

More Americans Buying Horses Than In Past

By BOB GRAY
Editor The Texas Horseman Magazine
Written for The Associated Press

Want to buy a horse? If so, you've got company. Americans of all ages and incomes, in growing numbers, are buying registered horses—particularly of the Quarter Horse and Appaloosa breeds.

Some are buying them for pure riding pleasure. Others hope to breed more horses and make some money.

This stepped-up interest has produced more 'purebred' western horse sales—particularly in the Southwest—and more people going to a sale to buy their very first horse.

Maybe you're in that boat. Perhaps you've never been to a horse auction before. You hate to show your ignorance but you do want a good horse.

Well, relax. Lots of people find horse sales entertaining—and if you go to buy, it isn't hard. You should, however, be prepared to use the same care and time you'd take to buy a car, a boat or a share of stock.

First, don't expect to buy a good trained horse for \$100. Those days are long gone. Some Quarter horses have sold for more than \$100,000. The national Quarter horse auction sale average in 1961 was above \$1,000. Don't let that scare you, though. They don't all cost that much.

The Appaloosa and Quarter horse sales coming up in the next few weeks at the San Antonio and Houston fat stock shows (the dates are given below) are called "consignment" sales. The horses in them are consigned by breeders hoping to get the best possible price. It's the auctioneer's job to help them do it.

What each horse sells for depends on its pedigree, conformation, age and whether the horse has been trained for any stock saddle contests—cutting, roping,

Sales Schedule

Feb. 4 — Fort Worth. Stock Show Quarter Horse Sale.

Feb. 4 — Altair, Tex. Start of 8th Annual Texas Trail Ride to San Antonio, 135 miles. Write Box 100, Altair, for information.

Feb. 4 — El Paso. Southwestern Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Feb. 9-18 — San Antonio. San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.

Feb. 12 — San Antonio. San Antonio Quarter Horse Sale. For catalogs, write Box 869, San Antonio.

Feb. 15 — San Antonio. Texas Appaloosa Horse Club, 3rd Annual consignment sale. For catalog, write Rt. 8, Box 307 K, San Antonio.

Feb. 24 — Houston. Houston Quarter Horse Breeders Association consignment sale. Write Box 35068, Houston 35, for catalogs.

March 3 — Houston. Houston Livestock Show Appaloosa sale. For catalog, write Box 35068, Houston 35.

reining or barrel racing.

You'll see veteran buyers arrive at these sales early. With sale catalog in hand, they'll look at each horse. If you plan to buy, give yourself at least an hour to study what the catalog says and compare that with the way the animal looks.

Decide what you want that horse for — to ride for fun, to take to a show, to raise colts out of. This should help narrow your preferences.

Don't hesitate to ask questions even after the sale starts. The sale catalog should 'tell all' about each horse. If it doesn't, ask questions of the nearest ring man, who aids the auctioneers in relaying bids.

He can find out if a mare is bred, what stallion she's bred to, whether a young horse is "broke" to ride, how much training a gelding has had.

The owner is nearly certain to be present and he welcomes questions — they could help bring a better price for his horse. A veterinarian will usually be present also to point out any physical defects a horse may have.

If you bid on a mare, for example, and she's supposed to be bred, that vet may be able to certify whether the mare is "safe to foal."

The bidding process is not complicated. Almost any signal to the ringman will get your bid recognized. Once you have bid, the ringman won't fix his attention on you again until somebody else ups the bid. Then the ringman will indicate it is up to you, if you wish to bid more.

The auctioneer will usually elevate the bidding in \$25, \$50 or \$100 increments but you can bid a specific figure if you wish.

Sometimes it is a problem for the inexperienced buyer to know when to quit bidding on a particu-



Auction
Horse auctions today are much different than those of past generations. Sales of registered Quarter Horses and Appaloosas often bring four and five figure prices, the

lar horse. The veteran buyers decide the maximum figure they'll bid, after mentally deciding a horse's value, and will seldom go above it.

If at any time you aren't sure what level the bidding has reached—and it does get confusing at times—ask the ringman. If he isn't sure he'll ask the auctioneer.

When the bidding slows and finally ends, the buying bid and the buyer are usually announced. If you're the buyer you will get in a few minutes a ticket showing you've bought the horse and for how much. You settle up in cash or by check during or immediately after the sale.

Ordinarily, you're expected to

haul your horse away from the sale area within 24 hours. But it's your horse and your responsibility from the time you bid and buy.

Once you get the animal home—like all brand new owners—you have an unlimited license to discover (and tell all who will listen) that you have indeed purchased the finest horse in the world.

MARITIME

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will provide \$600 per year for each student to assist in defraying the cost of the student's uniform, books, board and room. The government also will provide a training ship and maintain it to the extent of an annual survey and overhaul.

Dr. W. J. Graff, dean of instruction at A&M, said freshmen academy students will study general engineering courses at the college. During the following three years at Galveston, each student can follow one of two options—marine transportation (deck officer), or marine engineering (ship engineer).

Graff said completion of the marine transportation option qualifies the graduate to apply for a license as a third mate. This in turn can lead ultimately to master of a ship.

Completion of the marine engineering option, he said, qualifies the graduate to apply for a license as third assistant engineer on a ship. This can lead to chief engineer of an ocean-going vessel.

The academy program will begin with 50 freshmen, Graff said. Fifty more will be added each year. After enrollment is stabilized, there will be 50 students at A&M and about 125 at Galveston.

Dean Graff said students will be selected on a competitive basis. Applicants must be made, single, citizens of the U. S., have a high school diploma, and be not less than 17 years of age and not more than 22.

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ORANGES	or FLORIDA	Each	0 ^c
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CALIFORNIA LEMONS	Cello Bag of 12		35 ^c
BOLOGNA	Armour or Swift	Piece Lb.	29 ^c
ELNA CHEESE		2 Lb. Loaf	67 ^c