

DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS

by Lora Duckett

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In 1993, a study came out of the computers at the ApHC. The results were shocking, but little has been heard or said about them in Appaloosa breeders' circles since. One might think it would be a hot topic, especially among ICAA members and in light of the 1996 closing of the books. Does this mean that most breeders have basically bred themselves out of the Appaloosa breeding business and simply don't want to talk about it? Well, I hate to bring up a sore subject, but it is important to the survival of the Appaloosa. If the horses represented in the 1993 study were to be registered in the ICAA today, here is how they would stack up:

- 554,959 Total registered with ApHC from 1938-1993
- 202,195 NOT eligible for registry under any classification of ICAA
- 273,384 Eligible only for Regular registry IF both parents would qualify for registry under ICAA rules. That could easily eliminate about two-thirds, meaning probably only 91,128 of these *might* be eligible for Regular registry in ICAA!
- 74,672 Eligible for ICAA F-2 Foundation classification
- 4,799 Eligible for ICAA F-3 classification
- 39 Eligible for ICAA F-4 Foundation classification
- 0 Eligible for ICAA F-5 Foundation classification
- 0 Eligible for ICAA F-6, F-7 and F-8 Foundation classification

Total estimate of ApHC-Registered horses that might qualify for ICAA registry: 170,638 (or 30.7%) of the ApHC's total all-time registrations. And remember, many of the purer Appaloosas are probably long dead by now.

Three years have passed since this study was done. How much worse is it today? The 202,195 horses the ApHC registered that would not be eligible for any ICAA registry classifications were direct outcrosses to another breed. You can figure that a very large percentage of these were Quarter Horse outcrosses, considering their popularity in the United States, and considering the overwhelming numbers of them. No doubt those of the ApHC's 273,384 that do not have parents which would qualify for registry under ICAA rules would not qualify because of all the Quarter Horses in their parents' background.

Ah, but there is the "kicker!" What do you get when you infuse Appaloosa with all this Quarter Horse blood? Did you think they were "pure" like the Thoroughbreds?

Our office received *The Southern Horseman* magazine recently. The article, "The Paint Crop Out: A Little Color Can Go A Long Way" caught my eye. I understand that nearly the same article was published in the *Western Horseman* in November of 1993. In fact, I found a copy of the *Western Horseman* article, and both articles were written by Lynda Work. It appears the paint horse crop out in the Quarter Horse is far more prevalent than most horse people on the fringes of the AQHA and the APHA (like many Appaloosa enthusiasts and even many Quarter Horse people are) have been led to believe. The truth of the matter makes it apparent that it can be *extremely dangerous* for Appaloosa breeders to breed into almost *any* bloodline of the Quarter Horse breed!

It dawned on me that both of these articles may have gone far over the heads of most Appaloosa owners and breeders, because not everyone has access to the all-important bloodline information (especially foundation lines) that we need to make proper buying and breeding decisions. I'll admit, the article was an eye-opener even to a bloodline "hound" like me!

I went to feed my stallions after reading Ms Work's article, and with the names of AQHA bloodlines I knew they had in their pedigrees buzzing around in my brain, I thought, "Man, I oughta do the Appaloosa breed a real favor and geld these guys!"

First allow me to do some quoting from the above-mentioned article, and then I will put it into terms the Appaloosa breeder or owner can relate to:

"There has been a remarkable appearance of (crop outs in) the family likes of Joe Reed, Old Fred, Traveler, Little Joe (*Ed: Little Joe was the grandsire of Poco Bueno*), Peter McCue, and Joe Moore. Traveler himself has flecks of white in his coat and an apparent belly spot. One of Traveler's sons, Blue Eyes, had glass (blue) eyes as well as Cottoneyed Joe. Barney Owens, a Quarter Horse by Old Cold Deck, had white under his stomach, glass eyes, and a skunk mane and tail. (*Ed: from another article, the description of Old Fred -- "In color, Old Fred was a deep gold with snow white mane and tail. He had a full blazed (bald) face and white lower lip. On his front legs were two white stockings extending a considerable distance above the knees. Both hind legs were white to the hocks with the right hind having a white stripe stretching up to the stifle. He was also reported to have a white spot on his left side.*) Interestingly, Old Fred and Barney Owens were a great-grandson and grandson of Old Billy. It is believed that Old Billy by Shiloh (*Ed: Old Billy was out of a mare by Steeldust*) is responsible for the blue eyes and cropping out. The Old Billy influence extends not only to the Old Freds and Barney Owens', but to the Peter McCues, Cold Decks, Skyes Rondos, Blakes, and Locks Rondos--**Just about every Foundation family of Quarter Horses** (*emphasis mine*). Janus (*Ed: which many people may recognize as the "founding father" of Quarter Horses*) is reported to have had Paint spots and was, by today's standards, a crop out. He also seemed to have passed on to his offspring

plenty of white. We have seen crop outs from the bloodlines of Skipper W, Nick Shoemaker, Doc Bar, Jet Deck, Sir Quincy Dan, The Ole Man, and Leo. Modern Quarter Horses such as Hint of Conclusive, Precedence, Ima Cool Skip, Doubly Impresses, and more, are now producing the modern crop outs. Some current examples of crop outs are Triples Titan, Preclusive, Mr Flashy Zipper, To A Te, Miss Precedence, and Ollie Tom Tom (now deceased)."

You may be saying, "Well, that sounds like a Quarter Horse problem to me, " if you don't recognize any of the above names in your Appaloosa horses' pedigrees. Indeed, there are "safe" lines such as Absarokee Sunset (and Beaver), Apache F-730, Golden Glow, Patchy F-416, Red Eagle, Revel F-773, Revel Junior, Toby, Tony Boy, and Sundance F-500 to name a few of the few. But have you done or had someone do an extended pedigree on your Appaloosa? A lot of interesting information you *need* to know may rear its ugly head in a six-generation pedigree.

- Bright Eyes Brother has long been suspected of putting too much white on Appaloosas. Well, no wonder! He goes back three times to Peter McCue and once to Old Fred.
- Colida goes to Peter McCue three times. Hands Up and High Hand have also long been suspected as well.
- Hands Up goes to Traveler, and High Hand goes to the McCue line and Nick S (who was linebred Old Fred).
- High Spot and Kelley's Sonny Boy both go to Traveler three times.
- Honey Toe goes to Traveler and McCue.
- Joker B goes to Old Fred and Steeldust.
- Mansfield Comanche goes to Traveler.
- Mighty Bright goes to Steeldust also, *plus* he is a son of Bright Eyes Brother.
- Norell's Little Red is Steeldust, Peter McCue and Old Fred.
- Navajo Britches goes to Traveler twice and Peter McCue twice, plus to One Eyed Waggoner.
- Quannah goes to Peter McCue twice.
- Wapiti goes to Old Fred several times and twice to Peter McCue, as does Wild Hope.

- Comanche's Equal goes to Traveler twice and Peter McCue, as do his sons, Silver Strikes Equal and Gold Strike's Equal.
- Rustler Charger goes to Peter McCue (through Sheik P-11 who was by Old Fred).
- Top Hat goes to crop out lines at least twice.
- But the coup de grace is Prince Plaudit, who goes to Old Fred *five times!*

No wonder the Quarter Horse and Paint people laugh at us! No wonder the big push is on to consolidate the Appaloosa, Paint horse, and Quarter Horse breeds into *one* (mongrel) breed called the "Western Horse."

Oh, you didn't know that EITHER?

"What we must vigilantly guard against are those that refuse to accept the Appaloosa as a breed and what he stands for, and who continually exert pressure in the attempt to convert him into a Quarter Horse, an Arab, a Morgan or Thoroughbred with spots."

***--Robert L Peckinpah
1964 Past President of the ApHC***