

Ted had been gaining in popularity with the horsemen of Laclede County, and he was eventually sold to Dale and Dean Esther's uncle, Mr. Bill Smith. Golden Governor was fortunate to be standing at stud in the same area where Ted had previously stood at stud. Over the years, Ted had already proved himself to be a sire of great foxtrotting horses. The three World Grand Champion Missouri Fox Trotting Horses that Golden Governor sired were all from mares who were daughters of Ted. Golden Governor was a great-grandson of Ted through his paternal line.

Around the time that Knial sold Ted, he located and purchased the Walking Horse-bred stallion, Kirk Allen. When Knial crossed his Old Fox daughter, Ethel Beauty, to Kirk Allen, he got the stallion known as the Kisse Diamond, and he registered him in the Walking Horse Association as such. This stallion has often been confused with Blankenship Diamond, but they were two separate horses. Knial owned the mare Betty Fox, who was the dam of both Blankenship Diamond, and later Golden Governor. Betty Fox must have been an outstanding foxtrotting mare as she also carried the surname "Fox," which was unusual for a mare. One of the foals of the Kisse Diamond was a mare named Baby Doll, who was the dam of Hawkeye's Black Sambo.

There must have been something about Merry Boy horses that suited Knial. On May 6, 1946, he purchased Black Angel, the 1943 World Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Horse. She was the first foal out of Merry Boy to win the World Grand Championship for Tennessee Walking horses. Knial took another Merry Boy-bred mare he owned and raised Midnight Mack K., foaled July 4,

1947. Midnight Mack K. has been considered to be one of the greatest Walking Horses ever. Knial purchased a mare named Nancy Ann Allen and raised a mare he named Lady Ann K. He bred both to Kirk Allen in 1942. The names of these two mares became famous when used in naming two early foxtrotting mares later on. There could have been a closer kinship between the Esthers' and the Kissees' horses than what we now know. Knial's good friend, the late Elmer Hicks, later purchased a stallion out of a double-bred Merry Boy mare. This stallion later became famous in the Fox Trotting world; his name was Sterling Merry Boy.

A testimony on just how great Knial considered his Old Fox stallion to be can be determined by the number of Old Fox daughters he kept for broodmares. Old Fox was a paternal brother to Nancy Ann, both being sired by Ted. Knial had in Old Fox and Midnight Mack K. two extraordinary stallions that greatly influenced two separate horse breeds. Midnight Mack K. was the sire or grandsire of at least seven World Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Horses. Old Fox had an equally impressive accomplishment: by far the majority of World Grand Champion Missouri Fox Trotting Horses carry his blood. The Knial Kisse Old Fox not only sired several foals whose offspring were later registered in the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, but he also sired several foals that were registered in the Tennessee Walking Horse Breed Association, as well. Knial also owned the dam of Sandy, the first horse crowned World Grand Champion Missouri Fox Trotting Horse. Who knows what Knial would have accomplished in the equine world if he hadn't been killed in a car accident while returning home from the Bolivar, MO, 4th of July Horse Show in 1959.

ues to submit yearly on-time hour logs. Failure to maintain membership and/or submit a yearly hour log will result in the horse needing to be re-enrolled in the program. However, the previously submitted hours will not be lost as they are part of the horse's permanent MFTHBA record.



One very lucky person participating in the Fox Trot America program can win a Hedgpeth saddle!

Somewhere in time's own space

*There must be some
sweet pastured place
Where creeks sing on
and tall trees grow*

*Some paradise where horses go,
For by the love that guides my pen
I know great horses live again.*

~Stanley Harrison