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SIGNIFICANT SIRE SERIES

Man About Town LPS

A Short Life with a Huge Legacy

Man About Town LPS will by far outlive his altogether too short life.

The stallion lived to be only seven years old. Yet his legacy is that of being a World Champion Stallion who sired two World Champion Stallion sons. As a result his influence already is being felt into the generations.

“Even now I have his pictures in our house and he looks like an artist’s rendition of a horse to me,” says Tyese (Whalen) Bohan who owned the stallion for most of his life. “I think Lynn definitely knew what he was doing and he did it right.”

The “Lynn” in question is, of course, Lynn Peeples who has created a dynasty using just a few mares. Man About Town LPS was a relatively late foal, born in June of 1993. Lynn notes he

did not know right away that he had his hands on a special colt.

Lynn recalls about the foal who would become World Champion: “Real smooth bodied, stretchy colt, but I was really disappointed in the size of his ears. But I don’t think they grew at all for the rest of his

life. That was the thing that stood out in my mind when he was a baby. Everybody said when we brought him out as a two-year-old, ‘What’s the deal, we’ve never heard anything about this colt?’ And I said, ‘We were just letting him grow up.’ But truth of the matter was his ears were too much for me because I think a stud should have a short ear. So I didn’t know I had a big deal. I think he was a coming two-year-old when he started to grow into himself and I said, ‘This is a pretty darn nice colt.’ He kept on improving, I think, right up until he died.”

By Stephen Kinney

Man About Town LPS standing (left) and moving (above). Above photo © Suzy Lucine



PROMINENT SONS OF *Man About Town LPS*

Left to right: *LPS The Boogie Man*; *Man In Motion*; *Town Assets*. Photos © Debbie Uecker-Keough & Howard Schatzberg

“Walt” was sired by Tug Hill Celebrity (Wham Bam Command x Tara’s Rebecca) about whom Lynn says: “He was double Trophy and also Nocturne. He had a ton of quality. And that was what I thought after breeding that mare a couple of times, was that her offspring needed a lot of quality and refinement. I thought that that would work and I was very happy with the results.”

The mare in question is MI First Love (Devan Wexford x HLM Caption) a mare of double O C R breeding and two appearances in her pedigree of the mare Lady Hawk, who was double General Gates. Lynn bred MI First Love four times producing two World Champion Stallions (the other being Pot Of Gold by Trijas Mr Pepperpot) and the big trotting performance mare Illicit Love (who still plays a strong role in the Waterford breeding program, being the dam of reigning Four-Year-Old Park Saddle World Champion LPS Out Of Bounds, among others). “MI First Love took a lot from the sire,” Lynn recalls. “The babies resemble the sires a great deal, all of them, no matter who she was bred to. She was a little bit transparent in that. They all had a lot of heart, a lot of go forward, a good work ethic. I guess that’s what I got from her. I tried to breed her to studs who had good work ethics as well. That’s very important to a horse trainer. If they don’t want to be anything, you can’t instill that in them.”

As Lynn mentions, by Walt’s two-year-old year he knew he had his hands on something. The first show he took the youngster to was Vermont Morgan in May of that year. He was Junior and Grand Champion Stallion and it was there he came to the attention of the late trainer Rick Stevens, a man with a savvy ability to shop for superstars on behalf of his clients.

Tyese Bohan was one of those clients at that time. “Rick saw

him and fell in love. And I was ready for something new. We took a ride. Getting down to see him was an adventure. We got lost in New Jersey. We were about three hours late. When we got there, there was a huge thunder and lightning storm going on. But Walt didn’t miss a beat, he was so impressive and I just fell in love.”

Walt was soon relocated to his new home in Rhode Island.

Accolades piled up with seeming ease for the new team. In 1995 *Man About Town LPS* was World Champion Junior Stallion and World Champion Futurity Two-Year-Old Stallion. In 1996 he was named Reserve World Champion Stallion after a win of the Grand National Three-Year-Old Stallions class. Next year was a big year for him. In 1997 he ascended to his third consecutive win as Grand Champion Stallion at the prestigious New England Regional Morgan Show. At Oklahoma he went all the way, this time being crowned World Champion Stallion at the age of four. And he proved his performance credentials winning the Grand National Park Harness Four-Year-Old Stallions.

Winning the world championship, Tyese says, “Still to this day it brings me joy. It brings me a lot of happiness thinking about it.”

She continues: “He was just gorgeous. He was just such a fun horse, too. He had personality and was fun to be with. They’re all different, but he had his own thing. He took his naps every day. He’d snore. And there was that neck that went on forever.”

He existed in a barn that was known for its collection of regal stallions with barnmates such as HVK Courageous Flaire, Stonecroft Byzantine and Stonecroft Trilogi. Yet Tyese recalls how special he was to Rick Stevens: “He loved the horse. It’s just so sad that his time wasn’t long enough with us. I think his time was just



MATERNAL HALF-SIBLINGS OF *Man About Town LPS*

Left to right: *Pot Of Gold*; *Illicit Love* (Photo © Howard Schatzberg).

coming due to show us what he was going to be as a performance horse. Unfortunately, we never got to fully see his potential. I know Rick loved working him. He was always a pleasure to work. He'd always start his day or finish his day with him because it was always a good note. He was easy and never a big fight. He did what he needed to do."

In 2000 he had started his saddle career being named winner of the stallion class and the Park Saddle Reserve Championship at New England.

He died suddenly and unexpectedly in the autumn of 2000 as the breed was preparing for the blockbuster Prospects 2001 sale held at Sebring Stables and spearheaded by trainers Rick Stevens, Rick Lane and Peggy Alderman. At Prospects his filly Sarde's Town Flirt (x World Champion Mare Stonecroft Shalimar) sold for a record breeding price for a Morgan weanling at auction: \$65,000. One aspect of his legacy may have ended, but the Morgan world was aware that another continued.

World titles notwithstanding it will be as a breeding stallion that *Man About Town LPS* will be primarily remembered. Chief among his winning get is Sarde's Manistique (x Lady Hot Topic) who is both English Pleasure World Champion and Three-Year-Old English Pleasure World Champion, both awards with Luman Wadhams in the irons. Sarde's Manistique and the aforementioned Sarde's Town Flirt were from the same foal crop in 2000 and "pretty much put us on the map" says breeder Roxanne Sardelli. Regarding what Walt added to crosses in her program, Roxanne says "For me, he's given me length of neck and a better turn at the poll. He's given me attitude, which means so much.

They're very go forward. They want to do something."

Tyese Bohan would produce one for herself when she purchased an egg from the great mare Ladybird Command and the cross gave her *Man In Command* who would be Ladies English Pleasure World Champion in 2005 before going on to a long career with other owners.

Other well-known show horses were sired by *Man About Town LPS*. The bright chestnut and aptly named *KD Hot To Trot*, was all show horse on the string at Stonegate Farm. Others include a star of the Western pleasure division, *Park Place Dominion*; New England English Pleasure Champion and a continuing champion in the junior exhibitor ranks *CPM Man Oh Man*; the hunter pleasure winner *LIV Man Of Steele*; in-hand and English pleasure winner *AKM Manhattan*; the handsome and now deceased *Dr Bombay*. Lynn showed *City Limits* in park harness; *Talk Of The Town LPS* was World Champion Junior Gelding as well as a hunter pleasure winner; *Properly*, a champion of the walk/trot hunter pleasure ring; *Funky Town*, out of *UVM Unity*, was champion gelding at New England. Among his most handsome sons is *Smoke Signal*, although not shown much due to an early injury, is known for his beautiful head and he is owned by his breeder Bonnie Sogoloff.

This is not where the dynasty ended, however, it is where it begins.

It turns out that for *Man About Town LPS* the dynasty builder would be his own breeder, Lynn Peebles. Lynn bred three stallions that would set their own records in the show ring and start to breed on significantly into the next generation.

Man In Motion is from Walt's first foal crop in 1996. He's out

SIGNIFICANT SIRE SERIES *Man About Town LPS*



Left to right: *Sarde's Manistique; Man In Command.* **GET OF** *Man About Town LPS*

of the great producing mare Devan Melmore who is also dam of the dynamic world champion Simple Dreams. Man In Motion was World Champion Stallion in 2000 and 2001. Lynn speaks highly of "Mo's" ability in the breeding shed, stating about his get: "I think they are athletes. They are good sized. Have a great work ethic. The majority of them are heads-up, go-forward type of horses. He can be used on a lot of different bloodlines to help that because he's been real consistent in passing those things along."

LPS The Boogie Man came along in the year 2000. He is out of another mare line intimately associated with Lynn's program, that of World Champion Mare UVM Unity through her daughter Honeytree's Simply Unique by Born To Boogie. The dark and typey LPS The Boogie Man has been one of the most popular show horses on four legs as has been proven by his four wins of the World Champion Stallion Title in 2003, '04, '05 and '07. Of this significant and vastly popular stallion his breeder says: "He's by

far the most versatile Morgan that I've bred. He's won in so many different divisions that it's amazing to me. He probably wouldn't have done that if he had stayed with me because I wouldn't have been adventurous enough to show him in all those divisions. In hand, he obviously resembles the Boogie/Unity cross more than his sire. He is very popular. I think that proves that quality just never goes out of style. He's undoubtedly a Morgan horse and that makes him very popular and it should. He couldn't be confused for any other breed, no matter what tack you had on him."

Though a horse of a different color altogether, full-brother Town Assets followed in 2001 and had a significant, though brief career in-hand before heading to the breeding shed, still in the ownership of his breeder Lynn Peeples. "I believe he resembles his sire a little bit more, being longer legged and very vertical of neck. I think that's apparent in his offspring, as well. He's a typical horse trainer's horse. He got pushed to the back and didn't get to

GET OF *Man In Motion* Left to right: *City Kitty; LPS Out Of Bounds.*



Photos © Howard Schatzberg & Casey McBride

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GET OF *Town Assets* Left to right: CHMH Spice Town Girl; Ledyard's Eduardo; Man In Black.

show. We had horses in the same division and he didn't get to show because of conflicts. I'm very, very pleased with him. Two of the first three that were born, were world champions." His contributions to the breeding shed have far outweighed any prizes that might have accrued in the show ring.

When asked how he chose Devan Melmore and Honeytree's Simply Unique to cross with Walt, Lynn makes the practical observation: "Well, they're really two nice mares bred to a nice stud. Availability was obviously there. I thought that horse could be a breeding stallion if given a chance and I was trying to give him a chance."

What kind of a chance has Lynn provided this bloodline? Read on!

Man In Motion has produced 2012 Junior Exhibitor Park Saddle World Champion City Kitty and the 2012 Four-Year-Old Park Saddle World Champion LPS Out Of Bounds. These

are skillfully bred horses. City Kitty is out of a daughter of Man About Town LPS, namely City Limits. LPS Out Of Bounds is out of a maternal half-sister to Man About Town, namely Illicit Love. Such close breeding as this is adventurous, to say the least. Lynn is philosophical: "We tried it a couple of times and waited to see what the offspring looked like. It looked as though it was working and so we continued to do it. We're expecting a full-sibling to City Kitty and the Cojocars have a mare by Town Assets that's in foal to Man In Motion. The colt that won at Syracuse last year is out of the same cross. We're really pleased with that colt. He looks real special. That's why we continued to do it." Other winning get of Man In Motion include Reserve World Champion Mare Fair Catch, Gamepiece, Illegal Motion, Moe Tall, Almost Famous, Tara's Mojo, ADC Last Man Standing, and LBJ Toy Town.

LPS The Boogie Man has been popular in the breeding shed, as he is in the show ring. He's particularly known as the sire of

Left to right: ECP Anchor Man; Jungle Love; TFF Selene. **GET OF *LPS The Boogie Man***



Photos © Howard Schatzberg

2011 World Champion Mare and 2012 Reserve World Champion Mare, Jungle Love. She is out of HVK Heartbeat (Noble Flaire x Tedwin In Tempo) and belongs to Fran Pugh's Tara Farm. He is also sire of ECP Anchor Man, the stunningly upright and athletic 2012 Reserve World Champion Stallion for owner Charles Buller's Fortress Crest Morgans. Anchor Man's dam is intensely inbred to Serenity Masterpiece and his sire Serenity Grandmaster. These two winners support Lynn's theory that the bloodline is particularly valuable as an outcross to the Noble Flaire and Serenity Masterpiece lines that are so populous in the breed today. The elegant hunter pleasure champion AMHF She's Got Boogie (x AMHF Chatterbox) and the Four-Year-Old Western Pleasure World Champion TFF Selene (x Oakgrove First Lady) are also proving Boogie Man's value in the breeding shed.

LPS The Boogie Man has been handled throughout his career by trainer David Rand, at whose farm he resides today under the ownership of the Steven Tassinari family. Of his breeding career David notes, "Certainly, he himself is such a model and fits the standard. And breeding wise, that quality is obviously coming through, along with the conformation and great attitude. He's had great success at a young age with such few foals on the ground."

Town Assets is an emotional favorite of Lynn Peeples'. And he is proving himself as strong a genetic force as his siblings. The stallion, who favors his sire line in the same way LPS The Boogie Man favors his dam line, is siring foals that are popular with their trainers. CHMH Spice Town Girl is one such, a driving force on the show string at Broadmoor for owner C.A. "Tony" Lee III. "Posh" is out of a mare combining the blood of Noble Flaire and the Serenity Masterpiece son The Master's Touch. She won the Two-Year-Old Pleasure Driving World Championship and the mare is three time Amateur Pleasure Driving Reserve World Champion. Lynn himself led the colt Ledyard's Eduardo, for the fledgling breeding program of William Haines, to the title of Futurity Two-Year-Old Stallion World Champion last year. Eduardo is by Town Assets and out of Mendon Belle Amie, a Serenity Masterpiece daughter out of a mare by HVK Bell Flaire. Lynn is onto a magical cross here! A special young stallion that shows on the Waterford string is Man In Black. As his name suggests he's masculine, typey and black. He is one more result of crossing a son on a daughter, this time Town Assets on the mare Town Sweetheart, both by Walt. Man In Black has had success in hand, under saddle and in harness, again for owner William Haines' Ledyard Farm. EKL Assets Vision

is out of a double Waseeka's In Command mare and would carry Kathleen Peeples to wins of both Three-Year-Old and Four-Year-Old Hunter Pleasure World Championships. As a two-year-old Town Affair captured the World Futurity Geldings Championship.

There hasn't been a foal registered by Man About Town LPS since 2008, but that's about to change. Long time fan of the stallion and the bloodline, Roxanne Sardelli is now in possession of all the remaining frozen semen. She estimated there is just a little more than 20 doses left.

"I have a daughter of Lady Hot Topic who's by Stonecroft Masquerade," Roxanne explains. "I always wanted to breed her to Walt because I loved Manistique, but there's things I could change. This mare is even nicer than Lady and better necked. My original reason for approaching Tyese was to breed this mare, Sarde's Victoria Anne to him. I think for the limited number of horses he's put on the ground he's been a good asset to the breed. I think he's a great asset to my mare who is due in foal this year."

Roxanne continues, "I bought Minion Millennium after I bought all the Walt semen. And I'm kind of excited about putting some Millennium fillies on the ground and perhaps breeding them back to him and seeing what happened." In that case, she will, of course, be doing the reverse of the cross of Man About Town LPS



Jungle Love and LPS Out Of Bounds.

and Masterpiece blood that Lynn Peeples has already proven.

Really the Man About Town LPS dynasty is a veritable phenomenon. The stallion was only with us for a few years. The remaining bank of semen is not large by any account. With limited opportunities he produced three sons who would carry on in a big way. They cross well back onto their own families when linebred and they offer an outcross to other more populous bloodlines, especially the Noble Flaire and Serenity Masterpiece bloodlines.

The record of Man About Town LPS is a trademark for seminal Morgan horse men, the late Rick Stevens, certainly, for David Rand in the case of LPS The Boogie Man, and, most essentially, the man with the foresight to champion all of this, Lynn Peeples. The stallion was the happiest of all things to a breeder: a masterpiece as an individual who was capable of passing on his best through his get.

Lynn sums up, "It's the most rewarding for me as a breeder to see these horses go on and have an impact in this very competitive breed. You don't know where it's going to go when you start out. These horses have carried on and taken their place in history." ■