



A Mountain Pleasure Horse rounding up cattle.



Mountain Pleasure Horses make smooth-riding drill team and parade mounts.

competed in endurance rides for years on their Rocky Mountain Horses. Dean has received two Top 10 awards at American Endurance Ride Conference events, including three first-place awards. One of his Rocky Mountain Horses was also awarded Top 10 Best Condition after a tough 50-mile ride. Natalie has won a number of first-place junior awards and completed several 100-mile one-day rides on her Rocky Mountain Horse before turning 18.

"Traditionally, the early Rockies could pull a plow during the week, carry a rider to town on Saturday and the family buggy to Sunday church services—all with a style that was appreciated and noticed by the neighbors," says Hatcher. "We have remained true to that heritage, and today, Rockies are appreciated in the show-ring too. This biddable, people-

friendly animal is being used more as a field trial mount, and I know of several used in working cattle." The Rocky Mountain Horse's exceptional disposition has made the breed a logical choice for therapeutic riding as well.

Mountain Pleasure Horse

The Mountain Pleasure Horse is believed to have descended from the original horses bred in the Appalachians in the mid-1800s. The result of crossings between Spanish horses and eastern stock, the Mountain Pleasure Horse was the original mount of Appalachian farmers. Developed to negotiate the rough mountain trails, Mountain Pleasure Horses are not only sure footed and hardy, but also smooth-going, with a natural four-beat gait.

In order for a horse to be

Mountain Pleasure Horses were developed to negotiate rugged terrain.

