

≈ COLORFUL ≈

THEY WEAR THE BRAND, BAR NONE

Morgans bred by Harvey and Lois Seidel at their Bar None Ranch have a reputation as solid citizens. And they happen to be colorful.

By Laura Hornick Behning



It was the summer of 1974 when Harvey Seidel met his first Morgan horse.

The Dvarishkis family, members of the church where Harvey was the pastor, were going riding for the day at the Blackwater Memorial, located on the North Fork of the Shoshoni River just north of Cody, Wyoming. They invited Harvey to come along, and also offered to provide him with a suitable mount. Harvey, a horseman all his life, was happy to join them. “‘Here, ride this horse,’ I was told,” he remembers. “Someone then told me ‘Rowdy’ was 17 years old, and in my heart I was offended they offered me this ‘old’ horse to ride. But I didn’t say anything; after all, they brought the horses and the lunch!”

The trail was steep up Claxton Mountain, with many detours around deadfalls and washouts. “I quickly realized that what I was riding was not an ordinary horse,” Harvey continues. “He was full of drive. We were ahead of the others and arrived at the top of the mountain before everyone else. My first question was ‘Okay, what am I riding?’ They were all grinning and laughing and told me ‘he’s

a Morgan.’ That one experience convinced me on what I wanted to ride and raise.”

Harvey grew up on a farm in Iowa, where his family used horses to work the fields until they bought a tractor. Harvey remembers plowing corn with a favorite team of Percherons named Mag and Babe. He had to learn to ride bareback before ever being given a saddle and spent all of his spare time with the horses. “If I had to be disciplined,” he says, “they would take my horses away from me, as that was the worst punishment I could ever have.”

With plans to become a veterinarian, Harvey headed off to college, but a couple of things changed for him when he got there. “I went to Iowa State University and it was there that God called me into the ministry,” Harvey says. He met Lois, his wife of 57 years, while at Bible College in Omaha, Nebraska. The young couple became church planters, starting new churches mostly in Colorado and Wyoming and for 11 years in California and Arizona. For the last 25 years he has been pastor at First Baptist in Thermopolis, Wyoming.

ABOVE: The entrance to Bar None Ranch.



Harvey and Lois Seidel with Fletcher Betty J's 2019 grulla colt by TruWest Silver Suede, April 2019.

After that memorable ride up Claxton Mountain, Harvey became a frequent visitor at the Dvarishkis ranch in Hamilton Dome, near Thermopolis. A few years later he bought his first Morgan, the stallion Bombo (f. 1970, Beckridge Como x Midnite), from Ramul Dvarishkis. "When I went home and told Lois that I had bought a stallion for \$2,000 she about killed me," Harvey says. "We had four boys and money was tight. Besides that, she said 'he could die, and we would have nothing.' Incidentally, we bred enough mares to pay for him in two years. That helped with Lois liking him!"

Harvey has fond memories of Bombo, who became part of the Seidel family. "You could do anything with this stallion. He was quiet. We could let anyone ride him. All the kids learned to ride on Bombo. We drove him everywhere."

In the fall of 1979, Ramul gifted Harvey with an old mare that he thought would not make it through the winter. Her name was Shawnee Lass (f. 1960, Stetson x Quicktan). Shawnee Lass defied the odds and produced foals by Bombo for the next four years, with her final foal arriving in 1983 when she was 23. "I ended up buying several more mares over the years from Ramul," Harvey says. "With four boys, all horsemen, it took a lot to keep us going. At one time

we had an all-Morgan pack string and Morgan horses for all of us to ride. It was rather humorous to hear the other pack strings say, 'get off the trail, here come the Seidels.' Those all-Morgan strings never stopped, just showed the Morgan drive clear to the top of the mountain."

"When our ministry took us to California, we sold all the horses except Bombo," Harvey continues. "We took him with us. We moved back to Wyoming in 1994 and sold him to the Ridenoures in Lincoln, California. He lived until he was 35."

The Seidels settled in their current hometown of Thermopolis, and Harvey began to search locally for a new herd sire. He saw an advertisement for a Morgan stallion in the Riverton area, and asked Ramul, now retired and living nearby, if he would go along to take a look at the horse. "When we got there, we found a nearly 16 hand black stallion that had been used only for breeding," Harvey recalls. "He was owned by an outfitter who had bought this stallion to breed to draft mares to get big dude horses for his hunting program. We looked at the papers and found that his dam was Leesa Lass, out of Shawnee Lass. Remember, she was my first mare, given to me by Ramul. So, we liked the bottom line of this stallion's pedigree, and on the top was a stallion named H-Saracen,

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LEFT TO RIGHT: Famed Morgan breeder and horseman Ramul Dvarishkis had a founding influence on the Seidels and their Bar None Ranch; Bombo (Beckridge Como x Midnite), 1970 brown stallion, Ramul Dvarishkis up. Photo taken at the Wyoming State Fair in the mid 1970s.

by the famous Cross Ranch stallion, Chingadero.” A deal was made, and Harvey went home with his new herd sire—S Bar B Pierre Noire. Unbeknownst to Harvey, Pierre was hiding a little secret. He was actually a smoky black—a black horse carrying one cream gene—a colorful legacy inherited from his sire H-Saracen and grandsire, Chingadero.

S Bar B Pierre Noire was the first colt sired by H-Saracen, who was 14 when Pierre was born. H-Saracen had a reputation of being very gentle and easy to handle—he was jokingly nicknamed ‘Scary’ by his connections—and his firstborn was a chip off the old block. “Never, not even Bombo, had we had a stallion that was so trainable, personable and quiet,” Harvey says. “He was four years old and we broke him to ride and also to drive. One afternoon we decided to put him on a cart, and in 45 minutes he was being driven and Lois and I drove him all over the neighborhood.” Nothing seemed to faze the big black stallion; he could be ridden or driven among mares or geldings and he never once even turned a hair. One such occasion stands out in Harvey’s mind. “We were on a trail ride with about 20 riders, and one lady took it upon herself to announce to everyone I was riding a stallion and they should watch out for him. I said nothing. At the end of the ride, she came and apologized, saying she had never seen a stallion so well behaved.”

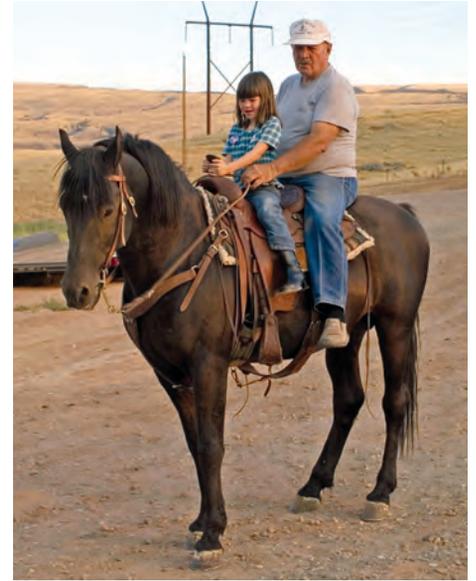
Pierre’s debut foal crop arrived in 1996, and with it came a revelation about the family’s new stallion. “The first mare we bred to Pierre was Ramuls Barby (Ramuls Rascal x Ramuls Belle),” Harvey says. “When her foal was born it was a beautiful palomino colt. I called Ramul to come and see it. I had not told him what it was. I walked with him to the corral, and when he looked in, he was surprised and said, ‘I never got anything like that!’ That was just

the beginning. We never would have dreamed what a rainbow of colors would come from Pierre. Buckskins, palominos, and blacks were his main colors, with a few chestnuts thrown in.” Not many people in the area had ever seen a colorful Morgan, and Pierre’s offspring proved quite popular. All told he sired just over 100 registered Morgan foals, many of whom reached or exceeded their sire’s 16 hand size.

Sadly, Pierre was euthanized at just 19 years of age in August of 2009, the result of a tumor that wouldn’t stop growing. The Seidels were heartbroken, wondering what to do next.

Bobbi Blankenship of TruWest Morgans in Glendive, Montana, had bred her bay dun mare, TruWest Adobe Rose (Robbi-Sue’s Success Story x Pure D Powder) to Pierre in 2007. “When Bobbi heard that Pierre had died, she called me and said, ‘Did you know that Adobe Rose had a grulla colt?’ I said no, and my hopes climbed high,” Harvey says. “That’s the good news,’ she reported, ‘but I sold him.’ My hopes fell. Bobbi continued, ‘But they didn’t pay for him and he is in an obscure town in Montana.’” Harvey left the next day to go see TruWest Silver Suede, who soon joined the herd at Bar None. He is following in his sire’s hoofprints in consistently producing large, colorful foals with quiet dispositions. Suede is a smoky grulla—he inherited a cream gene from his sire, and a dun gene from his dam. He has sired more than 60 foals to date, including the first homozygous red dun in the breed, a 2019 filly (out of Alpinemist Blessing) owned by Natalie Tanaka. “Suede meets the qualifications we have set for our breeding stallions,” Harvey says. “Our first requirement is that the stallion has an awesome disposition. You can’t build a breeding program unless your main stallion has that special attitude. A quiet, friendly spirit

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Harvey Seidel on the 2008 smoky grulla stallion TruWest Silver Suede (S Bar B Pierre Noire x TruWest Adobe Rose), April 2019 (photo by Chase White); The Lippitt mare Sandrock Nancy (Edgewood Ruger x Sandrock Jackie) and her 2012 bay dun colt Bar Non Rawhide (by TruWest Silver Suede); Harvey Seidel giving Alexandria Kreuger a ride on S Bar B Pierre Noire (H-Saracen x Leesa Lass), 1990 smoky black stallion; One of the Seidel's favorite mares is Bar Non Do Something (Robbi-Sue's Success Story x Bar Non Rachel), a bay foaled in 2005; Bar Non Bronze Amigo (S Bar B Pierre Noire x Sandrock Bridget) 2005 sooty palomino gelding (registered buckskin) and owner Vickie Travis on the trail.

with a willing heart is vital to our program.”

The distaff side is just as important at Bar None Ranch. “Lois and I planned on having just ten good broodmares,” Harvey says. “We had ten, from various places, and they were getting old. So, we bought or raised ten more. But the original ten didn’t die. Some of our older mares are in their 20s. I select mares based on disposition first, conformation is an important second, and after those color is a plus.” The broodmare band at Bar None now numbers close to 30 head. “We always have some who don’t breed or lose a foal, so we have 21 due this year,” Harvey says. “Last year we had 16, and the same the year before.”

One of Harvey’s favorite mares is Bar Non Do Something (Robbi-Sue’s Success Story x Bar Non Rachel), a bay mare foaled in 2005. “What in the world would you name a horse that for?” Harvey says with a smile. “Well, when she was a foal, she would see me come out into the corral and if she was way out in the pasture, she would just come running lickety split and come right to me and slide on all four feet and then look at me. I thought she was saying, ‘well, Harvey, let’s do something.’”

Another favorite around the ranch is the black mare Bar Non Wind Storm (Baptiste Winston Kodalta x Bar Non Windy Spring). Wind Storm’s tail female line goes back to Syringa Krystal Spring

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Harvey and his 2014 black gaited stallion Mtn Edge Black Chrome (GRN In The Black x Mary Mels Swinger), April 2019; The S Bar B Pierre Noire son Cleo's Chingadero Joe (palomino in the middle) and Harvey's granddaughter Bridget Seidel performing with their mounted drill team at the 2014 Cody Stampede Rodeo (photo by Melissa Hempken); Keith Seidel's 2005 palomino gelding Bar Non YellowJacket (S Bar B Pierre Noire x Ramuls Roxanne) wearing a saddle made by Keith; The palomino mare Bar Non Honey Bee (Bar Non YellowJacket x Bar Non Windy Spring) packing out an elk in the Colorado wilderness, led by Bar Non Independent Lass with Joe Harrison up; Joe Harrison and Bar Non Independent Lass (S Bar B Pierre Noire x Sandrock Nancy) work to hold a calf at a branding this spring.

(Kaptain Kish x Syringa Spring Glory), foaled in 1991, who was one of Harvey's first mares. Her smoky black son, Bar Non Pleasure (f. 2014, by TruWest Silver Suede), now stands in Germany for owner Ralf Schmiedel. His first foals arrived in 2017.

Of the non colorful mares at Bar None, three have stood out as being great producers for Harvey. These were the Lippitt mares Sandrock Dolly (f. 1998, Edgewood Ruger x Sandrock Jill), her dam Sandrock Jill (f. 1989, Moro Hill Maestro x Shamrock Shellaleh), and Sandrock Nancy (f. 2000, Edgewood Ruger x Sandrock Jackie). "I went to see Jerome Cole in Musselshell, Montana, and bought the last five mares he had. They were getting up in years. I only have one left, but I have one mare out of Sandrock Jill to perpetuate that bloodline." That mare is the beautiful buckskin Bar Non Jill (f. 2011, by Bar Non Bronze Amigo), who has produced two foals with the Bar Non prefix to date.

Harvey has had a strong interest in producing quality dun

Morgans since 2003, when he leased the stallion Robbi-Sue's Success Story (Robbi-Sue's Sweet Success x In-Glen Elation). In the broodmare band at Bar None are three outstanding dun mares, all daughters of Success Story. The first is the recently purchased 2003 bay dun TruWest Adobe Rose (Robbi-Sue's Success Story x Pure D Powder), who is the dam of Harvey's smoky grulla stallion, TruWest Silver Suede. Rose is bred for 2019 to the homozygous bay dun stallion, Amberfield's Blaze N Dun owned by Rafter Bar D Morgans, and Harvey is hoping for a homozygous dun foal. The other dun mares producing currently for Bar Non are R Anchor Burnished Beauty (Robbi-Sue's Success Story x R Anchor Octavia) and TruWest Glory B Dun (Robbi-Sue's Success Story x Truwest Shotta Glory). Beauty is expecting a 2019 foal by Suede, and Harvey is hoping for a homozygous dun with this cross as well.

Other notable colorfules in the current broodmare band at Bar None include the palominos Mary-Mels Sunbeam (f. 2008, Mary-

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Mels Brandy x Mary-Mels Jitterbug), Silvershoe Irish Rose (f. 2004, Silvershoe Sundust x Mary-Mels Rhapsody in Blu), and Mary-Mels Peaches (f. 2004, Jan Mabie Pace x Mary-Mels Gloworm), who are part of Harvey's new foray into breeding gaited Morgans. "One of my first mares was Tetonia Juliet," Harvey says. "Got her from the Neeleys. Bred to Pierre I obtained some wonderful foals. Most of Juliet's foals were gaited. They always sold quickly, and what a pleasure to ride." Many prospective clients were asking Harvey if he had any gaited Morgans, so he thought it might be time to add some to his herd. He purchased Mtn Edge Black Chrome (GRN In The Black x Mary-Mels Swinger), a 2014 black stallion, as a two-year-old from Jared Young. "Chrome is out of good Utah gaited stock but has a sire from Grundens, GRN In The Black," Harvey says. "I liked that because it had some outcross from the Utah gaited lines. I have been crossing my gaited stallion to non-gaited mares and the outcome has been amazing. So far all the foals have been gaited."

The Bar None mares and foals are moved to a mountain pasture by the first of July each year, where they stay until the first of November. The horses have to come down the mountain to drink and climb up to feed; the process builds good legs and lungs and teaches the youngsters how to navigate terrain. Harvey has a rented pasture that he uses for this purpose. "We take them up the road in trailers, where we unload and then drive them a couple miles up to the high pasture," he explains. "Then in the fall, the foals are big enough, so we trail them to a ranch where I pick them up and bring them home."

Most of the Bar None Morgans are sold to ranchers or as family horses. "When we first started, we kept some of the foals and would bring them along and train them ourselves," Harvey says. "But now we seem to have such a market that the foals are sold at weaning in November. Everything is sold at this time from last year and the year before. We don't have any older stock on the ranch, only our stallions and broodmares. We do breed a lot of local Quarter Horse mares, and the Quarter Horse mare crossed with the Morgan stallion is an excellent cross." The colorful foals

hold a special attraction for prospective buyers of Harvey's stock. "Today, everyone wants color. If it's a good horse it doesn't matter what color it is. But colored horses—palominos, buckskins, duns, grullas—they sell faster," Harvey says.

Two of the Seidel's sons, Jon and Keith, ride Morgans from their father's breeding program. Jon Seidel's mount is Bar Non Suede's Red Banner, a red dun gelding by TruWest Silver Suede out of Silvertip Sassy. Keith Seidel, who is an accomplished saddlemaker, owns Bar Non Yellowjacket (S Bar B Pierre Noire x Ramuls Roxanne). "Keith uses him for reined cow horse work as well as roping, or pleasure riding in Yellowstone, really anything," Keith's wife, Lisa, says. "Jack is Keith's go-to horse for everything, as Jack trusts Keith implicitly and will do anything he asks." Keeping it all in the family, Keith's daughter Bridget also rides a Pierre son, Cleo's Chingadero Joe (S Bar B Pierre Noire x Halstead's Misty). Bridget and Joe were part of a local mounted drill team that regularly performed at the Cody Stampede Rodeo.

Seeing is believing, and the Bar None Morgans have made converts to the Morgan breed wherever they go. Harvey tells a story about Rock Thompson and his mare Bar Non Sunshine (Do More Golden Dream x Cleo's Star). "He told me they took her to a branding and she pulled calves all morning and the Quarter Horses there were all worn out but she was still going strong. She pulled calves to the fire all afternoon too. He said, 'I could have sold her four times that day.'" The Harrison family of Meeker, Colorado, soon discovered those same qualities when they purchased the 2008 bay mare Bar Non Independent Lass (S Bar B Pierre Noire x Sandrock Nancy) as a yearling. "Lass is the epitome of the phrase 'small but mighty,'" Jessica says. "If you stretch the tape she barely makes 14 hands tall, but she makes up for her size with how much heart she has. She will pack a large man all day through rough country and never miss a step. She has tons of energy and go, but is still sane enough that an experienced kid could take her and never have any issues. She'll do anything you ask from packing wild game to crossing sketchy terrain to roping and dragging calves to the branding fire. When my husband and

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(S Bar B Pierre Noire X Truwest Adobe Rose) 2008 smoky grulla stallion

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Frances Phillips and her 2012 red dun gelding Bar Non Red Shadow (TruWest Silver Suede x APH Gilda Of Eastgate) at a Peter Campbell clinic in March 2016; Jerri Bartlett and her 2004 buckskin mare Bar-Non Dream Gold (S Bar B Pierre Noire x Ramuls Barby) in the Atlantic ocean at the 2013 American Heart Association Beach Ride, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Harvey with Bar Non Crosswind (S Bar B Pierre Noire x Seven Devils Windcharm) and her 2019 grulla colt by TruWest Silver Suede; Bar Non Bay Jewell (S Bar B Pierre Noire x Tetonia Juliet), foaled 1999, carries nine-year-old Jake Cesnik over a trail bridge (photo courtesy of Kristin Cesnik); Patti Keeler's 2011 buckskin mare Bar Non Chinook (Gone Gold x Bar Non Windy Spring) training in French classical dressage with Bethany Tuskey, April 2019.

I started dating he was a bona fide Quarter Horse man, but our Morgans have stolen his heart—and he has pretty much stolen my mare.” The Harrisons have purchased nine additional Morgans from Harvey since, including the palomino Bar Non Honey Bee (Bar Non Yellow Jacket x Bar Non Windy Spring), whose ‘puppy dog gentle’ disposition has made the mare their number one kids horse. “Most horses of any breed will not pack predators without some serious battles,” Jessica says. “The first time we went to pack a black bear on Honey Bee she didn’t even flinch and was actually licking the hide when we introduced it to her. Our horses have packed out elk, deer, bear, moose, and bighorn sheep. There isn’t a

single horse that we have from Harvey that isn’t a great pack horse and riding horse.”

The interestingly colored Bar Non Bronze Amigo (f. 2005, S Bar B Pierre Noire x Sandrock Bridget) caught the eye of Vickie Travis of Loveland, Colorado, as she was browsing the internet one day. Registered as buckskin, Amigo is actually a very dark, sooty palomino. Intrigued by his color, Vickie asked a friend to make the trip to Thermopolis with her to take a look. “I promised my husband that I would not be buying a horse and that this would just be a fun road trip,” Vickie says. “Well, needless to say, a week later my husband and I were heading back to Thermopolis to

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LEFT TO RIGHT: Bar Non Buckskin Beauty (Azkachina Bandit x Bar Non Crosswind) 2014 buckskin mare with owner Sue Olson; Bar Non Suedes Princess (Truwest Silver Suede x Bar Non Do Something), foaled 2014, is one of the few dunalinos in the breed. Owned and photographed by Sue Olson, Rafter Bar D Morgans.

bring Amigo home to Loveland. I bought him in 2011 and he is here for life.” Vickie and Amigo have done many things together—roping, moving cattle, and trail riding in the mountains. They also volunteer with the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, helping to patrol the Canyon Lakes District alongside the rangers there. “Amigo also has packed many skilled and unskilled riders including my granddaughters who are one and three years old,” Vickie continues. “I bought him thinking that he would be a wonderful Western dressage horse, and we are just beginning the training for that. Amigo will try anything—he is unflappable. He is a once in a lifetime horse, and I’m proud to have him.”

Frances Phillips of Floresville, Texas, purchased two Morgans from Harvey in 2015: the 2013 black gelding Bar Non Black Diamond (Azkachina Bandit x Seven Devils Windcharm) and the 2012 red dun gelding Bar Non Red Shadow (TruWest Silver Suede x APH Gilda Of Eastgate). Tragedy struck two years later when a rare fungal disease took Black Diamond’s life. Frances had just started him under saddle; the loss was devastating. Shadow suddenly had big shoes to fill. “I’m sure he was meant to help me become a better horsewoman,” Frances says. “He was very green. I have learned a lot with him and trained him myself. We go to training clinics and ride trails or around our property. He is comical in playing with the hose and anything he finds. He follows us around and always makes us laugh!” When Frances discovered there were gaps in Shadow’s training, she reached out for help. She attended clinics with Peter Campbell before his untimely passing, and currently works with trainer Noah Tillman-Young twice a month. “He is helping me with Shadow’s confidence, so we become a team,” Frances says. “I’m also training him in Working Equitation with Tarrin Warren. It takes time, patience and hours and hours of practice. I know we will get there. We are a team and he is a Morgan who chose me!”

Patti Keeler of Marengo, Illinois, had dreamt her whole life of

riding a palomino in a parade. She had talked to Harvey in email over the years about several of his palominos, but a visit to Bar None Ranch changed everything. “I got to meet Bar Non Chinook (Gone Gold x Bar Non Windy Spring) on the way home from my National Dog Show held in Portland, Oregon, that year,” Patti says. “She was wonderful, but not blond, and I talked myself out of her.” She went home without making a purchase but could not get the pretty buckskin mare out of her mind. “I started corresponding with Harvey about her. I think he knew she was just what I needed. He shared some personal stories about investing in the right things in our lives and made me a deal I couldn’t refuse. Chinook is perfect for me! I am not a confident rider, but she is steady as they come in spite of being young. We are learning French Classical Dressage together, and our trainer marvels at how well she remembers and moves on from one lesson to another since we go an average of four weeks between lessons.” And Patti’s dream of riding in a parade on a palomino? It came true—but on a buckskin instead! Chinook’s first time being ridden out of the arena came at the 2017 Cow Chip Parade in Sauk City, Wisconsin, an event she handled like an old pro. “Balloons, kids on skate boards, bands—nothing bothered her, though she was terribly interested in the motorcycle cop with all his red and blue lights flashing right behind us as we were the last unit in the parade,” Patti says. “She is amazing!”

Another Bar None Morgan making dreams come true is the buckskin mare Bar-Non Dream Gold (f. 2004, S Bar B Pierre Noire x Ramuls Barby). “Ever since I was a little girl, I had always wanted a buckskin Morgan,” says Jerri Bartlett of Hot Springs, Arkansas. “When I finally had the opportunity to look for one, I searched all over the country. I got lots of advice from wonderful breeders, which finally lead me to Harvey Seidel and Bar None Morgans. I looked through his current year’s foals and there she was, my Dream Gold. Harvey had the patience of a saint taking multiple videos, photographs and always willing to answer any questions

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LEFT TO RIGHT: Bar Non Canada Dry (Baptiste Winston Kodalta x Syringa Krystal Spring) 2007 palomino gelding, showing in-hand in England; A lot of local ranchers breed their Quarter Horse mares to Harvey's Morgan stallions. This team by S Bar B Pierre Noire (the black, named Matt) and Bar Non Bronze Amigo (the chestnut, named Doc) is a good example of the result. Owned by Lyle Spence.

and accommodate requests. He even let me name her." "Baby" has handled any task ever asked of her, including team penning, reining, trail riding, and even visiting a PetSmart, where the manager complimented Jerri on her mare's impeccable manners. Bred to NVS Midas, the mare produced Before The Storm in 2011, a palomino gelding who like his dam has become a most reliable trail mount. Jerri and Baby's biggest adventure to date was the 2013 American Heart Association Beach Ride, which covered 113 miles total as part of a wagon train that started in Hamer, South Carolina, and ended at Myrtle Beach. Funds raised from this annual event go towards heart disease and stroke research, a cause with deep meaning to Jerri as her mother had suffered a stroke in 1996. The trip took months of planning and fundraising, but shortly before Jerri departed for the trip, her mother succumbed to congestive heart failure. "I really didn't know how I could go on this trip without her continued encouragement," Jerri says. "But then I realized she was probably more with me now than before."

On October 24, 2013, Jerri and Baby arrived at the starting point for the wagon train, the Drigger family farm in Hamer. The next morning the group set off. "The first three days of the trip we traveled about 17 miles each, the fourth day only about 10 but the fifth and final day was the killer!" she says. "We traveled 25 miles during the day, then made camp for about six hours, then pushed on the last 15 miles into Myrtle Beach to our destination at midnight so the traffic would be minimal. Each night we camped near the roadside in a pre-designated clearing, usually near a store where we could use facilities or eat. Folks stopped by to see what we were doing, often asking if we were 'gypsies.' The children enjoyed petting and sitting on some of the horses and we usually received some additional donations. It was an awesome experience traveling with such wonderful folks and meeting so many more along the way. I was admittedly a bit nervous about taking my horse (who had never seen the ocean or walked on deep sand outside an arena) to the beach for the first time, but true to the Morgan blood in her veins, she walked right in like she had done it a million times!" At the ride's awards ceremony, Jerri learned she had been the top fundraiser for the event. She was awarded a brand-new Circle Y

saddle and interviewed by Tom Seay for an episode of his RFD TV show, *Best of America By Horseback*. No doubt Jerri's mom was smiling down from heaven.

A quiet disposition is typical of the Bar None stock, and nowhere is that more important than when the horse is ridden by a child. John and Cricket Hutchison of Cross Country Morgans in Billings, Montana, own Bar Non Bay Jewell (f. 1999, S Bar B Pierre Noire x Tetonia Juliet), who lives up to her name as the trusted mount for their grandson, eight-year-old Jake Cesnik. "Jewell is 16.1 hands and has the kindest heart," Jake's mother Kristen Cesnik says. "She calls for Jake and treats him like her foal. He rides her, moves cows with her, and shows her. She's priceless."

Two Bar None colorfules are members of the broodmare band at Rafter Bar D Morgans in Sarona, Wisconsin. Sue and Derrick Olson met Bar Non Buckskin Beauty (Azkachina Bandit x Bar Non Crosswind) while on a trip to California delivering horses. Beauty's then-owner, Betsy Bonyng, offered the mare to them, but they declined, as they really were not shopping for another horse. After they left, however, Sue could not stop thinking about Beauty. "We were a few hours away and it was Derrick who decided we needed to go back for her the next day," Sue says. "Beauty is definitely a big buckskin beauty! We love her gorgeous head and eye and her quiet friendly temperament. She is an example of great Western working bloodlines." The Olsons also own one of the very few dunalinos in the breed, Bar Non Suedes Princess (f. 2014, Truwest Silver Suede x Bar Non Do Something). "Princess is simply gorgeous!" Sue says. "She catches the eye of many visitors and loves attention. When we had the opportunity to add a rare dunalino to our breeding program from Harvey, we were honored. We really enjoyed meeting Harvey and Lois on our trip out West last year. Beautiful horses, wonderful hospitality, and great fun talking about Morgans."

Many of Harvey's sales have come via his website, which reaches buyers around the globe. His first overseas sales were a team of palomino geldings and a third matching gelding that went to England in 2010. Bar Non Zoes Zeke (Baptiste Winston Kodalta x Cleo's Zoe Ann) and full siblings Bar Non Cody and Bar Non Canada Dry (Baptiste Wintson Kodalta x Syringa Krystal

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LEFT TO RIGHT: Herding to the Summer Pasture (photo by Melissa Hempken); The bay dun gelding Bar Non Traveler (TruWest Silver Suede x Bar Non Windy Spring), pictured as a foal on summer pasture with part of the Bar Non broodmare and foal band, summer 2012.

Spring) are owned by Sealmaster Fire/Weather Seals. Bar Non Canada Dry was shown in an in-hand British qualifier for their National Championships. “He showed well and won his class [world breeds],” Harvey says. “He went on to beat all winners of the 12 other breed classes. There was another section of 12 classes for ridden breeds and types and in the final Championship of the 24 class winners he won Supreme Show Champion.”

Another Bar None Morgan who made the trip over the pond is the 2006 buckskin mare Bar Non California (S Bar B Pierre x TruWest Si Si Pasadena) who now resides in Switzerland with Andrea Penn. Currently, two more Bar None Morgans are awaiting transport to Germany. Yet another exciting overseas opportunity arrived in the spring of 2018, when Lisa Wong from Australia contacted Harvey about acquiring some frozen semen from TruWest Silver Suede. “Finding a place that was authorized to freeze semen for shipment to Australia was hard,” says Harvey. “Finally, we decided on the Oklahoma City Equine Clinic, and after our breeding season here we shipped Suede to Oklahoma. He was there a month and they collected semen for me and for them. We sent enough for 16 breedings. The semen didn’t get to Australia till the end of their breeding season, but they did get two mares in foal.” The arrival of Suede foals in Australia not only widens their Morgan gene pool but has the added potential of bringing the dun gene to that continent.

Forty-two years of experience with Morgans has only further cemented Harvey’s belief that he made the right breed choice. “When we started raising Morgans we found out quickly they are the go-to horse for most anyone,” says Harvey. “They can do anything they are asked to do from roping, cutting, trail, driving, and packing. One of the unique things about a Morgan is they don’t have to be retrained if you don’t ride them often. Where you left them the last time you got off is where they are when you get back on.” The sensibility and intelligence of the breed are also valued

traits at Bar None. “On one occasion we had a gelding get his foot caught in a field drag. I watched him and he just stood there and stood there. Finally, I went out and his front leg was wedged in between one of the bars on the drag. He waited patiently while I maneuvered it out. He did ask me why I took so long,” Harvey says with a smile.

Bar None Ranch has been one of the very few Morgan operations featured in *The Western Horseman*, a magazine typically focused on Quarter Horses. “One day Melissa Hempken stopped by and told me she had been commissioned to do an article for the *Western Horseman* on Bar None Morgans. Needless to say, I was surprised,” Harvey says. Melissa made an appointment to look at Harvey’s stock, visited Keith in Cody and took pictures at each location. She also made arrangements to go along when they took the mares and foals up to their mountain pasture in late June. “She then brought the pictures back and showed them to me and sent the packet to *The Western Horseman* and they chose the ones they wanted. She spent a lot of time here at the ranch,” Harvey continues. The article, titled “Sturdy Under Saddle,” appeared in the October 2014 issue, and there were a lot of calls and positive comments after it ran. “People still ask ‘aren’t you the folks that *Western Horseman* featured a few years ago?’” Harvey says.

The Bar None brand has a special significance for Harvey, as it reflects his life calling in ministry for the Lord. “God will ‘bar none’ who come to him in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,” Harvey says. “The bar none brand was an old ranch brand. For years I kept after the Wyoming brand commission asking if it was available. The answer was always no. Then one day in the mid ’70s they called and said the owners had just released it and if I wanted it, I could register it to me. So, Lois and I quickly paid the fee and we have had it ever since.” More than 220 Bar None Morgans since have worn that brand. It stands as a tribute to the spirit of the Morgan horse, a breed willing and able to do anything, “bar none.” ■