



≈ COLORFUL MORGANS ≈

PRECIOUS METAL:

The Legacy of Morgan Gold

Despite a limited breeding career, the palomino stallion left an indelible stamp on the colorful Morgans of yesterday and today.

Among the largest producers of Morgans in the mid-20th century were the various breeding programs operated on government run Native American reservations. Many old Morgan families ended up being preserved through their efforts. Developed as agricultural education programs for Native Americans and to improve the quality of horses they would use in ranching and farming, one such effort would also, as a happy accident, leave a legacy of golden Morgans to the breed.

The Pine Ridge Agency is located in Pine Ridge, South Dakota and is home of the Oglala Sioux. Horses were once an everyday part of life on the reservation. Historically speaking, ownership of horses was evidence of prestige amongst the Oglala. They have a traditional reverence for the horse, which they call sunka wakan, or sacred dog.

In 1938, W. O. Roberts, then superintendent of Pine Ridge, made the first purchase of a Morgan stallion and seven Morgan

By Laura Hornick Behning

mares under the auspices of the Oglala Community High School. The Native American students at the school worked with the Morgans and could earn a breeding, or a colt, in return for their efforts. By 1942 the registered Morgan herd at Pine Ridge had grown to 20 mares and

six stallions. The Sioux also crossed their mares of other breeds to the Morgan stallions to produce quality half-Morgans. Due to their beauty, outstanding disposition, speed, ability to carry weight, and easy keeping abilities, the Morgans soon became their preferred breed. These qualities attracted the attention of local white ranchers as well, and many of the Pine Ridge Morgans were sold to other reservations, federal agencies, and private breeders, spreading their Morgan genetics far and wide.

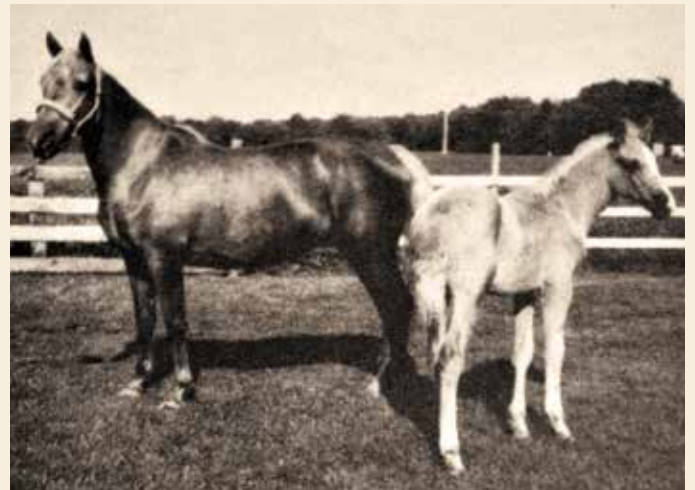
The famous Western working family stallion, Red Correll (Will Rogers x Kate Smith), was foaled at Pine Ridge in 1940, and stood there until his sale to B. Wallace Mills in 1956. Red Correll left many descendants that come down to us today, but the one who

ABOVE (clockwise from left): Morgan Gold, 1943 palomino stallion, at Pine Ridge; his sire Red Correll with W. O. Roberts; and his dam, Luellen.

has had a major impact on the colorful Morgan was his palomino son, Morgan Gold.

Foaled in 1943, Morgan Gold was the product of a chestnut stallion and a black mare, a fact that confounded some at a time when knowledge of equine color genetics was not as advanced as it is today. Morgan Gold's color came from his dam, Luellen, who was registered black but was actually a smoky black. A smoky black is a horse with one cream dilution gene, which has little to no visible effect on black horses, but can be passed on to their offspring. Luellen's cream gene comes from her sire, Night Tide (by the government-bred Tiffany out of the Brunk-bred Glenalla), who was also a smoky black. Where Night Tide's cream gene might have come from is a bit of a mystery, as neither of his parents was visibly dilute. His dam, Glenalla, shares some similar ancestors as the probable color source behind the famous buckskin stallion, Sunup Neptune, including a registered-as-chestnut mare named Ruby, who may have been some sort of cream dilute. At any rate, among Night Tide's 21 offspring were four cream dilute mares whose offspring have had a profound influence on today's colorful Morgan: Dawnglo (x Ishawooa), 1939 palomino; Carmel Snow (x Kaycee), 1939 palomino; Luxury (x Mallow), 1939 buckskin (registered as dun); and Luellen, 1939 smoky black (x Ethete).

Unfortunately, not much is known about Morgan Gold himself, and his only registered foals, 28 in total, came during the four years from 1946 to 1950. After that, the stallion seemingly dropped out of sight. The photo of Morgan Gold that accompanies this article, never before seen in print by the Morgan public, was discovered in a document entitled "Education for Better Living. A Study of the Effectiveness of the Pine Ridge Educational Program," by Dale George, published in 1955. The original caption reads "Morgan Gold, Palomino Morgan stallion, who headed the Oglala School horse herd, and sired many a fine cow pony on the reservation. His offspring were sought after by many Dakota white ranchers." The use of past tense would seem to indicate the stallion was no longer at Pine Ridge at the time the document was written. An article on the Pine Ridge breeding program published in the August 1966 issue of *The Morgan Horse* features the only previously known photo of Morgan Gold and notes that he was sold for \$6,000, quite a bit of money for that time, but not when he was sold, or to whom. The Morgan registry has no record of any transfer. Morgan Gold had been registered with the Palomino Horse Breeder's Association, but their registry volumes turned up nothing other than the listing for Morgan Gold himself, showing his ownership as the Pine Ridge Indian Agency. The stallion's final registered Morgan foals for Pine Ridge arrived in 1949, but his last registered foal, Linda Morgan, was actually foaled in Oklahoma in 1950 and was bred by the Jones Indian Academy. This might indicate that Morgan Gold had been sold to Oklahoma, but sadly, no further trace of him has been found. His story must be told by the relatively few offspring he did have, who carried his bloodlines and color down to the present. In fact, the descendants of Morgan Gold comprise the largest group of cream dilute colorfules in the breed today.



(Photo © Howard Schatzberg)

SIoux GOLD LINE

TOP TO BOTTOM: Sioux Gold (Morgan Gold x Illawana Topsy), 1946 palomino stallion, pictured as a two-year-old; Betsy Swanton (Sioux Gold x Sweet Adaline), 1953 palomino mare, with her 1970 palomino colt, Linsley La Mont; Pat West on her palomino gelding, Caduceus Quasar (Casual Sir Jackson x Honey Spice to Betsy Swanson), winning the Amateur Western Pleasure Championship at the 2005 Gasparilla Charity, his first show.



(Photo © Carol Dombrowsky)



(Photo © Peggi)

SHOULDERS

TOP TO BOTTOM: Sandy Swanton, carrying the flag at the 1968 Circle J Morgan Show, Charles Marcy up; Allen's Oglala Gold with Janice Robinson up at the March 1978 Mule Day Parade in Columbia, Tennessee; Nashboro Gallant Lad is the double great grandsire of buckskin champion western pleasure mares, Holiday's Bonita Fe and Holiday's Pachita Fe; Holiday's Bonita Fe, 2007 buckskin mare, and Emily Lents at the Jingle Bells Horse Show 2013.

SHOULDERS

Four offspring of Morgan Gold would turn out to have the most influence on today's colorful Morgan. The first of these arrived in Morgan Gold's premier foal crop of 1946. This was the palomino stallion Sioux Gold (out of Illawana Topsy). As a six-year-old in 1952, Sioux Gold was part of the first group of Pine Ridge-bred Morgans sold to the Washington D.C. park police. At that time, Morgans were being bred by the park police at Wakefield, known as "the Birthplace"—the Virginia plantation where George Washington was born. The program had started in 1938 when John D. Rockefeller donated a black Morgan stallion and two mares.

Only stallions and geldings were used for patrol duty, with the mares being reserved for breeding. Sioux Gold was used regularly on patrol along the George Washington Parkway, and was a favorite of the D.C. public due to his attention-getting color and kind disposition. As the only palomino in a sea of blacks, he was often used as a flag bearer in parades and demonstrations.

The park police only registered one Morgan from Sioux Gold after his acquisition. This was the chestnut filly Daisy Girl (x Daisy Hawk), who left no progeny. Fortunately for the Morgan breed, Sioux Gold had sired 13 offspring before leaving the reservation. As an aside, eight of the Morgans purchased over the years by the park police were by Morgan Gold. If they bred them, they did not register any Morgan foals from them, either.

Betsy Swanton (Sioux Gold x Sweet Adaline), born in 1953, was Sioux Gold's last registered Morgan foal for Pine Ridge. A pretty, feminine looking palomino mare, Betsy Swanton produced an even dozen foals, her last one arriving in 1972, the year before she died. Her descendants comprise the sole surviving color line of Sioux Gold.

Betsy Swanton's first eight foals were bred by Charles L. Marcy of Hay Springs, Nebraska. Her palomino daughter Sandy Swanton (by Red Correll), foaled in 1958, is one of two color lines from her that still exist today. Sandy Swanton produced six foals including the buckskin (registered as bay) stallion, Reddy Teddy by Broadwall Brigadier. Reddy Teddy, also bred by Charles L. Marcy, was eventually gelded, but not before siring nine offspring, six of whom carried the cream gene. His buckskin daughter, Kickapoo Joy (out of Pinela Swanton), produced ten foals for various breeders. The most recognizable name among those would be the 1973 palomino stallion Kickapoo HDC Chief (by Captain Blue Blazer). Most of Kickapoo HDC Chief's offspring were bred by Ruth Goeb of Coachman's Rest Morgans in Glen Rock, Pennsylvania. Also out of Sandy Swanton and bred by Charles L. Marcy was the palomino mare Nancy Pine Swanton, by King Pine. She is the dam of Coal Creek and Caduceus Morgans' great producer, the palomino mare Honey Spice (by Kahlua), and the good broodmares Coal Creek Samantha and Coal Creek Tabatha, both buckskins by Ebony Baron.

The other main color line from Betsy Swanton originates from her 1969 palomino son, Allen's Oglala Gold. Pennsylvania-based breeder Arthur Allen had purchased Betsy Swanton while heavily in foal to Haven's Blazer. The result was the very beautiful and typey Allen's Oglala Gold. Mr. Allen had no intention of ever



BETTY GOLD LINE

TOP TO BOTTOM: Betty Gold, 1947 palomino mare, pictured as a yearling at Pine Ridge; Aeolus Walker, 1971 palomino stallion, has had much influence on Canadian colorful breeding programs; Baptiste Chey Tre Pal, palomino stallion, ridden by Aura Pombert, crossing the Pembina River during an endurance race. Baptiste Chey Tre Pal traces back to Aeolus Walker in direct male line.

parting with his golden stallion, so he put a big price on him, never expecting anyone would take him up on it. Robert Chacin did, and whisked the horse off to Tennessee. There he advertised Allen's Oglala Gold at stud, and one of these advertisements was seen by Janice Robinson of Kingston Springs, Tennessee. Janice had recently acquired a half-Morgan mare and had been looking for a Morgan stallion to breed her to, but unfortunately, Morgans were scarce in Tennessee. She went to see Allen's Oglala Gold and was completely smitten. "I had to have him," Janice says. She borrowed money, financed the rest, and found herself in the Morgan breeding business. "Tiger," as he was known, would put Nashboro Morgans on the map.

Always a kind horse, Janice had only owned Tiger three days when she rode him in a local Mule Days parade, where his beauty and striking color drove people to come up to them asking what kind of horse he was. "I had never been on a stallion before. He talked a little, but was steady as a rock, perfectly behaved," Janice remembers. Thirty days after purchasing him she took Tiger to the 1978 Dixie Cup Morgan Classic, where he was exhibited in the stallions in-hand class which included UVM Promise. Morgan trainer Cecil Brown was at the show, and approached Janice with, "I see you have Tiger!" Unbeknownst to her, Cecil had trained Tiger for Mr. Allen, and remembered the horse fondly.

In the early 1990's, Janice was at a horse fair with several of Tiger's descendants. A Sioux woman came up to her and said, "My grandfather would like to speak with you." The elderly gentleman related how he had known Tiger's great grandsire, Morgan Gold, when he had lived at Pine Ridge, and that the horse had always gotten a lot of attention there. Janice says she wishes now that she could remember everything he told her, but as often happens, the specifics are lost to time.

Among the colorful offspring sired by Allen's Oglala Gold were the palomino stallion All Things Considerd and palomino broodmares Nashboro Desiree, Nashboro Shasta, and Nashboro Tifny Gold. Nashboro Shasta, currently enjoying retirement at Nashboro Morgans at age 31, is the dam of the well-known cremello stallion, Nashboro Sir Galahad. Foaled in 1991, Sir Galahad passed at a young age due to an accident, but there is still frozen semen available from him. He has 62 foals, all colorfult, to his credit so far, and his most recent foal was born in 2014. Many have gone on to be successful show and breeding horses for their owners, including the palomino gelding Guha's Dream Come True owned by Claudia Little, who has collected a decade of wins on the East Coast in Western pleasure classes under the direction of Windward Farm. Nashboro Tifny Gold is the dam of the palomino stallion Nashboro Dakota Gold (by Bridlewood Benagain), sire of the popular cremello breeding stallion, Nashboro Gallant Lad (out of Lithaven Chantey Don, who is also an Allen's Oglala Gold granddaughter). "Iceman," as he is known, is owned by Carol Dombrowsky of Oregon Morgans in Medford, Oregon and will be standing this year at Beaches Triple T Ranch in Ellensburg, Washington. Nashboro Gallant Lad has sired colorfult with the Terob, Moondance, Radiance, and Lighthouse prefixes, including the palomino mare Lighthouse



Photo by Janine Welsh



BETTY GOLD LINE

TOP TO BOTTOM: HMSTD Rum Runner, perlino gelding, ridden by John Welsh. He stood for nine seasons at the Homestead, and now has colorful descendants throughout Canada and overseas; Pal-A-Mor's Golden Sun with Larry Armfelt, at a small town 100th anniversary parade during the summer of 2014; Mountain Crk Chanel (raf) (MEMC Tequila Cuervo x Mountain Crk Helena, by Baptiste Levis Strauss), a 2014 buckskin filly bred by Leonie Kable in Australia, has 10 crosses to Morgan Gold.



Photo courtesy of Susan Motter

YELLOW GOLD LINE

John and Megan Motter riding Oak Acres Pet (Honor x Oak Acre's Goldie) at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota in 2001.

Bonnie. Lighthouse Bonnie, owned by Debbie and Eitan Beth-Halachmy, had a successful show career in Western pleasure and trail classes. She is the dam of buckskin sisters Holiday's Bonita Fe and Holiday's Pachita Fe, both by Santa Fe Renegade. These two beautiful and feminine mares have done an impressive amount of winning in the Western pleasure division in recent years for owner Dianne Lents and her daughter Emily of Twisted Rose Farm in Kerrville, Texas. "They have made me so proud and I have proven to the Morgan world it is not the color of my pony, it's the quality of my pony!" Dianne says. Of her current ride, Bonita, she continues "She is so much fun. And you know, she likes me, too. That's what's so special. We are friends. I don't really think people see her buckskin color. I think they just see a pretty Morgan mare. She is pretty close to the perfect Western pleasure mare. Three times Garn (Walker) has shown her in the Grand National Western Pleasure Mares Championship. 2012 she won it! 2013 she was second, 2014 she was second. Three panels of judges have loved this mare! I am so looking forward to the coming show season with one of the prettiest Morgan mares on the show circuit today."

BETTY GOLD

Crossing Morgan Gold back to his dam, Luellen, resulted in the 1947 palomino mare Betty Gold. She had four foals before being sold in the 1956 Pine Ridge dispersal to William Salter of Golden, Colorado, who also purchased a number of other Morgans from Pine Ridge. None of those Morgans were ever heard from again; like her sire, Betty Gold never produced another registered foal.

The saying "it only takes one" is certainly true in Betty Gold's case! Only one of her four offspring bred on, the 1952 palomino (registered as chestnut) mare Golden Peggy. Golden Peggy was by Yellow Gold, who was also by Morgan Gold, making her a double Morgan Gold grand daughter. Bred at Pine Ridge, Golden Peggy was sold as a two-year-old to Stanley and Ruth Walker, who were at that time living near the reservation but later moved to Nebraska. Golden Peggy was their first Morgan purchase and the start of a breeding program, that would span three decades. Other Morgans from Pine Ridge joined the Walker's growing herd over the next few years, including Morgan Gold's full sister, the palomino mare Miss Luellen. The influence of the "Walker" suffix Morgans is still very much felt in today's colorful Morgans.

Golden Peggy produced 11 foals for the Walkers, including the 1956 palomino mare, Taffey Ann Walker (by Red Correll) who also was the dam of 11 Morgan foals. Taffey Ann Walker lived her entire life on the Walker Ranch until her passing at age 31 in 1987. Her most influential and productive offspring was the palomino stallion Aeolus Walker (by Merry Ethan), foaled in 1971. Sold as a yearling to Patricia Otteson of British Columbia, Aeolus Walker was often driven to the feed store in town, as well as exploring back roads and trails with his owner. He was also a multi-titled show horse whose wins included Grand Champion Stallion honors at the 1977 Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver. Aeolus Walker was sold the following year and eventually ended up in the ownership of

Delbert and Gloria Wetherill. Under their Glori-Del prefix he would produce his last son, the 1981 palomino Glori-Del Sir John (x Manitou Tessica), whose descendants are now spread across the globe. They are so numerous that I will only touch on a few of the most prolific.

Homestead Morgans, owned by John and Janine Welsh in British Columbia, started their Morgan endeavor in 1998 and just recently retired from breeding. Among the offspring of the Glori-Del Sir John son Pal-A-Mor's Gold (f. 1995 out of Angel's Sunday Star) is the Welsh's former herd sire, HMSTD Rum Runner. Rum Runner (out of High Stepping Buttercup), a perlino, is now a gelding, but he stood for nine seasons at the Homestead and produced 34 offspring. Rum Runner foals have found new homes as pleasure, breeding, and show horses across Canada, the U.S. and in France and Sweden.

Another Glori-Del Sir John son, the 1994 palomino Pal-A-Mor's Golden Sun (x Correll's Mae), was the foundation sire for Baptiste Lake Morgans, owned by Larry and Marg Armfelt in Alberta. "Nugget," as he is known to his friends, has been used for many things, from pleasure riding to parade horse carrying the Canadian flag. "My children and grandchildren always visit him first when they come to the farm," says Larry. "No one could ever ask for a better stallion, nor could they ask for a more kind and worthy horse." Pal-A-Mor's Golden Sun sired 40 registered Morgan foals, and many of them are cremellos, including the breeding stallions Baptiste Newman Bluet, who stood for six years at Prairie Hill Morgans until his sale in 2013 to Tammy Devier of Crary, North Dakota, and Baptiste Blue Hawaii, owned by Polly Smith of Little Brook Farm in Vermont. Baptiste Levis Strauss, another cremello stallion, went to Australia. Two cremello daughters of Pal-A-Mor's Golden Sun, Baptiste Blau Auge and Baptiste Hanalei Princess, are in the broodmare band at Beaches Triple T Ranch in Ellensburg, Washington. Baptiste Spock Mod Pal (cremello) and Baptiste Goldeko Eljay (palomino) were broodmares for Marilyn Vander Wekken's Marana Morgans in Picture Butte, Alberta. For this very

prolific branch of Morgan Gold's family, the future certainly looks bright.

YELLOW GOLD

The palomino stallion Yellow Gold (Morgan Gold x Lulu Belle R. M.) was bred by the Oglala Community High School at Pine Ridge and sired his first 22 foals for them. In 1956, as the breeding program at Pine Ridge began to wind down, Yellow Gold was transferred to another reservation breeding program, the Cheyenne River Agency in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. He stood there for six seasons, siring 15 get, and then was purchased by Alice Schwols of Oak Acres Morgans in Devils Lake, North Dakota in 1961. Mrs. Schwols was looking for a stallion to cross with the daughters of her first stallion, Honor. Yellow Gold would produce 22 offspring with the Oak Acres prefix.

Prairie Hill Morgans in Cooperstown, North Dakota, founded by Richard and Luella Steinbach and now owned by Paul and Susan Motter, got their start in Morgans from Alice Schwols and her Oak Acres Morgans. "Alice loved the cross of Honor on her Yellow Gold daughters," Susan says. "She bred palominos, ones with lots of white, when doing so wasn't cool. She really was before her time. The Morgans from these bloodlines were all-around, great family using horses. They

did whatever you needed them to do and were responsible for enticing many people to the Morgan breed from a very large area." Prairie Hill had several Oak Acres Morgans in their herd over the years, including the 1976 palomino mare, Oak Acres Pet (Honor x Oak Acres Goldie, by Yellow Gold). "Pet was the horse that I trusted to carry both of my kids," says Susan. "She was so caring of people."

Oak Acres Morgans became highly prized by many other breeding programs, especially the growing number of colorful Morgan enthusiasts. Oak Acres Merrigold (Yellow Gold x Oak Acres Rose), a 1968 palomino mare, was the dam of the palomino Bird's Banner, who sired 23 foals before being gelded as a seven-year-old. One of his palomino foals, Bird's Bit O Honey, joined the broodmare band at Kay Hegge's Northerly Morgans in Crookston, Minnesota. Kay was one of the founders of the Rainbow Morgan Horse Association, an AMHA National Service Organization that, in its 25 years of existence, has done much to promote colorful Morgans as well as educating about them. Bird's Bit O Honey had ten foals for Kay, and their descendants can be found in current Morgans with the Windflower, LH, Brownstone, and Hang N prefixes, among others. Also producing golden Morgans for Northerly was Oak

Prairie Hill Morgans
"paying tribute to our Morgan Gold descendants!"

<p>Red Rose Starlight (Triple S Bald Eagle x Twin Pines Sara)</p> 	<p>Red Rose Eclipse (Triple S Bald Eagle x Twin Pines Sara)</p> 	<p>Kin Uma (MEMC Tequila Cuervo x Bellemount's Magic Moment)</p> 
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We are expecting six 2015 foals by: Quantum Midnight Magic, Old Ways Bimbeau (splash), Flyhawk Dude & FCR Magic Act (splash). **INQUIRIES INVITED.**

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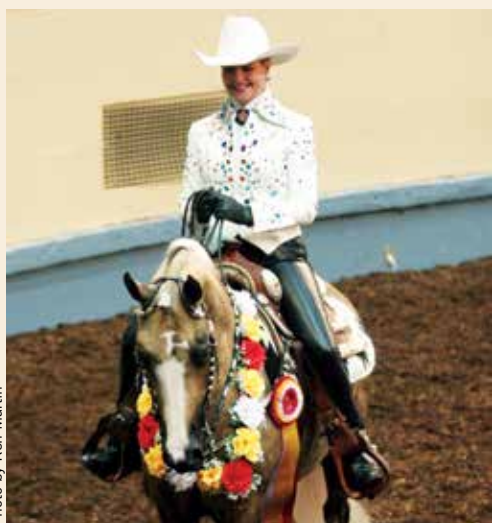


Photo by Ken Martin

SILVERTON MORGAN LINE

TOP TO BOTTOM: Silvertown Morgan, 1948 palomino stallion. His family makes up the largest group of descendants from Morgan Gold; Lucie, 1958 palomino mare, is behind many of the Triple S prefixed colorfules; MEMC Graffiti (MEMC Tequila Cuervo x W-B Her Royal Highness) winning Reserve World Champion Western Pleasure Three-year-old in 2008, shown by Kelly Kraegel.

Acres Empress (Honor x Oak Acres Goldie, by Yellow Gold) and her full sister, Oak Acres Fancy.

Some of the other palomino Oak Acres mares who have color lines today include Oak Acres Cindy (x Dakota Lassie), dam of Oak Acres Becky, who produced Morgans for Sun Hills Morgans in Parry, Saskatchewan; Oak Acres Polly (out of Polly's Melodate), whose colorful descendants carry the Sun Hills and Monaco prefixes; and Oak Acres Nugget (x June Beauty) found in Morgans with the Day Dreamer's prefix. One of Oak Acres Nugget's great granddaughters, the 2005 palomino Baptiste Mitzie Goldhill (Monaco Rangelake Dancer x Sun Hills Showdancer), was sold to Switzerland where she resides with Isabelle Bannwart.

Of the 22 foals sired by Yellow Gold while he was still on the reservation, two daughters stand out in particular. The first, Golden Peggy (Yellow Gold x Betty Gold, by Morgan Gold), has been previously discussed. The other is the palomino mare Maywood (Yellow Gold x May Rockwood), foaled in 1952. Maywood is the dam of an incredible 19 foals spanning the years from 1954-1975, the majority of whom were bred by B. Wallace Mills. Two of Maywood's offspring can be found in present day colorfules: the 1965 palomino stallion Majestic Correll (by Red Correll), sire of the elegant palomino stallion, Avondale Kid Correll, and Amber Correll, 1960 palomino mare (by Red Correll).

Amber Correll only lived 11 years, but produced five offspring. Her 1966 daughter, Miss Antique Eager (by Topside Eager Beaver), was registered as a bay but was actually a buckskin. We know this because three of her seven foals by non-cream stallions were cream dilutes. Miss Antique Eager was the dam of CAS Twilight Amber, buckskin dam of the perlino stallion Ragtime Oro Blanco and others with the Ragtime prefix. Amber Correll was also the dam of the palomino mare Patti Eager (by Topside Eager Beaver), foaled in 1968. This mare in turn was the dam of Eden Rose, a typey palomino mare by Nugget Red Hanneman (who also had bloodlines to Morgan Gold). Of Eden Rose's four offspring, three were colorful stallions: Mocomo Gold N Moonbeam (by Golden Sondanz), a cremello owned by Sharon Jayne of Parker, Colorado; the late Sweet's Gold Dust, a palomino (by Sweet's Dexter) owned by Charles Ramsey of Nebraska; and Adiel's Casino Gold (by Sweet's Dexter), a palomino owned by Linnea Sidi of Colorado. Casino passed in 2010, but left 43 offspring to carry on for him. The author was fortunate enough to lease Casino in 2001-02 and currently owns a granddaughter, Positively Charmed (out of Foxtown Frosty Dawn), who is the only smoky black silver in the breed at present. Her bay silver full brother, Unconventional, stands in Alberta at Lyle and Cindy Dietz's Coulee Bend Morgans. The Unconventional daughter, Coulee Bend Quasar, became the first silver Morgan in Australia in 2011. Quasar has several other lines to Morgan Gold through her palomino dam, Dody Little Bell SRDA, as well.

SILVERTON MORGAN

Several large Morgan breeding programs have utilized the blood of Silvertown Morgan (Morgan Gold x Iyoksica), helping him to

COLORFUL MORGANS ≈ PRECIOUS METAL



Photo © Casey McBride



Photo © Howard Schatzberg



Photo © Andy Illies

SILVERTON MORGAN LINE

TOP TO BOTTOM: CFF Strictly Byznness, 2005 palomino gelding, ridden by Susan Carlino, at the 2013 Morgan Medallion, where he was Reserve Champion Trail; BPM Gold Dust, owned by Kris and Al Breyer, shown winning the 2014 Reserve World Champion Walk/Trot Western Pleasure 9 and under, Berkeley Shingledecker up; SFG Infinity And Beyond (MEMC Tinseltown x Shatonas Empress), 2001 cremello stallion with Patty Clark.

establish a colorful dynasty all his own. Bred by W. C. (Claude) Fruit of Alzada, Montana, and foaled in 1948, the palomino stallion and his chestnut full sister, Fibbie, were two of only four Morgan Gold offspring not bred by Pine Ridge. Silverton Morgan was the sire of 36 Morgans, six of whom were the result of crossing him with his full sister Fibbie.

W. C. Fruit's passing prompted the dispersal of his Morgans, and Silverton Morgan made his way to the West Coast under the ownership of Jay Bailey of Davis, California. There he continued to sire a number of good Morgans, including the beautiful dark chestnut flaxen gelding, Dusty Silverton, owned by Joanne Curtis and shown by her to many wins on the West Coast in the 1960s. Joanne remembers Silverton Morgan well. "My friend Carmen Peterson Workman of Auburn, California bought him when he was quite old," she says. "Jay Bailey was originally from Minnesota, but had a construction company in Davis, plus a large ranch and stockyard further north, as I recall, near Orland, California. He had a number of very good Morgan mares of old California bloodlines that he used on the ranch and stockyards. All the horses were trained by Native Americans who worked on the ranch. They were all bitted in the old California style, and could spin and rein on a dime. Silverton came down from Alzada, Eastern Montana, in a load of cattle. He was a wonderful working stock horse, in great demand by all the ranchers and frequently loaned out to work cattle. I heard stories about him being a marvelous stock horse for years amongst the old time ranchers and Morgan people before I actually got to see him as an old horse, as he was always out being used on a ranch. He could rope and cut cattle and last forever, never wore out. When I was finally able to see him when Carmen got him, I was very surprised, as I expected to see more of a Quarter Horse-type of Morgan, being that he had a working cow horse reputation. There he was—a pale, pastel yellow version of Justin Morgan. He had a very high tail set like an Arabian, and he had a long level croup, very deep powerful hindquarters. He had a masculine head, quite refined, and no photos do him justice. He was only about 14.3, with wonderful, sound legs in spite of his years of hard work."

Two of Silverton Morgan's palomino daughters, June Fib (x Fibbie), and Lucie (out of Iyoksica) would prove most influential in carrying his line down to today's colorful Morgans. In the spring of 1961, Bob and Jan Painter of Triple S Morgans purchased the then three-year-olds Lucie and June Fib, along with another Silverton Morgan daughter, the chestnut Red Bird M., from the W. C. Fruit Estate. These three mares would comprise the beginning of the Painter's broodmare band.

Lucie has become the main source of gold in the Triple S breeding program via her daughter, Triple S Goldusty (by Mar-Lo's Colonel Hamtramck). Foaled in 1967, the palomino Goldusty produced 17 foals. Her first foal was Triple S Soap Suds, 1971 palomino mare by Blackwood Correll. Triple S Soap Suds was the dam of the 1982 palomino gelding, Triple S High Noon, who was a very successful open dressage horse in the early 1990's, winning many USDF year end awards for owner Alex Szepesi. Also out of Triple S Soap Suds is Triple S Chinook (by Triple S

Red Wind), a 1995 palomino stallion who has sired a number of golden Morgans for breeding programs across the U.S. and Canada. He currently stands at Rene and Aura Pombert's Belle Coulee Morgans in Alberta. Some of the notable producing offspring of Triple S Chinook are Mossrose Windfall (palomino mare owned by Mossrose Morgans in River Falls, Wisconsin), Gold Correll Chinook FD (palomino stallion, now gelded, owned by Ric Walker of Tyler, Texas), and Triple S Silver Dollar (palomino stallion, owned by Bryan Blatt of Westwind Morgans in Manhattan, Montana).

Triple S Gold Buck (by Niobrara Rosencore), a 1984 buckskin stallion owned by Denise Thorson of Winona, Minnesota, and Triple S Gold Eagle (by Triple S Red Wind), 1985 palomino stallion owned by Hans Graf of Bondurant, Wyoming, are two important sons of Triple S Goldusty. Triple S Gold Buck is behind many colorfules with the Badlands prefix, and is the sire of the perlino stallion Season's Pure Country (out of Triple S Nita), standing at Moonridge Morgans in Preston, Idaho. Triple S Gold Eagle is the sire of Triple S Nugget, Triple S Golden Bows, HVR Found Gold, and Triple S Bald Eagle, among others. Triple S Nugget (Triple S Gold Eagle x Triple S Carmenita), 1989 palomino stallion, is a three-time winner of the Grand National Non-Pro Reining Freestyle Championship. He passed along his talent to the next generation, his 2002 palomino son, W Nugget's Rebels Are We (out of WS Tupelo Honey), who is also a multi-world titled reining horse. Both stallions are owned by Westernesse Morgan Reiners in Oregon, Wisconsin. The 1991 palomino gelding, Triple S Golden Bows (Triple S Gold Eagle x A Ribbon of Scarlet), showed for nine years on the East Coast in Western and hunter pleasure classes for several different owners. HVR Found Gold (Triple S Gold Eagle x WAW Flirtation), 1996 buckskin stallion, also had a long and successful career in Western pleasure, in-hand and reining classes for owners Bill and Carolyn Pettis of Rio Linda, California.

A large number of colorful Lucie descendants come from the palomino stallion Triple S Bald Eagle (Triple S Gold Eagle x Triple S Red Carmen), 1990-2008. Owned by Jim Adrian of Red Rose Morgans in Marion, South Dakota, Triple S Bald Eagle is probably most known for siring the 1994 cremello stallion MEMC Tequila Cuervo (out of Twine Pines Sara). Tequila, owned by Jennifer Monroe of MEMC Morgans in Melissa, Texas, was one of the few cremello stallions available to the public after the High White Rule was rescinded in 1996. He has over 100 foals to his credit so far, and his offspring can be found in many show and breeding programs today. The palomino Tequila daughter, MEMC Graffiti, owned by Carole Downs, had a successful Western pleasure career that included a reserve in the 2008 Western Pleasure Three-Year-Old World Championship. Another excellent show horse by Tequila is Susan Carlino's CFF Strictly Byzness (out of GLB Like Nobody's Byz), a ten-year-old palomino gelding with multiple titles in Western pleasure, Western dressage, and trail. The palomino gelding UDM Gold Mine (MEMC Tequila Cuervo x Double M Gail Force) also has been a consistent title winner in pleasure driving and Western pleasure, first for his breeder Karen Burridge and later for Kathy Gutting and current owner,



Photo by Howard Schatzberg



SILVERTON MORGAN LINE

TOP TO BOTTOM: Red Rose Starlight, and her 2013 palomino colt Prairie Hill Faramir, by Ragtime Deja Blu, with Susan Motter; Red Rose Moonshine, 2001 cremello stallion, at the 2014 Jubilee Regional Championship where he was High Score Carriage Horse, owned and driven by Suzanne Hammonds; Joley Blond (Morspeed x June Fib), 1970 palomino mare, dam of Morgans with the Rocking M prefix, including 1997 Canadian National Morgan Cutting Champion, Rocking M Morgangold.

COLORFUL MORGANS ≈ PRECIOUS METAL



SILVERTON MORGAN LINE

TOP TO BOTTOM: Rocking M Morgangold, 1997 Canadian National Morgan Cutting Champion; SC Island Firefly showing first level at Green Mountain Horse Association Dressage Days, July 2010. Polly Smith, breeder and owner, up; Rocking M Jolene and owner Suzanne Edmonds carrying the flag for the Torrance Mounted Posse in the 2002 Armed Forces Day parade, Torrance, California.

Elizabeth Abernathy. The UDM Gold Mine son, BPM Gold Dust (out of Treasure Merrigold), has had a wonderful career as an amateur and junior exhibitor Western pleasure horse for owners Kris and Al Breyer of Wauconda, Illinois, most recently winning the 2014 Grand National Walk/Trot Western Pleasure 9 & Under Championship with Berkeley Shingledecker aboard. The cremello Tequila grandson, SFG Infinity And Beyond (MEMC Tinseltown x Shatona's Empress), has over 50 offspring to his credit to date, and among them are championship winners in a variety of divisions. He is owned by Promised Land Farm, Ed and Marilyn Novak and Patty Clark in Spencer, Ohio.

There are three younger cremello full siblings to MEMC Tequila Cuervo who are just beginning their careers as colorful show and breeding horses. Red Rose Starlight, 2006 mare, and Red Rose Eclipse, 2002 stallion, are both owned by Susan Motter of Prairie Hill Morgans in North Dakota. Red Rose Moonshine, 2001 stallion owned by Suzanne Hammonds, showed in Morgan carriage driving classes last year, and his appearance at the 2014 Grand National drew quite a bit of positive attention from colorful Morgan enthusiasts.

The Painters sold Lucie in 1968, and after producing foals for Delmaytion Morgans in New York state, the mare eventually ended up in her final home with Elsie Proper of Grand Gorge, New York. Her last three foals were all palominos, but of those, only the 1977 daughter, Tartoo, has a color line to the present. Tartoo, a palomino (registered as chestnut) produced the cremello stallions, Amberfield's Vanilla Ice (2000) and GDF White Lightning (2001), both by Amberfields Desperado.

It is impossible to cover all of the many colorful descendants of Lucie. Suffice it to say, if your golden Morgan has Triple S breeding, it probably owes its color to Lucie, and through her, to Morgan Gold.

On the other hand, June Fib, the other palomino Silverton Morgan daughter purchased by the Painters at the start of their Morgan breeding program, has left a comparatively tiny group of colorful descendants. She had seven foals, but just one for Triple S before she was sold to Sharlene Anderson of R Two Morgans in Belgrade, Montana. Sharlene bred two foals from her, one of which was palomino, the 1967 mare Sha Dows Jubilee. Her 1971 palomino daughter, King's Jewel, has left a few colorful descendants. The main color line from June Fib, however, originates from her 1970 palomino daughter, Joley Blond (by Morspeed).

Joley Blond was bred by Cuddy Norbury of Canada, who had purchased her dam from Sharlene Anderson. Known as a kind horse who was regularly used to give rides to children, Joley Blond had 16 foals, most for the Rocking M Ranch in Buffalo Creek, British Columbia. Probably her most well known offspring is the 1987 palomino stallion Rocking M Morgangold (out of Rocking M Diamond D), who was the 1997 Canadian National Cutting Morgan Champion. Rocking M Morgangold sired 18 offspring, six with the Oregon prefix. He is doing well at age 27 and is still ridden regularly by current owner, Roslyne Dagarti. Rocking M Morgangold's 1990 palomino daughter, Rocking M Rosa Lita (out of Circle H Nopalita), has been an excellent broodmare

for Polly Smith of Little Brook Farm Morgans in Brownsville, Vermont. Among her five produce are the full sisters SC Island Firefly (f. 2000) and LBF Mona Lisa (f. 1997), both palominos by H-Ken. These versatile mares have done dressage, parades, exhibits, hunter paces, and driving. Another Rocking M Rosa Lita offspring is the 1998 smoky black gelding, LBF Hickory Smoke, who has been a successful endurance horse for owner Esther Fiddes, winning many year end and AMHA Open Competition awards in this discipline.

Joley Blond also was the dam of Rocking M Jolene (by Correll's Comet) and Rocking M Blondie (by Whippoorwill Mercury), two palomino mares with colorful descendants today. When Rocking M Blondie was imported to the U.S. in 1997 by Karen Burrige of Upson Downs Morgans in Gainesville, Florida, she left three offspring in Canada. One of those was the 1997 smoky black stallion, Scion Night Derigueur, sire of the buckskin stallion Pines Federko Man and buckskin mare Pines Oh Yeah. Both were bred by Leo Federkiewicz and have colorful offspring in Canada. Rocking M Blondie produced three foals for UDM Morgans, including the 2001 palomino mare UDM Twist Of Lemon. She was sired by the previously mentioned Triple S Golden Bows, thus adding the blood of Morgan Gold through another branch of his family. Rocking M Jolene, as the much loved family horse of Suzanne Edmonds of Manzanita Morgan Ranch in Flagstaff, Arizona, exemplified the soundness and good sense that is a hallmark of this family. "Jolene was a range bred mare, unbroken until age six and I ended up doing parades on her in Los Angeles," Suzanne says. "She was a born parade horse. Nothing scared her. In fact, instead of being afraid of things, she would shift into warp drive and head on over to see what things were. Marching bands, parade groups of people dressed like Aztec dancers; noisy, scary stuff. I had to hold her back." Sadly, Rocking M Jolene passed much too young, but she left three offspring, two of whom were colorful: the 1997 palomino mare MMR Columbine Kate (by Osirus) owned by Suzanne Edmonds, and Rocking M Madonna (by Rocking M Vaquero), 1990 palomino broodmare for Roy Foote's Treasure Morgans in Superior, Montana.

OTHER LINES TO MORGAN GOLD

A comparatively rare color line to Morgan Gold comes from the 1949 palomino stallion Yellow Cat, bred by the Oglala Community High School at Pine Ridge. Of his 17 offspring, only his 1966 palomino son Gold King (out of Penny Lucette Dancer) carried the color line down to the present. Gold King's palomino daughter, Sadie Ethete (f. 1973), and palomino son Rich Gold (f. 1976), have a few colorful descendants today through the palomino stallion Sky's Ethete Pride and palomino gelding Macs Littlebritches, respectively.

Although this article has focused on the color lines to Morgan Gold, he also has descendants who were not colorful (or who owe their color to other sources), and they have made important contributions to the Western working family. Of particular note are the descendants of the chestnut mare Red Butie (Silverton Morgan x Red Girl) found in the Triple S horses via Red Madge.

Another Morgan Gold line comes through the 1964 chestnut mare Full O Pep (Yellow Cat x Penny Lucette Dancer). She is behind Morgans with the Happy Day prefix, and also appears in the pedigree of the palomino mare Twine Pines Sara, dam of MEMC Tequila Cuervo. The 1946 palomino Little Lulu (Morgan Gold x Lulu Belle R. M.), left no direct color line but carried on through her 1949 bay son, Swanee (by Swanton), and chestnut daughters, Red Lulu (f. 1954 by Red Correll) and Big Lulu (f. 1955 by Yellow Gold). Little Lulu's descendants can be found in Morgans with the Niobrara, Northridge, and White River prefixes, as well as those descended from the palomino stallion Nugget Red Hanneman and Morgans of Stanley Walker's breeding. There are many other lines to Morgan Gold still in existence, and I have only scratched the surface of what has become a very large and prolific family.

THE END OF AN ERA, BUT THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER

Of all the horses from the last century that helped to preserve the cream dilution gene in our breed, Morgan Gold has absolutely earned his place at the top of the list. The Morgan breed, and the colorful Morgan in particular, owes much to the Pine Ridge Morgan Breeding Program and Superintendent W. O. Roberts. Without their efforts, Morgan Gold might well have never been foaled, and today's population of cream dilute Morgans would be considerably smaller.

Despite the success of the Pine Ridge breeding program, by the mid 1950s, there was a belief that horse ownership on the reservation should be discouraged because the land could be more profitably utilized for cattle. Cars were replacing horses as the main mode of transport for the Oglala Sioux. From 1954 to 1961, a series of sales were held to disperse the Morgan herd at Pine Ridge. Fortunately, as we have seen, some of them found their way into the hands of breeders who would preserve their genetics for future generations.

It is a fascinating endeavor to discover where certain conformational and behavioral traits come from in our Morgans' ancestry. All too often, however, the origins of certain characteristics can be difficult to pin down. One of the wonderful things about the "party colors" is that they can be clearly traced back through a pedigree to their source. It is incredible to realize that this one trait, color, present in a horse that lived almost a century ago, has traveled down the generations to his descendants today. Morgan Gold lived up to his name, and our breed is all the richer for it. ■

The author would like to thank everyone who contributed to this article, especially Brenda Tippin and Gail Perlee. Brenda found a photocopy of the document containing the never before seen photo of Morgan Gold used in this article. After some searching, I was able to find an original copy that was print quality, which appears here. Gail Perlee's exhaustive series on the Reservation Morgans, originally published in the Rainbow Morgan Horse Association newsletter, was a valuable reference in the writing of this article.