

## Golden Chief...a foundation sire

Article reprinted from Palomino News Volume 1, No 2, June 1967

The history of the palomino horse in Australia has led to much speculation and rumour about some of the foundation sires. Among the many stories circulating is that of Mr Norman Porter's 'imported' palomino stallion, Golden Chief, who was registered in the American Palomino Stud Book as well as the Australian Palomino Horsebreeders' Association Stud Book.

One of the recent stories told to me in good faith was that Golden Chief was imported from America and after standing many years at stud was sent home at an old age to die in his homeland. Other stories of mares mated to the only imported palomino stallion and of progeny by him add nothing to the standing of the Association.

To set the record straight, I have interviewed and written letters to those who knew Mr Porter (now deceased) and how he came into possession of Golden Chief. At this stage it is as well to mention that Mr Porter was the Australian representative of the American Palomino Association and had standing at stud 'Belah', that champion racehorse Manning who sired many well-known palominos among them Gold Coin and Golden Locket.

On checking through the stud books of the APHA Mr Ron McPhee was seen to have been the owner and breeder of Golden Chief. It was an easy matter to arrange for an interview as he is still a member and living in Sydney.

The visit, which was to settle one question, revealed that not only was he still breeding palominos but was just as enthusiastic now as he was in 1938 when he first saw a palomino while on tour as a member of the Australian Rough Riders team in America. Claiming to be the first breeder of palominos in Australia is a story which will be featured in the next issue.

Returning from America in 1939 he again represented Australia in a World Series of Rodeo events at the Sydney Showground. WW2 interrupted his plans to breed palominos and it wasn't until 1944 that, following his discharge from the army, he returned to Scone and began the first of the matings to produce palominos. Using a buckskin mare which was out of a Reunof mare with the chestnut stallion Pocket Money he bred his first filly which he named Golden Model. At the second attempt using the same combination a colt was bred which he named Golden Chief. Outstanding at an early age in both colour and conformation he drew much attention whenever he was exhibited. One of those to fall in love with him at first sight was Mr Porter who was later able to purchase him.

Branded NP he stood at Belah Stud for many years, at a service fee of 50 guineas. Golden Chief sired many palominos none of which were sold less than 600 guineas, included in his progeny was Golden Lynx, later to become Champion of New Zealand. Golden Chief was undefeated in the show ring.

To bring the story of Golden Chief up to date I wrote to his present owner, Mr Neville Fitzpatrick of Ivanhoe, NSW and present extracts from his letters:

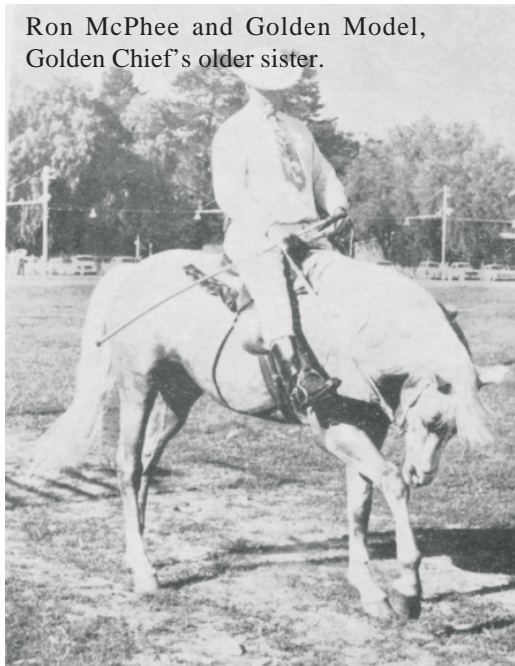
*Referring to your query about Golden Chief, I will try to condense his history as much as possible. Although I have owned him for a relatively short time I have known about him from his earliest days. I used to correspond with Mr Norman Porter who owned him as a young horse. He was once offered to me for 2000 guineas. This was just prior to Mr Porter's death.*

*Golden Chief was foaled at Scone in 1947 his breeder being Mr McPhee. He was purchased by Mr Porter at an early age and carries his brand NP. Mr Porter, at this*

*time, had Belah Stud at Scone as well as living at Vaucluse. Also standing at Belah Stud was the thoroughbred Manning (Midstream x Miss Rossendale). This cross produced some wonderful horses, one in particular was Golden Lynx which was sold to Mr G Ausling of New Zealand for 1000 guineas. I am told that Mr Ausling was offered a further 1000 guineas on his deal but would not sell. Golden Lynx was sired by Manning. Another great colt from Belah was Gold Coin, being sired by Manning and sold at a Thoroughbred auction for I think, 1100 guineas. I have a full sister (palomino) to Golden Lynx. I also had the mother until her death. She was a thoroughbred mare sired by Metallurgy. At the time Golden Lynx and Gold Coin were sold from Belah the stud was managed by Mr Reg Mills, a prominent Sydney trainer.*

*Just prior to Mr Porter's death Golden Chief was sold to Mr Bruce Yeo of Tullamore, next owner was Mr Roger Darwon, I think there was another owner and then on to Mr Reeves of Wheeo. At twenty years of age this wonderful horse has at last found a permanent home. I bought him from Mr Reeves. His body colour is still a lovely golden shade but, as mentioned some time ago, his mane and tail have gone grey through age although it is not a dark grey but more a silver grey.*

*The above is evidence that he wasn't imported but his grandsire, the thoroughbred Paper Money was imported. Also Golden Chief was registered in America. I was a member of that Association.*



Ron McPhee and Golden Model, Golden Chief's older sister.



Signed J Neville Fitzpatrick