



# Legacy Mares The Daughters of TUG HILL COMMANDO

By Stephen Kinney

**F**or most breeders Tug Hill Commando would be a dream come true. For a Morgan family that had already experienced the Treble's Willy Wild phenomenon, Tug Hill Commando was the second coming of the dream.

What makes a great breeding stallion? "To me, what a great breeding horse should do is breed better," says Carol Hudson. "They should out-produce themselves."

And Carol should know because this version of lightning struck twice on her watch.

Really. Think about it. Take stock historically. Few small breeding programs are ever fortunate enough to have one breeding stallion that puts them on the map and establishes that terribly elusive "look" for their prefix.

Foundation sire Treble's Willy Wild (Windy Hill Willie x Junehill Fascination) established the Treble's look, which did much to radicalize the notion of beauty in the Morgan breed.

"Then we went looking for a son of Waseeka's In Command when Willy's daughters came of age and we needed another stud," says Carol.

She bought Tug Hill Commando from Ann Hastings from a snapshot when he was only 90 days old. She and then business partner Cheri Barber never saw him until he stepped off the truck at seven months of age.

Cheri explains why this sight unseen purchase was not a big risk.

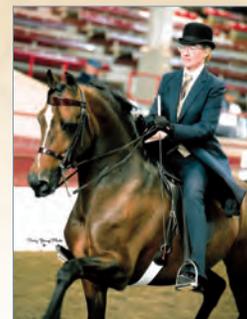
"This is where I defer to Carol. Yes, she wanted an In Command son, but she wanted one out of a particularly well-bred mare. She loved Kadenvale Don. She bought him from a pedigree and a picture. She bought him particularly for the pedigree of his dam. That's what

Main photo: Tug Hill Commando  
Inset (top): Waseeka's In Command  
Inset (middle): Donna Mae Pepper  
Inset (bottom): Treble's Willy Wild

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Top, left: the gorgeous Gradells Seventh Angel by Tug Hill Commando. Clockwise from there: three Gradell bred champions, all out of Tug Hill Commando daughters, each by a different sire: Gradell Angel Withaflaire; Gradell Ring My Bell; Gradells Wild Reflection.



The Commando daughter Treble's Theme Song (top left) produced Gullwing Morgans' versatile champion Trebles Double Exposure (top right) and the late, much loved hunter pleasure mare Treble's Rhapsody In Blue (bottom left).

makes breeders so special, they know the importance of the mare line. I've learned this from Carol and from Sue Steele."

The mare in question, of course, is Fiddler's Majesta, a daughter of the Upwey Ben Don son Kadenvale Don. Majesta traces in tail female line to the Red Pepper daughter Donna Mae Pepper, the foundation mare of Clare Murphy's Fiddler's Green program. Donna Mae Pepper also gave the Morgan breed Fiddler's Contender, whose only offspring was the phenomenal broodmare sire Tedwin Topic.

"I loved the way Majesta was bred," Carol observes, "and she was a good sized mare. When I saw that this colt was out of that mare, I wanted to buy him right away."

So the check was in the mail for the foal from the mare that would give the Morgan breed not only Commando, but also Tug Hill Whamunition. These two half-brothers would be on the list of leading sires for decades to come.

That's all great in theory, but it would have been just a theory had the stud not been the right nick for the mares. "We started exposing him to the Willy mares and it was like a magic carpet ride," Carol recalls.

It was when those foals started hitting the show ring that the ride would really ramp up for Carol, Cheri and Treble's. And, not coincidentally, Commando would rarely travel again.

Commando was shown lightly. He was champion stallion at Mid-A as a three-year-old. And he made an appearance at Connecticut Morgan. "One of the most fun classes I ever had was the sire and get class at Connecticut. Brooksie [*Cheri's affectionate term for Bob Brooks*] had won it for so many years. When Commando's first babies were born we thought we needed to put him on the map. And Connecticut was the first show of the season when people bring out all their best horses. We entered the

ring with Tug Hill Commando, Trebles Wild Command, Second In Command, and The Dominator." Two of the three were out of Willy Wild daughters and the third, Second In Command, was out of a granddaughter of Quakers Acre Treble, namesake of Treble's Morgan Manor.

With that win the magic carpet ride began.

In 1986 Trebles Wild Command was Grand National Champion Yearling Colt and The Dominator was reserve in the same class. Carol says, "I was standing next to two trainers and one said, 'Boy, Commando never needs to travel again.'"

And he didn't. "We started doing a lot of breeding, so it was a full time job," says Carol.

"We got so busy breeding," Cheri expands. "This is the philosophy we still have today. If we are standing a breeding stallion to the public, we don't take them to horse shows. Commando was breeding 40 mares a year for several years. He got very popular very young."

Yes, the babies were beautiful, but Cheri sees his popularity being driven by something bigger. "One of the nicest things about Commando was the foals' trainability. Not only did he bring beauty to the breed, but pedigrees are important to trainers and the Commando babies have no quirks. They are so nice to work. Trainers started breeding their own mares to Commando. Bonnie [Sogoloff], Luman [Wadhams], Tim and Jean [Arcuri] all bred their own mares. And that's because they are so trainable."

Bonnie Sogoloff was one of the trainers who came quickly to the Commando party. Bonnie rhapsodizes on the Commando horses: "Tug Hill Commando was an enormous influence in our barn. He gave us one gorgeous show horse after another. We bred mares to him, bought his get, trained those sent to us—and we loved all of them. There were three mares I will never forget; Applause, Treble's Unchained Melody, and On Fire. Applause had

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Eye candy indeed: The Commando daughter Take My Breath Away (far left), her daughter, multiple world champion Treble's First Take (by Liberation First Star) (top left) and her daughter Absolute Eye Candy (by Cedar Creek-Harlequin) (bottom left).

Treble's Unchained Melody as a weanling the year she won the Morgan Breeder Sweepstakes. She has gone on to be a producer of World Champions for SpringMill Morgans through such offspring as SpringMill Ring Of Fire (inset), SpringMill Stardust, and SpringMill New Harmony.



such a personality! Big and even bigger trotting she brought her owner right to the edge in the amateur park harness division. Treble's Unchained Melody was always good as gold and made me feel smart every day. On Fire is a homebred and so elegant that to this day she has no equal in my eyes. Because of my mares and all he has given me, whenever I count my blessings, one of them is Tug Hill Commando."

Today, Bonnie stands at stud and exults in the beauty of On Fire's son Smoke Signal, by Man About Town LPS, and still has Commando get on her show string.

For 22 years, from 1985 until 2007, 255 get have been registered by Tug Hill Commando. His foals today are conceived from a store of frozen semen, used with some regularity by Ann Hailey, a breeder well versed in the value of his daughters. To read the progeny list from the early years forward is to be reminded of his significant impact. It is a long and royal list. Their accomplishments span the disciplines, though in every case the rewards are graced by the dazzling beauty that distinguishes the line.

Today, we discuss the amazing mares. There have been 132 of them. And we'd have a much different breed without them. They have performed for Commando's immediate family, which, in addition to Carol and Chuck Hudson and Cheri Barber and their now related but separate operations, includes the Drs. Jerome and Shirley Modell of Gradell Morgans and Lisa Nyberg, who became a partner with the Hudsons for some time. They have also "out produced" themselves for breeders in the extended Commando family. Let's take a look at some, if inevitably not all, of these productive producers.

Commando found an important compliment in the exotic-ly beautiful foundation mare MO Justa Wild Melody (Treble's

Willy Wild x Latours Justa Beauty). No farmer ever had a crop of more legendarily beautiful daughters; they include Take My Breath Away (1987); Treble's Unchained Melody (1992); and Treble's Wild Memories (1996).

Take My Breath Away has had two offspring compete at the world championship level. Treble's Heartbreaker, by Hillock Showson, was English Pleasure Reserve World Champion. Treble's First Take put the first shimmer on what is now acknowledged as a golden cross with Liberation First Star. She has done nothing but win at Grand National since her junior years. From her Three- and Four-Year-Old English Pleasure World Championships to the Amateur English Pleasure Reserve World Championship and the 2009 Ladies Park Saddle World Championship, hers is an almost embarrassing record of riches. For owner Dawn Fire she has produced a Cedar CreekHarlequin daughter, Absolute Eye Candy. To put the photos of Eye Candy, First Take and Take My Breath Away side by side is a lesson in "out producing." And it does takes one's breath away!

Treble's Unchained Melody (aka, "Debbie") moved out of town to start her own family for the Drs. John and Patti Huse at SpringMill Morgans. But first, she honored her sire by being named 1992 Morgan Breeder Sweepstakes Champion.

"We bought her sight unseen," Patti recalls. "She was out in a field when Jim [Lowry] went to look at her. But you trust everything Bonnie [Sogoloff] tells you about a horse. We really needed a show horse for our son, Will, at that point. We were looking for mares, for the dual purpose that they could go in our breeding program. She came off the trailer and I watched her hock action as she pranced down the barn aisle and was very glad we owned her."

That would turn out to be an understatement, but one that took a few years to fully place in perspective.

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*Treble's Wild Memories (far right) has been among Ann Hailey's best producers as shown in the multi-titled CBFM Mozambique (right), known as Brad Pitt around the barn.*



*The mare Sizzle has been one of Cheri Barber's most productive daughters of "her horse" Commando. Grand Cru Dom Perignon (far left) stands at Cheri Barber Stables and Stonecroft Flammable (left) is one of three, winning, full sisters by Stonecroft Trilogy from Sizzle.*



First she gave the family a thrill in the show ring: "Will showed her and did very well with her in Amateur Pleasure Driving. Won the mares class unanimously in Oklahoma and was third in the world one of the years Opies Boy was showing."

Debbie foundered the next year and her recovery was aided by many vets and many caretakers. Produce from Debbie may have been long coming, but the wait was well worth it.

Debbie has been crossed primarily with the Huse's foundation sire, Nostradamus (Noble Flaire x Beam's Victoria), and it's been another golden nick. "Everyone of her foals we've shown has a world title," Patti boasts. They include the truly lovely and gifted SpringMill New Harmony and a favorite of trainer Kurt Hufferd's, SpringMill Ring Of Fire. The two-year-old SpringMill Superstition is becoming a rock star on YouTube and is entering the "can't wait to show" category for the family.

While Debbie is devoted to "Shaq," (Nostradamus) she has had one other flirtation. Hoping for lightning to strike as it had with full sister Take My Breath Away, Unchained Melody was bred to Liberation First Star producing SpringMill Stardust who as a colt garnered the World Futurity Two-Year-Old Stallion Reserve Championship. This year SpringMill New Harmony has been bred to Stardust for a foal that will be "double Debbie" to quote Patti Huse. Since Unchained Melody is known at Colorado State, where she continues to produce through oocyte transfer, as "Debbie Do Right" this should be a most satisfying use of linebreeding.

"I love her for her beauty, but I think she is perhaps one of the most athletic from that cross. She's not big, but we've been breeding her to Nostradamus, so that wasn't a concern. We wanted her bloodline to cross with the Flaire line. The plus was her sweet disposition," concludes Patti Huse.

Despite the ample nature of Ann Hailey's broodmare collec-

tion, Treble's Wild Memories comes to the fore as one of her great producers. With the memorable CBFM Unforgettable, by HVK Bell Flaire, Ann herself took a victory pass as Grand National Champion Amateur Pleasure Driving Mare. CBFM Mozambique, by Stonecroft Byzantine, is known as Brad Pitt around the barn for his good looks. They earned him multiple world titles as a junior in-hand gelding, and he continues to be a winning companion for owner Patsy Lloyd in classic pleasure driving. Her First Star foal, CBFM Trading Up, was well on his way to being the next versatile super star for Lora Dunlap before Lora's untimely recent death (see "People We Remember," this issue). Ann has foals from Wild Memories by Centerpiece, DBA Street Talk and GLB Bell Pepper growing up in her program.

At Cheri Barber's, a stellar cross was with the equally glamorous Willy daughter, Double M Temptation (x UVM Tempest). That cross is particularly well known for its sons, many stars of the Western pleasure arena, including Chase Manhattan, Grand Cru Beaujolais, ER Treble My Command and Trebles Wild Command.

The Commando daughter that has kept the rhythm going for Cheri's Grand Cru prefix is, unequivocally, Sizzle. She, coincidentally, is out of a daughter of the stallion from which the farm took its name: Dawnhill Alexis by Quakers Acre Treble.

Cheri's mare Sizzle has provided a breeding son of Willy Wild, the charismatic Grand Cru Dom Perignon. "Dom" is co-owned by Deb Ferrell. And partnering on an every other foal arrangement with Stonecroft Farm, there has been a succession of beautiful Stonecroft Trilogy fillies (from Sizzle), Stonecroft Flammable, Grand Cru Margaux and Grand Cru Merry Edwards. The first two of them were quickly snatched up by Ann Hailey for Copper Beech. One of them, Stonecroft Flammable, was World Champion Junior Filly as a yearling and World Futurity Champion Two-Year-Old Mare. Today she brings home perform-

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*Ultra's Formal Request (left) was one of the few to be crowned World Champion Mare as a yearling. She is also a Morgan Breeder Sweepstakes winner. Her daughter SPR Chanel by Serenity Masterpiece is shown working at home at Stove Prairie Ranch, (below).*

Clockwise from top left: Temptation's First Star, Gulfwind Sir William, Santa Fe Renegade and Paradigm Tokyo Rose are all world titled show horses attesting to the productivity of Tug Hill Commando daughters.



ance championships for her owner, and for trainer Tim Roesink. If there is ever a son from this cross, it's barn name will be NFS, as in not for sale, Cheri assures everyone.

Very early in Commando's breeding career another prefix starts to show up with frequency in the progeny list and that is Gradell. The Drs. Jerry and Shirley Modell would first breed to him and then graduate to the role of owners later in the stallion's life and so become an integral part of Commando's immediate family. His daughters have been the cornerstone of the consistent Gradell breeding program.

Their stallion Gradell Ring My Bell, by HVK Bell Flaire, is another of the big eyed, gorgeous-in-silver Western pleasure champions to come from this handsome family. His dam, Gradell's Miranda is by Commando and out of Serenity Jackie. He won regional championships in the division at both Citrus Cup and Southern States this year with Cheri up. The Noble Flaire daughter Gradell Angel Withaflaire, comes from the 1994 Morgan Breeder Sweepstakes Champion, Gradell's Seventh Angel (x UVM Hester). Angel Withaflaire brought the farm Oklahoma glory in 2009 with wins of the Grand National Yearling Fillies and World Futurity Yearling Filly Championship.

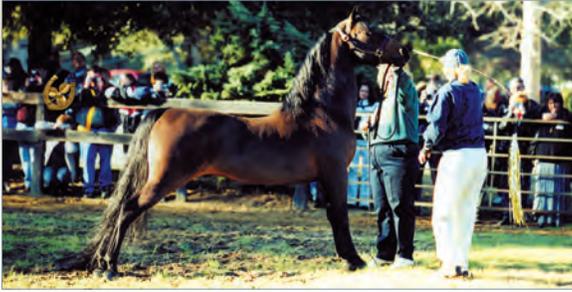
Jerry Modell loves his harness horses. A favorite was Gradell's Wild Reflection, a great example of the reverse cross of Willy Wild on a Commando daughter, in this case the mare Gradell's Cupid out of Cedar Creek Gimlet by I Will Command. The horse's stylish trotting ability had them frequent winners in amateur pleasure driving and now Wild Reflection is a top mount for junior exhibitors in David Rand's eponymous stable. Seventh Angel's son by Centerpiece, Gradell Center Of Action, took Jerry to a reserve Grand National title in junior classic pleasure driving under the direction of Lynn and Kathy Peeples in 2009.

Commando has served his immediate family well and done great things for the extended family also.

Gulfwind Dawncommand truly established the McKnight family's breeding creds. This mare is, again, out of a daughter of Quakers Acre Treble. Crossing her on Treble's Willy Wild became a savvy practice for the McKnights and one they repeated with multiple successes. The widely admired star of the Western pleasure division, Gulfwind Sir William, is a proud product of this mating. He's been a world and regional champion many times over for Margaret McKnight Karrh. And he's breeding on a new generation of champions himself. A true tale of siblings, William's full sister, Gulfwind Temptress, has been the show ring companion for Mary McKnight Cantey, taking her to Oklahoma and regional victory passes in classic pleasure driving. The third product of this cross, Gulfwind Wild Solitaire brought the family roses, both in hand and under saddle. Margaret rode her to the Grand National Ladies Western Pleasure Mares title at Oklahoma 2004. These Commando granddaughters carry on enviably in the Gulfwind breeding program.

Moving to the west coast, Commando found another great cross in the productive Fletcher Love Song (Fletcher Banjo John x Browns In Vogue). It took one ride in the cart behind GLB Temptation Eyes for Linda Sheridan to be hooked on showing and Morgans. Ask Linda to sing about this mare and you'll get an aria: "She is the epitome of the Morgan horse. Beautiful, bright, energetic, kind, versatile and always dependable no matter what you ask of her. I showed her both under saddle and in harness for multiple titles. She is now my practice horse, broodmare, saddle horse for my grandchildren and the showcase of my breeding farm. When you see her you will never forget the eyes, and attitude of this mare and she passes all to her babies."

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The daughters of Tug Hill Commando did much for Cedar Spring and Cedar Spring did much for Tug Hill Commando's "magic carpet ride." From left to right: Cheri, Commando and their best friend, Bonnie Sogoloff; On Fire and Applause.



We Salute  
*Magnolia Kamikaze*  
 Tug Hill Commando x Wild Oaks Bernadette by Treble's Willy Wild  
 Our favorite flaming red head broodmare extraordinaire and daily reminder of all we love in the Morgan breed.



She is the dam of one of the best we've bred, Paradigm Tokyo Rose by Nobility (pictured). And also our dream horse, Paradigm Red Baron (by Cedar Creek Legality) whose tremendous mind and heart touch us every day on the hills of home.

**Look for three promising Paradigm prospects at the Signature Sale, April 2-3, 2010, Springfield, Ohio:**

**Lydia Belle Esprit (ITVK Bell Flaire x Paradigm Steamy Windows by Tug Hill Whamunition), English Pleasure**

**Paradigm John Thomas (Mine x Topic Of Conversation by Tedwin Topic), Western Pleasure.**

**Paradigm Play It Again (Mine x DM Anastasia by ITVK Hotspur), Pleasure.**

For more information on available stock, contact:

**Paradigm Morgan Horse Farm**  
 John and Judi Kemper, Lawrenceburg, KY  
 jkemper4@directv.net or 502-839-5692

Morgan's for All Breeds

Who are the babies that inherit those eyes? For one (yes it is that cross again) there is the 2009 Reserve World Champion Park Saddle Four-Year-Old, Temptation's First Star by Liberation First Star. Like her three-quarter sister, Treble's First Take, this mare has drama in her expression and Olympian athletics in her movement. By Issues 'N Answers came Three-Year-Old Western Pleasure World Champion Temptation's Answer, an eye-catching chestnut gelding who continues to be highly successful as a junior exhibitor and amateur horse for his owners. Linda looks forward to the coming out of her colts sired by A Winter's Day from this great producing mare.

You set your GPS anywhere for a Morgan destination and you'll find the same formula at work. Commando daughters as building blocks for breeding programs or stepping stones to fame for other sires. Astronomicallee got a leg up on his way to being a ranking sire at a young age when he bred the daughter Cingate Vincent's Song (x Tedwin Title Song). The cross produced Cingate Revelation who became World Champion Two-Year-Old Pleasure Driving. Today he is one of the stallions standing at stud at Merriehill

Photos this page © Howard Schatzberg

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Both owned by Francis Beers, *Gradells Work Of Art* (left) and her winning son *Worked In Gold* (right) are favorites at Jeff and Amy Bessey's Summerbird Farm.

Photos © Linda Quillen Wollaber, Howard Schatzberg

Farm. And think about the dam's side on this stud. Through *Commando* and *Tedwin Topic*, he goes back twice to *Donna Mae Pepper*, mentioned at the outset of this article. These things are not accidents!

One of his most glorious daughters is the, lamentably, late *Ultra's Formal Request*. She grabbed everyone's attention winning the Morgan Breeder Sweepstakes as a weanling then went on to be one of the few yearlings ever to be crowned World Champion Mare. A lifesize *Maretta Kennedy* statue of her graces *Gail Bratz's* mountaintop *Stove Prairie Ranch* as does a *Serenity Masterpiece* daughter, *SPR Chanel*.

Feeling *Groovy*, out of *SW Regal Mymphette* (who is out of a daughter of *Quakers Acre Treble*) gave the Morgan breed the multiple world champion performer *Movado*, and is producing the likes of *LNT Jumping Jack Flash* for *Lyneice Talmadge*. From *Ryan's Pure Silk Lady* (x *HVK Pure Silk*), we have

*Tug Hill Commando passed on so many fine qualities and the Morgan type to his get - everyday we witness his athletic ability, gorgeous head, and wonderful disposition when we enjoy our mares.*  
- Doris & Peter Bazzini



17210 Boy Scout Road  
Odessa, Florida

From left to right:  
*Bel Cavallo Prima Donna*  
(*Chase Manhattan* x *Pine Lyne 'Tia Maria*)

*Pine Lyne 'Tia Maria*  
(*Tug Hill Commando* x *Stonholm Calates*)

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*Tug Hill Commando bows to his admiring fans.*

MSV Shooting Star, the result of the reliable cross with Liberation First Star. At Judith Kemper's, Magnolia Kamikaze (x Wild Oak's Bernadette by Treble's Willy Wild) produced the square trotting performer Paradigm Tokyo Rose by Nobility. Watch Sarah Gove smile when she talks about showing this flashy mare. Years ago, the beautiful Gradells Work Of Art showed in hand at New England and the buzz went round, "Wouldn't she be gorgeous in Western tack?" Today that buzz has proven correct with her son Worked In Gold by Pot Of Gold being a nearly unbeatable Western pleasure entry for owner Francis Beers and trainer Jeff Bessey, along with her other champion progeny, Artful Image and Work Of Art.

And here's a lesson in linebreeding. World champion and breed ambassador, Santa Fe Renegade, the horse that does dressage for his cowboy Eitan Beth Halachamy, is not just out of a Tug Hill Commando daughter. He is sired by Gradell's Vigilante who is by Treble's Willy Wild. Renegade's dam is Sable N' Mink (Tug Hill Commando x Trebles Wild Affair by Treble's Willy Wild). Cowboy dressage meet magic carpet ride!

So many famous mares, many winning, most producing for adoring owners. It is a story that never quits. Helen Herold's Capes Molly Command; Marion Bengston's ECP The Seventh Stone; The Dodson's extravagantly beautiful Rumbrook Veronica; Is Putting On The Ritz being bred to the Commando son Treble's Tanqueray at Partridge Hill; Commando's extended family member Doris Bazzini and Pine Lyne Tia Maria; how well do we know Allyson Hughes because of Morningdance? Joyce and Chris Thoma because of A Sharper Image?

Okay, the list is nearly endless. How do we sum up?

Cheri Barber will remind you that while breeding stallions become legends, they are living, breathing, four-legged animals that inhabit people's lives for years, indeed decades. "Commando's my horse," she states. "He's always belonged to other people, but he's only ever lived in that stall in that barn on my farm. He put me on the map when I started in Morgans."

And he's the horse Cheri would bring out at Florida Barn Tours to bow for the crowd. "We've done so many personal appearances with Commando, like the Symphony of Horses down here. We turned him loose before thousands of people. He has been a wonderful ambassador for the breed."

As Cheri says, she defers to Carol on breeding matters. So, Carol, what have Commando daughters done for the breed? "Everything," is Carol's immediate response. "I was just looking through a magazine and I saw a mare coming at me and I said, 'Gosh that one is out of a Commando daughter.' They have a look about them, you can especially see it in the head, and it keeps showing up, in the mares and now in the grand children. To me what a breeding horse should do is breed better. And that is what he does. You go to nationals today and the young stock is just better. That's what he's done and that's what is happening in our breed."

If you think about it, there you have another characteristic of horse breeders. They tend to be positive thinking people. n