empire opening which was at its best could only be cruel drudgery. The Indian pony's great enemy was not the loud howling wolf of fiction writers although occasionally a hungry wolf pack following a wild horse or wild Indian pony herd anywhere from the Rio Grande River to the North Saskatchewan River would cut off and eat a young colt or pull down and eat an old mare or stallion but the young stallions around any kind of range herd or wild herd of Indian ponies were fearless of wolves and whenever a wolf got carelessly close the stallions bared teeth and laid back ears with striking forefeet and hooves were death to a wolf and coyotes never ventured near a horse herd and how a wolf or coyote did love horse meat. But there was one fatal enemy whom the Indian ever feared and often fell prey to, the light yellow brindlish brown yellow eyed Mountain lion, panther, cougar and on the north side of the Rio Grande to the Gila and mouth of the Colorado, the spotted Jaguar of old Mexico and South America the largest of the American cat family.
*From the day in early 1519 that Hernando Cortez brought fifteen Barb mares and stallions to Mexico City until Captain Alonso DeLeo turned loose and let get away some forty horses between San Fernando Valera and the Neches river in 1690 among the Caddo Indians we do not know when the mountain lion and jaguar began eating them and became fascinated with Indian pony meat, but it was very early in the Indian pony history for over two centuries after Cortez in Mexico it was death for a Mexican Indian to be caught riding a horse but the Vaqueros were compelled to horse herd afoot the large bands of horses and ponies that accumulated on the strong virgin grass around the numerous rancherios or haciendas and from these foot Vaqueros xx we get many truthful versions of lions raiding the horse herds all the time mostly at night and often times carrying off a well grown horse and of mared with young colts with cut and gashed necks, lacerated shoulder and backs that had barely escaped a big ferocious lion, and many coltless mares as the lions had eaten the colts.

In 1797 with the arrival of Nolan's men in the flat country between the Trinity and Brazos Rivers the vast prairies were alive early in the spring with buffaloes, wild Indian ponies and wild Spanish cattle extending to and across Red River across Oklahoma to the Arkansas river in Kansas, along the large flowing Yegua creek in Texas as Yegua simply means Mare in Spanish, some of the men noticed many skeletons of horses all along the creek and they finally saw a lion pull down an old wild Indian pony and eat him joined by other lions when they learned the cause of the horse skeletons.

About 1850 Joe Brown started the herding of wholesale cow horses on the San Marcos river in South Texas on his famous Key brand ranch, he brought in Virginia and Kentucky stallions in numbers, crossing them with native Indian pony mares and from this date on raising Indian ponies and saddle horses in large herds became customary and gradually spread north and west for a half century as white Anglo-Saxon ranchers adopted the Spaniards, Mexicans and Indians system of raising light horses or Indian ponies in large herds many horse outfits were started from Texas to California, north to the Saskatchewan river and beyond in Canada, before this time horse raising had been the profession of the Spaniard or Mexican in old Mexico or south Texas, the Indian pony's ancestors came from