

Mini Appaloosas Make Great Pets

Ethel Morro is sold on her mini Appaloosas. The little horses keep up her spirits and even carry her home when she needs a lift. In fact, she credits the horses with improving her health.

"I've had a lot of problems since I first got my minis, and they've helped me get through them," says Morro. "Their hearts are as big as Texas, and they'll bend over backwards for you. If you treat them well, they'll do anything you ask of them."

Morro describes being stranded when her car broke down, and health problems made walking home impossible. When her husband spotted her off in the distance, he hooked their stallion up to a cart and came to the rescue.

"The stallion carried us home without even breaking a sweat," she says.

That stallion is less than 34 in. tall and weighs just 150 lbs. However, she says minis can pull 3 times their weight and carry up to about 65 lbs.

The gentle nature of her minis was borne out when her 3-year-old grandniece slipped

off a stallion while being given a ride. Morro said he stopped, turned and went back to her as if to see if she was all right. Even around mares in heat, the stallion doesn't react to them if children are close by, says Morro.

"They're intelligent and can be housebroken," she says. "People are even training them as companion animals because of their longevity. They can live to be 40."

While she has a waiting list for her mini Appaloosas, the price is not what it once was. Having bred them for 14 years, she has seen the investment bubble build and burst. People who bought minis to sell to other breeders have lost thousands, if not tens of thousands of dollars. Morro tells of one breeder who bought a stallion for \$17,000 and eventually sold it for \$500.

"We didn't go into it with expectations of making handfuls of money," says Morro. "My husband and I fell in love with them when we saw our first minis and bought a farm so we could have some."

Though she was unable to breed them for



"My husband and I fell in love with mini Appaloosas when we first saw them and bought a farm so we could have some," says Ethel Morro. "They make great pets."

the past 2 years, she plans to breed a number of the mini Appaloosas in 2015 for the 2016 season.

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"Salesmen Samples" Sell For Big Bucks

Working scale model farm tools that salesmen used to use to take door to door while plying their wares, have been hot sellers at recent antique auctions. They can sell for thousands and even tens of thousands of dollars. Leading antique auction house James D. Julia, Inc. has 2 auctions a year dedicated to advertising specialties, including salesmen samples.

"Farm-related items are among the most popular," says Andrew Truman of the Antique Advertising Division. "There is hardly a sale where we don't have several of these items."

High demand items have included a 16-in. wide, 13-in. deep and 6-in. high reaper that sold for \$10,665. It was made from brass and wood with fine-toothed gears, chain drive and working mechanics. Everything from the ground drive to working levers simulated the full-scale machine. It even came in the original carrying case and included a scale size wrench and a canister of loose parts.

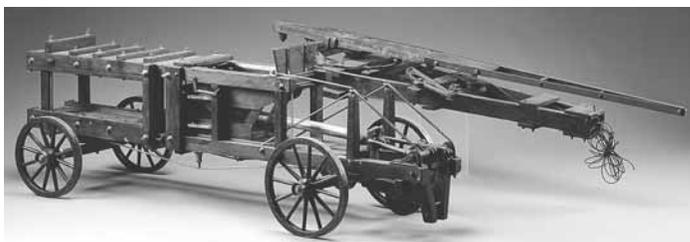
A walnut and cast iron baler designed to be powered by horses sold for \$5,175, even though it wasn't in working order. It included offset gear and cable mechanisms and windows on the sides of the chute so prospective buyers could see the process.

One of the most expensive items sold recently was a road grader, a scale model of the Stockland 80 (aka Little Giant) made by the Stockland Road Machinery Company of Minneapolis, Minn. Made with brass, cast aluminum, wood and steel with a full range of movement and action, it sold for \$23,000.

A set of smaller samples, including 2 pitchforks (one with an original canvas cover, point protector and metal hang tag), toboggan, pulley, nesting tubs, wooden extension ladder, and axle sold for \$2,070.

Truman cautions FARM SHOW readers who own salesmen samples and are interested in selling them at some point to think before they restore any worn or damaged part. "There are two schools of thought on restoration," he says. "Many buyers like them the way they came off the store room floor. If it has been restored, it may be hard to see if a part has been changed or replaced."

If you're interested in buying, auctions are conducted in person, online, by phone and absentee with a staff person acting as a personal representative and bidding to a maximum value. "If a reader is interested in selling an item, I encourage them to contact us by email, letter or phone," Truman says.



Working scale model farm tools that salesmen took door to door are hot sellers at antique auctions. This horse-powered walnut and cast iron baler sold recently for \$5,175.



A 16-in. wide, 6-in. high reaper (right) sold for \$10,665. A set of smaller samples, including 2 pitchforks, toboggan, pulley, nesting tubs, wooden extension ladder, and axle, sold for \$2,070.

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These Cowboys Milk Wild Cows

Wild cow milking comes with a warning: Don't try this at home.

Teams of 4 cowboys compete in the timed event. One cowboy rides a horse and ropes the wild cow. Another, called a mucker, holds the cow on the front end. A third cowboy holds the tail while the fourth milks a "pourable" amount of milk into a bottle and delivers it to the judges. Winning times are typically less than 1 1/2 min. The winning time in 2014 was 52 seconds.

Mike McLean at the Bar U Ranch near Longview, Alberta, holds a rodeo each year in August and the wild cow milking event has become a star attraction. McLean explains that wild cow milking dates back to 1923 at the Calgary Stampede. It was discontinued at some point but the Bar U Ranch has brought it back.

"Ranch rodeos like ours are designed to hold events that are like what happens on a ranch with real cowboys," McLean says. The wild cows used in the event come from

a herd of 30 cattle that roam freely on the 367-acre ranch.

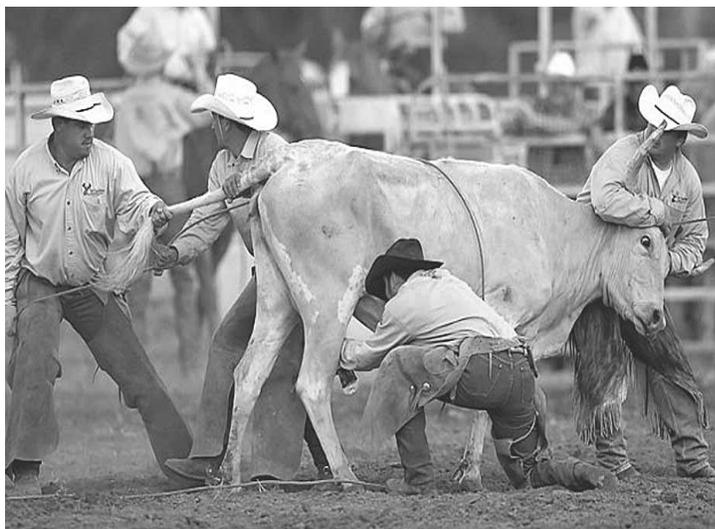
His personal favorite is the "broke horse race." A cowboy ropes a horse and another cowboy puts on the blanket and saddle and tack, then rides it. Though the horses are broke, the speed and excitement turns it into "a very wooly event," McLean says.

Other events include team doctoring, sorting and branding (with paint).

Ranch rodeos are very popular, McLean notes, and draw good crowds.

"The big thing is you need an experienced core of people who know what they are doing," he suggests for people interested in organizing an event. "There are lots of ranch rodeo associations around to get more information."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bar U Ranch National Historic Site, P.O. Box 168, Longview, Alta., Canada T0L 1H0 (ph 403 395-2212; www.pc.gc.ca/baru).



Wild cow milking has become a star attraction at a rodeo each year in Alberta. Teams of 4 cowboys compete in the timed event.