

THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MORGAN BROODMARES PAST AND PRESENT

by *Dr. W.A. Cowan, Emeritus Professor of Animal Science
The University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut*

The purpose of this article is to tell the story of several outstanding Morgan broodmares and the influence they have had at the University of Connecticut. It is impossible to include all our mares and their contributions to the breeding and teaching programs over about the last forty years. The heavy use of horses in an extensive teaching program meant that many mares were busy year around with that. Our focus has been on students and horse science courses in developing one of the strongest horse science curriculum anywhere in the country.

But there has been a modest Morgan breeding program as well with an average of six to seven foals a year. I believe the most of any one year was ten. Even with that limitation many excellent individuals have been produced. Several made their reputations in the hands of new owners and we like to see that happen. The ultimate test of a breeding program is how well the offspring do for others.

It has to be recognized that the stallions used over that time also were critical to our improvement and success. Canfield, Mentor, (photo Vol. 1 p.56) and Panfield bred by the U.S. Morgan Horse Farm made their presence felt in the breeding program and particularly Panfield. I had always admired Panfield and wanted to use him when I came to Connecticut in 1952. Locke Theis in Kansas had purchased Panfield when the U.S. Morgan Horse Farm sold out. J. Cecil Ferguson of Broadwall Farm, Greene, Rhode Island, knew how I felt about the horse and after he bought Panfield along with a big group of mares from Locke Theis in Kansas, "Fergie" donated Panfield to the University. It helped the program here beyond measure and we shall always be grateful for Fergie's support. In due time we needed another stallion and to try to plan for it we looked over a number of colts and yearlings. In 1962 I found one running with his dam at Ted Davis's in Vermont. He was sired by Upwey Ben Don and out of Mademoiselle of Windcrest. The colt, later named Windcrest Don Again, had quality, type, and Morgan character galore even as a foal. The Davis's understood our budget situation and demonstrated that they had the interest of this University at heart. Windcrest Don Again matured into a beautiful horse and we used him exclusively for several years. He had an excellent son out of UC Cannie called UC Marquis and we used him too. As the years went along we knew we wanted to breed a stallion for the future that would not be too close in pedigree so after inspecting many stallions we took UC Lyric to Waseeka's Showtime and in 1978 produced UC Ringmaster—an excellent performing and breeding horse. Several times when we needed it we had great breeder support with the loans of other stallions such as Orland John Darling, Ledgemere Bounty, and UVM Viking. We made progress with the help of Morgan breeders in the past. We will need it in the future to guarantee this great breed a continuing important place in the University of Connecticut horse program.

But now let's get to know several of the mares. We'll do so in two parts—The Past and The Present, and you will see how today is so dependent on the past in a long time breeding program.



Dr. W.A. Cowan

ABOUT THE AUTHOR—

Dr. Cowan developed a love for Morgan horses when as a student at the University of Massachusetts he rode the Morgan stallion ABBOTT regularly for two years. When he joined the faculty at Massachusetts he was instrumental in starting their Morgan breeding program in the late forties. It resulted in many ribbon winners and champions at the National shows in the 50's and 60's. In 1951 he was a judge at the National show when UPWEY BEN DON and SYMPHONEE won the championships. From 1952 to 1984 he was Head of the animal Industries Department at the University of Connecticut. Here Morgan horses were and are heavily used with students in a strong horse science option teaching program. Although the breeding program at UConn has always been modest in size, many horses bred there have had outstanding success in the hands of Morgan owners from California to New England.

PART I. MARES IN THE PAST

PHILLIPA (Abbott-Wyndmere) Born 1933.

Phillipa was one of the first Morgan mares at the University of Connecticut. For several years she was a star in the student and open horse shows held at the University. Very athletic, feminine and about 15.1 describes her. She was heavily used in classwork and did produce two outstanding daughters. UC Mayphil (by Magellan) was born in 1945. In 1951, Mayphil was sold to June Brockett of Ipswich, Massachusetts. Mayphil developed an outstanding record as a broodmare. (Mayphil, bred to Orland Vigildon produced the immortal Vigilmarch - see Vol. II pg. 168 for photo-ed.) In 1949 Phillipa had UC Cannie (by Canfield). She made strong contributions to the UConn program until her death at 24 years.

UC CANNIE (Canfield-Phillipa) Born 1949.

Cannie was heavily used under saddle and in the breeding program. She was an excellent conformation and willing mare and one of the favorites of many students from 1953 until 1973. She was 2nd in the mare and foal class at the National Morgan Show in 1958 and won that class and was Grand Champion mare at Eastern States Exposition the same year. She had 12 foals (9 colts and 3 fillies). UC Marquis (by Windcrest Don Again) was her most famous son. Marquis produced the flashy and spirited UConn mares, UC Electra and UC Contessa. Electra is still an important part of the UConn program. Contessa was purchased by Roy and Janie Coats of Delhi, California. Cannie's last seven foals were colts and as a result we have none of her daughters in the herd. We have some horses who trace to her on their sire's side through her son UC Marquis. He had limited use for us because of close inbreeding and we needed funds and sold him to Mrs. Harvey Kent of Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. Marquis was bred to be a show horse and proved it. In one year of campaigning with the help of Bob and Patti Brooks he was Grand Champion Stallion at the Connecticut and Granite State Morgan Shows. At the latter show he was Park Harness Champion and won the Open Park Harness Stake the same year at the Massachusetts Morgan Show.

SHEBA (Osage-Nubia) Born 1948.

Sheba was acquired when the U.S. Morgan Horse Farm program was dispersed about 1950. This dark chestnut mare had wonderful feet and legs and an excellent body. Her sire Osage was by Mansfield and out of a lovely black daughter of Abbott named Jasmine. Sheba traced on the bottom to Fairytop who contributed so strongly to the Middlebury success. Sheba lived to the age of 19. She was a heavy milking and consistent producer. She foaled first as a five-year-old in 1953 and had 14 in her career. We were using Panfield heavily and with Sheba they produced some great mares—six full sisters. Their names are legend in UConn Morgan history. They were UC Serenade (1956), UC Melodie (1957), UC Rhapsody (1958), UC Harmony (1960), UC Reverie (1961), and UC Symphony (1962). Reverie was sold in the Green Meads Sale as a weanling. Later when mated to Bay State Admiral she produced the highly respected stallion, Mad River Sailor. Al Drowne bought Symphony from us as a two-year-old in 1964. She had been the 1st place filly foal at the 1962 National Morgan Show. She too was a producer. The four sisters who remained at UConn contributed strongly and several of the best horses produced traced to Melodie and Rhapsody. Their production will be discussed under their names. In 1966 Sheba produced a filly, UC Heather, by Windcrest Don Again. She had Morgan character and quality in full measure. We sold her as a two-year-old to Intrepid Farm in California. They showed her extensively in the west and won twelve Grand

Championships and two Reserves over the next few years. We showed Sheba with some of her offspring when she was in her prime. At the 1956 Eastern States Exposition Show she was Reserve Champion Mare and at the same show in 1959 won the mare and foal class. In 1962 at the age of 14 she was 4th aged mare, 2nd in the show mare and foal class, and 3rd in the produce of dam class at the National Show. Because of her many excellent daughters she has had a strong influence on the breed and on the UConn program.

UC MELODIE (Panfield-Sheba) Born 1957.

Melodie gave us 10 foals. Three were fillies. They were Concertina and Lyric by Windcrest Don Again and Carillon by Orland John Darling. They are different but good. Concertina is very athletic, easy to ride and a good jumper. She has had heavy use in the student riding programs. Lyric is a model mare. She was Junior Champion as a two-year-old at the Connecticut Morgan Show. Now at 19 years of age she is admired by many knowledgeable Morgan breeders as one of the great ones. Carillon has a great disposition and size. She has been used frequently of late as the working mare for our vaulting team. We have focused part of the breeding program around Lyric because of her outstanding type and quality. More about her later.

UC RHAPSODY (Panfield-Sheba) Born 1958.

Rhapsody was a model of Morgan breed character and one of the most admired mares over two decades at the UConn campus. She and her full sister Melodie often were in the pastures together with their foals. For Morgan enthusiasts they were thrilling sights. Rhapsody was a dark chestnut with a small star. As she matured Rhapsody continued to improve. Many would rate Rhapsody as one of the very best breeding mares ever at Storrs. Because we used her heavily in our teaching program she didn't have her first foal until she was seven. Her first was a beautiful bay daughter sired by Windcrest Don Again. We called her UC Prima Dona and she lived up to her name. Dr. Naseem Rauf of Massachusetts owned and showed her and her offspring with great success. In 1968 Rhapsody had a full brother to Prima Dona—UC Dark Shadow. He was and is a great one. Mabel Owen of Merry Legs Farm in Dartmouth, Massachusetts had looked long and hard for a young stallion. (see Vol. 1, p.24 for more on Merry Legs). She liked what she saw and bought him as a yearling. He still looks great and graces the stables at her place. From the time of his birth Dark Shadow was always one of my favorite horses. As a yearling he was loaded with quality and was very correct and well balanced. He continued to improve and won championships at many events including the Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts and Granite State Shows. Two full sisters to Prima Dona and Dark Shadow were UC Ballerina and UC Duchess. Lee Balderelli of Valiant Farm of Sacramento, California purchased them in 1973 and 1974 and they were highly respected mares on the west coast. One of the great show mares Rhapsody produced was UC Contessa sired by UC Marquis; Roy and Janie Coats of Delhi, California purchased her. This lovely mare was shown very successfully in the mid-seventies at scores of shows in California where she frequently won championships In Hand and Park Harness classes. At the Grand National in Oklahoma City in 1976 she was in the top 10 In Hand, Park Harness mares, and Park Harness Championship. Contessa came by it naturally for she was out of one of the best mares ever bred at the

University of Connecticut, continued

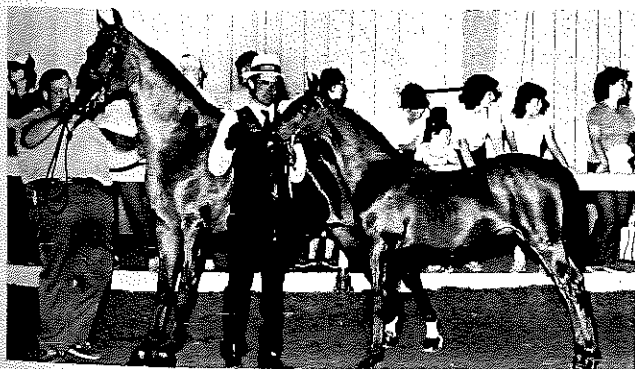
University. UC Electra a full sister to Contessa, is in the broodmare group at UConn today and will be described in her own right later. Obviously Rhapsody was a great mare to look at but even more important was her ability to transmit her excellence and that she did in full measure.

SENTANA (Flyhawk-Sentola) Born 1945.

J. Harry Woods of Petersham, Massachusetts donated Sentana to the University in 1953. We used her almost exclusively for breeding and she did a great job for us with eight foals in nine years. Four of these were by Panfield, the 1949 Champion at the National, and that combination was excellent. Her first filly by Panfield was UC Pantana born in 1955. She was sold in 1959 to Harriet Belcher of Atherton, California. She really blossomed in California and was exhibited extensively by Willow Glen Morgans starting in 1964 and for the next seven years. In 1965 she won the English Pleasure Championship Stake at the first Golden West National Morgan Show. In 1971 at the age of 16 she won the English Pleasure Championship Stake at the California State Fair. Later that year she was Reserve Champion in the English Pleasure Championships at Sacramento. Sentana produced one of our best again by Panfield when she had UC Sensation in 1958. Sensation and her full sister born in 1964, UC Taffy, became important cogs in the UConn breeding program. They will be described later. Sentana had a colt by Mentor in 1961, UC Senator. He was a structurally correct, athletic gelding who twice won the jumping class at the National. He had a wonderful disposition and taught scores of students to ride and to love him. In summary Sentana, through her daughters, established her greatness when bred to Panfield.

UC SENSATION (Panfield-Sentana) Born 1958.

Sensation was a good bodied very feminine and typey Morgan mare. Sensation had 11 foals. Among them were three full sisters by Windcrest Don Again. They were UC Donation in 1966, UC Fascination in 1967, and UC Flirtation in 1968. Unfortunately we lost Donation from a liver ailment in 1983. She was one of the most athletic and willing mares under the saddle for a great many students. Very much like her and still performing well and daily the other two outstanding mares will be described more fully later. Sensation had an outstanding colt by Ledgemere Bounty in 1977, UC Tip Top. He was sold. Sue Henzy of Old Lyme, Connecticut was listed as his owner in a stallion auction booklet in 1983 and it credits Tip Top as "a superb contender in park harness competition" including the title of East Coast Park Harness Reserve Champion at the 1982 New England Morgan Show.



**Paramount Oh My
and
Paramount Yosemite
1984 Winner of New England Regional
Mare & Foal Class**

Broodmare

UC TAFFY (Panfield-Sentana) Born 1964.

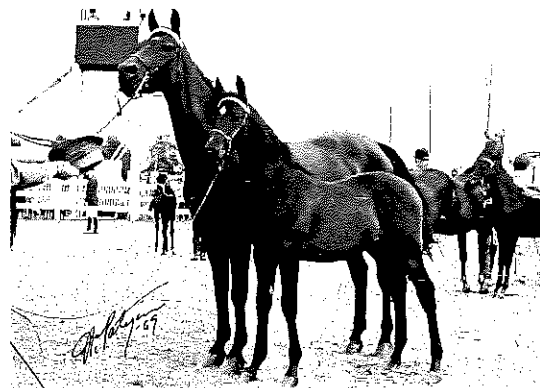
Taffy was sold to Peggy Clark of Salem, Connecticut in 1980. One of Taffy's recent offspring which sold at \$25,000 is Salem's Sentana by Courage of Equinox. Before UConn sold Taffy she had six foals. In 1972 it was UC Crackerjack. That name described him at birth and even more so in his show and breeding career. Crackerjack was by Windcrest Don Again. We sold Crackerjack as an outstanding yearling stallion prospect in 1973 to Roy and Janie Coats of California. They campaigned him extensively in the mid-seventies. He was and is one of the most popular Morgan stallions on the west coast. As a two-year-old in seven shows in California and Nevada he was either Junior Champion, Reserve Junior Champion, Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion in six of them. As a three-year-old in 1975 he was Reserve Grand Champion at the California State Fair and the Morgan Classic Royale. As a four-year-old he was first in his four-year-old class in six major shows and in the top 10 at the National at Oklahoma City. As a five-year-old in 1977, Crackerjack was Grand Champion Stallion at the Sierra, Morgan Medallion and California State Fair Morgan Shows and was High Point Stallion for Northern California and Reserve High Point Stallion in Region 7. Crackerjack was Taffy's first colt and a great one. She has always had a good one.

OPTIC (Canfield-Fairytop) Born 1944.

This bay mare was in a group which helped to initiate the Morgan breeding program at the University of Massachusetts. UConn obtained her in 1958 and bred her to Windcrest Donfield. In 1959 she produced UC Lovely Vision who later became the dam of HVK Viceroy—a National Champion Stallion. (Viceroy's sire was Vigilmarch - ed.)

MOUNTAIN MEADOW EVE (Upwey Ben Don-Dottie Irene) Born 1958.

Upwey Ben Don was Champion Stallion at the 1951 National Morgan Show when I was one of the judges. His get were winning over many years. I admired their Morgan character. When the opportunity presented itself I bought this bay daughter of Upwey Ben Don in New Hampshire in 1964. She didn't take well to groups of beginning riders so we sold her in 1971. We had limited foals from her but good ones. UC Viscount by Windcrest Don Again born in 1967 was one of the best. Ed Raymond Jr. wound up with him and showed him to many ribbons in hand as well as the Champion Amateur Park Morgan wins at the Massachusetts and Connecticut Morgan Shows.



**Waseeka Cajun Queen
(Waseeka's Nocture X Corrine)
and
Tedwin Technique**

Broodmare

II. The Present Mares.

Here is a list of most of the present mares at UConn. They are by name, birth year, sire, dam and the other mares in the family line of their pedigree are given. You will note that most of them trace to Sheba or Sentana.

<u>Mare</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Sire</u>	<u>Dam</u>	<u>Maternal Grand Dam</u>	<u>Maternal Great Grand Dam</u>
UC Fascination	1967	Windcrest Don Again	UC Sensation	Sentana	
UC Holiday	1985	UC Ringmaster	UC Fascination	UC Sensation	Sentana
UC Flirtation	1968	Windcrest Don Again	UC Sensation	Sentana	
UC Topaz	1977	Ledgemere Bounty	UC Donation	UC Sensation	Sentana
UC Lyric	1968	Windcrest Don Again	UC Melodie	Sheba	
UC Sonata	1977	Ledgemere Bounty	UC Lyric	UC Melodie	Sheba
UC Concertina	1966	Windcrest Don Again	UC Melodie	Sheba	
UC Carillon	1974	Orchard John Darling	UC Melodie	Sheba	
UC Riana	1984	UC Ringmaster	UC Irish Mist	UC Rhapsody	Sheba
UC Electra	1975	UC Margins	UC Rhapsody	Sheba	
UC Esther	1985	UC Ringmaster	UC Electra	UC Rhapsody	Sheba
Delmaytion	1975	Corinth Renaissance	Delmaytion		
Desire			Dolly		
Merwins Black	1974	Show Off's Right On	Fancy Hooker		
Beauty					
UC Centerfold	1984	UC Ringmaster	Merwins Black	Fancy Hooker	
			Beauty		

Comments on some of these individuals follow.

UC LYRIC (Windcrest Don Again-UC Melodie) Born 1968.

This grand lady was the Junior Champion at the Connecticut Morgan Show as a two-year-old. She is a beautiful bay mare. Her first foal was a colt, UC Acrobat who has established an excellent show record. He was purchased initially by Pat Harvey. Lyric's first filly was UC Sonata born in 1977 by Ledgemere Bounty. She is one of our best young mares and is very athletic and willing. In 1977 we wanted to try to breed a great stallion so we took Lyric to Johnny Lydon's Waseekas Show Time and the next year UC Ringmaster was the result. He was the best to hit the straw at UConn in a long time and we used him with success as the years went along. Lyman and Cheryl Orcutt watched him through 1982 to 1984 and purchased him in 1984. We did reserve several breeding privileges for we were very cognizant of his potential as a sire. Ringmaster was Champion Stallion out of 55 shown at the 1985 Massachusetts Morgan Show. He has been a consistent ribbon performer driving and under saddle at many of the best shows in New England. In 1983 UC Ringleader, a full brother to Ringmaster, was born and he is developing nicely at the Bennett stables and is owned by Joe Glasser. Lyric is due to foal to The Entertainer in 1987. The only daughter we have had so far from Lyric is Sonata and Sonata is an important mare in our breeding program. UC Concertina is a full sister to Lyric and she is due in 1987 to Chantwood Command.

UC ELECTRA (UC Marquis-UC Rhapsody) Born 1975.

This is the only daughter we have of Marquis and Rhapsody. She is a free moving, high flexing, spirited mare and will help up carry on the Rhapsody line. Electra has been used very heavily in classwork. In 1985 she produced UC Esther by Ringmaster and Esther has the potential and quality to do very well in the show ring.

UC FASCINATION (Windcrest Don Again-UC Sensation) Born 1967.

The students call her "Fas". She is a beautiful black mare and is extremely athletic and willing. She has been very heavily used in classwork and still is. Quality and femininity characterize her. We have had four foals out of her by Ringmaster and she really combines beautifully with him. The first was UC Merlin, a very attractive gelding. Then came Top Brass who has a tremendous future ahead of him in the ring. UC Holiday is the filly and she is the keeping kind. UC Wilde Mark is an outstanding two-year-old stallion prospect. John Bennett, our horseman, is working him now. Fascination will foal in 1987 to the service of Mad River Sailor. That will be an interesting tie into "government" breeding. One of our other mares UC Flirtation, an attractive bay, is a full sister to Fascination and will be used more in the breeding program.

MERWIN BLACK BEAUTY (Show Off's Right On-Fancy Hooker) Born 1974.

This attractive, good milking regular breeding black mare is a proven transmitter. She was donated to the University by Dr. Johanna Shaw of Kent, Connecticut and has made a solid contribution ever since. Two of her sons came with her and both were sired by UVM Trophy. One, Shoki, was sold in the 1981 New England Morgan Sale. The other, Kirin, was sold in 1982 to Linda Kata. Beauty had UC Cover Girl by UVM Trophy in 1980. She was sold in 1983 to Bill Duffy of Westford, Massachusetts. Beauty in the next four years had foals by UC Ringmaster and this was a consistently very good mating. UC Kiwi was initially purchased by Cheryl and Lyman Orcutt. UC Sundance (1982) and UC Phoebe (1983) also were sold. UC Centerfold born in 1984 is a beautiful young mare. Present plans are for her to stay in the UConn program. As a two-year-old she was Reserve Champion mare at the Connecticut Amateur Morgan Show. Since Beauty has nicked so well with Ringmaster this mating probably will be repeated in 1987.

University of Connecticut, *continued*

UC TOPAZ (Ledgemere Bounty-UC Donation) Born 1977.

UC Topaz is a very attractive, eager, athletic mare much like her excellent dam but with more size. She has been used almost exclusively in classwork under saddle but has the potential to make strong contributions to our breeding program. When she has a few weeks off in the summer running on pasture she is hard to seriously fault. We expect a strong showing from her in our breeding program. In 1987 she will have a foal by UVM Elite.

So much for some mares of the Past and Present at this University. They and others made major contributions.

Let me close with these comments. A horse breeding program is extremely challenging. There are problems of infertility, lost foals, the sudden death of a great mare or stallion, the need to sell some top horse you would like to keep so as to keep up the cash flow, and not getting the sex you want on the newborn foal. Those things can be frustrating. However the successes and the thrill of some as good as the *best or better* than you have ever had, seeing them perform well for other owners, and the pride of working with genetics and nature to get those results make it all worthwhile. If after a generation you can feel you have left the breed better off and have had fun doing it you can chalk it up as success. You will always remember the great horses. ■

UNH TRULYSSSES

by Patti Brooks

Dayton and Deane Sumner had their eye on UNH Trulysses for some time. Bred by the University of New Hampshire, Trulysses was foaled in 1958 (a daughter of Melysses and Trudy).

The Summers already owned another Melysses daughter and were pleased with her qualities and traits. They had seen Trulysses at Kay Thompson's Highbow Morgan Farm and told Kay they'd like to buy her should Kay ever decide to sell.

When the mare was sixteen, Kay offered her to the Summers. Dayton admits to being rather leery of buying an older mare for a top price, but he did take Trulysses home.

"She was the wisest horse I've ever known," Dayton reminisced. "She was a marvelous mother and pretty and athletic."

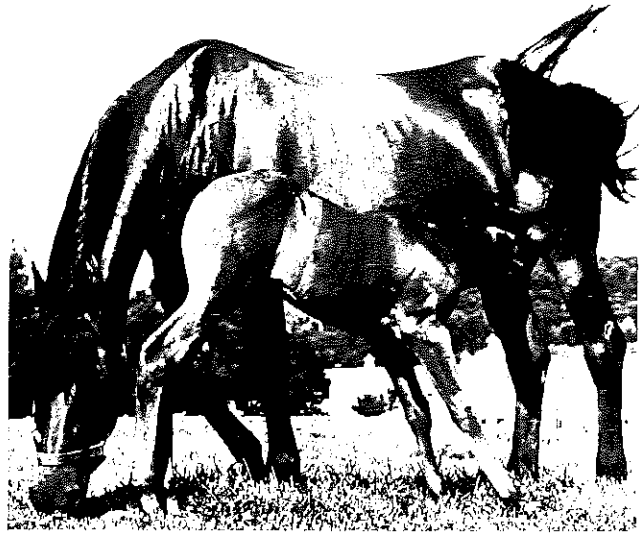
Trulysses had fifteen offspring. Three died young. The remaining twelve were blue ribbon winners or champions at class A shows!

Her daughter, UNH Bolynda, by Donlyn of Windcrest, was a successful show horse and dam of such stars as the Whispering Buckeye.

A full brother of Bolynda is Southerly Sandman, a personification of versatility with championships and blues in in-hand, English Pleasure, Western, Pleasure Driving, Saddle Seat, Stock Seat and Hunt Seat. Sandman is known for his willing attitude.

Southerly Conjuror by Helicon Pegasus is a Futurity Champion and a multiple winner from the East Coast to Texas including the Grand National.

By Windcrest Music Man, she had Southerly Piper and Southerly Peter Pan. Piper has the marvelous disposition Trulysses seemed to pass on and he has been a two-time Grand National Winner in Pleasure Driving. Peter Pan was never shown due to an injury but now stands as senior sire at the Satyr Run Morgan Farm in Maryland. ■



Arrissa in 1942
(Mansfield X Narissa)
and
Corisor of Upwey
by
Cornwallis

Broodmare

ARRISSA

Martha Van Buskirk as told to Kay Thompson

"I bought Corisor of Upwey first and then went back the following spring, in 1943, and bought his dam, Arrissa from Owen Moon at his Upwey Farm in Vermont.

The Morgan mare, Arrissa (Mansfield x Narissa) was a pretty bay mare. She had a government head, blocky build, good legs and feet and a nice fat behind. She was hot-trained by the government troops near Syracuse, N.Y. She and Arabia were used for polo. (They weren't suppose to use horses for polo, but they did!)"

All that polo playing had given Arrissa a hard mouth, which Martha found out when she first rode her on a trail ride in New Hampshire. As she said, "I was young and strong, but I was glad when it was over."

Arrissa was purchased in foal to Cornwallis and presented Martha with another bay colt named Corben of Upwey who was sold and never shown because of an untimely death.

Since the Van Buskirks already owned Peter Mansfield (Mansfield x Quenelda) it was logical for Arrissa to be bred to her half brother. She produced Arabesque, Patrissa, Aida Vona and Marissa. (see Vol. 1 p. 54 for more on Mansfield)

Then she was sent back to Upwey Farm where she was bred to Upwey King Benn and produced the legendary Saracen and his full brother, Araben.

"John Lydon always said Arrissa was one of the greatest mares of the Morgan breed," Martha remembers.

Corisor of Upwey was the foundation sire of Stobie Farm of New Hampshire and later the Van Buskirk's Holly Farm in Maine. Dr. Bob Orcutt showed Corisor at Boston Garden in 1946 and 1947 to wins in open park saddle and championships in open shows from Chester Vermont to Athol, Massachusetts. Corisor daughters have been much sought after as broodmares.

Arabesque was sold to Voorhis Farm in New York State where she produced Applevale Storm King.

Saracen (see Vol 1, p. 46 for Saracen) was one of the greatest Roadsters of the breed winning all over New England. He was the foundation sire for Fairfield Farm of Vermont, siring many top horses. ■

(For more on Van Buskirk's Holly Farm see Vol. I, pp. 87-88)