



# X-RATED

This is not about the dark side of the entertainment industry. But thanks for tuning in. I'm going to explore some of the horses in the Morgan Registry that had an "X" attached to their names, denoting the presence of outside blood (it was perfectly legal up until 1948 when the registry was closed). Various breeders chose to outcross to a little Saddlebred, Pinto and Hackney bloodlines and some even used some draft horse blood! Upwey King Peavine and Polly Forrest are two well-known names of individuals who brought the Saddlebred influence into Morgan pedigrees. Prior to 1948, many valuable horses from the L. U. Sheep Ranch were registered with the X denomination and eventually showed up in the ancestry of horses from the Brunk dynasty.

One point of interest in looking through old registry volumes is that we had quite a bit of Arabian blood as an influence. Most of the Arabian influence came in the form of stock horses and this was prevalent before the start-up of the American Quarter Horse Association in 1940. If one looks back at some of the ads for the early Arabian studs we can see a definite similarity in looks to the Morgan of the time. The early *Western Horseman* and *Bit and Spur* magazines were full of pictures and ads for Arabians and Arabian crossbred horses. The well-known German, Carl "Raswan" Schmidt (he added Raswan to his moniker after the death of a horse of the

same name and he became better known in the horse world as Carl Raswan) was a major player in the popularity of Arabian horses, as were W. Kellogg, W. R. Hearst, General Dickinson and various others. Hearst even tried to start up a new breed, the Morab, in the 1930s. W. R. Brown

bred both Arabians and Morgans at his Maynesboro Stud in Berlin, NH. The blood of his Arabian stallions, Gulastra and Rahas, can be found in Morgan pedigrees as you will see. At one time Herbert R. Reese held the position of Director of the Government Morgan Farm in Weybridge, VT though the bulk of his career would be spent at the Kellogg Arabian Ranch in California. So many prominent horse breeders had a foot in both breeds.

What seemed to be the common theme was that the ranchers needed more stamina from their horses and given the availability of Arabian bred remount studs they were able to put enough of the right type of blood in them to develop a stock horse type.

The Tejon Ranch (one of the largest Spanish Land Grants), lying about an hour north of Los Angeles, used Arabian blood along with Morgan blood to improve their ranch horses; they needed horses that would hold up all day long. The Morgan breed was renowned for their stock horse ability, however the supply was not very plentiful and ranchers and horse breeders (mostly in California) went to a "like" conformation to outcross, and they found this with the Arabians.

By Linnea Sidi

Above: The fancy, golden chestnut stallion **ANTEZ** (inset and background) is the Arabian ancestor of **ANTMAN** (right and lower right), the favored working horse of legendary California horsewoman and rancher Syd Spencer.

## DAVENPORT ARABIANS

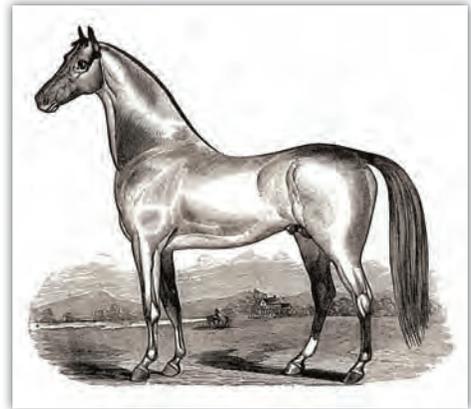
**H**omer Calvin Davenport (1867–1912) was a famous political cartoonist. He was self-taught and his work eventually caught the eye of W. R. Hearst and he was hired at top wages to draw for the *Evening Journal* in New York. Davenport was a great lover of country life and with a lot of work imported 27 purebred Arabian horses from Arabia in 1906 with the help of the Sultan. This was the strain to be known at the Davenport Arabians. For those of you that keep up with the general equine world, several devoted breeders are preserving this strain. Perhaps one of the best-known horses from this strain was **ANTEZ** 448 (ASB).

Antez traces on his sire line to **DEYR**. Deyr was imported from the desert by Davenport and eventually owned by the Kellogg Ranch. According to Herbert Reese's book "The Kellogg Arabians" Deyr's skeleton was donated to the Los Angeles Museum and provide proof of the Arabian characteristic of having 23 instead of 24 vertebrae. Antez was foaled in 1921 in California from stock tracing directly to the Davenport lines. His sire and dam (Harara x Moliah)—had been bred at the Hingham Stock Farm in Massachusetts by Mr. Peter Bradley. Later, Antez was acquired by W. K. Kellogg of Pomona, CA where he was many times regional champion at shows on the West Coast, as well as being first on several occasions at five gaits under saddle. According to an article in the 1938 June/July *Western Horseman* written by Frank McGlynn, "His natural gaits are fast walk and gallop. The trot as we know it, in our trotting horse, is not not a natural gait with the Arabian, nor does he naturally pace or singlefoot, but he can be trained to these gaits. Raseyn and Hanad, two stallions at the Kellogg Arabian Horse Ranch at Spadra, California, show five gaits from training and by comparison makes as fine a showing as five-gaited Kentucky Saddlers. Jadaan, another stallion at the same ranch also had been trained to show five gaits." One must conclude that five gaited show horses were highly prized in those days, so horses were trained for the gaits. It takes an athlete with a free moving shoulder in order to perform the intermediate gaits.

In 1933 (at the age of 12) General Dickinson of Traveler's Rest Arabians in Tennessee purchased Antez. It was a fluke that General Dickinson decided to run Antez in a few match races as a 12-year-old, and Antez won. Shortly after his speed records were established, Antez was sold to Poland and was exported to stand a few years. He was imported back to the U.S. and spent his later life in Arizona and California. Antez produced several sons and daughters to carry on in his image, one in particular was a mare called Pontez. Pontez was by Antez and out of Pondette (Pongee Morgan x Roda [by Red Oak]). Pontez, when bred to Mountcrest Sellman, produced **ANTMAN** x8318. Antman was a working stock horse owned and adored by Syd Spencer. Syd and her father purchased Antman at the Hearst sale in 1937. Antman was trained in the Old Spanish style; first a hackamore, then a spade bit and spent his life as a working ranch horse.

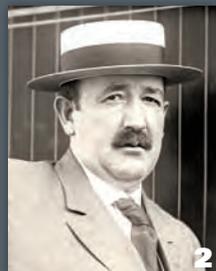


The Arabian stallion **DEYR** whose skeleton, on display at a Los Angeles Museum, proves the theory that the Arabian spine contains one less vertebrae than other light horse breeds.



The Morgan stallion **GOLDDUST** (b. 1855) was out of a mare sired by an Arabian imported directly from the desert by an American Consul. Golddust figures prominently in Morgan pedigrees and was also a foundation sire of the Standardbred breed (Calvin Hanson's article "Trotting Cousins," in this issue also features Golddust).

## THE MEN BEHIND THE ARABIANS BEHIND THE MORGANS:



**(1)** German industrialist turned Bedouin, Carl "Raswan" Schmidt; **(2)** political cartoonist Homer Davenport; **(3)** cereal magnate W. K. Kellogg; **(4)** press baron William Randolph Hearst and **(5)** General Dickinson all owned and, in many cases, imported from the desert, Arabian horses that figured in early (pre-1948) pedigrees of Morgan horses. **(6)** Herbert R. Reese was director of the Government Morgan Horse Farm in Vermont before moving into the same position at the Kellogg Arabian Horse Ranch in California, so he had first hand knowledge of both breeds.



**SWENSON BROTHERS:**

Clockwise from top left: A. J. Swenson and Red Bird; Loyd Jinkens and Red Boy (Photo by Bryan); W. G. Swenson and Ghabir (Photo by Hartung).



**GOLDDUST 70**

Volume I of the Morgan Horse Registry has an extensive chapter devoted to Golddust 70, who was actually a Morgan/Arab cross. Golddust was bred by Andrew Hoke of Anchorage, KY and was foaled in 1855, and sold as a weanling to L. L. Dorsey of Kentucky. His sire was Vermont Morgan 69 and his dam was an unregistered mare sired by Zilcaadi, a chestnut Arabian stallion, presented by the Sultan to the United States Consul Mr. Rhind and imported by him. Golddust became an important sire of the time described as being pure gold in color. Racing in 1861, Golddust defeated Iron Duke in a match race, best three out of five heats, for a purse of \$10,000. Most of the Golddust offspring stayed in the mid-West; Eclipse Golddust was the only son to go to C. X. Larabee in Montana. The Jack Sprat line is one that contains a lot of the old Golddust lines; Charles Ayer of Meeker, Colorado purchased Jack Sprat from H.T. Hineman in Kansas and shipped him to his mountain ranch. Ultimately, The Ayer horses ended up in southern California with E.W. Roberts.

**THE HEARST MORABS**

In *The Horses of San Simeon*, W. R. Hearst's breeding program was detailed. Hearst bought his foundation Morgans in 1929 from Roland Hill, twelve of the mares were by Pongee Morgan, a Brunk bred stud. The other two mares were by the government bred, Querido, the dams of all fourteen original mares were from the Red Oak lines. Eight more Querido daughters were purchased from Hill in 1931. Hearst also brought in Mountcrest Sellman and Hacienda Chief as studs, they were of Headlight Morgan lines. During the years of 1932–1939, the Hearst Ranch registered 110

Morgan foals, 18 of them actually being Morgan/Arab crosses. These "X" Morgans were out of Morgan mares and were sired by Gulastra, Rahas, Sabab, Ansarlah, Ghazi, Joon and Kasar ASB 707. Kasar was the sire of Fawn K X05077, Sunical Dot X-05534 and Sunical Bud X 05535. The only exception to this list was Antman and he was by a Morgan out of a Morab mare. Hearst used Piedmont and Sunical as prefixes in the Morgan registry. On another note, Hearst's stud manager, Preston Dyer, was also the man who trained General Patton's horses.

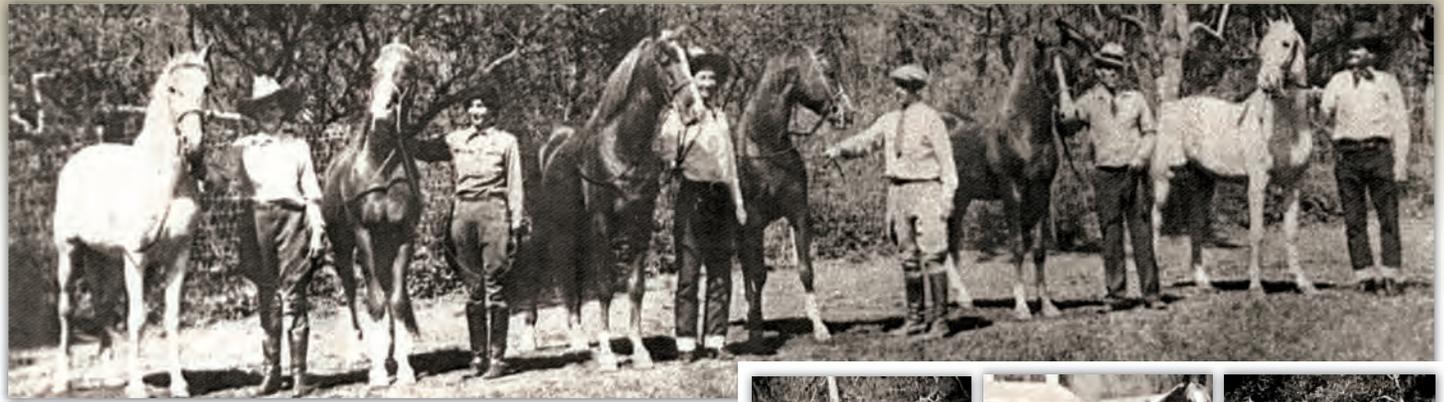
**HALEB**

This is an interesting story! On June 17, 1907, the imported Arabian stallion Haleb (a seal brown without a white hair), won first prize in the Justin Morgan class at the Rutland, Vermont, horse show, competing with and winning over the best Morgans on their own home grounds. Haleb was conceded to be the most remarkable horse. Horse breeders considered him "the salvation" of the Morgan breed."

In the July, 1991 *Arabian Horse World*, author Charles Craver recalled, "In the United States, \*Haleb's excellence received appropriate recognition. Albert Harris comments that 'he was pronounced best of the importation by horsemen here.' At the time of the importation, the Morgan horse in the United States was at a cross-roads as to whether to retain its established identity as a compact, general purpose horse or to modify more towards saddle horse type. The proponents of classic Morgan type apparently saw to it that \*Haleb was entered at their show at Rutland, Vermont in June, 1907, in competition for the horse most closely resembling the original Justin Morgan type, and his winning of the Justin



The Arabian stallion **HALEB**, imported from Bedouin stock by Homer Davenport, actually won the Justin Morgan class at the 1907 Vermont Fair before dying suddenly and mysteriously.



**THE HEARST MORABS:** Most of these Arabian stallions were important in the early history of their own breed in America as well as figuring in Morgan pedigrees: They are (left to right) Joon, Rahas, **SABAB**, Gulastra, Kasar and Ghazi. (Courtesy of Ted W. Luedke, *Morab Moments* —*Story of the Marvelous Morab*) **Inset:** A closer look at Rahas, Gulastra and Ghazi.



Morgan Cup was considered a plus for both the purist Morgan breeders and for the Arabian breed.”

Tragedy was soon to follow on the heels of this historic event. With the Justin Morgan Cup his prized possession, Homer Davenport lost the invaluable horse he called “The Pride Of The Desert.” A few days later Haleb died—supposedly poisoned. That must have been one of the very early shows where Morgans were exhibited and one can be sure it upset the apple cart!

### SWENSON BROTHERS

This discussion would not be complete without mentioning the SMS Ranch near Stamford, Texas. The purchase of the Morgan stud colts Red Bird 6775 and Gotch 5979 (both were sons of The Admiral 4871), along with a herd of seven Morgan bood mares in 1914, marked the beginning of the SMS expansion into Morgans. A few years later three Government Remount Arabian stallions were added to the ranch stock and fine Morab cutting horses evolved. One example was a bay gelding called Rey Boy (AQHA 15810), foaled at SMS in 1943 and owned by Wild Bill Elliott of Hollywood fame. Rey’s sire was Billy by King P-234 but his dam was a Morab sired by Niwad out of the daughter of an SMS Morgan stallion. Back in those days, registry in AQHA was done by inspection and Rey Boy qualified on that criteria. I cannot find that SMS continued the purebred Morgans, but I’d venture to guess that they had a bunch of foundation Quarter horses!!

### SABAB

I found just a little information on this horse. Sabab ASB 710 was by Taba 441 who was by Deyr. Sabab is probably best known as being the sire of Princess Sabab X 05076. Princess Sabab was out of Princess Allen 04635 who was by the much used Querido out of Tab 04214. This line has bred on through Princess Sonfield 06004 (Sonfield 7952 x Princess Sabab). The cross of Princess Sonfield with Dickie’s Pride 11068 resulted in one of the late Steve Reeves greatest mares, SR’s Dutchess. I recall that Steve told me that he loved this mare and she was his favorite.

### SUR

It happened upon this horse, Sur ASB 436 who was by Deyr ASB 33 out of a mare called Sankirah ASB 149. He shows as being owned by Peter Bradley, Hingham, MA and was foaled in 1921. He shows as the sire of Cyclone Sal X05048 out of Dondarling 02970. Dondarling 02970 was by Donald 5224 out of a mare called Cherry Ripe 0406 who was by Bob Morgan 4549. Cyclone Sal had a bay colt in 1936 named Hurricane Don 8007 sired by Hawkeye 6657. The Registry volume V shows that Ruth B. Dickson of Weston, MA was the breeder. Ruth Dickson would become the wife of Lyman Orcutt and together they would create the Orland prefix.

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Over the years, the X in a pedigree of a Morgan horse has always led to questions. Many of the X horses had various types of outside blood in them, but this was within the rules of the Morgan Horse Club until 1948. That outside blood served the needs of the working horsemen of the day and helped the breed survive. The X horses that traced back to Arabians were of exceptional quality. The Davenport Arabians set a standard for the Arabian horses of antique quality to which many breeders still adhere.

The X horses are part of the complex fabric of the Morgan gene pool, within which the ever dominant phenotype of our great breed has prevailed.

So, don’t ever say “X Rated” like it’s a bad thing! ■



*Polly Forrest (left) and Upwey King Peavine (right), prominent and valued by breeders in Morgan pedigrees, are examples of “X-Rated” horses that carried Saddlebred influence into the Morgan gene pool.*