not the one in the ApHC Stud Book) who was by a thoroughbred stallion Ben Vaughn, that a large cattle rancher brought in from California. **Antelope** was white with sorrel quarter to berry-sized spots over his body and head. Between 1936 and 1943, some of the early foundation horses of this Crowley line were **Folly** F243 (Antelope x Pigeon F225), **Pablo** F267 (Wagtail Kid F226 x Pigeon F225), **Coyote** F1532 (Wagtail Kid F226 x Folly, by Antelope), **Tiny Maid** F1533 (Coyote x **Esther** F242, who was by Wagtail x Pigeon).

W.H. "Army" Armstrong (Coffee Cup Ranch) got his first Appaloosa from Marcus Crowley, who by then had moved to Whitetail. The stallion was white with little red spots over the body. Marc Jr. remembers the horse traded to "Army" was **Antelope**. Bill Armstrong remembers his father calling the stallion by the common name of "**Silver**". However, both Marc Jr. and Bill agree that this was the same horse, and "Army" only had him for one breeding season before he was stolen. In all my correspondence from "Army" Armstrong during the late 1960s and early 1970s, he always referred to the stallion as **Kuhalot**