

# JUSTIN MORGAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE QUARTER HORSE

By Jeanne Thomas

Morgan horse owners in the long history of the breed have been justly proud of the contribution of the Morgan horse to many facets of Americana. One notable contribution has been as a foundation breed to other American light horse breeds. Many Quarter horse owners argue that in their case this is not true, but perhaps we can establish that the Morgan has here, as elsewhere, maintained his record.

## THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

First, something must be known of the origin of the American Quarter Horse Association, the first and most recognized group connected with the Quarter horse, and about the ranching industry that produced the horse we know today.

The American Quarter Horse Association was officially established in 1941, although the groundwork had begun two years earlier. Fifty men contributed \$100 each toward the initial cost, which included a small paper-bound registry. These paperback listings were compiled every year through 1948 and were later incorporated into hardcover volumes. The early paperback editions are very scarce and very interesting, as a few photographs depicting the ideal Quarter horse of that time were included, along with advertising.

## WHAT IS A QUARTER HORSE?

Is it a horse that runs a quarter of a mile, or is it a horse that conforms to a set of physical standards? The American Quarter Horse Association has never specified, so there are many varied opinions: even the opinion that the Quarter horse is a type rather than a breed, a view that cannot be disregarded entirely since the Quarter Horse Registry has never been closed and still permits infusion of outside blood, primarily that of the Thoroughbred.

Some recently published books trace the horse as a specifically named breed from Colonial times, but several of the men who originally financed the club have said the title Quarter horse was decided upon at the Association founding, and they had not heard the phrase before as a proper name, but only in reference to horses that ran a quarter of a mile. Certainly, in the 30 or so books on Southwest horses and ranches published before 1941 which I have read I have never seen the term Quarter Horse. The horses were referred to by various other names, including Steeldust, short horses, short runner, Billys and cold bloods.

To verify the history of a breed we must depend heavily on their registries and qualified pertinent history books. That the mustang contributed there can be no question, for in the 1800's the western United States was full of these descendants of the horses of the Conquistadors. However, after centuries in the wild, they little resemble their ancestors. They were rarely over 14 hands high or weighed more than 900 pounds, but if you caught, and tamed one, he had cow sense, stamina and best of all, he was free as long as he carried no brand. But, most were plain if not downright homely to the average eye, so the mares were crossed with any available better blooded stallion. The wild mustangs were reduced to a handful by the turn of the century.

While all ranches had horses, only a few ranchers raised horses as a business, and this is where most of the Quarter horse history begins. In order to upgrade stock it is much cheaper to buy a registered stallion than registered mares. Besides, it was rare that a mare was ever used for riding except by women

and children, for historically no self-respecting man in the West would ride a mare. Mares were used only for breeding: unnamed and ignored, a necessary nuisance. Even today, ranch horses are nearly always geldings.

### THE QUARTER HORSE REGISTRY

There has been much speculation about double registration, but this was entirely unnecessary with the Quarter horse since bloodlines had nothing to do with registering a Quarter horse. The early horses were inspected for type and if they proved satisfactory a nominal fee was paid, and they were registered. There was also a permanent type of registry that was reserved for a mare or stallion who had produced three or more acceptable Quarter type offspring who were registered, or who were the offspring of two permanently registered parents. The registry number then was preceded by the P, as in King P-234.

### THE MORGAN HORSE INFLUENCE

In the first 10 year period of registration there are no less than 30 Morgan stallions listed, and a much greater number of Morgan mares, many from the Sellman Estate at Rochelle, Texas, which produced large numbers of Quarter horses.

Much of the registry information is vague, as with RONDO B. 114,192, who's dam is listed as MORGAN MARE by OLD MORGAN HORSE (MATADOR HORSE), which tells us only that the mare must have been a purebred Morgan or she would have been listed as mare by Old Morgan.

### THE MATADOR RANCH

The Matador Ranch in Channing, Texas, and the JA Ranch in Palo Duro, Texas were examples of ranches with Morgan stock. I am indebted to Beale Queen of Channing, Texas, one of the original members of the AQHA and for many years a breeder of Quarter running horses for the following information:

Mr. Queen told me that the Matador Ranch had either six or seven stallions, three of them registered Morgans: ( RONDEAU #7214, by Headlight Morgan, purchased from the Sellman Estate, and FRISCO (Diamond Hawk X Just Mamie) bred by George Baier, Elk City, E Oklahoma. From the Robert Dean Estate they bought the Troubadour of Willowmoor son, PLUTO #7331.

PLUTO was foaled at the Government Farm in 1922, sold to E.R. Yates in Middlebury, Vermont, as a weanling, and went to the Sellmans the following year. From the Sellman Estate Pluto went to Richard Sellman's son-in-law, Robert Dean of Rochelle, Texas, and from the Dean Estate to the Matador Ranch in 1927.

### THE JA RANCH

In 1932 Beal Queen accepted the position as manager of the JA, and as part of a continuing effort to upgrade the horse herd, Mr. Queen purchased the stallions Yellow Boy by Yellow Jacket and the Morgan PLUTO, for the ranch. Mr. Beale remembered PLUTO as the most beautiful horse he had ever seen and said that he got some of the best horses the ranch produced, but his name never appears on a pedigree, nor do the names of the other Morgans. Instead we find such listings as: Flopsy Adair, 10,835, br. m. foaled 1939, Sire: Morgan Horse, Dam: JA mare by JA horse; or Pope's Goldie, P-6148, dun mare, foaled 1932, Breeder: JA Ranch, Sire: Yellow Boy 18, Dam: JA sorrel mare by Morgan horse. You will note that when Pope's Goldie was registered she already had produced at least three foals who were registered and so she was issued a permanent registry number, and she must have descended from a Morgan stallion other than Pluto because of her age.

## THE BURNETTES

The first settlers in any land are by necessity a unique people and one of the first families to settle in Texas were the Burnett's. Burk Burnett began ranching the North Central Texas in 1875 and branded his first cattle that year with his soon famous 6666 brand. The Red River Wars were still raging between the most ferocious of the North American Indians, the Comanche, and the United States Army, so Burk Burnett and his neighbor, W. T. Waggoner, had their own peace treaty with the Comanche to insure survival in a land of few people and no law enforcement.

Burk Burnett had fought Indians all over northern Texas in the early years of the Cattle drives, but out of the discord had come friendships, too; one was with Quanah Parker, the son of Chief Nokoni and the captive white woman Cynthia Ann Parker. Quanah was a Comanche chief himself and often could be found during branding or roundup filling in where help was needed, usually accompanied by the youngest of his seven wives, Too-nice.

In 1887 Burk's only child, Tom, a boy of 16, was sent to work on the 300,000 acres of land that his father leased in the Oklahoma Indian Territory. Tom was wagon boss at 21, and was respected by the men. He spoke fluent Comanche, and probably knew as much about the Indian as any white man.

By 1901, the land situation was getting desperate for Burk Burnett, because that area of the Oklahoma Indian Territory that he leased for grazing was to be opened for settlement and statehood. So, he boarded a train for Washington D.C. to ask his old friend, Theodore Roosevelt, then President, for a delay in opening that part of the land so that he could have time to find land to which he could move his enormous herd of cattle. A delay was granted and two separate pieces of land were purchased, one in central Texas and another in the Texas panhandle. By way of appreciation, the Burnett's and Waggoner's hosted a six-day wolf hunt on the "Big Pasture" (Oklahoma Indian Territory) in 1904 to entertain President Roosevelt. Later, in letters to his children, the President spoke in glowing terms of his hunt and his hosts.

Tom Burnett, having married, bought land near Wichita Falls, Texas, And moved his wife and daughter into a new house near the Red River, where he began his own empire the Triangle Ranch.

## THE TRIANGLE RANCH

Today the 450,000 acre cattle and oil empire of the combined Four 6's and Triangle Ranches is owned by "Little Anne" Windfohr Marion, daughter of the late "Miss Anne" Burnett Tandy and granddaughter of Tom Burnett. Mrs. Marion's heir is her only child, a daughter, Windi.

While there is no doubt that there was a distinct type of horse for many years that today we call a Quarter horse, there were many different ideas on how to breed this type. Tom Burnett was extraordinarily successful at breeding then and even today these ranches are noted for the outstanding cutting and roping horses it produces.

Tom Burnett contributed a great deal to the Quarter horse, although he did not live to see the establishment of the Registry. In 1934 he visited J. C. Brunk's Cotton Hill Farm in Illinois and returned to Texas with two new horses, the stallion JUBILEE KING and the Senator Knox mare, DEURR. The Triangle Ranch kept about 50 brood mares and Jubilee King joined a most interesting band of stallions. There was another Morgan stallion on the ranch, REDOLENT, by RED OAK, who had been purchased as a five-year old from the Sellman Estate and died on the ranch about 20 years later.

REDOLENT produced many good cow horses and a great portion of the Triangle Lady mares are

by him. Lige Reed, the manager of the Triangle southern ranch for 25 years, did have three of REDOLENT'S sons, RED DEVIL, BEN and E.Y. All three were outstanding using horses, agile and with "plenty of cow". Mr. Reed thought so highly of E.Y. that when the gelding was well into his 20's and needed special care, grain was ground because of his failing teeth; he was hand fed when necessary, and the family pitched in to make his life comfortable.

The stallion Joe Hancock and his son Roan Hancock were there also, as well as Beetch's Yellow Jacket. Joe Hancock stood 16.2 and weighed 1450 pounds; and, while most reports claim him to be one-quarter Percheron, his breeder and dam are listed as unknown in the registry. At any rate, Joe Hancock was one of the finest short horses of his day and ranks as one of the most famous Quarter horses and sires of all time. Tom Burnett had bought Beetch's Yellow Jacket in 1930 when the horse was eight years old. Beetch's Yellow Jacket was a son of the legendary stallion Yellow Jacket who had gone to the Triangle in the twilight of his life and had died there.

Ranchers were primarily in the cattle business and bred horses mainly for remuda geldings, so colts were routinely gelded and any excess of colts or fillies was sold with the buyer registering the animal and often naming them also.

### THE JUBILEE KING INFLUENCE

Jay Pumphrey, Trustee of the Burnett Estates and a past president of the American Quarter Horse Association, writes that JUBILEE KING produced a large percentage of colts while in Texas that were sold or became ranch geldings. A few mares by JUBILEE KING were registered by C. H. McClellan of Wichita Falls, Texas, one being Mc's Rat 25,918, foaled 1939, Sire: JUBILEE KING, Dam: Triangle Lady 40.

Mc's Rat produced the palomino stallion Mack's Goldfish 23,470 who was bred heavily by McClellan for several years and whose get was soon scattered throughout the United States many showing the palomino coloring so popular at the time.

In 1939 the only registered Morgan by JUBILEE KING during his time in Texas was foaled. He was GOLDEN JUBILEE X-8549, Sire: Jubilee King, Dam: Gold Bug (unregistered) by REDOLENT 7295, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Davis, Arcadia, California.

While it is true there are only a few Quarter horse mares by JUBILEE KING, there are other reasons to assume his success as a sire. He was moved every season to a different pasture of the Triangle and Four 6's Ranches, which was done with all acceptable stallions in order to balance a herd.

Because of the palomino craze, Tom Burnett was interested in producing good palomino horses, and he found the silver maned and tailed DEURA and the similarly colored JUBILEE KING much to his liking. Within a few years two Illinois bred sons of JUBILEE KING were bought by Texans. JUBAN was sold to the Sawyer Cattle Co. at San Angelo and J UZAN to a gentleman from Quitaque. HIR0, a son of DEURA by TIFFANY, was also sold to the state of Texas. It seems unlikely that anyone would go to Illinois just to buy a Morgan when they were readily available in Texas unless he was particularly impressed with a certain bloodline.

### DAN, DIXIE DAN & SILVER RANGER

Earlier it was noted that the Morgan stallions DAN and DIXIE DAN were sold to W. P. Thornhill of Miami, Texas. In 1935, Thornhill add SILVER RANGER 7813 to his band of Morgans. SILVER RANGER was shipped to Thornhill from Roland Hill's ranch in California, and a few years later there were some Quarter horses registered by Alfred Cowan of Miami, e.g. Lady Cowan 10,416, foaled 1936, Sire: SILVER RANGER, Morgan, Dam: Cowan mare by colt by Stalks by John Wilkins.

## DEURA

And what of DEURA? She, of course, gained Morgan immortality as the dam of KING DE JARNETYE by JUBILEE KING, who was National Champion Morgan Stallion in 1939. Deura was foaled in 1924, so by the time the Quarter Horse Registry was begun she was well up in years and we find only two registered horses from her. She was referred to as Morgan Mare in the registry, and the stallion Reserve, by Roan Hancock and out of Morgan Mare, went to the Hallsell Ranch in Crowell, Texas, to sire many good Quarter horses.

The mare Yellow Lou P-6681, by Joe Hancock and out of Morgan Mare, was foaled in 1939, bought by Austin Moore, Webb City, Oklahoma, most likely as a four-or-five year old. She produced six foals for him and was sold to Bud Warren when Moore moved to Louisiana.

Warren's name is synonymous with Quarter horse racing, and as the owner of such horses as Leo, Sugar Bars, and the ill-fated Jet Deck. Yellow Lou produced seven more foals; the last when she was 23, and was the dam of five quarter race horses, three of whom were AAA runners: Burk's Sandy P-.46, 622 by Leo Tag; Miss Mambo P-47, 532 by Leo; and Red Croton P-216, 333 by Croton Oil. At least three were kept by Mr. Warren and the others were sold to breeders in various states, and they appear regularly in present day pedigrees.

Yellow Lou was not Bud Warren's only part-Morgan Quarter horse. In 1942 he had purchased a colt from Jess Hankins of Rockspring, Texas. Jess Hankins is the man under whose ownership and handling the stallion King P-234 became one of Mr. Hankins top brood mares, SPIDER by HEADLIGHT MORGAN. SPIDER was also the dam of Dixie Lee P-2506, who can be found in the lineage of some great cutting horses, one of which is Marion's Girl, the former World Champion.

The late 1940's and early 1950's were still times when no Texas Sunday afternoon was complete without a few matched races. The local horse to beat then was Toughie Night 3617, a chestnut horse belonging to Freeman and Thomas of Dalhart. Toughie Night was sired by Midnight Jr. 210 and out of Charlene by the Morgan stallion CHARLESBURY. Neal Freeman originally bought the horse as a personal mount for his partner and himself, but it was soon discovered that Toughie Night could run so they took on all comers and lost very few races. Toughie was also much in demand for breeding.

Although Morgan mares contributed liberally to the Quarter horse, nearly all are unrecognized by name. The Hearst Land and Cattle Co. at Chihuahua, Mexico, registered large numbers of Quarter horses whose dams were Morgan mares by such horses as UHLAN. Helen Field, Katrina Field, and Emily G. Field, all by SONFIELD, by MANSFIELD, were dams of good Morgan horses bred by Roland Hill's Horseshoe Cattle Co., in California, but they were also the dams of good Quarter horses.

## THE SELLMAN INFLUENCE

The Morgan stallions include many Sellman Morgans, such as RED OAK, FREDERICK I, ALVIK, ROMANCE, TRUE LOVE, AND ALAMO. Other Morgan stallions were RED VERMONT, HAWK JIM, WAFFORDS, CHICARO, GOLDPEN, SONNER, CAPTAIN KELLOGG, THE SENATOR, TRIVET, and CULLER. Richard Sellman's horses were so well known that often only his name is given: Miss Bogle 16,144, b.m. Breeder: Hal Bogle, Dexter, New Mexico, Sire: Bogle 4176, Dam: SELLMAN MARE.

## THE MORGAN CONTRIBUTION

To date I have found almost no longtime breeders of Quarter horses who did not have some Morgan blood in their stock, yet it is with only a few breeders that we can verify what and where it was.

For instance, from a small book, "Know the American Quarter Horse" by Bill Weikel: "There was undoubtedly a considerable introduction of the bloodlines of the Morgan horse, that hardy New Englander who had demonstrated such fine qualities in the Civil War. Captain Richard King, founder of the famous Texas ranch that bears his name...experimented with the crossing of...Morgans with his good Spanish brood mares."

Perhaps, in conclusion, it is fitting that we should set down some information taken from the 1941 paperback edition of the AQFIA Stud book. Of special interest is one of the photographs included to show the ideal Quarter horse, of the buckskin filly Lady Hancock 3637, foaled 1940, owned by the Burnett Estate, Sire: Roan Hancock, Dam: Triangle Lady 10 by RODELENT 7295 MHR. The following is quoted from a history of the most important of the foundation horses of the breed: "Both Syke's horses' foundation dam was Old May Magnum-she of Tiger blood, descended from Tiger (Purdy's Bulrush Morgan)."

And Volume I of the Morgan Horse Registry: "Tiger was a black horse said to be by Bulrush Morgan or a son of his. In 1853 he was taken from Vermont to Ohio and later to Michigan. Tiger died about 1864. His stock were of good size and some of them noted as Quarter horses."

The following description of Old May Magnum is taken from "Quarter Horses: A Story of Two Centuries," by Robert Moorman Denhardt: 'Old May was quite a mare, perhaps as great a producer as any Quarter horse mare that ever lived. According to Ott Adams and George Clegg, she was of Tiger blood. From Syke's Rondo and Old May Magnum were raised Jenny, Little Joe. Baby Ruth, Nettle Harrison, Kitty and Blue Eyes. Jenny was the dam of Little Joe the stallion and King (Possum) and Traveler was their sire. Jenny also foaled Black Bess, who became the dam of Cotton Eyed Joe. Baby Ruth was the dam of Paul El."

Little Joe's get include Joe Moore, Zantanon, Grano de Oro and Ace of Hearts, and included in his grandest were Miss Panama, Skidoo, Stella Moore, Hobo, King P-234, Billy Van, Squaw H., Han H., Jessie and big Chief. King's (Possum) get included Red Cloud and Guinea Pig.

1990 marks the 50th anniversary of the American Quarter Horse Association which was organized in the living room of "Miss" Anne Burnett Tandy. On January 1, 1990 a total of 2,682,844 horses had been registered.

Robert Denhardt, first secretary of AQHA said of their founding: "We were looking for horses like Little Joe and Joe Moore, Balleymooney and Red Dog, Guinea Pig and Possum, Zantanon and King. Jack McCue and Bullet." '

And these great horses came to them with contributions from Old May Magnum and Deura, Redolent and Headlight Morgan, and scores of other good Morgan horses who had been lost and then found.