



COCALICO CREEK CHIEF, the herd sire is a perfectly-marked blanket rump Appaloosa horse. He fits the description of "like a blanket of snow on the croup" which is one of the patterns acceptable in the Appaloosa horse registry. At the halter is Charles J. Risser, Ephrata R2. L. F. Photo.

● **Appaloosa**

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After they had the mare they looked for a gentle horse for their son and found a spotted gelding which suited their needs. When friends reported there was a spotted stallion for sale in Delaware, the Risser family was off to inspect him "out of curiosity."

"I actually felt sorry for him," Risser said, reminiscing about the present herd sire Cocalico Creek Chief. "He was 18 months old and was so thin he staggered when he walked. The colt had been shipped from Wyoming and was not

old enough to fend for himself in the conditions he was forced into.

Risser bought the colt 'out of pity' in 1956 and brought him home where he has taken the position of herd sire for the Risser string of mares in addition to standing at stud to Appaloosa mares from as far away as the Pittsburgh area.

Chief as he is nicknamed, is what is known as a blanket-rump Appaloosa. That is, he is a dark color on his foreparts and underline with a white patch resembling a blanket of snow, over his hind quarters and rump.

The original mare — the one that got the Risser family into the business in the first place — is a leopard-spotted Appaloosa. Her main body color is light with dark red spots over her entire body. She has brought more trophies to the farm than any other horse in the stable. Showing under the name Cocalico Creek Monkee she has taken grand prize in two Appaloosa horse shows in addition to rosettes in many western shows and classes.

In fact, Charles and Doris Risser liked "Monkee" so well

that they bought her dam a few years ago and added her to the string. They now have a three-generation string of mares with Northern Breeze, Cocalico Creek Monkee and Cocalico Creek Valentine. Valentine is the filly foaled two years ago on St. Valentine's day.

But why are Appaloosas so rare? Just that, they are rare. As late as 1938 they were a scattered remnant of a once-proud herd of Indian horses. So few were left that they were nearing extinction when

a small group of men, recognizing the qualities of endurance, docility and sure-footedness of the breed, banded together to preserve the spotted horse and register as many of the living remnant as possible.

The road back for the "Palouse" horse (named for the Palouse River in Oregon) was a slow and agonizing one with many other types and breeds claiming the right to be registered in the stud book. Many roans, greys, and painted

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