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**Quarter Horse Breeding Is a Full Time Job**

How does a man get into the quarter horse breeding business? In the case of Orlo Rhodes, O'Neill, it began with a love and admiration for this particular breed of horses, an interest shared by three other men, Wes Cobb, Jack McGrew and Rollie Peterson. These four men had been looking for a good quarter horse stallion and in 1952, the opportunity arose and they were able to buy Hell's Half Acre, the grand champion quarter horse stallion at the Wyoming State Fair.

From then on, Orlo was in business. He now has three stallions, 25 mares and approximately 21 colts on his 480-acre ranch 12 miles south and two west of O'Neill on Highway 281. Of course, this doesn't include the other horses on the place—just his purebred quarter horse stock.

In 1953, these four men bought another outstanding horse, Whimpy Little Rascal at the Clarence Lane ranch at Crawford. Shortly afterwards they traded Hell's Half Acre to Rollie Peterson for his interest in Whimpy, and the remaining three partners then added another top quarter horse to their string, Poco Polo. In 1959 Wes and Orlo bought Jack's interest in Whimpy and Poco, leaving only two owners.

This arrangement is still in effect, except that Orlo went further. He purchased one more stallion, Mr. Boo, in December, paying \$5,000 for this quarter horse at Amarillo, Tex. Mr. Boo is an eight-year-old and during his racing career in California and New Mexico, has won \$19,623.90. He is a dark bay with two white stocking back feet and has a blaze on his face.

Orlo bought his mares in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and frequently makes trips to purchase more horses, always endeavoring to add finer bloodlines to his breeding stock.

At the time this article was written, Orlo was busy during foaling season, handling about 21

colts without extra ranch help. The colts will be on mother's milk about four months. Orlo has separated the colts and their mares for weaning but since this is quite difficult to do single handed, he feels the creep method of feeding is more satisfactory. In this way, the colt may obtain feeding elements not accessible to the older animals.

Orlo doesn't train his horses for show, mostly because he doesn't have the time and because his colts are sold so rapidly. Owners who train their quarter horses start them at an early age, paying close attention to the amount and quality of feed, and using a great deal of patience as the handler never displays temper in any way during the training.

As the foal matures it is taught to stand quietly, to move very short distances without becoming excited and to work on a lunge line or gyp rope. Obedience to commands must be implanted in the animal from the very first, both to verbal and of the cued variety.

The quarter horse is bred for all purposes, ranch horses, running horses, arena horses, roping and cutting. They are bred for a high speed at a short distance.

The American quarter horse breed started about 1942, being crossed with thoroughbreds, Morgans, Arabians, etc. The outstanding quarter horse stands from 14.2 to 15.1 hands and can be any color but Appaloosa, albino or spot. It's characteristics include fox ears, straight legs, long muscle, long hips, deep heart girth, wide between eyes, small

muzzle, keen intelligence and a good disposition. They are adaptable to so many varied uses that there is always a great demand for them.

Orlo sells horses every fall at a sale in Stuart presented by the Elkhorn Valley Quarter Horse Sale association. This association was formed in 1955 and has six members. Wes Cobb, Jack McGrew, Willis Peterson, Louie Shald, all of Stuart, Joe Wewel, Newport, and Orlo. This year the sale will be held October 7 at which time about 40 head of their finest stock will be shown.

From now on, Orlo will continue to pamper his fine horses, overseeing their care and in general, preparing them for the October sale. Sharing this interest is his mother, Mrs. Hattie Rhodes, with whom Orlo makes his home.

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