

# Living History

A interview with Mr Ronnie Little, taken at his home in Pomeroyton, Ky on July 12, 2004.

MPHA- When and where were you born?

R.L.- Pomeroyton, Ky January 6, 1934

MPHA- Have you always lived around this area?

R.L.- 68 years, except the 2 years spent with Uncle Sam

MPHA- When did your family settle here?

R.L.- Early 1800's.

MPHA- Did you come from a large family?

R.L.- No just had one brother.

R.L.- My dad did, there was 11 in his family.

MPHA- Did you do a lot of farming as a boy growing up?

R.L.- Yeah, raised right here on a farm. Dad had a country store and a post office.

MPHA- How did you get all of your farming done with just you two boys?

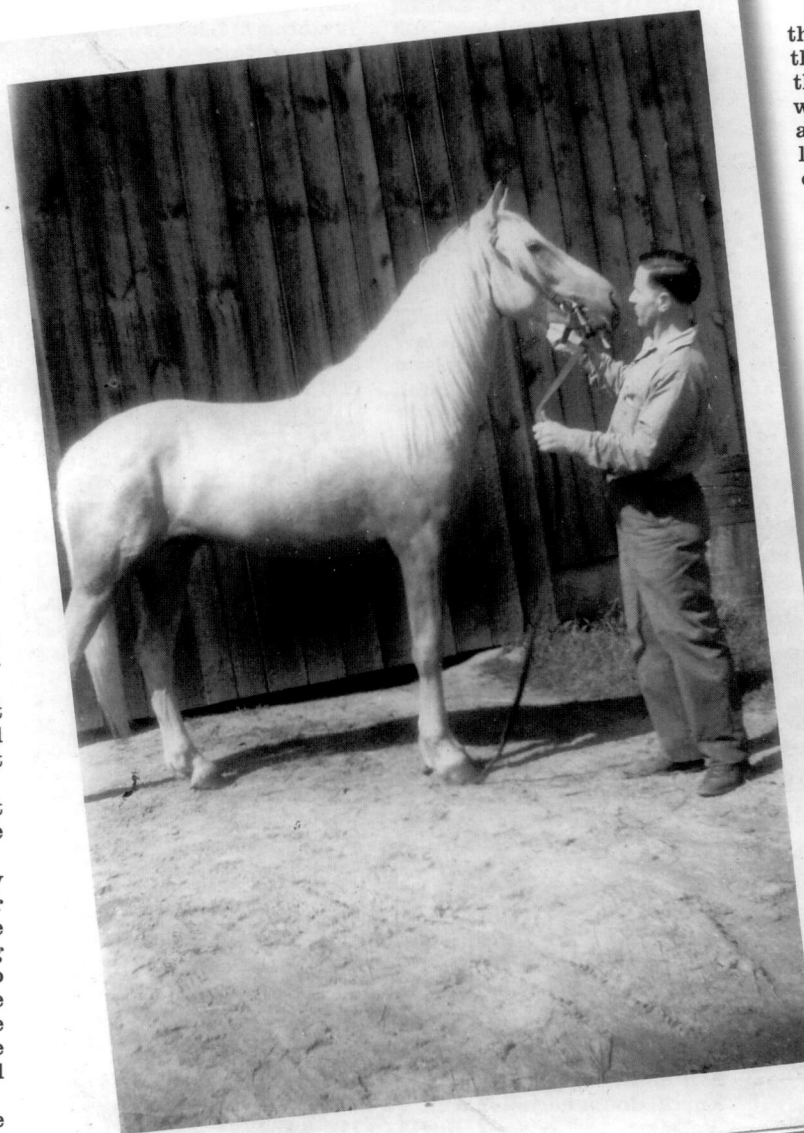
R.L.- We didn't, my brother was 8 years older than me and he didn't like to farm. We were farming with mules. Daddy had to get some help from some work hands back then. We tended tobacco with the mules and horses. Up until tractor time.

MPHA- The horses were a important part of farming?

R.L.- It was the only way up until mid 50's or later. That was the only way we had. Nobody had tractor's up until the 50's.

MPHA- Did your family keep records of the horses that they raised?

R.L.- No, my daddy kept them in his head and I've



that came to the store, they would be working the mares in buggies and wagons and riding them and letting the colts follow. So he could pick out the colts he liked and some people would sell them, so they could have money to buy what they needed for the farm or what have you. He would buy quite a few of them as yearlings or coming two year olds and break them out. And he had an outlet he'd sell them to after they were broke.

MPHA- Did he sell them out of state?

R.L.- Some of them out of State, some of them in State. Palomino's mostly he would sell to Hub Spencer. Old man Hub was a horse trader that lived out in Winchester. He sold one horse in '47, a palomino horse to this fellow in Springboro, OH, Bob Eaton. Daddy sold him for a \$1,000.00, that was a pretty good price back then. That horses sire was the first palomino I had ever seen. Here is a copy of the advertisement for

stud for him, He was owned by a Mr. Ratliff, his nephew sent me this paper. (See next page)

MPHA- About what year was he in this country?

RL- Mr. Will Ratliff owned that horse and he was foaled in 1935,...and Mr. Ratliff sold him in 1945. The

tried to keep some of mine down.

MPHA- Did he have a good memory about all of them.

R.L.- Oh Yeah, perfect good memory right up until he died.

MPHA- Your dad, did he raise horses to sell and trade or just for your own use?

R.L.- Both, some of the stallions around the country were good stallions and he would watch the people

horse's eyes were getting a little bad, and he went to Winchester. He sold him for a thousand in 1945, and then my dad sold this one colt by him that we had in 1947. He was the one went to Bob Eaton, Springboro, OH.

MPHA- Was this Ratliff palomino horse raised in this country, or from somewhere else?

RL- Yes, just over the hill here. He was by a bay mare that old man Ratliff had, and she was by a black horse, and out of a sorrel mare. The sire was the Bob Nichols horse up above Hazel Green. I think, he was a buckskin or something with a black mane and tail.

MPHA- Did a lot of people breed to this horse when he was standing?

RL- Lots of people. He had a lot of foals around the country. Mr. Ratliff was never married, all he had was his horses and mules. But that is the first palomino around here, and I've asked other people and they said that was the first palomino stallion they ever saw around in this whole territory here. Big lot of the horses were black or bay, these old saddle horses.

MPHA-When did you realize that the Mt. Pleasure horses were different from other horses?

RL- I didn't realize they were any different back then. We always kept mountain pleasure horses and after I got out of the service in the mid 50's I got Tennessee Walking Horses and showed them for a while and raised them but I always kept the Mountain Pleasure Horses too. So when I faded out of the Tennessee horses I just kept Mountain Pleasure stallions. Kept one of them until ole Goldfinger died.

MPHA- What was your most favorite horse?

RL- Probably Goldfinger. He was the best going, I had a full brother to him, Sterling Silver that was 11 years older than Goldfinger. They looked a lot alike and had the same temperment, you could do anything you wanted to do with them. They passed the trait on.

MPHA-Did you raise Goldfinger?

RL- No, I bought him from Charlie Short when he was a 4 year old. Before Goldfinger

I bought Dolly and Silver from Charlie, they were a full brother and sister to Goldfinger only older. Their sire was Rocky by old Bucky and their mother was old Bess. I also bought her from Charlie and then when she got older gave her back to Charlie's daughter, that's when they bred her back to old Rocky and got Goldfinger.

MPHA- Was Bess a good saddle mare?

RL- The best, You could put the kids on her or put her in the tobacco patch or the garden and plow her or put her in a mowing machine.

MPHA- Did you trail ride the horses a lot?

RL-Yes  
MPHA- Were they broke to work?

RL-Goldfinger was, Silver I don't think was. Charlie would plow his garden with Goldfinger.

MPHA- How did Goldfinger get his name?

RL- There was a 2 yr old dark palomino Tennessee stallion that won the championship

the year Goldfinger was born. My nephew was working down there at the time and he wanted to name him after that horse.

MPHA-Did you ever have any trouble selling Goldfinger colts?

RL- Wasn't any trouble, I never had trouble selling them. There's not

hear about the MPHA?

RL- I can't remember when it started, but I was pretty much in from the beginning. I didn't register any thing for a while, Paul started and then these Prewitt brothers,

they were good friends of mine, and then I started.

MPHA- What do you think should be done to promote this breed of horses?

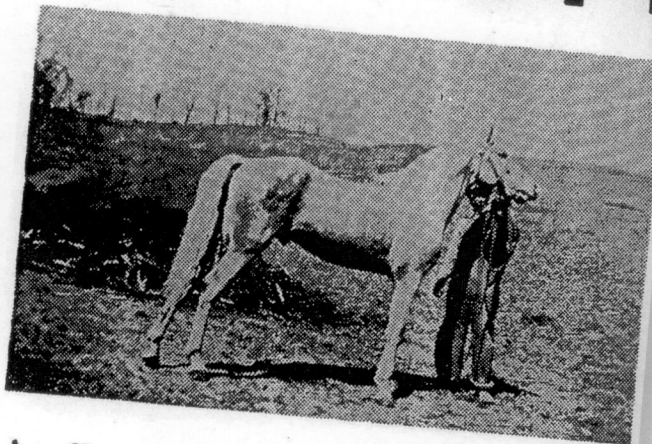
RL- I don't think we ever got the advertisement out like we should have. Back when I served on the board we didn't have the funds to do it with but we kept our own thing and had the first blood typing and all that and a lot of people didn't know what it was all about.

The End

Let me end by saying that I am not a writer, nor do I have any literary skills. But I do have a love for history and horses. I thoroughly enjoyed doing this interview with Mr Little and want to thank him for allowing me this privilege. I welcome your comments, let me know if you would like to see more interviews in the magazine.

David R. Spradlin

# DUTCH



A yellow Stallion with white mane and tail, 15½ hands high, and weighing 1,000 pounds. —sired by the Bob Sallie horse.

This fine Saddle Stallion will make the season of 1939 at my barn at Denniston, Ky.

TERMS: \$8.00 to insure a living colt; \$2.00 in hand paid at time of service, and balance when colt is foaled. Money due if mare is parted with or bred to other stock without my consent.

Care will be taken to prevent accidents, but I will not be responsible should any occur.

## WILL RATLIFF

Breeder and Owner, Denniston, Ky.

many of them left. There's a lot of them gone out of the country.

MPHA-When did you first

david@spradlinrealestat.com