



Bambi E., the stallion that shaped much of South Dakota's Appaloosa industry, has been inducted into the Hall of Fame. The 1954 stallion was born in Fort Morgan, Colorado.

Sired by Woodrow Sheik, a son of Appaloosa legend Sundance, and out of P.V.F.'s Butterfly, Bambi E. was taken to Iowa, where Lee Warne eventually found him as a 2 year old.

Lee commented about his purchase in a February 1988 article in *Appaloosa Journal*. "The first time I laid eyes on 'Bambi,' he was not what I would call an awe-inspiring individual," he said. "He was kind of skinny and kind of small, but there were some things that I saw in him that I really liked."

For the third generation South Dakota rancher, the stallion he purchased as a hobby would be the basis for his soon-to-be-successful Appaloosa breeding business. In the early 1950s, Lee had been involved in politics at various levels, including state representative and state senator. During his time as senator, stress prodded him to find an outlet. Horses became that outlet; color became his passion.

Bambi E. was purchased in 1956 and taken to his new home in Custer, South Dakota. His leopard coloring made him the first of his kind in the state, which drew much attention to the horse. The stallion's sudden popularity—and a surging interest in Appaloosas—prompted Lee to purchase grade mares with foundation Quarter Horse bloodlines to breed the stallion to.

Lee bred Bambi to 10 mares in 1957, and out of that first crop came Sully B, whose maternal grandsire was said to be the foundation Quarter Horse Plaudit.

Sully B was sold to L.F. McDonnell of Fort Worth, Texas. The stallion went on to numerous titles, including 1961 National reining horse and 1962 National junior champion cutting horse.

In 1961 Lee co-founded the Center of the Nation Appaloosa regional club; it was the only year Bambi E. was shown. The stallion was named high-point performance *and* high-point halter stallion in South Dakota; he also won open reining classes in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, and Rapid City, South Dakota.

Bambi's show career was short, but he was quite prolific as a sire of performance and halter horses.

## Bambi E.



Lee and his children, Randy and Nancy, showed Bambi's offspring successfully, using Sully's Pattern, Sully's Twinkle, Sully's Baby Grand, Sully's Nugget, Sully's Hummingbird and Sully's Honeysuckle B. in various events. The "Sully" in their names comes from the county in which Warne Appaloosa Ranch resides.

Bambi E. passed away the spring of 1974. His unexpected death was due to a late blizzard that froze normal operations. The storm fatigued the older stallion, and due to snow no vet could make it out to treat his colic symptoms.