

LEADERS INNOVATORS
MENTORS ADVOCATES
EDUCATORS PIONEERS
COUNSELORS ADJUDICATORS

The Women In Our Industry HONOR ROLL

The idea of exploring a "Women In Our Industry" theme in this issue is not employed to be topical or controversial.

Most accurately it is, as it should be, a theme without restriction or confinement (like the contributions women have made to most equine endeavors).

The Morgan Horse chose this theme to celebrate the enormous, indeed disproportionate, influence women have had on our relatively small in size but huge in passion industry.

We also recognize that the Morgan community, throughout its history, has not merely provided acceptance. Rather women have proven that they are more than equal in the areas of vision, direction, accomplishment and utilization of the breed.

Hence, for us, women's names have become household terms. Mrs. Powers and Ma Greenwalt advanced the breed. Morgans visited Europe under the aegis of Margaret and Lisa and Mimi. Miss Judy is our leading show ring trainer. Morgan history has not been, with any sort of exclusivity, a man's world.

Mentors. Educators. Leaders. Innovators. Adjudicators. Pioneers. Counselors. Advocates.

Here, in year one of this theme, we commence an honor roll, a hall of fame, an academy. Should there be more? You bet. It is our hope, at *The Morgan Horse*, to supplement this list on an annual basis.

We've invited tributes from protégés, peers, best friends, members of the Morgan community whose names will mean as much as their words. Read the roll call and you will find profiles of women who have been present for the march of the Morgan breed.

We are all inspired.

SLK



Helen Greenwalt, above, on the farm with the seminal Senator Graham and in civilian garb, right.



Helen Greenwalt THE DYNASTY BUILDER

Her father, J.C. "Joe" Brunk passed the torch to his daughter Helen, who then became the custodian of the Brunk Dynasty into subsequent generations, especially through her daughter Doris Ryan. The Brunk genes are proliferated through Morgan pedigrees. One rarely breeds a great Morgan without paying at least indirect tribute to this dynastic Morgan breeder.

I want to honor Helen Brunk Greenwalt. To my view, no single person has done more to shape the Morgan breed and community than Helen Greenwalt. Without her love, vision and dedication to the Morgan and fostering that love and dedication in so many other people, we wouldn't have the breed we have today. By conventional standards, she was a small breeder, but her impact lives on in most Morgans today. She was careful and studied in what she did believing strongly in the fundamental value of the mare lines, that a horse was first and foremost an athlete, only as good as its ability to "wear leather," and that a careful breeder only breeds with an eye to what the

effect will be on the next generation. Beyond that, she was a woman of strong personal standards about life and taught those values to kids like me. Yes, she made me a better person not just a better Morgan breeder. And that is why she is truly special.

Mark Staehnke

Judy Whitney Harris THE RECORD BREAKER

The little lady from Cox's Creek, Kentucky has won more than 200 World Championships, many times with horses she bred. In the show ring and to her adoring Morgan public, she has become an American icon.

What accolades can be added to Judy Whitney Harris' resume that have not been said a hundred fold over? She is the winningest trainer in Morgan show horse history: five wins of the Morgan Park Saddle World Championship and associations with horses such as UVM Promise, Wynne Command, Van Lu Love Story, and Nobility, whom she bred. Indeed, she has bred legendary horses that over and over have triumphed in the ring and in the breeding shed, most recently JW That Special Flaire, with whom she broke another record when he won the Park Harness World Championship as a two-year-old in 2005. She has inspired countless young people who had dreams of becoming accomplished equestrians. I do not think that Judy would mind it being said that she has been obsessed with horses. From an early age showing on the Ohio circuit to the world stage she has dedicated her life and superb talents to this animal that has captured all of our hearts. She is fiercely competitive; a mentor to many; a lady always; and above all, a consummate horsewoman. She continues to inspire us with her courage. I know it is an overused word, but if you look up "legend" in the dictionary you just might see her picture.

Larry Bolen

Mary Woolverton THE GLOBALIST

In addition to breeding horses to her strict standards of conformation and soundness, Mary Woolverton has competed in the many specialties of the Morgan horse, championed the breed internationally and been a driving force for youth in our community. She's an unsung hero.

I can not think of a more worthy addition to the list of Women In Our Industry than Mary Woolverton, Victory Morgan Horse Farm, Elizabeth, Colorado. Mary has been an AMHA Director, a Morgan breeder for more than 50 years, and judged Morgans all around the world. She represented the USA in international disabled driving in Scotland. She broke the 'Bay Bias' color barrier by competing the great palomino Morgan, Prince Of Pride, at the Eastern National in Northampton. She has won many Grand National titles with her horses and mentored her Morgan Youth Groups to several Grand National awards. AMHA's Woman of the Year in 1970, AMHA Hall of Fame inductee in 1993, Mary earned the AMHA Golden Reins Award in 1995. But most of all, I honor her for her unshakable belief in the value of preserving and improving the essential qualities of the Morgan breed: its soundness, versatility, beauty, and sanity as reflected in her breeding, judging, teaching and promotion of the breed.

Jeff Morse

The Women In Our Industry



Judy Whitney posing on Nobility and taking a signature victory pass.



Mary Woolverton in a presentation with Britain's Princess Anne and driving Victory Air Born.



(Photos © Avis Girdler, Howard Schatzberg, Tom Massie)

The Women In Our Industry



Anita Hoitsma driving and grooming a horse in the aisle at home.

Anita Hoitsma THE AMBASSADOR

She is a fixture on the rail at many Northeastern shows today. Part of the reason is that she supports her family's Morgan endeavors. The other is that she can claim to be mentor to a generation of horse trainers to whom she imparted dedication and enthusiasm.

I wish to honor Anita Hoitsma for the number of people that she not only exposed to the Morgan, but for the number of them that became lifelong Morgan people. While already a rider and from a horse family, at eight years old I was fortunate enough to start my association with "Aunt Nita" at Bridle Vale Farm. When I was there, both Kathy Walsh (now Peeples) and Rob Marsh were trainers there. All three of us grew up riding Morgans at "BVF." All three of us went on to become Morgan professionals based on a love that was inspired in us through Anita. But that is just one piece of time. Before we were there, Bridle Vale was the start for Carolyn Dillon (Sebring), Ann Hutcheson (Scussell), Kim Cramer (Germ), Eleanor Hutcheson, Cathy Brittain (now Altomare), as well as a stepping-stone for Barbara Irvine, Harry Sebring, and Brad Scussell. Bridle Vale was actually where Harry and Carolyn Sebring met, Brad and Ann Scussell met, and Lynn and Kathy Peeples met during Kathy's training career at BVF. Anita provided memories that will last forever, a place for kids to grow up and learn about Morgans, work, reward, and fun, and mostly she supplied undying support. Her love of the breed, on the whole, was infectious from the breeding to the showing to the annual Easter trail ride. It was an experience that changed many lives, mine included.

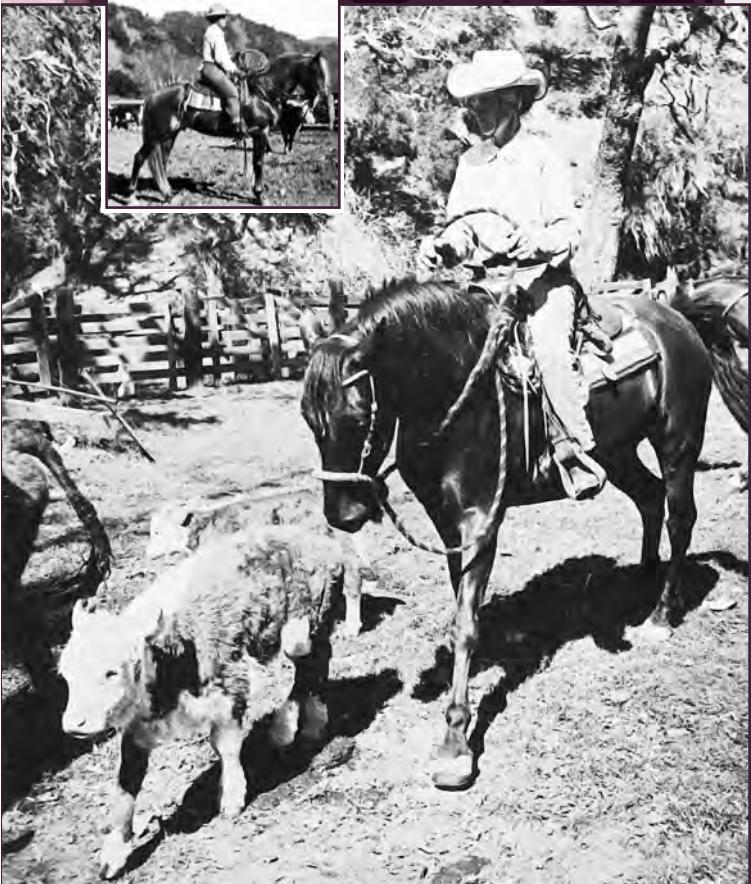
Stacy Hennessy

Sid Spencer THE RANCHER

In the book Horses Of The West author Jeanne Thwaites features pioneer California rancher and Morgan breeder Sid Spencer. Sheila Varian who, as a youngster, would be included in the "All Girl Cattle Roundup" at Spencer Ranch is today's recognized practitioner of Vaquero or Spade Bit training, learning many the "old ways" from Sid. Sheila, a Cowgirl Hall Of Fame inductee, generously contributed the following tribute to our Honor Roll:

Mary "Sid" Forsyth Spencer was the most capable person, man or woman, I have known in my lifetime. Luck was certainly with me when I had the opportunity to spend time with her on her ranch as a teenager. Sid was truly a woman of the old school. She plowed, planted and harvested the ranch, halter broke, gelded, shod and broke her own Morgan horses, she could repair any truck and then win prizes at the county fair for the quality of her Morgans. Sid never put a horse away without brushing it clean and making sure it had good feed and water, she built her own large and sturdy barns and then, trained the best ranch horses in the country. Sid never used profanity, did her own canning, put in a garden every year, had her 12 foot by 14 foot house immaculate and took care of her husband, the veterinarian Frances Hume Spencer, who was older than her father, Dr. Forsyth, until his death in 1955. Sid did all of this alone, she didn't ever complain, loved her horses and her dogs and put more into life than she received. I truly don't know if there is another Sid Spencer in life but, at least, I met her and she was hugely influential to me. I am forever grateful.

Sheila Varian



Sid Spencer at an All Girl Cattle Roundup and on Antman, her finished bridle horse (inset).

The Women In Our Industry



Howard Schatzberg

Fran Pugh, driving Tara's War Eagle and sharing a moment at Oklahoma.



John O'Hara CMHIV



Felton-Trexler

(Top) Betty Greene riding Ann Taylor's Morgan mare Wintergreen Treasure. (Bottom) Betty riding Marion Butts's Morgan mare Pickagin. Decades apart, the photos show notable consistency.

(Photos © Howard Schatzberg, AMHA by Abbie Felton-Trexler, John O'Hara, June Fallaw)

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Frances Pugh THE DRIVING FORCE

The lady behind Tara Farm is many things to many Morgan people. She has generously shared Southern hospitality at her hometown Southern States Regional. Hers was the smiling face driving her much-loved Tara's War Eagle. She is a quiet, but consistent benefactor of many activities involving the Morgan breed.

I will always see Mrs. Pugh through the eyes of a Morgan breeder. I have followed her Tara Farm Morgans for as long as I have been involved with the breed. I have photo albums created through the years of the Tara Farm advertisements—pictures of Catskill Senator Lad, Empyrean Apollo, Tara's Schechinah, Tara's Phaedra, Southerly Maria, Southerly Capella, all are in the repository. I have photos of the farm, photos from the weanling sales, photos of the horses that are being shown by Tara Farm today. It's a 25-year collection reflecting admiration for the woman behind Tara.

Before I could afford to own a mare, I was a student of her program. I watched as she carefully crossed the blood of Trophy and Waseeka's In Command to produce a product of consistent quality and excellence: beautiful, talented, competitive, tractable. Fran created the Tara look. I imitated her philosophies in the Ridgewood breeding program culminating in the 2000 World Champion Mare, RWF Noelle-by Tara's Cherokee and out of a Trophy/In Command mare. Mrs. Pugh taught me how to breed Morgan horses.

Jay Kleiber

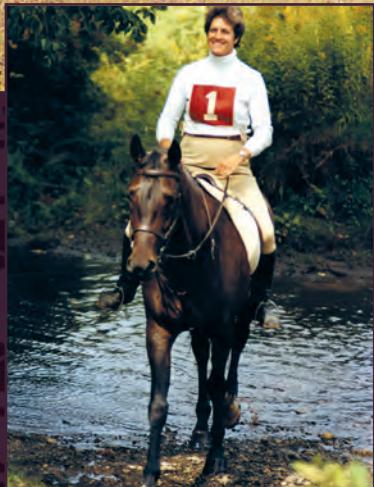
Betty Greene THE TRAILBLAZER

Betty Greene has mastered the art of arena trail with Morgans on the West coast. She generously gives her knowledge to those who seek it, and has played an influential role in the careers of such successful Morgan arena trail trainers as Ron Smith and Sherrill Tompkins. She is nominated by two of her students, each of whom won World Championships in the division under her tutelage.

We honor Betty F. Greene (1-19-1921) of Loomis, California for her contribution to the Morgan world in Arena Trail. A 1996 AMHA Golden Reins Award recipient, she has been, and still is, the architect of Morgan Arena Trail on the West Coast. Betty is a successful open horse trainer, judge and instructor with an untarnished reputation who is characterized by integrity. Marion Butts, AMHA life member, met Betty in 1964 launching her involvement with the Morgan breed and shows. This relationship exposed the Morgan breed to the Open Trail Competition arena. From 1985 to 1998, Betty conducted monthly trail clinics for amateur Morgan riders. She expects her winners to be modest and work harder and her non-winners to be gracious and work harder. Betty competitively showed Connie Barker's gelding, Aranaway Toranado, at the Mother Lode Morgan show in 2008 (first place) and will be showing him at the Morgan Sport Horse Classic in May 2009. She continues to give private lessons to half a dozen Morgan amateur riders. Betty conducted a Trail Clinic at the 2009 AMHA convention riding Ann Taylor's Morgan mare, Wintergreen Treasure (2008 World Champion Western Trail). She was also a featured speaker at the con-



Pat Tataronis with Vigilendon and participating in a 100 mile endurance ride on Burkland Sharalyn.



Martha Dupont taking a turn in a surrey from her husband's famous carriage collection and with a Nemours broodmare.

vention. Betty recently relocated her training operation to NVS Morgans in Lincoln where she will be sharing her knowledge and experience with younger, upcoming trainers. She instills love, knowledge, discipline and respect bringing out the best in each horse and amateur rider. Her students are the champions!

Ann Taylor and Constance Barker

Pat Tataronis Orcutt **THE COMMANDERETTE**

Pat Tataronis Orcutt could outride and outwork most men. Working from Burkland Farm she was an unstoppable competitor in her heyday, continued to bring champions to the New England Futurity to the very end and was an exacting role model for every aspiring horseman who had the good fortune to know her.

I can say for sure that Pat Tataronis changed my life, and maybe the lives of a number of other women in the horse business, without ever knowing. I first knew Pat when I was in high school, and she was a young assistant for Dr. Bob Orcutt. The pair had the best horses around and for years could not lose in the Morgan show ring. They created legends together and at the same time Pat became a legend herself. She was the original female professional Morgan horse trainer and a role model for those brave ladies who followed. I was one of those, and her success was fodder for me. Pat made it look easy and taught us we could do as we pleased. Pat's horsemanship was paramount, and her early rides on Vigilendon gave us a standard of perfection that never let up through decades of winners. Who can forget Command Performance, Westwold Dona Resa (my all time favorite mare) and Gay Cavalier, a horse only Pat could tame? Her toughness and resolve were tested during her illness, and Pat's response was a typical blend of stubborn Yankee indignation, grit, humor and pragmatism. She fought the battle to its fullest and in doing so became an inspiration. I am honored to have known her, will always be in her debt, and miss her terribly. Pat Tataronis left the Morgan breed a legacy for the ages.

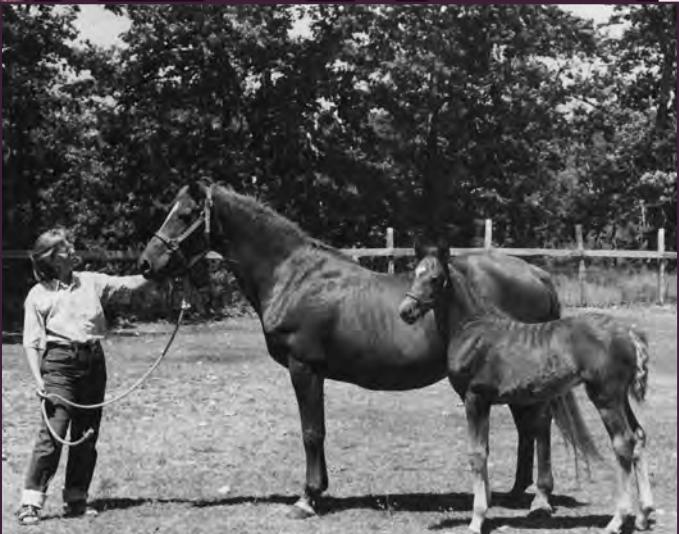
Bonnie Sogoloff

Martha V. Dupont **THE PHILANTHROPIST**

It's been some time since Martha Dupont dispersed her significant herd at Nemours Morgan Farm. Still, the prefix is coveted on both sides of pedigrees by astute breeders. And she has never withdrawn from her continued watchfulness over breed activities and her generosity when she perceives her support can advance a cause.

For nearly 40 years Martha V. Dupont has been breeder, exhibitor, benefactor and friend to the Morgan horse. In 1976, when the AMHA decided to move to Vermont, she and husband Henry, donated the money to build the museum wing onto the new headquarters. In 1988, the Duponts donated a life sized Morgan statue by Gwen Reardon to the Kentucky Horse Park so that millions of visitors would know the beauty of a Morgan. She never passes up an opportunity to promote the breed. She has served on the Board of Directors, was trustee to the AMHI, served on countless commit-

The Women In Our Industry



(Photo © Marsha McCormick)

Mary Jean Vasiloff with Whippoorwill Melody and her foal, Whippoorwill Melanie and standing in the background at one of her open barn events.



tees and is currently chairman in charge of funding for the museum renovations. If ever the Morgan breed has had a good will ambassador, it is Martha V. Dupont. I believe she is an influential woman in our industry and that this honor roll would be incomplete without her name.

Thomas Caisse

Mary Jean Vasiloff THE IMPRESARIO

If you collected McCulloch Farm's ads from over the decades they would read like a wish book for Morgan lovers. This combined with her famous Open Barn and Versatility events and her constant advocacy, has quite likely led thousands of newcomers to our breed. Her balancing act is that, simultaneously, she has changed the Morgan and kept it the same.

I wish to honor Mary Jean Vasiloff of McCulloch Farms and the grand Whippoorwill Morgans. Mary Jean has bred more than 350 foals including the grand man himself, Whippoorwill Duke. Mary Jean's commitment to the Morgan horse and its promotion is second to none. A consistent advertiser in *The Morgan Horse* her ads made me know that when I started my breeding program it would be with the wonderful Whippoorwill Morgan. Mary Jean has bred some of the finest sport Morgans including the great Whippoorwill Ebony (aka "Black Tie" the Grand Prix Morgan) as well as the reining champion Whippoorwill Newmoon. She breeds Morgans with correct conformation to stay sound for years to come and wonderful tem-

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Gloria Jones, who influenced the carriage driving scene in California, is shown driving Summer Sundance and, at right, receiving AMHA recognition.



Howard Schaffner

Marilyn Childs riding her beloved Lippitt Mandate and working the infield at Northampton.



peraments suitable for children and adults and professionals. Twice a year for 30 years she has conducted open barns showcasing Morgans to thousands of people at each event. She served as a member of the AMHA Board of Directors to make her region's voice heard. Her tireless promotion of the Morgan is to be admired. Mary Jean Vasiloff is no barn blind breeder. She is honest to a fault about her horses—both good and bad. She is incredibly giving of her time, counsel and advice on breeding the best Morgans one can.

Tonya Farina

Gloria Jones THE VISIONARY

As English pleasure became an increasingly high trotting sport, Gloria Jones perceived a need for amateurs to compete on a more level playing field. She traveled to regional meetings and worked tenaciously in committees, thereby becoming the architect of today's classic pleasure division. It was an effort on the national stage that mirrored her lifelong combination of organizational skills and dedication to the Morgan.

In the State of California, Gloria Jones has truly been one of the Golden Ladies of the Morgan breed. From the 1960s to her passing in 2008, Gloria was a tireless proponent of the advancement of the Morgan breed. Most of the West Coast shows advanced as the result of her participation. Her interest in carriage driving helped make California a leading venue as she skillfully organized driving events where all breeds, especially the Morgan, could excel. As chairwoman of the Grand National she brought innovative changes to the running of the show through a procedural manual still in use today. It is unlikely we would have gotten the classic pleasure division in the 1990s had it not been through the impetus of Gloria Jones. The Classic Pleasure Saddle World Championship won by Summerhill Maximum Effort and Gloria's daughter Terry Jones Brennan, was a crowning achievement as breeder, parent and organizer. She brought this same zeal to all her endeavors. With Spanish influences all round her in California, she made a quest to learn the Spanish language and culture, which took her many times to Spain where she would live, learn and understand. It has been a privilege to have known Gloria and to have benefited from her quiet, determined leadership.

Arthur Perry

Marilyn Childs THE HISTORIAN

You can be for Marilyn Childs. You can be against Marilyn Childs. But you can't do Morgan horses without Marilyn Childs. No history of the breed would ever be complete without her. Of course, she's written much of that history. She's opinionated, even controversial, tough and tender at the same time. Characteristics she shares with the breed she so clearly loves.

Recently, my friend and mentor (and one of the breed's most tireless promoters) Marilyn Childs was given an honor by UPHA Chapter 14. When she rose to take the microphone someone said, "Mrs. Childs sure can silence a room." It has always been so. While her husband Harold trained horses, she taught English and French and ran the Debating Society. While he was

(Photo © Budd)

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(Photo © Bob Moseler)



(Photo © Bob Moseler)

Sisters Anna and Ruth in their most recent appearance in the ring at Northampton for an impromptu family class. (Top, left to right) Mark Caisse, Anna Ela's grandson, rides Al-Bar's Attention; Anna's daughter, Nancy, rides Townshend Sweet Remark; the sisters are in the pleasure cart behind UC Cover Girl; and Ruth's granddaughter, Chris Orcutt Carlson, rides Orcland Bold Silk. All horses trace back to the Orcland and Townshend prefixes in their pedigrees.

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meek and mild she was not. Not ever. If she had an opinion she stuck by it and she stuck with it until the job got done. In her 80s, perceiving a movement that might take AMHA to the Kentucky Horse Park, she started The Morgan Horse Heritage Foundation and involved the Governor of Vermont. I'm not saying Marilyn gets all the credit, but we're still in Vermont. Her titles *Mandate For A Morgan Horse*, *Riding Show Horses*, *Training Your Colt to Ride and Drive* and *Men Behind the Morgan Horse* are staples on our breed and laid the groundwork for much that we still practice in our sport. She loved Lippitt Mandate like no other horse and with him relentlessly promoted Morgan versatility. It says everything about this larger than life lady that not only is Lippitt Mandate buried on her farm, so is Justin Morgan!

Richard Boule

Anna Ela & Ruth Orcutt THE SISTERS

They have lived through nearly half of the history of the Morgan breed. It is not just that their Orcland and Townshend Farms were seminal breeding programs, it is just as much that the Dickson sisters were influential in the culture of our industry. They put the family in "family breed."

When I attended the Northampton "National" for the first time in the early 60s it was the Sire And Get class that absolutely took my breath away! It was won by Orcland Vigildon, a brilliant black chestnut who trotted up with his four black chestnut protégés. That started my "crush" on Vigildon, as well as a lifelong admiration for his owner, Anna Dickson Ela, and his breeder, Ruth Dickson Orcutt. One of the running stories between the sisters, was that he may have been senior stallion at Townshend, but he bore the Orcland prefix!

Several years ago, I asked Mrs. Ela how many Northampton horse shows she had attended. Without missing a beat, she retorted, "Well, how many have there been?" The next day I asked Mrs. Orcutt the same question and she answered with her own question, "Well, how many of them have there been?"

As is well-known the Orcland and Townshend prefixes are foundation Morgan breeding. Anna and Ruth should be equally esteemed, however, for their lifelong promotion of the Morgan as the perfect family horse. For decades Morgan youth (myself included) were encouraged to get an up close and personal look at some of the most famous Morgans of the day: Vigildon, Townshend Vigit, Townshend Debadonna, Townshend Melinda, Townshend Meloise, Townshend My Debra and, Mrs. Ela's favorite, Townshend Vigilass at Townshend Farm, while a trip to Orcland Farm included visits with the immortals Ulendon and Anna Darling, Orcland Don Darling, Orcland Supreme, Mrs. Orcutt's favorite show horse Orcland Donanna, and Orcland Gaystar. Some of the "kids" who had their lives impacted by these two ladies include Richard Boule, Jim Anderson, Karen Homer Brown, Glenn Bouvier, Bobbi Gynan, Suzy Lucine, Judy Nason, Mark Kimbal and Susan Babcock Therrien as well as many, many others who can look back and remember the everlasting lessons in horsemanship and the lessons in life that came in the indisputable style of Mrs. Ela and Mrs. O.

Susan Colleton n

