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The last years? or days? of the Indian Pony.

From the time in the early summer of 1598 when that fastidious Spanish gentleman, Don Juan Onate loosened 400 mixed Spanish horses consisting of mares, work horses and stallions on the lush birgin gramma grasses of the plains and mesas at Santa Fe, New Mexico, along the mountain waterfed Rio Grande River until 1895 was but 297 years and in that time we can safely state that the pinto, spotted or Calico Indian pony populated all of the territory west of the Mississippi River that had a climate and sufficient grass and other roughage to develop a strong fleet and marvelous horse that was the wonder and admiration of the horse age.

1* Just before 1900 there appeared on the country roads in the mid-western states a sputtering, coughing chugging contraption that resembled a horseless cart and smelled like a small well known chicken eating spotted animal known to all American boys and girls of that age; a plain old skunk, it was the horseless buggy. No one prophesied the entire extinction of the horses in use by all classes of Americans and people all over the known world whom up to that time had more or less become civilized by the use of and down through over twenty centuries of association with horses and to some extent his hybrid offspring the mule, all worth while history up to fifteen years ago is replete with references to horses and horsemen in all walks of life and in the glorious wars of all ages and peoples the much worshipped and deified man on horseback* outranks all other occupations, our language, all history is replete with such comparisons as horselaugh, horse sense and mule reason; horse of another color, betting on the horses, neighed like a horse, snored like a horse, big as a draft horse in memory of the enormous Shirl and Clydesdale and Percheron draft horses magnificently hitched with costly ornamented harness of at least four in hand to a brewers wagon*, lead horses wheelhorse. From about 1925 when Saint Louis, Missouri, started pouring emigrants, companies of outfitted soldiers for western army posts, long Conestoga wagons drawn by mules, oxen and horses and as the number of Indian ponies, mustangs, broncos, pinto and paint ponies all of the same origin, starts in the hundreds of head by sales chiefly by William Bent of Bent's Fort on the Arkansas the Indian pony literally went to work as an all round beast of burden for every purpose known to mankind at that time, long jerklime teams of 40 horses hitched two abreast, the leaders with a bell and jockey stick to hitch them together, the hockey stick being hickory of the accurate length with two heavy iron snaps, one on each end to snap in a bit ring of the Bridle on each horse, the other 18 members were hitched to a long chain as were the leaders by double trees and single trees; the wagon master as he was called on freight outfits, generally rode a pinto horse or horse of an odd color with three or four in his string, some times he carried a whip but more often a rifle under his left leg and always one pistol and often two with the ever present cartridge belt, as he rode up and down ~~th~~ his line of straining horses he depended on his skill at cuss words to urge them along, green horses were never broke for this work, they were blind folded, harnessed and tied in the chain, the others drug them along, the long line skinner rode either the seat or ~~the~~ horse to spell himself with his long one rein jerklime and trained lead on the jockey stick. Indian ponies, mustangs, Spanish horses did their share of this