

# HOOFBEATS

## A PICTURE BOOK

# OF HORSES

L. CANNON

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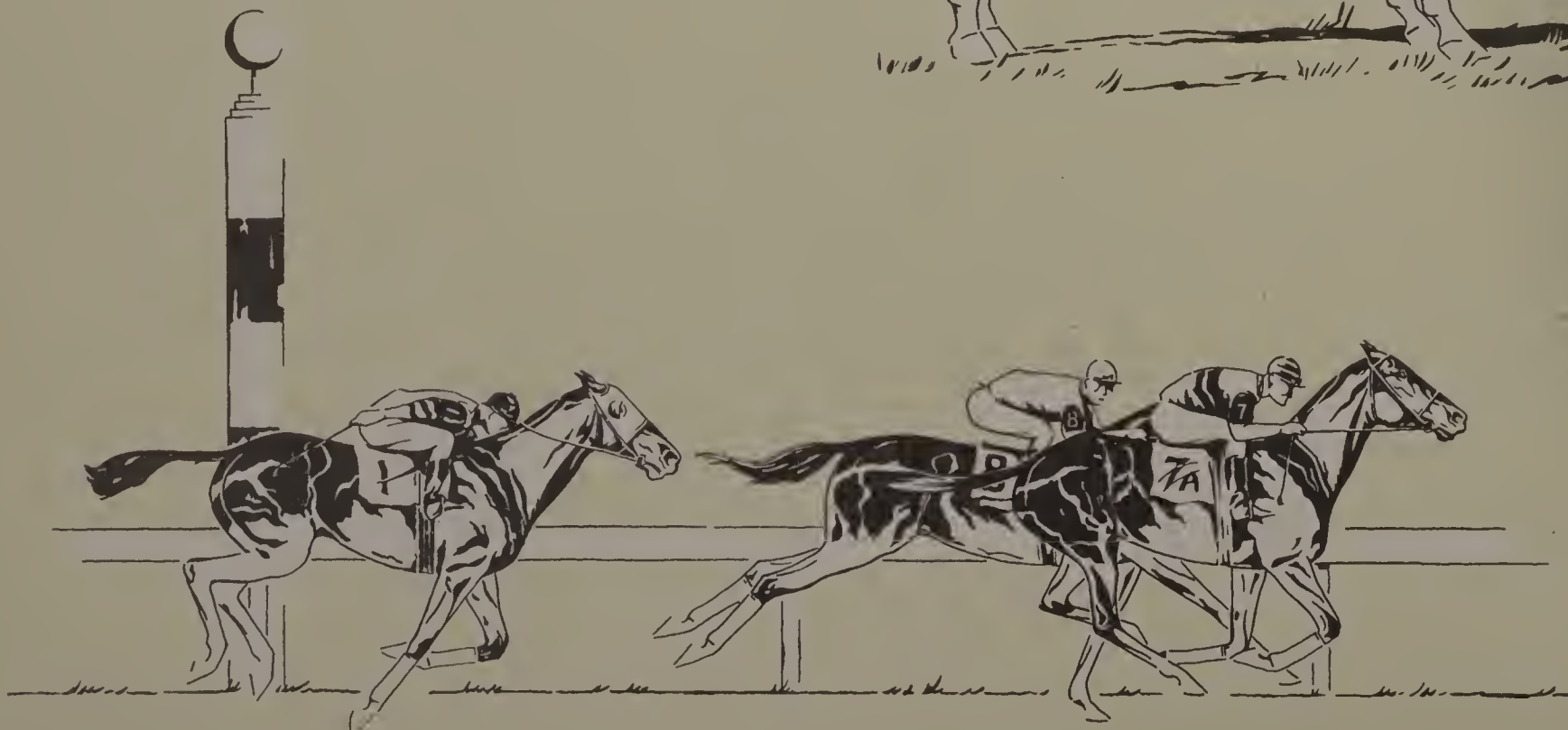


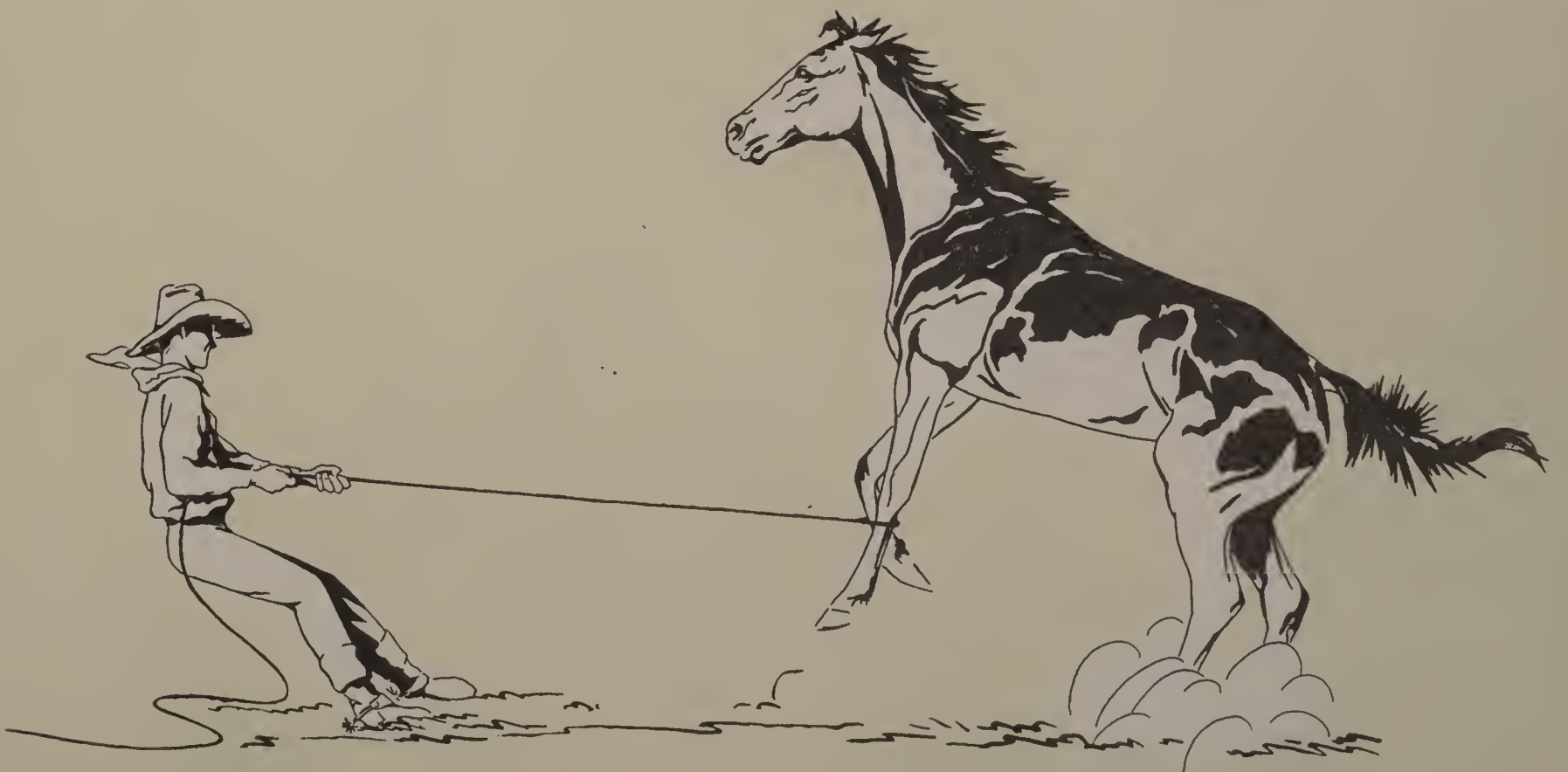
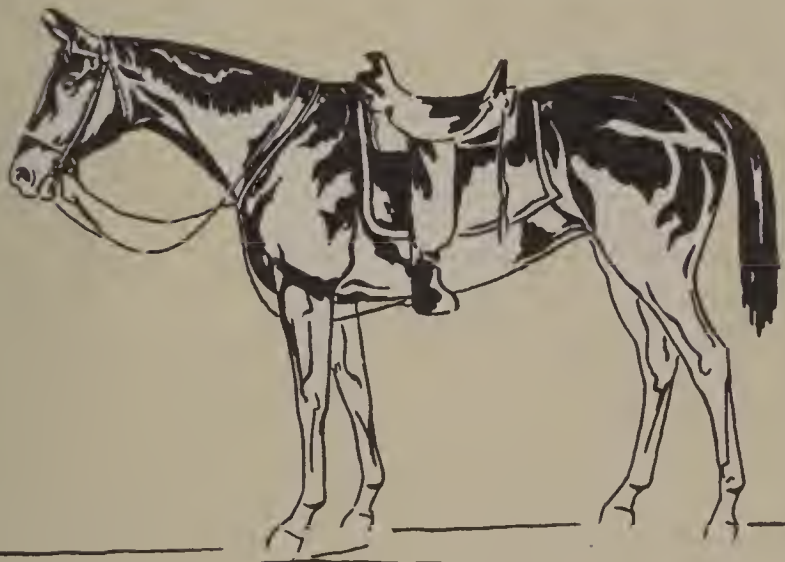
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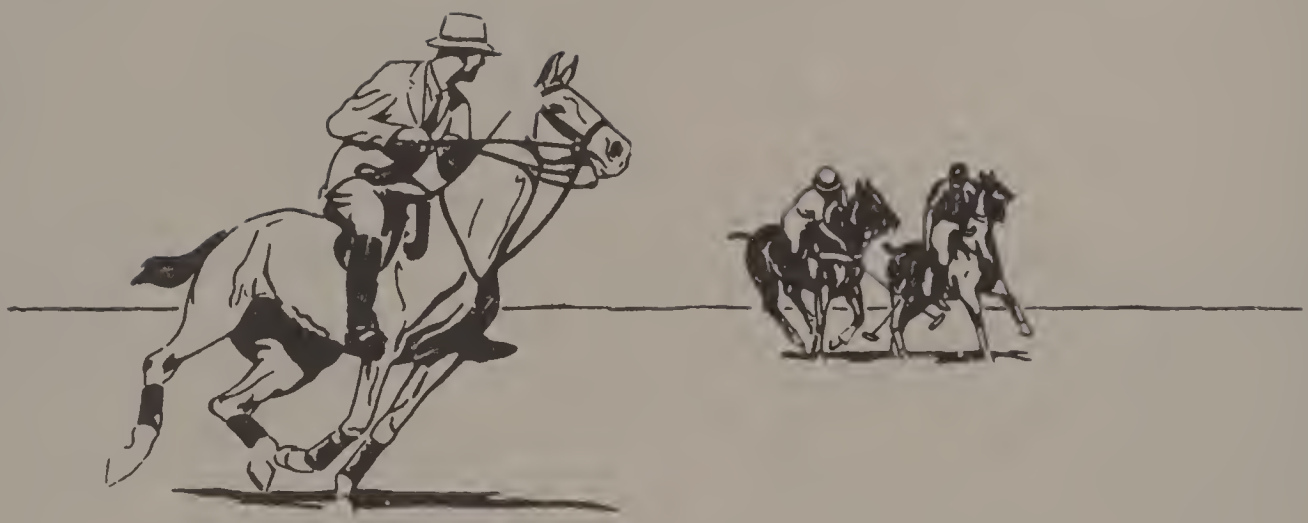
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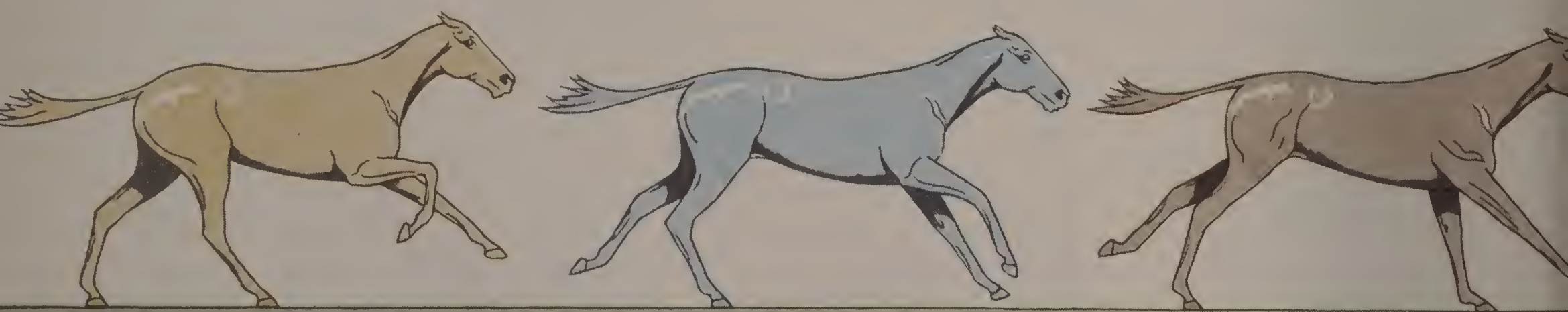






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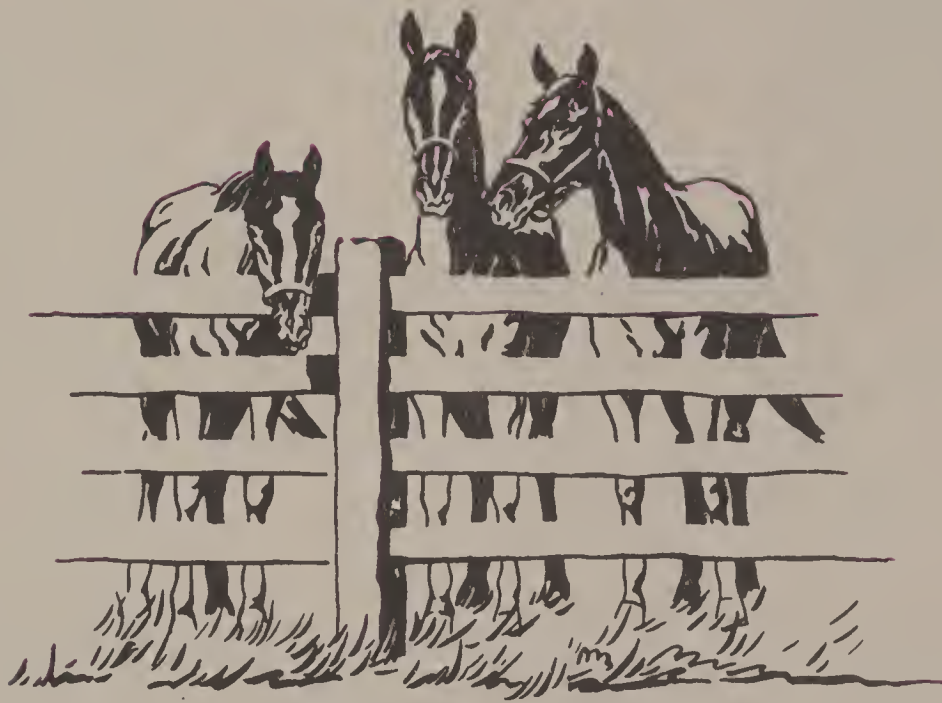




*How a Horse Runs*

# HOOFBEATS

*A Picture Book of Horses*

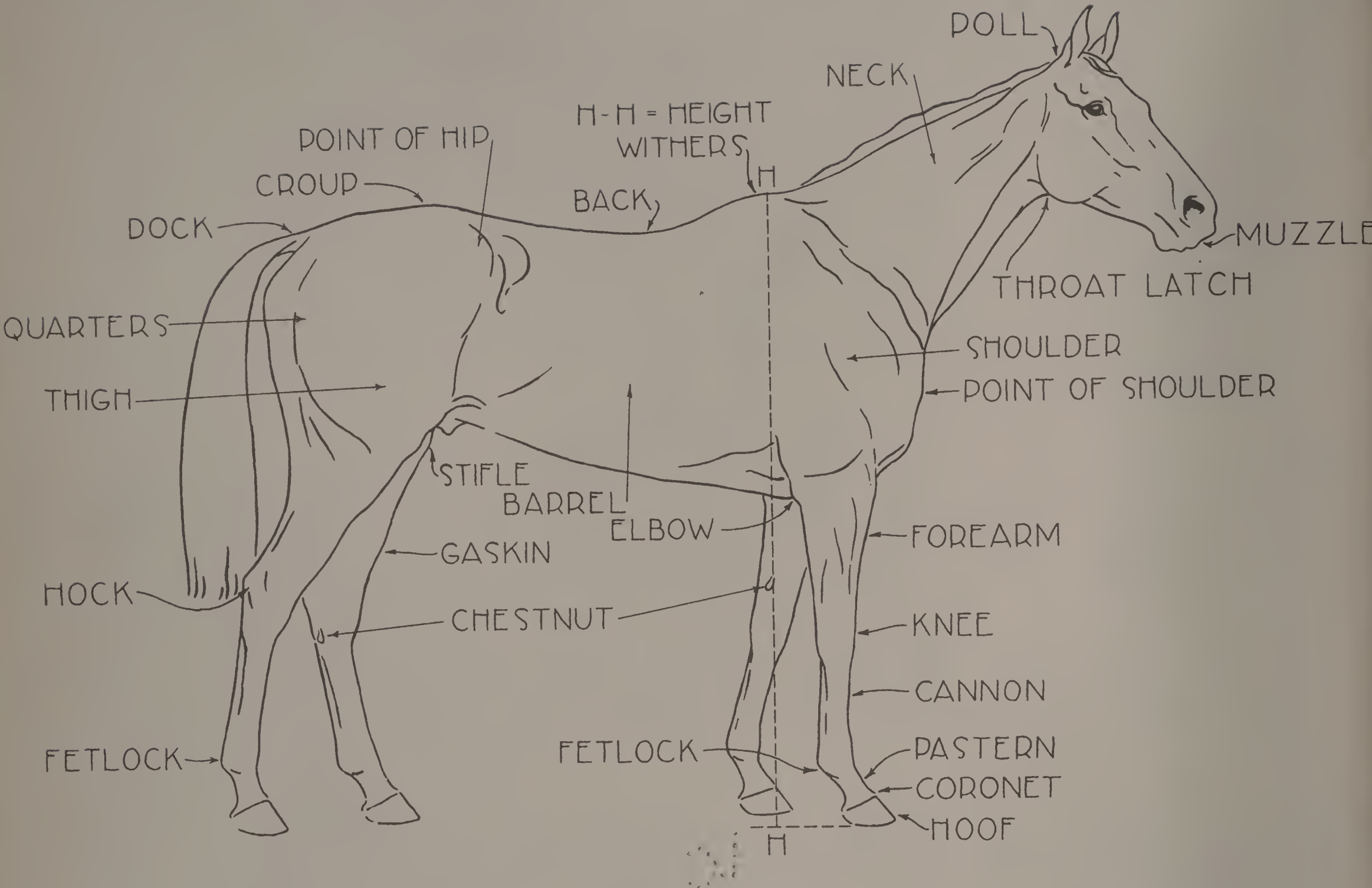


By JAMES L. CANNON

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*The Anatomy of the Horse*

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JUL 13 1938



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To  
*Willie Harper*



*The Thoroughbred*

## THE THOROUGHBRED

**M**ORE than two hundred years ago, three fine horses, to which all modern Thoroughbreds trace their ancestry, were imported into England. These were the Byerly Turk, imported in 1689, the Darley Arabian, in 1706, and the Godolphin Barb, about 1724. The Thoroughbred is one of the oldest of the improved breeds of horses known today, and is used for racing on turf and track.

The fame of the English Thoroughbred spread. About the time of George Washington, the people in this country sent to England for several of these Thoroughbreds so they could raise fine race horses of their own. The first on record to come to America was Bulle Rock, a son of the Darley Arabian. He was brought over to Virginia in 1730, and many more English Thoroughbreds followed later.

Man o' War (1917) was one of the greatest of American race horses. Known affectionately as "Big Red", he raced in 1919 and 1920, and later was retired to a

life of ease in the bluegrass of old Kentucky. Crusader, Battleship, and War Admiral are some of his famous sons, while Seabiscuit, the 1937 handicap champion, is his grandson.

Impatient of common work, and apt to be nervous and excitable, due in part to his strenuous training, the Thoroughbred has unusual speed, endurance, and courage of a high degree.

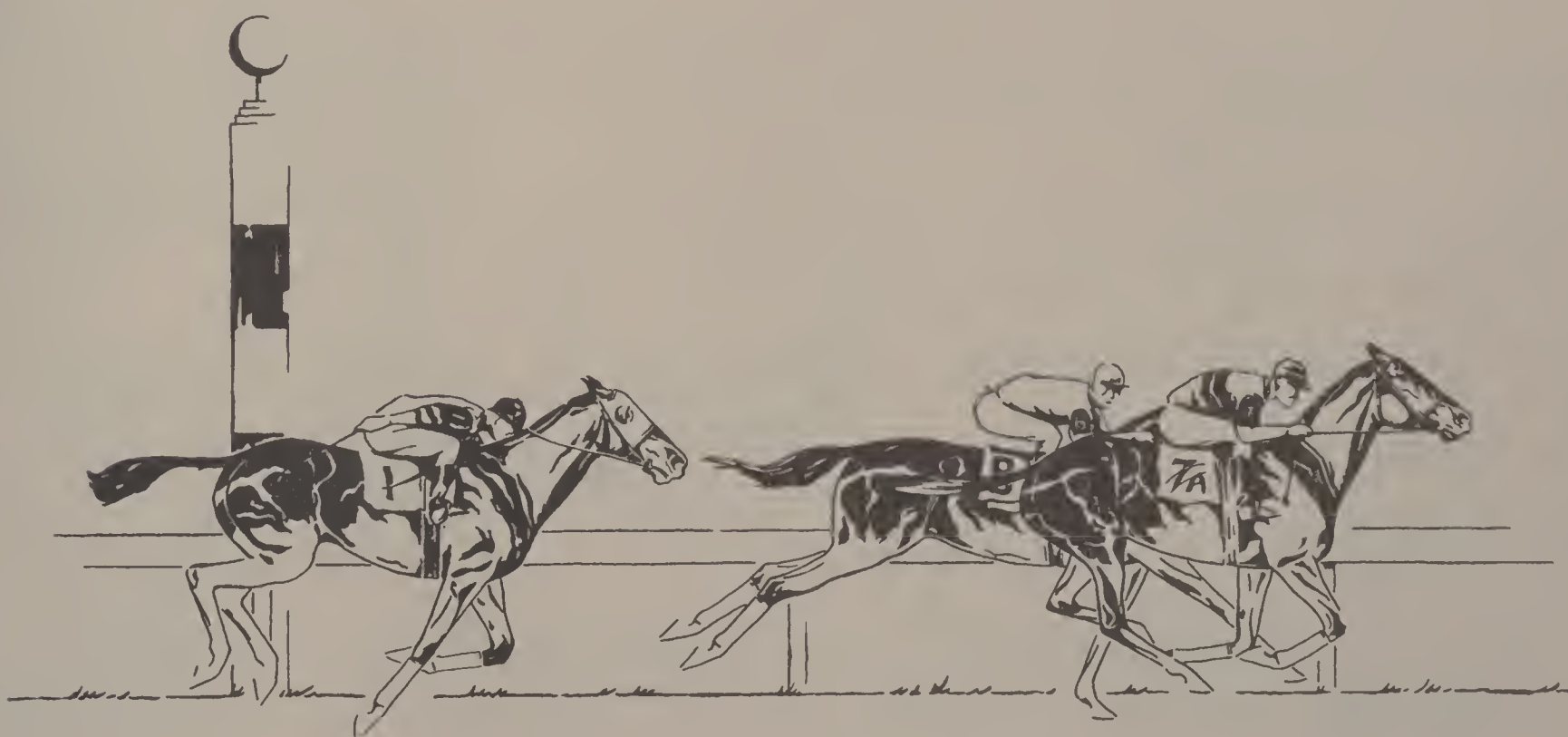
He is extremely refined in appearance. He has a slender, graceful body built for speed. His head and ears are small and well formed, his neck is long, slender, and muscular, and his legs are strong and clean-cut. He has a well developed chest and shoulders, and his quarters are strongly muscled and full of driving power. The Thoroughbred weighs about 1100 pounds, and averages between 15.2 and 16 hands in height. The hand used in measuring horses equals four inches.

The race horse is black, brown, bay, chestnut, or grey. He has no lines, stripes, or large spots. The markings, if any, usually are white stockings and a blaze or star of white on the face.

The men and boys who ride these Thoroughbred race horses are called jockeys. Theirs is a task that calls for the utmost in daring, courage, and fine horse-

manship. It is a thrilling experience to be perched up on a tiny saddle, with the horse running at a speed of nearly forty miles an hour.

The term "Thoroughbred" is often misused for purebred. Thoroughbred relates only to this specific breed of running horses, while purebred refers to any horse with pure blood lines. When someone speaks of a "thoroughbred" Arabian for example, what he should say is a purebred Arabian.



## THE CIRCUS HORSE

THE ring-horse used by the bareback riders is one of the most important horses in the circus. He is called a "rosinback" because of the powdered resin put on his back to keep the rider from slipping. Most ring-horses are white, cream, or dappled grey so that the resin will not show and because they are flashier in appearance than a dark-colored horse.

The "rosinback" is short-legged, broad-backed, and broad-hipped. He must be very calm and trustworthy, and is trained to pay no attention to things that would frighten and cause an ordinary horse to shy. This horse must continue his steady, springy motion around the ring, no matter what happens, until the music stops. If he were to make a mistake or go too fast or too slowly, the rider might fall and be hurt.

Circus people are always on the lookout for good "rosinbacks." These ring-horses are of no special breed and are often picked up in strange places. One of the best was called Colonel S. who was found while pull-



*The Circus Horse*

ing a vegetable wagon. Colonel S. was a large, short-legged, white horse with a kindly disposition. After a long, careful training he became one of the most famous ring-horses in circus history.

Among the other horses in the circus are the powerful draft animals that pull the heavy wagons to and from the railroad cars, the trick horses, the Wild West horses, the jumpers, and those that take part in the hippodrome races.





## THE POLO PONY

THE polo pony plays a very important part in the game of polo. This game, in its various forms, is more than 2000 years old. It originated in Persia and spread to Turkey and China, and was common in India in the 16th century. In England, polo was first played in 1869, and it was introduced to this country in 1876.

Polo has always been a game of skill. It has become a game of speed as well. At first most any kind of pony was used to follow the ball around. As the game developed, however, polo players found that they needed mounts of greater speed and stamina.

Up until 1915, the height of these ponies was limited to 14.2 hands. This meant that they actually were ponies, as 14.2 hands is the height which distinguishes a pony from a horse. At present no limit is placed on the size of the horses used in the game. The average polo mount of today stands 15.1 hands and weighs about 1000 pounds, so he is really a small horse and not a pony.

To be good polo mounts, these horses should be perfectly trained. They must be easily handled, must obey instantly the will of the rider, who controls the horse with his legs, his weight, and with the reins. Polo

mounts are usually five or six years old when they begin to play in important matches. There are many examples of ponies playing polo until they are fifteen and sixteen years of age.

Besides being easy to handle, the polo mount is very fast. He must possess the racing speed of the Thoroughbred. Of two teams with players of equal ability, the side with the faster horses has a great advantage.

For this reason, most polo mounts are Thoroughbred in type, although not usually purebred Thoroughbreds. After all, it is performance that counts most in a polo pony, not royal blood or high price. The Maltese Cat, a polo pony in the story by Rudyard Kipling, is an example of what a good polo mount should be.

Endurance and ruggedness are also required of horses that play polo, because the wear and tear on the mounts is great. There are quick starts and stops, abrupt turns, collisions with other horses, and long runs the length of the field.

Players change to fresh ponies at the end of each period in a game. With four players on a side, and a mounted umpire or two as well, quite a few mounts are used during the course of a match, because in a game there are six or more periods, called chukkers, lasting seven and one-half minutes each. A well mounted polo player needs at least five or six ponies; some players have a great many more.



*The Polo Pony*

## THE INDIAN PONY

THE Indian pony of the western plains and mountains was descended from the horses brought to North America by the Spaniards. In 1519, Cortez led the first expedition in the Spanish conquest of Mexico. He had with him sixteen fine horses, among which were two of the famed Jennet breed of Spain. Many more were landed by later adventurous Spaniards.

One of these Spanish explorers, Ferdinand de Soto, took a number of horses to Florida with him in 1539. Some of these horses were later abandoned west of the Mississippi River. These, together with the ones landed in Mexico, were the ancestors of the bands of wild horses that roamed the plains and mountains of the west and became known as Mustangs.

Before the coming of the Mustangs the Indian tribes traveled and hunted on foot. At first they were afraid of the strange animals, but later caught and tamed these wild horses and used them for mounts. Thus the



*The Indian Pony*

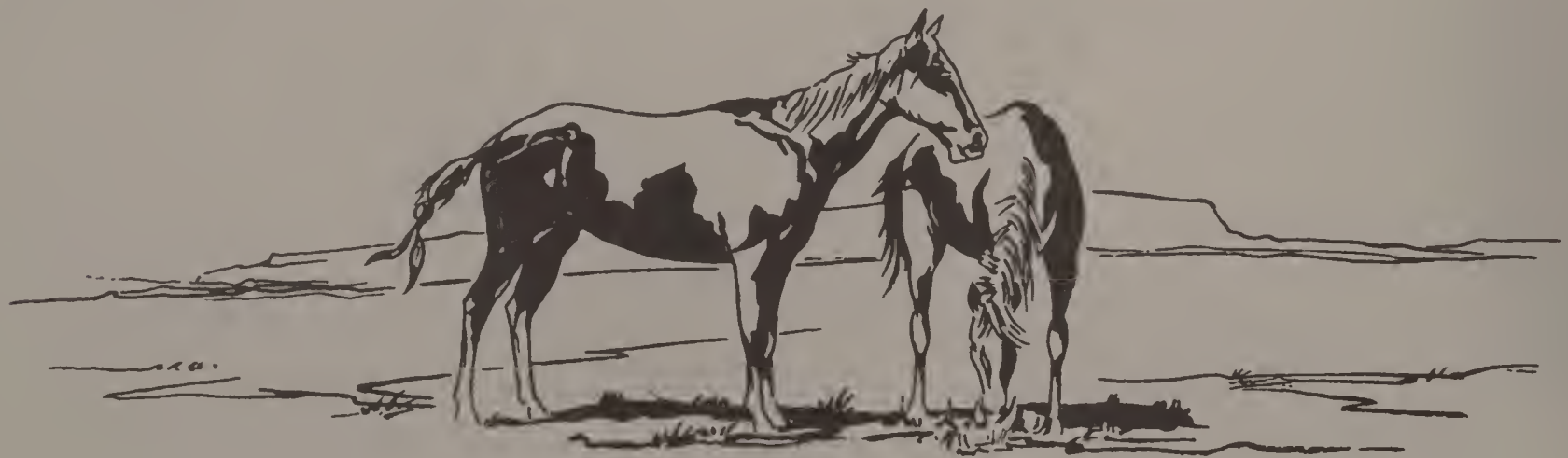


Indian's manner of living was greatly changed. He hunted the great herds of bison and he fought the white man on horseback.

The Indian pony, or Mustang, was a small horse because of his hard life and dependence on grass for food. To grow large and strong, a horse must have hay, oats, bran, and other foods besides grass, and he should be protected from the weather. In spite of this hard life, however, there were many very fine specimens to be found among the wild horses.

The Mustang usually resembled his Spanish ancestors, being black, bay, chestnut, dun, or gray. There is also the pinto type of Mustang, which is white with large spots of colored hair, or just the reverse.

Because of having to look out for himself, to find food and shelter, the Indian pony was very intelligent. He was extremely hardy, with great endurance for use in the plains and mountains of the West. He was sure-footed, and well able to defend himself from the attacks of the horse's most dangerous enemy, the mountain lion.



## THE DRAFT HORSE

SIZE and power, not speed, are required of draft horses. For centuries they have been the workers, tilling the soil and pulling heavy loads. The early horses of this type were probably not as large and powerful as those of today. Nevertheless they were strong, heavy animals.

In the olden days, these drafters played an important part in warfare. After mail and chain armor had been used for a long time, heavy plate armor for both man and beast became popular, and mounts of great size and strength were needed to carry the fighting men into battle. The total weight of knight and armor was often three hundred pounds and more, so no light, fancy-stepping charger would do. It was then that the draft horse was in his glory; he was the important and aristocratic horse of the day.

With the later change in military tactics, which called for long marches and rapid movement of armies,



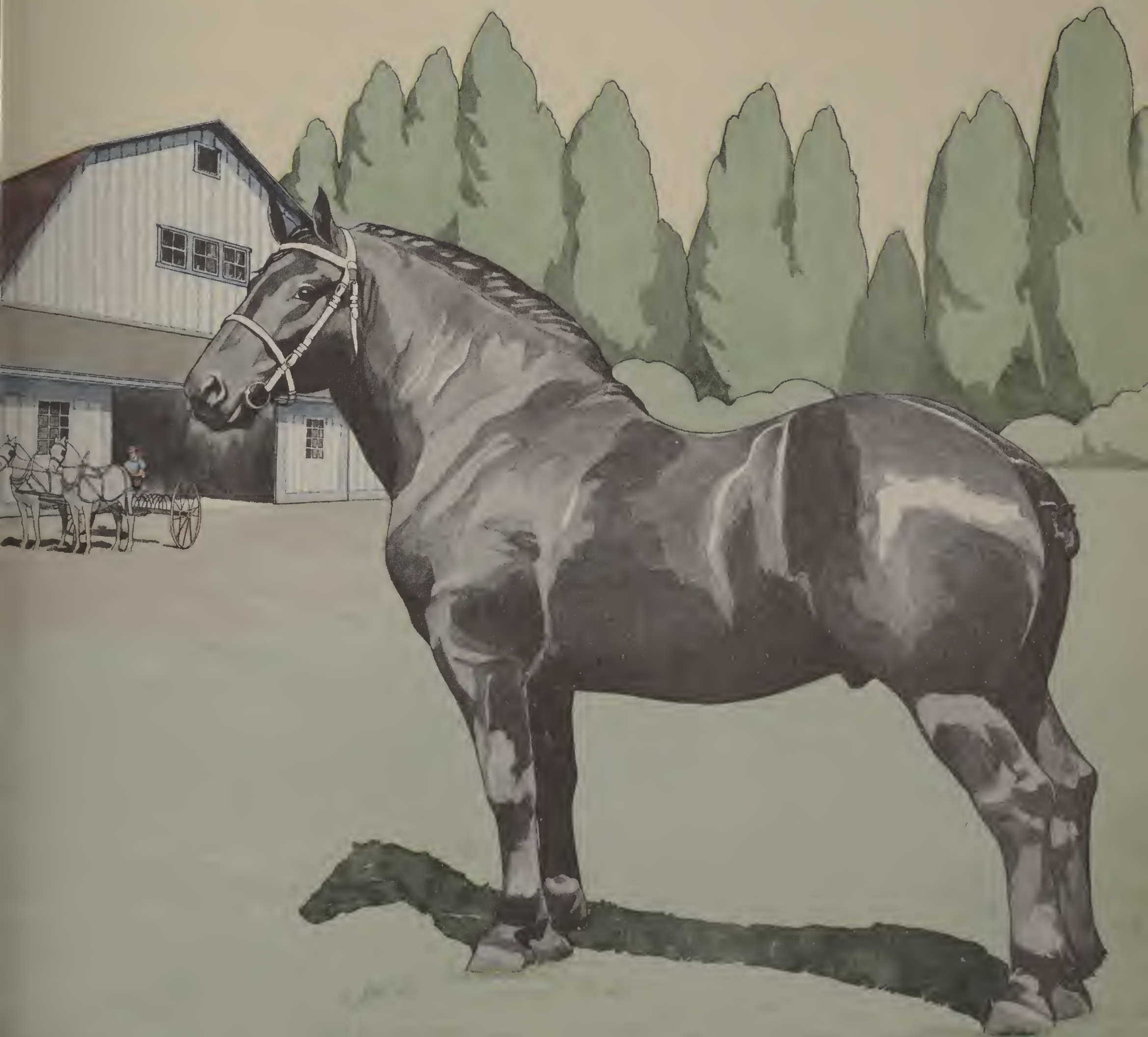
most of the heavy armor disappeared. A lighter, speedier horse became necessary, and back to the farms went the sturdy drafters.

The modern draft horse breeds are the Shire, Belgian, Percheron, Clydesdale, and Suffolk. These are all foreign in origin, but they have been imported and today are raised in this country as well.

The Shire, an English breed, is in general the largest of the draft horses. He often stands 17 hands in height and weighs 2000 pounds or more. He has a wide, deep body and heavy legs with much long hair below the knees and hocks. This is called the feather, and on this breed it is usually white. The Shire is bay, brown, or black in color and is a great horse of tremendous power.

The Belgian ranks next to the Shire in size. He is usually sorrel, or light chestnut, in color. The Belgian was first imported to this country in 1866 and is sec-





*The Percheron*

ond in numbers to the Percheron today. With a beautiful head and neck, a short, compact body, and short well-muscled legs, the Belgian is a draft horse of great strength and pulling power.

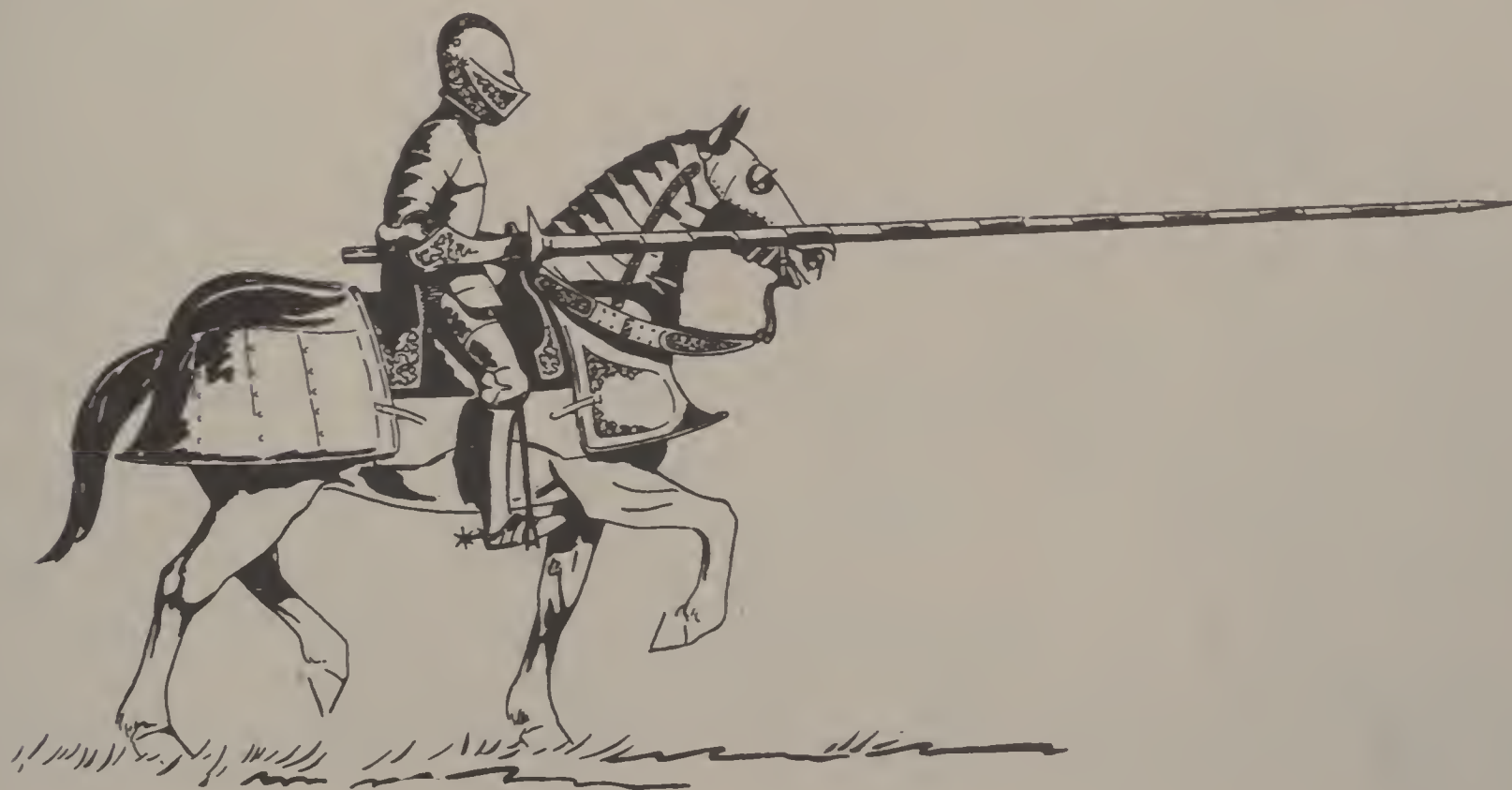
The Percheron is usually not as large as the Shire or the Belgian, but is heavier than the Clydesdale. He is French in origin, and is the most popular of the draft horse breeds in this country. Most Percherons are black or dappled grey. They show more refinement in head and neck than the other breeds in spite of weighing a ton or more. The head is of medium size, the neck well crested, the back short, and the legs are without the long hair or feather found on the Shire and the Clydesdale.

From Scotland comes the Clydesdale. Although he lacks the great weight of the Shire, Belgian, and Percheron, he is just right for medium draft work at the walk and trot. This breed has a moderate amount of feather on the backs of the lower legs, but not as much as the Shire. He stands about 16.3 hands and weighs on the average 1800 pounds. The Clydesdale is black, bay, brown, or chestnut in color, and usually has white markings on the face and lower legs.

The Suffolk, a native of England, is usually smaller

than the other breeds and is almost always chestnut in color. He stands from 15 to 16 hands in height and weighs up to 2000 pounds, which makes his body appear too heavy for the legs. For this reason, he is referred to as the Suffolk Punch.

These draft horse breeds are known as the “heavy” horses, while the other breeds are called the “light” horses.



## THE STANDARD BRED

**A**T Chester, New York, stands a monument to the memory of Hambletonian X, who lived from 1849 to 1876, and to whom most of the Standard Breds of today trace their ancestry. The greatest race for trotters, the Hambletonian, first run in 1926, is named in honor of this great horse. To harness racing he gave sons and daughters who were known as the fastest and sturdiest of trotters.

The Standard Bred, or trotting horse family, is an American breed. The original founder was Messenger, a Thoroughbred imported from England in 1788. Hambletonian X was descended from him, as well as from Bellfounder, who was also imported from England.

In those days, horses of this breed that were not fast enough for racing were put to work pulling buggies and light wagons, but the coming of the motor car put an end to that.

Modern Standard Breds are raised for harness rac-



*The Standard Bred*



ing, and the horses of this breed are either trotters or pacers. The difference between trotting and pacing is this: In the trot, the diagonal pairs of legs move together. In other words, the left rear leg and the right fore leg move together; then the right rear and the left fore together. The pacer moves the two legs on the same side together; then the two legs on the other side.

Thus both the trotter and the pacer always land on two legs. In contrast to this is the Thoroughbred race horse, or runner, whose weight at various positions in the run is supported by one leg only. The pace is faster than the trot, while the run or extended gallop is the fastest of all.

The greatest trotter today is Greyhound. Famous Standard Breds of former years were Flora Temple, Goldsmith Maid, Lou Dillon, and Peter Manning, while Peter Volo is the greatest living sire of this breed today.

Standard Breds are about the same size as Thoroughbreds, but are heavier in proportion to their height. They are bred for stamina and endurance as well as speed. The races for these trotters and pacers are divided into three heats; that is, the horse winning two out of three times is the winner of the race. It takes

a horse of endurance to trot two or three one-mile heats in a single afternoon.

At first these trotters were raced under the saddle. A short time later the light racing wagon was developed. Flora Temple was pulling one of these specially built four-wheeled racing wagons when she set a trotting record in 1859. Then the sulky with two large wheels came into favor, and finally, the modern, lightweight, bicycle sulky was developed.

The sport of harness racing has been growing in importance since the first Standard Bred trotters and pacers were developed, and today is enjoying great popularity.



## THE AMERICAN SADDLE HORSE

ALL breeds of horses are able to walk, trot and canter, but the American Saddle Horse has other gaits as well. This breed appears principally at horse shows, either in the three-gaited or in the five-gaited classes. Usually referred to as a "walk, trot" horse, the three-gaited saddle horse moves at the walk, trot, or canter. The five-gaited horse has as his specialties the walk, the slow gait, the trot, the canter, and the rack. The slow gaits are the running walk, the fox trot, and the single-foot. In the show ring, these saddle horses are further classified according to height.

This distinct American breed originated in Kentucky. The founder of the line was Denmark, a Thoroughbred foaled in 1839. His son, Gaine's Denmark, was the greatest saddle horse stallion, while later famous ones were Bourbon King and Rex Peavine. The development of the American Saddle Horse breed was due to the mixture of Thoroughbred blood with that of the best of the pacing, ambling mares of the day.

The American saddle-bred is a born show horse. With fine lines, unusual action, and an airy carriage, he is an easily recognized type. The three-gaited saddle horse appears in the show ring with the mane





*The Saddle Horse*

*The Shetland Pony*



trimmed short and the tail plucked, while the five-gaited has a long mane and a full, luxurious tail.

These horses have small heads set on gracefully arched necks, short backs, clean, shapely legs, and tails held in an elevated position. They vary from 14.2 to 16 hands in height and in color resemble the Thoroughbred. White stockings and white markings on the face help to give them an attractive appearance in the show ring.

### THE SHETLAND PONY

The Shetland pony originally came from the Shetland Islands off the north coast of Scotland, and was used as a miniature draft horse. He worked in the mines, and carried large loads of peat for his master. His small size, usually about 40 inches in height, was due in part to the hard life on the islands, lack of shelter, and scarcity of food. Those bred in this country have a tendency to be larger than the island-bred ponies.

The Shetland, however, is still a very small pony. He is of the blocky, draft horse type, having a wide body, short back, and short legs with heavy bone. The Shetland is usually dull-black, bay, or brown, while the pintos, or ponies with coats of dark hair marked with large spots of white, are very popular. The Shetland has a full mane and tail, and has a long, shaggy coat of hair in the winter.

## THE HUNTER

**T**HE Hunter is a type of horse rather than a distinct breed. He may be all Thoroughbred or only part Thoroughbred. This horse is used in fox hunting, for general riding across country, and for hunt racing. He also appears at the horse shows.

Ireland is an important source of this type, the Irish Hunter being noted for his high quality. He is a big, powerful, rangy animal with much speed and jumping ability.

To be a good hunter, a horse must be reliable and sure-footed. He should be able to carry his rider safely over fences, stone walls, streams, and almost any other obstacle met with in a run across country. Some of the fences are four and five feet in height, and it is a great thrill to be up on a hunter that can take them in his stride and not have to go around the long way.

This type of horse must be reasonably fast, should have endurance, or staying power, and should be well-mannered, especially with the hounds used in fox hunting.

When the Hunter makes his appearance at the horse show, he is classed either as a green or as a qualified hunter, depending on the experience he has had. Then the Hunters are also classed as lightweights and



*The Hunter*

as heavyweights. The lightweights are horses capable of carrying a rider weighing 160 pounds across country, while one which is able to carry 200 pounds is termed a heavyweight.

The average sized horse of this type stands from 15.2 to 16 hands and weighs around 1200 pounds. He is of powerful build and should have sloping shoulders with low points, as should all good riding horses. A characteristic of Hunters is that usually the hair on their legs is not clipped. This is to give protection against thickets and underbrush in a run across country. Another reason is that as a horse does not sweat through the skin of his legs, there is no need to clip the hair.

When a horse comes over a jump he does not land on both front feet, but on either one or the other. If the right fore foot touches first, it is followed by the left fore foot, then the right hind foot, followed by the left hind foot.

Horses can jump high and far, the high jump record being 8 ft. 3½ inches, while the longest jump on record is 39 ft.

At a horse show the difference between a Hunter and a horse that is strictly a jumper is this: The Hunter is judged both on his conformation, or physical build, and on his manner of jumping and of going between jumps, while the jumper is judged only on his ability to clear the obstacles.

## THE HACKNEY

**T**HE Hackney is the outstanding breed of fine harness horse. Before the automobile came into such general use he was in great favor as a carriage horse, but today, as with the gaited American Saddle Horse, most of the demand for this breed is for the show ring. For this use at the horse shows, purebred Hackneys are desired.

This breed varies greatly in size from the small pony of 12 hands to the 16 hand horse. The body of the Hackney is heavy in proportion to the height. With a strong, level back, deep chest, and heavy croup and quarters, he is a powerfully built horse and exhibits a fine quality.

The Hackney is usually bay, brown, or chestnut. When the coloring is accompanied by white stockings and a blaze or other marking of white on the face, a very attractive appearance is presented in the show ring. This horse usually has his tail docked, or cut short, and his mane pulled.

Like the Thoroughbred, the Hackney is of English origin. His family tree can be traced back to the Dar-



*The Hackney*

ley Arabian, although the first noteworthy Hackney of modern type was one known as the Schales horse, foaled about 1755. Most purebred Hackneys of today trace back to him.

With an extremely high trotting action, and a world of personality, this horse gives a flashy exhibition in the show ring. There are many types of classes in which the Hackney harness ponies and horses appear at the horse show. A wide variety of classes for single ponies and horses of various heights, for pairs and tandems, for the different sexes, and for novices, or beginners, gives them all a chance to appear at their best.

Although the Hackney inherits his fine quality and gait, skillful training is necessary to develop him for the show ring. When exhibited at the horse show, this horse shows his high action to best advantage when not driven at an excessive speed. High action, that is, extreme elevation of the knees and hocks, does not go with speed. The Hackney should go at a moderate rate—"park pace." In this way he is not thrown off balance and gives a performance more worthy of himself and of his trainer. What the true admirers of the Hackney want is well-balanced action.

For brilliance, personality, and flashy appearance, the Hackney is not surpassed by any other breed at the horse show.



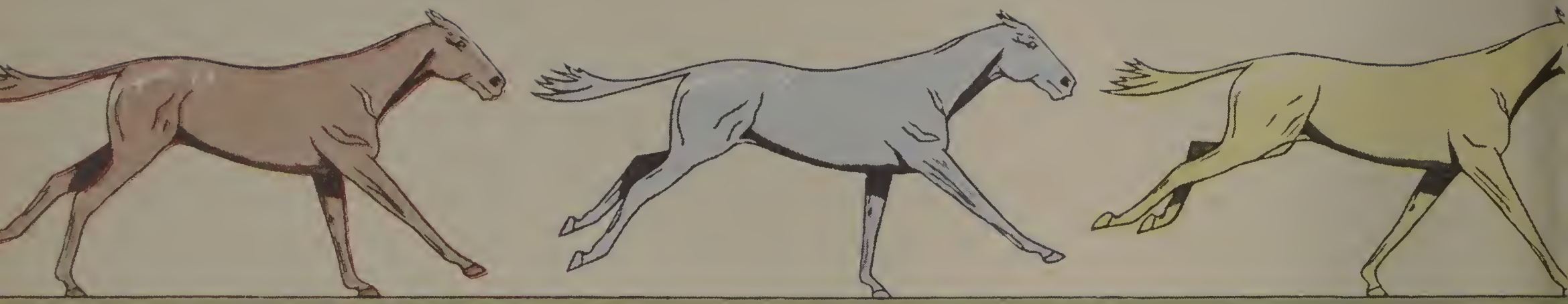
## THE POLICE HORSE

THE use of the motor car has made the horse a rare sight on the downtown streets of our modern cities. Other than those horses used by the mounted police, and an occasional one drawing a fruit peddler's wagon, very few are to be seen nowadays.

Horses selected for police duty are not restricted to any particular breed. They may be of the type generally used by the cavalry, that is, part Thoroughbred, or they may be part or pure Standard Bred.

The chief requirements are that this horse be patient and good-natured, intelligent, and easy to handle, not given to fits of shying and bolting should a scrap of paper chance to blow across his path. Shying would be dangerous on a downtown street crowded with motor traffic. When the officer guides his mount along through the moving cars, the horse must go without fear or hesitation.

Sturdy, and of good size, the police horse is able to carry a full-grown man around all day on the paved



streets. Shoes with rubber are often used to prevent slipping on wet pavements, and to protect the animal's hoofs from the hard surface.

This horse is especially trained for his duties. When the officer dismounts, the police horse stands very quietly without being tied; he is trusted to remain where his master leaves him. Perfectly at ease, and yet alert for the signal he is expecting, he does not move until he hears that whistle or call. Then this cleverly trained animal will walk, slowly and carefully, down the crowded street behind the officer.

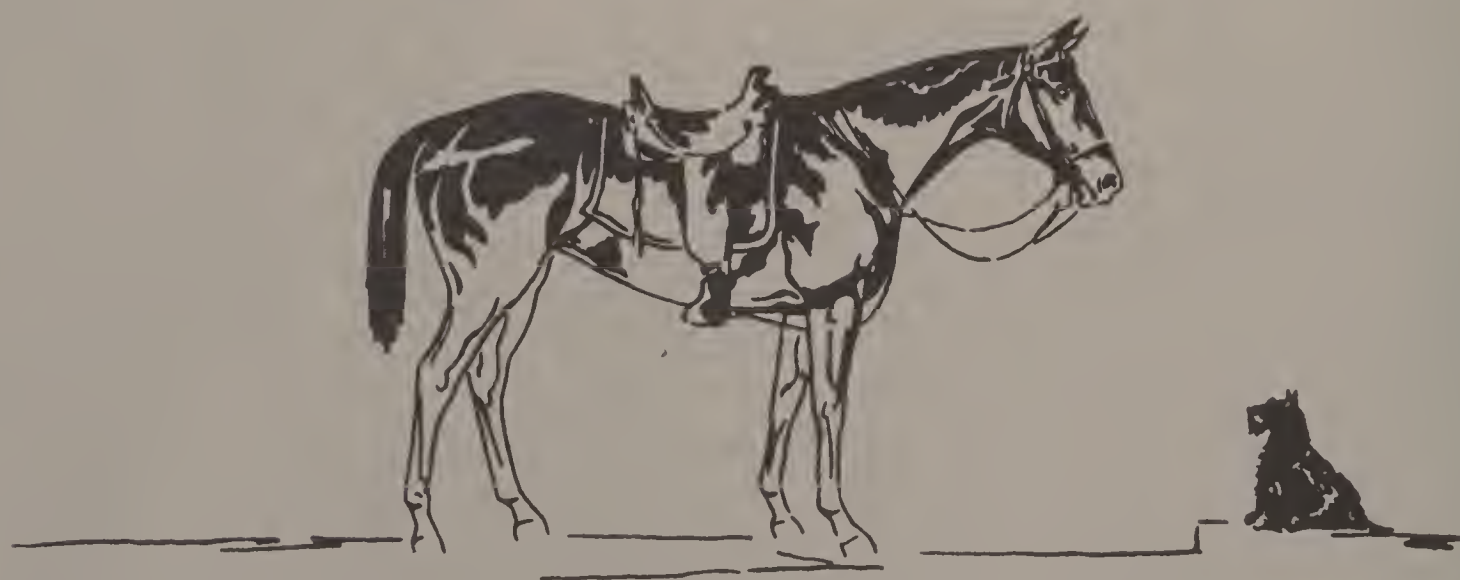
The screeching of brakes, the blasts of horns, and the clanging of street cars, noises that would give many another horse quite a shock, bother him not at all. He seems to understand that this is all part of his job as a public servant.



*The Police Horse*

Popular, and friendly with the children and other passers-by, the police horse receives much affectionate attention. He will take a lump of sugar from a child, barely touching the hand that offers it. When feeding a horse in this way, one should hold the hand out perfectly flat with the sugar in the palm.

Being friendly, easy-going, and having gentle manners, the horse used by the mounted policeman is no doubt one of the most reliable of riding horses.



## THE WESTERN COW PONY

THE early cow pony or range horse of the western plains and mountains was the same type of horse as that used by the Indians. He, too, was descended from the horses first brought to this country by the Spaniards in their conquest of Mexico and in later expeditions, and was also known as the Mustang.

When the Spaniards established their large ranchos in California and along the Mexican border, the Mustangs were used as cow ponies. They were hardy, sure-footed, little horses, capable of great endurance.

It was believed at first that the blood horse, or horse of Thoroughbred type, had no place in the cow camps or on the trails of the Far West. However, this idea has been outgrown, and today the range horse is usually part Thoroughbred.

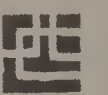
His size, speed, and appearance have been improved, although it would be difficult to breed a hardier, gamier horse than the original Mustang. The typical range horse commonly used by the cattleman of today stands 15 hands or more, and is black, bay, brown, chestnut, grey, or pinto in color.

The range horse is trained especially for his work, and is easily handled. He is used for riding herd, for roundups, and for general all around work. In riding herd, his work consists of keeping the stragglers up with the main group, and in preventing cattle from straying. A group of these horses, from which those to be used in the day's work are selected, is called a remuda.

In roundups, which are for the purpose of selecting stock for shipment and for branding the young calves and horses, the cow pony is used to cut out or separate the calves or young horses from the herd in order to rope them, preparatory to branding. When the cowboy gets his rope on a calf, the cow pony, to whose saddle pommel the rope is fastened, must keep the rope taut while the rider dismounts and approaches the calf.

The untamed or outlaw type of range horse is called a bronco or "bronk." He is merely an unbroken, savage, mean, or untrustworthy type of Mustang. The bucking bronco is used in rodeos, where an attempt is made to ride him. It takes an expert to stay on one of these unbroken horses for any length of time.

Although the Mustang still has his uses, the part-Thoroughbred type of cow pony or range horse is pushing him into the background. Great numbers of horses are raised in the western states and today these are usually part Thoroughbred.



*The Western Cow Pony*

## THE ARABIAN

FOR centuries the Arabian has been regarded as the most aristocratic of all breeds. The Arabs, noted for their love of fine horses, treat them with great care and affection, making them real members of the family.

The Arabian is a small horse, averaging from 14 to 15 hands in height, and has characteristics which set him apart from other breeds. He has only five vertebrae in his back instead of the usual six. The tail, set higher than is the case on other breeds, is carried in the air when the Arabian is in motion. He has a small, finely shaped head and ears, a long, flowing mane, a light, arched neck, and is usually higher at the croup than at the withers.

The fact that the Arabian was a desert horse, having to subsist on scanty food and little water, sometimes on little else than dried camel's milk, accounts somewhat for his small size. This noble breed, raised with abundant food in countries other than Arabia, and in a mild climate, is increasing in size without losing its



many fine qualities. In the limestone and bluegrass section of Tennessee are many American-bred Arabians which are 15 hands or more in height and which have all the refinement of their desert-bred ancestors.

Arabians are noted for their intelligence and courage, endurance, speed, and vitality. In color this breed is chestnut, bay, brown, or grey. Pure white Arabians are highly prized, but are not numerous.

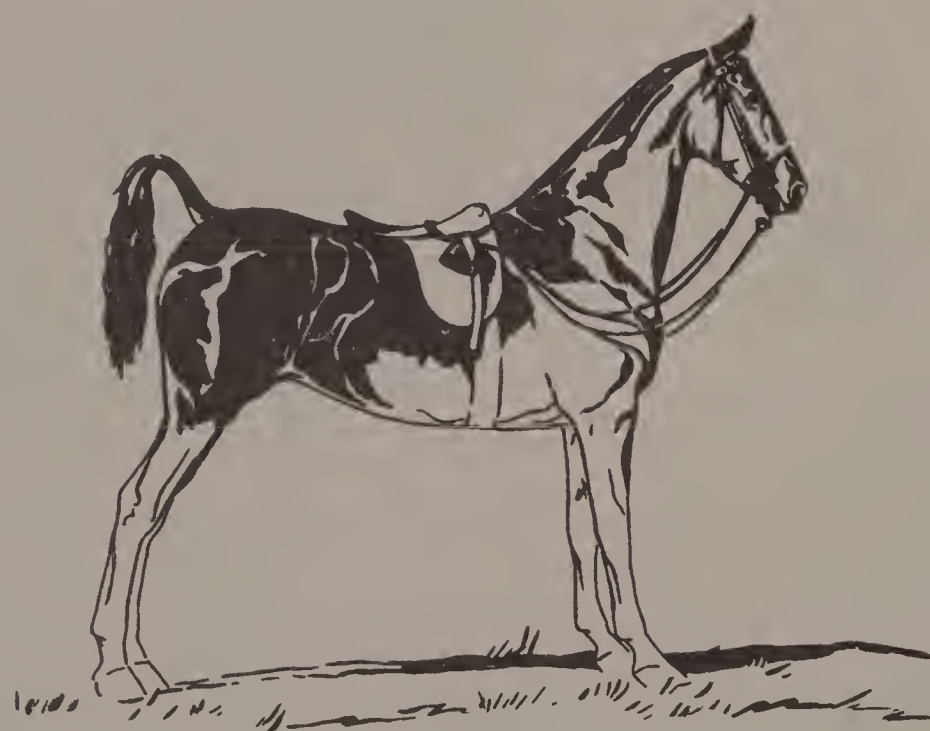


### THE PALOMINO

The Palomino is descended from the Arabian, and is called the Golden Horse of California. In the Spain of Queen Isabella's time, white Arabians and golden Palominos were among the favorite horses of the royalty, so when the Spaniards settled California in the early days it was natural that they should bring with them these two breeds.

The Palominos, as well as the Arabians, are used as riding horses. They are not great in number, because the true Palomino is not an easy horse to breed. He must be of a certain shade, not too light and not too dark. The perfect Palomino is a golden, honey color, lighter than a sorrel, with a cream-colored mane and tail.

The horses of this breed are found mostly in the Far West, and are eagerly sought after by circus owners, who prize them for their beautiful color, and their intelligence and high spirit.



### THE MORGAN

The Morgan, like the Standard Bred and the gaited Saddle Horse, is a real American breed.

He is descended from a horse called Justin Morgan, named after the man who owned him in New England almost 150 years ago. The horse Justin Morgan was a small, dark bay animal standing only 14 hands and



*The Palomino*

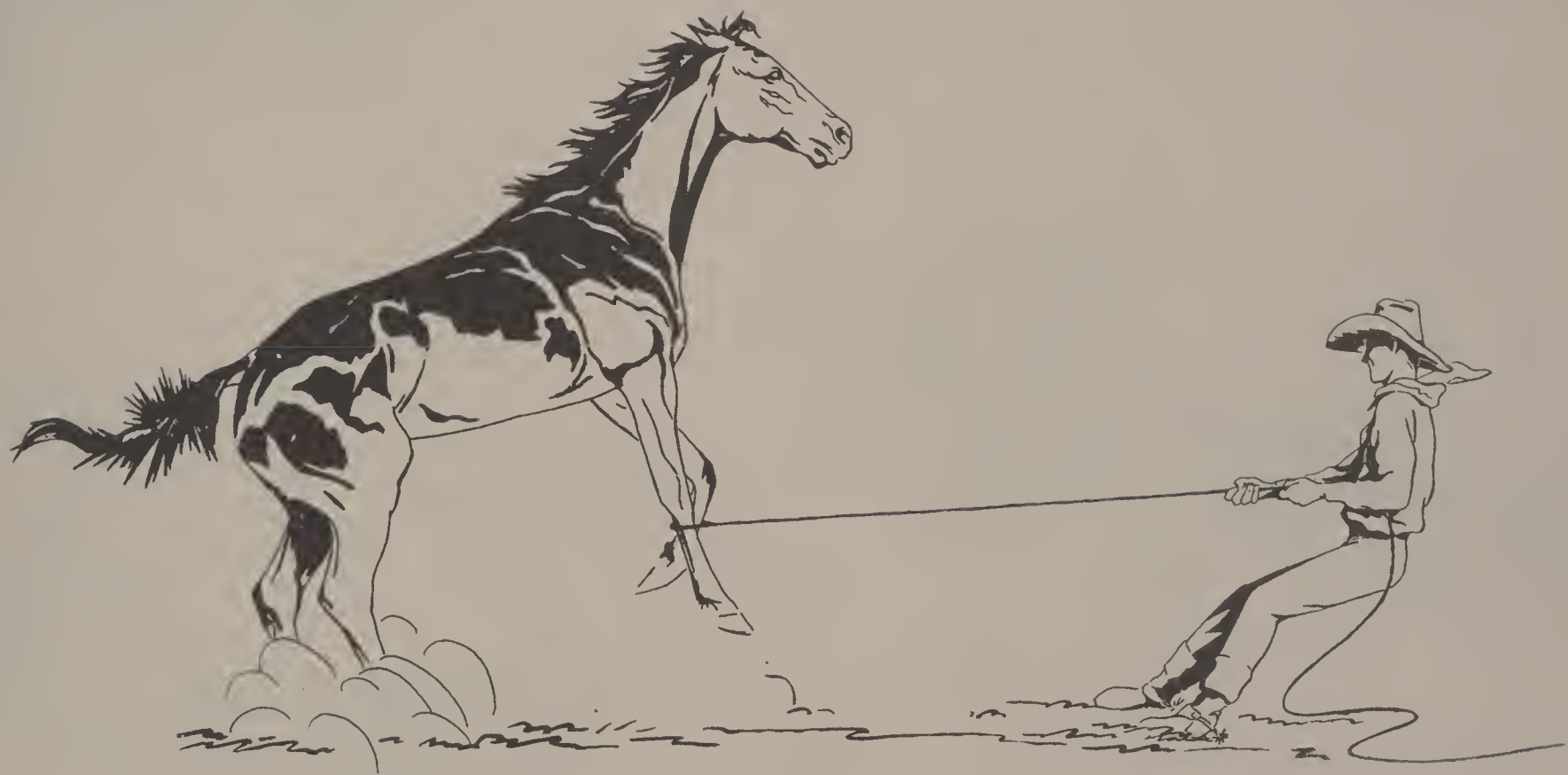
*The Arabian*

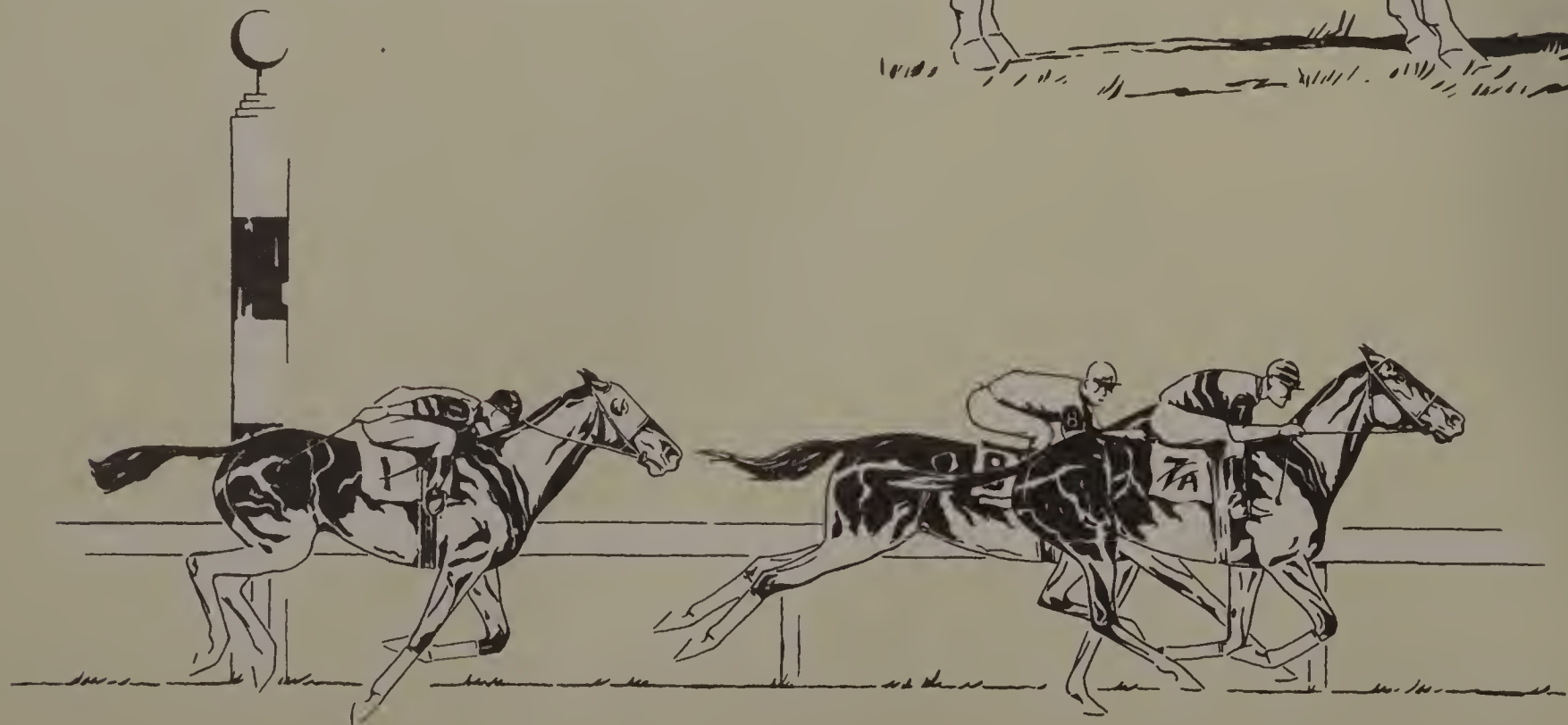
weighing less than 1000 pounds. However, this breed today is considerably larger, the average being 15 hands in height and 1100 pounds in weight.

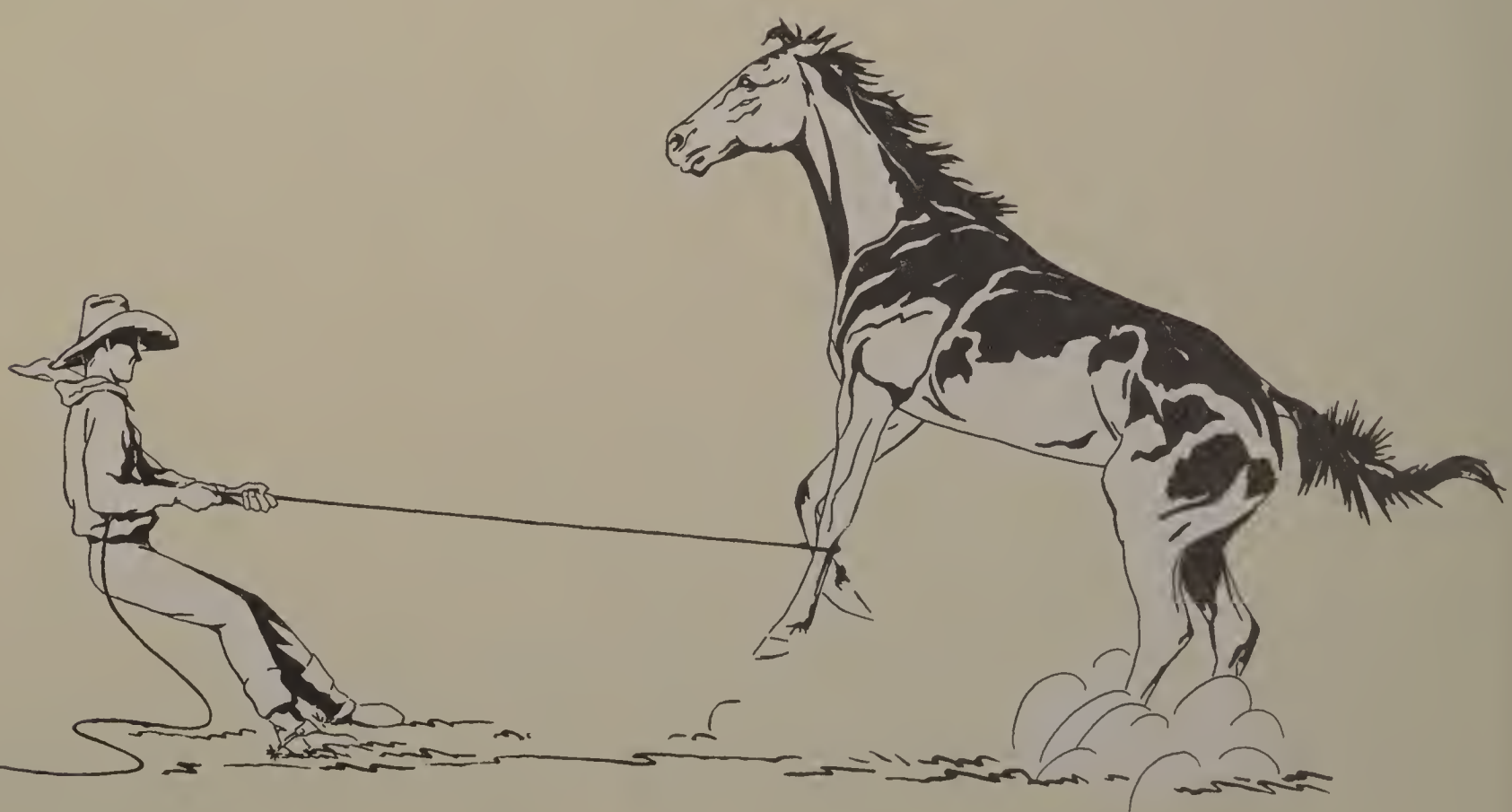
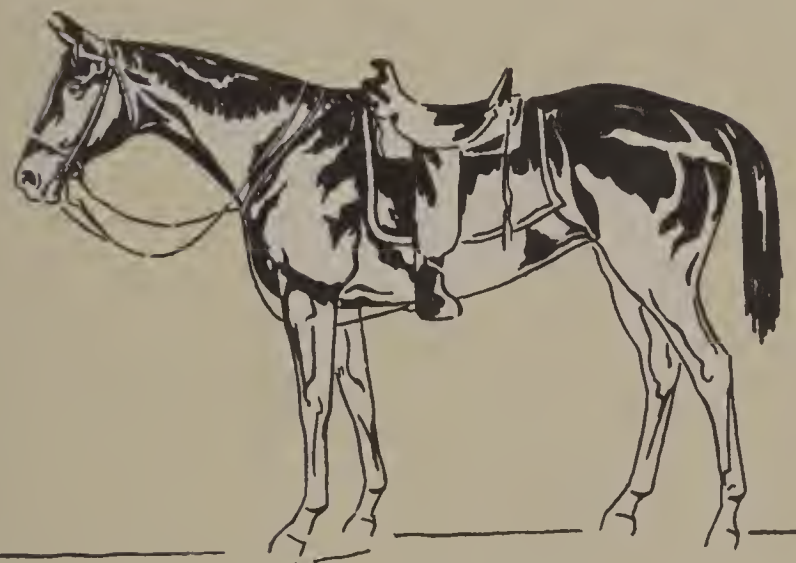
The Morgans are black, bay, brown, or chestnut. They have smooth lines and a stylish action. With their crested necks, small ears, and fine eyes, horses of this breed have an attractive appearance.

The Morgan, being sure-footed, rugged, and willing, makes a splendid hill country saddle horse, but is noted more for his useful qualities than for his speed.









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