

≈ MORGAN PEOPLE ≈

# GEORGIE GREEN: GRAND MATRIARCH OF THE BREED

By Kim Oplotnik



Visitors to 10 Star Ranch are ushered in through a sweeping gate decorated with ten iron stars, each one representing a member of the Green family. As you continue past rows of crepe myrtle blooms, beyond a bustling broodmare pasture, there lies Roadshow central: the Green's office space. Color-coded binders, multiple phone books, and visual placards room is a massive table, past and present. Georgie has reached emeritus status for her lifetime of volunteer work with AMHA, USEF, and Morgan Grand National. The influence of arch is extraordinary and forms the backbone of 10 Star Ranch's current management. She has

efforts within the Morgan trotting breeds in general, are enriched the past, present, and future lives of countless horses, owners, breeders, and competitors; many will never know her influence nor will this ink dry before she makes another. "Her impact is immeasurable," longtime friend and peer Cindy Mugnier says. "Georgie is a Morgan person by definition. I do not think that the Morgan world, in general, realizes what a champion she was, and is, for the breeds and the disciplines."

Georgie's drive to serve is innate and the beneficiaries are logical. Her father served in the U.S. Cavalry and pedigrees were a part of her childhood. The Roadshow story began when the native Texan was just a teen at Greenhill High School in Dallas. Georgie met John Green on a bus ride where he proclaimed her to be "just the girl for him." The two have been side-by-side ever since. After high school, Georgie graduated from the University of Texas and obtained her master's degree in Liberal Arts from Southern Methodist University. "Work ethic and

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### THE RANCH

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** The 10 Star Ranch gate opens up to 700 acres of Texas landscape. The covered arena is decorated with a Western-themed homage to the Roadshow family, including Banjo John's Saloon, Roadshow Livery, Windswept General Store, and Miss Georgie's Café.

education are in my DNA," says Georgie. "My father started the Green Hill private school in Dallas and was active for 60 years. I am not afraid to start things."

John and Georgie married in 1957 and by 1970 they established roots on the homestead that had been in John's family since 1872. The farm became known as Windswept Place. In 1972, John gifted Georgie a Morgan gelding, Funquest Paddy, from Stuart Hazard's breeding program.

Paddy led to the purchase of Funquest Wampor. Wampor impacted their lives for the next 30 years, as well as the Morgan show world for two decades as the family showed him at the first 20 Grand National shows.

In 1973, the Greens went to Springfield, Illinois, for the Jubilee Regional Morgan Horse Show where they watched Doris Ryan show the two-year-old stallion Showcase. The colt's athletic ability, conformation, and bloodlines were so appealing they purchased him. And with that, the Roadshow breeding program was born.

One Morgan grew to many, and Windswept Place became the largest Morgan breeding facility in Texas, and one of the largest amateur operations in the United States. There are more than 120 registered Morgans with the Roadshow prefix, and the farm now operates on a 600-acre property outside of Stephenville, Texas.

John and Georgie also grew their family with the addition of two daughters, Jamie (Willard) and Gina (Pruetz), while Georgie worked on her master's degree. The girls were the catalyst for diving deep into Morgans and equine events. "The Morgan gave our family a focus outside of ourselves, but allowed everyone to develop their own self-esteem," Georgie says. "The horses brought us together as a family and we are still very supportive of each other."

While the family and the Morgan farm were growing, Georgie was also following in her father's education footsteps. She was a leading educator and trainer of Academic Language Therapists. Her dedication to the field is evidenced by her development of the Alphabetic Phonics curriculum. She also designed a teacher-training course for dyslexics and co-founded the Shelton School of Dallas, a school for bright children with learning differences. Georgie served on the Comprehensive Planning Commission for the city of Allen, Texas, was involved in Project Kids and Kids First, and has chaired and presided over many academic boards. "My personal biggest accomplishment is the founding of schools

and reading and writing curriculums still used today," says Georgie. But it's the breeding of true, talented Morgan individuals that makes the influencer proud.

Breeding and showing are only a portion of Georgie's involvement with Morgans. A deep sense of responsibility to

the breed led her to become a full-time volunteer, starting with the AMHA Board of Directors. Georgie was first elected to the board in 1982 and represented Region 6 for nearly 30 years. "I got talked into running for the board as the region's seat was empty. It was Phil Ashmore and me on the ballot. I was a nervous wreck. It was going to be a lot of hard work. Most of the communication was by mail. I wrote a letter and mailed it out to everyone in the region," Georgie remembers. Georgie was reelected for ten consecutive terms. Tyler Atwood, AMHA Registrar during Georgie's terms, once stated, "The thought of one person remaining on a board that long may make some cringe, but it was the thought of the AMHA Board without Georgie on it that makes the staff at AMHA cringe."

Georgie was named AMHA Woman of the Year in 1985, the same year she was elected the first female president, a position she

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held from 1985 to 1988, and again from 1993 to 1996. She served on, and frequently chaired, the AMHA Executive, Finance, Registry, Marketing, Media Steering, and Bylaws Committees. “Georgie set the tone for how the breed was presented to the world,” longtime friend Peggy Alderman recalls. “She insisted on it being a family-oriented breed and in the ’80s, the concept was appealing to a lot of us young folks. Coming out of the ’60s and ’70s, horse trainers were not embraced by the AMHA Board and the gentlemen farmers that made up the board at the time. There was a perception that trainers were not doing this for the sport, that they were doing it for the money. Trainers very pointedly were not included in AMHA. Georgie and John worked hard to change that mind set. Georgie was stalwart about it. You look at the success of the breed today and the wonderful environment it is for families, family life, and family competition, it is because of Georgie. It doesn’t happen everywhere else.”

Georgie’s second term as president came during uncertain times for AMHA. Cindy Mugnier remembers, “When the litigious events were going on in the ’90s, the president at the time resigned during it all. The board went to Georgie and she became president again during a very difficult time. She righted the ship and held strong and did the right thing. I admire her so much.” Cindy stresses Georgie’s intelligence and incomparable preparation. “Because she is so efficient, a lot of people thought she had a personal agenda and was close-minded. But nothing was farther from the truth. She is open-minded and willing to change her mind if you give her a good argument that makes sense. Georgie taught me a lot about being a good board member and president. She was the first [female president] and I was only the third. She did the ground work, it was a boy’s club until Georgie and she was not having any of that.”

Peggy Alderman worked closely with Georgie in the early ’90s and was on several AMHA committees. “I helped start and chair the first AMHA Professional Horseman’s Committee and was on the rules committee. Georgie appointed me to run the AMHA Ad Hoc Committee when we restructured judge’s education. Georgie was on the committee for promoting positive public perception of the breed and I was a part of the committee that studied licensing procedures for judges. We spent seven years doing the work. It was the first collaboration with all the breeds.”

During her presidencies, Georgie traveled to every regional Morgan horse show and made monthly trips to the AMHA offices in Vermont. “Being president, I got to travel. It was on my family’s dollar, but I got to meet people around the country, from Canada to South Padre, Texas. It was wonderful,” Georgie says. “In 1992, John had a judging job in England at the County Fair. I presented awards and promoted the breed at the fair. While in England, we visited the famous Royal Windsor Horse Show, held at Windsor

Castle and hosted by Queen Elizabeth. Morgans were exhibiting in the carriage division. I attended because I was president and felt like I should go. It was a wonderful experience.”

When times were financially tough in the 2000s, Georgie devised a plan to hold an auction to benefit AMHA. “She came up with the idea for an eBay auction to raise money,” Sherry Cole recalls. “Folks made donations of items to put on eBay. Barb Rudical would procure the items and her dining room table became the warehouse. Barb would send a photo of the item to Vonne Tarnowski, who would list it on eBay. When it sold, I would arrange payment from the buyer and then Barb would mail the item. It was very successful, all from Georgie’s brilliant idea. We earned \$65,000 and paid for phone systems, printers, all kinds of needs for AMHA with the monies raised.”

Georgie was steadfast during her AMHA tenure that the Registry Committee live up to the rules and she made sure the board followed the rules as well. “My biggest challenge was the people, but I communicated with my constituents, and they communicated back. We made it work. I believed in straight shooting. My husband says the reason I got elected so many times was that people knew that I would tell the same story to all the people. I would always tell the truth,” Georgie said. In 2007, the National Pedigreed Livestock Council recognized Georgie’s extensive altruistic endeavors and dedication to the Morgan breed with the NPLC’s Distinguished Service Award. Sixty breed executives representing 30 breed registries were in attendance to honor Georgie.

For 20 years, Georgie was the Morgan representative on the USEF Board of Directors whilst also serving on the AMHA Board. “She is very determined

to protect the horse and the breed,” Ling Fu Wylie shares. “Especially with USEF, she was the first one to stand up for the trotting breeds. Georgie and Sherry [Cole] were always such good advocates for Morgans at USEF. They were the first.”

Georgie had strong feelings about the governance of competition. “There should not be one board overseeing international and national competition. I learned how things were done at the international level. I learned that the Morgans had a small contingency in USEF and had a small voice. I probably spoke out more than I should, but I really felt that the American breeds were not as revered as the international breeds.”

Sherry Cole recalled one of Georgie’s first experiences on the USEF Board. “Her first year they were getting ready to pass a budget that was negative. Georgie said, ‘I can’t vote for a negative budget.’ The rest of the board agreed, ‘You are right, Georgie!’ Georgie primarily made them have a balanced budget because she would not approve the negative one. That is how she got her feet wet in the USEF. She became well-respected in that community, and they liked her a lot.”



### SHOW INVOLVEMENT

Georgie showing her favorite mare, Roadshow Molly Bar  
(photo © Howard Schatzberg).



## AMHA Medal Classes A Mother's Point of View

By Georgie F. Green

Each equitation finalist at the Grand National had to qualify by placing first or second in a class with no less than five entries. Equitation classes are, perhaps, the least understood and least appreciated classes at any horse show, but the Sixth Grand National Morgan Horse Show provided the audience of the AMHA Saddle Seat Medal Finals with enough tension to raise stock prices of antacids and aspirin.

The forty entries were split into two groups: rail work was

strategies.

"For God's sake, remember to steady your legs!" "This is yours babe. Go get 'em!" "Hands high!" "Think blue!" "Heels down!" "More curb, more curb!" "Snaffle I said!" "Chin up!" "Aggressive! Ride aggressive!"

As the last minute injunctions hung on the air, following their targets into the ring, the gate closed. Grooms and instructors raced up the ramps to rail positions; nonchalant observers be-

tolerate tension, willing to pay for aforementioned. Apply at nearest equitation school.

The announcer's mike clicked on, but no winners' names were forthcoming. "Would grooms for entries Number 4 and Number 51 please report to the ring?" Friends, both girls from the same region, both members of the same Morgan club, competitors often.

horses, and the

### NOSTALGIA

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** In a past issue of *TMH* were photos taken at the AMHA Convention of an early Stallion Service Auction. Georgie can be seen standing on a chair taking phone bids; Georgie never missed a performance of her family in the ring. A snippet of an article she penned for *The Morgan Horse* about the 1979 AMHA Saddle Seat Medal in which two riders were called out to swap horses for a workout. Those riders were Ling Fu (Wylie) and Jamie Green (Willard).

Georgie also worked with the AMHA Board as they agreed upon judging standards. "One thing we wanted to maintain was that the horses in the Western and Hunter Divisions looked like Morgans. She also took a stance against members of the AMHA Board who wanted to permit fake tails in the show arena. "She stood up for rules that were enforceable and in alignment with breed standards, the registry, and were good for the Morgan," daughter Gina recalls. Georgie says, "There were those that said if we wanted fake tails we'd be in another breed. Our Morgans are naturally beautiful, and I wanted to maintain that aesthetic which sets the breed apart from the others. I supported the decision to keep fake tails out of the show arena."

Cindy Mugnier, who took over Georgie's position with USEF, recalls her influence and impression. "It was amazing to me how the staff and the presidents would come to her for advice when big decisions had to be made. I saw it over and over again. She was candid in the meetings and always spoke her mind, no matter what the decision was. I was so often in her company when a decision was not made until they spoke to Georgie. She had a huge impact. I believe she kept the Morgans and the trotting breeds in a secure place while she was on the USEF Board and the committees. She was not only the champion, but she was smart about it. She realized it was more than just a Morgan decision, but had to do with all the trotting breeds. She included everybody and they valued that right to the top. David O'Connor often said that Georgie Green was the

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kingpin on every board. When Georgie spoke, people listened."

Georgie was honored in 2006 with the Walter B. Devereaux Sportsmanship Trophy and the USEF Pegasus Award in 2018 for her lifetime achievements. But if you ask her, she says, "How can you say I have had a lifetime achievement when I am not dead yet?" And as usual, Georgie makes a good point!

Between the two of them, the Greens have devoted 28 years to the Morgan Grand National Show Committee. "I thought John

would make a better committee member because he was male and knew more about the horses. The Morgan people embraced us as a couple and were very friendly with us," Georgie says. John thought the opposite, "Georgie is bright and articulate, and I thought it

was great to have her involved." John preferred the barn and training horses to the boardroom and eventually it was just Georgie volunteering on the MGN Committee. She served as Show Chair for three of her active years, 2001, 2009, and 2014.

"As a show chair, I would travel to other breed shows and I basically learned what we did not want to do," Georgie remembers. "I made sure everyone knew about the show. I personally mailed the prize list. I wanted to promote the Morgan above everything. For example, Barb Rudical came up with the original idea to add the banners in the coliseum to give people the opportunity to honor their horses. Plus, it dressed up the coliseum. Also, Peggy Hatfield and Fern Bitner started the suggestion sheet for attendees.



**AWARDS & MGN COMMITTEE**

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Georgie accepting the 2006 USEF Walter B. Devereaux Sportsmanship Trophy from David O'Connor (photo © USEF); 2008 Grand National committee members Georgie Green, Cindy Mungier, Carol Fletcher-Churchill, and Harry Sebring.

It was very helpful to the committee, and at the same time very damning. It pointed out all our flaws.”

“For most of the years she was on the committee, Georgie had the arduous, time-consuming, and thankless job of being the scheduling chair,” Peggy Hatfield remembers. “Over the years, she worked out a great system, using the times from the previous year with consideration for any scheduling problems and added classes, and presented her spreadsheets of research to the committee for discussion in a color-coded-by-division format. Georgie has a fantastic attention to detail.” Georgie points out that the committee “worked on schedules for the best of the animal. We wanted fresh horses that benefitted from a well-planned schedule.”

“Georgie is the one responsible for fine-tuning the Grand National schedule we use today,” Sherry Cole says. “Georgie also walked through getting four rings going at MGN from two. She would lay out the plan and she always knew which classes would conflict and what would work. She was brilliant with the scheduling.”

The first Grand National meeting Sherry attended with Georgie was a memorable one. “The men on the committee—Georgie and I were the only ladies—did not want to have walk-trot classes. They said it would not work because people would not bring their kids to the show. We absolutely thought people would bring their kids. We argued the proposal and finally got the first two walk-trot classes added, one for English and one for Western pleasure. That was the first big addition to MGN that Georgie was instrumental in.”

Georgie also had a key role in securing the annual Grand

National licensing fee to AMHA. The original fee was \$35,000 and “when the income and reserves for the show increased, she was instrumental in raising it to \$65,000,” Sherry says.

Sherry and Georgie worked well together and were like-minded. “She had the best work ethic. You knew when she volunteered to take a job that it would be done perfectly and on time. She was great in that respect. I am the same way, so we worked well together and enjoyed it. She was my mentor. I learned so much from Georgie just from watching and listening. Seeing how she developed ideas was incredible,” Sherry says.

When both Georgie and John were the Grand National chairs, Cindy Mungier was asked by them to help resolve problems with professionals. Rather than letting the issue get out of hand, they proposed Cindy address any problems “professional to professional.” “I said abso-

lutely and the two times that I did it the problem was solved instantaneously. Things were resolved before they became an issue rather than after,” Cindy says.

“Georgie worked tirelessly on the MGN committee,” Grand National secretary Peggy Hatfield said. “She has never been self-serving. It was all for the good of the horse and the good of the show.” Georgie and Peggy’s families have been showing together since the first Grand National in Detroit. They have shared time in the ring and outside of horse endeavors as well. “Georgie has been one of the most generous people I know, both in our personal relationships and in her giving to the breed with her time and talents. She is an amazing asset to the Morgan horse. Our family values her friendship beyond words.”

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**“Everything she did was for the breed. She was for ethics and followed the rules. She was smart and inclusive and such an advocate for the trotting breeds.”**

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**FAMILY & THE MORGAN FIRST**

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** The Green family at the 2006 USEF Awards; John & Georgie welcomed their first professional trainer, Ryne Swope, to 10 Star Ranch in 2018.

The Fu sisters, Iann Fu (Longenecker) and Ling Fu (Wylie), grew up with the Green's girls and have attended every Grand National in Oklahoma with them, and both have shared the MGN committee table with Georgie. Ling remembers Georgie as the advocate for starting the Classic Pleasure Division. "The advancements in our industry are because of Georgie (and Sherry). Georgie never had an agenda. She was the example for all the breeds. She was always a lady, kind and gentle in her persuasion."

"When I first started on the MGN Committee in 2008, I thought how lucky I am to be sitting at the table with Georgie," Iann recalls. "She has a presence at a meeting. Georgie is in this for everybody and, most importantly, the Morgan horse. Everything she did was for the breed. She was for ethics and followed the rules. She was smart and inclusive and such an advocate for the trotting breeds. It was so important having her and Sherry involved. She was never on a board for her personal advancement. She was fiercely unselfish and ethical."

Roles have evolved over the years at 10 Star Ranch and Georgie's office space has new occupants, but the purpose remains the same. Everything is done as their motto promotes, for the love of the Morgan horse. Recently, Roadshow was honored with the 2021 AMHA Dr. Albert Lucine Promoter Award. Georgie's view on the award is "we don't think of it as promotion, we just do it. The fact that it turns out to be promotion is wonderful."

In 2018, Ryne Swope was hired as the resident trainer when John stepped down as the amateur trainer of the show string. He is one of the first non-family members to have a seat at the decision-making table and, according to Georgie, "Ryne excels at bringing

the past forward and keeping our foundational values at the core of what we do."

Ryne says, "I developed the 'Roadshow Roundtable,' which is a yearly meeting before show season shapes up. This was inspired by Georgie instilling in me that this is a family program, and I was coming in to continue the legacy and perpetuate their ideals. We also meet throughout the year as a group, all eleven of us, to make plans and decisions. Every idea is respected, just as Georgie modeled in her breed administrative roles."

Ryne has brought fresh insight to the Roadshow ranch and his forward-thinking made him a sought-after participant of USEF and horse show committees, which Georgie, of course, thinks is excellent. "I was originally approached for the USEF Boards because they knew Georgie would support my involvement. I asked Georgie for

her opinion and guidance because she has been such a pillar in the trotting breed community. Without hesitation she told me, 'Do it. USEF needs young people and new viewpoints.'" Ryne currently sits on the USEF Saddle Seat Equitation Committee and the Big D Charity Horse Show Board, and was previously on the USEF National Breeds and Disciplines Board.

Georgie inspires Ryne and he routinely seeks her out for advice, which she does not hesitate to give. "Georgie inspires me to never be afraid to say what I am thinking and to stay true to what I value and know to be right. Whether it is in style or not, staying true to yourself and values has impacted me greatly. She also stresses being confident and feeding off of the strengths of those around you. I aspire to be as direct as Georgie—I would love to be her."

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John & Georgie's success is because of their intense commitment to one another. **LEFT TO RIGHT:** John & Georgie Green with Roadshow Casey Bar (photo © Howard Schatzberg); John & Georgie share a special moment at Jubilee Regional; John & Georgie were honored for steering the Heritage Classic Horse Show in Athens, Texas.

The third generation of Greens is curating and continuing the ranch's legacy. Mattie (Willard) Luedeker manages the breeding program, has built a competitive lesson and academy program, and is the right-hand assistant to the show string. She has seen the Morgan breed through her grandmother's eyes and has experienced it firsthand as a world champion rider.

"I realized at an early age, specifically at Grand National, that my grandmother was deeply rooted in the show, but she never missed a class that her grandchildren, daughters, or immediate family were showing in. She was always on the go from morning to night, from putting out fires in the show office, to making sure hospitality was stocked and ribbons were organized. She could answer any questions and she never replied with an 'I don't know.' She either knew the answer or knew who had the answer. I was in awe as a child at how organized she was and all she did for AMHA, USEF, and MGN."

Most importantly, Mattie puts the horse first, just as her grandmother taught her. "Anytime she would talk to me about her work with MGN or with the Morgan, she stressed the fact that the horse comes first. Any rule change or class specifications were written in a way that promoted the breed's longevity. She still wants to know what is going on with the Morgan breed and changes and wants to make sure that Roadshow stays relevant, yet authentic to who we are," Mattie said. When asked about her granddaughter, a choked-up Georgie replies with, "I am very proud of my Mattie, who came along and is promoting the Roadshow horse and the breeding of the horses."

The second granddaughter on the Green family tree, Sarah Pruetz, is the current Traffic Manager for *The Morgan Horse* magazine. "I get my determination from my grandmother. The changes she has been able to help facilitate within the breed impress me. She fought long and hard for those changes. She stood her ground and really did what was best for the breed. She is a strong force in my life and has shaped who I am. Her advocating for change has been a huge part of all our lives. Anything that I can do in my life

to give back I would want to do."

Georgie's daughters continue to be active in the Morgan community. Jamie competes in multiple disciplines and Gina serves on the Grand National committee. "I am very proud because they are doing such a good job," Georgie says. Gina may not have chosen committee life due to her mother's influence but, "I know what it takes so I have an advantage. I have been around this for so long that I don't know otherwise. It's innate. It's part of who I am since I have grown up around it."

Georgie Green has been a vocal advocate for the Morgan breed for more than 30 years. "New people coming into the breed need to know from whence we came," Peggy Alderman states. "Georgie was, and has been, instrumental for generations. Our present breed and Grand National is exactly what Georgie dreamed for it. I was a nay-sayer at one point—'Western and the hunt seat, we don't need that'—and here we are. It is better for the breed. I watched her change the Morgan breed for the better. You had to respect her, and you had to listen to her. She was a force; it wasn't like everyone was nice and let her in. She made things happen." And Gina reminds us that, "She stood up for what was true and right even in the most intimidating situations. She always asked the hard question and made the hard vote. It may not be the popular thing, but it was the right thing."

"We would have been so far behind where we are now without Georgie," Cindy Mugnier observes. "She was so forward-thinking and kept trying to be progressive. When people were stuck in the repetitive nature of doing things, Georgie recognized that tradition was great, but change is growth. There are folks who were part of the 'old guard,' but Georgie was having none of that. She never lost her cool and she never raised her voice. She would say, 'We have got to stay up with the times.' We were often ahead of the curve to every other breed, and I attribute that to Georgie's forward-thinking."

When asked what the rewards were for her service, Georgie's response is simple, direct, and immediate: "You do it for the horse, not for the rewards." ■