

copy from Tex Willis 3-21-55 by mbf

H. P. Willis
4160 Glenwick Lane DALLAS 5, TEXAS
Sunday, Nov. 21

Dear Walter:

Enclosed clipping on Geiger counters. The Scandinavians at Houston make the best ones.

On that Indian Pony treatise, Don Juan Onata brought the first large herd of Indian ponies in spring of 1598 and by October of same year had his Spanish or Barb or Indian ponies grazing on the plains and Mesas of Santa Fe, this is from Herbert E. Bolton, Southwestern Historical Quarterly Vol. 4. Next herd of ponies was Alonza de Leon in 1690 turning loose at least 40 head of horses mares and stallions near Crockett, Texas. This was 92 years after Don Juan Onates 400 head at Santa Fe; this is from Issac Joslin Cox in the S. W. Historical Quarterly Vol IX. How many French Creole gray ponies St. Dennis brought into Caddoa Lake camp by Monsieur Louis de Sait Denis in 1700 I will have to get an old French history from New Orleans, you probably have a French translator.

Then in 1719 Miguel de Aguaya started turning horses loose at San Antonio and seems to have never ceased. Then in 1743 the Comanches appeared in all their riding glory, painted horses, platted manes, bows and arrows and many French arque busses from the Crozats French fort on buffalo station on Red River across from Oscar, Oklahoma.

Walter, I think the best picture we can get of shooting Indian ponies is from Harpers old magazine, Custer shooting Black Kettle's horses.

We have a very high priced reproduction photograph machine here in Dallas which revives these old photographs, it costs so much a small town would not have one. Anything worth doing is worth doing well to perfection so an epochal volume can be--made of the Indian pony.

First was the Spanish or Barb horse or Arabian horse, nearly always a blood bay with black stripe down his back, black mane and tail, some were dun color, white and black, then came the wild horse commonly called mustang, then all of them were called Indian ponies, his place in American progress was that of all phases of a beast of burden, they rode him, the Indians ate him in bad winters, the white man packed him, so did the Indian women, the white man rode him for over two hundred years, he did his faithful part.

My kindest regards,

(signed) Tex Willis