



# Legacy Mares

## MI FIRST LOVE AND HONEYTREE SIMPLY UNIQUE

*Lynn Peeples holds a unique record as a breeder, which makes this breeder profile such a fitting illustration of our Morgan The Beautiful theme: He's bred more World Champion Stallions (eight wins of the title by four stallions, many more if you count junior, senior and reserve world titles) than any Morgan breeder in history. These two mares have been central to that legacy.*

By Abbie Felton-Trexler

Over the last 30 years, a watchful eye and a keen sense of structure and type have propelled Lynn Peeples to one of the top breeders in Morgans. Relying on two foundation mares for his highly successful program, Lynn has created a dynasty of Morgans that are beautiful and unmistakably Morgan, with the athleticism and drive to claim starring roles in the competitive show ring.

He got his start training horses in the Western Pennsylvania/Ohio area, working with trainers such as Cecil Brown and Tom Butler. He worked hard, training great horses and honing his eye on the Morgan families that made up the breed. Though there may have been a mild sense of frustration at the length of time it took to breed a foal, Lynn started breeding his mares actively in

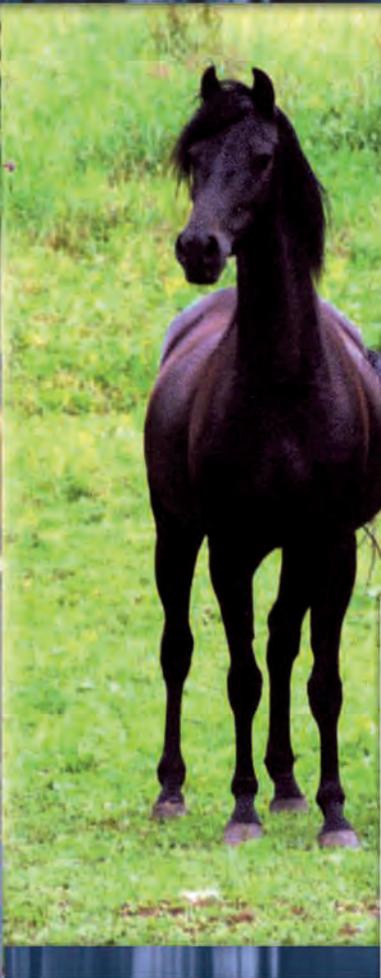
the eighties, throwing himself in to his work. "Part of the reason I got back into breeding was because it could be financially rewarding. Horse trainers notoriously tell their customers who to breed their mares to, and some get no credit for it. I thought, well, I could have a couple of mares myself, and breed them to whomever I wanted to. I didn't have to convince someone else that a certain cross was a good idea." Quickly, Lynn discovered that he loved what he was doing.

In 1989 Lynn bought a package of mares from Cy Bostic of CyDon Farm that included the first of his two foundation mares, MI First Love (Devan Wexford x HLM Caption). "By looking at the four mares, she (Love) looked the least likely to have a great foal, but she turned out to be the best producer for me. She had big eyes

(Above, left to right) Man About Town LPS, Pot Of Gold, Man In Motion, and LPS The Boogie Man.

(Photos © Debbie Uecker-Keough, Shane Shiflet, and Howard Schatzberg)

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The mare UVM Unity (right) and her family (left to right), the remarkable producer Honeytree Simply Unique and her siblings Lucky-U and U-Two all by Born To Boogie.



(Photos © Howard Schatzberg and Bob Moseder)

and small ears, she was chestnut-attractive but not necessarily beautiful." "Love" proved to be a great producer. Horne's Windsor-Glow (San-Kay's All A-Glow x Hornes Beau Darling), who she was first bred to, was "a keen-looking, Trophy-headed horse; small ears, big eyes. He had a lot of go." Love's previous owners had difficulty getting the mare in foal, so she was pasture exposed to Horne's Windsor-Glow. That cross produced first Illicit Love in 1991, and then her full sister Tainted Love in 1992. Illicit Love was shown once while at Waterford, winning the competitive Four-Year-Old Park Saddle Penn Ohio Sweepstakes. Though Lynn was crazy about the pretty mare, he sold her to a client of Judy Nason's. He kept Tainted Love as a broodmare, but sold her after her two younger male siblings became integral forces in the Waterford breeding program. She has gone on to produce foals for Graywood.

In 1991 Lynn and Kathy were married, and shortly after purchased the current facility in Oxford, New Jersey. Kathy was already an accomplished horsewoman at the time, and joined as a

partner in the business. That year, Love was bred to Trija Mr Peppercorn (Trijas Mr Peppertime x High Acres Debutante), with Lynn thinking that the fancy stallion might pretty her up a bit. The mission was accomplished with the birth of Pot Of Gold. And the record began. Pot Of Gold went on to win World Champion Stallion in 1995, after claiming the reserve spot the year prior. An amazing part of the record was that his younger half-brother, of whom you'll read more later, was reserve WC. Pot Of Gold was purchased by Jeff and Lynn Yelton in 1994, and quickly became the foundation sire in the Graycliff breeding program.

*"You have to be in this for the long term, because it just doesn't happen overnight."*

And then there was Tug Hill Celebrity (Wham Bam Command x Tara's Rebecca). "I was crazy about Wham Bam Command, I think that he's one of the most influential stallions I've seen in this breed since I've been in it, he had a very positive impact on it. Celebrity was double Nocturne and double Trophy, so I thought he would be able to breed on and have a positive impact on the mare." In 1992 MI First Love produced Man About

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All in the family: Fair Catch, Born To Boogie, City Limits, Illicit Love and Town Assets  
(Photos © Debbie Uecker-Keough and Howard Schatzberg)

Town LPS, who was Lynn's favorite out of that mare. "When he was first born, I was surprised by how large his ears were, and I didn't have very much to say about him. But I don't think they ever grew from the time he was born to the time he died." Lynn laughs as he remembers, "By the time he was two, he'd grown in to his ears. He had a very upright neck, he was a very refined horse—even when he was younger he could have been mistaken for a filly." In 1996, Man About Town LPS ("Walt") was sold to Tyese Whalen, and he went on to have a brilliant career in the show arena, park harness and in-hand, and in the breeding shed. Kathy remembers him, "He was very athletic, he just had everything. He was what Lynn had been trying so hard to breed. And importantly, he was dominant, and was dominant himself as a breeding horse.

"When Lynn was concentrating the breeding lines, he was looking to produce something that would be a dominant breeding horse. Even long after Walt died, you could see the stamp on his babies." Lynn used Walt extensively and with great success in the Waterford program, where he sired Town Assets, LPS The Boogie Man (both out of Honeytree's Simply Unique) and Man In Motion (x Devan Melmore). Lynn and Kathy have doubled up on the Man About Town LPS in their breeding program (crossing his progeny), and love the result of that, the foals often looking as if they were by the grand stallion himself. The influence of Man About Town LPS spread across the United States with his fantastic foals spanning disciplines and breeding sheds across the country. Significant get of Man About Town include regional and world champions KD Hot To Trot (x White Lace N Promises), Man In Command (x Ladybird Command), and Sarde's Manistique (x Lady Hot Topic).

MI First Love died at the age of 19 in 1994, the spring after she'd produced Man About Town LPS.

In addition to breeding his own mares, in the late 90s Lynn took over management of Bryna Watson's Honeytree program, which included the foundation mare UVM Unity and stallion Born To Boogie, both multiple world champions who together have produced world champions Boogie Nights, Lucky-U and U-Two (all of UVM Unity's foals after 2002 are part of the Waterford breeding program). When Honeytree downsized, Lynn purchased the pretty filly Honeytree's Simply Unique (Born To Boogie x UVM Unity) for his own breeding program. "We bred her when she was three, she had her first foal when she was four, and the rest is history.

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### *Pot Of Gold*

1995 World Champion Stallion  
1995 World Champion Senior Stallion  
1994 World Champion Junior Stallion  
1994 Reserve World Champion Stallion

### *Man About Town LPS*

1997 World Champion Stallion  
1995 World Champion Junior Stallion  
1995 World Futurity Two-Year-Old Stallion Champion  
1995 Reserve World Champion Stallion

### *LPS The Boogie Man*

2007 World Champion Stallion  
2007 World Champion Senior Stallion  
2005 World Champion Stallion  
2005 World Champion Senior Stallion  
2004 World Champion Stallion  
2004 World Champion Senior Stallion  
2003 World Champion Stallion  
2003 World Champion Senior Stallion

### *Man In Motion*

2001 World Champion Stallion  
2001 World Champion Senior Stallion  
2000 World Champion Stallion  
2000 World Champion Senior Stallion

### *Town Assets*

2003 Reserve World Champion Junior Stallion  
2003 World Futurity Two-Year-Old Reserve Champion

*Lynn with Man About Town LPS as a youngster.*



“The way she was bred, she was power-packed with Morgan type and quality. I thought she had an awful lot to put in to her foals.” Which has proven to be so. “You can cross her with a larger, stretchier horse without losing the Morgan type.” She’s produced the world champions LPS The Boogiemán (by Man About Town LPS x), Fair Catch( Man In Motion x), and Town Assets (Man About Town LPS).

Lynn’s philosophy is that there are two consistent families of horses, and that when breeding, one should breed to a family of horses, rather to one individual. As a family, Lynn likes the cross of Masterpiece on Unique. This year, Unique has a baby by Bellerophon. Lynn is considering breeding her back to Man In Motion, since Kathy loved Fair Catch so much. Kathy is a great fan of Unique. “She stamps her babies remarkably well—they might not all look like each other, but she puts the personality, drive and ambition on each of them. They all want to work. Herself, Unique is a fair mix of both of her parents. You can see it all the time—after working both Boogie and Unity, you see all of the heart that they both have. Both Boogie and Unity rose to the occasion when they got to a horse show, and I think that you see that in all of her foals, too. Unique is out in the field, and if you shake a bag whip at that mare, she’ll put her tail up over her back and trot at the bag whip. She’s very smart and very bold, and has a ton of personality.”

“All the great broodmares are mares that have been bred to more than one stud and come back with a positive result.”

As a breeder, one is trained to look at the breeding individuals, but Lynn emphasizes their papers and their families; the history behind the horse. “Sometimes, you look at an individual who looks nothing like his family, and then you wonder why he doesn’t produce well, even though he’s the only one in the family who looks like that. It’s so much easier to look at a litter of puppies, to determine if it’s a good bitch or not. You have many more to look at. It takes so long to breed that many foals to determine if the mare is a good one or not, or who to breed her to.” Couple that with the fact that at Waterford, each of the mares have their own foals—there is no embryo transfer at Waterford, and it takes even longer to see how the mare will consistently produce. Lynn and Kathy are of the belief that each mare imparts her own personality and character traits on her foal, and that no Warmblood or Quarter Horse mare could ever raise their Morgan foals like their Morgan mares can.

Looking back at the history of the Waterford mares, Lynn quietly observes, the best ones are mares that have been bred to more than one stud and come back with a positive result. MI First Love and Honeytree’s Simply Unique are proof positive. ■