

Duane Gray's Pony of America stallion, Chief of the Triple H, was bred by the Triple H farm at Fairfield, Ia. He was born with a blanket of spots across the hips but they later faded. His coloring is white with black spots.

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first one. He has rapidly devoted as much time as possible to the breeding of them, that is, as much time as he can spare from his duties as artificial inseminator for the Curtis Breeding association.

The pony breeding was at first a hobby but has now grown into a business as he has two registered mares, two which will soon be eligible for registration, three colts and six more colts expected. The family is contemplating pony rides for the public but will not decide until they are sure such entertainment would have a favorable response.

Regardless of their decision, their interest will not lag in this breed of ponies as it is a lucrative business.

There is a pure Pony of America to be found in the mountains in Mexico where it is believed they were first brought by the Spaniards. Americans were quick to realize the value of this perfect sized pony, and Iowans first started breeding them in 1957 mating an Appaloosa with a small solid colored pony, such as a Welsh or Shetland pony.

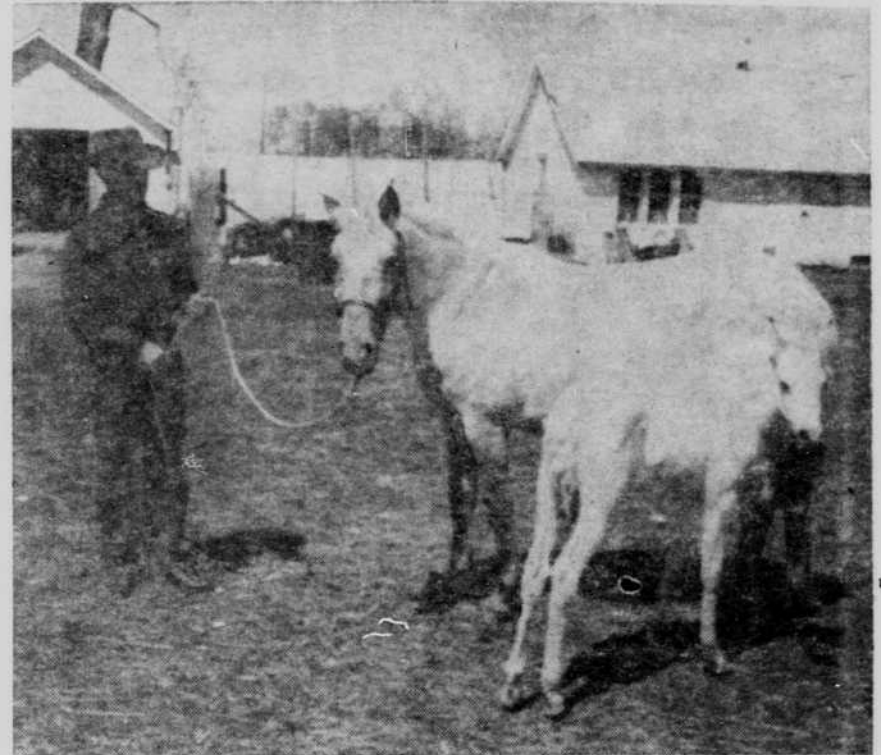
The POA association, which was formed in 1957, agreed on certain features for eligibility for registration: Any Appaloosa colored pony which has matured within the height limit, between 46" and 52"; no pony with pinto color is eligible even though it may have Appaloosa color also; no roan ponies are eligible unless they are of the approved marbled Appaloosa color and are strong in Appaloosa characteristics.

Ponies must be white with dark spots or dark color with white spots, and the perfect marking is a blanket of spots over the hips. They must have striped hoofs and the white ring around the coloring in the eye.

Duane's ponies are gentle, very bright and quite playful. His favorite pony stallion is a regular housepet about the children and he is very fond of pulling Duane's gloves from his pocket. The colts are about three weeks old now and a child's dream. They are still such babies that they are a little skittish and stay pretty close to their mothers but as they get loose in the pasture they run and frisk about as though they would never tire.

To show the increasing value of the POA, one that Duane wanted to buy three years ago sold for \$410. Last year its owner turned down a bid of \$1,900. Ponies sold at an average of \$552 per pony in 1960.

Nebraska formed its State POA club March 20 at which time Duane was elected vice president. He is also an inspector for



This pure bred Pony of America and her colt are being raised at the Duane Gray ranch south of O'Neill. Duane shows the mare named Bud's Mexican Marie, which came from Mexico. Her colt, two weeks old, is named Ginger Ale.

the Association and has been a member of the Appaloosa club since 1949.

This is a busy family and a very happy one. Dorothy is employed at the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas company and is active in Extension work. All the children are in 4-H work and are taking horsemanship under Clare McVay, the club leader.

Vilia received a blue ribbon last year at the county fair for her horsemanship.

With all their outside activities, the Duane Grays manage to save enough time toward the development of their POA breeding ranch which has already created interest among the hundreds of members in the National POA club.

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