

Rock Springs WY Curly Origins by John Kappes.

*Note- Sharon Williams sent me these copies before she passed away so they could be used as historical data for ICHO. I also got to meet Glen Conley, Sharon's friend and Curly owner. Bunny Reveglia

John Kappes
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Dear Sharon Williams and Glen Conley;
Of course, I don't know you. However, pleased to meet you.

Yes, I did own some Basque curlies, and I was always well mounted. Of the 2 horses that I personally broke and rode 2 were not very good. They react both positively and had the ability to "put a cow up a tree."

I have been trying to pick my memory bank for those bits of information I've long forgotten about, but to the best of my ability, here goes.

Somewhere between 1942-1945 my foster uncle Isaac Newton Brooks, bought a black curly stud colt from a horse trader around Laramie Wyoming, whose mare I believe to be Fawcett. The person who would absolutely know was Ike's foreman of 40 + odd years, a Dean Smith. He now resides at my foster mother's ranch which is now owned and operated by my sister in law Patricia Jean (Sanner) Kappes. Po Box

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This above stud colt lived only 18 years, due mostly to a condition called "parrot mouth" where the upper teeth protrude somewhat forward of the lower teeth, making the mopping of short grasses nearly impossible. Confirmation wise he had a dished face, with a rather round almost bulging forehead, short ears, very fine muzzle.

His legs were too long for his short back. He was rather "hipped" with a long length to his hip joint and long fore arms with short cannon bones. A good, deep chest.

He only weighed about 950 lbs.

However, I fell in love with this horse and he threw some very fine colts.

The horse was ~~hard~~ broke ^{section} over. He just was turned outside with the "wild bunch" over.

White snip on nose
two front feet half white



Let me explain this wild bunch.

Two neighbors owned most of the horses about 90% both of Rock Springs, ~~and~~ Lake Brook, and the Sweany family. Ike's range ran from the Green River on the west to the railroad town of Better Creek 25 miles to the east. It extended from the UP railroad on the north to the Colorado Utah line 40 miles south.

Sweany's range was within Ike's range.

They both raised their horse on open range. Sweany's had about 1400 head at one time and Ike had more than that. The last time they gathered and sold they each sold over 1200 head. They were unable to keep gathering these horses after the cowboys got old and government stopped running horses with airplanes. They didn't know at that time that was the most humane way to handle those wilder horses. Those horses that weren't ridden regularly were called the "wild bunch".

Enough of that. You know by now the Sim wound up with most of the horses.

Back to our story. I broke two seven year old colts out of this Laramie stud; one grey ^{Frosty} rafter hipped, one black ^{Snip} with a snip on his nose, not rafter hipped. The grey looked a dead ringer for the old stud except his legs were ~~not~~ so long, and his back was longer. The black horse's head didn't look at all like the Laramie stud, in fact no part of him did except the long forearm and powerful muscles. Both horses weighed about 1200. Frosty the grey was very gentle Snip the black was never gentle. However he was without a doubt the strongest horse I ever sat on.

Both horses had an exceptional walk and trot. When Snip would stretch into a fast trot his hind foot would pass his front from 32" to 36". Few horses could run as fast as he could trot. None anywhere could match that walk. →

No horse in the "wild bunch" including the Morgans, standard breeds, "army remount thoroughbreds" or "Tennessee walkers" which had been purchased and turned in to the mares to improve blood lines, none could come close to outrunning Snip. Frosty was only shortly behind in speed.

Dean Smith and I would gather and brand and cull those wild horses every year. When we rode those two horses the wild horses would be kept on a constant $\frac{1}{2}$ out run for distances of 20 miles and more with Dean in front on Snip and me behind on Frosty. Neither one of us would ever break a trot except if one of the mares would try to break.

Those wild horses could never match the burst of speed those curlies could turn on.

However, I realize that those two were exceptional horses and there may never be any more like them but I had to 2 more that matched them in every way in looks and nearly as good ability. Slower trots and slower walks. They were out of the Laramie's stud's son, Rocket.

These two Iron greys were named Pee wee and Knots. Pee wee was better looking than Knots, having a finer head and muzzle, much easier to train than Knots who was named by my brother for being "knot-headed".

Both attained a mature weight of 1150 lbs.

Both short eared.

Both excellent cow horses able to rope and drag one or put a cow down a gopher hole.

Pee wee was kid gentle from early age. Knots never was being more of a one man horse who never really liked humans at all except one in his later years.

We fell in love with my present wife's daughter and the two of them became the greatest of pals.

Since I've started this letter I hope you can read it) -

I have received from you folks a bundle of papers on curly horses. Since I have very few photos of my curly horses I will attempt to compare these horses with some of the ones you have in the registry.

My horses all stayed curly their whole life through except as they grew older they lost some of the summer marcelle until they were nearly straight haired except in winter.

A list of the curls I broke and rode (except the Paramie stud)

	Color	marks	white heel	front	tail	Fellock hair	
Snip	Black	1200	snip on neck	short	rat tailed	short-spaced	
Frosty	Iron grey	1200	None	short	rat tailed	short-spaced	
Engle	Iron grey	1300	None	short	heavy tail	long	
scar face	Black	1100	white heels	front	long rat tailed	no feathers	
Rocket (stud)	Black	950	none	short	rat tailed	none	
Paramie stud	Black	950	starelet	white heels front	rat tailed	shortness, none	
				Rockets off spring			
Peace	iron grey	1150	none	short	rat tailed (summer)	short	
Knots	iron grey	1150	none	flagon	short	long (year around)	long
Patrick Tony	chestnut	1000	starelet + amp	3 boots one sock left hind	short	long year around	long
Patrick	well	800	tony starelet	short	medium	none	

Patrick was so small. I never took the time to break him. He was exceptionally smart extremely agile, able to run wide open across patches of ice a 100 yds across. I never saw him fall. When the horses would run and play before an impending storm, he was always 50 yards out in front. No horse on the ranch could out run him. Looked like Frosty's Capt. Park.

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I'm hoping that you folks can get the pictures I'm sending you copied, and perhaps, return them to me, as I have no negatives. However if you can't I will understand and hope they help you in your investigations.

Tony was never a cow horse. Hated to turn or reign. Was easy to ride but never possessed a free easy gate. Always thought he was born with kidney troubles as he was always dull of wit and slow of movement. He couldn't learn as he couldn't remember what was taught him. Sort of had to retrain him once a month.

We had two felly colts out of Rocket. One wound up a Doc Rodgers the other Marvin Hopkins of Pindale. An Iron grey nearly identical to Pec wee. I never saw a man love his horse more. Her head was shaped like the horse in the right in the two page photo of two horses nose to nose. One blaze faced on right having bare showing of a star.

The horses I am sending pictures of, I leave as self explanatory. Those I have no pictures of, I will compare to those you sent me.

Laramie stud showed many of the traits as those of the Brown black Rock Springs mare. He had shorter ears, set wider apart, shorter back. No withers either. Very similar shoulders, legs hump (croup), only a few hairs on his tail at any time. Very similar markings. Many of his colts exhibited the longer, head such as she does. He was nearly ewe necked, too.

The very different types of offspring from him and Rocket seemed to depend much on the dam's blood. Those crosses with arábians were similar to this R.S. mare.

Snip (200 lb. black) looked remarkably like the sorrel? horse similar to old style Morgans on pg. 74 and same horse center of picture showing two horses in water; Jays Boy at top he and Lady, + fetlock pic. bottom. Snip was out of Sweetfi Morgan stock, Snip never liked people, but was intelligent and commended very well was extremely strong. →

He looked a lot like Jays Curly boy when he trotted.
Frosty 1200 Frosty the Iron Grey's head as was Pecwee, 11.
 looked a good deal similar on side view to Nevada Mary, owned by Patsy Parillo. Neck, legs, shoulder slope, withers very similar, a bit longer croup. Curly coats on all my horses and Ikes were like hers.

Frosty and Pecwee have very little mane in summer, sparse in winter. Snip and ~~Knob~~ had long manes and tails all the time. Knob was built more like Snip too.

also similar to Frosty's Big Mac.

Eagle Iron grey. Very similar build, head and carriage with a thicker neck, to Patsy Diamond's. ABC. P. 33; He was easy riding, very intelligent, easy stride for just making long hard rides on. However he did not possess the ability to stop and turn. He had the "want to" and could head those running cows on his long trot, but when he had to "shut down" he seemed to always manage to stumble and fall a hundred yards or so, but if you roped the biggest bull, he was yours.

Rocket 850 Black Black. I will dwell a while on this one. He was such a joy to ride. Looked somewhat like Jays Curly Boy. Even judges in pleasure and reining classes admired his free and easy gait.

When I broke him at 3 yrs of age he was very capable of a 75 mile day, at maturity he could put in a 150 mile day with ease. 4 and 5 of them in a row in fact. I never tired of riding him even though it was hard to hold a saddle when he was fat because of small withers.

I could rope any cow on the ranch. While they would pitch and bellow in every direction, he would just stand there stilly spraddle legged and look around as if nothing were happening.

These
excuse the
poor writing.

I never had any trouble outrunning horse or cow on hillside, wet ground or ice.

We have many badger holes in our country. They have attributed to over 75 falls on various horses in my life - mine, over 25 on frozen meadows. I've be hung up 2 times with only on serious injury, but in the 15 years I rode this horse, he fell only once. When he jumped over a badger hole it caved in on him 3 ft. deep and sort of took his front legs to the ground. Since we were loping right along it was a short fast trip to the ground, no fault of his.

Most of his colts were good ones, but I only had a few more so his greatest potential was not realized until I retired him to stud on open range about 1974. He fathered - all the present day Curlys around Rock Springs, some of which were good looking stock. Some out of the heavier mares from this Belgian stud were not so good.

In closing I wish to thank you for taking the time to find me. One of my lifetime dreams was to raise a curly breed out of Rocket. That fell by the wayside long ago with the passing of my first wife Anna. I am so glad someone besides me has found and enjoyed the curly horse."

Around 1952 to 54 I've sold about 2 filly colts to a horse buyer who took them east toward Kansas and Iowa.

Maybe some of those showed up in Indiana.

I also found my Time Life Book - "The Kingdom Of The Horse, H. H. Isenbart - E. M. Birkner.

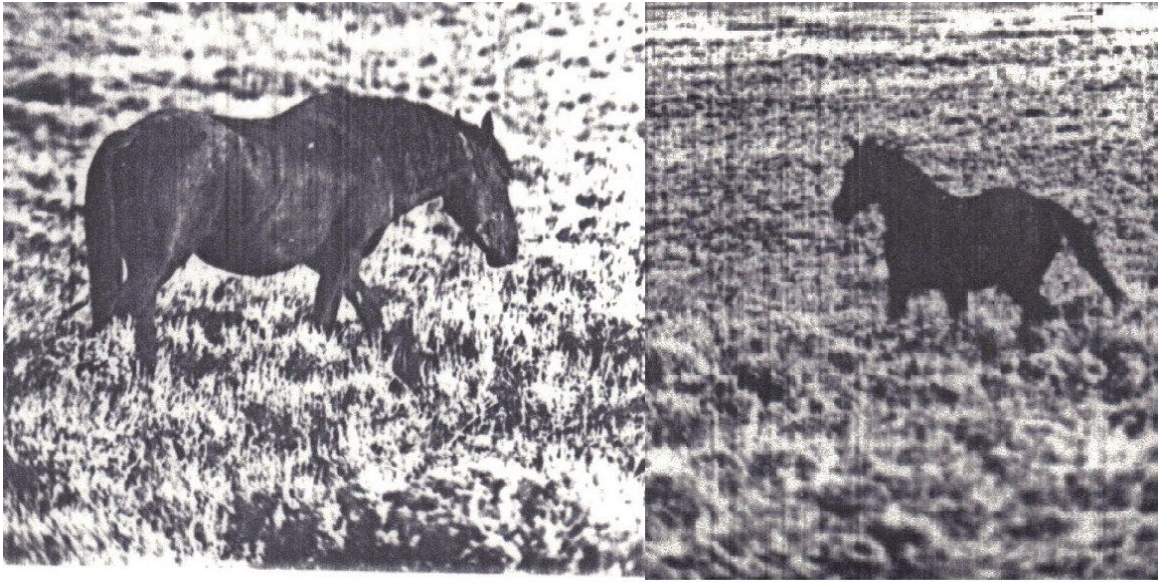
The Bashkir horse is listed there as a Soviet Union horse of Mongolian and Kirghiz blood, used by the Ural Cossacks.

Again, Maggie. Thanks to you, feel free to contact me at any time.

John L. Rappes

Arly horses

- 2 Photo. Rocket
- 1 Pony + Patrick
- 1 Peewee with Morgan Arab. cross named Jack (Comanche)
- 1 large Peewee with Vera Montgomery up.
- Rear view 1 A Knots with Peewee behind at home corral. (winter)
- Front view 1 B Peewee left. Knots right - home corral. (winter home)
- 1 C Knots and Peewee from rear - home corral. (winter home)
- 1 D Miss Moon on Peewee leading knots Winter home yard.



Rocket

There are a few more photos, some are very poor copy quality. I will work on them to see if they scan well enough to add to this document. Bunny

