

JOHN WESLEY PATTEN (JWP) COLLECTION



Gail Adams, of Blue Grass, Iowa, read the “White Horse Ranch” article in the fall, 2010, edition of *Apples ‘n Oats*, which inspired her to write and embellish on one aspect of the story.

John Wesley Patten was born June 21, 1896, on a farm located near Carlisle, Iowa. He died in 1995.

John first learned to love and care for horses at his birthplace; they subsequently became his avocation, along with CPA

work. He became involved in breeding, training, and racing, becoming a partner in a breeding farm in New Hampshire, and acquiring his own harness and thoroughbred racing stable in New Jersey. As a harness racer, Patten never lost a match or an invitational. Already considered the “Elder Statesman of Standardbred Racing and its History,” John also had the title of “Authority on the Light Breeds of Horses” bestowed upon him. Besides being the author of several equine books, John has held memberships in horse association that would fill an entire page. He has also had several articles written about him. He has been referred to as a “walking encyclopedia” on the topic of horses.

The first breed of horses described in John Patten’s book, “The Light Breeds of Horses,” is the American Albino from the White Horse Ranch in Naper, Nebraska. Cal and Ruth Thompson, their ranch-bred horses, and some of their troupers are featured in the book. The American Albino Place of Origin is listed as: White Horse Ranch, Naper, Nebraska.

John Patten became a personal friend of Ruth Thompson, and often visited the White Horse Ranch to attend the annual National White Horse Round Up, and served as a show judge during the 1970’s.

Gail Adams states that, “My husband and I erected a small building to house [the John Patten] collection of books, correspondence, etc., that John acquired during a lifetime of dedication. The project, once in cardboard boxes, is now organized and ready for viewing. There are 17 equine breeds represented. It was John’s desire that his collection be all kept together, and made available to the public. Our objective is to honor John’s wishes. Upon our demise, the collection may be moved to the International Museum of the Horse at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky.”

Just call 563-381-1520, to schedule an appointment.