

# THE HISTORY OF THE MORGAN HORSE IN CALIFORNIA

by Laura Stillwell Algranti

California, the golden state of opportunity where fads and trends often begin. A state of ocean, rich agricultural land, mountains, deserts - and Morgan horses. California has more Morgans and Morgan owners than any other state. How did the Morgan come to California and become so popular?

## THE BEGINNING

The first Morgans in California came with the gold-seeking argonauts of 1849 and also with those seeking to make their fortunes by catering to the gold hunters. These first arriving Morgans were predominantly of Black Hawk lines including many sons, grandsons, and further descendants. These stallions came overland, in one instance at the head of an oxen wagon team, and by ship. Neither route was easy, thus proving again the stamina and endurance of the Morgan. In this early period, through the 1870's, the Morgan was very popular in California, mostly as a racing horse. Those who could trot the fastest and sire speed were the most in demand. Later, faster stock was imported from Kentucky and these sons of the early Standardbred sires were often crossed on mares of Morgan descent to produce noted trotters. Governor Leland Stanford was one who used Morgan bred mares to form his Palo Alto Stock Farm. The Morgan blood was continually diluted until it was virtually gone. An example is the famous Lou Dillon, the first horse to trot a mile in less than two minutes (1:58 in 1903). Her dam was by a Standardbred and out of Fly, whose sire and dam were both by Black Hawk. In the search for sheer speed, the Morgan blood disappeared into the new breed of Standardbreds.

On the ranches of the Central Valley, Morgans helped to improve the working ranch horses. Some of these breeders were James Ben Ali Haggin, Jesse D. Carr, and General John Bidwell - all men closely associated with California history. But by 1890, there were no more pure Morgans being brought to California and if the occasional "family pets" came with some of the immigrants, they have been lost to history.

However, there is one small link between these first California Morgans and today's horses. The second dam of Laydee and Dulcet was a chestnut mare bred by James Ben Ali Haggin and used on the Jesse Carr and J.B. Haggin Kern County Ranch. This mare was said to be part Morgan and probably was. Carr and Haggin had the stallions Redfield's Vermont and Bismarch, both Black Hawk lines horses. A number of the Carr and Haggin mares were sired by these stallions and used on their ranches. Both Laydee and Dulcet have descendants today, giving their owners a rare piece of Morgan history.

## TO BEGIN AGAIN

California in the 1920's and 1930's was home to many large cattle ranches. The land was rugged – near desert mountains, steep and ragged hills. While most ranchers seemed content with grade horses, a few were not and searched for the sort of horses that could handle the tough working conditions. Inevitably, their search led them to Morgans.

Reginald Parsons was the first to bring Morgans back to California. He went to Texas, to Richard

Sellman, for his foundation stock and Sellman selected the stallion Baldie's Boy by Headlight Morgan for him. Along with Baldie's Boy came a carload of mares, carefully picked to complement the stallion. May 1920 saw the arrival of these horses at Parson's Mountcrest Ranch near Hilt in Northern California. Five of the mares were in foal to Joe Bailey, son of Headlight Morgan. One of the resulting foals was Mountcrest Sellman, whose influence in California continues today. By 1927, Parsons had sold most of his Morgans, but kept Mountcrest Sellman until 1932 when William Randolph Hearst purchased him. Mountcrest Sellman was one of the best horses of his time. It is said that his sons resembled him and each other, being deep-bodied, upheaded, and stylish. Some of his progeny are Antman, Montabell, Cloverman, Kenelm Morgan, Redman, and many good daughters. Antman was used by Sid Spencer of Arroyo Grande and was a true working horse on her rugged coastal mountain ranch. One of his daughters is Shasta Daisy, dam of Windswept Ramon. Cloverman was sire for Mrs. Anna Kzeitler of Santa Cruz; he is sire of Clovernette, dam of California King. Montabell Montabell was bred by Hearst and owned by O.C. Foster of Calabasas, who called him Montabell Gift. "Gift" was frequently used as the suffix on his progeny. One of Foster's dreams was to reestablish the Morgan as a harness racer. To this end, he bred Montabell to a Standardbred mare and produced Jim Dandy Gift, who at Bay Meadows Race Track, won a race after being worked, by mistake, 14 miles that morning. Jim Dandy went on to further victories at Santa Anita. Foster also loved Palominos, so Montabell became a sire of registered Palominos. Montabell stood to mares of all breeds and still was the sire of registered Morgans. Some of these were Calabasas Gift; Oh-Cee's Gift, dam of Vacquero Mac; Princess Firefly; Nellie Gift; Poco's Queen; and Anita Belle Gift. His daughters won at parades and at shows and all had type and good bone. Montabell also won at shows, claiming grand champion stallion at the large shows of the time. Bred to his half sister, Serenata, Montabell got Senator Gift who, when ridden by Lali Brunson, won the 1966 and 1967 Feather River Endurance Ride, a tough race which included a swim across the river.



*Headlight Morgan was Richard Sellman's foundation stallion and sired such horses as Joe Bailey and Redwood Morgan.*

Redman was another fine son by Mountcrest Sellman. He was purchased by R.L. Wellborn in 1938. Redman was a dark red chestnut of 15.2 hands and excellent type who won frequently at shows. In 1942, Redman was sold to Warren Halliday, who had a ranch near Bishop. Halliday selected mares of the Brunk, Sellman, and Roland Hill breeding programs to complement Redman. In 1945, they all moved to Blue Heaven Ranch in Scott Valley in Northern California. For Halliday, Redman had 29 foals. Later, sold to Dr. Ina Richter, of Kedron Farm in Solvang, he had 11 foals. Never used extensively at stud, his total get are 31 colts and 31 fillies. R.L. Wellborn of Campo was the breeder of Redman's best known son, Blackman, whose dam was the Brunk

mare Gojea. Gojea was sold to E.W. Roberts of Hi-Pass in San Diego County while in foal with Blackman. He and seven of his sons (all stallions) performed at Knott's Berry Farm in 1952 doing an impressive and popular liberty drill. Blackman's influence in California has been impressive; just a few of his get are Bikini, Blackman Allen, Harold Roberts, Baacamanto, Belle Romanesque, Jeanne Allen, Kathleen B., Lady Gay, Lois Morgan, Margaret Collins, Slower Nell, and Justina Allen. All of these horses have descendants today and continue to exert their influence. Another Roberts-bred son of Redman was Red Gates, sire of Arin Bolin, Bea Nickerson, Gojean, Poco Aljoy, Otto McClure, Red Allen, and others. Roberts found that the descendants of Redman crossed well with each other and therefore many of his breedings concentrated this blood.



*Warren J. Halliday (pictured here with Redman), bred the stallion to mares of the Brunk, Sellman, and Hill breeding programs*

F.A. Fickert of Tehachapi needed horses to handle the mountainous terrain of his ranch. In 1922, he bought from Sellman a stallion and 13 mares. The stallion was Raven Chief by Morgan Chief and the mares were by Headlight Morgan or his sons or grandsons, except for one mare by The Admiral. Most of the mares were out of daughters of The Admiral. These mares were bred to Raven Chief and his sons and produced a family that is still influential today. Texsky was the dam of Sun Down Morgan, a popular sire, one of whose daughters is Almond Joy, dam of Orron and Poco Aljoy. Texsky was also dam of Red Sail and Mixer. Kita K. was dam of Colorado, sire of Red Flash who is the grandsire of Discreet Lee who, with his sons, are the only Bulrush sire line stallions in existence today. Conant K. was dam of Chief of Chestnut and Lucy Belle. Some other descendants of the Fickert horses are Monty Vermont, Domino Vermont, Nona, Ranchita Chief, and Easter Vermont.

Roland Hill had a 195,000-acre ranch in Nevada and a smaller one in California; these ranches could carry 8,500 cattle. To work these ranches, an excellent type of stock horse was required. Hill wanted his horses to be broad-chested, deep through the heart girth with well-developed and muscular hindquarters, and strong, dense boned and clean of legs. The horse needed to be quick and agile with endurance and a sensible disposition. Hill was not satisfied with the stock horses in California at the time and so his search took him to Sellman's ranch in Texas. In 1922, he purchased and brought Redwood Morgan, by Headlight Morgan, to California. His two most noted sons are Blackhauz and Cuyamo. Shortly thereafter, Hill had a carload of mares from Sellman shipped from Texas; most of these were by Headlight Morgan or his sons. In 1924, Hill brought out another carload of mares from Sellman, most of which were by Red Oak. Hill had sold Redwood Morgan, (which he later regretted) so he now tried some other stallions. Pat Allen (Allen

King x Patrona), purchased from J.C. Brunk, was a big, powerful horse that Hill said was "perpetual motion he could gallop all day." Pongee Morgan (Allen King x Galva) also came from Brunk; he is now found solely on mare lines in modern pedigrees. Joaquin Morgan (Romanesque x Margaret L.) left some good descendants in California, but Hill considered him to be a difficult horse. He was not friendly to people, preferring to do his job and then to be left alone, though he was a willing and hard worker. These latter traits were passed to his progeny. Sparbeau (Linsley x Sparbelle) was the biggest "little" Morgan and also left some good descendants. El Cortez (Romanesque x Viola Linsley), whose registered name was Heibert's Challenge, was a good sire of gentle colts.

Hill, however, was not totally happy with the results from these stallions. The Sellman stock was based on linebreeding, but Hill felt that it was too close. In 1924, he took the first step towards finding his own method of linebreeding by purchasing Querido from the United States Government Farm in Vermont. Then, in 1939, he bought Sonfield from the United States Farm. By now, Hill had a sizeable band of Querido daughters which he then bred to Sonfield to create his "magical cross." Querido was by Bennington and out of Artemisia. Sonfield was by the Bennington son, Mansfield who also was out of Artemisia. Sonfield bore a strong resemblance to his great-grand sire, General Gates, but was more rounded through the barrel. His fault was that he fell off in the croup but his progeny were so excellent in all other ways that it was generally ignored. During his career, first in California and later in Washington, he sired over 250 progeny. Most of the colts were gelded to be used on Hill's ranch, so it was left to the mares to carry on his line. His daughters and their produce are far too numerous to list here. Suffice it to say that, for many years, almost all horses bred in California, had at least one cross back to Sonfield.

Hill has been called the dean of California Morgan breeders. He was an active member and officer in the National Morgan Horse Club and judged at the New England Morgan Show. He bred a remarkable number of horses and other ranchers based their breeding programs on his stock. Registry Volume IV covers the years 1922-1937 and in that volume, about 96 percent of all the California bred or owned horses were Hill's. Querido had 137 progeny; Pat Allen had 50; Pongee Morgan had 32; Winchester, Redwood Morgan, and Red Wings each had six; Master G had four. These were all Hill's stallions. The Hill-bred Don Juan had 12 foals for Sheldon Potter. Uhlan had 11 foals for the Hearst Ranch and Mountcrest Sellman had 32. Eight other stallions had less than five foals each. In 1941, Hill's program was the largest producer of Morgans in the United States. In the years 1923 to 1955, Roland Hill or his brother Russell or his daughters Jean and Margaret or his Horseshoe Cattle Company bred a total of 606 Morgans.

Hill's original 31 mares from Sellman produced 240 registered foals over the years. Many of these mares established their own families. A few of these are: Addy, dam of Donjuan and Tejon Prince; Angelina, dam of the "Angel" mares and the stallion Silver Ranger; Camille, dam of the "Blossom" mares; Kitty C, founder of the "Kitty" line; Tab had 19 foals - 13 of them colts being dam of Red Wings, Tehachapi Allen (who stood in Kansas for many years at Elmer Brown's), and Princess Allen; Hemala had 18 foals - nine colts and nine fillies - five of the colts became sires including Choice Master (sire of Choice Mistress, dam of Mistress Merridawn who is dam of Troutbrook Playboy); fillies were Helen Mala (sold to Margaret Gardiner, she is dam of Kennebec Count who, with his son Kennebec Russel, is the pair driven by Larry Poulin, to international levels), Mahala, Rose Mala, Roseta Cortez, and Roseta Mala; Roboss had 12 foals including Bessie Ro; Sonna had 14 produce of which 11 were fillies; Red Oak Lu had 16 foals including Lupat, El Lu, and Brown Knox Lu.



In 1939, Roland Hill purchased Sonfield from the United States farm. During his career, this Mansfield son sired over 250 progeny.

Roland Hill considered the Morgan to be the best cowhorse he ever used. He said that the Morgan "never came to the end of the road."

## THE MIDDLE YEARS

The years of the 1930'S and into the 1960'S were times of growth and consolidation for Morgans in California. The breed had proven its worth on the ranch. Now it was time to turn to parades, shows, and family pleasure.

In the 1930'S through the 1950'S *The Western Livestock Journal* was an important magazine, subscribed to by many farmers, ranchers, and others interested in livestock and horses. Each issue had a section devoted to horses and the Morgan was to be found in nearly every release. In the late 1930'S *Western Horseman* magazine was founded. Morgans were also to be found in its pages. Both these magazines featured advertisements for Morgans, listing horses for sale and stallions at stud. The major breeders of the time all advertised in these journals. A common theme was that of breeding grade mares to Morgan stallions to improve the supply of horses for stock and ranch work. It seems that some Morgan owners went out of their way to accommodate their clients; the stallion, Blackhau, was advertised to be trucked to the mare's home! These ads must have worked; the stallion Cuyamo was said to have bred 40 mares in a season but as he had very few registered progeny, the mares must have been grade. *The Western Livestock Journal* featured a cover horse and "Horse of the Month" and most of California's major stallions had their turn including, Sparbeau, Red Vermont, Montabell, Sundown Morgan, and Redman. Sadly, by the 1960's, Morgan ads and articles had disappeared from both magazines.

William Randolph Hearst had a short-lived, but important Morgan program with over 100 registered Morgans. He used the prefixes "Piedmont" and "Hacienda" and it is not at all difficult to find his horses as ancestors of many California Morgans. He used the stallions Mountcrest Sellman, Uhlan, Katrilan, and Hacienda Chief. He also had a program to breed Morabs - a cross of Morgan and Arabian. Some of these half Morgans were registered as Morgans under Rule 2 of the Morgan Horse Registry.

In 1945, the Morgan Horse Association of the West was formed with 18 charter members. It was the oldest Morgan club in the 11 most western states and evolved into the Morgan Horse Club of Southern California. Some of the charter members were Hugh Logan, Dr. C.C. Reed, Jack Davis, Melvina Morse, Roland Hill, O.C. Foster, and Mr. and Mrs. Merle Little.

The Littles' El Rancho Poco had Morgans before World War II, when Little purchased his first mares from Justin Dart's Rim Rock Ranch of Arizona. Little had the well-known stallions Sundown Morgan (Raven Chief x Texsky) and Midnight Sun (Sun Down Morgan x Dawn Glo), who was a triple-registered palomino. They were exhibited in fairs throughout the southern part of the state. Later, Little had Senor Morgan (Squire Burger x Bonnie Sue), a striking chestnut with flaxen mane and tail who was shown English, western, driving, and trial. When Roland Hill went to Vermont, he came back with Lippitt Morman (Mansfield x Lippitt Kate Moro), who came to reside at the Littles. As in Vermont, he was never defeated in the California show ring, and in 1946, was the first stallion to win the 100-Mile Vermont Trail Ride and the Grand Sweepstakes. In 1949, he was champion Morgan stallion at many large county fair shows. He won pleasure, parade, and trail classes. He also appeared in the Rose Parade with the Little family. During the 1950'S, Lippitt Morman sired 37 foals of which 13 were for the Littles and the remainder to outside mares. His get were uniformly good performance horses who continued their sire's versatile ways. Another stallion was Andy Pershing, used by Wild Bill Elliott in his Red Ryder series of movies. All of the El Rancho Poco Morgans were used for driving - show, exhibition, or pleasure. The Littles had a carriage collection including a stagecoach and made many appearances with these Morgan-drawn vehicles. Through the efforts of Merle Little and his family, many people were introduced to Morgans and obtained their foundation stock from them.

The stallion Gay Mac (Mansfield x Dewdrop), foaled in 1936, was owned by Dr. Clarence C. Reed. In 1942, he was purchased by Dr. Reed who wished to provide top quality cow horses for his large San Clemente Hereford Ranch. Gay Mac was Dr. Reed's personal mount while he oversaw the cattle operations. Although Gay Mac had 60 foals from 1943 to 1950, they were the produce of only 20 mares, 17 of which were owned by Dr. Reed. Most of these mares were Querido daughters, some were by Sonfield, and the rest traced to General Gates through Red Oak and Linsley. Descendants of Gay Mac are to be found throughout the United States today. Two of Gay Mac's daughters produced the full brothers Dapper Dan and Muscle Man, two important California stallions who both lived into their 30'S and left an enormous legacy in California. Progeny and descendants of these two stallions dominated the California Morgan scene for many years, both in the show ring and in the breeding ranks. Today, some of the best Morgans are descendants of these two. Some other Gay Mac descendants are El Dorado King, California Lady, Vaquero Mac, Viking Coronado, and Gay Vaquero. The Gay Mac descendants have established themselves as using horses.

Jack Davis was known for his love of Palominos and for his stallion, Red Vermont who was bred by J.C. Brunk, foaled in 1934, and purchased by Davis in 1940. Red Vermont's impressive style, appearance, and manner did much to popularize Morgans in Southern California. With his always upright head carriage, he appeared to be a big horse and was especially handsome in his silver mounted parade outfit. Red Vermont came from a show-winning family and was of solidly Brunk lines (Jubilee King x Daisy Knox). He himself excelled in shows as did his progeny and later descendants. His daughter, Verdonna Vermont, was grand champion mare at the Golden West National Morgan Show. Bred to the Lippitt stallion, Moro Hill Gay Ethan, she produced five full siblings who all did well in the show ring, including Rosemont Montego who consistently won in in-hand, English pleasure, and pleasure driving classes and won at the Grand National. Gene Davis, son of Jack, campaigned two sons of Red Vermont, Monty Vermont, and Domino Vermont, to many wins at shows. Later descendants of these two continued the winning tradition. Red Vermont's daughter, Belle of Vermont, is dam of Eco Jubilo. The stallion Montey Vermont 11935, owned by Leo and Louise Beckley of Beckridge Farm, Mt. Vernon, Washington, was out of a Red Vermont daughter by the name of Ginger Vermont. A few other Red Vermont horses are



Georgette, Sharon Vermont, Vicki Vermont, Vanity Vermont, Sireson, Easter Vermont, Homestake, and Sunny Vermont. Red Vermont established a very important branch of the Jubilee King line and descendants can be found throughout the United States. Red Vermont was also sire of many Palominos, a few of which were also registered Morgans.



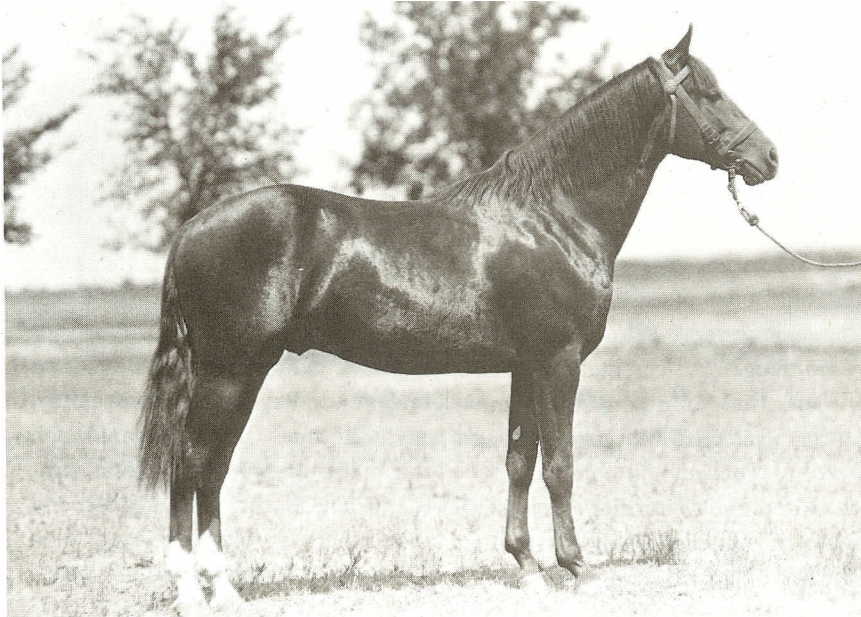
*Monte L. was one of Frank Waer's foundation stallions. In California only seven years, Monte L. had 29 foals in the state and was known for passing on quality and type for his progeny.*

Frank Waer built his program on the foundation of the horses left by the passing of T.R. Rex. In 1949, Mr. Rex died, leaving a herd of horses to his widow Frieda. She later married Frank Waer and they sold most of the horses, keeping only a few. These horses became the foundation of the Waers' program. These were the stallions, Monte L. and Rex's Major Monte, and the mares Lana, Gontola, and Ruthven's Kathryn Ann. Monte L. (Major R.M. x Jumina) was in California only seven years and had 29 foals in this state. He was ridden in parades and did well in in-hand at shows. He was grand champion at many county fair shows and other large Southern California shows. He passed quality and type to his progeny. Rex's Major Monte (Monte L. x Lana) sired many horses that have done well at shows and in the breeding ranks. He showed at halter 65 times and was champion 47 times, sometimes being beaten by his sons. Ridden by Frank Waer, he was a popular parade horse. His photo has been used many times in books and magazines and in agricultural colleges to demonstrate the model Morgan. The Southern California Morgan world was dominated for many years by the Waers and their horses. Horses with the "Waer" prefix and their descendants can be found all across the United States.

In 1948, the Northern California Morgan Horse Club was formed. Some of the early members were the Linns, Warren Halliday, Millard Ulch, Dr. and Mrs. H.P. Boyd, and Gene Davis. There were no Morgan shows at the time, so the Club organized a specialty show in conjunction with the 1950 Placer County Fair. It was a success, so a series of play days and shows began. In 1960, it was decided to sponsor an all-Morgan show. This took place at the Turlock Fairgrounds. The show drew 81 Morgans. King Bob, owned by Jimmy Smith was champion stallion and the champion mare was Impala Claudeen, owned by W.A. Lorenzen and Sons.

Although his ranch was in Nevada, the Morgans of Clark Ringling have found their way into many California breeding programs. It is interesting to note that Ringling's foundation mare, Red Bessie, was of old Spanish-California stock. She was foaled about 1905 at the Clark Ranch near Lovelock, where Ringling's ranch was located. In all, Ringling bred 11 foals by Royce (Winterset x

Potena), ten by Black Winter (Flyhawk x Midnight Beauty), 17 by Revere (Mansfield x Folly), 13 by Vanguard (Romax Light x Kitty Edna), and two by Dewey (General Gates x Mrs. Culvers). Ringling believed that "a horse that hasn't the disposition that made the Morgan famous is not a good Morgan, regardless of his pedigree or conformation."



*Clark Ringling bred 17 foals by the Mansfield son, Revere. Millard Ulch linebred to Revere and descendants are to be found in today's Morgans.*

His stallion Royce was good looking, about 15 hands tall, well set up and muscular with a well-laid back shoulder, strong short back, good length of croup, and an excellent disposition that he passed on to his get. Revere was one of the United States Government Remount Stallions stationed in the West. During the 1949 season, he was stationed in Susanville, California. Millard Ulch of Susanville linebred to Revere and descendants are to be found in today's Morgans.

The Morgans of E.W. Robert's Hi-Pass Ranch have many descendants. Roberts bred mares of Linsley blood to the Mountcrest Sellman son, Redman, and then Querido mares to Redman's son, Blackman. In 1946, he purchased the entire group of horses from C.F. Ayer, thus adding the "Ayr" line to his program. Three Blackman daughters and two granddaughters as well as six other mares were sold to F.O. Davis' Windcrest Farm in Vermont, where they had progeny for Davis and other breeders. In all, Roberts had 240 registered Morgans.

Clark and Effie Bromiley started in 1945 with Roseta May (x Son field) from Roland Hill. Her first foal was Trilson by Katrilan Prince (Katrilan x Princess Allen). In 1948, they purchased two mares from Hill and bred both to Trilson. Flicka had Muscleman and Bess Gates had Dapper Dan. Both these horses were supreme show horses and sires. They and their get dominated the Northern California show ring and breeding ranks for many years. The descendants of these stallions are lovely, typey, and athletic. The Bromileys continued to breed Morgans and later used the prefix "Castle."

W.T. Carter bred horses for over 40 years on his San Joaquin Valley ranch, producing over 200 registered Morgans. Carter wanted to maintain quality, without loss of substance. He started with



mares from Roland Hill and then added Royce's Falcon (Royce x Van's Lady by Vanguard) who founded a family noted for its outstanding disposition. His two main stallions were Gold Dollar (Blackhau x Peggy Revere by Revere) and King's River Morgan (Gold Dollar x Iva Son field). King's River Morgan won at shows in halter, pleasure, stock, jumping, and driving and later went on to competitive trail rides. Carter also used the stallion Black Bart (Gold Dollar x Royce's Falcon) and Cortez (El Cortez x Lenora), bred by L.W. Rutledge. Carter's stallions had their sire line to Ethan Allen 2nd through Headlight Morgan and he wanted to continue linebreeding to Ethan Allen 2nd. With help from Dr. Clarence Parks of Pennsylvania, Lippitt Gregory was chosen as he also had the Ethan Allen 2nd sire line. Gregory sired many good using Morgans for Carter and others. Birdeen Lambert rode Carter-bred Morgans in open combined training and jumping classes, doing very well, especially with Commando KR. The many Carter-bred horses and their descendants are still to be found in all areas of competition and in the breeding ranks.

Some other breeders of this period and into the 1960'S (some of whom are still active on the Morgan scene today) include: Dr. Ina Richter (Kedron Farm) who used the Lambert stallion Mc-Allister; W.L. Linn; Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Burroughs (Windswept Ranch); Mary Smith, breeder of black Morgans based on her sire, Hedlite, linebred to Headlight Morgan; LaVonne Houlton (Viking Morgan Ranch), also breed historian specializing in California Morgan history; Hunnewill Land & Livestock Company; Walter and Francis Kellstrom (Kellely's Morgans) owner of Dapper Dan and Archie a's Duplicate; W.A. Lorenzen and Sons (Impala Morgans), breeders of excellent brood-mares; Charles and Jeanne Sutfin (Willow Glen); Jimmy Smith; Richard Mears (Ramona Morgans); the Hazelwoods; Dr. and Mrs. Henry Boyd (Eco Morgans); E. Ray Baker (Bar-Bee Morgans); Bill Jones (E-Jay Morgans); Bob Morgan (Triton Morgans); Gloria Barnwell (Chalk Mountain Morgans); and many others, all of whom bred Morgans that are ancestors of today's horses.

## **THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE**

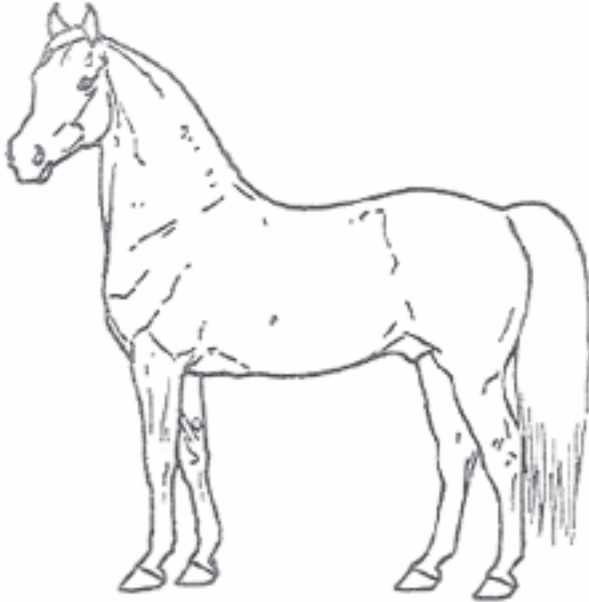
While many of the earlier breeders enjoyed taking their Morgans to shows and parades, the emphasis in California breeding was on the using horse, especially for ranch work. Those breeders who did show wanted their horses to be capable both in the show ring and on the trail. In the 1960'S, much of the breeding direction began to shift to the show horse. There were still those breeding the working horse and many more breeding for a show horse that could also be a versatile family friend, but the limelight was being directed, more and more, solely in the direction of the show ring. Much of the advertising and promotion of this time spoke only of show ring attributes - wins, produce and get that won, the ancestors that were show winners. To facilitate the faster breeding of the type of horse judges wanted in the show ring, Morgans of proven, eastern show lines were brought West. The fact that these lines could also produce versatile working horses was often ignored in favor of their show ring contributions.

It is now possible to find any and all bloodlines in California, The A-rated show circuit is no longer regional; the horse that wins in California can, and does, win at the Nationals. With the advent of semen transport, the California breeder can breed to any stallion anywhere in the nation and, of course, the California-based stallion can be bred to a mare anywhere in the United States and beyond.

There is no doubt as to the future of the Morgan in California - it is "golden." There is room in the state for all interests - from the English pleasure horse to the sport horse to the "old type" Morgan.

Breeders in California, as elsewhere, are increasingly turning their attention to attracting the interest of people new to the breed and new ways of marketing the

Morgan are being explored. Morgans were in California when statehood began, and the breed is now firmly entrenched in the California horse world.



*Foundation Morgan Horse Society sketch of the Foundation Morgan breed standard.*