



~ BREEDER PROFILE ~

SHAKER HILL FARM LEGEND & LEGACY

Early to mid-20th century mechanization nearly made horse breeding obsolete. Then along came the financial boom after the World Wars. An agricultural activity that was a necessity before, became the avocation, hobby, and recreation of those with the means to fulfill their lofty aspirations in the baby boomer era. This was the case for T. D. (Dale) and Marilyn Ulrich at their Shaker Hill Farm. Along with a handful of other influential breeders, they were part of a hotbed of Morgan activity in the Buckeye State. Morgans sporting significant Ohio prefixes would rival competition not just in the Midwest, but nationally with the inauguration of the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show® in 1973.

T. D. had the entrepreneurial zeal which distinguished his generation. When Ulrich passed away last year, his friend Bill Duckett said, “T. D. was a man of the highest integrity who displayed a work ethic almost beyond endurance...” The Ulrich Contracting Corporation was an innovator in highway striping. One contract included painting the runway stripes at the Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C.

The fervor that led this family to business success carried over as T. D. Ulrich’s confident hand steered Shaker Hill’s Morgan breeding, characterized by his unerring taste in horseflesh, promotional smarts, and savvy salesmanship.

What follows is one article in two side by side parts —Legend on the left and Legacy on the right.

ABOVE: The expansive stabling and pillared house atop a hill in Lebanon, Ohio.

INSETS: Marilyn Ulrich on Shaker Nanuet; Shaker Hill at Gold Cup, seated Bill Duckett, Marilyn and T. D. Ulrich; T. D. handled the pig in the 1969 Gold Cup trail class; The 1969 weanling photo offering Troutbrook Playboy for sale (photos © Ralph Crane, Fred Drodzy, A.C. Drown).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Foundation sire Tas-Tee's Firefly, Bob Hart, Sr. up, and get Shaker's Lucifer, Shaker Reno, Shaker's Firefly, and Shaker's Firecrest (photos © Bob Moseder, A. C. Drowne).

PART ONE—THE LEGEND

By Stephen Kinney

In the 1960s through the end of the 20th century, big breeders dominated the Morgan landscape, with a handful of legendary farms in every region. Morgan fanciers would visit to see big name horses up close, gauge the competition at upcoming shows, or select the stallion to whom a mare would be sent for live cover.

For many, Shaker Hill—the people, the place, and the horses—provided a focus for Ohio Morgan activity. We've invited those who witnessed it all to share memories.

THE ULRICHES, SHAKER HILL (AND SOME STRAY DOGS)

Grandson Ryan Ulrich—once employed at The Morgan Horse

In the early 1960s T. D. and his wife Marilyn purchased a 100-acre pig farm with an eyesore of a home built in 1807. They transformed it into a gorgeous showplace and named it Shaker Hill Farm after the religious sect living nearby.

PART TWO—THE LEGACY

By Holly Buttermann

Tilden Dale (T. D.) and Marilyn Ulrich's Shaker Hill Morgans was among the breed's most influential programs in the mid-to-late years of the 20th century. More than 180 horses were registered with the Shaker or Shaker's prefix. It was not just the numbers, however. It was the extreme quality that was characteristic of every horse that was purchased to create or bred to carry the name that nailed down their place in the history of Morgan breeding farms. In the early 1960s, the home built in 1807 and 100-acre property was purchased by T. D. and his wife Marilyn. The farm became an elite equine show place of its time with beautiful barns, miles of fence, and influential horses. Ulrich's success in business was as an innovator and that spirit of innovation would influence his breeding philosophy. He liked the more contemporary show horse Morgan and was at the forefront of promoting that look and type of athletic ability. A trip through registry documents shows he did that by instinctively finding mares whose bloodlines

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Foundation mare Bro Rock Vigilmaud at Gold Cup, 1973, with Bob Hart, Sr. and T. D. Ulrich; her significant son Shaker's Alimon (by Troutbrook Playboy); and Alimon's get, Chandel Absolut, SpiceOLife Allura B (with foal CBFM Danger Zone), and High Y Black Tie (photos © Fred Droddy, Howard Schatzberg, Debbie Ucker-Keough).

THE LEGEND CONTINUED

Larry Bolen, longtime Ohio trainer and breeder

When I was growing up, Shaker Hill was the end-all. The most beautiful farm with Kentucky fence and this huge pillared home at the top of a hill. It was like Tara looking down over the valley. T. D. and Marilyn Ulrich were gracious hosts. They would have meetings and parties there for the Ohio Morgan Club and I was this impressionable kid. Shaker Hill was always a huge presence at Gold Cup. I was impressed because they had a shiny, beautiful streamliner van and brought multiple horses. They were probably the largest breeders in Ohio at the time, other than Merle Evans and his Devan Stud.

Bob Hart, Jr., son of iconic Ohio trainer Bob Hart, Sr.

Dale Ulrich was an innovator both in business and of the Morgan breed. He was a customer of my father's, but a good family friend.

THE LEGACY CONTINUED

would guarantee productivity—one foundation mare was a full sister to Vigilmarch. His significant sires—especially Tas-Tee's Firefly and Troutbrook Playboy—were each ahead of their times. Time and again, champion show horses became significant breeding animals, all proving the foundation with which T. D. and Marilyn began.

Here is an overview of the many representatives of their foresight and tenacity.

GLORY DAYS OF GLORIOUS MARES

Mr. Ulrich set out to find broodmares that had desirable and first-class bloodlines. In the very early 1960s weanling fillies were purchased from prominent New England breeders at Townshend Farm and Bro-Rock Farm as well as Sugar Run Farm in Ohio and HyLee Farm in Wisconsin. These first five mares were the

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Foundation mare Townshend Vigileve, son Shaker's Destry, daughter Shaker's Nanuet (with Marilyn Ulrich), and grandson Hillfield Nightrider (photos © Bobbie, Equus Studios, Bob Moseder).

THE LEGEND CONTINUED

My dad and he had a great relationship. Mr. Ulrich's sons worked in the barn and were involved in the Morgan breed. He was very good to my dad and a true friend. I remember him being a super gentleman at all times. He liked the more contemporary show horse Morgan and was at the forefront of promoting that look and type of athletic ability. Shaker Hill was one of the top-class horse operations in the country at the time. Everything was spotless and the horses were taken ultimate care of. Great facility. Breeding and showing was a family affair for the Ulrichs.

Jean Hart, wife of the late Bob Hart, Sr.

The horses Dale bred were beautiful and could win everything. They were so outstanding. Dale was so far ahead of his time when it came to putting a mare together with a stallion. My husband loved Dale's horses because they were so easy to break. Bob always

THE LEGACY CONTINUED

maternal foundation upon which Shaker Hill was built. These select mares went on to produce 32 Shaker Hill foals.

Three of the first five were Orland Vigildon daughters. Orland was well-known as the seminal New England Morgan breeding operation of the multi-generational Orcutt family. Orland Vigildon was one of the important sons from the cross of Ulendon and Vigilda Burkland (the other was Orland Leader). The Ulrichs were seeking to bring foundation blood from some of New England's most proven breeders to Ohio.

June Brockett Wright was one of those small breeders with influence all out of proportion and T. D. showed his smarts by turning to her for initial broodmare purchases. June sold the Ulrichs two young mares sired by Orland Vigildon. Bro-Rock Vigilmory, out of the amazing producer Mayphil, was a full sister to the exquisite and famous centerpiece of Kohler



LEFT TO RIGHT: Troutbrook Playboy, signature sire of Shaker Hill, winning Jubilee Grand Champion Stallion in 1974 (photo © Mike and Kim Finton); From the 1976 Gold Cup Get Of Sire class, Casland Del Brooke, Shaker's Gazon, Shaker's Palo, and Montbelle Minuteman.

THE LEGEND CONTINUED

said they weren't as challenging to train as the Arabians were. He said when you got on a Morgan you started exactly where you left off the day before.

Ryan Ulrich, writing in The Morgan Horse, July 2006

Back in 1960 (Marilyn) didn't know what a long ride she was in for, but was an equal partner every step of the way. She kept the records, went to horse shows, and worked as hard as any of the grooms. One of her favorite jobs was naming the foals. She decided that each year would be assigned a letter in alphabetical order. As the farm grew and there were 12–16 foals born in one year, it became quite a chore... ”

Nancy Caisse—and her mother Anna Ela—bred and sold the Ulriches the foundation mare Townsend Vigileve. They delivered the filly as a yearling in 1963 hearing of the assassination of president John F. Kennedy on the truck radio.

Dale and Marilyn were a team. Quiet, reserved, neat, but Marilyn had her own mind and her own opinions and wasn't afraid to get her hands dirty. They started their business painting guard rails using a pick-up truck. He developed his own equipment and had a sheet metal drag that came along behind the truck. They'd drive at five miles an hour and he'd ride on that device. She would drive the pick-up truck and he would paint the guard rails. She thought that looked like fun. So, one day she swapped places. They came to a bridge and he sped up across the bridge and the piece of steel she was sitting on got hot due to the friction. Things became heated, but the point is they were a team and they weren't afraid of work.

Dale was always developing a better painting system and got some big government contracts. They were awarded a contract because the company, the Barbour Company, was owned by a woman—Marilyn. They learned filing it from a woman-owned company sometimes helped.

Bill Duckett, longtime family friend

Marilyn gave her husband unique gifts—one was a pair of Bison, which lived on the farm until their deaths.

THE LEGACY CONTINUED

Stables breeding, Vigilmarch. Bro-Rock Vigilmary produced seven foals over ten years—three daughters and four sons. Mr. Ulrich bred her to his Troutbrook Playboy three times after crossing the beautiful mare with Tas-Tee's Firefly, Big Bend Mr. Magic, Schoolmaster, and Windcrest Play Boy. “Mary” crossed with Windcrest Play Boy produced Shaker's Arrow, whose show career was stellar as an amateur park horse for Karen Shields before producing Arrow's Orion, 1990 World Champion Hunter Pleasure for the Brandt family. Her daughter, Shaker's Ingrid, was purchased by Couser Creek Ranch in California where she was very successful in the show ring and produced seven great show horses for Gwen Tubach with the CCR's prefix. When bred to Saddleback Supreme, Ingrid produced Couser's Supremacy, whose grandson became the most famous Morgan to carry the prefix, CCR's Outrajus Courajus GCH. “OC” dazzled audiences and claimed fans as he gathered multiple world titles, including two-time Pleasure Driving World Champion and two-time English Pleasure World Champion throughout the 2000s with trainers Gerry Rushton and Stacy Hennessy.

The second Vigildon daughter, Bro-Rock Vigilmaud, was out of Mayquinn. Beauty and quality won her the Grand Champion Mare title at the 1970 Gold Cup Regional. Vigilmaud's first foal was the 1972 mare Shaker's Gina (by Tas-Tee's Firefly) who in 1982 produced Shaker's Intrigue (by Tedwin Tijuana). The Ulriches valued Intrigue, keeping him for the rest of his life and breeding 23 foals by him. Vigilmaud was crossed with Troutbrook Playboy and gave them the important producer, Shaker Kachina (1976). Kachina was bred to Intrigue, a cross they liked so much they repeated it eight times. One of the offspring of these matings was the 1986 gelding Shaker's Pedro. Pedro was a coveted show horse, owned and shown for much of his early life by Roxanne Sardelli Greenway, but she shared many victory passes with Diane Hasty, Kathy Papola, Intrepid Farm, and Jennifer Hazen. He went to his first Grand National & World Championship show in 1991 and over 13 years he took home World Champion Gelding, Grand National Park Saddle Youth, World Champion Ladies Park Saddle (twice), and so many great qualifying class

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Troutbrook Playboy's get Shaker's Super Star, Reland Big Eddy, Shaker's Ingrid, Shaker Mayphil, Whit Akers Sensation, and Cedar City Penbroke (photos © Doug Shiflet, Jerry Sparagowski, Poetry In Motion, Howard Schatzberg).

THE LEGEND CONTINUED

Larry Webb visited Shaker Hill as a boy and worked there in the 1980s. I grew up in Dayton and uncle Bill Marquardt would take us to visit Shaker Hill. I remember there was one area of the barn that had all the stallions in it—Windcrest Play Boy, Troutbrook Playboy, Tas-Tee's Firefly. Being 12 or 13 years old, that was a mesmerizing experience. We had a [club] meeting at the farm. A couple hundred people showed up. The place was beautiful, you drove up a long hill. You knew you were going someplace when you just drove up the drive—big house with pillars, a football field length barn, it had a gold Morgan horse weathervane on top.

Kathleen DeFazio, of Scandia Morgans

We went there to visit often in the late '70s and early '80s. We lived 25 minutes away. I was really impressed with their horses—a lot of those old mares they had, it was an education to see them and learn their bloodlines. The biggest memory was all the dogs in the barn. They had millions of dogs they brought in off the street.

Larry Webb

Dale loved dogs. When you pulled up 20 dogs would come around. Dale picked them up working on the road. Before we could start working with the horses we had to get the dogs under control. So, we built a kennel.

THE LEGACY CONTINUED

ribbons. "Pedro was and always will be my heart horse. He had a great mind, yet he was powerful and gave it his all every ride, sometimes he gave a little too much," Roxanne shared. It was to Roxanne's farm in Rhode Island that Pedro returned to for the most well-deserved retirement.

Meanwhile, Vigilmoud went on to produce eight foals, all exceptional daughters and one exceptional son named Shaker's Alimon, sired by Troutbrook Playboy. Alimon was a star at a very young age with many local and regional wins and, in 1985, Grand National Champion Five and Over Stallion. The bright, bouncy stud went on to produce 73 offspring, including World Champion English Pleasure and Pleasure Driving High-Y Black Tie (x Tedwin Themesong) about whom trainer Bob Hughes said in a recent *TMH* article "...he was big and put his neck in the right spot and had a major presence about him." Alimon was owned by Pam Ellingson for the final stage of his life. For her breeding program he sired Chandel Absolut (x Chandel Harmony). The upheaded Absolut was a sensation as a junior park saddle horse, becoming the primary breeding stallion for David and Cindy Vogels' Andover Morgan Horse Farm. For Mary Geisler, Alimon sired the exotically beautiful mare SpiceOLife Allura B, dam of SpiceOLife Present Tense GCH, unique for being crowned world champion in both park saddle and park harness and who has



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Foundation mare Holly's Gay B and her offspring Shaker's Monique and Shaker's Gazon both by Troutbrook Playboy (photos © Bob Moseder).

THE LEGEND CONTINUED

Canadians Shirley Foster and her late husband, Harry, acquired many horses from Shaker Hill

If T. D. got a call about a stray dog on the highway, [his farm manager] was told to go pick it up immediately. Didn't matter if he was selling you a horse. The dogs came first!

Bill Duckett

There was a sign that said, '5 MPH or Leave.' T. D. had a Boxer that used to sleep under visitor's cars. He would check under your car before you could drive out. It was never a problem when he was off the farm, because the dog would be with him. That Boxer lived to an old age. When I was with him in January of 2019 he was excited his yellow Lab was going to whelp before he died. He always found good homes for the dogs.

Nancy Caisse

Dale was self-assured—he built the equipment he used, but he had a soft spot for animals. He was always inventing and trying to improve things for his business and this was true of breeding horses and cattle. There is no question in my mind he had a sharp eye for an animal. He would look at the horse first and then he would look at the pedigree. He ended up with good Morgan horses.

THE LEGACY CONTINUED

made such an impact as a sire for the Morgan show ring despite his premature passing.

In 1962, from Ana Ela and daughter Nancy Ela Caisse, T. D. bought the beautiful Orcland Vigildon daughter, Townshend Vigileve, out of the mare Misty Morn. She was bred to breed on deep in the blood of both Townshend and Orcland Farms. Nancy Caisse recalls, "Dale and Marilyn...bought her sight unseen. Vigileve's dam, Misty Morn, we bought from the Midwest, because she was a beautiful mover. When we went to look at her my father wanted to see her trot. The owner threw a halter at her and she trotted off with big hock action. And my father said, 'that's it.' So, it was a pedigree Dale and Marilyn would have known. The blood was from their backyard."

The mare was as much a star in the show ring under the supervision of Bob Hart as she was super producer of the next generation. Vigileve produced seven foals, three daughters and four sons. Her fist foal, a bay filly, came in 1969, sired by Tas-Tee's Firefly and named Shaker Nanuet. There is a photo of Bob Hart, Jr. receiving a ribbon on her back at Gold Cup and she recorded the win of Grand National Pleasure Driving Mare Stake in 1979 while owned by Robert Young. Vigileve's brown 1974 son, Shaker's Destry, sired by Troutbrook Playboy, was a big,

THE LEGEND CONTINUED**TAS-TEE'S FIREFLY (O C R x Gayla)**

Ryan Ulrich, The Morgan Horse, July 2006

Bob Hart...very busy with his training stable, told T. D. that he didn't need this colt and had sold him to a car dealer in the area. T. D. was disappointed he missed out on the sale and wanted to have first refusal should the colt be offered for sale again. In no time, the car dealer went bankrupt and T. D. had his chance. Firefly arrived at Shaker Hill and remained there for the rest of his life. He died at the age of 28 and was buried in the front yard with Windcrest Play Boy and Troutbrook Playboy.

Bob Hart, Jr.

My dad and Dale thought...he was such a stand-out, different from many Morgans who came before him. He was so refined and upright. He had a cool look about him. He was shown as a park horse, park harness, and in-hand. He was a super intelligent horse, sensitive, and he liked to be around people. At that time all breeding was natural cover and he was easy to breed with. You could breed a mare and get on him an hour later and he didn't object. I think Tas-Tee's Firefly was Mr. Ulrich's favorite and he was my dad's too. Mr. Ulrich was breeding for refinement and action and Firefly was a different style Morgan for his day.

Kathi (Rutledge) Hummel, of Ohio's Serenity Farm family

I do (remember Tas-Tee's Firefly). Perfect three beat canter.... He was always perfectly groomed and perfectly conditioned. Meticulous. Long beautiful tail. I was pretty young but I remember him showing and winning Grand Champion Stallion [Gold Cup 1967]. Very round, arched neck, smooth topline, gorgeous color. Mr. Hart was a master and Firefly was always a handsome horse.

*Kathryn Schwartz, Ohio trainer of Whit Akers Sensation,
Shaker's Rio and others*

Tas-Tee's Firefly was a big, grand horse. He was spectacular to watch and Bob Hart was a master showman. Firefly didn't get the billing [Troutbrook] Playboy did, but he sired a lot of good mares.

Jean Hart

Bob kept a picture of Tas-Tee's Firefly in his wallet until the day he died. His son Bobby has the photo today.

TROUTBROOK PLAYBOY

(Waseeka's Nocturne x Mistress Merridawn)

Ryan Ulrich, The Morgan Horse, July 2006

In 1970, T. D. saw a small picture of Troutbrook Playboy as a yearling and that was enough to spark his interest to see the colt in person. He asked Marilyn if she wanted to take a weekend trip to Leo Picard's Troutbrook Farm in Rhode Island and assured her that they would not be taking a checkbook, they were just going to look... Mr. Picard turned the colt out and he put on quite a show. Both T. D. and Marilyn were very impressed, but thought they didn't stand a chance of buying him. Mr. Picard took them to dinner that evening and asked T. D. if he was going to buy Playboy. T. D. said he would like to, but didn't bring a

THE LEGACY CONTINUED

beautiful, dark brown stallion who left his mark solidly in New England where he produced 44 offspring. The prefixes Hillfield, Ryemeadow, Wawayanda, Quechee's, Meadowinds, and Bery Bank were carried by Destry offspring and were sought after by astute breeders. Destry's fabulous son Hillfield Nightrider came to define the classic pleasure division in its earliest days. Bred, owned, and loved by Judith Cherry—always showing in her trademark red coat—"Rider" claimed both the 1995 World Champion Classic Pleasure Driving and Classic Pleasure Saddle at the height of a very successful career.

Holly's Gay B (Sugar Run King x Ledgewood Suanne) was a star among grand mares and her offspring left a lasting impression on the breed. Purchased from Mildred Junk's Sugar Run Farm, with strong government mare lines, she was bred to Troutbrook Playboy four times, Tas-Tee's Firefly eight times, and old Schoolmaster once. The best of her crosses with Firefly produced Shaker's Firefly, Shaker's Deborah, Shaker's Eva, Shaker's Fancy, and 1977 Pleasure Driving World Champion Shaker's Firecrest. The stallion, Shaker's Gayfly, when bred to the mare HLM Caption, made his place in Morgan history for breeder Cy Bostic, siring MI Footnote who produced Cy-Don's Replica and Cy Don's Mr Super, the first a chestnut saddle horse, the latter a bay pleasure driving powerhouse, both geldings eating up the tanbark in the '90s and beyond. Shaker's Eva was World Champion Junior Exhibitor Park Saddle with Jennifer Sterne in 1979 and she also produced Montbelle Trophy, who sired two of the revered World Champion Mares, Montbelle Rosalie and Heart To Heart. When Holly was crossed with the exquisite Troutbrook Playboy she produced three colts and one daughter, Shaker's Monique. Sold to Frank and Judy Gassman in Kentucky, Monique produced four very notable daughters including the exquisite Poison (x Wham Bam Command). Poison was sold as a yearling to Stonecroft Farm and produced three daughters and four awesome sons. Holly's Gay B was bred 13 consecutive years and produced a live foal each year.

HyLee's Torchsong (Torchfire x Illawana Marie) was the last of the original mares purchased by T. D. and Marilyn when she was ten years old. If the other mares represented some of New England's strongest genetic pools, here the Ulrichs dipped into the well of Brunk breeding. Torchsong's sire, Torchfire, was a son of Senator Graham, his dam, Jubilee Joy, a daughter of Flyhawk, so up close she descended from two of the most important Brunk sires. Torchsong's dam, Illawana Marie, gave her an additional cross to the important Brunk broodmare Sentola. Torchsong only had three foals, each sired by Troutbrook Playboy. Her 1973 son, Shaker's Rio, made a huge difference. He was the stallion who kept on producing quality, beautiful, athletic Shaker Hill Morgans.

Mr. Ulrich made an interesting purchase of another mare, showing his acute mind for breeding crosses. He loved his stallion Tas-Tee's Firefly, born in 1958. So, in 1966, he bought Firefly's dam, Gayla. She was solid Brunk breeding, being sired by Duke B K (by Senator Graham) and out of Highland Firefly (by Flyhawk). It was a logical next step for T. D. when he had the opportunity to



Shaker's Intrigue, top left, was sired by Tedwin Tijuana, who Ulrich introduced to his program in 1980. Intrigue was out of Shaker's Gina, product of two foundation Morgans, Tas-Tee's Firefly and Bro Rock Vigilmoud. Ulrich kept him and he sired, clockwise from top right, Shaker's Pedro, Shaker's Shaka, and Shaker's Maribeles (photos © J. Durham, Bob Moseder, Howard Schatzberg, Linda Quillen Wollaber).

THE LEGEND CONTINUED

back wall with Playboy's stall. I moved Don one stall over, but they still shared a corner. T. D. put the plywood higher.

Kathleen DeFazio

My favorite memory of Troutbrook Playboy was when he and UVM Promise faced off at Gold Cup [1978]—Rusty Ulrich had Playboy and Bob Whitney was showing Promise. That was in the day when there were so many in-hand stallions they practically went right out the door. The judges went back and forth and the crowd was wild. They finally let Playboy win—the hometown boy was the hero. It was pretty exciting. When Playboy came along you could see the difference in the Shaker Hill foal crops. His look really came through.

SHAKER HILL TRIVIA

- The 1966 gelding Shaker Bolero (Schoolmaster x Hylee's Lady

THE LEGACY CONTINUED

It was Tas-Tee's Firefly who set Shaker Hill on a journey that Dale was openly proud of—Firefly was important on many levels to Mr. Ulrich and trainer Bob Hart, Sr. Firefly produced a total of 89 offspring in his life. Breeders from great programs hauled their mares from across the country, mares with Sugar-Run, Lippitt, Big Bend, Black-Ayrs, Bar-T, and Broadwall were knitting his blood back into old blood. Firefly was used on the foundation Shaker Hill mares, producing 20 offspring. Townshend Vigileve in 1969 gave them Shaker Nanuet who became a hallmark for the farm and a great show horse. She produced DG Cruise Control, sired by Tedwin Topic who had his own impact from his Vermont High Brook Farm. All the mares Cruiser produced foals from were part of New England's finest and it spoke volumes to be sown back into the old blood. Shaker Reno, a son of Firefly out of Medomak Katana, was owned and shown by Diane Ulrich. In 1976, the pair were World Champion Open Western Pleasure

THE LEGEND CONTINUED

Justin) was owned and campaigned by the colorful Rusty Warren, a comedian and country singer known for her suggestive song “Bounce Your Boobies” and the albums *Knockers Up* and *Songs For Sinners*.

• In 1978, Shaker Hill Farm was used in the movie, *Harper Valley PTA*, starring Barbara Eden.

Nancy Caisse

Dale was an auction goer. He went to farm auctions because he could fix things up. He went to Morgan auctions and cattle auctions. I sat with him a lot at Morgan auctions. He was always chewing on a cigar. And it seemed to me he lit his cigar up every time he bought a horse. I thought it was his signal to the auctioneer to put the hammer down when he lit his cigar up. I was always kidding him about this.

CATTLE

Working on the road, T. D. saw a pair of Santa Gertrudis bulls. He soon became a significant cattle breeder.

Ryan Ulrich, The Morgan Horse, July 2006.

Again, he picked a breed he admired because of its looks: the Santa Gertrudis. Remarkably, this is the only breed of cattle started in the United States, much like the Morgan...He bought a bull calf and named it Shaker's Playboy 720...He was two-time National Poll Champion and was Grand Champion at the Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Colorado, and Texas State Fairs.

In 2015 the Santa Gertrudis National Show was dedicated to T. D. Ulrich and the dedication noted his “eye for perfection...with both Morgan horses and Santa Gertrudis cattle...”

LATER YEARS

A very small percentage of the 180 Morgans with the Shaker Hill prefixes were foaled in the 1990s. The 1980s seemed to mark the final years of T. D.'s major Morgan efforts.

Larry Webb

We worked at Shaker Hill in the mid-80s for a couple of years before we moved to Oregon. At the time there was no other color than bay. Bay horses everywhere. They were all so beautiful, but it was hard to tell one from another. There hadn't been a lot of training done for a few years. It was hard even to put a halter on some of them. But Dale knew the name of every horse and its parentage. The next year we went to horse shows, the first time in a while for Shaker Hill—Shaker's Page, Shaker's Intrigue, Shaker Kirsten. I wish we had stayed around a little longer—I would like to have gotten a horse ready for Dale to drive.

Jean Hart—In the 1980s, Bob and Jean leased stalls from the Ulriches for their training horses and also worked the Shaker Hill Morgans.

Bob and Mr. Ulrich knew each other really well after years of showing horses and doing business. We sold several horses when we were there in the '80s. The horses were so easy to sell because

THE LEGACY CONTINUED

and Reserve World Champion Amateur Western Pleasure. The beautiful pair topped the ladies and Four-Year-Old Western Pleasure the same year. Shaker's Lucifer was a high-necked, brown gelding out of Waseeka's Bewitched, who many recall from the Ohio area show ring. He was shown successfully as a reliable amateur, junior exhibitor, and ladies park horse in both harness and saddle between 1980 and 1990.

In 1970 the purchase of Troutbrook Playboy (Waseeka's Nocturne x Mistress Merridawn) from Leo Picard, as a yearling, proved to be one of T. D.'s best decisions. His dam was an exquisitely beautiful mare born in Maine in 1956, bred by Harland and Correne McCobb. In addition to being owned by Leo Picard, Mistress was also owned at one time by Waseeka Farm and lived out her life at John and Marjorie Hagan's. She produced eight offspring by Corisor Of Upwey, Waseeka's Special Edition, Parade's Jubilee (three), and Waseeka's Nocturne (three). Playboy was her last foal and she saved the very best for last. Credit for Playboy's exotic head understandably often goes to his sire, Waseeka's Nocturne. This writer knew his dam and also believes that trademark beautiful head came from both sides of his pedigree. Mistress Merridawn was a very special little mare of vintage Morgan bloodlines, her sire Lippitt Ethan Don and her dam Choice Mistress, a granddaughter of Querido.

Troutbrook Playboy produced 86 foals in his brief 14 years. Each year there were outstanding sons and daughters. Playboy sired the likes of: Reland Big Eddy, 1983 and 1984 Reserve World Champion Park Harness and World Champion Amateur Park Harness; Whit Acres Sensation, 1984 and 1986 World Champion Park Saddle; Shaker's Gazon, 1980, 1981, and 1982 Reserve World Champion Gelding and the sires Shaker's Alimon and Cedar City Penbrook.

Reland Big Eddy (x Holly Bob's Darling), bred by Raymond Leach, was owned through his long life by the Green Family of Windswept Place in Texas, home of Roadshow Morgans. He was a world champion in park harness and a successful roadster-to-bike contender in the late 1980s, but his greatest contributions were in the breeding shed where he sired 75 offspring. Those offspring were multi-regional and world champions in many divisions led by Roadshow Texas Playboy GCH and most notable Fletcher Banjo John out of Kendalwood N-Love. “BJ” was 1989 Reserve World Champion Park Harness and 1990 and 1993 World Champion Park Harness. He had the presence of ten horses and the longer the class the better he was, beautiful, eye-catching, and handsome.

Whit Akers Sensation (x Shaker's Gaiety) combined the Shaker Hill blood as his dam was a daughter of Tas-Tee's Firefly. Sensation lived up to his name with his two wins of the Park Saddle World Champion. He was known to be able to trot at high speed, never dropping his high neck position or losing his cadence. He was a signature horse for Ohio's Kathryn Schwartz during the early years of her training career.

The Morgan sport horse world would have a big hole if not for Cedar City Penbrook (x Pendleton Queen Bee), The stallion had an association for a significant part of his life with Dragonfire

THE LEGEND CONTINUED

they were so beautiful. But when a customer would come in and Bob would sell a horse, Dale would always say, ‘Well, Bob, I’ve just got to have a little more money for that horse.’ And Bob would go back to the buyer and make a new deal. We had a really nice black horse named Alisar and Bob had a buyer. I remember Bob saying, ‘I am not going back to the customer to ask for more money.’ And Dale said, ‘OK.’

*Shirley Foster acquired many Shaker Hill horses for Kenoway Farm in Union, Ontario, beginning in the late 1980s and into the mid-’90s. My brother wanted the mare Ramsonvale Victoria, but he couldn’t get Mr. Ulrich to respond. My husband decided to take this on as a project. He called and had a chat with him—my husband was so overly friendly—and T. D. invited us to stop in (we used to go to Lexington a lot because we raised Thoroughbreds for the yearling sales). When we stopped, T. D. was very cordial—we were invited into the house. He said, ‘you are too late. I’ve got the horses all listed in *The Morgan Horse* magazine. An ad is coming out in May for my dispersal. You’ll have to put a bid in on all of them.’ He said he was only accepting bids on them all. We had to let it go. The magazine came out. The deadline was the end of May. Harry waited until the end of June and called him, and asked how he made out. And T. D. said, ‘I didn’t get one call.’ It went from there. I think he took a shine to Harry. T. D. would call and say he was sending some horses up. He said, ‘These guys down here aren’t getting them.’ For some reason he always sent nine. We never questioned it. He would send a sheet of paper with the name, sire, dam, age, and gender. The first load had the mare my brother wanted. We didn’t argue with anything and we never got shafted. Some were older, many were overweight because they were in grass up to their knees. We got at least three loads. We paid for them, but only into the low four-figures. We didn’t try to resell them, except for three Arabians. Shaker’s Ethan that was so typey. Shaker’s Sultan was out of such a great mare [Shaker’s Gila]. Shaker’s Page—an Ontario Hackney pony trainer saw him and said, ‘I’ve never seen a horse with eyes like that.’ His eyes were huge. We never showed any of our Shaker horses. We showed their offspring. They were used for breeding purposes. They had personalities to go with their bloodlines.*

When Harry Foster passed away in 2009, Shirley had an image of Kenoway Centerfold (Shaker’s Page x Shaker’s Cerina) etched on his tombstone.

Larry Bolen

T. D. was larger than life and everybody loved him. My last memory of seeing T. D. was at Gold Cup in the ’90s when he had just a few horses with Judy Whitney.

Shaker’s Shaka was Junior English Pleasure Champion at Gold Cup in 1997 with Judy Whitney riding. Marilyn had died in January of 2006. T. D. Ulrich passed away in June 2019 at the age of 95. They are remembered here as colorful personalities, significant breeders, and legends of the Morgan world. ■

THE LEGACY CONTINUED

Farm where Jennifer Chang campaigned him to great success in dressage and hunter pleasure. For them he sired Dragonfire Kirin, out of their foundation mare, Dragonfire Chi Lin, and he was as big a star on the cross country courses as he was in the dressage court and all the while he produced more than 45 foals in his likeness of beauty and athletic ability.

Shaker’s Rio (x HyLee’s Torchsong) went on to represent Shaker Hill in a grand way. He lived a long life of 33 years and produced 68 offspring from 1983 to 1997, under the ownership of T. D. Ulrich, James Brown, and Ann Jill Scileppi. His sons were sought after in the show ring and breeding shed—Heartwood, Whit-Acres, Downer Hill, Magenta, and JAX programs thrived with Rio’s beautiful and athletic offspring.

Tedwin Tijuana, out of the great mare Waseeka’s Tiz Me and sired by Tedwin Topic, was purchased as a yearling from Ted Young. Although he was lost at a very young age, he produced nine offspring and they all went on to carry the Shaker’s prefix. His son, Shaker’s Intrigue, was a sire of note for his breeders. Some of Tijuana’s grand get were stars in the show ring. Shaker’s Pedro (Shaker’s Intrigue x Shaker Kachina) was the definition of a grand show horse. Pedro graced the show ring from 1991 to 2004. He showed at 11 Morgan Grand Nationals as well as from coast to coast; 1997 World Champion Stallion, Shaker’s LaStrada (Shaker’s Intrigue x Casland Del Brooke) was a many time Western Pleasure Champion for Annie Morgan-Flynt; 2005 World Champion Hunter Pleasure Shaker’s Maribeles (Shaker’s Intrigue x Shaker’s Remembrance), owned by Judy K. Fox, was shown and trained by Mary Carlton.

Windcrest Play Boy, a gorgeous and respected son of Upwey Ben Don out of Liz Taylor, fit nicely into T. D.’s plans and was purchased as an 11-year-old from Connie Barton of Big Bend Farm. T. D. truly enjoyed showing this “Play Boy” in park saddle in the 1970s while standing him to the public. It is my understanding that he spent many years closer to the West Coast in training with Bob Hart, Sr. in Arizona. He was a contender in the park saddle and harness divisions for both open and amateur horses as both trainer and owner enjoyed showing the charismatic stud. Not to be confused with the Troutbrook stud, this great horse was widely admired and used by respected breeding programs Wind-Blu, Sugar Run, and Whitmorr Farms as well as Shaker Hill after his time at the Barton’s Big Bend Farm. Windcrest Play boy sired a total of 58 offspring, only five had the Shaker prefix.

The age in which the Ulrichs pioneered a unique business was also a different world for lovers of livestock. Their farm was equally famous in the world of breeding Santa Gertrudis cattle—the breed’s national show was even dedicated to T. D. one year. Dogs abounded at the farm and it was home even to buffalo. Not every great Morgan with the prefix may have been mentioned here, but certainly those who have demonstrated the influence a breeder can have, in a time, a place, and well into the future. ■