



≈ COLORFUL MORGANS ≈

# CHINGADERO —THE CREAM OF THE CROP

*A history of Ab Cross's special stallion and his impact on colorful Morgans.*

**C**hingadero” is Spanish, and has a rather crude meaning, not fit for polite company. Other slang usages of the word define a chingadero as another term for a “whatchamacallit,” and in the era in which he lived, that certainly applied to the Morgan who bore the name. Perhaps it is fitting that such a controversial horse should have such a controversial name. Foaled in 1953 on the ranch of George and Ab Cross in Wyoming, Chingadero was at that time thought to be a rare “white” Morgan—the only one known at the time. Armed with modern knowledge of color genetics, we can look at the colors of Chingadero’s offspring and conclude that he was probably a smoky cream—a black horse that is homozygous for the cream dilution gene.

The Cross Ranch began operation at the beginning of the last century under the ownership of George W. Cross and his son Albert (Ab) Cross. The ranch consisted of some 29,000 acres near

**By Laura Hornick Behning**

Dubois, Wyoming, with additional grazing land leased from the government. The Morgans foaled there learned to be surefooted over rocky ground, to cover long distances, ford rivers, and fend for themselves. The original bloodstock on the Cross Ranch was largely Brunk bred, and included the royally bred stallion Glider (Jubilee King x Gizea), foaled in 1935. Glider was bred to daughters of Imperial (Admiral George Dewey x Duchess), who stood at the Wind River Indian Agency in Fort Washakie, Wyoming. Many of the Glider mares carried a cream dilution from their dams, and were then bred to the Brunk-bred, black stallion, Warhawk (Flyhawk x Sentola).

With so many generations of black behind them, the offspring of the Warhawk-Glider daughters often were black themselves, but carrying a hidden cream gene—in other words, they were smoky blacks. Such was the case with Joe Lewis (Warhawk x Homely Girl by Glider). Joe Lewis sired only one foal before being gelded,

**ABOVE:** Chingadero (Ketchum x Haager), 1953 smoky cream stallion, in pasture with his mares (Photo courtesy National Museum of the Morgan Horse).



the registered-as-chestnut Ketchum (Joe Lewis x Du Noir Strip). Ketchum was probably a smoky black, but may have been a very dark palomino. Extremely dark palominos are not uncommon in our breed, and they can indeed look like a dark chestnut. However, Mr. Cross himself refers to Ketchum as “Black Jack Ketchum” in the September 1954 issue of *The Morgan Horse*, where he reports of Ketchum’s untimely passing from an accidental gunshot wound during hunting season. Fortunately, Ketchum had left a colorful legacy in the seven foals he sired. Three were black, including the smoky black mares Cute (ancestor of the Robbi Sue prefixed dun Morgans, and others) and Crow Woman; two were palomino; one was buckskin; and the “white” stallion, Chingadero.

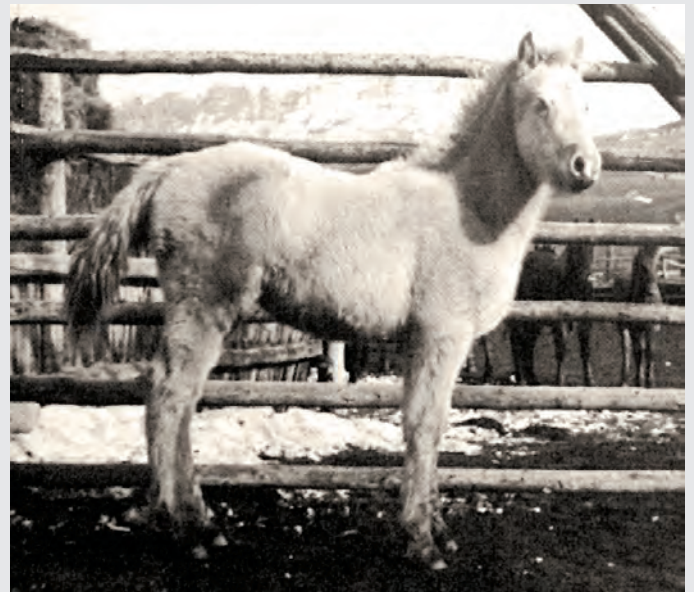
Chingadero was out of the registered-as-dun Haager (Warhawk x Yellow Girl). Haager was actually dark buckskin. “There were some horses Ab would never sell,” the late Hall of Fame trainer, Bob Riley, wrote in 1989. “One was Chingadero’s dam Haager—a beautiful buckskin mare. I loved that mare—but Ab wouldn’t part with her.” Haager’s cream gene came through her dam, the legendary and prolific palomino mare Yellow Girl (Glider x Buck), who would produce 17 foals in her lifetime, the last one arriving in 1972 when the mare was 30 years of age. Haager lived her entire nineteen years of life on the Cross Ranch, producing five foals: two buckskins, a palomino, a black, and Chingadero.

With two heterozygous cream dilute parents, Chingadero was one of the 25 percent who inherited a cream gene from each parent, creating what is commonly called a “double dilute.” There is some question as to his actual base color, but he was most likely a smoky cream, which is a black base color with two cream genes. He could have been a perlino, which is a bay horse with two dilution genes, but one might have expected him to produce more buckskins if that were the case. Instead, the majority of his 137 offspring were smoky black.

Ab did some writing for *The Morgan Horse* magazine in the 1950s, and his column from the January/February 1954 issue included a picture of Chingadero as a foal with his dam, Haager. “Done a little linebreeding and I was really pleased with the results,” he wrote. “I got a lot of color that way. I have one pure white stud colt with blue eyes. This is the second one of this color to show up in this horse’s family in about 20 years. I am really proud of this chingadero as I don’t know of any other registered white Morgans. Do you?”

This announcement caught the attention of The Morgan Horse Club, and at a time when understanding of color genetics was very limited, some were certain that something untoward had happened to produce a “white” Morgan. As the story goes, a group traveled to Wyoming and offered to buy Chingadero, with the intent of destroying him. Ab refused, and fortunately for us, or a large segment of our current colorful Morgan population, as well as their non-dilute relatives, would never have existed. It is said that Ab, known for his curmudgeonly ways, named the stallion Chingadero as a way of thumbing his nose at these narrow minded breeders.

Chingadero stood a compactly built 14.2, was very typey (though good pictures of the horse are few and far between) and had an outstanding temperament, which he consistently passed on.



**Application for Registration in the American Morgan Horse Register**

Registrar, THE MORGAN HORSE CLUB, Inc.  
90 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, 4, N. Y.

I apply for registration in the American Morgan Horse Register of the animal described as follows:  
(Type or Print in Ink)

1. NAME CHINGADERO (last name) STALLION (sex) HAAGER (dam)  
2. COLOR WHITE SEX STALLION DATE FOALD JULY 27 1953  
3. MARKINGS SOLID WHITE BLUE EYES  
BRANDD - 2 KETT HIA

In addition to the above written description, ALL WHITE MARKINGS MUST BE INDICATED ON THESE DIAGRAMS. In a with the horse actually before you. Do not trust to memory or hearsay.

Write in the forehead above line A in a “star” and should be fully described as “large”, “small”, “wide”, or “prolonged”.  
Write in the face between A and B in a “strip” and should be fully described as “long”, “wide” or “narrow”.  
Write on each colored spot on nose below line B in a “snip” and should be so described.  
White markings on the legs should be shown exactly on both diagrams.

4. SIRE: Name KETCHUM Reg. No. 10458  
5. DAM: Name HAAGER Reg. No. 08073

In making application for the registration of this animal, I understand that the registration is to be recorded only on one of the above particulars are correct, and that if they should be ascertained at any time to be incorrect, The Morgan Horse Club may, at its discretion, omit or publish the registration in an altered form. I further understand that should any pedigree be published in the American Morgan Horse Register prior to the discovery of any error, the corporation may cancel such entry and publish correction in such form as it may determine, and that The Morgan Horse Club, Inc. will not be held responsible for any loss or damage which may be sustained through the inaccuracy, omission or alteration of any registration, or the cancellation of any entry.

6. SIGNATURE OF OWNER Ego P. Cross  
Address Richmond, N.Y.  
Dated Dec 13, 1953

**BREEDER'S CERTIFICATE**  
(To be executed when applicant is not the owner of both sire and dam at the time of service)

7. I certify that the Mare ..... Reg. No. ....  
bred to the Stallion ..... Reg. No. ....  
or about .....  
8. Signature, Owner of Mare at time of service .....  
Address .....  
9. Signature, Owner of Stallion at time of service .....  
Address .....

FEES MUST ACCOMPANY ALL APPLICATIONS. Make Checks and Money Orders payable to  
**THE MORGAN HORSE CLUB, INC.**

ABOVE: Chingadero as a foal (Photo by Albert W. Cross); Chingadero on parade with the Hugh De Payen Mounted Patrol, accompanied by five of his smoky black offspring (the horse to his immediate right is not his); The registry application for Chingadero.





## BLACK PANTHER AND BLACK CAT FAMILIES

1. Black Cat (Chingadero x Zula Queen) at age 2, spring 1973; 2. OMM Upla (Ozark Mtn N R Hawk x Ocmulgee Moonshadow), 2008 perlino mare with her 2016 perlino dun filly AE's Cielo Blanca (by Royal Gold Ariston) (photo by Jessica McNamara); 3. Black Panther (Chingadero x Zula Queen), 1971 smoky black stallion at age 24, spring 1995, at Jada Manor Morgans, Jonesville, Michigan (photo by Barbara Fogel); 4. Amberfields Pantera (Black Panther x Chaprella), 1992 dark buckskin mare with her 2004 smoky cream daughter Stone Pine Moondance (by PL Chosen for Glory) (photo by Satin).

Ab knew he had something very special, and stated that Chingadero was the most intelligent horse he ever had. He became Ab's "go to" horse for ranch work, and when loose, the stallion would follow him around. Chingadero paraded with the Hugh de Payen Horse Patrol, accompanied by some of his smoky black offspring. Not truly white in appearance (which is actually typical for homozygous creams), there are tales of Ab's wife Grace attempting to bleach Chingadero before his public appearances. Anyone could ride him, and no greater testimony to that could be given than from Ab's daughter, Lisa Albright. Lisa related to me how she rode Chingadero bareback in the summer months, often taking him for a swim, using the broadly built stallion's back as a springboard.

Known as a broodmare sire, Chingadero's offspring inherited his superb disposition, rock hard feet and legs, substance and stamina. Bob Riley had great respect for the Cross Ranch stock, those from Chingadero in particular. In 1989, at the request of the Iowa Morgan Horse club, he wrote about the Cross Ranch. "Ab bred his Morgans for stock-horses—pragmatic, no-nonsense working horses—saddle horses that would head anywhere, at a trot. If a Cross Ranch horse landed in mud up to its belly, it would take one step at a time, never fussing, until it was out. I went out to Wyoming twice a year until 1965 to buy young stock—in November 1965 I brought back a truckload. I'd break them to ride and sell them to buyers in the Northeast and Midwest. I made 15 trips East with horses I sold over the telephone—always told people 'if they're not what I said, I'll take 'em back.' They all had good minds—all but two were by Chingadero, and had his wonderful disposition."

Like Bob Riley, breeders in the East and Midwest soon discovered the excellent qualities of the Chingadero stock, and several breeders in particular bought multiple Chingadero offspring over the years. Joyce and Phillip Quade had quite a collection of Chingadero daughters including Hija, Apache Woman, Dorcus, H-Lilly Ann, H-Bell, and Tia. They also owned a Chingadero son, Ching Free, and the gelding, H-Casoos. Ferruccio Passuello of Delmaytion Farm in Bloomville, New York, brought H-Virginia, H Dee-Dee, H-Sheba, H-Roni, H-Loli, and H-Mayo Woman East. Over time, these same Morgans and others from the Cross Ranch began to trickle into other programs as well.

Chingadero sired other homozygous cream dilutes who were simply not registered; in later cases this was due to the AMHA's "White Rule" implemented in 1962, in large part due to misguided concern over the "un-Morgan" color of Chingadero and another Cross Ranch stallion, the frame overo pinto, War Paint. It was feared by some that these colorfules were the result of accidental non-Morgan breeding. Today, with improved knowledge of color genetics, we know this is not the case. People who knew Ab Cross well consistently emphasized how very careful he was in recording and identifying his horses. All were double branded and Ab kept meticulous notes including markings and color, which mares were bred to which stallion, and he never covered a mare with more than one stallion during a breeding season. Despite this, it was not uncommon 30-some years ago to hear owners of Chingadero descendants say that they were snubbed or looked down upon by their fellow Morgan owners for having "that horse" on their Morgan's papers.



### PROMINENT STALLION SONS: BLACK PANTHER AND BLACK CAT

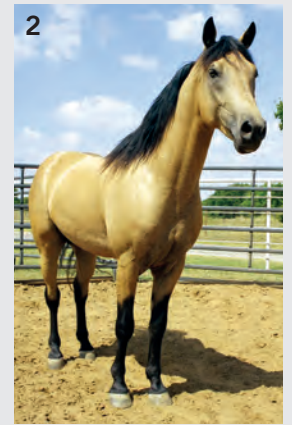
In 1984 I was shopping for my first Morgan and came across an ad for Morgans in Good Hope, Georgia, not far from where we lived. We arrived at Bill Meredith's farm to find that there was no barn, no immaculately kept grounds, no riding arena; all of the Morgans were living out in pasture. We walked through the fields until we came across the smoky black stallion Black Panther (Chingadero x Zula Queen), foaled in 1971, with his harem of mares. I remember the incredible impression this typy black stallion made on me. He was the very picture you have in your mind's eye of The Black Stallion, from his beautiful dished head to his powerful hindquarters. Panther was very friendly, and the Merediths told me that his excellent temperament had been the main thing that had sold them on the breed.

In 1992, Panther was purchased by Jim and Dawn Mannor of Jada Morgans in Michigan, where he lived until his passing four years later. He sired 42 foals in all, most with the Meredith's "Saint" prefix, a name chosen because it reflected the dispositions of Panther's get. Saint Peter, a 1992 palomino stallion, has left a few descendants. Also bred by the Merediths and purchased in utero with her dam was the 1992 dark buckskin broodmare, Amberfield's Pantera (x Chaprella). She produced three foals, including the 1998 perlino stallion Finally's Mr. Andy Frack (by Robbi Sue's Mr. Alert) and Stone Pine Moondance (by PL Chosen for Glory), a 2004 smoky cream mare.

Black Cat, Panther's 1970 full sibling, was another Chingadero son who looked to have a promising career at stud. Owned by Burnett (Barney) Smith of Springtown Ranch in Iowa, Black Cat was used daily for working cattle on the ranch. Despite being small in stature at just 14.2 hands, Black Cat was a powerfully built 1,100 pounds, and Smith said the stallion could slam into steers and knock them off their feet. Barney was a huge advocate of the smaller, old type Morgan, especially for cattle work. Barbara Fogel writes in her article on the Cross Morgans (*TMH*, February 1990) "a favorite slogan for Smith was 'praise the tall and saddle the small!'"

"Barney preferred a baroque style horse in any color as long as it was black," wrote Barney's daughter, Jaclyn Smith, in an email published on the Western Working Morgan yahoo group in 2007. "One story that is still told around the Smith household is the time [back in the day when we really got snow] when a freak snow storm dropped foot after foot of snow and Barney and Caryl could not get out to put hay out for the cattle. He hooked Cat to a canoe full of hay and had him break a trail out to where the cattle were stranded. Once the cattle found the hay, they blazed a larger trail back to the barn using the one Cat had cleared, and no cattle were lost. I believe Barney said the snow reached his belly."

Tragically, Black Cat contracted rabies when he was 11. He left just seven offspring, but they have bred on. His smoky black daughter, Springtown Narcissus (out of Hoacko Nason) produced 12 foals, most with the Ocmulgee prefix of David and Martha Hodo of Selma, Alabama. The Narcissus daughter, Ocmulgee Moonshadow (by Equinox Katmandu), has had three foals—two perlinos and a buckskin. One of the perlinos, OMM Upla (Ozark



### CHING FREE FAMILY

1. Ching Free (Chingadero x Slipper), 1961 smoky black stallion, with Phil Quade, up, in 1965 (photo courtesy of Barbara Fogel); 2. The Color of Money (Rogay Easter King x Rocket de Dee), 1996 buckskin stallion (photo courtesy of Shallow Creek Morgans).



### OTHER OFFSPRING: H-DEWEY AND HIJA

1. H-Dewey (Chingadero x Muchacha), 1970 smoky black stallion;  
2. Hija (Chingadero x Lolly), 1962 smoky black mare (photo by Barbara Fogel).





Mtn M R Hawk x Ocmulgee Moonshadow) produced AE's Cielo Blanca, a pretty perlino dun filly (by Royal Gold Ariston) for owner Jessica McNamara this spring.

## OTHER STALLION SONS: CHING FREE AND H-DEWEY

Joyce and Phillip Quade's 1961 smoky black stallion, Ching Free (out of Misma) had just two registered foals, but the descendants of his daughter Freema Rocket (x Misma) can be found in colorfults with the Shallow Creek prefix via the buckskin stallion, The Color Of Money (out of Rocket De Dee who was out of Freema Rocket), as well as from the 1976 black mare Rosena Bird (Apollo Bird x Freema Rocket) the dam of well known black sport horse stallion, DJJJ Ebony Gold.

Another Chingadero son who left a small group of colorful descendants was H-Dewey (out of Muchacha), a 1970 smoky black stallion who sired 15 foals. Most had the Chatham prefix of the stallion's last owners, the Winchester Ranch in Worland, Wyoming. Of those 15 foals, the only one ever to have registered offspring was the 1981 smoky black mare Chatham Charcoal (out of Coppergal), dam of three including Mtn Man Majestic Storm, a 1993 palomino stallion out of Scarlet Hills Topbar. Mtn Man Majestic Storm sired 35 foals, a number of which are cream dilutes.

## H-SARACEN

Chingadero's last registered foals were born in 1974. That crop included the smoky black stallion H-Saracen (out of Teal Eye), who is probably the most successful son of Chingadero, despite the fact that the first H-Saracen foal was not even born until 1990—when the stallion was 16! H-Saracen went on to sire 38 foals from 1990-1997, producing foals under the S-B prefix of Butch Martin, who owned him from 1988 until 1996, for the Truwest program of Bobbi Blankenship and finally for Nancy Nard's Ragtime Morgans, as well as others. Saracen was jokingly nicknamed "Scary" by those who knew him because he was such a gentle stallion.

H-Saracen's first foal was S Bar B Pierre Noire, who became an integral foundation horse for Harvey and Lois Seidel's Bar Non Morgans in Thermopolis, Wyoming. Many in the ranch's current broodmare herd are descendants of Pierre or H-Saracen, as is the current senior stallion, the smoky grulla Truwest Silver Suede (S Bar B Pierre Noire x Truwest Adobe Rose). Harvey remembers Pierre fondly. "The disposition of this stallion was incredible. He was so quiet and gentle. I could do anything with that guy. Drive him right down into a bunch of mares at a parade and he would not do anything. Just perfect in a crowd. One day on a long trail ride, some lady was upset that I was riding a stallion and she announced publicly that people should be on the lookout for me because I was riding a stallion. Made a big issue of it. Later in the ride, she came and apologized, saying she never knew a stallion could be so 'like a gelding.' When I broke him to drive, it was 45 minutes—and Lois and I drove him all over the country that afternoon. Families would come to see the horses and I would take them to Pierre's pen and the little ones would ask "can we pet him?" I said sure, go on in, parents would look at me in horror. They could/would go in and hug his leg and he would put his head down and let them pet him



## H-SARACEN FAMILY

1. H-Saracen (Chingadero x Teal Eye), 1974 smoky black stallion, and Robin Blankenship, in Montana in 1993 (photo courtesy of Bobbi Blankenship);
2. BCTs Gentleman In Black (Wildcards Gentleman Jack, by H-Saracen x W A R Black Indycas) 2008 black stallion, owner Karen Bessel, up;
3. S Bar B Blksaddle Chester (H-Saracen x Foxton Fawn), 1994 brown silver gelding, sire of the brown silver stallion Zeulner's Sunka Wakan;
4. Callie's Gold To Behold (H-Saracen x Mon Tana Morgan), 1995 palomino mare, and owner Stephanie Sparrow;
5. TruWest Flashpoint (Rural Hot Shot x Truwest Saramellow, by H-Saracen) and Riata Smith in a cowboy mounted shooting competition (photo courtesy of Bobbi Blankenship);
6. S Bar B Pierre Noire (H-Saracen x Leesa Lass) 1990 smoky black stallion, shown here prior to a parade with Harvey and Lois Seidel in the buggy (photo courtesy of Harvey Seidel).



and often use the top lip to wiggle on their head or shoulder.”

Bobbi Blankenship of TruWest Morgans in Roberts, Montana, has built her breeding program around Western working lines, H-Saracen in particular. Her current senior stallion is the H-Saracen son, Truwest Pure Prairie Smoke (out of Pure D Powder), “Smokey” to his friends. At the First Canadian National Morgan Show in 1997 when he was a five-year-old, Smokey earned the championships in Working Cowhorse, Open Reining, and Freestyle Reining. He has also been shown locally and has never been defeated in Working Cowhorse classes. “I don’t think that I can quantify all the benefits that H-Saracen brought to our ranch horse breeding, or how much my kids and I loved him,” Bobbi says. “Crossing him on ranch/government/Brunk bred mares was magic. We got horses that you could do absolutely anything with and with true Morgan type that you can spot a mile away. These horses will always do what you ask and come home happy, no matter how long and hard a day you’ve had. We use them for everything; ranching of course in all its multiplicity of purposes, 4H for 20 years, parades, rodeo roping, mounted shooting, competitive trail. What I liked best, though, was plain old hill and gully brush popping. There was no old wiley cow, hiding her calf in the brush, no won’t-play-nice bull that those horses couldn’t detect and root out to open country and take where they needed to go.”

Another important son of H-Saracen was the 1994 brown silver gelding S Bar B Blksaddle Chester. Chester sired two foals before he was gelded, one of which was the silver dapple stallion Zeulner’s Sunka Wakan, owned for most of his life by Roberta Zeulner of Zeulner Morgans in White City, Oregon. Sunka’s silver dapple coloring came from his silver dapple dam, Foxton Fawn. Most of the very rare silver dapples in our breed today—there are only about 100 at this time—trace to this remarkable little stallion.

Still showing and winning at age 21 is the palomino H-Saracen daughter, Callie’s Gold To Behold (out of Mon Tana Morgan). She is owned by Stephanie Sparrow of South Lyon, Michigan. This duo is fresh off a high point dressage win at the 2016 Michigan All Morgan Show. “She’s the smartest horse I’ve ever owned,” Stephanie says. “She definitely knows I’m her person and responds very well to me. She’s also brilliantly brave and willing. She’s been through rivers, on busy roads, on trails, and could go right into the show ring from any of those situations. She’s also the most versatile horse I’ve ever owned—I’ve been working with her for five years this summer and have owned her for three, and in that time I have done hunt equitation and pleasure with her, jumpers, Western pleasure, trail riding, barrels, games. She does superb in any direction I point her, but right now she excels in dressage. We have been showing dressage the past almost 10 months and have improved remarkably. It really seems to be her forte, we get comments every ride about her lovely movement and the harmony between us.”

Karen Bessel of Belle Cheval Training Center in Belle Plaine, Minnesota, owns the H-Saracen grandson, BCT Gentleman In Black (Wildcards Gentleman Jack x W A R Black Indyca), who has an interesting history. The 2008 black stallion was part of the well-publicized “Iowa 41” Morgan rescue in December 2010. “The herd of Morgans was emaciated and wild,” Karen remembers. “The



### LA BEAU FAMILY

1. La Beau (Chingadero x Lolly), 1963 smoky black mare; 2. K-Woods Golden Eagle (Shagwood Doubleagle x Vanderland Corimiss), 1994 palomino stallion owned by Nancy Rebman, featured on the cover of Sara Maas’ children’s book about Morgans; 3. Shagwood Doubleagle (Windlord Ethan Allen x Peterson’s Flamingo), 1985 buckskin stallion, at the Stewarts Horse Trials, 1997, Andrea Macdonald up (photo © Hoof Pics).



### H-MAYO WOMAN FAMILY

1. H-Mayo Woman (Chingadero x Vistosa), 1967 smoky black mare, with her 1977 palomino filly Andrews Misty Dream (by Delmaytion Sundance) (photo courtesy of Samantha Larocca); 2. Amberfields Luminescence (Amberfields Desperado x CJ Buttercup), 2007 cremello stallion, with Sue Olson, up (photo courtesy of Sue Olson); 3. Amberfields Desperado (Springtown Champagne x Andrews Misty Dream), 1993 cremello stallion (photo courtesy of Judy Hinman).





## TIA FAMILY

1. Tia (Chingadero x Yellow Girl), 1965 palomino mare, with Barbara Fogel, up, 1975 (photo courtesy of Barbara Fogel); 2. Spihos Grace (Sanam Mi Solo Dream x Taha Holly Q), 1987 chestnut (carrying silver) mare (photo courtesy of Barbara Fogel); 3. Q Tawny (Merry Madison x Tia), 1970 palomino mare (probably also a frame overo) (photo courtesy of Barbara Fogel); 4. Goldtree Menolly (Culpeper Crescendo x Render's Gold Flame) as a 4-year-old at Penn Ohio show, 1994, with Susan Martin, up (photo © Shane Shiflet, courtesy of Loretta Brown); 5. Carrolllton (Culpeper Crescendo x Render's Gold Torch), 1990 palomino stallion, in a parade class with Susan Martin, up (photo © Bob Moseder).

breeder had stopped keeping up stallion reports, so many were unregistered. And they were definitely unhandled. I went down there because I'd been made aware of this situation and the fact that these horses were going on the slaughter truck if not sold. There was a rescue acting as the broker because the sheriff wouldn't take the horses away from the man. They were in horrible condition. I picked out four to come back with me for clients and there was this badly damaged, three legged lame black stallion that stood behind the rest of the stallion group. I couldn't get as close to him as I wanted, but he kept watching me. Something in his eyes drew me in and that's where our story begins. I didn't know if he was going to need to be euthanised, if the leg was broken but I knew he couldn't stay there." A week later she returned to bring him home. "We ran him onto the trailer and unloaded him into a stall here at home. He suddenly had food, shelter, and water. Although terrified, he relaxed enough to eat. It took me nearly three months just to be able to touch him for the first time." The leg healed; xrays revealed it had been a tendon injury, and "Manny" was now sound. At his first show, he took second place and ended the show as Reserve Champion Hunter Pleasure horse. He finished 2014 as Grand Champion Hunter Opportunity horse and took high point in his first ever First level Dressage test. Manny continued to pad his resume in 2015, participating in an Extreme Trail clinic, serving as the Morgan stallion demonstration horse at the Minnesota Horse Expo, and doing lots of trail riding and swimming ("a highlight for me!" says Karen).

## THE CHINGADERO MARES—HIJA

Originally purchased by Joyce and Phillip Quade from Bob Riley, the 1962 smoky black mare Hija (x Lolly) had five foals, but only one, the 1968 palomino mare Q Laurie Marie (by Hillview Captain), bred on. Q Laurie Marie's most prolific daughter was the chestnut Red Kay K, who produced 13 foals for Gary Wallace's Coal Creek program. Another notable offspring of Q Laurie Marie was the 1975 chestnut gelding Bumble Bee (by Lucky B) owned by Arthur (Art) Baker of Ft. Dodge, Iowa. "The Bee" had a long and versatile career in the sport horse disciplines, winning world championships at the Morgan Grand National in four different divisions: Jumpers, Stone Boat Pull, Running Race, and Carriage Driving Obstacles (cones) in the years spanning 1983-2002. This incredible horse was still winning in Class A competition in 2004—when he was 29 years old! Long-time Morgan owner Nicole Patterson rode Bumble Bee many times. "He was a good, good horse and taught a lot of people how to ride," she says. "He was still being ridden and jumped right up until the day he died."

## LA BEAU

The 1963 smoky black mare La Beau (out of Lolly) was another Cross Ranch Morgan sold to Eastern buyers by Bob Riley. Owned by Barbara Peterson for most of her producing years, La Beau was leased by Mary Jean Vasiloff and produced seven foals for her. La Beau's 1975 palomino daughter, Peterson's Flamingo, was the dam of nine foals. "Mingo's" 1985 buckskin son Shagwood Doubleagle, owned by the late Judy Burz of Goldquest Morgans in Churchville, New York, left 23 progeny before his untimely passing from colic



in 2008. In an article published in the Fall 2008 Rainbow Morgan Horse Association newsletter, Kathy Stevenson of K-Woods Morgans, wrote “Eagle excelled in any discipline he was shown in, whether it was Western, hunter, dressage or even gymkhana, although I think his passion was eventing. He seemed to take to jumping like fish take to water, and would clear jumps with room to spare. I showed Eagle the summer of 1989 as a three-year-old in Western classes at open shows and the New York State Regional show. At one open show, we decided to enter him in a reining class. Being only a three year old, we were riding him in a futurity snaffle. Eagle was a very quick learner and listened very well to my legs and seat. He did that reining pattern like a seasoned reining horse, and took the blue!”

One of Doubleagle’s best known sons is K-Woods Golden Eagle (Shagwood Doubleagle x Vanderland Corimiss), a 1994 palomino stallion. Golden Eagle is currently standing at Nancy Rebman’s Sheradin Morgan Farm in Ashland, Ohio, and is the sire of 33 offspring to date. A photo of Eagle’s beautiful head graces the cover of the children’s book *The Morgan Horse*, by Sara Maas. One of Eagle’s palomino sons, Angel’s Rare Gold, is also a cover boy! He made the cover of the April 2004 issue of *The Morgan Horse* magazine.

A chestnut daughter of Peterson’s Flamingo, Shagwood Sleepy Anne, produced the buckskin stallion Shagwood Shininghero (by the buckskin Windlord Ethan Allen) in 1985. Shagwood Shininghero sired 55 offspring, many of them colorful. He stood at Dianne Hietpas’ Windflower Morgans and Sharon Lee Keller’s Justapesty Morgans in Wisconsin before going West to Oregon to head up Cindy and Mike Erikson’s Dahlenega Morgans. The current breeding stallion at Dahlenega is a buckskin son of Shininghero, Dahlenega Dillon (x Aranaway Jennifer). The full brothers Windflower Tater Tot (palomino) and Windflower Justa Digger (buckskin), by Shagwood Shininghero and out of East Of Eden, have numerous colorful offspring in various breeding programs today.

### H-MAYO WOMAN

Of all the Chingadero daughters, H-Mayo Woman probably holds the distinction of having the most present-day colorful descendants, largely through her palomino daughter, Andrew’s Misty Dream (by Delmaytion Sundance), bred by Glenn Andrews. Glenn bought three Morgan mares in 1972 to start his breeding program. Two of them were smoky black Chingadero daughters, H-Mayo Woman (out of Vistosa) and H-Sheba (out of Zula Queen). “Glenn didn’t know who Chingadero was, but bought the mares for their body type,” says Glenn’s grandson, Boyd Andrews. “He later saw a picture of Chingadero—without knowing who it was—and commented that was what he wanted his horses to look like. He was pleasantly surprised to find out it was the sire of his mares.” Glenn wanted horses that were versatile enough to do anything asked of them. All of his horses were expected to ride, drive, and pull machinery. “He had no understanding of color genetics and referred to Chingadero as an albino,” Boyd continues. “He was shocked when the first palomino foal (Andrews Misty Dream) was born. He had four palominos in total but never two at

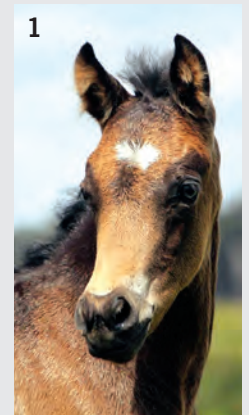


### H-LOLI FAMILY

1. Trillium Samson (Lauralee Foxy Man x H-Loli) 1982 bay stallion; 2. H-Loli (Chingadero x Lolly), 1969 smoky black mare, with her owner Catherine Sampson (photos courtesy of Catherine Sampson).

### BLACK DIMPLES FAMILY

1. OBH Endless Golden Sky (Bluebird Eclipse x OBH Heaven’s Gift), 2016 buckskin colt bred by Diana Jasica (photo by Diana Jasica); 2. Black Dimples (Chingadero x Painted Girl), 1963 smoky black mare, with her last foal, Top Brass (by Ever Ethan), in 1979 (photo courtesy of Marilyn Wright).







## OTHER DESCENDANTS: H-BELL FAMILY AND H-RONI

1. Springtown Barney (Richfield Octavius x Rose Hill Pistachio), 1995 palomino gelding, with Ellis Truglia, up (photo courtesy of Ann Smith); 2. H-Roni (Chingadero x Painted Girl), 1966 buckskin mare (photo courtesy of Julie Ploof).

the same time to make a driving team. At the time [late '70s/early '80s] palominos were not terribly popular in the Morgan world, but Glenn managed to get good prices for them."

Foaled in 1977, Andrew's Misty Dream produced just three foals, but one of them was the very prolific 1993 cremello stallion, Amberfield's Desperado (by Springtown Champagne). Probably his most well known offspring is the 2007 cremello stallion Amberfields Luminescence, who stood at Sue and Derrick Olson's Rafter Bar D Morgans in Sarona, Wisconsin, before being sold to Anna Velke-Solvberg of Shannonvale Morgans in Hungary this year. Desperado's descendants have spread to almost every continent, and with nearly 200 registered foals to his credit to date, he has perhaps had more of an influence on the modern colorful Morgan than almost any stallion of his generation.

### TIA

The mare line coming from the 1965 palomino mare Tia (Chingadero x Yellow Girl) is particularly interesting because her descendants not only include cream dilutes, but a rare silver dilute line and an even more rare—with just two living individuals at this time—frame overo line! Barbara Fogel wrote a lyrical tribute to Tia in her February 1990 article on the Cross Morgans for *The Morgan Horse*. "I will always be grateful to Tia. She never knew it, but she helped to weave my dreams. She was the mother of my first Morgan, Andrew's Donegal [by Cloverlane Andrew] and she gave to 'Donny' the very best of herself. She passed on her never ending strength, her incredible intelligence, her remarkable longevity, and her inborn beauty. My horse also inherited his dam's color, a brilliant yellow hue, like rolling wheat fields amidst glorious sunsets."

Tia had four offspring, and the colorful line that survived to the present day descends from her 1970 palomino daughter Q Tawny (x Merry Madison), bred by Joyce Quade. Q Tawny's first

foal was the 1977 palomino mare Taha Tina, bred by Norm Bechtol of Michigan. Tina was the dam of the palomino stallion Senator Gold Fire (1984) and his full siblings—also palomino—the mares Render's Gold Flame (1982) and Render's Gold Torch (1983), foundation stock for Loretta Brown's Goldtree Morgans. Loretta remembers the discovery of the Morgans that began her breeding program. "In the early '80s I put an ad in the classifieds of *TMH* magazine saying I was looking for a palomino Morgan. I did not get many responses. The first ones that came, I was doubtful that they were palomino; they looked more like flaxen chestnuts, and I had to be sure it was really a palomino or I wasn't interested. Finally, I received a response from Harold Render in Michigan. The photos he included showed me that these horses were, definitely, palominos and they were definitely Morgan as well. Harold had a mare, Taha Tina, and her three offspring—a two-year-old and a one-year-old filly, and a colt at her side—this was a four-in-one package. I hadn't really planned on getting more than one horse, but when I saw the lovely group that Harold had and realized what a rare find they were, we bought them all. The three offspring were all by Hylee's Flame Fire who was by Torchfire, a Senator Graham son. We visited him while we were in Michigan and when Harold offered to get Tina rebred, we said OK to the whole family." In 1985 Tina delivered another palomino, a colt that Loretta named Goldtree Fool's Gold, and Goldtree Morgans was born.

The palomino mare Goldtree Menolly and palomino stallion Carrollton, both from the 1990 foal crop, are probably the most well known representatives of the Goldtree breeding program. Carrollton (Culpepper Crescendo x Render's Gold Torch) had a ten-year-long Class A show career, mostly in Morgan Western pleasure classes on the East Coast, for owners Lynn and Steve Burch. Loretta's own Goldtree Menolly (Culpepper Crescendo x Render's Gold Flame) is considered by many colorful Morgan



enthusiasts to be the most beautiful palomino mare in the breed. Like her full brother in blood, she also had a long career in the show ring, mostly in Western pleasure classes.

Q Tawny's other foals included not one, but two incredibly rare frame overo offspring, both by different sires. The first was the 1982 palomino frame mare Sky Walker AB (by Moreeda Andrew), whose only foal, the 2003 buckskin frame overo mare, God's Glorious Sky, is owned by Tiffany and Jason Ellis. The second is the 1989 palomino frame overo mare, LAS Future De Oro (by Heathermoor Dynaquiz), owned by the Institute for Individual and World Peace. Future was a mare I had wondered about for years, as her markings—a big blaze, three short white socks and a white spot on her right lower abdomen—were suspiciously indicative of a minimally expressed frame. Finally to satisfy my curiosity I requested a hair sample from her owners and had the mare DNA color tested in September 2013. The results came back positive—Future, like her maternal half sister Sky Walker AB, was confirmed to be a frame overo. She may have passed on her frame gene to her 1996 cremello daughter; Star Sabrina De Oro (by LAS Aura De Oro); her markings, a blaze and hind socks, were suggestive of frame. Unfortunately Sabrina passed at a fairly young age without leaving any offspring.

It is a bit of a mystery where the frame gene originated in this family. Q Tawny almost certainly did not get her frame gene from her sire, who was bred along old New England bloodlines with no colorfules behind him. That leaves Tia, her dam, as the likely source for the frame gene. If Chingadero, Tia's sire, was carrying frame, half of his offspring should also have carried it, and as numerous as Chingadero descendants are, we should see frame occurring with great regularity in the Morgan breed. That leaves Tia's dam, Yellow Girl, as the potential source of Tia's frame gene. Yellow Girl's descendants are also numerous; the mare had 17 foals including Chingadero's dam Haager, the stallion Red Cross, and broodmares Duncce and Cross's Honey. You would expect the frame gene to have been passed on though those lines as well, but that doesn't seem to be the case. Like other pinto patterns, frame can hide very well. A minimally expressed frame may have no more white other than a small blaze. It's possible that there are other Morgans from this family that are carrying frame, but haven't been identified as such yet.

A final Q Tawny daughter of interest to colorful breeders was the 1980 mare Taha Holly Q (by Crimson Jack). Taha Holly Q was a chestnut who carried the silver gene, inherited from her sire. Silver is a dilution gene that only affects black pigment, so chestnuts carry it without showing any outward expression of the gene. Taha Holly Q produced two chestnut (carrying silver) daughters, Spihos Grace (1987) and Amanda's Suzie Q (1994), who are the last of this rare silver line through their few silver offspring.

### H-LOLI

H-Loli (Chingadero x Lolly), foaled in 1969, became one of the foundation mares for Catherine Sampson's Trillium Morgan Farm in Canada. This smoky black mare made an impression on all who knew her, and especially on the heart of her owner. "In the late summer of 1980, I had an opportunity to visit Jack Reeves' Chestnut

Hill Morgan Farm and view the horses listed on their dispersal sale catalogue," Cathy remembers. "It wasn't long before I focused my attention on a lone little black mare with a large buckskin colt at her side. As I approached, it was her large, clear eyes that attracted me most to her. Those eyes and the intelligence and good nature they reflected convinced me that she was indeed special from all the rest in that pasture of quality Morgans." H-Loli would produce eleven registered offspring in her lifetime, all but two of them with the Trillium prefix, including the 1982 bay stallion Trillium Samson (by Lauralee Foxy Man), who sired 33 foals. H-Loli's last offspring, the black mare Trillium Lady Of Intrigue (by Serenity Intrigue) arrived in 1992 when H-Loli was 23 years old. "It didn't seem to matter what color she produced, as all of her foals were excellent both in Morgan type, smarts, and ability," Cathy says. Proving just how tough Morgans of these bloodlines are, at age 31, H-Loli recovered from a very grave case of cellulitis that caused her to slough off the hide on one side of her face. She passed later that same year.

### OTHER MARE LINES FROM CHINGADERO

H-Star (Chingadero x Sara), a smoky black foaled in 1966, produced 11 foals, four of which had successful careers in the Class A Morgan show ring. The full siblings Emprise Grand Finale (by Noble Classic), gelding, and Emprise Noble Allure, mare, had careers in park/classic and huntseat divisions, respectively. Another set of full siblings out of H-Star were the black mare Silverthorn Sabrina (by Krinisor's Rob Robin), and her bay brother Silverthorn Solomon. Solomon won the Grand National Western Pleasure Gelding title in 1988 and went on to win the world championship in Western Pleasure that same year.

Al and Kris Breyer of Breyer Patch Morgans in Wauconda, Illinois, own Ultra's Special Glow (Ultra's Special Agent x PMP Victory Glow) a maternal great-grand-daughter of H-Star through Emprise Jo Jo Glow (Horne's Justa Glow x H-Star). They spotted the mare when she was offered for sale in 2008, in foal to the palomino stallion, Ancan True Colors—an added bonus for the Breyers, who love the golden Morgans. "Glowie" had been shuffled through a few homes since leaving Ultra Morgans and wound up at a trainer's place. "She was kind of a rescue case," Kris says. "She had been a bit abused by the so called 'Natural' trainer. If she did not like the hose, she blasted her with a power washer 'to teach her a lesson'...same with several other things. The 'trainer' wanted her picked up ASAP, but bad ice storms put it off a couple of weeks. Al and I borrowed a two horse trailer to go get her. The facility was a quagmire. When we pulled up, we found Glowie living in a round pen built of hog panels covered in blue tarps, being fed corn stalks. She nickered to Al and put her head on his shoulder, then followed him into the trailer. She has been his since then." The Breyers nursed Glowie back to health, and the mare rewarded them with a beautiful chestnut filly, BPM Golden Glow, not long after that. She is being bred again, this time to Cingate Revelation, for 2017.

Medo-Lane Florie (Chingadero x Flax), another smoky black mare who was foaled in 1959, is the maternal grand dam of the beautiful 1983 palomino stallion Sir's Sunny (Emerald's



## COLORFUL MORGANS CHINGADERO

King John x Bly-Star Juliet, out of Medo-Lane Florie). Several palomino daughters of Sir's Sunny have made their way into colorful breeding programs, such as Smaland I've Got A Secret and Smaland Lonesome Dove, broodmares at Sammy and Louisa Young's Shallow Creek Morgans in Texas.

The smoky black 1964 mare H-Bell (Chingadero x Zula Queen) was a full sister to Black Panther and Black Cat. Her 1988 brown buckskin son, Richfield Octavius (by Sangamo Falcon), stood at Springtown Morgans in Brighton, Iowa. The Springtown program concentrated the Chingadero bloodlines, using Octavius on Chingadero-bred mares. A good example of this breeding is the 1995 palomino gelding, Springtown Barney (Richfield Octavius x Rose Hill Pistachio), owned by Ann Smith of Triagn Farm in Florida. Rose Hill Pistachio, a smoky black, was line-bred to Chingadero; her sire was the Chingadero grandson, H-Chester, and her dam, H-Dakota Star, was a Chingadero daughter. "I purchased Barney as a three-year-old for the Mounted Police unit in Marion County, Florida," Ann says. "While Barney worked Patrol on the weekends, he had a weekday job of babysitting the foals. Next, Barney was needed for a handicapped riding program. He earned Therapy Horse of the Year. After spending about five years there, I told them when I retired, I wanted Barney home with me! That didn't last long because my littlest granddaughter wanted to show. Then her older sister, who has her own English pleasure horse, thought that Barney would be perfect for Western Dressage." Barney has successfully risen to each new challenge, a shining example of what Morgans of Chingadero bloodlines can do! Barney's full brother, the 1994 palomino stallion Springtown Sundance, has sired 24 foals to date for several different programs in the United States and Canada. He is currently owned by Greenleaf Ranch in Lebanon, Missouri.

The 1959 smoky black mare La Pluma (Chingadero x Teal Eye) was the dam of H-Chester (by Kenfield). Besides his aforementioned influence through his daughter Rose Hill Pistachio and the Springtown program, the H-Chester son H-Goshawk (f. 1975 out of Muchacha) sired 63 other offspring including the 1991 chestnut mare H-Scarlet (x H-Kimono), producer for Polly Smith's Little Brook Farm, and the 1993 black GTR Earl's Raven, broodmare for Greentree Ranch. The black La Pluma daughter La Mancha (1964), was sired by another controversial Cross Ranch stallion, the frame overo War Paint. La Mancha bloodlines have continued on via her daughter, Chip's Blazing Star (by Chat's Chipper), foaled 1987 and the dam of six.

Another smoky black Chingadero daughter was Cree Charmer (x Cree Woman), foaled 1971. She was the dam of 12 foals for Greentree Morgans.

Black Dimples (out of Painted Girl, War Paint's dam), 1963 smoky black mare, was the dam of Ethan's Faunie (1966 buckskin mare by Merry Ethan) who in turn produced Junie Moone (1979 buckskin mare by Orcland Society Man). Junie Moone is the dam of the perlino stallion PHPM Lord's Gift Of Gold (by Robbi Sue's Mr. Alert), whose 2010 perlino daughter OBH Heaven's Gift (out of PL Heaven On Earth) has carried another branch of the Chingadero family to Europe. Owned by Diana Jasica of Belgium, the mare had her first foal this year, a buckskin colt named OBH Endless Golden Sky (by Bluebird Eclipse).

A full sister to Black Dimples was the 1966 buckskin mare, H-Roni. Owned for much of her life by Julie Ploof of Robbi Sue Morgans in Vermont, H-Roni was a winning 4H horse for Julie's daughter, Susan, in a variety of events, including stock and saddle seat equitation, Western pleasure, in-hand, and road hack. H-Roni also won the 1977 Vermont Morgan Trotting Races and was High Point Morgan at the Vermont Youth Morgan Show in 1989. H-Roni was the dam of two palomino mares, both by Applevale Monarch: Robbi Sue's Fairlite (f. 1981) dam of Robbi Sue's Sundance, palomino stallion, and Mochom's Joy (f. 1982), who in turn produced two palomino daughters, Carpathian Pride N Joy and Equinox Blond Ambition, both of which have offspring in various colorful breeding programs at present.

Chingadero produced many colts who were gelded and used as ranch horses; many were not even registered. One gelding who did become widely known was the 1973 black H-Casoo (Chingadero x Cree Woman), owned by Roger and Denise Bruhn. First used by Roger Bruhn as a team roping mount, as a ten-year-old the gelding became a saddleseat equitation mount for Margie Blaik, and was undefeated in that division. They also won three AMHA silver medals in saddle seat, Western seat, and stock seat equitation, demonstrating once again the consistent versatility that is a hallmark of Chingadero bloodlines.

### THE GIFT OF GOLD

During the winter of 1974, Chingadero fell on the ice and broke a leg; he was humanely destroyed. He was only 21. Ab Cross passed away on March 9, 1985. No doubt he is riding Ching in the Great Beyond. It is unfortunate that Ab Cross did not live to see the increasing popularity and acceptance of the colorful Morgan within the breed community, a popularity that his beloved stallion's descendants helped to create.

Morgans are still raised on the Cross Ranch, though only a handful remain that trace to Chingadero. While researching this article I had several wonderful conversations with Bobbi Blankenship, and something she said really struck me: "It only takes being great in the heart of one horseman to make a horse great." To Ab Cross, Chingadero was that great horse—his friend, his working partner, and his herd sire. As much as he believed in Chingadero, he probably could not have foreseen the legacy his beloved stallion would leave to the breed—a special gift to all of us who love colorful Morgans. His influence will be felt for many generations to come. Today, having "that horse's" name on the papers is no longer stigmatized. Instead, Chingadero bloodlines are eagerly sought out by astute breeders seeking substance, soundness, and great temperament—all wrapped up in a colorful package. ■

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*The author is greatly indebted to Barbara Fogel for her assistance with this article. For a comprehensive look at the Cross Ranch Morgans, including Chingadero, the author recommends reading "The Cross Morgans," by Barbara Fogel, published in the January 1990 issue of The Morgan Horse magazine.*