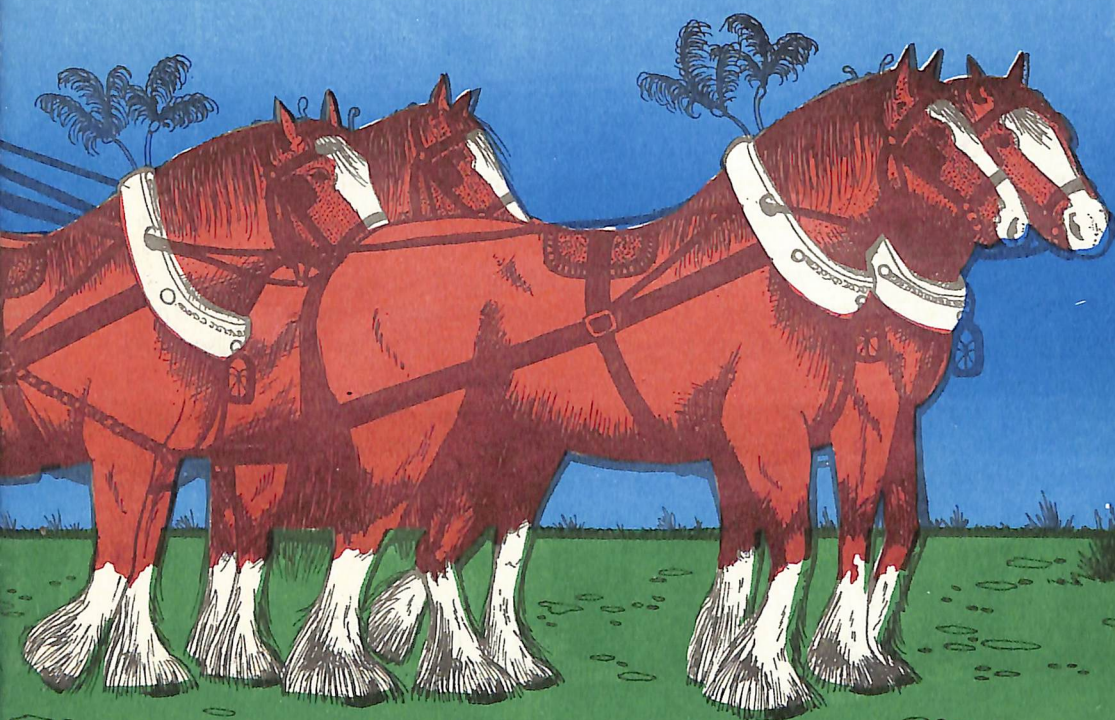


NOTES



vol.16 no.7

WALLY'S PAGE!



Welcome to Nature Notes again this month, notice I've changed it back to its correct name! I hope you had a good holiday, as I'm still on mine down here in Western Victoria. I've found the perfect hide-out; it's Yambuck...but don't tell the Editor, or he might come looking for me! (See if you can find it on a map?).

This month we feature a very special edition ondon't faint girls.....on horses.

Since the settlement of Australia, the horse has become a very important part of our life and to many Australians an idol. One horse, Phar Lap, has more visitors today nearly 50 years after his death, than any other Australian.

Just recently, the National Museum announced that he is to receive a new home in the Museum. His own stable.

However, many other horses have become as famous as humans. Can you think of some?

.....TRY. Archer, Carbine, Crisp, Gunsynd, Rising Fast, Maori's Idol, Paleface Adios, Garryowen, Gendarme.

See if you can find out what these horses did to make them so famous.

Did you know that Australia is probably the only country in the World where its Parliament stops from meeting so the politicians can either listen or attend attend a horse-race.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....

Mr. John Peck of the Australian Trotting Council for helping to compile the information on horses.
Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria for the information on "The GARRYOWEN Perpetual Trophy"
Carlton and United Breweries for allowing us to copy their poster and use it for our cover.
Mrs Prohasky for drawing the cover.



FAMOUS ANIMALS NO. 7

THE GREAT DAN PATCH

At the turn of the century automobiles were rare in America and the horse and cart were still the major means of transport. Horses were highly regarded then, but on April 29 1896 a foal was born that was to become the most famous of them all.

That foal was "DAN PATCH"

The son of a \$225 mare, Dan Patch never lost an official race in his life, winning 54 heats. He commenced racing in 1900 for his breeder Dan Messner but he was sold for \$20,000 to M.E. Sturgis in 1902. Whilst owned by Sturgis Dan Patch equalled the World Pacers' Record for one mile of 1:59 1/4 and immediately he did so another man entered Dan Patch's life. Dan's new owner was Marion Savage, head of the International Stock Food Company who outlayed \$60,000 to acquire Dan Patch. Savage wanted every American to see his great horse and he had a special white railway car built to transport Dan Patch from coast to coast. Thousands flocked to see Dan Patch as he kept on winning reducing the World Record to 1:56 1/4 in 1903 and to 1:56 in 1904.

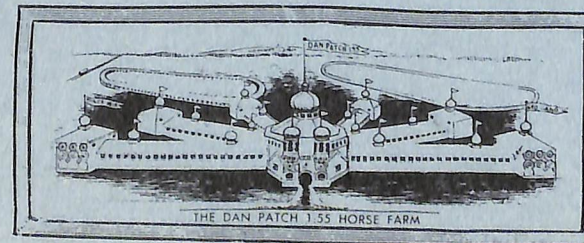
Products bearing Dan Patch's name lobbed up across the length and breadth of the North American continent. There was Dan Patch feed, Dan Patch colic cure, Dan Patch bobsleds, Dan Patch pillows, Dan Patch hobby horses, the Dan Patch watch, Dan Patch scarves, Dan Patch sweaters, Dan Patch cigars and tobacco, Dan Patch washing machines, whilst the jet-set of 1904 danced the Dan Patch Two Step. He even had a railway line named after him. In fact Dan Patch's facial features became as well known as those of President Theodore Roosevelt.

By January 1905 Dan Patch had run out of worthy opponents and was used as a stud sire. However public demand caused Savage to return Dan Patch to the racetrack. On October 1st 1905 Dan and his travelling show commenced a "whistle stop" tour of America which lasted 66 days. In that time Dan Patch travelled 6,000 miles, appeared in 14 different States before 255,000 fans and set five World Records including a World Mile Record which remained so for fifty five years. Only two pacers before Dan Patch had ever bettered two minutes for the mile each on only one occasion. Such was the speed of Dan Patch that he achieved this feat thirty five times. When Savage retired him as a 13YO, Dan Patch had earned in excess of three million dollars in stakes and appearance money. He remained a money spinner for Savage even in retirement for his stud fee was \$1000 and the fee for visitors just to see Dan Patch bow in his lavish stables, which are pictured below, was a mere \$21,500!

Savage's love of Dan Patch was immense and he treated him like a son, sparing no expense for his champion's comfort.

ON JULY 11, 1916 DAN PATCH PASSED AWAY. THE FOLLOWING DAY MARION SAVAGE DIED OF A BROKEN HEART.

Dan Patch 1:55



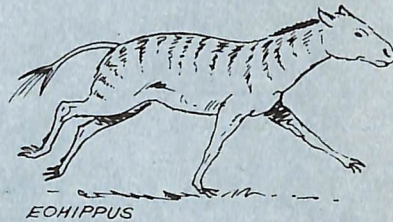
THE DAN PATCH 1:55 HORSE FARM

WOMBATS
are
smarter
than
HORSES

















HORSE: THE BEGINNING

The modern day horse is the product of many million years of refinement. The original ancestor of the modern day horse roamed the plains of North America and it was about the size of a fox. On each leg it had four toes and the animal's official scientific name was HYRACOTHERIUM, although its more commonly known as EOHIPPUS or "Dawn Horse". The Eohippus had no sharp claws or armour to protect it from enemies such as sabre-tooth tigers so it had to run fast to escape.



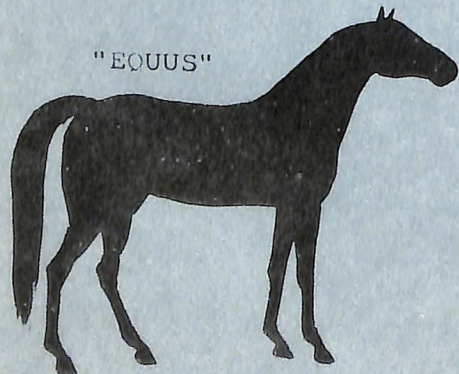
EOHIPPIUS

Unlike all other animals in those days the eohippus ran on its tiptoes which meant it could muster speed quicker than those who stalked it. After many centuries of running and chasing tiptoed the physical features of the eohippus altered. It became stronger and larger and the outside toes on each foot were superseded by a massive central toe (like a hoof). This improved animal was called the EQUUS and all horses today have evolved from it. As the numbers of the Equus grew, the herds began to migrate. They travelled to all continents except Australia, which was isolated by water (NOTE: millions of years ago Africa, Europe, Asia

Head	Fore Foot	Hind Foot
 Eohippus	 One Toe Splints of 2nd and 4th digits	 One Toe Splints of 2nd and 4th digits
 Protohippus	 Three Toes Side toes not touching the ground	 Three Toes Side toes not touching the ground
 Mesohippus	 Three Toes Side toes touching the ground; Splint of 5th digit	 Three Toes Side toes touching the ground
 Protorhippus	 Four Toes	
 Hyracotherium (Eohippus)	 Four Toes Splint of 1st digit	 Three Toes Splint of 5th digit

EVOLUTION: Eohippus - Equus

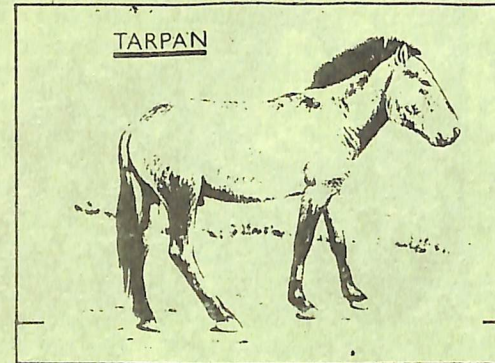
and America were one land mass. The horses could not live in tropical climates but were ideally suited in mild conditions and could adapt to the very cold weather in the northernmost extremes of Asia and Europe. Depending on which part of Asia and Europe they settled in, a differing breed developed.



"EQUUS"

HORSE: THE BEGINNING (Cont'd)

The horses in the cold far north were found to be short, tough and wiry. They had to feed on the barest vegetation and to endure the wildest weather. The two main breeds developed were known as the TARPAN and PRZEVALSKII's HORSE. Both breeds can be seen today as they have altered little in the past 10,000 years.

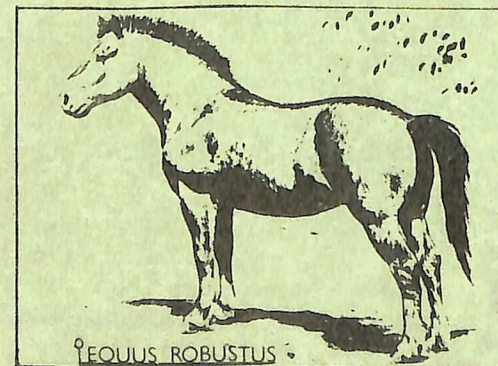


TARPAN

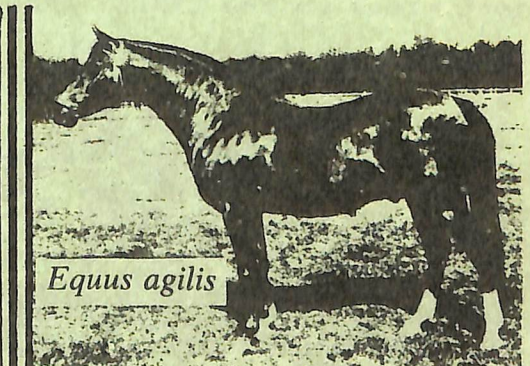


Wild Horse (Przevalskii)

Further south in Europe, feed was plentiful and a much larger and stronger animal was developed - EQUUS ROBUSTUS, the ancestor of the farm draft type such as the Clydesdales and Shires. Those of the Equus herds which migrated to Asia Minor, Arabia and Egypt were able to graze on fertile plains. The subsequent animal was the swift, sleek long-legged EQUUS AGILIS, or Oriental Type. The Equus Agilis has sometimes been classed as Arabians, recognisable by the small, intelligent heads.



EQUUS ROBUSTUS



Equus agilis

The Oriental horses consisted of three close knit breeds - ARABIAN, BARB and TURK - and all three were jealously viewed by the European royalty, especially the British.

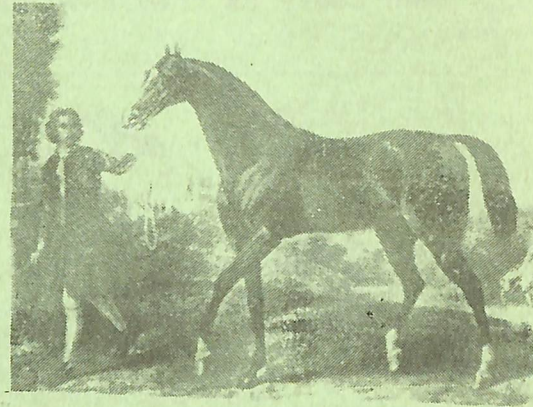
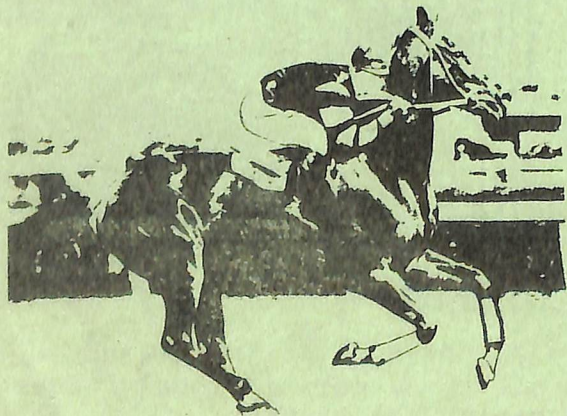
HORSE: THE BEGINNING (cont'd)

Massive sums of money were paid to obtain the Oriental breeds and three stallions, one representative of each strain were directly responsible for all racing horses today - gallopers, pacers and trotters alike.

The famous trio were:

- (1) THE GODOLPHIN BARB. Foaled in Barbary in 1724. Later found his way to France where he used to haul a water cart. In 1728 he was taken to England and given to Lord Godolphin as a present.
- (2) THE BYERLY TURK. The saddle horse of Captain Byerly, used in the 17th century in the wars of William in Ireland. Was brought to England in 1689.
- (3) THE DARLEY ARABIAN. A pure Arabian, purchased at Aleppo, Syria. He was brought to England in 1706, as a gift to John B. Darley, of Aldby Park. He was bay with a white blaze and stockings on three legs and stood 15 hands high.

Interestingly DAN PATCH, the seventh in our Series of "Famous Animals" and PHAR LAP, the most famous horse Australia has known both trace to the DARLEY ARABIAN



DARLEY ARABIAN

BARTLETT'S CHILDERS	FLYING CHILDERS
SQUIRT	BLAZE
MARSKE	SAMPSON
ECLIPSE	ENGINEER
POT 8-O's	ENGLISH MAMBRINO
WAXY	MESSENGER
WHALEBONE	AMERICAN MAMBRINO
SIR HERCULES	ABDALLAH 1
BIRDCATCHER	HAMBLETONIAN 10
THE BARON	GEORGE WILKES
RATAPLAN	PATCHEN WILKES
STOCKWELL	JOE PATCHEN
DONCASTER	<u>DAN PATCH</u>
BEND OR	
RADIUM	
NIGHT RAID	
<u>PHAR LAP</u>	

PHAR LAP in his prime. His body is preserved in the Melbourne museum.

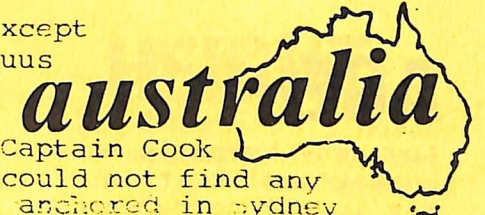
THE HORSE IN AUSTRALIA

In pre-historic times all continents except Australia were joined together. The equus herds migrated (see pages 5 & 6) to all parts of the expansive land mass but none could reach Australia. Thus when Captain Cook arrived on the "Endeavour" in 1776 he could not find any horses at all. In 1788 the First Fleet anchored in Sydney Harbour and below decks were Australia's first horses—one colt, one stallion, three mares and two fillies — all 7 having been taken aboard en route from England at the Cape of Good Hope (the southernmost tip of Africa).

These original animals were small, and as the settlers had great need for a stronger and better horse, pure Arab and English thoroughbreds were imported. The eastern states were eminently suitable for horsebreeding which was carried out with great care. It was not surprising that the Australian horse flourished, resulting in a fine breed called the "Waler". The Waler became widely recognised as the best saddle horse in the world through its fine service in the Waterloo, Crimean and Boer Wars. This meant a great overseas demand for the Waler and a huge export trade was established with India for cavalry and artillery troop horses. The Waler has always been noted for its high jumping with the current World High Jump Record being 9'6" set by Ben Bolt at the 1938 Royal Sydney Easter Show. Another activity at which the Waler excels is buckjumping, with experts regarding it as the equal of the American bronco.

Besides the Waler, other horses unique to Australia include a draught horse breed developed from three English strains and the W.A. ponies which have come from stock imported from Timor.

The horse population of Australia reached a peak of 2½ million in 1920, but with the advent of cars and tractors the figure plummeted to 1 million by 1950, further dropping to 500,000 in 1968. Australia's horse population appears to have stabilised at that figure, with notable increases in the racing ranks, both standardbred (trotters & pacers) and thoroughbred.



AGE

Any baby horse is known as a foal and whilst dependant on its mother's milk it is called a suckling. When the foal can fend for itself horsemen then describe it as a weanling a name it retains until its first birthday.

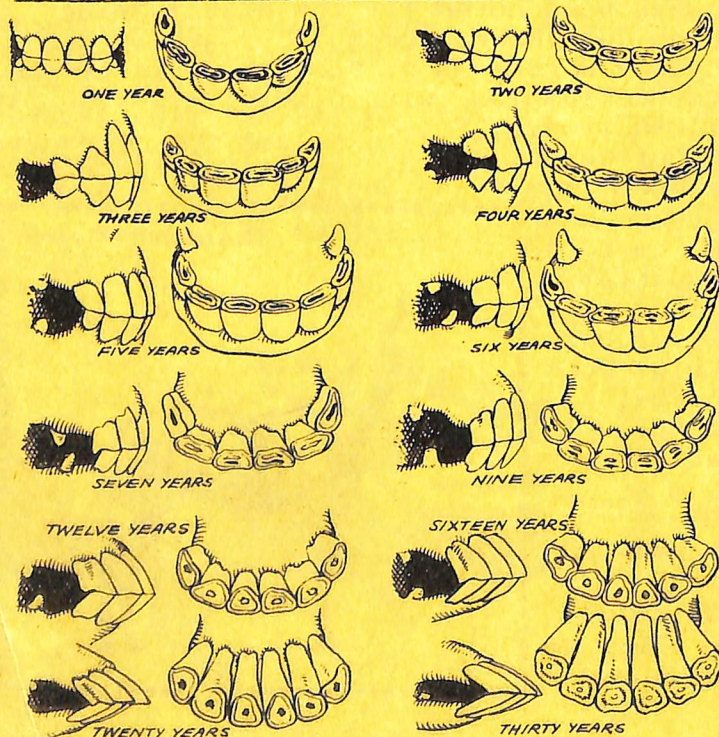
A yearling is any horse between its 1st and 2nd birthdays, with a two year-old being a horse between its 2nd and 3rd birthdays.

Any horse between its 3rd and 4th birthdays is classed as a three year-old and once a horse celebrates its seventh birthday it is known as an aged horse.

The actual age of an horse can be gauged by a study of its teeth, one of the most important features being the Galvayne Mark which is a brown groove that appears at about nine years(see chart). Horses have an average life span of between 20-25 years although there have been a few recorded instances in history of a horse living beyond 40.

Other terms for horses all over the world include:

HOW TO JUDGE A HORSE'S AGE BY HIS TEETH



FILLY:- female, up to four years

MARE:- female, 4 years and older

COLT:- male, up to four years

HORSE, STALLION, ENTIRE:- male, 4 years and older

GELDING:- desexed male of any age

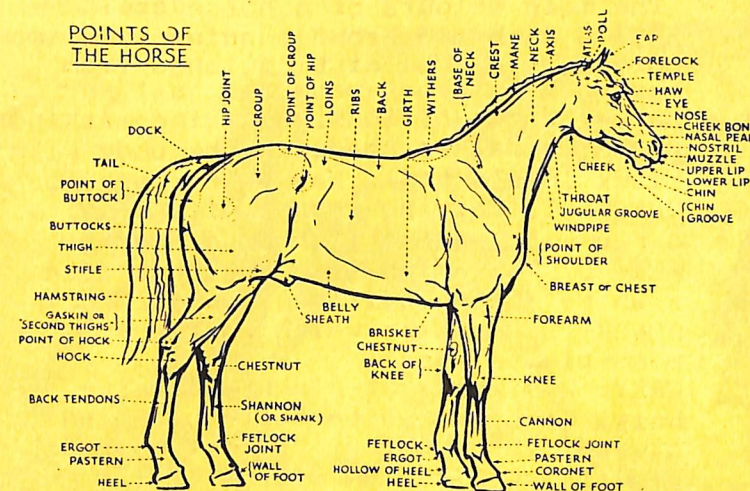
SIRE:- father

DAM:- mother

STANDARD BRED:- name given to trotters and pacers. Derived from early 1800's when a horse had to trot or pace one mile in a standard time.

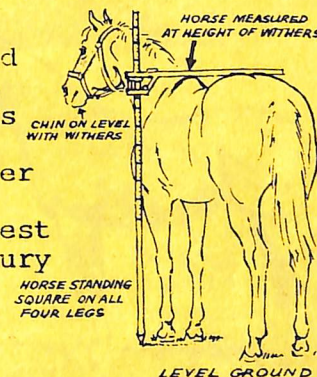
THOROUGHBRED:- name given to all racing descendants of the Arabian, Barb and Turk strains which went to England.

POINTS OF THE HORSE



HEIGHT

The height of a horse is measured in hands, one "hand" being equal to four inches or 10.2 centimetres. The term pony means any animal less than 14 hands. The height of a horse is the distance from the ground to the withers, as in the diagram below. The average height for major breeds of horses throughout the world

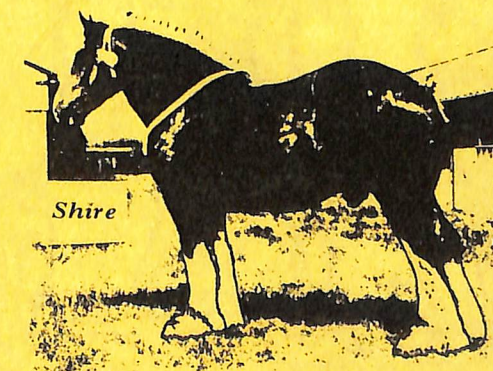


are as follows: Clydesdales(16½h), Standardbreds(15½h), Thoroughbreds(16h), Shetland Ponies(11h) and Shires(17h). The tallest in history was "Firpon" a Percheron-Shire cross who was 21.1 hands high. The tallest horse racing in Australia is the 18 hand high pacer JOE STORM who can be seen racing on most Saturday nights at Moonee Valley. The smallest horse has been developed over the past century in Argentina by the Falabella family. The height of the falabella ponies does not exceed 76 cm(about 7½ hands) at maturity.

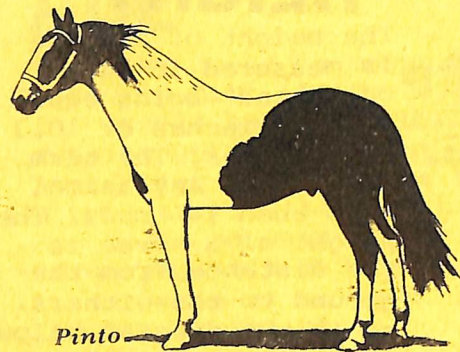
WORLD'S TINIEST HORSE FAMILY



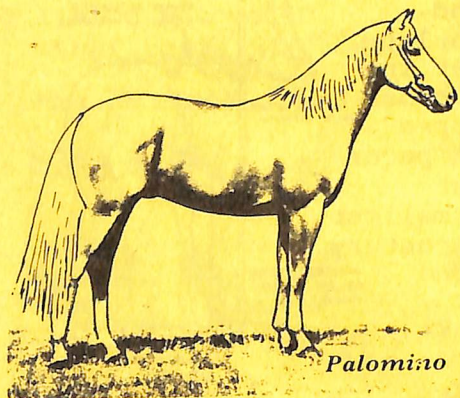
WORLD'S HEAVIEST & TALLEST HORSE



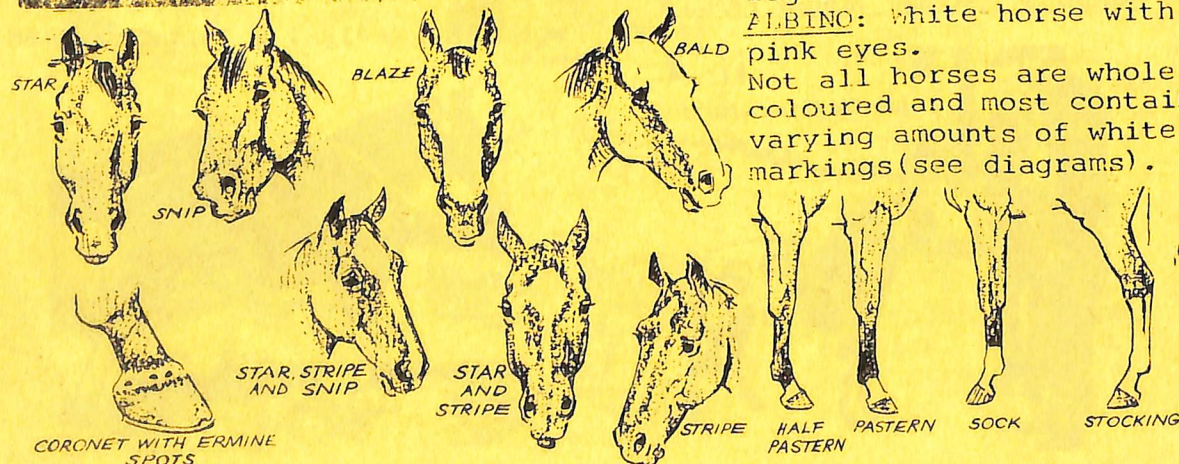
COLOUR



Pinto



Palomino

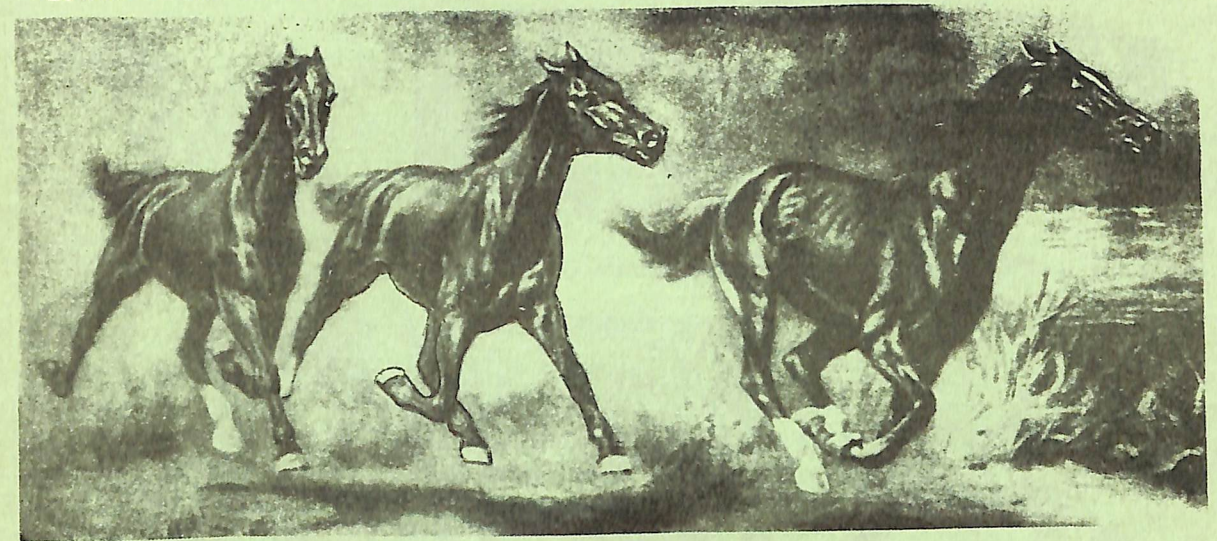


The main colours of a horse are:
BAY: a rich mid-brown tending sometimes to yellow; can be distinguished from chestnut by black mane and tail and darker shade of legs. Has white markings.
BROWN: a darker shade in the body with black legs & tail. Has white markings.
CHESTNUT: Varying shades of yellow, often with mane a lighter or darker shade. A palomino is a chestnut with a white mane & tail (see photo).
BLACK: Black with white markings possible.
GREY: A mixture of black and white hairs with the white hairs becoming greater in number as the horse grows older (just like humans).
PIEBALD: Large and uneven shaped patches of black and white. An example is the pinto (see photo).
SKEWBALD: Large areas of white, with patches of colour other than black.
ROAN: A mixing in of white hairs with established colours. A "red-roan" has a mixture of white hairs with a brown body colour resulting in reddish tinge. A "blue-roan" has a coat bearing a bluish tinge from the effect of white hairs interspersed throughout a black or black-brown coat. Both has black legs.

ALBINO: White horse with pink eyes. Not all horses are whole coloured and most contain varying amounts of white markings (see diagrams).

GAIT

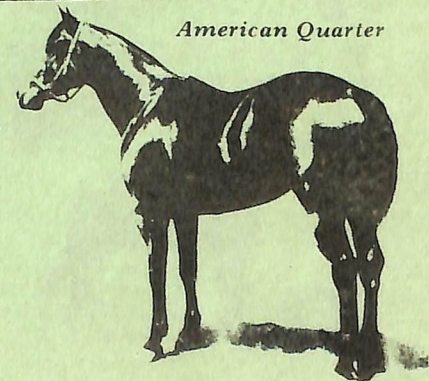
THE HORSE HAS THREE GAITS AT WHICH IT CAN TRAVEL AT FULL SPEED - the TROT, the PACE and the GALLOP (or run).



A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF THE THREE GAITS—FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, TROTTER, PACING AND RUNNING.

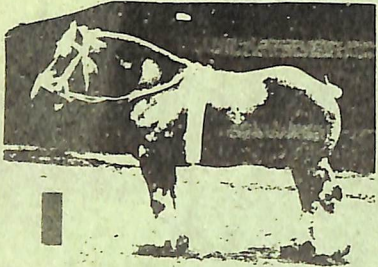
TROT: The two legs diagonally opposite move in unison.
PACE: The two legs on the same side move in unison resulting in a "rocking" motion of the horse's body.
GALLOP: Free flow running action.
 The various speeds at which a racing horse can travel can be seen by a comparison of the world records for one mile for the various gaits. PACERS: 1m52s - 32mph; TROTTERS: 1m54.8s - 31mph; GALLOPERS: 1m31.8-39mph. Greater improvement has taken place in the standardbred sphere (trotting and pacing) than in the galloping ranks (thoroughbreds). In 1890 the respective world records were 1m35½ (gallopers), 2:08¼ (trotters) and 2:06¼ (pacers) which means that whilst thoroughbreds have improved 3.7 seconds in 90 years the pacer and trotter have become faster by 14 secs. FASTEST HORSE IN THE WORLD

All three gaits are natural with nearly every quadruped (four-legged) animal being able to trot and gallop. If you watch large dogs, such as afghans, you will see that they often pace. Those of you who have seen the film "Lawrence of Arabia" will have sighted another animal who paces - the camel. The fastest horse in the world is the Quarter-horse, so named because he races over 440 yards (one quarter of a mile). He has been timed to attain speeds of almost 50 miles per hour over a short distance.

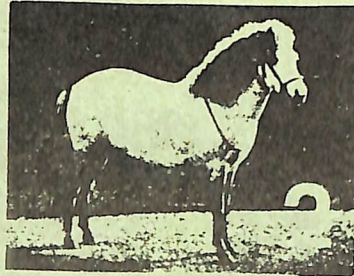


American Quarter

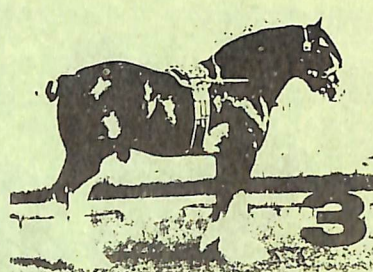
HORSES OF THE WORLD



1: HOLLAND - DRAUGHT



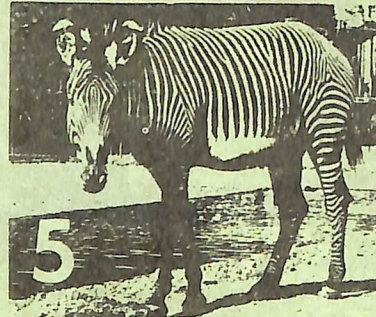
2: ICELAND - PONY



3: ENGLAND - CLYDESDALE



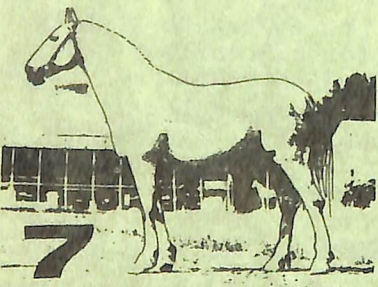
4: ENGLAND - SUFFOLK



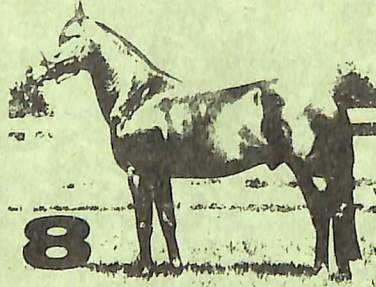
5: AFRICA - ZEBRA



6: BELGIUM - BRABANT



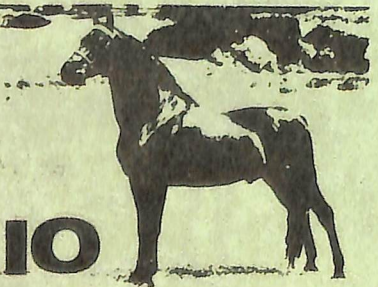
7: RUSSIA - ORLOV



8: AMERICA - STANDARD BRED



9: SHETLAND ISLES - PONY



10: AMERICA - MORGAN



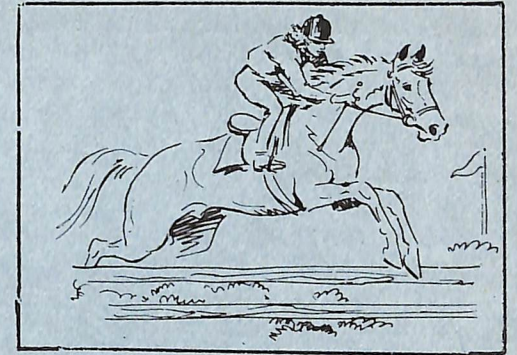
11: FRANCE - PERCHERON



12: ENGLAND - CLEVELAND BAY

The ROYAL SHOW.....

The "GARRYOWEN"



A tragedy which shocked horse-lovers has been commemorated by the greatest of all Australian equestrienne competitions, the GARRYOWEN. "HISTORY"

The smell of smoke and crackling of fire awakened Mrs. Violet Murrell at her home early on the morning of March 24, 1934. With a cry to her sleeping husband, she pulled on a robe and rushed out into the yard to the stables. The stables were totally ablaze. She couldn't possibly save all of the horses, but Garryowen, her own favorite mount she had to save at any cost.

She had set about a hopeless task; overcome by smoke and heat she fell unconscious. By this time her husband Bill was frantically trying

to batter his way into the stable. Bill loved horses too, but first he thought of the safety of his wife. He stumbled over her and dragged her clear of the blaze. Despite the gallant attempt, "Garryowen" perished in the fire along with the other horses in the stables.

Violet Murrell, burned beyond hope of recovery, died the next night. Her husband died several days later.

Violet's family and friends, indeed all showgoers and riders, realised that they could perpetuate the memory of her heroism in a way she would most appreciate. So they opened a fund to provide a trophy which, with the approval of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria became "The GARRYOWEN PERPETUAL TROPHY".

Every year, in September, at the Royal Melbourne Show, in the main arena before a sea of spectators in the stands and enclosures the Garryowen aspirants are judged according to the rules laid down in 1934. The points are awarded for: HORSE: conformation and soundness, manners and paces.

EQUIPMENT: saddlery and costume

RIDING ABILITY:

HORSES AT THE ROYAL SHOW.....

Judging takes place in the following categories:

Clydesdale, Farm and Lorry Horses, Arabs, Trotters, Palamino, Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, Galloway, Horses (15 hands and over.); and Ponies. (Welsh, Shetland, Australian Hackney, Connemara and New Forrest.).

WALLY'S FERRIS WHEEL

Test your knowledge on Wally's Ferris Wheel. Start in the middle and if your answer to the first two questions is "B" then proceed as the diagram on the right shows. Continue until you reach a letter printed on the outside chairs then see Wally and his scoreboard below.

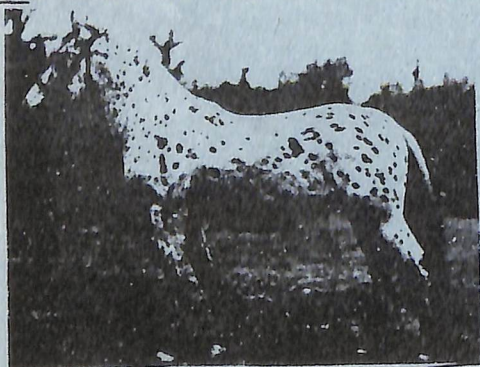
QUESTIONS:

- Q1: What is the major horseriding award at the Royal Melbourne Show?
A-Garryowen. B-Royal Equestrian Medallion
- Q2: A horse is 16 hands. How tall is that in cm?
A-64cm B-163cm.

- Q3: What is the horse shown on the right?

- A. A PACER
B. A TROTTER

- Q4: What is the name of the horse pictured below?
A-Pinto B-Appaloosa

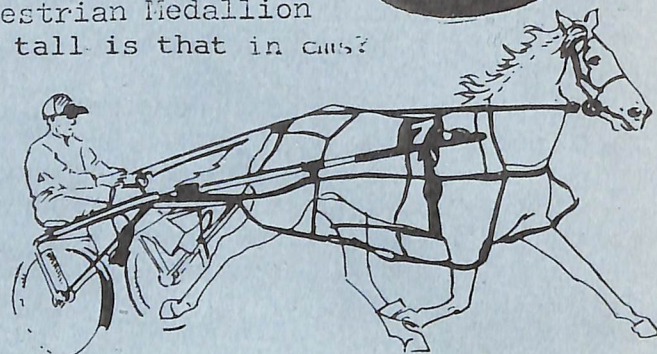
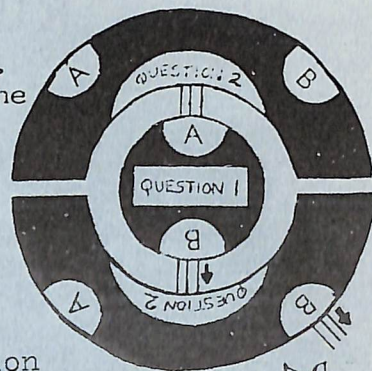


- Q5: What was the name of the first horse who had only one toe(hoof)?
A - Eohippus
D - Equus

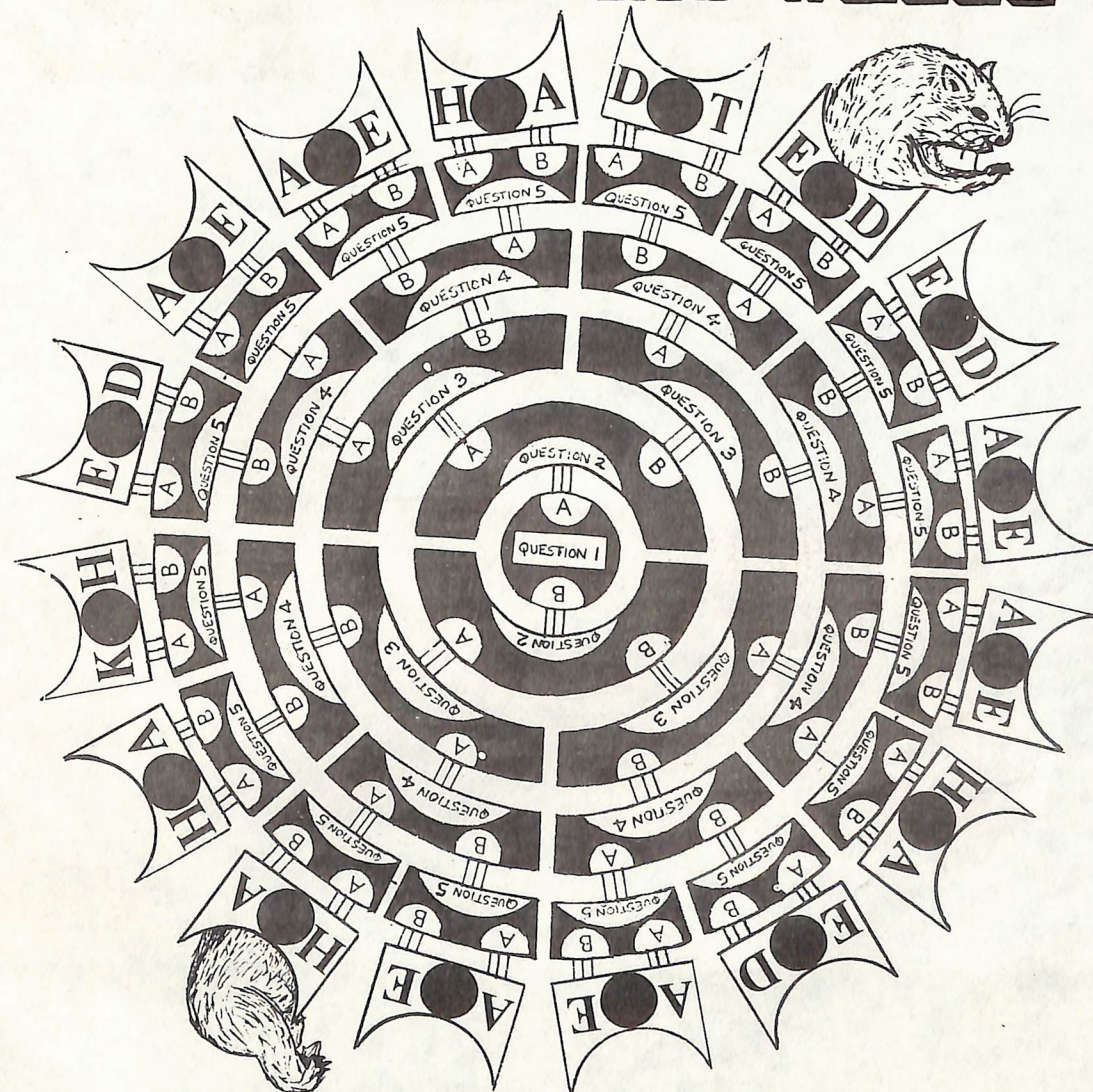
E	E	E	A	E	E
H	T	A	T	D	T
A	H	T	K	D	K
T	E	E	E	A	E
H	D	K	T	D	T
D	K	A	K	E	T
E	E	E	A	E	E
A	T	A	T	D	T



See how you scored by colouring in all the squares on my scoreboard that contain the letter that you reached on my Ferris Wheel.



WALLY'S FERRIS WHEEL



One of the main attractions at the Royal Show is the giant Ferris Wheel. When your chair reaches the top you can see the complete Showgrounds site, the city skyline, and on a pollution free day you will sight yachts on Port Phillip Bay. If you own a camera carry it with you when you ride on the wheel - you will be rewarded with some beautiful pictures.

NATURE NOTES September 1979

NATURE

