

Wild mustangs

(Continued from Page C38) dead — it was laying stretched out in the sun."

Oland, who is now retired from the landscaping business, spends time showing friends and visitors his adopted "Eastern" mustangs. "I expect I'd do it all over again, but I won't be adopting any more — getting too old," he chuckled.

Just this past Summer,

Oland became the official owner of his adopted mustangs. He received the Certificates of Title for the wild horses from BLM's Roger Hildebeidel, Eastern States Director.

Recent legislation permitted BLM to give title for up to four animals a year to adopters who provided at least 1 year of humane treatment and care.

Previously, the animals were wards of the Federal Government for their lifetime.

The BLM administers the Adopt-A-Horse program as a partial solution to the problem of overpopulation among wild horse and burro herds on public rangelands. The herd sizes have been on the increase since the horses were protected by the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act.

Since the program was initiated, the BLM has placed about 20,000 horses and burros in new homes in 47 states.

Oland was the first person east of the Mississippi River to accept and care for mustangs under the adoption program. And now most fittingly, he is the first Easterner to "own" the wild horses that gallop proudly across his rolling pasturefields in Maryland.

Do the horses dream of their old rangeland a continent away from their present home? Perhaps — but nightmares of survival are probably easily forgotten as the mustangs graze under the watchful eye of their benefactor, Millard Oland.

For information on the adoption program, write: Adopt-A-Horse, Department 634-H, Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.



At 65, Millard Oland of Damascus, Maryland, enjoys watching his wild mustangs. He adopted four of the horses in 1974 through the Bureau of Land Managements Adopt-A-Horse program, and just recently received their official Certificates of Title—he was the first Easterner to accept and "own" the wild horses.



The wild mustangs have produced offspring since their arrival in 1974. This mother and daughter were both born on the Oland farm but are still "wild", according to Oland.

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