The Sad Story of Here's How
or, Any Old Horse to Beat a Roosevelt

Ft. Myer officials today cleared up a teapot tempest over Here's How, an Army-bred horse which was once tried by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and turned down as a candidate for her personal mount because he was too frisky.

Here's How, a chestnut foaled at Front Royal, Va., in November, 1939, is among 40-odd Army horses to go on the auction block Wednesday, in a War Assets Administration sale.

A story in today's Washington Times-Herald said that Here's How was "once the favorite mount" of the former First Lady and that she had cast him off like a "hat long out of style" by turning him over to the Army "as a gift" when she left the White House.

The story also said that Here's How gave evidence of having been neglected, that his age had been misrepresented and that he had only a chance in a thousand of avoiding a horrible end "between the shafts of some huckster's wagon," subjected to "an old age of unaccustomed toil, no grass, few oats and many beatings."

Here is the biography of Here's How, with statistics from Army records and personal reminiscences:

three or four years ago after having been put out to pasture at Hyde Park.

AFRAID OF FALL

"Mrs. Roosevelt then asked the Army people at Ft. Myer to find her a quiet horse to buy,... They selected Here's How and she tried him but he was too lively,... She finally turned him down. She was getting older and riding less often, and she was afraid of being thrown."

Miss Thompson said Mrs. Roosevelt never gave Here's How to the Army as a gift. She simply turned him back. She never rode Here's How in a horse show and never rode in any horse shows except the one in which she rode Dot at Ft.

Myer, while she was in the White House, Miss Thompson recalled.

Here's How and the other horses to be auctioned are not in condition. Many of them were imported from Front Royal some weeks ago, before the sale had been mentioned at Ft. Myer, and had been turned out on pasture until their shipment here. Hence they need more weight and their feet require attention.

THEY'RE NOT YOUNG

The majority of those to be auctioned are around 10 or 12 years old—and, in horsey terms, a year of a man's life is equal to four years of a horse's life. A 10-year-old, on this basis, is the equivalent of a 40-year-old man—too not in his prime, as are some 40-year-old men we know.