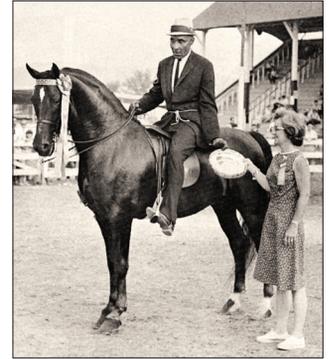


# Rena 07229

The Research of Marsha Valance, 2018



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rena, age 26; Westwold Dona Resa and Joe Parker; Chasley Superman and Joe Parker.



**Rena 07229** (Magellan 8625 x Nubia 06100) • Chestnut, star  
 • **Foaled:** May 24, 1947, Middlebury, Vermont • **Died:** after 1974 – circa 1975, Kent, Connecticut • **Bred by:** USDA • Five crosses each to Bennington 5693 and Artemesia 02731; Seven crosses to General Gates 666; 18 crosses to Ethan Allen 50; 18 crosses to Billy Root 9 • 10 generations from Justin Morgan • 100 percent government breeding • **Eight Generation Coefficient of Inbreeding:** 14.1721725463867 percent • **Registered Morgan Progeny:** Six colts, Four fillies

“For a span of several years in the late 1960s and early 1970s a Morgan mare was responsible for capturing the minds and hearts of countless numbers of the horsey set—young and old alike. Her name was Rena, and she ‘talked’ from page three of *The Morgan Horse* (*TMH*) magazine in those days. She recited the many aspects of life in the horse barn, sometimes using verse to get her point across. ... How many times was someone overheard to quote the latest knowledge from the mouth of Rena? Her voice was the late William Brown Meloney. Her stage was that page three advertisement of Figure’s Morgan Farm of Kent, Connecticut, owned by Bill and Betty Meloney.... She lost that special voice when Bill Meloney died in 1971. But Rena remains all else—the matriarch of Figure’s Morgan Farm, an ambassador of Morgan goodwill and a continuing influence in the breeding programs of a good many Morgan farms” (“Rena 07229: a Familiar Name and Voice,” *TMH*, May 1974, pp. 28–29).

This “remarkable Government-bred mare,” according to W. Dayton Sumner, was a “prolific progenitor of excellent offspring,” stated Renee Page. Rena was the grand-dam of five World Champion mares, firmly establishing her name in the pedigrees of many top Morgans today. (Anne Boorman Canavan, “World Champion Mares: a Family Affair,” *TMH*, May 1989). A May 1987 *TMH* article on Rena stated: “Taking into account just the 28 World Championships that have been awarded to mares and stallions since the Grand National began in 1973, Rena get and grandget have ac-

counted for eight of the awards, an astonishing 28.6 percent.”

“The chestnut mare Topaz, foaled in 1926, by Mansfield out of the good Lady Lyndon by Lyndon 5080, ... founded a noted matriarchy within the breed. A medium sized mare, with excellent withers and back, she was a good-boned, good-legged individual, very similar in type to several other Mansfield daughters. [Her great great granddaughter], the mare Rena, also proved her worth as a producer. The dam of Westwold Dona Resa and Chasley’s Superman, Rena’s pedigree is doubly interesting for she carries two crosses back to Topaz, the one through her sire Magellan and a second back through her second dam Fairytop.” (Mabel Owen, “Gold Star Mares,” *TMH*, September 1967, pp. 12–13, 139–141).

Three of Rena’s ten foals—Windcrest Fireball, Chasley Superman, and Westwold Dona Resa—were among the 22 initial inaugurees into the AMHA Show Horse Hall of Fame (registered Morgans with three or more Grand Champion titles). Steve DeBolt called Dona Resa “a wonderful mare, who produced one good foal after another.” Doris Ryan described Dona Resa as “the greatest show mare of all time.” She was the dam of World Champion Mares Van Lu Love Story and Van Lu Jolie (World Champion Mare and World Champion Park Harness Horse all in the same year).

Outstanding broodmare and *TMH* columnist, Rena definitely made her mark on the Morgan breed. Rena would have qualified for AMHA’s new Dam of Merit Award on her offspring Chasley Superman and Westwold Dona Resa alone. ■