



~ BREEDER PROFILE ~

MEANT TO BEE: THE STORY OF ANCAN MORGANS

Anne Wyland was on a mission. The year was 1996, and she was at the Cochran Morgan Auction at the Ohio State Fairgrounds hunting for another broodmare for her fledgling breeding operation. As Anne made her way through the rows of stalls filled with lovely Morgans consigned to the sale, she came upon a mare that stopped her dead in her tracks. “She looked so much like a buckskin that I paused to admire her,” Anne remembers. “Yet her papers said she was bay. I was certain she was buckskin! I wanted her in the worst way. When I saw how she moved, like an athletic show horse with motion to burn, I *really* wanted her. Her breeder drove her through in a pleasure driving cart. She had lovely motion and athletic ability,

By **Laura Hornick Behning**

and the most beautiful head. And that coloring—I was hooked.”

At that time, Anne didn’t usually spend more than \$2,000 for her mares. “I didn’t have to. You could find quality mares at that price through this venue,” she explains. So, she stopped bidding at her self-imposed limit of \$2,000. When her husband Rob came back from the restroom he asked if she had gotten the mare. “I said no, she went over \$2,000,” she says. “Imagine my surprise when he handed me the bill of sale.”

The new addition was the four-year-old Aquila’s Miss Bee Haven (Futurity Command x Aquila’s Queen Bee). She was indeed a very dark, sooty buckskin, her color source coming through her palomino dam, Aquila’s Queen Bee, who traced her cream dilution to the Brunk-bred palomino mare Cotton Candy (“Legacy

ABOVE: Anne Wyland with her foundation stallion, Fiddler’s Blackriver, and with the “fantasy horse,” Ancan True Colors.



FOUNDATION MORGANS

LEFT TO RIGHT: The stallion Fiddler's Blackriver and the mare Wil O Creek Darling gave Ancan its start.

Mares—Cotton Candy: Let Her Colors Shine” *The Morgan Horse*, March 2010). Anne was not particularly interested in color, but “Bee” brought back fond childhood memories of Lorne Greene’s buckskin mount in the TV show *Bonanza*. “I did not go with the idea of purchasing *this* mare,” Anne explains. “Little did I know the impact Bee would have on my breeding program.”

Anne has been drawn to horses as long as she can remember. As a child she had begged for a horse for years, but it took her parents’ divorce—and her mom’s resultant guilt over it—to reach that goal. “I was okay with the divorce if it was going to get me a horse,” Anne says. “I milked it for all it was worth.” That first horse was a four-year-old gaited black mare, half Quarter Horse, half Walker—who cost just \$150 and was named Midnight (of course!). Anne rode on trails and competed in speed events with Midnight, but as a financially struggling teenager she was eventually forced to part with the mare. A few years later Anne bought a Morab mare, whose beauty, spark, and trot she really loved. Her brother had a purebred Arabian and at the time Anne really thought the Arabian was the breed for her. She boarded her mare with a friend who happened to own Morgans. One day the two of them went for a visit to Dearl DeShone’s Pinehaven Farms in Saginaw, Michigan. Anne had never seen so many Morgans of all ages in one place. “He had pens of weanling colts and pens of weanling fillies,” Anne remembers. “He had a barn of stallions, he had a barn of two- and three-year-olds, and he had broodmares in three different locations, all wearing cattle number tags to identify them. I had no intention of buying a horse that day. But I fell for a darling dark chestnut colt, trimmed in white. All the other colts huddled together in the corner of their pen, afraid of me. But this one boldly

approached and it was all over for me from that moment on.”

The colt’s name was Pinehaven Suprem (Pinehaven Pepper x Pinehaven Melody), foaled in 1979. “He cost me \$1,000, and Dearl allowed me to make payments,” Anne says. “He knew I worked at a steakhouse for peanuts and he told me as long as I paid something on him every month, even if it was only \$5, I could take the colt. It took me four years to pay him off, but I did. ‘Taz’ and I went everywhere and did everything together. I sold him when I moved into my current location. He longed for a job and I was busy raising foals. I found him an ideal home that kept him the rest of his life.”

Years of admiring the Morgans in *The Morgan Horse* magazine inspired Anne to start raising her own. She hoped to breed nice enough horses that their sales would sustain the ones she kept. But what prefix to use for her new venture? That answer also came with an assist from the pages of *The Morgan Horse*. “Back in the mid-1980s, there was a fun article printed in the magazine. It was all about prefixes and how they came to be,” Anne explains. “There was Pill Peddler, who was a medical doctor. There was Stonybrook because the brook was stony. There was Tedwin because Ted liked to win. So it got me thinking. I wanted something that sounded positive. I wanted something that included ‘me’ in it because it’s my program, my horses. When I was in elementary school, my best friend’s dad used to tease me by calling me rhyming words that went with my first name, Anne. He’d say: ‘Ol’ Anne Pan from Alabam.’ The rhyming appealed, and Anne rhymed with ‘can.’ How much more positive sounding can it be than Anne *can*? I shortened it to Ancan for registration count reasons and put it on file with AMHA back in the late 1980s.”

Anne purchased Wil O Creek Darling, her first broodmare,

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AQUILA'S MISS BEE HAVEN

The 1992 buckskin mare Aquila's Miss Bee Haven (**BOTTOM LEFT**) has been central to the Ancan program. She descends in direct female line from Cotton Candy (**TOP LEFT**) (photo © Launsbach) and is the dam of Ancan True Colors (**TOP RIGHT**) (by Fiddler's Blackriver), sire of 57 foals. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Bee gets some loving at an open barn with Ancan Powers That Bee at her side.

in 1989. She had been searching for several years for a Nocturne-bred mare, and Darling, sired by the Waseeka's In Command son Wynne Commotion, fit the bill. "Her dam was a full-of-type-and-substance daughter of Troutbrook Playboy, Shaker's Rita," Anne says. "I knew as soon as I saw Darling she was 'the one.' I bought her as a four-year-old, trained her myself, and owned her the rest of her life, laying her to rest 25 years later."

In the fall of 1993, Anne was reading a Michigan horse classified magazine and noticed an ad for Fiddler's Blackriver (Waseeka's Vivo x Fiddler's Dolly) at stud. He had the Waseeka's Nocturne breeding that Anne liked, so she took a road trip to see him. "I was a little surprised that he was bright orange, but he was so very well put together, moved with an incredible athleticism (best hocks, ever), and he was so kind," she says. While visiting with his owner, Julie Bair Collins, it came up that "Fiddler" was also offered for sale. But at 19 years of age, Anne worried that the

stallion might not be fertile. "Looking back now, it makes me laugh that I made Julie put in our contract that I could return him the following spring if he was incapable of settling mares," she says. "Fiddler was as fertile as they came. In fact, he bred and settled mares the year we laid him to rest at the age of 31. Fiddler stood here for 12 wonderful years and little did I realize at the time what an incredible foundation he was laying for my program. It was 'Fid' that taught me what proper use of a rear end really looked like. I was blessed to have him."

Many of Fiddler's 29 Ancan-prefixed offspring have had successful show and breeding careers. Addison Green of Utica, New York, had her Christmas wish come true in December 2017 when she became part owner of Ancan Charity, a 1999 daughter of Fiddler's Blackriver out of Randy Rustique Robin. "Imagine being 14 years old and finally getting a horse that you have been wishing for the last twelve years," Addison says. "She is

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ANCAN TRUE COLORS OFFSPRING

TOP ROW: Ancan True Colors; Ancan Colt Of Many Colors (x Rookwood's Hollywoodmadam) & Darin Lulich (photo © Howard Schatzberg). **BOTTOM ROW:** Ancan Fall Colors (x Devonwood Decadence) & Robin McHugh; Ancan Irreplaceable (x A Cinderella Story) with the Wyland's granddaughter Sophie.

affectionately known as 'Cherry' and currently Gayle Pulizzi and I own her together. She arrived at Wilde Wind Farm (WWF) in March as an eight-year-old when the owner at the time bought her as a pleasure horse. It was evident that she was a special Morgan—calm, level-headed, and just a sweetheart. Shortly after her arrival her owner had to decide between a wedding dress and Cherry. She chose the dress. The owner of WWF didn't want to see such a wonderful representation of the breed leave the farm so she and Gayle Pulizzi bought her. In 2010, Cherry was bred to Fiddler's Sampson and she produced a lovely filly that still lives at the farm today." Cherry and Addison trail ride and show in the hunter division, but they also promote the breed by giving pony rides and doling out "horse therapy" to Addison's grandmother. "One thing that I have always liked about *The Morgan Horse* magazine is the quote that says "The Horse that Chooses You," Addison continues. "I truly believe that Cherry chose me. At a point in my life, I really thought that I would never own my own horse. However,

on one snowy Christmas day my biggest dream finally came true. Cherry is truly the best thing that has ever come into my life."

The buckskin gelding Ancan Reason To Bee is one of eight full siblings from the cross of Fiddler's Blackriver on Anne's colorful Cochran Auction purchase, Aquila's Miss Bee Haven. "Reason" showed successfully in the Western pleasure division for several different owners. His 2011 daughter, Ancan Reason For Envy (out of Adventure's Satin), caught the eye of Annilee Obrochta-Bienias, of Angola, New York, after she spotted the pretty buckskin on the Ancan website. "Every year I would pick my favorite foal from the photos Anne posted on her website, dreaming of the day I could have a colorful Morgan of my own," Annilee says. "And then I saw 'Envy'. I knew she was the one. Anne was gracious enough to let her become a part of my family and from the moment she stepped off the trailer as a yearling she was very affectionate and curious. We showed hunter pleasure and for me our most memorable classes proved Envy's bravery and determination. One class was

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ANCAN TRUE COLORS OFFSPRING

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Antwyne Afterglow (x Kerry Arabesque) & Judy Good Miller; Expat's Regimental Colors (x RHB Gemini); Smoldering True Sensation (x Sizzle In Brass) with Lainey & Dawn Jacobson (photo © Erin Thomas); Roselyn Mr Sand Man GCH (x Roselyn My True Love) & Dr. Roxanne Rogers (photo © Howard Schatzberg); Ancan Splash Of Color (x F C F Lady Victoria) & Cathy Dorr.

in a flooded outdoor ring, with a literal stream running through it. She went through it with every pass and came out the winner. A second class entailed a horse bucking its rider off directly next to us at the canter and my mare did not flinch. Not only is she beautiful but she has the sound mind to get the job done in the hairiest of circumstances. Showing has taken a back burner to raising a family, but Envy takes care to be extra gentle and is teaching her kids the joy of the Morgan horse.”

Probably the most well-known of the Fiddler-Bee cross is Ancan True Colors, who was a breeding stallion at Anne's until age 16. Color was just gaining in popularity when “Blitz,” a palomino, showed in the early 2000s. He had a following. People would run to the arena to watch him compete and then follow him back to his stall to see him up close and ask questions. “I called it the Pied Piper effect. They had never seen anything like him, and I got comments like, ‘he's a fantasy horse, he's magical, and I want one just like him.’” Anne says. “For all the fans he had, his book was always light. I was the main breeder using him. People were afraid their colorfules wouldn't be well-used in a show class, and with some judges they were correct to feel that way. Blitz's trainer always considered who the judge was before we entered him into competition. So it was even more special when he garnered championships in pleasure driving and in-hand. He was castrated at age 16 as breeding season was always stressful for him and his book just did not demand he remain intact. Funny now, people wish I had collected frozen semen on him and are interested in breeding to him today now that colorful Morgans are more widely

accepted and sought after.” Blitz proved to be an outstanding sire, not only creating more quality colorful Morgans but consistently passing on that natural athletic ability and correct form for function that his sire had. His offspring are treasured trail horses and successful show ring mounts in a wide variety of disciplines.

The 16-hand, palomino gelding Ancan Colt Of Many Colors is an excellent example of the type of kind, versatile equine partners sired by Ancan True Colors. Darin Lulich of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, purchased “Fritz” in early 2014. “I was wearing out the internet looking at Fritz on Anne's website until our unit secretary said I needed to buy him. Or in my terms, be allowed to take care of him,” Darin explains. “I flew in and rented a car to see him. Or simply to meet Anne since I had already made up my mind. I was an older amateur and looking for just one more time in the show pen. There were many emails sent—more like novels.” Fritz was started by Darin using Straightness Training principles. “I whispered in his ear that I was getting too old to back horses but I didn't want to send him to a trainer. I asked him if he could be kind and let an old guy back a horse for the last time. I put a leg over and he walked off. No issues.” Fritz won some good ribbons at the 2019 Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show® in Western dressage, and in 2020 he was the Western Dressage Association of Wisconsin Intro Level year-end high point horse. “In order for me to stay in horses I travel about two hours a day,” Darin explains. “I love doing it. I work in downtown Minneapolis and am filled with gratitude to be able to house my horses with Pat and Carl Hartell about an hour away. They are no strangers to the show world, with

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DISCIPLINES

New owners have pursued many paths with horses purchased from Ancan. **CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Ancan Reason For Envy & Annilee Obrochta-Bienias; Ancan Reason To Bee & Rob Marsh; Ancan Butch Cassidy & Brianna Guerrin; Ancan Remington & Denise Alban-Kern; Ancan Charity & Addison Green (photos © Terry Young, Tracy Kelsey, Shane Shiflet, Franke Photo Design).

many titles in Morgan carriage driving. Fritz drives, has advanced dressage maneuvers, but most importantly he gives me ‘pony rides,’ which mean more than showing ever could. While I love to show, there is nothing better than to sit on my beautiful Fritz at the edge of a corn field with monarch butterflies and dragonflies encircling this lovely palomino Morgan. He is truly a unicorn.” Last fall Darin partnered with the Hartells on Ancan Bee Blitzed (Ancan True Colors x Ancan Timeless), a smoky black 2017 gelding. Darin spent last winter working with “Mai Tai.” “In-hand he has leg yield, shoulder in, and haunches in,” Darin says. “He schools in lines and I have ridden him a number of times. He has such a lovely mind that he will also carriage drive. I am so very proud to be able to take care of two Ancan Morgans. I wish I could have more. These are beautiful horses—smart, kind, patient, forgiving, gentle, and friendly. Anne has created beautiful animals...they love to be around you.”

Cathy Dorr of Lunenburg, Vermont, purchased Ancan Splash Of Color (Ancan True Colors x FCF Lady Victoria) from Anne as a weanling in 2005. This was her second Ancan Morgan as she had previously purchased the mare Ancan Spirit Of Chance (Century Contender x Ancan Second Chance, by Fiddler’s Blackriver) two years earlier. “I made the 18-hour drive from northeastern Vermont to Michigan and was greeted by lots of kitties, a couple of dogs, and Anne’s smiling face,” Cathy says. “She gave me a tour of her place; showed me her foundation retired stud, Fiddlers Blackriver, who was quite elderly; [and showed me] all the beautiful mares. Then on to the pen of ten or 12 weanlings. ‘Splash’ was the one in

the way back... not the bravest of the weanlings, but his spotted blaze and his bright chestnut coloring was what had interested me for months.” Splash and Cathy have since shown in open halter, English pleasure, and classic pleasure over the years, but the flashy gelding really shines in hunter pleasure classes. “He is still the low man in the pasture but is very brave under saddle and is always willing to give 110 percent,” Cathy says. “Everywhere we go people say, ‘Oh look! Splash is here!’ His beautiful classic Morgan body and bright chestnut coat trimmed with chrome has made a huge impression on everyone.”

The 2007 chestnut gelding Ancan Fall Colors (Ancan True Colors x Devonwood Decadence) had a Western pleasure and in-hand show career before Robin McHugh of Plymouth, Michigan, bought him in 2017. “Although ‘Charlie’ was purchased for my daughter Elizabeth, she shares him with me and we both train and show him in classic dressage,” Robin says. “He is a hard-working, sensitive boy who takes care of us in and out of the ring. He loves to move and is very smart.”

In addition to being fine performance horses, the offspring of Ancan True Colors are adding his many excellent qualities to breeding programs both here and abroad. Tonie Schmitt’s palomino mare, Ancan Miss T Rific (out of AMHF Absolut Miss T), lives at Cobblestone Creek Morgan in Conowango Valley, New York. She not only is a wonderful trail mount but also produced her first foal for Tonie, a palomino filly by DPR Notoriety, this spring. “Misty encompasses all the beauty, brains, and disposition I see in all of Anne’s breeding,” Tonie says. “She is an asset to my breeding

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program, but more importantly, she an absolute sweetheart that I enjoy being with every day. Anne has been a wonderful mentor to me. She has always given me good advice. Plus, she is always honest, whether you want to hear it or not. That is such a rare quality to find these days.”

When Lindsey Berry of Starberry Sport Morgans in Ballston Spa, New York, was forming her breeding herd back in 2016 she consulted often with Anne and the two became friends. Lindsey ended up purchasing Ancan Cosmic Colors (Ancan True Colors x Sinful Command) in 2018, and the mare had her first foal, a chestnut filly by Primal Thunder, this spring. “Anne worked with me to pick my ideal mare from her program, one we thought would truly shine through her foals with my desired bloodlines,” Lindsey says. “Cosmic’ is a gifted mover, a natural jumper, with the knees and ears lusted after in the A-circuit hunter rings. As Anne knew she would be, she is also an outstanding mother. While her first job is to create some outstanding young sport Morgans for our program, she will be headed to the show ring herself to prove Morgans in every color can do it all.”

Scott Mayden’s buckskin stallion Expat’s Regimental Colors (out of RHB Gemini) brought Ancan breeding to Europe and the British Isles. Foaled at Ancan Morgans in 2006, “Reggie” was exported, along with his dam, to Expat Morgans, then located in France, later that year. At his first show, the 2009 German Morgan Horse Association show, Reggie won the in-hand three- and four-year-old stallion class. In 2011 he came home with ribbons in dressage, hunter, trail, and hunter hack from both the Deutsche Morgan Horse Association show in Holland and the DMHA championship in Germany. He competed very successfully at the European Championship show in England with a European Champion Stallion title, as well as reserve champion titles in several hunter classes and the jumping class. Reggie’s first foals were born in 2009 and they have duplicated their sire’s success in the show ring with titles both in-hand and under saddle.

Twenty of Blitz’s 57 offspring bear prefixes other than Ancan, and they are making their owners proud. Judy Good Miller of Winthrop, Washington, became an admirer of Anne’s breeding program after seeing a picture of Blitz in a Rainbow Morgan Horse Association newsletter that she picked up at Grand National one year. In 2005 Judy had the opportunity to lease the chestnut mare Kerry Arabesque, who just happened to be located in Michigan. “Like the crazy horse lady that I am, my wheels started turning,” Judy says. “I was thinking, hmm, ‘Peaches’ is in Michigan, and Blitz is in Michigan, just miles away. What a wonderful cross that would be and I could have a palomino filly. So I contacted Anne and told her what I was thinking and of course she was totally on board, being a crazy horse lady too. Anne and Blitz managed to get Peaches covered twice before she shipped west and both of us kept our fingers crossed that there were two on board. We were both thrilled when the ultrasound showed that she was indeed in foal, and I joyfully awaited my palomino filly! Fast forward 11 months, when after a week of sleeping in the barn with Peaches, eagerly waiting to meet my darling palomino filly, Peaches foaled a very bright red chestnut colt with a big white blaze! What happened to my golden filly? I called Anne and told her and she said a lot of

palominos look like chestnuts at first, so I thought maybe he would grow up to look like Blitz. He was adorable and perfect and friendly and full of personality, just not a palomino filly. Well, he stayed red, and Anne asked me what I was going to name him. I jokingly told her I was thinking about Antwyne Better Red Than Dead, but settled on something more dignified, Antwyne Afterglow, a.k.a. “Blaze,” for obvious reasons.” Blaze has become Judy’s favorite trail buddy. “He is brave and willing and always gives me his best effort. He crossed the Methow River the first time I asked him and crossed the big scary suspension bridge. He followed another horse over it the first time, and then on the way back led the other horses across with no hesitation. He is a bit of a showoff, and if we meet someone on the trail with a camera, he stops and strikes a pose as if to say, ‘Take my picture, I am a beautiful Morgan horse.’ He reminds me so much of his sire, Blitz, in those moments.”

One of the many positive attributes of the Morgan breed is the connection they make with their owners. Roselyn Mr Sandman GCH (Ancan True Colors x Roselyn My True Love) did just that for owner Linda Pouncey. Bred by Marilyn Paschall of Roselyn Farm in Melrose, Florida, “Spirit” was a four-year-old stallion in training when he came into Linda’s life. “In the winter of 2018, my aged riding horse severely injured his hind leg and I knew I needed to retire him,” she explains. “Just a few months earlier, I had buried my 30-year-old Morgan, Sunny, who was my heart horse that I owned for 27 years. I was still mourning losing my Morgan and was upset over my other horse’s injury when I called my daughter, Dr. Roxanne Rogers, crying the blues, so to speak. She asked, ‘Mom, what do you really want?’ I replied, ‘just one more young Morgan I can grow old with.’ Roxy asked, ‘what color?’ I laughingly replied, ‘well, I’ve had just about every color of horse, but I’ve never owned a buckskin.’ Two days later, with some help from her many friends in the Morgan world, Roxy found the perfect horse for me. We flew down to Florida to see him and I fell in love with his wonderful disposition and laid-back personality. It was the middle of March and I live in northern Michigan in the snow-belt so there was no way I was bringing this Florida horse up to my farm—he would freeze. My daughter and I agreed to have him shipped to Ohio where she lived so she could continue his training and prepare him for being my new trail horse.” Spirit’s talent and natural movement exceeded all expectations. The mother-daughter team decided to show him in Western dressage, and he has been a consistent winner in intro level Western dressage classes at such shows as Michigan All-Morgan, Buckeye Morgan Challenge, and Grand National for the last four years. This year Spirit expanded his repertoire to ranch riding, winning both classes at the 2021 Western New York Morgan Show and Tri-State Morgan.

Dawn Jacobson of Westport Morgans in Muskegon, Michigan, got a bit more than she bargained for when she bred her buckskin mare, Sizzle In Brass, to Ancan True Colors. Dawn’s connection with Anne began in 2008 when she bought the bay filly Ancan True Spirit and the chestnut gelding Ancan Fall Colors, both yearlings by Ancan True Colors. “Ancan True Spirit taught my daughter how to ride and was her first show horse,” Dawn says. “The temperaments on both these horses made me want to breed my buckskin mare, Sizzle In Brass, to Blitz.” “Sizzle” got in foal and Dawn had all the



FOAL PHOTOS

Beautiful photos of foals on the Ancan website have attracted callers and buyers over the years. **TOP ROW:** Ancan Colorflash (x Arboria Chantelle); Ancan Scallywag (x Sinful Commander); Ancan Cocoa Latte (x Indian Creek Legendary). **BOTTOM ROW:** Ancan Trend Setter with dam Wil O Creek Darling; Ancan Arctic Clipper (Tara's Sable).

normal routine checks, including ultrasound, done during the pregnancy. On April 14, 2013, the big moment finally arrived. “When I delivered the filly, I was thrilled with a double dilute,” Dawn says. “My mare quickly expelled the placenta and got up. The next thing I see is another bubble! I dragged the filly over to my friend to clean and my other friend immediately called the vet. I was very lucky the next foal was oriented correctly and so small he slid right out. He was the size of a Doberman, but strong, and was nickering and trying to stand before I got him cleaned off. Neither foal had any health issues. Sizzle was a maiden mare and easily accepted and nursed them the entire time.” Equine twins that survive are extremely rare. Only nine percent of twins are carried to term. Of that, 64.5 percent will be two stillborn foals, 21 percent will be one live foal and one stillborn foal, and only 14.5 percent will be two live foals. The Westport twins had definitely beaten the odds.

Dawn named the perlino filly Sparkling True Sensation and the smoky black gelding Smoldering True Sensation. The perlino, now owned by Steve and Annette Smith, is with Lori Marino Beasley as part of her Morgan Valley Farm lesson program. The smoky black gelding, “Max,” remained with Dawn. “He is the most amazing horse I have ever trained,” Dawn says. “He has been shown on the Morgan circuit and is a multi-Western pleasure walk-trot champion

with my 11-year-old daughter, Lainey. He does everything from hunt, showmanship, trail, bareback, even barrels for her in 4-H. His ‘can do’ attitude is exactly what I wanted from the cross. When Anne gelded Blitz, I wanted to continue the bloodline. I bred Ancan True Spirit to OTM Total Eclipse and had a black filly in 2020. She is my future star with the Ancan True Colors bloodline.”

The Ancan True Colors/Fiddler’s Blackriver heritage lives on in the next generation of Ancan Morgans. Denise Alban-Kern of Morris, Illinois, is the proud owner of the smoky black stallion Ancan Remington (TB Midnite Summers Dream x Ancan Timeless, out of Ancan Unbelievable, a full sister to Ancan True Colors) and Ancan Cinnabon (Ancan Color Guard by Ancan True Colors x Hollybrook Delilah), a dark buckskin mare. Both horses are from Anne’s 2016 foal crop. Denise had been looking for about a year specifically for a foal. She had an idea in her mind of what she wanted but hadn’t yet found exactly what she was looking for. “Anne does a beautiful job with her pictures and posting on Facebook, and she had an Immortal Command daughter, Ancan Timeless, who was expecting her first foal,” Denise says. “I really liked the look of ‘Time’ and when the foal arrived, it was a lovely black colt. I saw him and immediately contacted Anne to go and see him.” Denise and her husband took a road trip about a week later and Denise

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fell in love with Time's colt. There was another foal born that year from Anne's mare Hollybrook Delilah. "She was a cute-as-a-button dark brown buckskin filly that she had already named Cinnabon," Denise continues. "My husband, Tony (non-horsey mind you), was literally enchanted with her. My focus was on the colt, but he kept saying 'what about this one?' as he played with the filly. I told him as lovely as she was, I really wanted the colt. I started playing with the babies and saw my husband talking with Anne and then they shook hands. From experience that can be good or bad, so I went over to him and asked him what was going on. He looked at me with a big, beaming smile on his face and said, 'we are taking the filly too.' To say I was shocked was an understatement, but it really was easier to raise two youngsters at once instead of just one. To this day he still calls her 'Honey Bunny' and when she hears his voice she races over to meet him at the fence. Anne often says that Tony is her favorite buyer's spouse ever!"

"Remy" and "Cinnie" are showing in dressage classes currently, with plans to head to Oklahoma City this fall. "They both have great brains and are really fun to ride in different ways," Denise says. "Remy is sheer power. He doesn't move like a young horse and the biggest challenge with him is to channel the power. He is very quiet and level-headed for a stallion, never mean, and very polite. Cinnie is elegant and refined. She's a fast learner and always tries to please. Anne really does breed the whole package. These two have been very easy to train and both have FEI level potential, which is the plan for them."

Immortal Command has always been one of Anne's favorite stallions, and she has used him several times over the years in her breeding program. Brianna Guerrin's 2007 black gelding, Ancan Butch Cassidy (out of Aquila's Miss Bee Haven), is a great example of this cross. "Butch" has had a decade-long career in the Western and hunter pleasure divisions at A-rated Morgan shows. Butch and Brianna became a team in 2013. "When I first met Butch, he already had a working relationship with my trainer, Tammy Levesque of Wingedspur Farm, where I began leasing him and then had the opportunity to buy and make him my very own," Brianna says. "Butch is a special horse. He has the sweetest personality and the best willing-to-please attitude towards pretty much everything. It took a lot of patience and love to make him the horse he is today and there were certainly moments of uncertainty. In 2015 Butch had a great show season and went on to win the Hunter Pleasure Amateur Championship at the New England Regional Morgan Horse show, which not only created wonderful memories, it allowed me to connect with his breeder, Anne Wyland. We chatted for hours about how he was as a baby and all the stories about him in his younger years that she shared with me really helped to see a part of him that wasn't known before. From our adventures in the show ring to having a nice relaxing bareback ride on a summer evening, he truly is just a pleasure."

Nowadays Ancan True Colors serves as Anne's trusted trail mount, a role he also played when he was intact. Anne has retained his two full sisters, both excellent producers, and four of his daughters are still active in her program. "These bloodlines and horses have been good to me," she says. "They were the foundation I built my program on and continue to build on. Today, I do

not stand a stallion. I have found that the chrome-plated black stallion TB Midnite Summers Dream (Stoncroft Byzantine x THB Heaven's French Starlet) has been a fantastic nick with my mares, and I have used him for the last five years successfully. My Astronomicallee daughter is going back to "Dreamer" again this year due to the outstanding foals this cross has produced for me. The colt at her side by Dreamer, Ancan Midnight Salute, is the first colt I have considered retaining and standing since Ancan True Colors. I have three other mares bred to Dreamer for 2022. My Immortal Command daughter, Ancan Timeless, who is out of Blitz's full sister, Ancan UnBelievable, is also carrying another foal that I'm excited to have by a lovely son of Astronomicallee who is out of Halle Berry, who is TB Midnite Summers Dream's full sister. And stepping out of the box this year, I'm taking my palomino Blitz daughter, Ancan Irreplaceable, to Centerpiece for a 2022 foal." Anne has retained two daughters of TB Midnite Summers Dream, Ancan Summers Mist (out of a Blitz daughter), and Ancan Halo (out of a Chandel Absolut daughter), in her current mare lineup. "Halo" is in foal for 2022 to Blitz's full brother, Ancan Reason To Bee, via frozen semen. "I'm super excited to see what this creates!" Anne says. "It's so nice to go back to the lines that founded my program."

Anne met her husband, Rob, in 1985 on a blind date. "We hit it off right away," Anne says. "First of all, we both came in wearing pink and gray business clothes. He drove a white Cutlass (1972) and I drove a white Cutlass (1979). We had lots in common, including a love of animals, amusement parks, concerts, and travel. He knew I had horses when he met me, so he knew what he was getting into." The couple has two sons: Matthew, who lives in Washington state, and Nicholas, who lives on the farm with his eleven-year-old daughter, Sophie. That farm—where generations of Ancan Morgans have been born—was purchased in 1992. The property features mature trees and perennials that came with the place as well as flowers and trees that Anne has planted. Both the house and original bank barn were built in 1870. Last year (thankfully, Anne says, before lumber prices rose) a new barn was built. "It's a lovely 96'x40'x20' structure with a great loft for saving hay, eight stalls that lead out to paddocks, a tack and feed room," she explains. "It has a small 40'x40' indoor arena that allows for ground-working youngsters. My husband is building the interior, stalls, wiring, water, etc. My old bank barn is still operable, and I use it both for horses and hay storage." Anne and her Morgans make good use of the farm's proximity to miles of trails, riding out year-round, even in the cold Michigan winters.

Producing color has never been Anne's goal or focus. She emphasizes that she is a Morgan horse breeder, period. "I've bred as many bays and chestnuts as dilutes, probably more," she says. "I have had some luck with palominos, smoky blacks, and buckskins, but I'm still just a breeder striving to create a beautiful quality Morgan regardless of its coat coloring. I have never gone after a title of colorful breeder."

Anne has found many creative ways to give back to the breed she loves so much. She was active in the Rainbow Morgan Horse Association as a member of the Board of Directors for many years and editor of the newsletter for the Michigan Justin Morgan Horse Association (MJMHA). Her husband, Rob, served on the MJMHA



TOP ROW: Denise Alban-Kern came to Ancan to buy a colt. Her husband, Tony, came home with the filly Ancan Cinnabon as part of the package; Anne and her “barn girls” are about to head off on a trail ride. Left to right: Hayden Angers riding Ancan UnBeelievable, Lexi Yaklin riding Ancan Color Matinee and Anne and her dogs with Ancan True Colors. **BOTTOM ROW:** Ancan Miss T Rific and her 2021 palomino filly by DPR Notoriety. Both horses owned by Tonie Schmitt; Recently, Anne has been breeding to the stallion TB Midnite Summers Dream. Out of the mare Ancan Morning Dove she got the 2021 black colt Ancan Midnight Salute; Sizzle In Brass with her 2013 twins by Ancan True Colors.

board and was instrumental in setting up the club’s first website. The farm has hosted many open barn events over the years to promote the breed. “Open barns are appreciated by all ages, and they are so worth the time and effort that goes in to creating them,” she says. “The experiences, the people that came through my barn doors were heartwarming.” She found the reactions of seniors to be especially moving. “They were so excited to be able to touch a horse once again and told me wonderful stories of their youth and the horses they had on their family’s farms,” she remembers. Anne also invented the Fall Showcase, a promotional sales magazine that was published every year and distributed free of charge at Grand National. “The goal was to have a means for people to advertise their horses and services at a price everyone could afford,” she explains. “This allowed breeders and owners the chance to reach a large number of Morgan people without spending hundreds or thousands of dollars. It was a huge success, but a lot of work for only one person and I had to depend upon volunteers to get the publication to Oklahoma City. I finally gave it up because it was too time consuming for me, but I fully believe there is still a need for this kind of affordable advertising.”

Serendipity often plays a part in our lives, and this seems particularly true for Anne. “Throughout my breeding program, things happened that were not really of my doing, as if I was simply a pawn in a bigger picture,” she says. “I never even considered owning a stallion. It intimidated me. But Fid’s seller assured me he was easy, and he was. I absolutely did not go there looking to buy and own and stand a stallion. I was able to purchase the beautiful buckskin mare, Aquila’s Miss Bee Haven, and not quite knowing what history had in mind for me, my breeding program, and this mare, I bred her to Fiddler and offered her for sale. A local lady came to see Bee and fell in love with her beauty and charming personality. She wanted her vet to do a pre-purchase exam on her which I agreed to. He came out, put Bee through all the tests and she passed with flying colors. The lady was thrilled and told me she would be out the next week to pay for the mare. As it turned out, she backed out of the purchase and requested her check back. Yet it was that very thing that allowed Bee to remain in my possession and produce Blitz and all the other wonderful full siblings. Funny how things work out. It’s been my blessing and perhaps my destiny. I believe Fiddler and Bee were ‘meant to be’ mine.” ■