

~ FOCUS ON STALLIONS ~

SIGNIFICANT SIRE SERIES

IDAHO'S BLACK HAWK LEGACY

Domino Joe, Myrtle Neeley and Neeley Morgans Today

Author's note: I bought my first Morgan in 1984—Snake River Dawn (Wetacres Carbon Copy x New Age Fire), and the next year, her full sister, Snake River Firefly. I still have these mares. The late Myrtle Neeley owned their great-grandsire, Domino Joe, and she was among the first to offer me help and advice through several years of correspondence. When I quote Myrtle in the article that follows, it is from my store of correspondence from that period and from a “reminiscence” of her life history she wrote when she was 82 (and still hitching Domino Joe, 24, to the sleigh). It was largely through her generous sharing of knowledge and bloodlines that I became interested in researching and writing about Morgan history.

BEGINNINGS

Myrrtle Munns Neeley, born in Utah in 1906 was the daughter of Harry Munns and Sarah Ann Weekes, and was the sixth of ten children. The family moved to eastern Idaho when Myrtle was three years old, where they homesteaded some land bordering the Forest Reserve on the Rexburg bench near the little precinct of Herbert. Harry Munns was sheriff for many years, assuming a reputation of legendary proportions. Myrtle was raised accustomed to a life of dry farming and hard work, in which horses were always necessary, and in helping on her father's farm, learned to drive six head of horses with a two-bottom plow. One of her tasks, which she enjoyed most thoroughly, was to ride the fence lines, looking

By Brenda L. Tippin

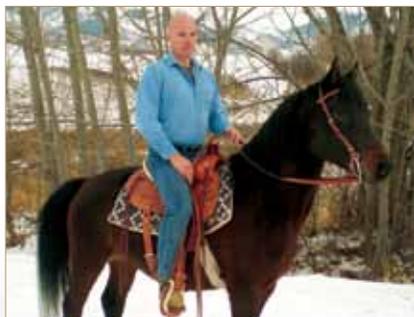
for cattle pastured on the range that would break the fences and get into their grain fields. Things continued much the same when she married OJ Neeley in March 1925, driving a team on the first of April 25 miles to Canyon Creek to their new home. The original ranch was a homestead purchased by OJ's father in 1917, and was right at the mouth of Canyon Creek where it flowed into the Teton River, and was one of the first farms to be cultivated in the area. Later Myrtle and OJ added more acreage, and a portion of the Teton flowed through the property. Myrtle described the home, built by the original homesteader, as simply one long room, about 24' x 14' heated by a cookstove. They slept in one end and ate in the other, hauling their water from Canyon Creek with a tank and team of horses.

Above: Domino Joe, standing, and with Myrtle Neeley on a 1975 sleigh ride; 1930s farming with OJ Neeley (front). Top right: Black Hawk.

NEELEY FAMILY & RANCH

(Top to bottom, left to right) Neeley Morgans then: Myrtle and OJ with children Jackie, Jud and Ina; Jud & Teton Play Boy, 1972.

Neeley Morgans today: Grandson Jared & Scarlet Hills Promise Me using a cart built for him by the late Jerry McGuire of Scarlet Hills Morgans, to accommodate his wheelchair; At work: family friend Chad Larson on Mighty Mouse, his wife Tammie (right) and Angela Neeley (left); Jay Neeley & Teton Domino Saxon; Winter at the Neeley Ranch.



GETTING STARTED WITH MORGANS

The farming with horses continued, with Myrtle now doing her horseback riding in Teton Canyon, which was the north boundary of the ranch. Their first child, a daughter, Ina, was born on New Year's Eve of that year, with Jacqueline following two years later in 1927. When news of a third child on the way was announced several years later, OJ promised Myrtle anything she wanted if the new baby was a boy. Jud was born in May 1940, and Myrtle had her answer ready when OJ asked her what she wanted most. "I want a really pretty horse," she told him. Somewhat surprised, OJ nevertheless set out to fulfill her wish and taking young Ina with him, went to look at various horses for sale, but these proved disappointing. Finally on a tip from the gas station attendant who told them Glen Watt had some nice Morgan horses; they went to see what he had available. They purchased a half Morgan yearling colt out of a registered Morgan daughter of Captain Kellogg, which was all he had for sale at the time, naming him Captain Boulder.

Captain Kellogg (Rojeneiro x Acadia) was a chestnut stallion foaled in 1928 and owned by Glen Watt. Captain Kellogg was classic Sellman breeding on both sides of his pedigree, with two lines each to Red Oak (General Gates x Marguerite), Headlight Morgan (Ethan Allen 2nd x Lady Stratton), and The Admiral (Jubilee De Jarnette x Morrill Queen), as well as three lines each to Sellman's original stallions, Major Antoine (Meteor Jr x Molly Lee), and Major Gordon by Octoroon Jr, and tail female line tracing to Octoroon (Goff's Comet x daughter of Brinker's Drennon, 2nd dam by Bulrush). These were solid old high percentage Morgan lines carefully blending the main families in the breed and all tracing back to horses registered in Volume I of *The Morgan Horse and Register*. Captain Kellogg produced 28 offspring, among which was Gwenalan, a 1937 chestnut mare out of Rondollie (Rondeau x Dollie Morgan), who, bred back to her sire, produced a daughter, Birdie Kellogg C K, also chestnut foaled in 1943. These two mares were the beginning of Myrtle's program of breeding full registered Morgans after several years of breeding grade horses, with which she was never quite satisfied.

ADVICE FROM GRACE BRUNK WOODS

Myrtle took her program very seriously, and became interested in breeding the mares to Red Vermont (Jubilee King x Daisy Knox) then owned by Jack Davis in Arcadia, CA. She and OJ hauled the mares down there for breeding, looking at a good many other Morgan stallions along the way, but Red Vermont was still her top choice. Determined to learn all she could about her chosen breed, Myrtle recalled, "I wrote to Grace Brunk Woods for advice as to which Morgan bloodlines to use. She advised me to breed mares of Jubilee King bloodlines to Flyhawk bloodlines. She said that her father, J.C. Brunk, always preferred Morgans of the Lambert lines. He said 'if you want to win in open competition, use the Lambert lines to do it with.'"

Myrtle continued with her story of Grace Brunk Woods, "She was 82 years old at the time, and we corresponded for three years before her death. She taught me a great deal about Morgan horses. She had sold Red Vermont to Jack Davis. Prior to that, he had taken the blue in shows on the East Coast. She told me her father had

ANCESTORS OF DOMINO JOE

Top to bottom: *Domino Joe's sire Stetson* (Flyhawk x Sentola); *Flyhawk* (Go Hawk x Florette); *Go Hawk* (Sunny Hawk x Bombo) (left); *Allen King* (Allen Franklin x Black Bess) (right); *Ben Franklin* (Daniel Lambert x Black Kate); *Black Hawk*.



always frowned on the practice of using Saddlebred stock to get more size in the Morgans. He maintained you could produce more size by selective breeding, and good feeding practices.”

Myrtle's first effort at breeding registered Morgans produced two Red Vermont colts, Idaho Ace out of Gwenalan and Sireson out of her daughter Birdie Kellogg CK. They were the first registered Morgans in the area, and attracted a great deal of attention. Of the two, she felt Sireson was more the ideal type, and he went on to sire 26 foals, his name often appearing in many of the best sport and Western Morgan bloodlines today. Myrtle competed very successfully with her horses at both local fairs and Morgan shows. She kept meticulous records, carefully researching the bloodlines and handwriting the pedigree of all the horses she bred.

EARLY NEELEY MORGANS

Although in fact Sireson produced 15 daughters, it seemed to Myrtle that many of them were born to outside mares and she felt like she wasn't getting very many fillies from him, although the ones she had were good ones. Among the Sireson daughters she bred and used were Lady Vermont and No Seris (x Gwenie), Rain-ee Morgan (x Rondollie Morgan); Rubby Red who produced 12 foals and Jennie Lee who produced three foals, both mares being daughters of Jenny Mac; Shawna Dawn (x Princess Jet) who produced 12 foals; Rose Of Shannon (x Miss Eager Beaver), and Tetonia Kitty Hawk (x Sen Sen) who sold to Kel-Layne Morgans and produced 16 foals.

Meanwhile, among other breedings, Myrtle had produced Gwenie, the palomino daughter of Jubilee King's only palomino son Golden Jubilee; as well as several from Maggie Mac (Gay Mac x Her Majesty by Sonfield) and her daughters Abby Rigby and Jenny Mac by King Rits. King Rits, bred by Glen Watt, was out of the Captain Kellogg daughter Ritzie Kellogg C K (x Jeanie Mack, an unregistered daughter of Captain Kellogg bred by Glen Watt and tracing to solid Sellman breeding). King Rits represented another unusual line, being the only offspring of the palomino stallion Valley View King, who in turn was the only palomino offspring of Upwey King Peavine out of the palomino mare Upwey Emerald Goldy. Emerald Goldy traced her color to the very rare line of the famous Morgan Golddust, great-grandson of Gifford Morgan. Likewise, Valley View King was the only palomino offspring of Emerald Goldy, and the only one of her offspring to breed on at all through the King Rits line.

“Sireson, my Red Vermont colt, was an excellent horse but he never sired many fillies for me,” Myrtle remembered. “Though they were few and far between, the ones I did get were excellent travelers with an easy gait. Their sire also had that easy way of traveling. I rode Sireson on a trail ride over the Teton Mountains to the Jenny Lake campground. The next day it was back over the mountains to the Teton campground. It amazed several of the men how easily he made the ride.”

All this was a slow process of several years for Myrtle to build up the bloodlines she wanted while she was raising her family, but she had not forgotten that Grace Brunk Woods had advised crossing the Jubilee King lines to Flyhawk lines. With her children now grown, Myrtle was ready to focus more on her Morgan breeding program, and still feeling she wanted more fillies than she was getting from Sireson, decided to purchase Hylee's Heir (Torchfire x Illawana Marie) from Bob and Jan Behling in Cambria, Wisconsin. His sire, Torchfire (Senator Graham x Jubilee Joy), was bred by Grace's sister, Helen Brunk Greenwalt and represented generations of solid Brunk breeding of high percentage Morgans of the oldest families, tracing back to the very roots of the breed to horses JC Brunk had registered in Volume I. Torchfire's dam, Jubilee Joy represented the golden cross Grace Woods had advised Myrtle to strive for—she was a daughter of Flyhawk and out of Jubilee King's full sister, Sentola. Fondly known as “Joybell” at the Greenwalt's Highview Farm in Illinois, this mare had produced 11 foals which were always stiff competition at the Illinois State Fair, and she had been considered unbeatable in the mare and foal class. Illawana Marie, the dam of Hylee's Heir was a granddaughter of Highview King (King De Jarnette x Sentola) and more solid Brunk breeding all the way back on her dam's side, interweaving the three main lines of Lambert, Knox and Go Hawk. This was Myrtle's first opportunity to add

DOMINO JOE

Top to bottom, left to right: *Domino Joe* pictured at four years old, at the Neeley ranch, with Jud Neeley in 1975, with Darla Neeley (wife of Jud), and with Myrtle Neeley in 1980 and 1973 (sleigh).



some of these lines into her program, and Hylee's Heir produced 38 foals for her, including 27 fillies, many of which Myrtle considered to be her foundation mares. It was during this time she began using the prefix of Teton for her colts and Tetonia for the fillies.

Among Hylee's Heir daughters used most in Myrtle's program were Neeley's Daisette (x Lady Vermont) a 1963 chestnut who produced 13 foals; Tetonia Suzanne (x Jenny Mac) a 1965 chestnut mare who produced 11 foals; Tammy Dawn (x Shawna Dawn) a 1966 chestnut mare who produced five foals; Tetonia Silver (x Lady Lucy) a 1967 chestnut mare who produced 16 foals; and finally, Tetonia Royal Ann (x Sandy Lake) a 1967 chestnut mare who produced 16 foals.

Meanwhile, Myrtle was still on a quest for more Flyhawk blood. She had purchased the 1960 chestnut filly Miss Eager Beaver (Stetson x Midnite) bred by Ramul Dvarishkis in Wyoming. Stetson, a full brother of Jubilee Joy, was from the magical cross of Flyhawk and Jubilee King's full sister Sentola, with Midnite being a daughter of Highview King (King De Jarnette x Sentola). Myrtle bred some foals from Eager Beaver, as well as sending some mares to another Flyhawk stallion Ramul had, Funquest Pat Hand (Flyhawk's Black Star x Cornwallis Pat). She sold some nice horses from Pat Hand, but did not retain any of his offspring for her breeding program.

DOMINO JOE

"Eventually I had the chance to get a black colt from Ramul," Myrtle recalled. Domino Joe (Stetson x Midnite) foaled in 1965 was a full brother of Miss Eager Beaver. "At last I had what Mrs. Woods advised me to get!" Myrtle continued her story. "Domino Joe is of 28 percent Flyhawk and 43 percent Jubilee King bloodlines. Joe matured at 15 hands with not a white hair on his body. He has an excellent disposition."

Myrtle was very excited about the acquisition of Domino Joe. At last she felt she finally had the pretty horse she had wanted and dreamed of all those years ago when her son was born. By this time, Myrtle had nearly twenty years experience in breeding Morgans, and when she saw Domino Joe at Ramul's ranch, she saw in him a type reminiscent of old Black Hawk Morgan, and this was the ideal Morgan she wanted to breed for. Ramul was doubtful and reluctant to let her have the colt as he thought she should have a better horse. Domino Joe was still young and had a lot of growing and filling out to do, but Myrtle knew her horses and Joe did not disappoint, soon developing into the outstanding animal she expected. Joe carried more than 11.5 percent of Black Hawk blood, representing over 250 crosses to the old horse, and at least 28 of these crosses coming through different sons and daughters. This is remarkable considering Domino Joe was born more than 130 years after Black Hawk was foaled, and no particular effort was ever made by anyone to preserve or concentrate the Black Hawk bloodline, other than the general recognition that quality resulted from these lines, and this was why people kept coming back to it.

In addition, Joe carried nearly nine percent of Daniel Lambert blood with five crosses in seven generations, and eight more in eight generations with a total of 33 crosses representing four different Lambert lines. This again is remarkable, as Domino Joe was foaled more than 100 years after Daniel Lambert and no one

OFFSPRING OF DOMINO JOE

Domino Joe produced 144 registered Morgans. Here is a sampling. Top to bottom:

Domino Joe's best known son Wyoming Flyhawk; Tetonia Midnight (shown here with Darla Neeley) was the dam of Teton Blackman, one of the main stallions for the Neeley program; Teton Joe, out of Tetonia Suzanne, a mare who was used many times; and Tetonia Jewell, the last producing daughter of Domino Joe.



had yet made an effort to preserve or concentrate those lines. The same high percentage of Lambert and Black Hawk blood is still typical of most of the Neeley herd today because Myrtle understood the value of this breeding, both from her own experience as well as what Grace Brunk Woods had taught her.

In appearance, Domino Joe resembled the type and character of Black Hawk more than any Morgan in recent times. Both were jet black in color with no white hairs, 15h tall and very similar build, with a remarkable, springy and elastic gait and a speedy, tireless trot. Both possessed a large kind eye with a beautiful head, carried well up on a long neck rising from a powerful laid back shoulder, a good short back, muscular hindquarters, excellent feet and legs, and beautifully balanced action.

THE BLACK HAWK LEGACY

Black Hawk 20 was a grandson of the original Justin Morgan horse, sired by his best-known son, Sherman Morgan. The full history and breeding of the dam of Black Hawk is recorded in Volume I of the *The Morgan Horse and Register*, published by Joseph Battell in 1909. She was a handsome black mare of Thoroughbred blood tracing to the Wildair families, sharing many ancestors in common with Justin Morgan. Black Hawk, foaled in 1833, was said to resemble his famous grandsire more than did any of his sons. He stood 15 hands, weighing about 1,000 lbs and was jet black in color with no white hairs. A trotter of exceptional style and speed, Black Hawk was owned for a number of years by Benjamin Thurston, who raced him with considerable success, and finally sold in 1844 to David Hill of Bridport, Vermont, where he remained until his death in 1856. Before this time, Black Hawk had sired few foals, but during his thirteen seasons with David Hill, he was said to have bred 1,772 mares. He was the most popular and widely patronized trotting stallion in America, commanding a stud fee of \$100 during an era when \$2 or \$3 was a typical amount, and needless to say, at this price, only the very best mares were brought to his court. So popular was Black Hawk, he very nearly started his own breed, and more surviving sirelines of the Morgan breed trace through Black Hawk today than any other horse.

In October of 1847, Mr. Benjamin Thurston wrote of Black Hawk in a letter to David Hill, "I bought Black Hawk when he was five years old. For six years I used him as my family horse, and think him without exception the finest horse I ever knew. I have owned many horses during the last 25 years, varying from ten to 35 at a time, and have also been in the habit of purchasing the best I could find for sale; but if the choicest qualities of all the best horses I ever owned were combined in one animal, I do not think they would produce one that would surpass Black Hawk. In the first place, he is the best roadster I ever drew rein over. I have frequently driven him fifty miles in half a day, and once drove him sixty-three miles in seven hours and fifteen minutes. He did it with perfect ease, and indeed I never saw him appear fatigued. At the time I owned him, I believe he could have trotted one hundred miles in ten hours, or sixteen miles in one hour, or one mile in two minutes forty seconds. In the second place, he has the best disposition of any horse I ever knew, and is perfectly safe for any lady to ride or drive. Thirdly, he will draw as kindly as any team horse. His stock is unequalled."

MYRTLE TALKS ABOUT DOMINO JOE

As Domino Joe developed, he turned out to be an excellent trotter. A trainer from Utah came to the ranch to see Joe, and persuaded me to let him take him for training. I later went to Salt Lake City to watch him show Joe. When I arrived, he had a farrier in the stall shoeing him. The shoes and pads together weighed 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds. The only chance poor Joe had to get used to the weight was walking from the barn to the arena. As would be expected, Joe missed a lead and didn't place in that class. When the trainer brought him back to the stall, I told him I was going to take Joe home. As soon as I arrived, Jud took the pincers and removed the shoes. I was razzed quite some time for permitting so much weight to be put on him. There was very little I could do as two feet were shod when I arrived."

"After that, I trained him to trot," Myrtle continued. "He was exceptionally good at it. So good in fact, that a very successful trainer from Utah offered to trade me his stallion

DESCENDANTS OF DOMINO JOE

Top row: *Teton Celebration* and *Teton Royalaire*, both by *Teton Blackman*.

Second & third rows: *Offspring of Teton Celebration: Teton Black Hawk, Teton Last Man Standing, Tetonia Imagine with foal (x Scarlet Hills Jubilation), and Teton Fluid with Jay Neeley. Bottom row: Snake River Dawn and Snake River Firefly with Oregon Gold N Firefly.*



(Topside Congressman) for Joe. I refused. The trainer, whose name was Vic Adams, said he thought Joe was the only horse in the West that could out trot Welmore Zorro.” (Author’s Note: *Welmore Zorro [Baacamanto x U C Pantana]* was the most famous Morgan trotting stallion in the breed at that time.)

After letting Joe go on the show circuit only to have him contract pneumonia, Myrtle brought Joe home and OJ advised that any further training Joe had should be left to Myrtle and Jud. Myrtle could and did train her horses to produce high action and an animated way of going without any weights, and trained Joe to trot, which he was exceptionally good at. He also sired several fast trotters and Joe and his offspring were seldom beaten in races and classes at fairs, local and Morgan shows.

Joe was Myrtle’s favorite stallion and produced a total of 144 registered Morgans, with Myrtle noting that she had sold his get in 17 states including Alaska, and also Canada. Thanks to Myrtle’s dedication and that of her family who have diligently carried on her work, the historic Black Hawk Morgan type and character still thrives today through the Domino Joe sireline.

OFFSPRING AND DESCENDANTS OF DOMINO JOE

The best known son of Domino Joe was Wyoming Flyhawk, out of the mare Lily Black (Warhawk x GeeGee). Warhawk was a full brother of Joe’s sire Stetson, another great example of the famous Flyhawk x Sentola cross. Lily Black was 18 years old at the time she produced Wyoming Flyhawk and had been owned for many years by Reed Allen Jr., who bred her to Domino Joe. Myrtle then bought Lily Black from him, and later the colt as well, but Wyoming Flyhawk was the last of her eleven foals and she did not produce another. Myrtle bred 22 foals from Wyoming Flyhawk before eventually selling him to Dr. Lowell Hughes of North Liberty, Iowa, for his Caduceus farm.

Wyoming Flyhawk was jet black like his sire, with no white markings, and matured at 16h. Teton Royal Raven (x Tetonia Royalty) was sold to Dorothea Hildreth and produced several for her Bessia Morgans before she sold him to

Dr. Hughes. Altogether, Raven produced 54 foals before he was gelded and sold to Milton and Judith Gauger. Teton Blackman (x Tetonia Midnight), foaled in 1982 and bred by Myrtle, was retained and served as one of the main stallions for the Neeley program until his death in 1995. He produced 42 foals and his line is continued by his son Teton Celebration (x Tetonia Royalty) foaled in 1989. Celebration remains the senior stallion at the Neeley ranch with 31 offspring to date, although he is retired to outside mares. Celebration's son, Teton Last Man Standing, is another of the current stallions, and is out of the mare Tetonia Black Mist (Caduceus Kirov x Tetonia Black Pearl). Black Mist was among the last foals bred by Myrtle, foaled just a month before her death in 1993. Another promising young son of Celebration is

Teton Black Hawk (x Tetonia Jewell), foaled in 2008. His first foals will be on the ground in the spring, 2012. Black Hawk's dam, Jewell, was the last producing daughter of Domino Joe, with a total of eight foals, her last a 2010 filly by Siridian Mighty Mouse (G H Joppa Boncrh x Siridian Lady Heir), the fourth stallion currently used in the Neeley breeding program. Mighty Mouse carries a double cross to Chief Red Hawk (Flyhawk x Neliza by Jubilee King) with a line to Domino Joe through his dam.

Another important stallion to carry on the Domino Joe line through Wyoming Flyhawk was Sharthunder (x Triple S Ebonella). Bred by Floyd Dudney of Iowa and foaled in 1985, Sharthunder was purchased as a five-year-old by Dorothea Hildreth for her Bessia Morgans Ranch in Lima, Montana. He became a Morgan

International Cowhorse Association Champion stallion, winning two reining championships in 1995, and produced 70 offspring, which sold to 16 states as well as Canada and as far away as Italy.

"In the early '80s I purchased two mares and a stallion from Myrtle Neeley," Dorothea recalls. "The stallion was Teton Royal Raven (Wyoming Flyhawk x Tetonia Royalty). The mares were Tetonia Fawn (Domino Joe x Abbie Rigby) and Tetonia Rosa JJ (Jubilee Jazz X Shawna Dawn by Sireson). Raven gave me 10 foals, and then I sold to Dr. Lowell Hughes in Iowa. I learned that Floyd Dudney in Iowa had another black son of Wyoming Flyhawk, Sharthunder, out of the mare Triple S Ebonella by Blackwood Correll, so I had Floyd send him on out to me.

"Rosa's last son and Sharthunder's first son for me was Bessia's Sharosa Lujo. Sharosa (Ace) grew up to be 16 hands, 1,300 lbs. My granddaughter rode him from the time she was a tiny girl in 4-H and then in FFA, always in the blues and purples. When not in 4-H, Ace was my son's top cow horse on the ranch. I kept two daughters of Rosa—one by Raven, Bessia's Jubalea; and also Bessia's Jubarose by Domino Joe. Jubarose was an excellent ranch mare and would do anything you asked her. Jubalea has had 14 foals, I kept Bessia's Fiesta Carmela (x Sharthunder) her last filly, for myself. Jubalea has four stallion sons; two are standing in Idaho and one in Oklahoma and one is Wisconsin. Fawn had six foals for me—one was Bessia's Joe McCool, Willow Brown's champion cutting horse. Bessia's Dixon Mountain another of Fawn's foals, has been used on the ranch all these years. Sharthunder had 14 or 15 standing stallion sons I think. Many of his daughters have been incorporated into other breeders' programs. I have kept eight of Sharthunder's daughters and two of his granddaughters. My young stallion is SSS Black Licorice (Bessia's Tatanka x HDD Blue Satin). Tatanka is a son of Sharthunder out of Bessia's Jubarose by Sharthunder; he is standing in Pencher Creek, Canada."

Barbara Lewis, a professional dressage trainer for Rockwall Equestrian Center in Texas owns Caduceus Panache, the last stallion son of Wyoming Flyhawk. Out of MJVM Serena, Panache is 15.3h and homozygous black. Barbara notes,

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Sharthunder

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DESCENDANTS OF DOMINO JOE

Top row: *Sharthunder and Caduceus Panache, both by Wyoming Flyhawk. Second row:* *VVB Absence Of Malice, VVB Anastasia & VVB African Queen (embryo transfer triplets [Caduceus Panache xRaylee's Bright Star] 2002). Bottom three:* *By Caduceus Ixion: Teton Romance, Teton Royal Princess and Teton Black Charm.*



"Panache has shown at Morgan Grand Nationals in driving and 1st and 2nd level dressage. He has shown at regional Morgan shows in dressage and hunter. He is very easy to handle and very willing to train. He loves attention and people, and he definitely passes on his bone and temperament. Having started many of his babies under saddle, they have all been very fun and easy to work with. None of his babies have been "hot." They have all been very sensible, they seem to be born "broke" to handle!"

Another of Joe's grandsons through Wyoming Flyhawk, Teton Go Hawk (x Sandy Lake), was in the four-horse hitch of Henry and Martha DuPont at the 1989 Inaugural Parade for President George Bush.

Other lines from Domino Joe which have been influential include Teton Dan Patch (x Teton Silver), who went to Alaska and produced a line of gaited Morgans totaling 15 foals, including the palomino Jan Mabie Pace (x Gizea Gold) who went to Mel Fransden's Mary Mel's farm in Utah.

Teton Easy Rhythm (Teton Royal Ann), a black son foaled in 1973 was used by Scarlet Hills Morgans and produced 24 foals before being sold and gelded. One son, SH Easy's Image (x Mini Belle), was sold to Eldred Olson of Snake River Morgans in Clarkston, Washington, and used for carriage driving for weddings. Easy's Image was black, and 17h tall. A daughter, New Age Fire (x Hy Flame) became the foundation mare for Snake River Morgans' breeding program, and several other daughters were valuable producers for their owners. His last son was Foxtton Teton (x SH Crescent) who sired 25 foals for Foxtton Morgans in Colorado.

These are just a few examples. The Domino Joe line has been influential in many breeding programs, both through his sons and daughters, and these have been successful in Western, sport, and show disciplines alike. Many have been valued family and ranch horses. Twenty-one of his sons were used for stud, several with thriving sirelines that are continuing to breed on, and his daughters were valued producers. The line is known for producing size with no sacrifice in Morgan type, excellent athletic ability, balanced conformation and soundness, and wonderful intelligent minds with gentle dispositions and easy trainability.

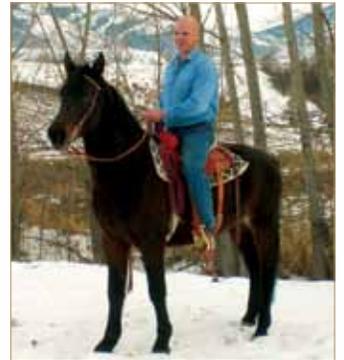
NEELEY MORGANS TODAY

Neeley Morgans continues today after more than 60 years of breeding Morgan horses through three generations. Myrtle's oldest daughter, Ina, moved to California and continued to breed Morgans along the same bloodlines, producing 63 Morgans with the Amador prefix. Her first stallion, Amador Prince (Sireson x Jenny Mac) foaled in 1961 produced 20 foals and several of Ina's horses were bred back into the Neeley program. OJ passed away in 1988, but Myrtle continued to be very involved with her horses up until her death in 1993. She was unable to ride past age 78, but continued to drive and would often hitch up Domino Joe and be gone for more than an hour when she was in her eighties and he in his twenties. Jud remained living nearby, and also remained involved with the Morgans until his death in 2008.

When Myrtle died, management of the ranch passed to her grandsons, Jud's sons Jay and Jared Neeley who work as a team. Jay, now living in Franklin, ID manages the business operations, and winters the young stock for early handling and training. He has

DESCENDANTS OF DOMINO JOE

Top to bottom, left to right: *Bessia's Jubarose with Perrie Crampton;* *SSS Black Licorice;* *Siridian Mighty Mouse with Chad Larson;* *Teton Domino Saxon with Jay Neeley;* *Tetonia Ruby Jewell;* *Tetonia Misty Fire with Angela Neeley;* and *CTR Ace's High with Jared Neeley.*



a special gift working with the babies as well as with horses that require some extra time and attention. Jared and his wife Angela manage the main Neeley ranch, now in Sugar City, Idaho, about 20 miles from Myrtle and OJ's original ranch.

The breeding operation had slowed with Myrtle's death and, in 1995, another blow came in the form of a car accident which left Jared in a wheelchair. However, he would not allow this to deter him, and with the help of friends Chad and Tammie Larson, and the late Jerry and Irma McGuire of Scarlet Hills Morgans, the Neeley Morgan breeding program continues much the same as Myrtle built it, and currently has 43 horses and is standing four stallions.

Angela Neeley summarizes the Neeley Morgan program well in describing how she became a part of it. "I worked at Upper Valley Veterinary Clinic and had met Jared there. He would bring horses in and we would talk about all of the horses and his ranch and I would stand in awe. Partly because I had heard about the beauty of the ranch and the horses that called it home, and partly because I couldn't understand how a paralyzed man could deal with a herd of horses. He told me numerous times that I needed to come meet his horses. Well, when he sold the old ranch and was getting ready to move to Sugar City he needed some help with computer work and some extra help with the horses. I jumped right on that! I will never forget my first time of going up to the ranch. Chad Larson and another employee who was working for Jared at the time were going to vaccinate and worm the entire herd. I brought the vaccine and helped them. As we were vaccinating the horses I was again awe struck at how much Jared knew about every single horse on the place. He could tell me names, just by looking at them and tell me their personalities. I asked him several times how he knew them just by looking at them when there were about 20 black horses and 20 chestnut horses...he could only say, 'Well, I just do, I spend enough time with them that I just do.' I had been around numerous herds of horses and I had never seen that many horses all act that good. They were so calm and personable. I left that day having fallen in love...not with Jared but with the Neeley Morgans.

"It wasn't long after that first trip to the ranch that I did fall in love with Jared. I have never met a stronger, more determined, head strong, and stubborn man. There is nothing that he can't do when he sets his mind to something. His physical handicaps do not stop him from doing what he loves. He still drives and operates a backhoe, and does it better than just about anybody who has use of their legs. He loves guns and goes shooting every chance he gets. He is still very involved with the horses, and although he doesn't ride anymore, he still drives. I have learned to love these horses just as Jared does. I want to see them continue with the same intent as Myrtle had, to preserve the Morgan breed and to continue to breed what we consider the strong and important traits of a Morgan. I was never able to meet Myrtle, but the stories that have been told about her and the obvious fact that her one true love in life was her horses and her family, leads me to believe that she would be proud of her grandsons for what they have done to keep this breeding program going and for what they have done to preserve the traditional Morgan horse. I often tell Jared, 'I think your Grandma would be proud.'"

Indeed she would. ■