



Sam Fisher, 98 years old, 1947

day of the Model T Ford - at a time when a man or boy with a good horse had little to do with cars, and spent some time outdoing them. Guy took pride in jumping Knobby straight down the stairstep hills rising behind the corrals of his father's Central Ferry ranch, or riding him across a railroad trestle, occasionally. In over 20 years of riding this horse both Guy and his brother, Glen Lamb, state unequivocally that he was never off his feet. Glen Lamb tells of a time while riding Knobby on an icy slope, the horse simply spread his legs a bit and "skated" in one unbroken slide for several hundred feet.

It was a most fortunate circumstance that placed old Knobby near the Snake River between the Hickman ranch, upstream, and the mouth of the Palouse River, downstream, where Sam Fisher, the Indian horsebreeder lived. Sam Fisher was then an aged man, whose lifetime interest and ability to breed colorful horses, had set him apart, even among his own people. His tribe, the Palouse Indians, were more a river people, and living apart from the main body of the Nez Perce, were not directly involved in the Nez Perce war. This means also that their

horses, and Sam Fisher's were among the best, were not taken out of the country, killed or dispersed with the resulting dilution of nearly a century of breeding, but were quite unaffected by the hostilities to the southeast. This means further, that nowhere is there a more purely bred, unbroken and undiluted bloodline of Appaloosa horses than that descending from the breeding of Sam Fisher. (Two officials of the Appaloosa horse club personally spoke to Sam Fisher on two occasions before his death at very near the century mark.)

Floyd Hickman grew up on a cattle ranch near Almota upstream from Central Ferry.

While still a young man he acquired an exceptionally good Appaloosa broodmare called Spot. His mare was taken downstream to the Lamb ranch to be bred to Knobby. This mating produced Little Dan, a black stud with a small hip blanket and star that at first glance reminds one now (in photos) of Patchy 416, except for a smaller blanket.

Little Dan was kept as a stallion, of course, and his claim to fame, in the short time Floyd owned him, was as the sire of Old Blue, out of Lucy, a mare acquired by Floyd from Sam Fisher.



Floyd Hickman, breeder of Little Dan, Old Blue, Toby I and Toby II

Lucy was a red roan mare, of a quality to look well in most of the mare bands of today. Her product, Old Blue, by Little Dan, sired Toby I No. 203, Kamiak Trixie No. 3255, Chief Joseph No. 92 and many others.

Old Blue stood to over 100 outside mares in one year with a



Blue Bear



Harold Tibbs on Toby I, George Hatley on Toby II