

OUTSTANDING APPALOOSA BLOODLINES

(KNOBBY-TOBY BLOODLINE)

By ROBERT L. PECKINPAH

Deep in the heart of the Palouse Country in the spring of 1925, a red roan Nez Perce mare named Spot was bred to a stallion called Knobby, owned by Chet Lamb at Central Ferry on the Snake River. In the spring that followed, Spot, who later lived to be over 30 years of age, foaled the stallion Little Dan, later destined to become the forerunner of a strain of pure Nez Perce horses that today claim upwards of 80 registrations out of the 1325 entered on the permanent book.

Spot, a sensible horse in her younger years, was still ridden by children to school in the latter years of her life. Knobby, a wonderful stock horse weighing 1050 lbs. was a red roan, white over the loins and hips with nice large spots and was 8 or 9 years old when he sired Little Dan.

Chet Lamb at this time had a house in Lewiston, Idaho, and owned the ranch at Central Ferry, Wash. He rode Knobby back and forth between the ranch and Lewiston—55 miles—easily in less than a day. "Only an Appaloosa could do this regularly," Lamb used to say with conviction.

Floyd Hickman of Colfax, Washington, a director of the Whitman County Cattlemen's Association, was the man responsible for the start of this bloodline. Because of an accident in 1924 on Christmas Eve, Hickman lost his



Chief Handprint is owned and shown by bearded William G. Amick, Jr., 4405 Cayuga, Tampa, Florida. This colorful horse placed 2nd in the yearling stud class this last June in Lewiston. He was sired by Toby II and is out of Lolo.

right leg and since has had an artificial one. This handicap has demanded very gentle, tractible and sensible horses for him to carry on his cattle business. And Hickman, who in the past has bred and raised more than 300 head of Appaloosas, found them as he puts it, "Very well dispositioned—you could get them up, ride them a few times and they were broke and would stay broke. They were the best stock horses I ever owned—particularly for the rough breaks and canyons on the Snake River where I run cattle."

Little Dan was a very trim horse, weighing 1000 pounds, and was a good traveler. He was black, white over

loins and hips with black spots and a star in the forehead. Eventually, he was bred to Lucy, a rangy looking red roan bred by Sam Fisher, the old Nez Perce who lived at the mouth of the Palouse River, and in 1930 she foaled Old Blue. Black at birth, he later turned off blue with white over loins and hips and a blaze on his face. In his prime he weighed 1050 pounds.

Hickman says that he sired fully 60 per cent Appaloosa colored foals at birth with 10 to 15 per cent later turning off at one or two years. Contrary to some stories, Old Blue was never raced. However, in 1935 he was bred to a racing mare named Trixie who had