or confiscated within 48 hours, he trailed 80 head of horses to the Yellowstone country and remained there in hiding for three years. This feeling persists. I attended a meeting in Twin Buttes in September 1987 during which the chief order of business was discussion of a "wild horse resolution" being developed by the tribe and the BIA to control feral horses in the western half of Fort Berthold Reservation. When I asked a tribal councilman his opinion of the proposal, which called for the arbitrary removal of unclaimed animals, he responded: "A horse means more than just a horse."

[2] Northern Plains Ranch Horses, 1850-1900

The foundation stock of the western cow pony and saddle horse was likewise the Spanish Mustang (Denhardt, 1947; Dobie, 1952; Remington, 1960; Wyman, 1963). This was especially true in the Southwest and California, where the Spanish had practiced large-scale horse breeding for generations and where wild herds reached their maximum density. For example, the founder of the famous King Ranch (Texas) purchased all of his foundation stock, bovine and equine, from Mexican breeders in 1853, and California-bred mustang mares were imported by ranchers throughout the West to establish saddle stock (Wyman, 1963: 99).

The mustang possessed qualities that made it ideal for range cattle work: stamina, thriftiness, and agility. However, ranchmen found them lacking in size and appearance, one man recalling them as "small, wiry little beasts capable of strenuous work day after day, but they were hard creatures to look at" (Wyman, 1963: 99).
The idea of "breeding up" the mustang to the desired size and proportion while retaining its stamina had been considered as early as 1835, when an Arkansas writer proclaimed, "There are some horses on the prairies equal to any on earth, particularly for the purpose of crossing" (Wyman, 1963: 119). This "program" was well underway on the Northern Plains by the 1870s, resulting in a variety of regional saddle horse types based on the Indian pony (Remington, 1960; Wyman, 1963).

The Cayuse Indians of the Northwest developed a distinctive type of horse that provided the foundation stock for the nineteenth-century ranchmen on the Northern Plains (Remington, 1960; Wyman, 1963). Lewis and Clark and other early travelers described them as solid-colored with white markings, or as roan, and equal in performance to any horse in the country. By the late nineteenth century, the "Cayuse" was distributed throughout the Northern Plains and was in demand for saddle horse breeding (Wyman, 1963). Frederick Remington described them in 1888:

The cayuse is generally roan in color, with always a tendency this way, no matter how slight. He is strongly built, heavily muscled, and the only bronco which possesses square quarters. In height he is about 14 hands; and while not possessed of the activity of the Texas horse, he has much more power. This native stock was a splendid foundation for the horse breeders of Montana and the Northwest to work on, and the Montana horse of commerce rates very high. This condition is not at all to the credit of the cayuse, but to a strain of horses early imported into Montana from the West and known as the Oregon horse, which breed had its foundation in the mustang (Remington, 1960: 108).

In an interview with Lewis Crawford in 1918, R. N. Sutherland of Great Falls, Montana, discussed the widespread use of the Cayuse-based "Montana horse" in the period 1870-1900. He told the story
of "Spokane, a Montana horse" raised by saloon keepers in Helena and then sent to Kentucky, where he defeated Thoroughbreds on the track, and mentioned that "James Malden on the Beaver Head brought out two Percheron studs in 1875 and started to cross them on Cayuses" (SHSND, Record Group 179).

The crossing of the Cayuse and other Indian strains with draft breeds (primarily Percheron) produced a distinctive type of horse known as the "Puddin Foot" throughout Montana and the Dakotas and, in the Northwest, the "Oregon Lummox" (Wyman, 1963: 104). This type of cross produced a utilitarian, all-purpose horse strong enough for the harness but light enough for a saddle mount. With the coming of large-scale, wealthy ranchers to the north in the period 1870-1900, the Indian horse was crossed with "hot bloods" from the East to produce a tough but more refined animal for range work and the eastern saddle horse market. For example, a Wyoming newspaper reported in 1881 that a T. A. Kent was crossing California mustang mares with imported stallions to produce for the market what he called "American broncos" (Wyman, 1945: 100).

Remington, whose first-hand descriptions and drawings of nineteenth-century horses constitute an important source of

5 "Hot blooded" horses are descended from the refined Andalusian, Arabian, and Thoroughbred breeds, "cold blooded" horses from the draft and pony stock of Northern Europe. Horses of common or unknown breeding are regarded as cold bloods.

6 During the nineteenth century, eastern horses such as U.S. Army Thoroughbreds were called "American horses" to differentiate them from Indian ponies. Thus the name "American bronco" designated an animal that was half of each.
information on their type, described the prevalence of cross-breeding the mustang/Indian pony, which he termed "bronco":

In summing up for the bronco, I will say that he is destined to become a distinguished element in the future horse of the continent, if for no other reason except that of his numbers. All over the west he is bred into the stock of the country, and of course always from the side of the dam... (1960: 108).

Remington's drawing entitled Northern Plains Cowboy,⁷ reproduced here as Figure 4, depicts a horse typical of the era: big-headed, peak hipped, and rangy—completely different from the heavily muscled and compact modern Quarter Horse (compare with Figure 7). Two of Remington's other drawings, Bronco Busters Saddling (Figure 5) and Thanksgiving Dinner (Figure 6), also illustrate the nineteenth-century ranch horse of the Northern Plains.

Texas cow ponies were introduced into the North by cattlemen in the late nineteenth century and gradually became the ideal. In the Southwest, the nineteenth-century cow pony was of three basic and interrelated types: the true Spanish Mustang, the cross-bred mustang/Indian pony, and the embryonic Quarter Horse (Denhardt, 1947, 1967; Dobie, 1952). In the nineteenth century, the Quarter Horse was a type only; it was not recognized as a true breed until 1941 (Denhardt, 1967). Developed initially as a sprint racer in the Northeast and South, early Quarter Horses traced to Thoroughbred sires. During the breed's modern evolution in the Southwest, the Quarter Horse received an influx of Spanish Mustang blood. Throughout the period 1850-1930, horses of this type were referred to by the name of prominent stallions, which founded

⁷ Northern Plains Cowboy is the title of this drawing as it appears in Frederic Remington's Own West. In Roosevelt's Ranch Life in the Far West it is called Line Riding in Winter.
lineage groups: "Cold Decks," "Steel Dusts," "Copper Bottoms," etc. (Denhardt, 1967; Wyman, 1963). These early Quarter Horses were brought into North Dakota and Montana by agents of the northward expanding cattle industry after 1870. Plate 2, an L. A. Huffman print of a chuck wagon on the Montana range, shows a small, refined, bald-faced horse that appears to be a Texas pony—a cross between the mustang and the early Quarter Horse. Figure 7 shows the prototypical Quarter Horse of the 1950s.

The memoirs of a nineteenth-century North Dakota rancher document both the use of the true Spanish Mustang in the area and the admiration of ranchers for the early Texas Quarter Horse. In 1955 Wallis Huidekoper, brother and former partner of A. C. Huidekoper in the Little Missouri Horse Company, recalled an occasion on which their foreman, George Woodman, took him on a horse-buying expedition to the Hash Knife Ranch in 1891. The Hash Knife, also known as the Continental Livestock Company, was a Texas-based organization headquartered just south of the North Dakota line near Hettinger. The owners, Hughes and Simpson, ran 60,000 head of cattle on ranges throughout the Dakotas, Montana, and Wyoming in addition to their Texas interests (Crawford, 1931: 488). Huidekoper and Woodman inspected 350 head of their horses with the idea of reselling them to eastern polo players, which proved to be a successful venture. Huidekoper remembered that the Hash Knife cow ponies:

... turned out to be as much of the far south as were the men and were an outstanding lot of small, Spanish-

8 Mustang traits exhibited by this horse include its size, bald face, and black-lined ears (Spanish Mustang Registry and Stud book; see Appendix A).
type animals, seeming to have inherited and maintained the qualities of their Arab and Barb blood. We could not learn from the ranch hands whether this high quality was due to careful early selection from the Spanish mustang herds or whether a quarter horse cross had been given by such studs as Steel Dust, Shiloh and Monmouth. 

... They were small, well-rounded animals of good colors and in excellent condition; had broad foreheads with nicely set, intelligent eyes, well pointed alert ears, wide nostrils, flat boned straight legs on short bodies with good fronts and quarters. Altogether a most pleasing lot of cow horses, approaching quarter-horse quality. Your author has often wondered if his fraternal ranch brothers realized the importance and necessary part horses of this type played in the development of the cattle west, for no other horse could have served the cowmen so well. Truly the Spaniards built better than they knew when they brought these horses to our shores (Huidekoper, 1955: 65).

In summary, the nineteenth-century ranch horse was the mustang or Indian pony (nearly equivalent terms), sometimes crossed with Thoroughbreds or other breeds. Cross-breeding the Indian horse was a practice introduced by wealthy, large-scale ranchers, and became more common over time. The average nineteenth-century cowboy, caring more for utility than appearance, relied on the so-called "common horse" of no particular breeding other than an inevitable origin in the local stock, such as the "Cayuse" or "Montana horse." Such horses were harder than their well-bred relations and able to withstand hard riding and the rigors of the winter range with little care. The importation of eastern breeds and the dispersal of the Texas Quarter Horse-type accompanied the rise and diffusion of large-scale cattle ranching in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The outcome of crossing these horses with the Indian pony/mustang produced the typical western ranch horse of the late nineteenth
and early twentieth centuries: "medium-sized, wiry, western-bred horses, a usual cross between a fairly well-bred horse and a bronco" (Wyman, 1963: 100). Horses of this type appear in L. A. Huffman's photograph entitled "The Line Camp" (Plate 3). These horses are larger and longer-bodied than the average Indian horse, yet they have the long head, sloping hip, coarse legs, and overall unrefined appearance of the "common," cross-bred type having its origins in the Indian horse and being the quintessential ranch animal of the late nineteenth century.

Medora Area Ranch Horses, 1880-1900

Written and photographic documentation of nineteenth-century Medora area horses suggests that the standard ranch horse of the era was the Indian horse or "bronco," probably sometimes being the Cayuse-based "Montana horse" common throughout the region. The Indian horse not only constituted a ready supply of animals, but, being accustomed to the country and able to withstand the rigors of range use, was the mount of choice for early-day cattlemen. In western North Dakota the same pattern that developed throughout the northern area is evident: the use of local, mustang-type horses and their gradual crossing or "breeding up" with Texas and eastern animals, to produce the common ranch type of 1880-1900.

The first ranch established in the Medora area was the Custer Trail Ranch, headquartered five miles south of town. (See map [Figure 8] for locations of nineteenth-century ranches in southwestern North Dakota.) The Custer Trail was started in 1880 as a joint venture between the four Eaton brothers and A. C.
Huidekoper, all formerly of Pennsylvania. At that time the Eatons had lived in the area for a number of years, subsisting as frontiersmen and hunting guides. Huidekoper quit the partnership after two years; under the Eatons the Custer Trail became the first dude ranch in the United States and the longest continually operated cattle ranch in North Dakota (Crawford, 1931: 508).

The noted St. Paul photographer T. W. Ingersoll photographed two of the Eaton brothers with their horses in 1883, the year Medora was founded. In Plate 4, Howard, the best known of the brothers, is shown astride a rangy, large-headed grey horse. This horse is clearly of mixed heritage, being much more long-boned and long-bodied than the average Indian horse and showing the effects of an eastern type such as Standardbred (trotters), but lacks true refinement and is "common." In contrast, Plate 5 shows Charlie Eaton beside a small, wiry, multi-colored horse typifying in every aspect the Plains mustang (note also the Spanish saddle with long tapaderos). The photographs of the two brothers document the presence of both the mustang horse and a more cross-bred variety in nineteenth-century western North Dakota; these were typical Northern Plains ranch horses.

Feral sources for some of these horses were indicated by Theodore Roosevelt. In his essay "In the Cattle Country," originally published in 1888, he wrote of the Medora area:

In a great many--indeed, in most--localities there are wild horses to be found, which, although invariably of domestic descent, being either themselves runaways from some ranch or Indian outfit, or else claiming such for their sires and dams, yet are quite as wild as the antelope on whose domain they have intruded. Ranchmen run in these horses whenever possible, and they are but
little more difficult to break than the so-called "tame animals." But the wild stallions are, whenever possible, shot; both because of their propensity for driving off the ranch mares, and because their incurable viciousness makes them always unsafe companions for other horses still more than for men... (Roosevelt, 1981: 23).

In describing local ranch horses, Roosevelt had this to say:

Our outfit may be taken as a sample of everyone else's. ... All our four-horse teams are strong, willing animals, though of no great size, being originally just "broncos," or unbroken native horses, like the others (Roosevelt, 1981: 33; emphasis added).

Saddle horses of Roosevelt's Maltese Cross Ranch are shown in Figure 9. The horses are small, with the long mane and tail typical of the mustang/Indian horse type. They appear to be largely solid-colored, although one seems to have a bald face and several have white socks.\(^9\)

The Marquis de Mores, founder of Medora and a consummate horseman, appears to have favored the Indian horse as a mount during his years as a frontier cattleman. A newspaper clipping from the de Mores family album dated 18 August 1883 recounts the visit of an Associated Press party to Medora that summer, during which the Marquis gave them a tour of the developing town. The writer noted that area residents rode "small Indian horses" and that the Marquis provided them with the same for their tour. Members of the party were afraid to mount these animals until a Major Bickham "selected a cream-colored Cayuse called Buckskin" and trotted him up and down the street, "whereupon the timid took courage from his example." The group then proceeded:

"Let me show you my abattoir, refrigerator house, cattle pens, stores and offices," said de Mores, lead-

\(^9\) The writing on this figure identifying the horses as mustangs was done by Bill Phillips of the BLM.
ing the way to where three ponies—"Indian cayuses"—were hitched. His own riding pony was stout and meddlesome and of a deep cream color.

The writer also remarked that the Marquis was equipped with a Mexican saddle, Spanish bit, horsehair reins, and Navajo blankets (SHSND; Record Group 206; Box 2: de Mores).

It is possible that the aforementioned "cream-colored cayuse" is the horse shown under De Mores (foreground) in Plate 6, a photograph taken by the famous frontier photographer L. A. Huffman. The other horses shown in the photograph are of the same general type: large-headed, peak-hipped "scrub horses" by today's standards, they were the standard western mount of 100 years ago. The bald-faced horse in the right background appears similar to descriptions of the Indian-based Cayuse or "Montana" type; the mount of the heeler shows pony characteristics.

Another photograph of the De Mores outfit taken by L. A. Huffman (Plate 7) shows a variety of types in use, the bald-faced roan on the left being the typical wiry, peak-hipped "bronco," or Indian type, the two others showing the effects of more "hot-blooded" breeding. (Note also that the "bronco" stands heavily laden and ground-tied, while the Thoroughbred-type is tied to the roan's saddle.)

A third Huffman photograph (Plate 8) depicting the De Mores mess wagon shows some of the company's coarse, large harness horses near the wagons, several "common" saddle horses on the bronco order to the right and in the remuda and, partially obscured by his rider, a close-coupled, heavy muscled horse foreshadowing the later Quarter Horse model (to left).
De Mores seems to have had none of the prejudice against the Indian horse that was common of easterners and that might be expected of a European accustomed to riding Thoroughbreds. Evidently he recognized the suitability of the type for the rugged badlands environment, where range riding was an arduous affair requiring a sure-footed and long-winded horse. The Marquis spent a good deal of his time in the saddle and liked to be well-mounted. In addition, it is probable that the old west flavor associated with the "bronco" appealed to the rugged, transplanted Frenchman.

In 1883 de Mores purchased 250 Sioux horses that had been confiscated from Sitting Bull and his sub-chiefs when they surrendered at Fort Buford in 1881 from the post traders, Leighton, Jordan, and Hedderick (Crawford, 1931: 492; Dobie, 1952: 90; Gopen, 1979: 21; Huidekoper, 1955: 64). This purchase included all of the mares; the remaining 120 head owned by the firm were sold to Charles Baldwin along with the trader's ranch on Nessen Flats (Crawford, 1931: 492). Apparently the Marquis intended to begin breeding horses on a large scale, with these Sioux mares as foundation stock (Gopen, 1979: 21). From all accounts De Mores was an excellent rider and judge of horseflesh, one commentator noting that despite his questionable business acumen, it would have been difficult for anyone to have bested him in a horse trade (Dresden, 1946: 155).

A biographer of De Mores makes the claim that he followed the general practice of breeding horses on the range, mare bands being turned loose under the protection of a stallion (Droulers,
1932: 32). Another mentions that at one time De Mores ran large numbers of horses for breeding purposes in addition to 150 head of Montana "broncos" he purchased for his ill-fated stage line, and that large numbers of riders were required to gather them (Dresden, 1946: 173). His foreman, John Goodall, told historian Lewis Crawford on 8 February 1918 that during round-ups,

We worked the mouth of the Little Beaver, up to the head, across from the head of the Little Beaver to the Missouri River, up the Little Missouri to Medora and had a side line running from Wibaux off to the Yellowstone and down the Yellowstone aways (SHSND; Record Group 179).

On 14 February 1884 the Badlands Cowboy printed a lengthy commentary on the merits of the Indian pony, which was possibly authored by either De Mores or A. C. Huidekoper:

"The possibilities of the Sioux pony have never been dreamed of," said a cow-gentleman (one of the aristocracy of the genus cowboy) to a Pioneer Press reporter recently. "You know the old plains saying, 'Let a white man ride an Indian pony until he can't make him move a step further, and, dismounting, give place to a Sioux--the latter will ride the brute thirty miles further that day.' I tell you they're wonderful animals on their native health. They don't seem to take kindly to civilization, I know, but that's because they never had a fair chance. Why, I can call to mind hundreds of feats performed, to remember makes me tired in seven sorts of ways when I read the rot about Arab steeds and desert barbs that the school books are full of."

"Unpromising looking? Well, they are not pretty as a rule, though I've seen some dandies. . . ."

"I'd like to see some attention paid to raising good Sioux ponies. You can't imagine how quickly they show the effects of half-way decent care and plentiful food. Tricky? Well, not so terrible. You see they regard their masters as natural enemies, and treat them accordingly. They are apt to shy badly, but that's because they've stepped into prairie-dog or fox holes occasionally, and every tuft of long grass or mound of gravel creates suspicion. Ilges can tell you how his five companies of infantry got through the terrible
campaign of 1880-81. The dough-boys had Indian ponies for months and the little devils would paw away the snow to get grass--mercury frozen in the tube, mind you--and when they reached Keogh, after the campaign, were actually fat and full of kick"--Pioneer Press.

Although there is little evidence for a tribally-specific horse type among the Sioux, it appears that like other Northern Plains groups they preferred relatively large, loud-colored animals. In a conversation with Charles DeLand, Sitting Bull was asked, "Are you a chief by inheritance and if not, what deeds of bravery gave you the title?" "My father's name was 'The Jumping Bull,'" he replied. "My father was a very rich man and owned many ponies in four colors: roans, white, and grey."11

Two of Sitting Bull's confederates, Long Dog and Rain in the Face, are shown horseback in Figures 10 and 11. The horses evince the coarse, rangy build, steeply sloping hips, and large heads synonymous with the term "Indian pony." The dark grey or blue roan horse of Long Dog (Figure 10) represents the heavy end of the spectrum, while the "favorite pony" of Rain in the Face (Figure 11), a bald-faced paint, is smaller and lighter. Compare these horses with THRO park horses shown in Photos No. 114-117.

In two photographs from the De Mores collection, the Marquise is shown with what is presumed to have been her personal

10 The speaker here is referring to Major Guido Ilges, commander of the Fifth Infantry in a winter campaign against "hostile" Minneconjou and Yanktonais Sioux during 1880-1881. Among other actions, Major Ilges attacked Chief Gall's camp along the Missouri River in Montana on 2 January 1881. The winter was an especially severe one. Horses captured from the Indians were distributed among the scouts and enlisted men. See De Mallie, 1986.

11 North Dakota History, vol. 29, 1962: 219-220 (SHSND). Sitting Bull meant that his father had both blue and red roans in addition to white and grey horses.
saddle horse (Plates 9 and 10). The horse is a coarse, stout little roan, the prototypical bronco or Indian pony. The horse's vigilant attitude reveals a lack of confidence in its station, and it is likely that this horse was of Indian stock, perhaps one of the Sioux ponies purchased in 1883 (most of which would have been broken to ride). It is well known that Medora was proud of her frontier-valued skills as a markswoman and horsewoman; she would have taken pride in commanding such a horse. The square set, large head, roan coloration, and bald face of this animal is strikingly similar to the THRO park type.

The Marquis evidently abandoned the notion of breeding horses on a large scale, perhaps because he was having difficulty keeping track of them. Some of his horses were stolen in February of 1884, prompting him to initiate a long-term vendetta against horse thieves, for which he enlisted the aid of the Pinkerton Detective Agency (Dresden, 1946: 181). In the spring of 1884 his Northern Pacific Refrigerator Car Company advertised horses for sale:

   The company advertises for sale its entire lot of horses consisting of 60 mares, about 15 two and three-year olds, 20 yearling colts, 40 American Mares and 3 stallions, one of which is a thoroughbred Clydesdale, one Norman and one Kentucky Messenger. Also 3 pairs of mules. Enquire at the stables of the company, Medora Dak. (Badlands Cowboy, 1 May 1884).

Sylvane Ferris, a cowboy who worked for the OX and Maltese Cross ranches, and who was in the Medora area from 1881 to 1910 (see Figure 9), told Lewis Crawford on 2 April 1918 that De Mores was one of several area ranchers who purchased horses heavily after the bad winter of 1886–87, thinking their raising more profitable
than cattle, as horses more easily withstood severe winters. Evidently the Marquis did not immediately liquidate all of his livestock when he returned to Europe in 1885. De Mores' foreman, John Goodall, mentioned to Crawford that after the Marquis' departure, he "cleaned up all their horses and cattle, in 1897" (SHSND; Record Group 179).

In the summer of 1884, 60 of De Mores' Sioux mares (presumably those advertised for sale) were purchased by A. C. Huidekoper, scion of a wealthy Pennsylvania Dutch family and the earliest large-scale rancher in North Dakota (see Plate 11). Huidekoper first visited the Medora area on a buffalo hunting expedition in 1880 and founded the Custer Trail Ranch in partnership with the Eaton brothers the following year. After dissolving that association in 1882, Huidekoper purchased 23,000 acres of railroad lands in Township 136, Range 102. Through subsequent deals he came to own or control some 70,000 acres, on which he initially ran both cattle and horses. The headquarters of the ranch were located on Deep Creek, 10 miles west of Amidon, the range bounded by the Little Missouri River from Medora to Camp Cook, South Dakota, and from Medora to Gladstone on the Northern Pacific Railroad line (Crawford, 1931: 502; Huidekoper, 1947: 23-24).

This ranch was known as the HT (brand H), corporate name the Little Missouri Horse Company. The HT was not only the largest horse breeding operation ever run in North Dakota but also one of the largest in the country. "There was no ranch of equal
size and importance east or west."\textsuperscript{12} Like several other ranchers, Huidekoper switched entirely to raising horses after the winter of 1886-87; by the time he sold out to Fred Pabst (of brewery fame) in 1906, he was running 4,000 head on unfenced range, "and of course we sold many horses each year" (Huidekoper, 1947: 34).

Huidekoper founded his horse breeding program on Percherons, importing world-class draft stock from France and from eastern breeders. The basis of his saddle stock were 800 "western horses--some Texas and some Indian."\textsuperscript{13} In 1881 he purchased a grey Thoroughbred stallion from Kentucky, grandson of the famous sire Lexington (Huidekoper, 1947; Sellnow, 1985). This horse, named "Bound" but called "Grey Wolf" on the range, was a grey stallion 15.3 hh and proved to be an excellent sire (Huidekoper, 1947: 23).

With De Mores' Sioux mares for sale, Huidekoper decided they would be the ideal cross for the Thoroughbred to produce long-winded, fast saddle horses of a superior type. As Wallis Huidekoper explained:

\begin{quote}
The horses I handled were of a different type from the general run of cow outfits in that they were picked geldings from mustang mares, bred to a Kentucky thoroughbred race horse, grandson of the great Lexington. The reason for this extreme cross was to obtain a rugged and fast horse capable of long and hard riding and one that could outrun and range-gather scattered manadas and wandering horses. These mounts were just right for this purpose, but too hot-blooded for general cow work.

The mustang mares had an interesting history in that they formerly belonged to Sitting Bull. When that wily Sioux Medicine Man surrendered at Fort Buford the sum-
\end{quote}

\textsuperscript{12} Fargo Forum 19 (December, n.y.).

\textsuperscript{13} Lewis Crawford interview with HT foreman Frank Roberts, 10 June 1921 (SHSND; Record Group 179).
mer of 1881, after his four years exile in Canada, his ponies were confiscated and sold at public auction. Some 350 of these Indian horses were bought by the post traders, Leighton, Jordan and Hedderick who, a year and a half later, sold 250 head including all mares, to that much talked of adventurer and visionary stockman and founder of the town of Medora, the Marquis de Mores. As these mares were the type wanted by my outfit, the Little Missouri Horse Company, a deal was made with the Marquis whereby some 60 mares were bought, our choice. They were well suited as equine matrons to go with a thoroughbred stud: solid colors, strong and active, uniform in type, good rustlers, and easy keepers. Many were war ponies and had been in the battle of the Little Big Horn, for they carried scars from the rifles of Custer's troopers (Huidekoper, 1955: 64).

The production of Sioux-Thoroughbred crosses, which Huidekoper called "American horses," soon became a major focus of the ranch operation. Many were shipped east to be sold as polo ponies, one selling for $1,500 and another for $2,500 (Huidekoper, 1924: 35).

HT horses were also sold locally. Lincoln Lang, a rancher contemporary with Huidekoper and Roosevelt, described a saddle horse he had that often tried to run away with him: "Of a sullen temperament, this animal was a cross between Kentucky racing stock and a mustang mare, showing every indication of speed" (Lang, 1926:288). Lang also recounted that in general,

The western range horses of the early days usually comprised an intermixture of breeds. . . . As a rule, the aboriginal strain was present to a greater or lesser extent. Sooner or later, it was likely to crop out, usually to your disadvantage (Lang, 1926:285).

A horse that appears to be of such mixed breeding appears with Charlie Burdick in Plate 17, a photograph taken in nineteenth-century Medora. The horse is long-legged, lightly muscled, and narrow in the chest, characteristics associated with the
Thoroughbred breed. The horse is taller than a Texas or mustang-based cow pony, yet retains the unrefined head and overall appearance of a "common" horse of indeterminate breeding.

A contemporary observer described the visit of photographer T. W. Ingersoll to the HT:

Since the horses were the main attraction on the ranch, Ingersoll took pictures of the horses. At one time a hundred or more were being driven over rocky ridges of the Badlands by cowboys heading for the HT barns. One could see the beauty and activeness of those Sioux mares and their offspring. Mr. Huidekoper had purchased these fine mares from the Indians and bred them with racing thoroughbreds and Percheron stallions from Kentucky. The colts, a strong, active lot he called "American Horses," made fine range riding horses and back east they sold well for athletic purposes. They were of many colors including greys, buckskins, sorrels, pintos, strawberry roans, and roans. Many had white faces. . . (Noyce, 1959:34).

Several of the Ingersoll photographs are reproduced here.

In Plate 12, a group of about 40 mares, presumably the above-mentioned Sioux mares, are being driven over a rise. Plate 13 shows a group of range mares with a Percheron stallion named "Napoleon." The mares appear to be of various types; some may be "Oregon" mares (also of Indian origin) that Huidekoper purchased to cross with his stallions (Huidekoper, 1947: 34).

Plate 14 is the only documented photograph of a Sioux-Thoroughbred cross bred by the HT. The rider is ranch foreman George Woodman. In size and overall conformation, this horse seems to favor the Thoroughbred sire although the hip, neck, and somewhat "common" appearance of the horse is suggestive of an Indian type. Note also that the horse may have a glass (blue) eye. Wallis Huidekoper inscribed on the back of the photograph
that this horse was "typical" of the Sioux-Thoroughbred crosses; if so, the Sioux mares must have been better proportioned than the average Indian pony. The horse is well built for the era.

Two additional photographs that are probably from the same series are reproduced here as Plates 15 and 16. In Plate 15, several HT riders are posed with their horses in front of a ranch barn. Another possible Sioux-Thoroughbred cross appears third from left. This horse has the roan coloration and bald face of an Indian horse (characteristics that have been eliminated in most recognized breeds), yet the size, length, and shoulder of a Thoroughbred. The bald-faced roan third from the right could have a similar background (note hip). The small black horse second from the right appears to be on the order of a mustang-based Texas pony, while the more heavily muscled dappled grey approaches the early Quarter Horse type.

Plate 16 depicts a group of HT employees and wives standing outside of a sod-covered ranch house. The horse in this photograph is the archetypal large-headed, small roan "bronco" or Indian type. Note the similarity between this horse and the one descending the hill in Plate 11; also compare this horse to the one shown with the Marquise in Plates 9 and 10.

It is possible that some of De Mores' and Huidekoper's horses became feral, joining up with the wild stock extant in the area. During the open range era such losses were not uncommon, Roosevelt commenting that "every outfit always has certain of its horses at large; and if they remain out long enough they become as wild and wary as deer and have to be regularly run down and sur-
rounded" (Roosevelt, 1981: 20). Most ranch stock was range-bred, and it was the instinct of the wild stallions to gather free-roaming mares. In describing his production of "American horses" (the Sioux crosses), A. C. Huidekoper said:

The breeding of this herd was a most interesting problem. With the exception of some full-blooded stallions, the rest of the herd ran at large. . . .

The ranch work commenced with the spring round-up. The country was ridden for 100 miles square, or more. We had out-lying camps known as the "Spear" and the "Buffalo Spring" ranches. The colts were branded and tallied. Then some 50 mares were selected and a stallion selected that we thought would improve the confirmation [sic] of the breeding. This stallion and his harem were put in charge of a cowboy, and for a week were herded by day and corralled at night. At the end of a week, the stallion would know his mares. . . . He would take them to some location favored by him, and there you would find him with his herd during breeding season; after the breeding season they might separate into smaller bunches. . . . After the different stallions were located with their herds, it was almost as easy to find a herd as to find a man in the directory. You might have to ride fifty miles, but you would find him at the selected spot (Huidekoper, 1947: 35).

Pennsylvania artist Thomas Eakins spent three months in the Little Missouri Badlands, from 26 July to 20 October 1887. Eakins repaired to the BT Ranch along Magpie Creek (west of Grassy Butte) to recuperate from a professional set-back and to prepare photographs and paintings of cowboy life. Eight of Eakins' letters from his Dakota sojourn were recently published, along with accompanying photographs (Leibold, 1988). In several of his letters, Eakins expressed enthusiasm for the ranch horses; he evidently purchased two of them and had them shipped east on a cattle car. On 28 August 1887, Eakins wrote to his wife:

I am going to bring my own horse back with me for a model. He is a broncho, a very beautiful and good type of cow boy horse, also a mustang, a small Indian pony,
the ugliest you ever saw but a fine cow horse. This Indian pony is exceedingly tough, funny, and good natured and is for Fanny and the children to ride. I bought him from little George Wood after he was done with him. The broncho is a grey & looks something like the Susie horse I once took down to the farm... (Leibold, 1988:5).

On 7 September 1887 Eakins wrote his wife that "I rode my little pony all day with rifle & cartridges & he came in on the full run, in spite of my weight." His letters contain frequent mention of searching for stray ranch horses, including the remark on 7 September: "Day before yesterday I rode close to the Killdeer Mountains hunting the same horses. We went again 60 miles. It seems to me we always go that far when we go for those horses" (ibid.).

Crawford (1931) states that most of the ranch horses brought into western North Dakota in the late nineteenth century came from Texas, Colorado, Idaho, and Montana. W. B. Galligan, who worked for the Hash Knife, told Crawford that in 1900 the HT bought 630 horses at $20 each from the Spearhead Ranch, which had imported them from Idaho (SHSND, Record Group 179). John Goodall, De Mores' foreman and later a rider for the HT, also mentioned foundation stock being brought in from Idaho (SHSND, Record Group 179).

A considerable number of horses were brought into western North Dakota from Texas during the period 1870-1900. Virtually all of the Texas cattle operations that expanded north brought their own saddle stock; later horses were also brought for sale. For example, the Reynolds Brothers (Long X Ranch), who drove three herds to Grassy Butte per year in the 1880s and 1890s, trailed up
1800 head of Texas horses in 1892 (Crawford, 1931: 495). The standard procedure was for northern ranches to purchase trail horses along with delivered cattle. H. H. Peays, who arrived in Medora on 21 August 1884 with a herd of Texas cattle for the OX Ranch told Crawford on 26 December 1923:

> After we turned the cattle over to the OX we also turned over 87 head of horses used on the trail. The OX had bought these horses in the Panhandle at the same time they had engaged the cattle, at so much a head on delivery (SHSND; Record Group 179).

Dobie (1934: 314) estimates that as many as a million Texas horses left that state on nineteenth-century cattle drives and makes the claim that "nearly all were of the mustang breed." Wyman explains that the ranchers "not only took good horses with them, but they also purchased heavily from the Spanish" (1963: 98).

We have already seen that at least one area ranch, the Hash Knife, did bring the Texas mustang to North Dakota for use as cow ponies. As the nineteenth century advanced, Texas horses probably carried increasing amounts of early Quarter Horse blood.

William "Badlands Bill" McCarty, perhaps the most well-known twentieth-century Medora cowboy, arrived in North Dakota from Texas around the turn of the century (see Plates No. 18 and 19). He made his living as a horse trader and rancher, eventually purchasing the Custer Trail Ranch. For many years McCarty captured wild horses in the badlands, and is well remembered for his frontier skills and unusual personality.

McCarty was a *bona fide* old-time mustanger (wild horse catcher) and horse dealer in the southwestern tradition. In 1901
he trailed 1,000 head of solid-colored Texas horses up the Chisholm Trail and into North Dakota, selling the entire lot within two weeks. His own horse, "Alamagordo," may be taken as an example of Texas horses at that time. According to McCarty, Alamagordo was a dark brown animal captured wild in Mexico at age 5; his dam was a mustang mare, his sire a Steel Dust and Copper-bottom bred stallion (early Quarter Horse sires). McCarthy purchased him for $40 and used him to chase wild horses and cattle. In advanced old age the horse won a roping contest in Dickinson (Crawford interview with McCarty, 24 May 1921; SHSND, Record Group 179, #33).