

# Thanks to Allah

The story of the Arabian horse and  
how the Kellogg Arabian Ranch  
is popularizing this breed

Jack W. Hylton, '43

**M**ORE than 3,500 years ago there originated from the Libyan tribes of northern Africa, after a long and careful breeding period, a breed of horses known as the Arabians.

Mohammedan legends tell of the origin of the five leading families of Arabians. As the story runs, Mohammed, anxious to secure mounts that would stand up under the rigors of his campaigns, kept a hundred mares penned up in sight of a sparkling stream, but without water for four days. Finally released, the frantic animals dashed for the stream. Just as they were within a few yards of it, Mohammed caused his bugles to sound the call to halt. Five obeyed—but the others continued their mad dash for water. These five, at the first notes of the bugle, aligned themselves in perfect battle formation, thus proving their blood. Thereafter, they were known as the "Prophet's Mares" and bred to the best Arab stallions. They are said to have been the progenitors of the five leading families of the breed, the Kehilan, Seglawi, Abeyan, Hamdaini and Hadban.

The pure, desert-bred Arabian has always been noted for courage, intelligence, and endurance. Accustomed to subsisting on scant water and forage, subjected to the burning heat of the desert, he is capable, nevertheless, of carrying heavy loads for great distances. Powerful and swift, raised almost as a member of the family by the desert tribes, he is invariably gentle, affectionate and tractable.

Because the desert owners are true horse-lovers, they are seldom willing to

part with their stock. This is especially true of mares, against selling of which there is also a religious aversion. However, exportations have been made; England perhaps benefitted most by introducing the imported Arabians into her stables.

The record of the Arabian entitles him to the title of "Sire of nearly all fine horses." For more than 178 years every winner of the English Derby descended from one great stallion, Darley Arabian, imported in 1706. Blase, the father of the Hackney breed, and Imported Messenger, the great foundation American trotter sire, were both descendants of Darley Arabian. Diomed, the first winner of the English Derby, was brought to Virginia and became the sire of many of our greatest racers.

## Kismet

Kismet, one of the greatest Arabians, came out of the Indian desert where he had won fame for his speed and endurance. He was taken to England and there he defeated all the best horses of his day. Finally he was shipped to America, but the sea voyage brought on pneumonia and this great stallion died within an hour after reaching our shores.

Arabian blood, through the Thoroughbred, was the foundation of the present Morgan breed, and played an important part in founding the Kentucky saddle-horse. In America today, at Pomona, Calif., there is one of the most outstanding collections of Arabians in the world.

Here in Pomona is the famed W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Ranch. In its history there is a human story of the founder, W. K. Kellogg, the cereal manufacturer of Battle Creek, Mich.

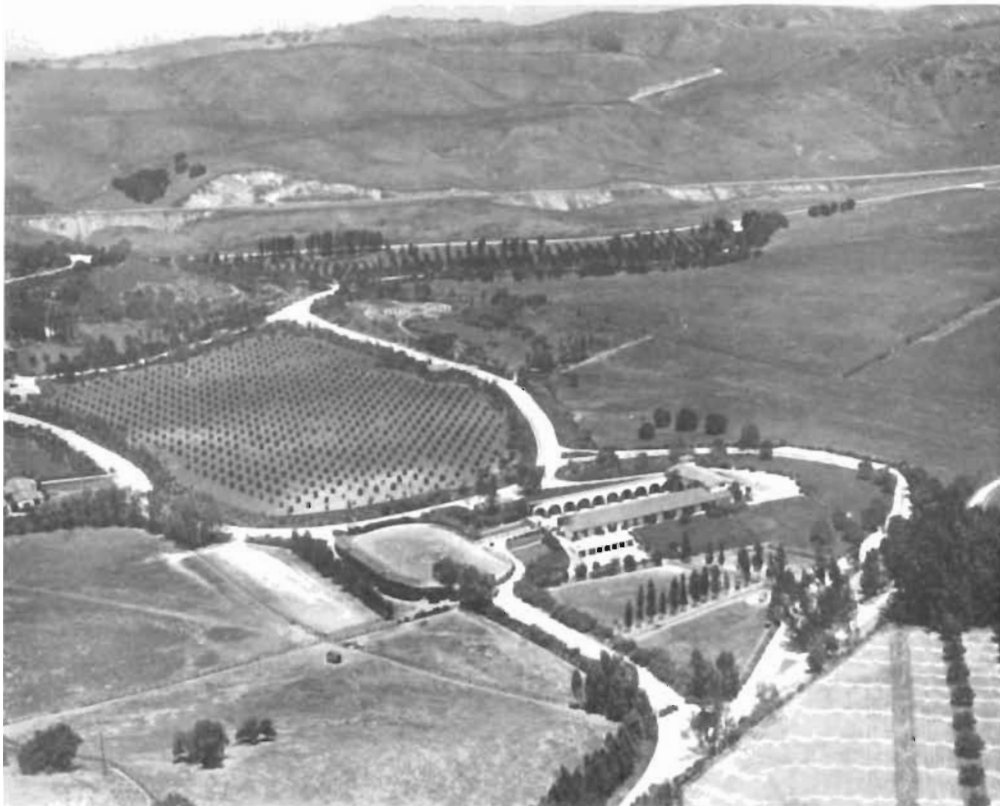
As a boy in Battle Creek, Mich., Kellogg was an ardent lover of Arabian horses. When a young man, he founded the breakfast-food industry which grew with time into the great business that it is today. Kellogg, who became nationally famous, made periodic visits to California, and during one trip he happened to see an Arabian stud near India, Calif. In 1924, Kellogg bought this stud, 24 other Arabian horses, and the ranch in Pomona which is now the famous Arabian ranch. In 1926, horses were brought from England to better the breed and again in 1936 three mares were imported from England. A good portion of the Kellogg studs have come from the Crabbet Stud in England.

It was in May, 1932, that W. K. Kellogg gave to the University of California his

beloved Arabian Ranch. It has since been operated by the Department of Animal Husbandry of the University which has placed Professor Howell in charge of the ranch. The object of the university is to transform the ranch into a research institute so as to promote the popularity of the breed, to increase their height and to study and perfect blood lines and breeding. A research laboratory has been set up and work is being done largely on the internal parasites of the equine, along with other research on body size and bone development.

#### Show Arena

There are, at present, 115 horses on the ranch. These include 90 registered Arabians, 16 Percherons, 1 Hackney and 1 Welsh. To the rear of the white, spotless, fireproof stables, is a show arena where weekly performances are given to the public. The Arabians along with the other breeds perform their drills and gaits



Air view of the Kellogg Arabian Ranch



Pasture scene at the ranch

before an average crowd of 2,000 people. Last year 158,000 witnessed the performances.

With the sale of animals and the admissions for the weekly performances, the ranch almost pays for its keep; however, Mr. Kellogg, now 80 years old, lends his financial support by sharing one-half of the expenses. Last year \$17,000 worth of horses were sold; \$5,000 of which was for the sale of stallions, an average of \$750 per stallion. Much of the income is accounted for due to the fact that many horses are hired by motion picture concerns. Kellogg Arabian horses appear in such pictures as: "Son of the Shiek," "Madame Du Bary," "Lives of a Bengal Lancer," "Ali Baba Goes to Town," "Suez," and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

The ranch, covering an area of 750 acres, has a local veterinarian living in Pomona, who is called when needed. Proper management has helped control disease so that it is practically negligible. The practice of sanitation, ideal pasture conditions and the fact that the long summers aid in in-

ternal parasite control are factors controlling disease.

The entire stable is registered with the American Arabian Horse Club. Such horses as : Jadaan, the fine stallion ridden by Rudolph Valentino; Rossana, daughter of the famed sire Skowronek; Nasik, an English-bred stallion; Hanad, a five-gaited champion, and several others are among those registered.

#### Arabian Horse Club

In 1908 the Arabian Horse Club of America was organized and incorporated under the laws of the state of New York for the primary purpose of investigating and recording pedigrees, and maintaining a Stud Book of Arabian Horses in the United States and Canada. The Stud book is open only to Arabian horses of pure blood. In America today, there are 600 registered Arabian mares, 400 registered stallions and 76 Arabian geldings.

During recent years the Arabian has spread its popularity upon the western range country. The purebred Arabian is

used in handling stock and more commonly used to breed range mares, producing excellent cow horses.

In California, where the saddle horse is still in great demand, there are more Arabian horses than in any other state. Breeders are using Arabians extensively to improve their stock of Palomino horses and are raising more Anglo-Arabs. A colt from a Thoroughbred mare bred to an Arabian stallion that is registered in the Jockey Club is a Thoroughbred, but is called Anglo-Arab by way of distinction.

### **Skeleton**

The Arabian skeleton in comparison with other breeds, possesses a relative shortness of skull, a slenderness of lower jaw, larger size of brain-case, less vertebrae in the back and tail and more horizontal position of the pelvic bone. The usual callosities of the hind legs are very small or absent, and are not very large on the fore legs. The ergots on the fetlocks are little and often indistinguishable. In height the Arabian measures from 14 to 15 hands and weighs between 800 and 1000 pounds.

### **Color**

In Arabia, 50% are bay in color, 30% grey and the rest are various shades of chestnut and brown; rarely a pure white or black occurs. Stars, blaze-faces, snip noses, and one or more white feet or white stockings are common markings. Solid white, while much prized, is comparatively rare. Parti-colored or spotted horses are cross breeds or grades.

### **Gaits**

The natural gaits are the gallop and the fast walk. The trot, while not natural, can be cultivated. The lungs and chest are well developed. Broken wind and roaring are seldom known, due to the size and position of the trachea. The spirit of the Arabian horse is hard to dampen, and in proportion to his size, he is able to carry large loads long distances.

Abd'el'Dader, famous old Algerian chieftain and true son of the desert in his

love of fine horse-flesh, described the Arabian by saying:

"If in the course of your life you alight upon a horse of noble origin, with large, lively eyes, wide apart, and black, broad nostrils, close together; whose neck, shoulders, haunches, and buttocks are long, while his forehead, loins, flank, and limbs are broad; with the back, the shin-bones, the pasterns and the dock short; the whole accompanied by soft skin, fine, flexible hair, powerful respiratory organs, and good feet, with heels well off the ground—hasten to secure him if you can induce the owner to sell him and return thanks to Allah morning and night for having sent thee a blessing."

---

## **The Bloodless Phlebotomist**

The Veterinary Student has just received an advance copy of "The Bloodless Phlebotomist" Vol. VIII No. 6, which is usually issued in 15 languages with a total circulation among members of the medical and allied professions throughout the world of 1,500,000 copies. This year, however, due to the war, it will be sent to members of the professions only in English, Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries outside the War zone.

This little journal published by the Denver Chemical Manufacturing Company of New York is replete with interesting articles written by physicians who are located in different countries and while the purpose of the publication is to acquaint its medical readers with Antiphlogistine and Galatest, the physicians will find a number of items and illustrations which will excite their curiosity and interest.

If you do not receive a copy write to the Denver Chemical Mfg. Company, New York, who will place your name on their list. The journal will be supplied you free of all charges.