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'Ted' Selected As Official Foundation Sire of MFTHBA

By Clyde Connelly

During their regular scheduled meeting held Jan. 12, 2016, the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association Board of Directors took a historic vote and selected the stallion "Ted" to be the Foundation Sire of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed. Bred and developed in the Ozark Region for the fox trotting gait, the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse is the State Horse of Missouri. The Board of Directors felt it appropriate to consider and recommend Ted as the foundation sire.

The foundation sire of a breed is determined to be that individual whose majority of descendants best fit the standards desired and selected for that breed. Ted is the fountain head of many famous fox trotting horse families here in the Ozarks such as Blankenship Diamond, Old Fox, Ozark Golden King, Nancy Ann, Golden Governor, Zane Grey, Missouri Traveler and others.

Ted sired offspring known for their style, rhythm and animation while performing the fox trot gait. The majority of the World Grand Champions crowned at the annual Show and Celebration held here at Ava carry "Ted" blood.

Ted was bred and owned by the late Knial Kissee of Sparta, Mo., and stood at stud in the Sparta area during the early 1930s to the mid-1940s - which was several years

prior to the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association being chartered.

It was because of the type of horses Ted sired that caused a group of men from Ava, Mo., to establish a breed association in order to record and preserve the bloodlines of horses that naturally exhibited the fox trot gait.

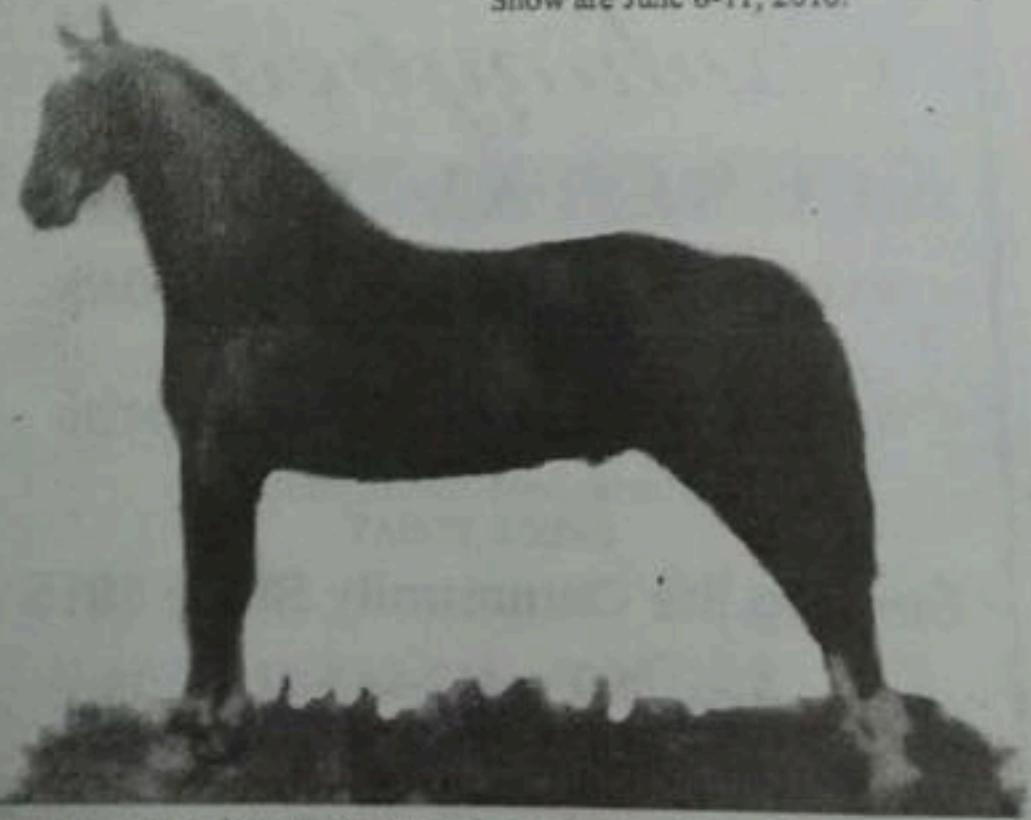
The hind feet of the original horses, while trotting, would step into the track just left by their front feet, leaving only two tracks, much like a fox trotting in snow, hence their name.

In later years Ted was sold to a Mr. Bill Smith who resided just north of Lebanon in Laclede County, Mo., where he remained very popular as an outstanding sire of Missouri Fox Trotting horses.

The MFTHBA holds two official shows each year at Ava. The Youth Seminar and 3-Year-Old Futurity is held annually the first week in June and the annual Show and Celebration begins Labor Day weekend and runs the entire next week, ending on Saturday night.

Ava is the world headquarters of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association. Numerous shows are held throughout the year sanctioned by the MFTHBA, but only at the Show and Celebration is a World Grand Champion Missouri Fox Trotter crowned.

Announced dates for the Spring Show are June 8-11, 2016.



Missouri stallion, "Ted", has been selected as the official foundation sire of the Missouri Fox Trotting breed.