



## ≈ HISTORY LESSON ≈

# THE BRUNK DYNASTY, PART IV: *Roy Brunk, Juzan, & Congo*

**T**he richness of the Brunk Dynasty lies in its multiple branches and continuation through generations of the Brunk family. Each of J. C. Brunk's children carried forward their own program of Brunk breeding which continues to influence the Morgan breed today. In this article we will focus on the program of Roy Brunk, particularly the lines through the stallions Juzan and Congo.

By Brenda L. Tippin

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Congo (Tarron x Black Dee) (*The Morgan Connection*); Juzan (Jubilee King x Liza Jane by Knox Morgan) ([allbreedpedigree.com](http://allbreedpedigree.com)); Judges at the 11th Morgan National Show, left to right are Richard G. McAvoy, Roy Brunk, Mrs. Floyd A. Thompson, and Professor Loring V. Tirrell (*TMH* Sept 1953); Aerial view of Cotton Hill Farm in 1953 (courtesy of Renee Page, Brunk CD).



LEFT TO RIGHT: Roy Brunk; Roy's wife, Emma Blakely Brunk; Roy Brunk working in fields (all three courtesy of Renee Page, Brunk CD).

### COTTON HILL FARM

The 246-mile-long Sangamon River is a major tributary of the Illinois River along which George Brunk, founder of the Brunk family, father of J. C. Brunk, and grandfather of Roy Brunk, traveled through the wilderness to reach the area where he settled in 1821. The name Sangamon was derived from a Pottawatomie Indian word meaning “where there is plenty to eat.” George’s early hunting partners were two Kickapoo chiefs. Sangamon became a county that year and George Brunk was among the first to buy his parcel of land as soon as the land offices opened.

The Cotton Hill section of farmland in Sangamon County, located six miles south of Springfield, was said to be among the richest in the world, according to J. C. Brunk’s 1932 catalog in which he noted: “This farm is practically adapted to stock raising, and as a horse raising proposition is ideal from the standpoint of grazing, never failing water, and for productiveness of grain and forage crops. The original farm comprises of 550 acres, divided into four almost equal divisions—the soils of which vary from prairie and walnut and elm timber land to 60 acres of bottom land lying along Horse Creek, which, with never failing springs, always assures an unfailing water supply with no particular care or expense thereto. The soil is adapted to permanent pastures, which improve instead of deteriorate, our blue-grass pastures afford feed almost the entire year, and when properly handled are not surpassed by Kentucky or anywhere else; the soil is partial limestone, the hills along the creek being underlaid with a good ledge of limestone, thus making conditions of horse breeding well-nigh ideal.”

The historic Cotton Hill Farm, built by George Brunk in 1829, continued in active use for more than 150 years. It took seven years to complete the building of the two-story house, the original portion being built of limestone from the Horse Creek quarry located just a mile away. The same limestone was used to build the Illinois state capitol in nearby Springfield. The 18-inch thick limestone walls of the first floor provided natural heating and cooling. The original L-shaped house had three large chimneys, one on each of the gable end walls, and

the interior was finished with oak and walnut harvested on the property. The original 46-foot by 24-foot barn was also built by George Brunk during the 1820s. This barn, aligned east to west, was patterned after a traditional three-bay English barn designed with a central threshing floor and was constructed using timber frame techniques. This meant that each massive oak beam was painstakingly hewn from a single piece of timber, with no splices or breaks. The ends were carefully squared off and fitted to join perfectly at the corners. The precise mortise and tenon joints were further secured with one-and-a-half inch diameter wooden pins.

Around 1893 when J. C. decided to expand his Morgan horse herd, he raised the gabled roof about eight feet for additional hay storage, and then added shed roof additions on the north and south sides. These additions were all of sawn lumber and included a wide aisle and two large stalls along the north side. The timbers of circular sawn oak were mortised and tenoned into the original barn posts. The south side addition consisted of a series of additional stalls along the south side, extending around to the east side, and these were built of circular sawn pine lumber.

After J. C.’s death in 1935, Roy and his wife, Emma, remained on the homestead at Cotton Hill, farming, working the land, and raising Morgans. Roy Brunk was the last of the family to live at Cotton Hill, moving out shortly before his death in 1983. Roy’s daughter, Clara Brunk Mayes, sold part of the property to the city of Springfield in 1994. However due to the concern of interested persons, it was decided to establish a museum to preserve the Brunk Morgan history, managed by Roy’s granddaughter, Lois McDermid, as secretary. A board was formed, establishing the museum in 1995 as a 501c3 charity, and the home, barn, and five acres were deeded to the museum by the city of Springfield. The Brunk Farmstead was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. In 2005, an arson fire destroyed most of the historic Brunk home, leaving the limestone shell, still of historical importance. The barn and grounds were untouched, and many visitors have still enjoyed visiting this historic site.





**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Senata (Senator x Daisy) and Sangamo by Dr Strawn (AMHA Archives); Roy Brunk with Trinango, Grand Champion Stallion, 1953 Illinois State Fair. He won the same title in 1954 (*TMH* November 1953); Roy Brunk with Juzan and Tiffany (courtesy of Renee Page, Brunk CD).

## J. ROY BRUNK

Born January 18, 1893, Joseph Royal Brunk was the oldest surviving son and the oldest surviving child of Joseph Chase Brunk, known as J. C.. Two earlier children had died in infancy. 1893 was also the same year J. C. purchased his foundation Morgans from Frank McGavock, so Roy's earliest childhood was steeped in the memories of these horses. There was always work to be done on the Brunk farm with haying, in addition to crops of wheat, oats, and corn. In addition to Morgan horses, the Brunks also raised Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. Still, J. C. found time to exhibit his prized Morgans and young Roy was his shadow on many of these expeditions. Roy began traveling with his father when he was just seven years of age and continued traveling all over the country on Morgan horse related trips with J. C. for nearly 40 years. Roy was unique to the Morgan breed in being one of few men who was an eyewitness to many of the earliest events in the formal establishment of the breed organization, and who remained actively involved until his death in 1983. He vividly recalled his first experience helping his father show the Morgans at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis where J. C.'s prized mare, Senata, was crowned World Champion Mare. Roy was then 11 years old, and it was his task to lead the spirited mare back to the barn.

Five years later, Roy was also present when the small group of dedicated breeders gathered at the Vermont State Fair, and seated on bales of straw, discussed the future of the Morgan horse, deciding to form The Morgan Horse Club. More than 25,000 people attended the fair where one hundred Morgans had been brought to exhibit that year—more than any previous year—and the Brunks of Illinois had traveled the farthest to participate. Senata won the 1909 Mare and Foal class with her colt Sangamo and the Brunks, as usual, brought home many trophies. The Brunk breeding operation peaked in 1911 with 150 head of Morgans.

Roy remembered seeing as many as 25 Morgans at a time working in the fields during the early days of Cotton Hill before he brought in tractors. The Brunks found it economical to farm with Morgans, which could outwork the larger draft horses and do it on less feed. They also gained weight on less feed than the larger Percheron horses J. C. had tried, even though they were used for the most strenuous work.

Roy married a neighbor, Emma Blakely, in 1918. Emma was born and raised three miles from Cotton Hill Farm. Their two daughters, Clara Jean, born in 1922, and Ruth, born in 1924, would carry on the Brunk Morgan traditions. Roy took over the chores and the business of running Cotton Hill Farm, continuing, like his father and grandfather before him, to work the land with Morgans. According to Renee Page's Brunk CD, he would typically use a gang plow with five Morgan stallions, two hitched in front and three behind. These would work for half a day, then he would switch to another team, with days running from sunup to sundown. Roy was firm in the belief that the ideal Morgan should also be a good using horse. After the death of Roy's mother, Minnie, in 1931, J. C. came to live with Roy and Emma for the last few years of his life. J. C. died in 1935, in the same house in which he was born.

After his father's death, Roy continued his own branch of the Brunk breeding program with the blood of the stallions Juzan and Tiffany; using Liza Jane and her daughter Nella (x Allen King), African Maid (Allen King x Frances Knox), Aleada (Jubilee King x Ruby De Jarnette), Black Dee (Herodon x Sentola), Susette (Raragraph x Daisy Knox), and Julara (Jubilee King x Kalara) as his nucleus of mares. Roy was appointed Director of the Morgan Horse Club, a position in which he faithfully served for many years. In addition to using the Morgans for the regular farm work, Roy also competed with them at state fairs. In 1939 he brought home both the Breeder and Exhibitor premiums at the Iowa State Fair.

In the February 1943 issue of *The Morgan Horse*, Roy wrote that he had just sold, and expected to ship soon, the stallions Juzan, Tarron, and Congo, along with several mares, to a Mr. Hector Piveral in Guatemala. This deal must have fallen through as he retained Juzan through the 1945 breeding season; Tarron was sold to a party in Ohio in 1944, and he ended up keeping Congo as his main breeding stallion. Morgan history might have been very different if these great sires had been sold out of the country. It was later mentioned by Mr. Charles Perkins, who ended up purchasing the mare Zana (Tarron x Aleada), who was intended for the Guatemala sale, that Roy had tried several times to make the shipment of these horses for Mr. Piveral, but was unsuccessful in securing the necessary shipping space.

During the 1950s Roy maintained a herd of about 30 Morgans,



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Agazizz (Juzan x Gizea) (*TMH* May 1944); Squire Burger (Juzan x Nella) with Mabel Owen, Champion Trail Horse, 1948 National Morgan Horse Show (photo by Ira Haas, *TMH* October 1948); Lamont, Champion Aged Stallion, Reserve Grand Champion Stallion, 1948 Illinois State Fair (*TMH*, October 1948).

the largest of the Brunk family branches, and regularly sold a number of colts and young horses each year. Most of these he exhibited at the Illinois State Fair before selling and they were regular winners.

Roy served as a Director of The Morgan Horse Club for several years and somehow found time to remain actively involved, even while keeping up with the never-ending farming duties at Cotton Hill, raising a crop of several choice foals each year, starting young horses, and regularly using the older ones for farm work. Each year he had a group of horses ready to exhibit at the Illinois State Fair, always collecting numerous ribbons and trophies, and many years the Cotton Hill Morgans would appear at other shows as well.

## JUZAN

**(Jubilee King x Liza Jane by Knox Morgan)**

A dark chestnut, strongly-made son of Jubilee King, with flaxen mane and tail, standing 15.5 hands and weighing nearly 1,100 pounds in his prime, Juzan was foaled in 1934, and considered one of the most influential sons of Jubilee King. Just a yearling when J. C. died, he had already been bred once to produce his first foal, Agazizz (x Gizea) in 1936. Agazizz, a beautiful flaxen chestnut, standing 15.1 hands, was the sire of 71 foals. He was sold to Robert Tynan of Nebraska. Among his notable offspring, Silver Rockwood (x May Rockwood), was rodeo, show, and parade horse, and foundation stallion for Clarence Shaw's Shawalla Morgans in Walla Walla, Washington. The family of multi-titled World Champion Noble Flaire (Noble Command x Lost River Sanfield), who has dominated show bloodlines for more than 30 years, is recorded as tracing to Agazizz through Roubidoux, a full brother of Silver Rockwood. Sanborn (x Donbelle Allan), sire of 67, was influential in working Western pedigrees, and Ella Gates, a full sister of Sanborn, was a foundation mare for Ray Ellsworth's Ida-Ho Morgans in Lewiston, Idaho.

Juzan went on to sire a total of 99 registered offspring. His last crop for Roy was 1946, after which he was used by several breeders, including Raymond S. Sentney, and then spending his final years at the Jackson Ranch in Harrison, Montana.

Among the most notable sons of Juzan bred by Roy Brunk was

Squire Burger, out of Nella (Allen King x Liza Jane). Like Flyhawk's dam, Florette, Nella was a daughter of Allen King, out of a Knox Morgan daughter. Where Florette's second dam was the great mare Senata, Nella's second dam was Double Daisy, a daughter of Senata (Senator x Daisy) and sired by Allen Franklin (Jasper Franklin x Daisy), who was also the sire of Allen King. Double Daisy was aptly named as a double granddaughter of J. C.'s great foundation mare, old Daisy by Billy Bodette. Nella thus carried three close crosses to Daisy as well as two to Allen Franklin, and a cross to Jubilee De Jarnette. Moreover, Nella was in fact a half-sister of Juzan, being out of the same dam, Liza Jane, so Daisy appears in the pedigree of Squire Burger eight times, including five times in five generations. J. C. carefully remarked on Liza Jane in his 1929 catalog, making note of both her excellent type and fine, gentle disposition, which valuable qualities she dependably passed on to all her offspring.

A beautiful chestnut marked with a blaze and flaxen mane and tail, Squire Burger won championships at the Illinois State Fair and the Illinois Waterloo Stallion Show while Roy owned him. He was later used on several of the popular Visitadores Rides in California. Squire Burger became famous in the West when he successfully raced against the new and popular breed of Quarter Horse, setting a record for 22 seconds for the quarter mile. He also became the Arizona State Roping Champion. Eventually he went to the East Coast, becoming the foundation stallion for Mabel Owen's famous Merrylegs Farm, which had remained in the Owen family since 1895. Though he had always been ridden Western before, Mabel hunted with him sidesaddle, and he also became a winner at the National Morgan Horse Show both in-hand and in jumping, as well as winning in pairs with his daughter April Showers, showing the true versatility of the Morgan. Mounted on Squire Burger, Mabel was the official judge for the 1948 Saratoga 40-mile ride in eastern New York State which traversed some of the most difficult terrain in the Adirondacks and required a time limit of six hours. Squire Burger went on to sire 35 offspring, among them Justin Dart (x Black Dee) bred by Roy Brunk and used by Hylee Farms; and the well-known Whippoorwill Duke (x Diana-Mansfield), bred by Mary Jean Vasiloff, who became foundation stallion for her Whippoorwill Morgans. Roy also bred



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**LEFT TO RIGHT:** World Champion Stallion Royal Fleetson competed in many disciplines for the Dooley family (Bob Moseder); Mansfield (Bennington x Artemisia), at eight years old (AMHA Archives); Klyona (Dundee x Calve) (AMHA Archives).

and for several years used the Squire Burger daughter May Burger (x African Maid) who became the dam of nine foals, five of which were full siblings by Congo.

Mabel Owen used several daughters of Squire Burger in her breeding program such as Merriedale (x Conniedale) dam of 13 foals; Junestar (x Mansphyllis), dam of 10 foals; and April Showers (x Easter Maid), dam of 13 foals. After Mabel's death in 1999, these bloodlines continued to be used at Merrylegs Farm by her brother, William C. Owen, who passed away in 2019, and her niece, William's daughter Laurel, carrying forward the Brunk legacy through the Squire Burger lines to the present.

Lamont, a full brother of Squire Burger, was Champion Aged Stallion and Reserve Grand Champion at the Illinois State Fair in 1948, and winner of the Performance Stake at Columbus, Ohio. In 1949 he won the Breed Championship at the Columbus Mid-West Show against entries from five states. He was the sire of 30 foals. His daughter Tarrane De Boyd (x Tarr Of Keeneland) produced nine foals and was dam of the stallion Turfwood Royal Flush (x Clement, a full brother of Criterion) who sired 34 offspring, including the lovely foundation bred 1982 World Champion Mare Ponderosa's Replica (x Neighbob Ada). Ponderosa's Replica was owned by the University of Vermont and produced seven foals. Tarr Of Keeneland, the dam of Tarrane De Boyd, was a daughter of Congo and out of Delilah by the Jubilee King son Jugo; 2d dam Tifra by Tiffany; and 3d dam African Maid. Lamont's daughter Tarrla was also out of Tarr Of Keeneland, and was dam of the popular foundation stallion Ashley De Boyd (x Edward Ash). After winning many blue ribbons in Ohio, Ashley De Boyd was sold to Tom and Charlene Hilgenberg of Great Oaks Morgans in Newnan, Georgia. He immediately won the Morgan Western Pleasure Class at the North Carolina State Championship Show. He was Georgia Champion Stallion in 1970, 1971, and 1972, and went on to sire a total of 23 foals.

Another son of Juzan was Allen Royal (x Patty), a handsome dark chestnut flaxen foaled in 1941. His dam Patty was a daughter of Allen King and out of Patrona (Senator Reade x Black Bess). He sired just one foal, the lovely mare Royal Rose, out of the fine producer Black Dee. Royal Rose went to Reata Farms, producing six foals, including five full siblings by Fleetwing (Captor x

Gorgeous). Among these was the iconic stallion Royal Fleetson, owned by Thomas "Papa" Dooley. Royal Fleetson was crowned World Champion Stallion at the first Grand National in 1973 and he was equally at home pulling a historical vehicle in Cavalcade Americana at Northampton. Others from the cross included Reata's Elation, Grand Champion Mare of the 1962 Illinois State Fair, and the mare Royal Reata (x Townshend Gaymeade), who went on to produce 12 foals. Reata's Elation also won Grand Champion Junior Mare at the Morgan Gold Cup Show; and Grand Champion Morgan Horse at the Youngstown Horse Show.

### TIFFANY

(Mansfield x Klyona by Dundee)

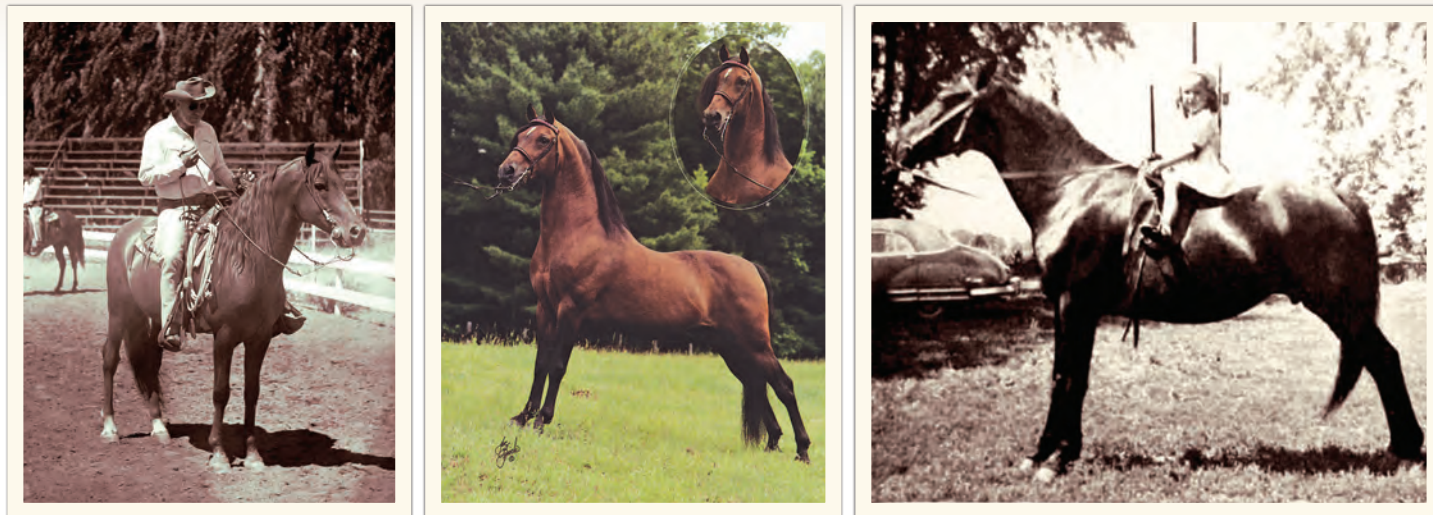
Tiffany was bred by the US Government Farm, and came to Cotton Hill as a weanling in 1926. He was part of the deal J. C. received in trading Allen King and two of his daughters to the Government Farm. In his 1929 catalog, J. C. noted that Tiffany was a true Ethan Allen type so far as his gait, style, and speed. His sire was the great Mansfield, of the golden cross of Bennington and Artemisia. His dam Klyona was a daughter of Dundee (Meteor 2d x Carrie Gates by General Gates) and out of Calve (General Gates x Ellen by Rocky Mountain). This line brought in two more close crosses to General Gates, giving Tiffany a total of two crosses in three generations, and another in four generations. Through Klyona, two close crosses to Daniel Lambert were added, as well as lines to old Morrill, old Gifford, and a rare line to the Buckskin Wheeler Horse by Revenge, son of Justin Morgan.

Tiffany went on to sire 21 offspring, but his most important contributions come through one daughter and two sons. These were Fanita (x Benita), the dam of Senator Graham; Night Tide (x Glenalla), the LU Sheep Ranch sire through whom many of our colorful Morgan lines trace; and Tarron (x African Maid), sire of Congo.

### TARRON

(Tiffany x African Maid by Allen King)

Foaled in 1935, the bay stallion Tarron was one of the last bred by J. C. , and also from the last crop before Tiffany was sold to Pennsylvania. African Maid, the dam of Tarron, was a daughter



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Montey Vermont (Keystone x Ginger Vermont), with the great trainer Al Erickson, was Champion Reining Stock Horse at the July 1963 Pacific Northwest Show. Mr. Erickson suffered a fatal heart attack at another show three months later (*TMH* October 1963); Serenity March Time descends through his dam from Tarron by Tiffany (photo by Jane Lynick, *TMH* December 1986); Black Dee (Herodon x Sentola), dam of Congo, with Lois Jean Mays (*TMH* Feb 1948).

of Allen King and out of Frances Knox (Knox Morgan x Bess Franklin). J. C. described her in his 1929 catalog as “A good gaited rangy mare with best style and a lot of step. Well broken to do all farm work.” She was a three-quarter sister to Florette, the dam of Flyhawk. African Maid went on to produce a total of eight foals.

In addition to Tarron, two of African Maid’s daughters were of special importance, Easter Lass and May Burger. Easter Lass (x Juzan) produced just four foals, but the first, Redlass (x Redman) assured her place in Morgan history. Redlass produced two foals including Keystone (x Pomulus), bred by the Keystone Ranch, a champion driving horse who became an important sire in Washington state. He was the sire of Beckridge Farm’s popular Western champion Montey Vermont (x Ginger Vermont) who was Washington State Horseman’s High Point Western Morgan for 11 years straight. This rare sireline which traces back through the General Gates son Scotland (x Highland Mary) still survives today. Redlass’s second foal was Pommelass, a full sister of Keystone. She was the dam of seven foals, including another influential Washington state sire, Keystone Sage Dust (x Skagit Tye), sire of 50 foals.

May Burger (x Squire Burger) was used by Roy for several years before being sold to the Mosher Brothers in Utah, and was the dam of nine foals. Five of these were full siblings by Congo, the only stallion she was bred to while Roy owned her. The best known of these were Squire Skimp, Condo, and Chango. The Mosher Brothers later sold her to Topside Farms for whom she produced her last two foals, Topside Athena and Topside Dawn. Athena was sold to Cambridge Farms and became the dam of 15 foals.

Roy used Tarron for several years, breeding 12 foals from him before he was sold. Tarron went on to produce a total of 27 offspring. He was also the sire of Tritoni (x Tifona) who sired only three foals including the mare Triwana (x Illawana Bess) dam of the popular stallion Serenity March Time (x Vigilmarch), sire of 101. Triwana was the dam of 12 foals.

Tarron was Reserve Grand Champion Stallion (second to Flyhawk) at the 1941 Illinois State Fair.

## **BLACK DEE** (Herodon x Sentola)

An elegant black mare, just 14½ hands tall, Black Dee was foaled in 1933 and was a promising two-year-old filly when J. C. died. She was among the horses which passed to Roy and would go on to prove her worth many times over. A daughter of Herodon (Go Hawk x Galva) and out of Sentola, the lovely full sister of Jubilee King (Penrod x Daisette), she provided a powerful genetic package which was close, yet slightly different than the golden Flyhawk x Sentola cross which would later prove so potent. In fact, Black Dee was the very first of Sentola’s 15 foals, the Flyhawk cross not appearing until eight years later. The Go Hawk son Herodon only sired two foals, one being Black Dee, and the other one was the mare Stareda (x Mrs. Lewis) owned by Thomas Brunk, who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Lightweight Division of the 1947 Iowa 100-Mile Trail Ride. Stareda also appeared in the film *Abe Lincoln in Illinois* by Kling Studios, which was shown to school children around the world. In this film, Mr. Thomas Brunk drives the first carriage with Stareda in which Abe Lincoln, portrayed by State Representative William Horsley of Springfield, is riding. A photo of Stareda from the film appeared on the cover of *The Morgan Horse*, April 1950.

Through Go Hawk, Herodon brought in the richly woven tapestry of many different crosses to Sherman Morgan through Black Hawk, carefully blended with rare crosses to Woodbury through Golddust and other lines; as well as lines to less common Justin Morgan sons Bulrush, Revenge, Brutus, Chanticleer, Tom Hal, Voyageur, and several Justin Morgan daughters. Many of these are seldom found in Morgan pedigrees without the Go Hawk cross. The dam of Herodon was Galva (Billy Herod x Chista). Chista, the dam of Galva, was a daughter of Chetco (Ben Franklin x Nelly B by Harry Allen Jr) and out of Lucy (Billy Bodette x mare



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by Streeter Horse. Chetco and Lucy, it must be remembered, were among the original foundation stock J. C. Brunk had bought from the Two Rivers Stock Farm in 1893, the year Roy Brunk was born. These were horses Roy remembered from his earliest boyhood. Through her sire, Galva was a granddaughter of Herod (King Herod x Hilliard by Green Mountain Boy) who appears three times in the pedigree of Go Hawk, bringing this blood even closer. Billy Herod also brought in a rare cross to the Hawkins Horse by Justin Morgan, through the famous old trotter St. Lawrence on his dam's side. Like J. C. 's favorite old foundation mare Daisy, Lucy was also a daughter of Billy Bodette (Black Morgan 2d x daughter of Wood's Comet) and, like Daisy, registered in Volume I of the Morgan Register. Daisy's dam was by Billy Folsom, a son of the Streeter Horse (Billy Root x mare by Batchelder Horse); 2d dam by Prince Albert, son of Hale's Green Mountain Morgan; and third dam the Atkins mare by Sherman Morgan. Although both mares were foaled in 1884, Lucy had the slightly

older pedigree. Her dam was an own daughter of the Streeter Horse and second dam a daughter of Sherman Morgan.

Sentola, the dam of Black Dee, was not only a full sister of Jubilee King, she was an exceptionally lovely mare. A rich dark chocolate chestnut in color, she was striking in appearance with contrasting flaxen mane and tail. She was a good-sized mare with excellent bone, short back, long hip and shoulder, and the deep, well-proportioned body typical of the best broodmares. J. C. noted in his 1929 catalog that she was "a real Indian Chief type" with beautiful eyes and expression. This is significant as, like her brother, Sentola boasted two close crosses to Lady De Jarnette, the daughter of Indian Chief (Blood's Black Hawk x Lou Berry by Ned Forrest) who became famous as the most beautiful show mare in early Morgan history, banned from competing as no one could beat her, and paid \$500 per week, an enormous amount of money in the late 1800s, to simply make an appearance at the fairgrounds and trot around the track so fans could see her in action. She

consistently drew such large crowds, the fairgrounds actually made money on this deal. In type, form, and elegance, Sentola closely resembled the great Lady De Jarnette. She was never shown except in broodmare and foal classes, however, due to an injury of her knee joint as a yearling.

Additionally, Sentola as the only full sibling of Jubilee King, and the only mare from the Penrod x Daisette cross, represented the most royal lines of Brunk breeding, and J. C. 's ideal of the qualities he sought to bring forward from his foundation stock. In tail female line she traced straight back to J. C. 's favorite old foundation mare Daisy, by Billy Bodette. This was important not only because all of the Brunks sought to preserve lines to old Daisy in their pedigrees, but the qualities Daisy reliably passed on which made them admire her line in the first place.

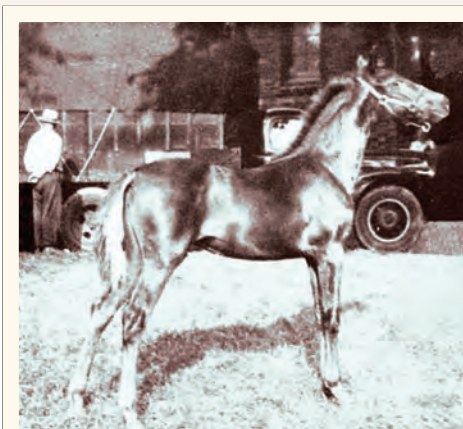
Not only did she have strong Morgan type, Daisy was possessed of a remarkable endurance and vitality which she passed on to both her sons and daughters. Her daughters were reliably outstanding producers, and her sons sired daughters who were outstanding producers. All the Brunks had a natural eye for this subtle quality, tending to keep stallions who were sons of such mares, and breed them back to mares who also possessed this quality. On closer examination of Daisy's pedigree, it can be seen that the 3<sup>rd</sup> dam of her sire, Billy Bodette, was a daughter of Justin Morgan. His second dam was a daughter of Royal Morgan, whose dam was also a daughter of Justin Morgan. And his dam was a daughter of Wood's Comet, whose dam was also another daughter of Royal Morgan. This makes it virtually certain that Billy Bodette was a carrier of the large heart gene, inherited from daughters of Justin Morgan, and which he passed on to his daughters as it is only carried on the X chromosome. Justin Morgan is believed to have been a carrier of the large heart gene as evidenced by his well-documented feats of extraordinary performance, and the fact that his pedigree can be traced on the X chromosome back to his ancestor Hautboy, the same source now recognized to be the origin of the gene in the Thoroughbred and Standardbred breeds. Also, the pattern is recognizable through the produce record

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**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Billy Bodette, sire of the important Brunk mares Daisy and Lucy (Charley Watson [Black Morgan x mare by Wood's Comet] x mare by Wood's Comet) 1871; Hedlite's Micky Waer is the grandson of Gontola, the Brunk mare Frank and Frida Waer brought to California (TMH March 1963); Donna Dee, Champion Weanling Filly, at the 1946 Illinois State Fair (TMH Feb 1948).

of his daughters, and thanks to a number of breeders such as the Brunks who naturally recognized the qualities of this trait, the large heart gene is alive and well in many lines of the Morgan breed today.

Black Dee inherited many of the best qualities of her dam, including the large heart which she passed to her son Congo, and he in turn to his daughters. Combined with the rich genetic heritage of her sire, these traits made Black Dee an exceptionally valuable broodmare. She won the Champion Mare and Foal class at the 1941 Illinois State Fair, and went on to produce 18 foals, and was the dam of Congo. Her first foal, Dee Dee (x Juzan), a flaxen chestnut, won Grand Champion Mare as a two-year-old at the 1939 Iowa State Fair. Sadly, she was lost in a barn fire in 1948, and the only two colts she had died in accidents before they could be registered. De Ann, a full sister of Dee Dee, won championships as a weanling at both the Iowa and Illinois State Fairs in 1939. She was the dam of ten foals including Gontola, the Flyhawk daughter owned by Frank and Frieda Waer who was both a champion, and for many years, the only producing daughter of Flyhawk on the West Coast. Incidentally, Roy Brunk was the breeder of Gontola, when he chose to send De Ann to his sister Helen's stallion, Flyhawk. Gontola was the dam of ten foals and second dam of Hedlite's Micky Waer, a top sire on the West Coast, winning many get of sire championships, and sire of 65 foals. Donna Dee (x Juzan) won Champion Filly Foal, and Mau Dee (x Tarron) won Champion 2-Year-Old Filly at the 1946 Illinois State Fair.

### CONGO

(Tarron x Black Dee by Herodon)

Congo was the fourth foal of Black Dee, and from her first cross with Tarron. He grew into a handsome, well-proportioned black stallion standing 15 hands tall. He won Grand Champion Stallion at the Illinois State Fair three times, in 1946, 1947, and 1949. He also held the title of Illinois State Champion Stallion from 1940-1950. Congo was known both for his beautiful conformation and his kind and gentle disposition which he passed on consistently to his offspring and was regularly a favorite of Mid-Western

breeders. He appeared on the cover of the April 1951 issue of *The Morgan Horse*, ridden by Roy's then eight-year-old granddaughter, Lois Jean Mayes. He passed on the large heart from his dam to his daughters, and being bred largely to mares who also carried it, many of his sons passed it on to their daughters as well. Congo went on to sire a total of 61 registered Morgan offspring, which have had a widespread influence on the Morgan breed among all disciplines, and which continues today. It would be impossible to mention all of them, but we will consider a few examples often found in the pedigrees of today's Morgans.

#### TRICONGA (x Tifona by Juzan)

A pretty chestnut mare, Triconga was Congo's very first foal in 1945. Her mother, Tifona, a daughter of Juzan and out of Molly by Tiffany, was later sold to China in 1947. Triconga was Champion Yearling at the Illinois State Fair in 1946. She went on to become the dam of 11 foals.

#### TARR OF KEENELAND (x Deliah by Jugo)

Also from Congo's first foal crop, Tarr of Keeneland, already mentioned under Lamont, was a lovely black mare, and was the dam of seven foals.

#### CONGO'S DELIGHT (Congo x Nellanne by Juzan)

A smoothly made, well-balanced chestnut mare foaled in 1946, Congo's Delight won the \$75 English Stake and Trophy at the 1950 Woodbrook Show.

#### SQUIRE SKIMP (x May Burger by Squire Burger)

A beautiful flaxen chestnut 15 hands tall and foaled in 1947, Squire Skimp was sold to the Robert Behlings of Hylee Farms, in Cambria, Wisconsin. He won Grand Champion Stallion at the 1953 Mid-Western Morgan National Show, and was also Grand Champion Morgan at the 1953 National Stallion Show in Waterloo, Iowa, both times competing against stallions of all ages. Sadly, Squire Skimp contracted a kidney and liver infection not long after winning



## HISTORY LESSON *≈ Roy Brunk, Juzan, & Congo*



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Congo (Tarron x Black Dee), with Lois Jean Mayes, on the cover of *The Morgan Horse*, April 1951; Triconga and foal (photo by Launspach, *TMH* October 1955); Squire Skimp (Congo x May Burger) (*TMH* August 1953); Janet and Louis Pape with Patty's Sweetheart and Congo's Pride at the Illinois State Fair, 1954 (photo by Launspach); Chesty (Congo x Judith), on the cover of *The Morgan Horse*, May 1961.

these championships, and they were unable to save him. He sired just seven offspring, only one of whom bred on. This was the mare Hylee's Bit O' Ginger (x Neltola [Flyhawk x Neltalia]). Among her descendants, her daughter Hi-Mist Cindy (x Moro Hills Magician) became the dam of Renee Page's beautiful stallion Thunderbay (x Beamine), winner of many Regional, National, and World Champion show titles.

### **CON-NETTE (x Dee Nette by Juzan)**

A bay mare foaled in 1947 and owned by the Rex Ranch in California, Con-nette was the dam of two foals.

### **CONGO'S PRIDE (Congo x Patty by Allen King)**

Foaled in 1947, Congo's Pride was an elegant black stallion out of Patty (Allen King x Patrona by Senator Reade). He was Champion Weanling Stallion at the 1947 Illinois State Fair, and Champion 2-Year-Old Stallion 1949 Illinois State Fair. Sold to Lewis Pape Stables he went on to become an outstanding parade horse. Congo's Pride was bred first to his 24-year-old mother Patty to produce Patty's Sweetheart, a beautiful black mare closely matched to her sire in size, type, and action. Patty's Sweetheart was often ridden by Lewis Pape's young daughter Janet who trained the mare herself while her father rode Congo's Pride, making a very striking and successful parade pair. They first appeared during the 1954

season when Janet was ten and Patty's Sweetheart was a three-year-old. During the 1955 season, when Janet was 11 years old, the pair were often the official color bearers at numerous shows and state fairs. Congo's Pride went on to sire twelve offspring, while Patty's Sweetheart was the dam of nine foals.

### **TRINANGO (x Triann [Squire Burger x Tifona])**

A beautiful stylish bay stallion with strong Justin Morgan type, Trinango was highly regarded by many as one of Congo's best sons. He was Champion Two-Year-Old Stallion at the Illinois State Fair in 1950, and Grand Champion Stallion at the same fair in both 1953 and 1954. He was sold and later gelded after siring sixteen foals. Among his best-known offspring was the mare Lovely Melody (x Polly Forrest) bred by Roy's cousin George N. Brunk, and her full sister Midwest Melody, both owned by Black River Farms. George Brunk, a son of J. C. 's brother Talbot Fletcher Brunk, admired the Saddlebred, and bred Polly Forrest, who was registered under Rule II. Polly was sired by the Saddlebred stallion Forest Whirlwind (Grand Whirlwind x Linnie Lee by Forest King) and out of the Jubilee King daughter Katette (x Katie Hughes by Knox Morgan). Lovely Melody was the dam of 12, including 1977 Reserve Champion 5 and Over Stallion Black River Major, sire of 128; Black River Dandy, sire of 22; Reata's Encore, sire of 64; and Reata's Supreme Lady, dam

## HISTORY LESSON *≈ Roy Brunk, Juzan, & Congo*



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Nellanne (Juzan x Nella) and Conette, Mare & Foal Championship, 1953 Illinois State Fair, with Roy Brunk (photo by Launspach, courtesy of Renee Page, Brunk CD); Nella (Allen King x Liza Jane), matriarch of Cotton Hill, at 30 years old (*TMH* January 1952); Corrine (Cynthia x Pride Of King) (courtesy of Renee Page, Brunk CD); Condo (Congo x May Burger) (*TMH* June 1957); Classy Boy (Condo x Sassy Sue) with Amos Mosher, 1964 Morgan National Cutting Demonstration with no bridle (*TMH* Sept 1964); Big Rock (Classy Boy x Mon Heir Rozelle), Grand Champion Stallion, 1965 Western Morgan National Show (*TMH* Sept 1964).

of seven, all by Fleetwing (Captor x Gorgeous by Delmont). Midwest Melody was the dam of 14 foals.

### **CHESTY (x Judith by Ju Ju)**

A chestnut gelding foaled in 1949, Chesty was owned by Joseph Olson of St. George, Utah, and won fame as a Champion Cutting Horse. He was featured on the cover of *The Morgan Horse* for May 1961. Although he excelled in cutting, Chesty also won ribbons in harness, and a variety of English and Western classes, and was a truly versatile Morgan.

### **CONELLA (x Nellanne by Juzan)**

A pretty chestnut filly foaled in 1950, Conella won Champion weanling at the 1950 Illinois State Fair, and was sold as a yearling to first-time Morgan owners, Mr. & Mrs. Morgan Murphy of Seekonk, Massachusetts. Two years later, Conella won Junior Champion Model Mare at the 1953 Morgan National for them as their only entry. Her dam Nellanne was one of Roy's best producing mares, and was the dam of ten foals. She was a daughter of Juzan out of the grand old broodmare Nella (Allen King x Liza Jane by Knox Morgan). Nella was the dam of 11 foals, including Raragraph, Paragraph, Rarette and Neliza, all by Jubilee King; Neltalia (x Tarron); and Squire Burger, Lamont and Nellane, all by Juzan. Conella did not produce any foals.

### **CONETTE (x Nellanne by Juzan)**

A chestnut full sister of Conella, Conette was foaled in 1953. She was shown by Roy at the Illinois State Fair that same year, and won Champion Weanling Filly. Conette went on to become the dam of ten foals.

### **CORRINE (x Cynthia by Pride Of King)**

A beautiful chestnut mare foaled in 1950, Corrine was owned by Waseeka Farms and was the dam of six foals including Waseeka Cajun Queen (x Waseeka's Nocturne) who in turn was the dam of 12 foals, among them the great sire Tedwin Topic (x Fiddler's Contender), sire of 307 offspring. Tedwin Topic's great legacy was his daughters, many of whom proved to be exceptional show mares and/or outstanding producers as related so well by Renee Page in her thorough article "The Daughters of Tedwin Topic," *The Morgan Horse*, February 2013. Both the pedigree and breeding record of Tedwin Topic strongly indicate likely inheritance of the large heart gene through this line.

### **CONDO (x May Burger by Squire Burger)**

Condo was a powerfully built black stallion foaled in 1951 who went to the Mosher Brothers in Utah for ranch use. He was later sold to the Hunewill Land & Livestock Company in 1965. Altogether he sired 157 offspring, and figures prominently in many



## HISTORY LESSON *≈ Roy Brunk, Juzan, & Congo*



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Minion Millennium carries the blood of Congo and his son Mango forward today through his many titled offspring; Aldebaron (Mango x Nellanne) with Lois Mayes McDermid (courtesy of Renee Page, Brunk CD); Roy Brunk's granddaughters looking at Brunk monument in the private family cemetery on Cotton Hill (TMH Jan 1952).

Western working Morgan pedigrees. Condo was the sire of Classy Boy (x Sassy Sue by Sun Dust), a chestnut stallion, shown by the Mosher Brothers at the 1964 Morgan National Show in cutting demonstrations working with no bridle.

Classy Boy sired 22 offspring, and won the Open Cutting Championship at the 1964 Rocky Mountain Morgan Horse Show, and also the Get of Sire Championship with daughter Flaxy's Best (x Flaxy Allan) and son Big Rock (x Mon Heir Rozelle) at the same show. Big Rock also won Grand Champion Stallion at the 1965 Western National Morgan Horse Show.

Condo's Sue (x Sassy Sue by Sun Dust) was also brought by Amos and Howard Mosher to the 1964 National Morgan Horse Show to participate in the Cutting Horse Demonstrations as a novice cutting mare. The Moshers trailered their horses 2500 miles in five days to present this exciting display. The event was announced by Dean Jackson of the Jackson Ranch in Harrison, Montana.

Circle H Caballero (x Lani Spar), a powerfully built 15¾ hands tall black son of Condo bred by the Hunewill Ranch, was the Mileage Champion for the American Endurance Riders Conference (AERC) in 1979. In that calendar year alone, Caballero completed 26 rides for a total of over 1700 miles. All these rides were at least 50-mile rides, and 7 of them were 100-mile rides. AERC rules required 50-mile rides to be completed in 12 hours, and 100-mile rides in 24 hours. These rides were held throughout California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Idaho, and Oregon. Caballero was also second that year in the AERC National Heavyweight Division for horses carrying 160 pounds or more on these rides.

### **MANGO (x Larna by Tarron)**

A bay stallion foaled in 1952, and of exceptional beauty, Mango was, according to Doris Ryan, the absolute premiere son of Congo. He was a double grandson of Tarron, and his second dam, Aleada was a daughter of Jubilee King. His third dam, Ruby de Jarnette, was a daughter of Allen King and out of the richly bred Mrs. Lewis (Charles Reade x Bess Franklin by Chetco. Sadly, he died at just eight years of age but was the sire of 20 offspring. His daughter Reata Goddess was another bred by George Brunk out of the mare Polly Forrest, and was another outstanding producer

for Black River Morgans and was the dam of 14 foals including Black River Pegasus, Black River Thor, and Black River Athena, all by Fleetwing.

Jo Jean (x Josie C. [King Jo x Black Dee]), another of Mango's daughters, proved to be an exceptional producer, as might be expected from her strong pedigree, and very likely carried the large heart gene. She was important in many show pedigrees. She produced seven foals and her offspring included the full siblings Val's Christy, an outstanding producer for Kohler Stables, and Serenity March Heir, by Vigilmarch. Val's Christy in turn was also the dam of seven foals including HVK Courageous Flaire (x Noble Flaire), holder of numerous world champion titles and also sire of 101 offspring which included many world champions. Serenity March Heir sired 83 offspring, and his daughter Serenity Kimberly was dam of 15 foals including the outstanding stallion Minion Valentino (x Serenity Masterpiece), winner of numerous national and regional titles, and was the sire of 40 offspring. Valentino in turn produced another leading sire of champions, and one of the top money winning sires in the country, Minion Millennium (x Pompp and Pazazz). Minion Millennium has 240 registered offspring as of 2020 including several world, Grand National, and regional champions across many disciplines. Among these are Millennium Force GCH (x Arboria Fortune), Miles Of Fortune GCH (x Fury's Fortune), Paddyngton's Keepsake GCH (x Paddyngton's Panda Monium), MLB The Ingenue GCH (x Glyndan Melodius Joy), Bri-B Crystalpiece GCH (x Bri-B Classicpiece), and Millennium Masterpiece GCH (x Aljaks Miss Wham I Am). Additionally, he sired the World Champion Mares Cherrydale Casseopia (x Cherrydale Gabriella) and Clayhill Wow Factor (x Flawless by WWW Reality Check Dot Com), and 2019 Morgan Weanling Gala and Michigan Weanling Gala Champion JDS All Rise (x WWW Virtual Reality).

Mango was also the sire of Aldebaron, yet another foal out of the great producer Nellane. A handsome, well-proportioned bay stallion foaled in 1960, Roy presented Aldebaron as a gift to his granddaughter Lois, the very first Morgan officially her own. Aldebaron continued to stand at Cotton Hill, where he remained throughout his life. Roy continued to use Aldebaron for stud until

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his own death in 1983. Aldebaron continued to stand at Cotton Hill several more years, his last foals born in 1987. He sired 45 foals in all.

### CONGODON (x Barbadon by Illawana Don)

A handsome black stallion standing 14¾ hands tall, Congodon was foaled in 1957, bred by David Naas from his champion mare Barbadon (Illawana Don x Barbara Rogers). He went on to win hundreds of blue ribbons for the Naas. In 1963 he was Grand Champion Stallion of the Minnesota State Fair; Grand Champion Stallion of the North Central Morgan Association Show; and was winner of eight high-point championship awards in three different associations. His weanling stud colt Bongodon (x Bonnie Baker by May's Boy) was 1963 Junior Halter Champion of the North Central Morgan Association. Congodon was the sire of 32 offspring and later gelded.

### CINGO (x Cynthia by Pride of King)

A pretty bay mare foaled in 1959, Cingo was one of two foals from the last crop Congo sired. She was the dam of ten foals, including 1977 World Champion Mare VF Chiquita (x Appevale Don Juan). Chiquita produced 13 offspring.

### ROY BRUNK'S LEGACY

No matter how busy he was, Roy always found time to entertain visitors, and there were always lots of visitors to Cotton Hill, who seemed to regularly appear when farm work was heaviest. Roy didn't mind. He delighted in showing off his Morgans, reciting their history and pedigrees. Then he would often take visitors around to the other Brunk farms and view all their horses, and sometimes to other breeders in the area as well. Some were taken to visit the Brunk family cemetery located on a bluff on the farm, and overlooking the property. These visitors would be treated to a detailed history of the Brunk family with many interesting stories of the early Brunks and their Morgans.

At the time he retired in 1971, Roy was one of just 12 Morgan breed judges in the country. He often judged at the Morgan National and other major shows. Among these, he was the judge at the first Circle J Morgan Horse Show held at Estes Park, Colorado, in 1959 which had 14 classes in its first offering. At that time, it was considered a National Morgan show. This was the first show to offer cutting horse classes for Morgans. It was later designated a Regional Show after a single Morgan National Show was established.

Roy's daughter Clara Jean Brunk Mayes, the last surviving

grandchild of J. C. Brunk, passed away in May 2020, and is survived by her daughters Lois Jean Mayes McDermant, Ruth Ann Mayes Catlett, and Kathy Renee Mayes, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom have carried on the love of Morgan horses.

Altogether, Roy bred more than 140 Morgans at Cotton Hill through the years. Those he kept for breeding also did farm work and most won ribbons at the Illinois State Fair or other shows. Roy sold a few Morgans each year, many of whom became foundation stock for other programs. The Brunk Morgans bred by Roy, and particularly those tracing to Juzan and Congo, have excelled in all aspects of show, as well as sport and Western working disciplines, and their descendants include regional, Grand National, and world champions too numerous to mention. Most important, they have steadfastly carried down the beauty of the highest quality Morgan type, style, action, and disposition to the present. We are very fortunate Roy did not succeed in selling these stallions to Guatemala. ■

### RESOURCES

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