



# Morgans in the National Park Service in California

By Helen Herold, Director, National Museum of the Morgan Horse



AUGUST 1970

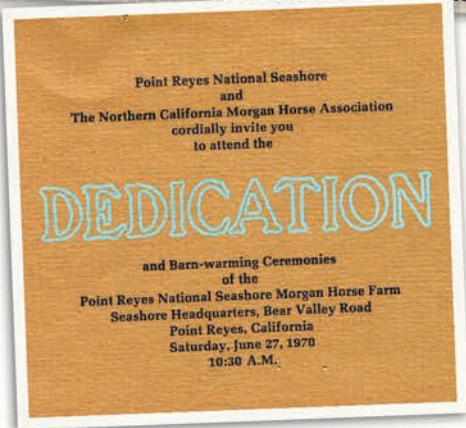
VALLEY HORSE REVIEW



The unique drift-log monument is unveiled at the Point Reyes National Seashore Morgan Horse Farm by (front, l. to r.) National Parks Deputy Director Harthorn L. Bill; Northern Calif. Morgan Horse Assoc. President John A. Mortimer; Point Reyes Park Sup't. John Sansing; Gov. Deane C. Davis of Vermont, President of the national Morgan Horse Club, Inc.; (2nd row, l to r) Edward Kurtz, former sup't. of Point Reyes; State Assemblyman William Bagley; Senator George Murphy and Congressman Don Clausen.



This new Morgan Horse Farm at the Point Reyes National Seashore will be formally dedicated Saturday. Harthorn L. Bill, deputy director of the National Park Service, will give the main address. He will share the platform with Senator George Murphy (Rep., Calif.) and Governor Deane Davis of Vermont. The Morgan Horse is the state animal of Vermont. The Morgans at Point Reyes will serve several functions. The farm layout — about 25 acres, fenced, with a big barn — will serve as a "scenic backdrop," displaying the horses in a natural setting. And the horses will be used as mounts for seashore rangers on patrol. The farm near the seashore headquarters just west of Olema now has 21 horses: a stallion, 11 mares and nine colts. The stallion, a 3-year-old named El Capitan, was given to the farm there by Robert Morgan of San Jose. One of the mares she was a gift. The other ten are "on loan" for a two-year period. Half the colts foaled during that period will become the property of the seashore. Saturday's dedication ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m.



Point Reyes National Seashore and The Northern California Morgan Horse Association cordially invite you to attend the DEDICATION and Barn-warming Ceremonies of the Point Reyes National Seashore Morgan Horse Farm Seashore Headquarters, Bear Valley Road Point Reyes, California Saturday, June 27, 1970 10:30 A.M.

Sources: NMMH Archives and Point Reyes National Seashore • Photos: San Francisco Chronicle June 23, 1970, Valley Horse Review August 1970 Thank You to Mrs. Phyllis Shopbell

The Morgan Horse Farm at the Point Reyes (California) National Seashore is an historic working ranch, which is still home to Morgan horses used by National Park Rangers in wilderness areas and for back-country patrol. Visitors will view trailside exhibits focused on the characteristics, breeding, and history of Morgan horses.

The Morgan Horse Farm was established in 1970. This memorabilia from the opening celebration seen in this article was recently submitted to our Museum Archives.

Point Reyes is mostly known for its dramatic seashore areas, the lighthouse, and the lifesaving stations established by the US government starting in the late 1800s. Less well known, but equally important, are the dairy and cattle ranch operations that began in the 1850s, which are also part of this west Marin area and found in the "agricultural zones" of the park. The National Park Service began seeking a presence at Point Reyes in 1936, and in 1962 President Kennedy signed an agreement that provided for the retention of the historic ranches. ■