

# Toby Breeders Preserving An Old Family

Where the Snake River of the American Northwest leaves the inhospitable terrain of Hell's Canyon and turns toward the sea, the slopes are barely gentle enough to sustain a grass cover suitable for grazing. It is a land of awesome but ominous beauty, an unforgiving environment that produced, by natural selection, a sure-footed, intelligent, smooth-moving horse whose movements protect the rider from the shocks from which he shields himself.

Here where the Palouse River flows into the Snake lived Sam Fisher, an aged Palouse Indian horse breeder whose ability to breed fine horses had set him apart, even among his own people. Though the Palouse were usually considered part of the Nez Perce nation, they lived apart from Chief Joseph's people, and they were allowed to retain their horses when the rest of the Nez Perce breeding stock were killed and dispersed after the war. Fisher's horses were the most purely bred, unbroken and undiluted Appaloosa bloodlines available near the turn of the century.

From these roots descended today's Toby bloodline, a family that preserves the genes of some of the old Appaloosa seed stock. During the 60's horsemen owning the Toby bloodline joined together to form the Toby Breeders Association, a group dedicated to promoting breeding programs that follow the principles of preserving this pure Appaloosa strain.



Toby II produced get that carried the Toby name to every corner of the United States.

Although the family line is named for Toby I, the Champion Performance Horse at the first National Appaloosa Show in 1948, a brochure published by the Toby breeders traces the history of the family much further back, back to the days of Sam Fisher.

Further up the Snake River from the Palouse settlement lived two white ranchers and horse breeders who the good fortune to have access to Fisher's breeding stock. Closest was Guy Lamb, who owned old Knobby, the Palouse country stallion who became the foremost reference sire, antedating the studbook. Knobby's reputation brought the best mares of the area to him for service. The other breeder was Floyd Hickman, a young man who took his good broodmare Spot to mate with the famous stallion. The result of

this mating was a stallion for Hickman that he named Little Dan.

Hickman bred his young stallion to a mare named Lucy that he had acquired from Fisher. This produced another stallion who became known as Old Blue. Hickman sold Little Dan, but he kept Old Blue and mated him with the best mares he could find. According to Hickman's records Old Blue stood to over 100 outside mares in one year and a 70 percent colt crop.

One of Hickman's favorite mares was Trixie, a race mare who was often loaned out to friends who traveled the fair circuit. Hickman said, "I suppose the best thing you could



say about her speed and getaway was that during prohibition a bootlegger used her to deliver bottled whiskey." In the meantime, Trixie produced 14 colts for Hickman, the most famous of which was Toby I, sired by Old Blue.

Like his sire and great grand-sire, Toby I lived past 30 years. He was trained at age two and showed an aptitude for ranch work and a cooperative disposition. Hickman remembered him as the best stockhorse he ever owned. He said Toby I never needed to be tied in a truck and he frequently would jump aboard without benefit of a loading ramp or dock. At the age of 14 he was retired from ranch work and spent his life thereafter with Mrs. W.C. Racicot of Sandpoint, Idaho, living the life of the show horse.

Toby I was very lightly used as a sire. Some of his more famous get include Tobiana, Gloree Bee, Rapid Lightning, Kaniksu's Chain Lightning, Kaniksu's Sheet Lightning, Kaniksu's Little Beaver, Kaniksu's Kiowa, Toby's Peacock, and of course, Toby II, also bred by Floyd Hickman and bought by George Hatley, former executive secretary of the Appaloosa Horse Club.

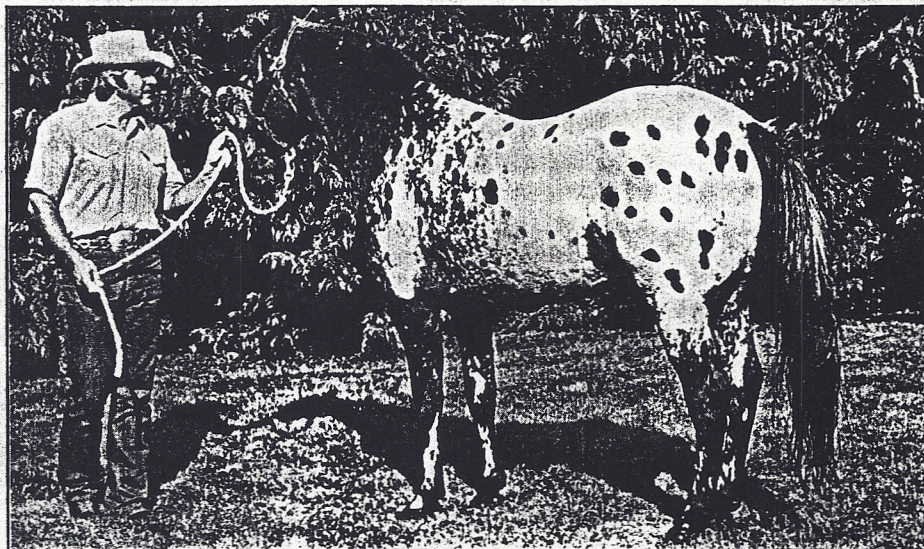
According to the Toby breeders' brochure, Toby II's progeny traveled to every corner of the United States and accomplished the most toward making the bloodline known outside the Northwest. His better known mares include Patch, Black Beauty, Princess Pat, Nahahuli Wahine and Tobee Anna. Patch and Black Beauty were producers of show animals and appear close up in the pedigrees of such horses as Sutter's Show Boy, Restless Wind, and XR's Warbonnet. Some of Toby II's sons were Chief Eagle, Toby Patch, Chief Handprint, Toby III, Genesee Chief, Yakima Toby, Topatchy, Kenny's Chief, Doll's Toby, Polkadott Toby, Toby K, and Toby II's Patchy.

The brochure said some of the most successful matings of Toby horses have resulted from crossing with the products of Morgan's Leopard, Red Eagle and Patchy, another family that sprang from Knobby.

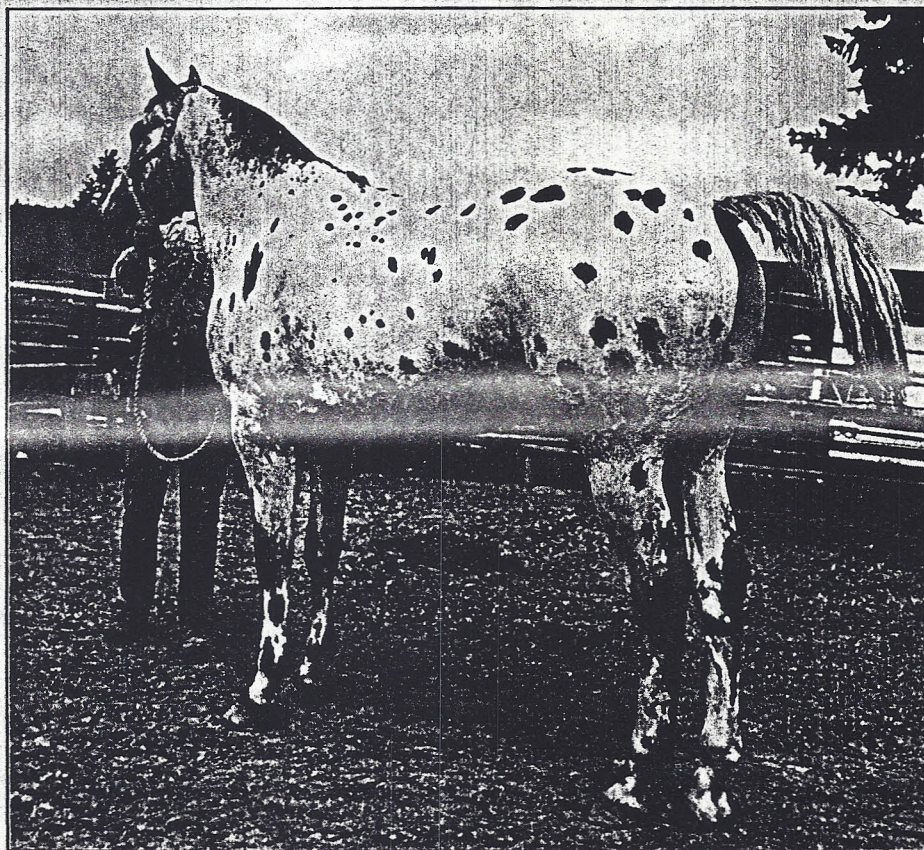
The Toby Breeders Association is preserving a reservoir of Appaloosa traits. According to the breeders' association, this gene pool is available not only to the breeder interested in maintaining an Appaloosa to Appaloosa program, but also to breeders who, after several generations of outcrossing, find it desirable to return to the well for the undiluted

genes of the horses of the Palouse country.

More information about the Toby Breeders Association can be obtained from Ken Bliven, president, 19030 Pinehurst Road, Bend, Oregon 97701, telephone (503) 389-8738 or from Sandy Baldwin, secretary, Route 1 Box 1183, Clatskanie, Oregon 97016, telephone (503) 728-4652.



Tammerlane, a stallion of the Toby line, is owned by Vitriak Hydaway in Hickory, Pennsylvania.



Artesian Toby Chief (deceased) was a son of Toby II and was a reference sire.