



≈ HISTORY LESSON ≈

The California Morgans of WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

Did you know that the eccentric American publisher, art-collector and builder of the famous San Simeon castle, also bred Morgan horses for ranch work?

By Brenda L. Tippin

The story of the Hearst Morgans is one intertwined with the building of California, steeped in the history of the ancient vaqueros, yet overshadowed by a magnificent castle and a giant family corporation still in existence today. Although the short-lived program was not begun until William Randolph Hearst was in his late 60s, like everything else Hearst, the Morgan breeding was conducted on a grand scale. Shaped by the fascinating story of the Hearst family and the early Vaquero traditions, the Hearst Morgan has left a lasting influence on the Morgans of today, especially those of performance and Western working lines.

HEARST FAMILY BACKGROUND

William Randolph Hearst was born April 1863 to George Hearst and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, both of Missouri. George Hearst, born into farming, had little formal education, but a natural aptitude for geology. He had studied mining and had worked

some local lead mines in Missouri. His father had died when he was about 22, leaving some \$10,000 in debt, a huge amount for those times. George worked hard to care for his mother, sister, and a crippled brother who later died, and succeeded in paying off these debts. With news of the California Gold Rush he made his way to San Francisco after a difficult journey across country, and from there, began to try his fortunes in various mining camps, and also buying and selling mining shares.

His first real success came with the Ophir Mine of the Comstock Lode, the famous silver mines of Nevada. In 1853, George Hearst formed a partnership with James Ben Ali Haggin and Lloyd Tevis. Haggin and Tevis were lawyers and investors from Kentucky who owned a law firm in Sacramento, as well as the famous Rancho del Paso, a Mexican land grant near Sacramento. Hearst, Haggin, Tevis & Co. would grow to be the largest private firm of mine owners in the United States. Besides setting the stage for the Hearst family wealth, it was George

Above: Californios roping cattle near Mission San Jose. Much of the Hearst land had been used for cattle ranching dating back to the early Missions. William Randolph Hearst was proud of the vaquero history. The Morgans reminded him of the horses of the early Californios such as these. Inset: William Randolph Hearst at San Simeon on an unidentified horse of Morgan blood (Photos ©Hearst Castle ©CA State Parks).



Hearst's association with Haggin and Tevis that inspired him to begin acquiring land grants and ranchos of his own and to expand his natural interest in horse breeding. All three men were associates of Leland Stanford and acquired trotting stock from him and other California breeders, including some horses tracing to Morgan blood (see Stanford article in February 2013). Other contemporaries of these men included Salinas cattle rancher Jesse D. Carr, who worked in mining, staging, and also served in the California State Legislature. Carr used Morgans on his ranch and also his stage teams for carrying the mail. He owned the stallion Redfield's Vermont (Independence x daughter of Royal Morgan) who carried two crosses to Justin Morgan in six generations, five in five generations, and two more in four generations. Bred by Judge Redfield of Vermont* (**author's note —this Judge Redfield was uncle to Senator Redfield Proctor who later helped establish the US Government Morgan Horse farm*), he was also sire of a number of fast trotters.

Hearst and Haggin both owned some trotting horses, and both would go on to develop successful Thoroughbred racing stables, as well. As to the horses used by George Hearst's vaqueros, records of these were not kept, but it is likely some of these also were of Morgan blood as the early California Morgans were already being recognized as excellent for ranch work on large spreads such as Carr's and Haggin's. Haggin was known to stand the Morgan stallion Bismark (David Hill 2nd x Flora Temple by McCracken's

Black Hawk), a double great-grandson of Black Hawk 20. George Hearst was known to trade horses with these men and it is probable that at least some of the horses he acquired for his vaqueros were of Morgan blood.

Returning to Missouri to care for his mother in her final illness, George Hearst renewed his acquaintance with a young neighbor, 19-year-old Phoebe Apperson, who had blossomed into a lovely young lady during his absence. They married in 1862 despite the protests of Phoebe's parents who thought George at 41, was too old for their daughter, and he took her back to California. Young William was born the next year.

INVESTING IN LAND

By 1865, George Hearst began to invest his newfound wealth in land, and following the example of his mining partners, purchased 30,000 acres of the 48,806 acre Piedra Blanca Rancho. "Piedras Blancas," meaning "white rocks" in Spanish, was the name given by Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo to the imposing cliffs painted white by the thousands of sea birds roosting there, when he discovered San Simeon Bay in 1542. The name still remains attached to the Hearst Ranch today. George Hearst also acquired 1,340 acres of the Rancho Santa Rosa at this time, adding the 4,469 acre Rancho San Simeon in 1867. All of these were old Mexican land grants which would form the nucleus of ranch lands passed on to his son, and he continued to add to these holdings as

Above (left to right): Senator George Hearst, 1820-1891. His mining success, love of horses, and acquisition of ranchos from Mexican land grants set the stage for the Morgan horse breeding program of his son, William Randolph Hearst. It is likely that at least some horses on George's early ranchos were of Morgan blood as his partners used them; Phoebe Apperson Hearst, wife of Senator George Hearst and mother of William Randolph Hearst. Phoebe instilled in her son a love of art and architecture (Library of Congress, photo by Frances Benjamin Johnston, 1895); William Randolph Hearst; Inset: Millicent Wilson Hearst, wife of William Randolph Hearst and mother of Hearst's five sons. After 1926 Millicent lived primarily in New York due to Hearst's involvement with actress Marion Davies. However she remained close friends with her husband, and they continued to speak frequently by phone until he died. Millicent never complained—she was Mrs. William Randolph Hearst. Miss Davies was not. Millicent sometimes returned to San Simeon as official hostess for important guests such as Winston Churchill.



Left to right: James Ben Ali Haggin, mining partner of George Hearst, who owned Morgan horses including the Morgan stallion Bismark (David Hill 2d x Flora Temple by McCracken's Black Hawk) at his Rancho del Paso. J.G. McCracken, owner of Bismark's sire David Hill 2d, refused \$10,000 in gold for this horse when gold was worth \$2.50 in paper; One of the mines on the Comstock Lode, Virginia City, near George Hearst's first successful silver mine; Dutton Hotel, Jolon, CA was a stage stop often used by miners and was familiar to George Hearst. His son William Randolph Hearst later acquired this land around 1920 to add to his Hearst Ranch holdings. The location is very near the Milpitas Hacienda and old Mission San Antonio de Padua (Photo by C. C. Pierce & Co., Los Angeles).

previously sold portions of the ranchos became available.

These lands were part of two historic missions, and as such had already been home to large cattle and horse breeding operations for nearly a hundred years by the time they came into the Hearst family. Mission San Antonio de Padua was the third of California's 21 missions, established by Father Serra in 1771. Mission San Miguel Arcangel, adjacent to the south, was the 16th mission, established by Father Lasuen in 1797. With Mexico's independence from Spain in 1821, the missions became secularized, and the buildings of San Miguel and San Antonio were falling into ruins. Later, fascinated by this part of California history, William Randolph Hearst donated land and \$50,000 for the restoration of Mission San Antonio de Padua, and eventually set up a fund of \$500,000 to be donated by the Hearst Corporation for restoring all California's missions.

Don Jose Jesus de Pico became administrator of these lands, reserving the 136 square mile Rancho Piedra Blanca for himself, receiving the grant in 1840. His friend Jose Mariano Estrada obtained grants for the Rancho San Simeon and the Rancho Santa Rosa for his two sons. The Estrada family had retained 160 acres of the Rancho Santa Rosa for themselves, and George Hearst bought this piece when Julian Estrada died in 1876. Julian's oldest son, Francisco, who was nicknamed "Pancho," had been managing the ranch for his father, and came to work for the Hearsts at that time. Already a master vaquero of the old Spanish traditions at just 17 years old, he would remain with the Hearst family more than 60 years and taught four generations of Hearsts to ride. Young William was taught by his father to always address Estrada as "Don," the Spanish title of respect, and would later impart the same instructions to his own sons, and he became affectionately known as "Don Pancho."

Meanwhile, although George had made a great deal of money with the Ophir Mine, it would be several more years before his fortunes were secure, and Phoebe, a young mother at 20 years of age, was left to her own resources a great deal of the time. A former schoolteacher, she made use of the time to expand her own interests in history and the arts, and to instill culture and education into her young son. When William was ten years of age, she took him on a grand tour of Europe that lasted for eighteen months.

During these early years, it seemed to young William that he and his mother were either traveling or visiting relatives much of the time while his father was away at the mines. Understandably, he came to cherish the times they were together. These would often involve family camping trips with long, difficult horseback rides to the steep rugged place they called "Camp Hill," near the site of what is now Hearst Castle. It was not surprising that William became more attached to this place than any other, and would later choose to make it his home. He once wrote to his mother that he would rather spend a month at San Simeon than anyplace else in the world.

Finally, in 1877, George Hearst's mining enterprises were firmly established when he and his partners bought the Homestake mine in the Black Hills of Lead, South Dakota. This proved to be a very large body of ore which continued producing through 2001 with a total yield of 39.8 million ounces of gold and nine million ounces of silver through the course of its operation. His finances secure, George Hearst settled down to developing his Piedra Blanca Rancho, and pursuing his interests of politics, acquiring land, and breeding horses. In 1880, he won a San Francisco paper, *The Examiner* in a gambling debt, and although he was not particularly interested in newspaper publishing, chose to keep it to further his political interests.



The lobby of the San Francisco Examiner building, Spanish Renaissance architecture designed by Julia Morgan. The Examiner was William Randolph Hearst's first newspaper and the building was Julia Morgan's first project for William Randolph Hearst.

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

Primarily due to his mother's urging, William began to prepare himself for Harvard. He endured three years of studies, becoming editor of the school newspaper, *The Harvard Lampoon*. After failing to improve his focus during a period of academic probation, the dean felt he was not a good example for the other students, and no amount of persuasion on Phoebe's part would change the dean's mind, so William was unable to return for his final year.

1886 proved a notable year for the Hearst family, as George was finally chosen to fill a vacancy in the U.S. Senate, and was afterward elected to a full term, a post he kept until his death in 1891. Also, after receiving notice of the surrender of the famous Indian Chief Geronimo, he was able to purchase most of the Babicora ranch near Chihuahua, Mexico, at just 20 to 40 cents per acre. William, who shared his father's passion for buying up land, was jubilant, and on visiting the new ranch wrote his mother that he didn't see what was to prevent them from owning all of Mexico and running it to suit themselves.

The Babicora Ranch, grew to over 1.5 million acres, survived looting under Pancho Villa during the Mexican Revolution, and was later among the properties William inherited on his mother's death.

However, at this time, he declined his father's offer to take over management of the Babicora, and managed to convince his father to allow him to take over *The Examiner*, which had been failing badly. He was able to turn it around and this was the start of the Hearst publishing empire.

Upon the death of George Hearst, he left control of all the finances with Phoebe, and she continued to manage the estate, although she was generous with her only son. In 1903, on the eve of his 40th birthday, William was married to 22-year-old Millicent Wilson who bore him five sons, including twins. The family

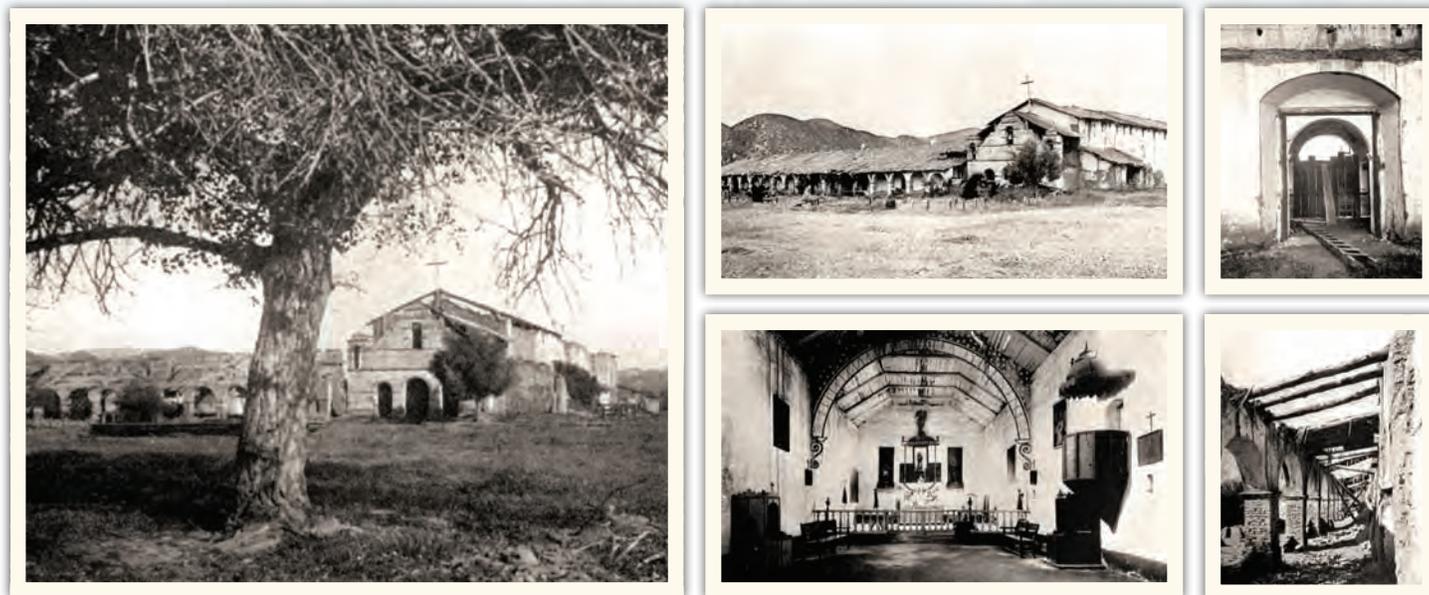
expeditions to Camp Hill continued, and the boys also enjoyed long visits staying with their grandmother during the summers.

THE FIRST HEARST CASTLE

William Randolph was not the first Hearst to build a castle—it was his mother. In 1900, Phoebe was invited by her attorney, Charles Wheeler, to visit his ranch on the McCloud River, near Mt. Shasta. She wanted to buy the land for a building site, and Wheeler, not wishing to sell, finally gave her a 99-year lease on part of the land. She contracted with architect Bernard Maybeck to design a stately seven-story castle in the Gothic style of the medieval Rhine River castles of Germany. Calling the place Wyntoon after the local Wintu Indian tribe, the place had 75 miles of horseback trails and was a favorite retreat of her grandsons.

JULIA MORGAN, ARCHITECT— A RELATIVE OF JUSTIN MORGAN

It was also Phoebe who first discovered the famous architect, Julia Morgan. A brilliant young woman Julia was in fact a distant relative of Justin Morgan, the singing master who owned the original Morgan horse. Her father was a direct descendant of James Morgan, a brother of Miles Morgan, grandfather of Justin. Julia's passion was architecture, but as U.C. Berkeley did not yet have a program in this, she chose to prepare herself with a degree in civil engineering, graduating in 1894. She was also a protégée of Bernard Maybeck, who encouraged her to study at the prestigious *École Nationale Supérieure Des Beaux-Arts* in Paris where he had distinguished himself. Julia failed twice in passing the entrance exam to the school, and then learned the professors had deliberately failed her in order to discourage female students. Determined, she tried again, and was finally admitted, becoming



Old Mission San Antonio de Padua, clockwise from left: *William Randolph Hearst spent about \$50,000 for restoration of this Mission, located about one mile from his Milpitas Hacienda; The Mission as it looked when Hearst added the lands to his ranch. It was part of his hunting game reserve; A doorway and ruined corridors; Chapel interior.*

the first woman to receive a degree from the famous school in 1902. Phoebe had been introduced to Julia while touring Paris with the Maybecks, and was so impressed with Julia; she offered to help finance her studies. Julia was deeply grateful for this offer, but graciously declined. Phoebe did not forget her however, and Julia's first project when she returned home involved working on the Hearst Memorial Mining Building. This structure, which cost over \$1 million, was Phoebe's gift to U.C. Berkeley, erected in honor of her husband. Julia also assisted Maybeck with the final work on Phoebe's Wynton Castle. Although Hearst projects would keep her busy for the rest of career, and Julia is best known for her design of the Hearst Castle, she was the first woman architect licensed in California and went on to design nearly 800 buildings.

LA CUESTA ENCANTADA

With the death of Phoebe Hearst in 1919, William Randolph Hearst directed his vast inherited wealth into the building of a palatial home near the site of his favorite spot, Camp Hill, engaging the services of Julia Morgan. He called the place simply "The Ranch," and as the magnificent structure took shape under Julia's design, he referred to it as "La Cuesta Encantada," or "Enchanted Hill." The work began in 1919 and would continue for the next 28 years, never being completely finished. The "Castle" would grow to include the large "Casa Grande" with a total of 115 rooms, with 38 bedrooms, 42 bathrooms, and 30 fireplaces, as well as three large guest houses which were mansions in their own right. There were also extensive gardens and two large pools, the indoor Roman pool being inlaid with gold, and a 40 stall stable for the horses behind La Casa Grande. Hearst also assimilated the world's largest private zoo at San Simeon, complete with all kinds of animals. These included giraffes, camels, bison, lions, tigers, polar bears, zebras,

an elephant, chimpanzees, and many more. La Cuesta Encantada was ready for full time occupancy in 1927. Following would be 20 years of lively entertainment that would include many of Hollywood's brightest stars as guests. It was in a way, a memorial to both Hearst's parents, as it allowed him to gather in one place an enormous collection of art treasures his mother had taught him to love, as well as continuing his father's passion for acquiring land. At one time, the Hearst Ranch extended to 250,000 acres.

THE HORSES

Like everything Hearst did, he did not enter into horse breeding lightly, and just as his philosophy of hiring the best writers such as Jack London and Mark Twain contributed to the success of his newspapers, he wanted only the best horses for his ranches. He began to develop his horse breeding operations, especially focusing on breeding ranch horses with the stamina and performance ability to handle the rugged country.

Having served a brief term in Congress as a representative from New York from 1903-07, Hearst had been aware of Senator Redfield Proctor's impassioned arguments in 1904 to establish a Government program of breeding Morgan horses, and was part of the congressional hearings to first establish the U.S. Government Morgan Horse Farm. Deeply patriotic, he also recognized the Morgan as the first truly American breed of horse, and appreciated the Government's involvement in preserving it.

Also, there was something else. The Morgan horse appealed to his sense of art, reminding Hearst of the horse of ancient paintings and sculptures that had so impressed his mind as a boy visiting Europe. The Morgan also reminded him of the Spanish horse of the old Californios, and seemed a natural part of the dream he envisioned for his La Cuesta Encantada.



Hearst Castle – La Cuesta Encantada (Photo © Hearst Castle ®CA State Parks).

Design for The Ranch was underway, and Hearst planned to do a lot of entertaining. One of the things he wanted was for his guests to be able to enjoy riding. He had Julia Morgan encircle the hill for more than a mile with a pergola planted with grapevines and espaliered fruit trees, which he instructed to be “tall enough for a tall man with a tall hat on a tall horse.”

Hearst also commissioned Julia to design a smaller hacienda near the northern boundaries of his ranch, close to the tiny settlement of Jolon and less than a mile from the historic Mission San Antonio de Padua. The Milpitas Hacienda was built to house cowboys, and also to serve as a destination for Hearst’s more adventuresome guests who were brave enough to accompany him from La Casa Grande on the rigorous 30 mile ride through the brushy rattlesnake infested country. To keep in touch with his expanding newspaper enterprises, Hearst strung a telephone line along the 36 cowboy camps of the ranch all along this route clear to Jolon.

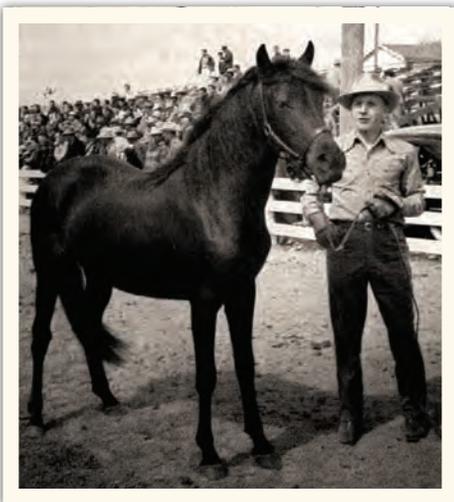
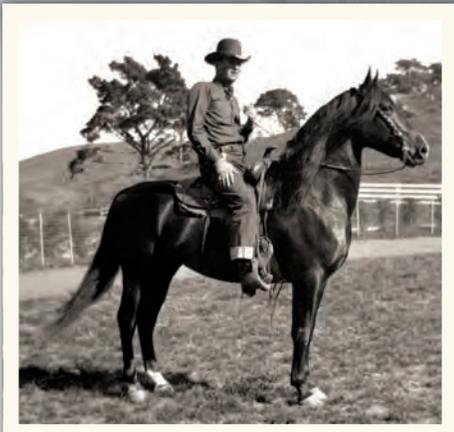
In 1921 he hired the cowboy Charlie Parlet, then just a boy, who would work for the Hearst Ranch for 60 years, eventually becoming foreman. An expert in roping, Charlie taught many of the younger men, as well as teaching green horses how to handle themselves when facing a steer or calf, and to keep the rope taut. Hearst’s cousin Randolph Apperson, a son of Phoebe’s brother, was superintendent of the ranch for many years.

Hearst made the acquaintance of California rancher Roland Hill, who owned the Horseshoe Cattle Company, and was impressed with his beautiful Morgans, finished bridle horses in the old Vaquero style. Hill also gave him an understanding of the bloodlines he was using, which he had found well suited for the ranch work he needed. In 1929, Hearst purchased his first group of carefully selected young Morgan mares from Roland Hill. Most of these were two-year-olds with a few yearling fillies thrown in.

Two were daughters of Querido (Bennington x Artemesia by Ethan Allen 3rd), one of Hill’s Government bred stallions, and a grandson of Government foundation stallion General Gates (Denning Allen x Fanny Scott by Revenue Jr.). The rest were sired by the excellent stallion Pongee Morgan (Allen King x Galva by Billy Herod), a beautiful chestnut with silvery mane and tail, bred by J.C. Brunk of Illinois. The dams of all these mares had been bred by Richard Sellman on his famous Mountain Vale Cattle Ranch in Texas. Most of them were daughters of Red Oak (5249) (General Gates x Marguerite by White River Morgan), Texas Allen (Easter Allen Morgan x Bessie Morgan by Flying Morrill), and Headlight Morgan (Peters’ Ethan Allen 2nd x Lady Stratton by Vermont Morgan).

In July of 1930, Hearst acquired the stallion Uhlan (Bennington x Poinsetta by Troubadour Of Willowmoor) from the U.S. Government Farm. Uhlan sired a total of 17 registered Morgan foals, 13 of them for Hearst. However, it is known that Hearst kept him at his Babicora Ranch in Mexico for a period of at least three years to improve the stock there. According to Austine Hearst, wife of William Randolph Hearst Jr., who wrote the beautiful book *The Horses of San Simeon*, the well-known Quarter Horse mare Supreso traced her ancestry to Uhlan’s Mexico stay and there were doubtless others. Another clue is found in Volume VI of the Morgan Register, with the mare Monita Gift, who was by Montabell and out of an unregistered mare named Neita, who was bred by Hearst at the Babicora Ranch. Breeding records also suggest Hearst followed a similar practice with many of the mares, rotating the stock between San Simeon and Babicora. Horses bred at Babicora were unfortunately not registered, so those lines were lost to the breed. The foaling patterns for the mares further indicate a high percentage of filly foals, with some gaps between years, indicating that probably Hearst, like Hill, Sellman, and other

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ranchers, did not register a majority of the geldings that were retained for ranch work.

At the end of the 1937 breeding season, Uhlan was sold to R.G. Stewart who owned the Rancho Dos Vientos in Camarillo, California, and finally in 1941 transferred to F.D. McCulloch's Lucky Seven Ranch in McDermitt, Nevada, siring no more registered foals after that.

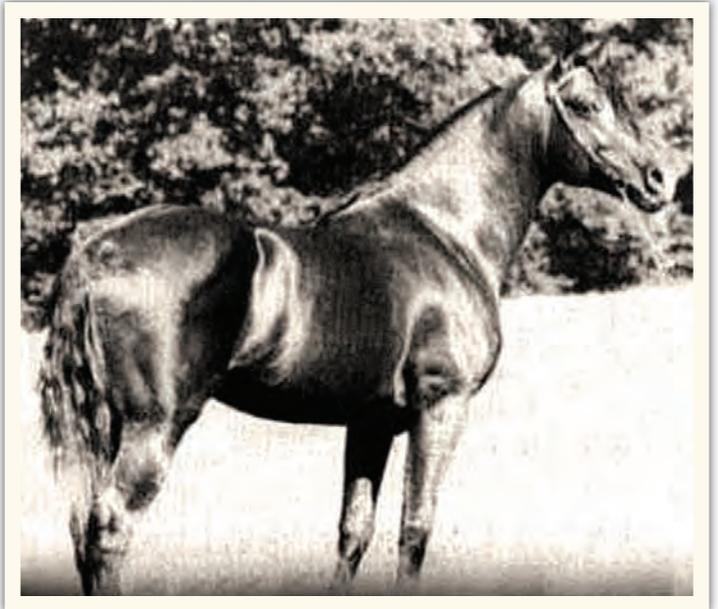
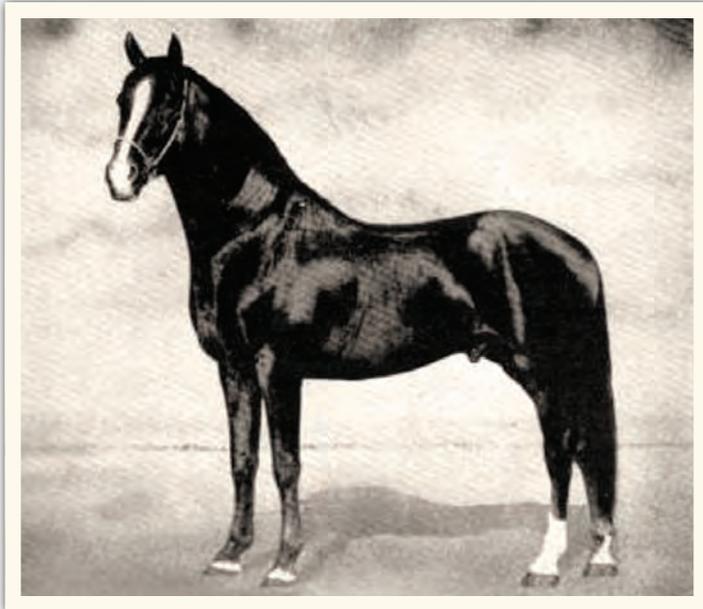
Hearst kept the stallion Katrilan (x Katrina Q [Querido x Rokit by Red Oak]) from his last crop of Uhlan foals. A favorite of Hearst's, Katrilan was kept at San Simeon until 1949 when the remaining Morgans were finally dispersed. Katrilan sired 24 registered foals for the Hearst program. His son, Katrilan Prince (x Princess Allen [Querido x Tab by Texas Allen]) was also used in the Hearst breeding program and then sold to J. Clark Bromiley of Waterford, CA. Bromiley bred Katrilan Prince to the Hill mare Roseta May (Sonfield x Roseta Mala by Joaquin Morgan) to produce the stallion Trilson. Trilson sired just six foals for Bromiley before his promising career was cut short when a frustrated farrier threw his rasp, accidentally stabbing him. Bromiley bred him to the full sisters Flika and Bess Gates (Gay Mac x Bessie Ro [Querido x Roboss]) to produce the famous stallions Muscle Man and Dapper Dan, both foaled in 1951—the year Hearst died. Both winners of many California shows, these two stallions alone would assure the Hearst bloodlines a powerful role in shaping many Morgan breeding programs on the West Coast. Retained by Bromiley most of his life, Muscle Man sired a total of 103 foals. Dapper Dan became the foundation sire for Fran and Edith Kellstrom's program (Kelly's Morgans), siring 108 foals.

That same year, the Castle at Wynton, which Hearst had purchased from the Wheeler estate after his mother's death, burned down. Julia Morgan was called to the rescue again. Originally, an eight story Gothic style Bavarian castle with two great towers and more than 60 bedrooms was planned as a replacement. To acquire authentic stone for the project, Hearst paid \$97,000 for the Santa Maria de Ovila, a 700-year-old Cistercian monastery in Spain which he had taken apart and shipped to a warehouse in San Francisco at a cost of nearly \$1 million. However, by 1931, the Great Depression was causing severe strain on Hearst's income and he was forced to scale back the \$50 million project. Instead he had Julia design a Bavarian Village, composed of several guest houses constructed in medieval style.

Despite these setbacks, Hearst did not cut back on his horse breeding operation. He acquired eight more mares from Roland Hill in June of 1931. These were all daughters of Querido, out of Sellman-bred mares. Sending Uhlan and several of the mares to improve the stock at his Babicora ranch in Mexico, Hearst next purchased the Sellman bred stallion Mountcrest Sellman (Joe Bailey x Kitty E). Kitty was a daughter of The Admiral, sired by Jubilee De Jarnette and out of the famous mare Morrill Queen (Winnebago Chief x Olive by Monogram, tracing to the Justin Morgan son Bulrush through both her sire and dam). The dam of Joe Bailey was also a daughter of The Admiral. Mountcrest Sellman, which Hearst registered to his newly formed Piedmont Land & Cattle Company, sired 40 foals, 35 of them for Hearst.

The Hearst-bred stallion Kenelm

Left (top to bottom): *Morgan stallion Uhlan (Bennington x Poinsetta by Troubadour Of Willowmoor) (©Hearst Castle ©CA State Parks); Pico Chief (Uhlan x Kitty Pongee) was a Hearst bred son of Uhlan with many Western Working Morgan descendants today; Katrilan Prince (Katrilan x Princess Allan) third generation of stallions owned by Hearst; Chuckanut Hacienda (Katrilan x Hacienda Dot) second generation Hearst breeding, both her sire and dam being bred by Hearst. This mare was dam of 12 foals including the stallion Classy's Pride (x Classy Boy) owned by T Bone Ranch in Nebraska. Classy's Pride sired 48 foals, many of them excellent ranch and stock horses, among them the famous mare T-Bone Buttons who won Grand National and World Championship titles for Novice Cutting and Cutting Futurity in 1973, and the Grand National Championship Morgan Stock Horse Cup in 1974. Buttons was owned by Dick Nelson who bred two daughters from her that went to Roy & Patsy Foote's Treasure Morgans in Superior, MT.*



Left to right: Many Morgans, including all the descendants of Primavera Valdez and Gay Vaquero, trace to Hearst breeding through the stallion Montabell (*Mountcrest Sellman x Jinglebells*). Foaled in 1936 and registered by the Hearst Sunical Land & Packing Corporation, he was the sire of 43 foals and grandsire to **Vaquero Mac** (*Ro Mac x Oh-Cee's Gift by Montabell*), the source of the Hearst Montabell line.

Morgan (Mountcrest Sellman x Sunbeam Maid [Pongee Morgan x Sonna by Sooner, son of Headlight Morgan]) was owned by Charles C. McGonegal, Sunol Morgan Horse Ranch in Sunol, CA, and was a finished bridle horse. McGonegal was a World War I veteran who had lost both his arms cushioning the blow of an enemy grenade, saving several buddies from death. He learned to be quite adept with prosthetic hooks and continued to ride.

Altogether, 111 registered Morgans were produced from the Hearst program with the last foals being born in 1949. The Piedmont Land & Cattle Company was eventually replaced by Hearst Sunical Land and Packing Corporation. Several were bred by Hearst himself, but many were registered under the names of these two companies. Later horses were registered under the name of Sunical Land & Livestock Department, Hearst Magazines Inc. Prefixes used included both Piedmont and Hacienda, but most of the horses had no prefix.

The Morgans and other Hearst Ranch horses often participated in local rodeos, cutting, reining, and roping contests. Don Pancho Estrada, his horse and Vaquero costume resplendent with Mexican silver, would preside over the events as Grand Marshall of the Day. He was Grand Marshall of the Day for Cambria's Eighth Annual Rodeo in 1935, when he was 82 years old. He passed away the next year at the age of 83, having spent his whole life ranching at San Simeon, and more than 60 years working for the Hearsts.

THE MORAB

In the mid-1930s, Hearst obtained some prized Arabian stock at a dispersal of William Robinson Brown's Maynesboro Stud Farm in Berlin, New Hampshire. Brown had acquired many of his horses from the North African desert, and others from the famous Crabbet Park stud, and Lady Ann Blunt of England. Some of these he began to

experiment with crossing on the Morgan lines. The usual pattern was to breed the Morgan mares to the Arabian sires and a few of the best of these crosses he registered as Morgans under Rule II. In one case, he took this a step farther, breeding the mare Pontez, sired by the noted Arabian stallion Antez and out of the Morgan mare Pondette (Pongee Morgan x Roda by Red Oak) to Mountcrest Sellman. This cross resulted in the beautiful Antman, foundation sire for Sid Spencer. Hearst was the first to coin the term "Morab" to define the Morgan-Arabian cross. He further experimented in breeding Appaloosas and Palominos, and Morgan blood was also used for these; however breeding records were not kept of these horses.

IMPACT OF HEARST MORGANS

Although Hearst's program was relatively short-lived, the Hearst Morgans excelled as using ranch horses as well as endurance and all types of sport and performance disciplines. They would go on to have a strong influence on a number of breeding programs. The Hearst bred stallion Antman (Mountcrest Sellman x Pontez [Antez x Pondette by Pongee Morgan]), along with a number of Hearst mares became the foundation for noted rancher Mrs. Mary "Sid" Spencer, who for years operated the 1,900 acre Spencer Ranch in Lopez Canyon, tucked between the Santa Lucia Hills of Central California. Sid was an expert horsewoman, adept in the old Spanish methods of training a bridle horse through hackamore to full spade bit. Sid used all her horses for ranch work, and also found time to mentor others, including Sheila Varian, recognized as one of the foremost experts of the old vaquero training methods today. Sid was named to *The Morgan Horse's* "Women's Honor Roll" in 2009 with a tribute written by none other than Sheila Varian herself.

One of Antman's sons bred by Sid was the 1950 registered Morgan chestnut gelding Suds (x Bubbles by Juzan out of Aleada).



Left to right: **Dapper Dan** (*Trilson x Bess Gates*) was the foundation sire for Fran & Edith Kellstrom's *Kellstrom Morgans*, sire of 108, often found in top Western Working Morgan pedigrees; **Muscle Man** (*Trilson x Flika*): full brother in blood to Dapper Dan and sire of 103 foals; **Headlight Morgan** (*Peter's Ethan Allen 2d x Lady Stratton by Vermont Morgan*) was one of the important sires used by Sellman behind the dams of the mares Hearst used.

Owned by Maxi Riggs, Suds became famous as an endurance horse, winning the prestigious North American Trail Ride Conference Old President's Cup in 1962, among other things. Maxi estimated she had ridden Suds more than 35,000 miles altogether during his lifetime and wrote a book about their adventures.

In later years Sid purchased the chestnut stallion Higuera Bandido, who traced to the Hearst mare Princess Sabab (Sabab x Princess Allan) through his dam. Bandido, foaled in 1974, lived to an incredible 39 years of age and went on to be the inspiration for Wendy LeGate's Old Growth Oak Morgans, specializing in performance Morgans with rare old foundation bloodlines.

Bred to the mare Woodrose Katrina (Windswept Imperial x Tacinca [Rusty x Wenonah by Redman]), Bandido sired the mare Ursula's Higuera Bandita, who produced some beautiful foals both for Wendy's program, as well as Jo Johnson's JaF (Jaquima a Freno) Morgan Stock Horses near Sanger, California, including Jo's present stallion, JaF Sunrise Surfer Dude (x Can Don Joshua Danny [Shatona Karzan x Danny's Dutchess]). Katrina brings in additional Hearst lines tracing her sireline through Katrilan Prince, Katrilan, and Uhlan, three generations of stallions owned by Hearst, as well as crosses to Antman and the Hearst stallion Redman (Mountcrest Sellman x Red Dot by Red Oak). Katrina produced several more for Wendy including two by the late buckskin reining champion Primavera Valdez (Primavera Vaquero x Tia Margarita) who traced to Hearst breeding through the stallion Montabell (Mountcrest Sellman x Jinglebells by Querido).

This line also produced Gay Vaquero (Vaquero Mac [Oh-Cee's Gift by Montabell] x Gay Berta [Gay Mac x Roberta Ro]), foundation sire for Polly Smith's Little Brook Farm in Vermont, excelling in dressage, distance, trail riding, driving, and ranch use. Colonel John Hutcheson's Gab Creek Golden Vaquero (PKR Primavera Brio x LBF Gay Enchantment), winner of the five-year-old Snaffle Bit/Hackamore class at the 2008 Grand National, traces to the Hearst Montabell line through both his sire and dam.

Ranchboss Cortez (Primavera Valdez x Teluras Black

Gold) owned by Greg & Kathy Lyons, Wilga Park Morgans in Queensland, Australia, carries multiple Hearst lines. In addition to the Montabell line through his sire, Cortez's dam carries three lines back through the three generations of stallions owned by Hearst, Katrilan Prince–Katrilan–Uhlan, as well as two lines through the mare Piedmont Cresta (Mountcrest Sellman x Clover Bud by Querido). These include a line through Dapper Dan (Trilson x Bess Gates); his full brother in blood Muscle Man (Trilson x Flika), and a rare line through the mare Our Girl Friday, a full sister of Muscle Man. Cortez has been active, competing at the Australian National Morgan Show with a No Bridle Freestyle Western Dressage performance, and has won both the Supreme Pure Bred Morgan In-Hand Exhibit and People's Choice Award two years in a row.

Cortez is not the only Australian Morgan with lines to Hearst blood. Diane and Jock Howard of Wirraway Morgan Sport Horse Stud in Queensland have several by their imported Canadian Morgan stallion Tui's Theme Song (JMF Royal Secret x JMF Beam Song). These carry the lines to Piedmont Cresta, Redman, and the Katrilan Prince–Katrilan–Uhlan line through Dapper Dan.

Colors Of The Sunrise (by Rocking M Morgangold) owned by the author's daughter, Trinity Tippin, carries lines to Redman and a rare cross to the Hearst Katrilan line through the Muscle Man son, Addy's Copy Man (Muscle Man x Addy May Field [Sonfield x Addy C. by Querido]).

Gerry Paiva owns the last son of the great Primavera Valdez, Hijo De Valdez (x Kizan's Sonita [Kizzy's Crackerjack x Bidwell Annie K). This cross adds two Hearst lines through Cloverman (Mountcrest Sellman x Clover Bud), two through Princess Sabab (Sabab x Princess Allen), and four through Redman (Mountcrest Sellman x Red Dot). Hijo's first foal, a promising 2012 colt out of Kizzy's Kitten (Roland G Hill x Kizzy) doubles these lines.

FINAL YEARS AT SAN SIMEON

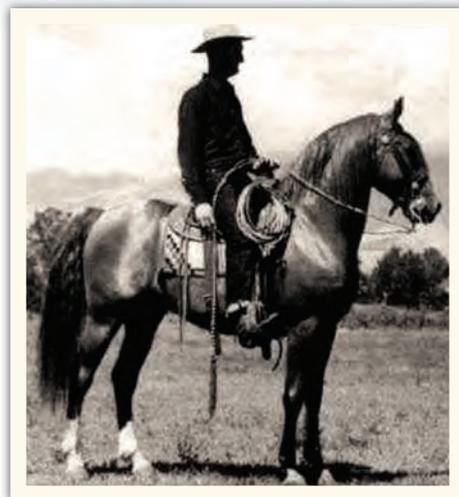
Although Hearst was already in his late 50s when he started the huge project of building La Cuesta Encantada, he never slowed his

pace. Besides keeping close tabs on his huge newspaper empire, he remained actively involved in his horse breeding interests, and the continual round of guests, mostly Hollywood stars, which he invited to the ranch. The names of Hollywood personalities he entertained would not be recognized by many today, but a few notables such as Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Charlie Chaplain, Carey Grant, and Joan Crawford were frequent guests, and of course the actress Marion Davies with whom he had a long relationship.

In 1940, he sold the Milpitas Hacienda to the US Army for Fort Hunter Liggett. Sited on what is known as "Hacienda Hill," it is on the National Register of Historic places. The Army uses a concessionaire and rents it for lodging at very reasonable rates.

In 1947, at the age of 84, Hearst left La Cuesta Encantada for the last time, with tears in his eyes, knowing he would never return. His failing health forced him to be closer to his doctors. The remaining Morgans were dispersed at a final sale in 1949. In 1951, Hearst passed away at the age of 88, closing the end of a magnificent era. Two years following his death, the Babicora Ranch in Mexico was sold to the Mexican government for \$2.5 million.

In 1957, the Hearst family donated La Cuesta Encantada and 127 surrounding acres to the State of California. Operated through the California State Parks, it is a top tourist attraction, and is open to visitors year round except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. 80,000 acres of the Hearst Ranch is still operated by the Hearst family as one of the largest working cattle ranches on the California coast, specializing in grass fed beef. In 2005, partnering with the State of California, American Land Conservancy, and California Rangeland Trust, Hearst Ranch finalized a conservation Easement plan to permanently preserve 128 square miles of pristine rangeland and 18 miles of coastline along Highway 1, guarding against development so it will forever remain in its natural state. Visitors to the Castle may still enjoy the zebras which wander freely on the ranch, thanks to Hearst's son William Randolph Hearst Jr. and his wife Austine, who snuck down to the pens where they had been rounded up for animal dealers following Hearst's death, and turned them loose. Wynton remains a private retreat for the Hearst family. Finally, many Morgan owners today still prize the Hearst bloodlines in their horses. ■



Kenelm Morgan No. 8077
 THREE-YEAR-OLD SON OF MOUNTCREST SELLMAN 7289
 SUNBEAM MAID 04525
 15 Hands — Copper Chestnut — Weight 1050 lbs.
 Service Fee \$25.00
 Standing at 1940
Sunol Morgan Horse Ranch
 P. O. Box 16 Sunol, California
 CHAS. C. MCGONEGAL & SONS
 See front cover April issue of this magazine for better picture of this stallion
 Silver-tact courtesy John Olson, 4701 Third St., San Francisco



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Above (top to bottom): Another prized Western Working line, Redman (Mountcrest Sellman x Red Dot) was sire of 62 foals, and his son Blackman (x Gojea) sire of 129. A daughter, Redlass (x Easter Lass) who died at seven years old produced two foals including Keystone (x Pomulus) who founded a strong Western Working line through his son Montey Vermont (x Ginger Vermont) bred by Leo & Louise Beckley; Kenelm Morgan (Mountcrest Sellman x Sunbeam Maid) from a 1940 ad from *Western Livestock Journal* (Photo courtesy Joanne Curtis); Antman (Mountcrest Sellman x Pontez [Arabian stallion Antez x Pondette by Pongee Morgan) was an example of Hearst's crossing with Arabian blood.