



THREE GENERATIONS OF APPALOOSA HORSES show the typical markings of the breed. The first two generations show the leopard spot markings while the filly, on the right, is of the blanket-rump marking. Mrs. Doris Risser, center, holds Cocalico Creek Monkee, the first of the Appaloosas on the farm. Left above, Charles Risser shows Northern Breeze, the dam of Monkee, purchased later. Far right, Chuckie is at the halter of Cocalico Creek Valentine, the third generation filly. L. F. Photo.

● **Appaloosa**

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 horses of doubtful ancestry applied for registration or were sold to unsuspecting buyers as Appaloosas. But through rigorous culling and sorting there are today somewhere over 20,000 registered Appaloosas in the country with more and more becoming permanently registered each year as they prove they can transmit desirable characteristics to their offspring.

How did such a high quality breed come so near extinction? Mrs. Risser, the unofficial historian for the family, tells the story of how the Nez-Perce Indians living in the area of the Palouse River, bred and culled their herds of fine spotted horses. These horses were so superior to any the U.S. Army had at the time the Indians could out-

maneuver the cavalry.

Chief Joseph, the last of the great Nez-Perce chieftains, was so successful that the army officials decided to pay a bounty for dead Appaloosa horses.

The army campaign was so successful that the Indians were soon beaten into submission and the few remaining horses scattered throughout the western states where they crossed with other breeds and were nearly lost.

Restrictions on registry are getting more severe all the time, Mrs. Risser said this week. At first they allowed crossbreeding with other breeds, not with draft horses or ponies, in order to keep the breed from disappearing, but now registration requirements are getting tighter. Until recently a horse could be registered with a description from the owner, but now an inspector from the registry must see all applicants.

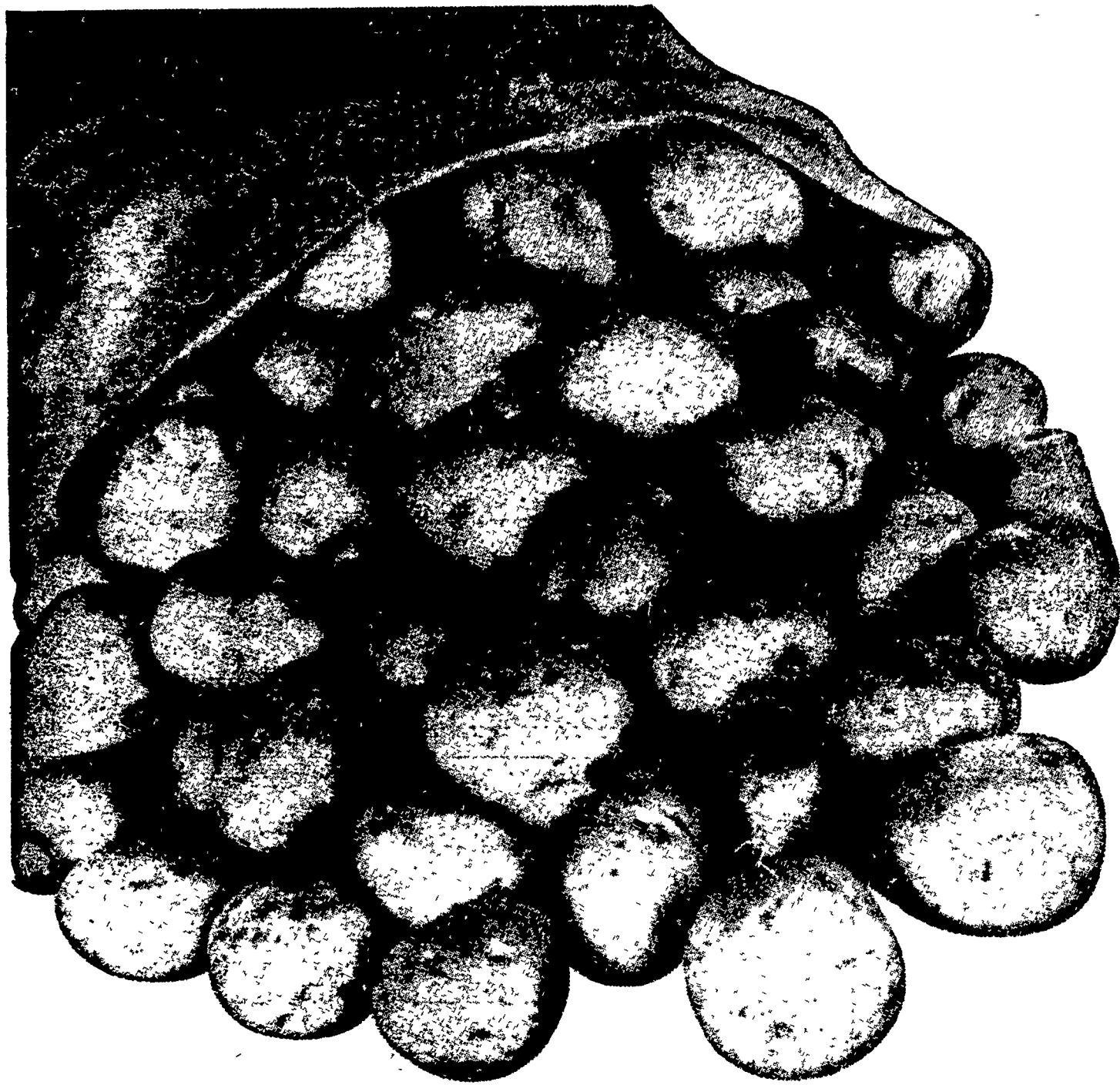
In the years that have passed since the Risser's bought the first spotted gelding, Cocalico Creek Skeeters, for their son, the family has increased and "Skeeters" has been passed on from Chuckie (Charles, Jr.) to four-year-old Karen.

A new filly, Squaw Blanket Babe, just recently became the 4-H project of Chuckie. The newest addition to the herd came from Kansas in January and has not yet left her new master on her back. Chuckie

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● **Now Is The Time**

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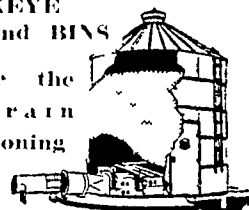
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