

Shetland Ranch Proves Fun

Man Realizes Boyhood Dream In Business Of Raising His Own Ponies On Local Ranch

Nobody can tell Clarence Jennings, 3304 Summers Lane, that Shetland ponies are naturally mean and his family agrees with him enthusiastically.

"Horses of any size reflect the treatment they receive," Jennings says. "Shetland ponies are playful and lively; they turn ill-natured only if they are teased or abused."

The 16 Shetlands the Jennings have are anything but ill-tempered. Even Sparky, the 5-year-old stallion, answers to his name, eats out of their fingers and lets both the Jennings boys ride him at the same time. His herd of mares are all pets, too.

The first Shetland pony was bought at Eugene five years ago and presented to Ralph Lynn Jennings who was 5 years old in July of that year. This little mare was the start of the herd when Sparky, the little red stallion with white mane and tail, joined the family later that year.

The band now includes five colts born nearly three months ago. They all run together on either of two nearby grass-covered lots. Ditches provide fresh running water and fences keep the pets off the streets.

There are two teams trained to pull the boys' wagon. Patches and Pepper, the little team which has taken top spot for best matched team in the Fourth of July parade for the last two years, wear special harness that Jennings bought on a trip back to Missouri. The boys are apt to have two or three of the ponies in the yard at a time. On recent summer afternoons, they have been capitalizing on their asset by harnessing up the team and looking for paying customers which aren't hard to find.

Breeding Shetlands is actually just a hobby with Jennings. He has two sizes, the 40-inch and 46-inch Shetlands. He has some "big" horses, too, but the whole family

loves the Shetlands. Ralph Lynn now has a brother, Keith Lane, who will be five this November and is learning from his older brother about caring for the pets.

The horse colts are sold each year and the fillies kept to increase the herd. There are more than a half dozen offspring in this area. The week before these pictures were taken, a little colt was sold to a family in Susanville. The new owner drove up in the family car, took out the back seat and loaded in the colt and gave it "its first automobile ride back to California without mishap. All of the colts go to good homes as Jennings insists he is raising pets, not trick stock.

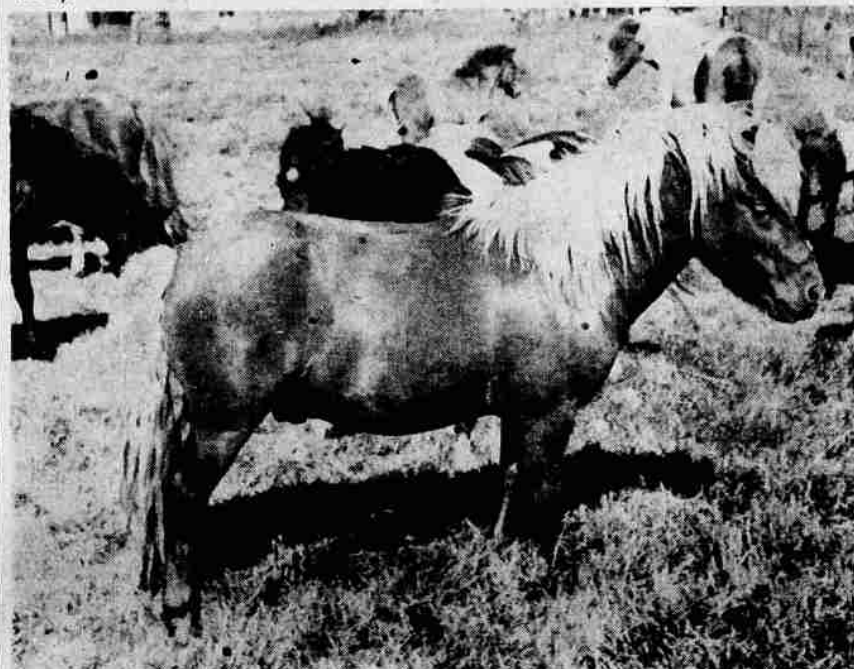
When asked how he happened to start breeding Shetlands, Jennings replied: "Just crazy about horses, I guess."

Mrs. Jennings, however, insists it fulfills a childhood dream. "He had big horses as a little boy," she said, "but he had a little boy of his own before he owned a Shetland pony."

Carrying double is no chore to Sparky, red sorrel stallion of the Jennings Shetland pony herd out on Summers Lane. He is shown posing quietly for Otto Ellis to take this picture before galloping off with the two Jennings boys astride. The young horsemen are Keith Lane Jennings, almost 5, and Ralph Lynn Jennings, who turned 10 on July 14.



CLARENCE JENNINGS, 3304 Summers Lane, breeds and raises Shetlands because he "just loves horses" and it is obvious that the affection is mutual. Time for brushing and grooming the Shetland ponies often comes from the hours he should be sleeping after his night shift is finished on his job. Books and magazines on the history, care and breeding of Shetlands have been added to his home library since he embarked on this engrossing hobby.



LUSH GRASS and running water in a nearby lot keep Sparky, shown in the foreground, and his herd of mares and colts contented and happy on the hottest day. They are content, that is, until some member of the family shows up when they all know there will be a treat of oats or some other Shetland delicacy. The greatest difficulty is to keep them from gaining too much weight.



RALPH LYNN and Keith Lane Jennings, 10 and 5 respectively, with their perfectly matched team of Shetland ponies, Patches and Pepper, pulling their specially built wagon are a familiar sight throughout the Summers Lane area.

Klamath County Farmers Play Conservation Role

Over one-fifth of Klamath County's farmers joined hands with the government last year to carry out needed conservation practices on their farms. The annual report from the local county agricultural stabilization and conservation (ASC) office shows that on 224 farms in the county soil or water conservation practices were carried out under agricultural conservation program (ACP) in 1958.

Under the ACP, a farmer and the government share the cost of needed conservation work, the report pointed out. Last year, Klamath County farmers put up over \$122,000 in carrying out approved conservation practices on around

290,000 acres.

Uncle Sam then matched these payments to help farmers conserve valuable croplands, woodlots, grazing areas, and agricultural water for use by future generations.

A total of 20 different conservation practices were used by Klamath County farmers under the 1958 ACP, the report indicated. Practices most popular with local farmers last year included land leveling, reorganization of irrigation systems, subsoiling, and drilling livestock wells.

Through pooling agreements allowed under the ACP, some of the county's farmers banded to-

gether to do conservation jobs they couldn't carry out individually. In one pooling agreement, two Klamath County farmers were able to improve open drainage on their farms.

ACP assistance is made available to farmers to help them carry out conservation practices they wouldn't be able to carry out themselves. In most cases, the farmer and the government each pay about half the cost—with the government's share an indication of the interest of all the nation's people in protecting and conserving our farm and ranch lands to insure future supplies of agricultural products.

Every farmer with a conservation problem is eligible to apply for ACP aid. More information on the program is available at the Klamath County ASC office in the Tower Theater Building, 2635 South Sixth Street, Klamath Falls.