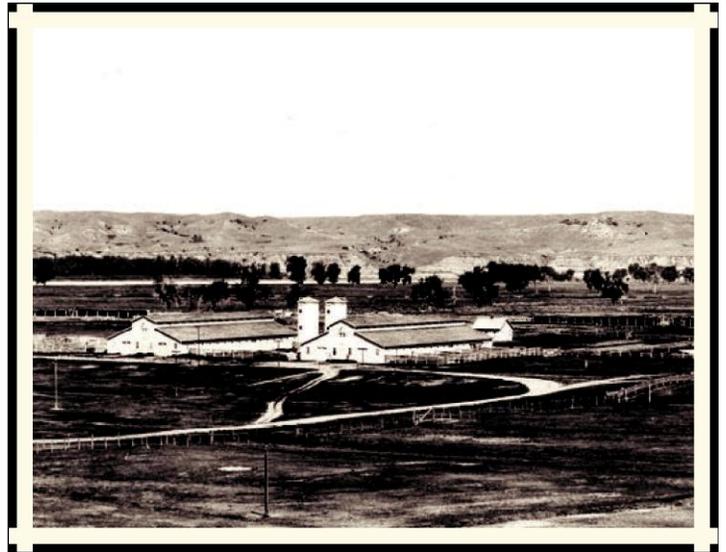


U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station

REVISITED

Nearly three decades ago the author shared his research with this magazine in a six-part article. Here he reprises this information on a little-known piece of Morgan breeding history.

By Richard L. Trower



PROLOGUE

Back in 1987, I purchased a mare that traced back to the breeding program at the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station in Miles City, Montana. I could find very little information at the time about this breeding program so I embarked on a quest to find out all I could about the Miles City Station.

My quest started with a phone call to the Miles City Chamber of Commerce. My question was, “I am interested in finding out anything I can about the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station. Would you know of anyone that might have information about it?” To my amazement the very nice lady at the Chamber of Commerce said, “Would you like their phone number?”

And so I began on a journey into Morgan history that culminated with a 1990 article in *The Morgan Horse*. It was a history that was in danger of being lost, a history of the influence

of the Morgan in developing the working ranch horse, and the modern American Quarter Horse. To say my wife was not happy about the phone bill I ran up during my research would be an understatement; but I was determined to complete my task.

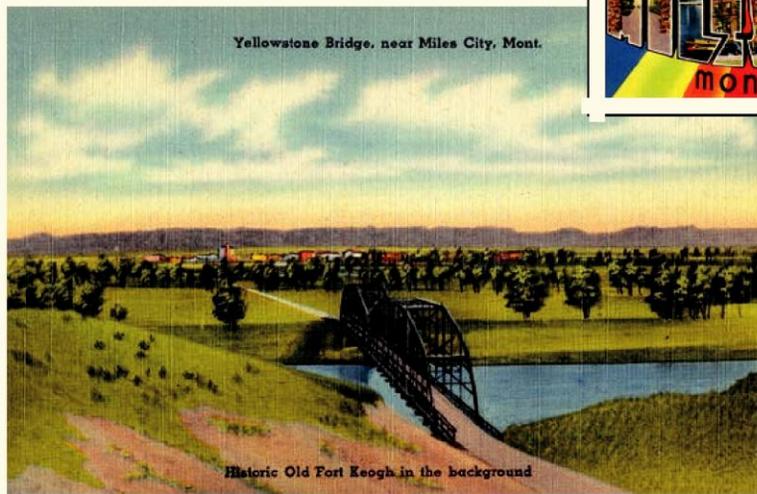
History is a difficult thing to pin down. At the time of the original publication I was chasing 60-year-old history. One person that contributed greatly to my research was Mary Krause, at the time a 29 year veteran of the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station. Mary was excited about this project and became my inspiration at those times that it looked like an impossible task.

While attempting to trace the Morgans that came from Miles City, I was confronted with one major roadblock, the lack of records. In the 1930s, Montana was experiencing rapid growth in cattle and sheep operations. Because horses were in such great demand to work these large ranches, pedigrees and breeding records

U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station Revisited



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A map of Montana; Ramul Dvarishlis and Discontent; Headlight Morgan was Richard Sellman's foundation stallion. Of the original foundation horses used at Miles City, 27 were purchased from the estate of Richard Sellman; Postcards (ca.1930-1945) of Miles City and the Yellowstone Bridge, near Miles City, with the historic Fort Keogh in the background (Boston Public Library, Tichnor Brothers collection, digitalcommonwealth.com).



were unimportant to the people who worked the ranches. The only qualification that a horse had to have was the ability to do the job.

Another problem I faced in compiling this work was the assimilation of Morgan blood into the Quarter Horse breed. The exact number of Miles City horses that may have found their way into the Quarter Horse ranks is hard to say. It is known that the Miles City mare, Carol, produced three American Quarter Horse registered foals after being sold to the Spear Morgan Livestock Company of Sheridan, Wyoming. In a conversation, back in 1989, with Ramul Dvarishkis of Hamilton Dome, Wyoming, who purchased the stallion Discontent from the Miles City Station in 1931, Mr. Dvarishkis told me, "When I bought Discontent I had no Morgan mares, so I bred him to daughters of Peter McCue. There was no Quarter Horse Registry in the early '30s, so I didn't have papers on any of his early get."

I have been asked several times over the years to republish the article but the constraints of day to day life have always taken precedence over resurrecting this project. Another stumbling

block was that the original manuscript has been lost over the last 27-plus years.

Recently, Stephen Kinney, Editorial Director of *The Morgan Horse* magazine, took an interest in republishing this work and was able to produce scans of the original article from the archives. It is from these scans that I am able to revisit the history of the Miles City Station. I am forever indebted to Mr. Kinney and his staff for their hard work and interest in this story.

In this rewrite, I attempted to research the legacy of the Miles City Station that has surfaced since the original articles were published. I can only hope that the reader enjoys this work as much as I did in writing it.

THE BEGINNING

On April 15, 1924 the 68th Congress passed an act which read in part: "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, that the Secretary of War having determined that the lands embraced in the Fort Keogh

U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station Revisited



TOP TO BOTTOM: The Foundation Stallions: Revere (Mansfield x Folly), Monterey (Mansfield x Scotanna), and Roosevelt (De Jarnette Jr x Alice Dean) were used extensively in the Miles City Station breeding program.

Military Reservation, in the State of Montana, are no longer needed for military purposes, and Executive order of February 2, 1924, having transferred the said lands to the Department of the Interior for disposition, the said lands are hereby transferred to and placed under the control of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for use by that department for experiments in stock raising and growing of forage crops in connection therewith.” On this land was established the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station.

On July 20, 1925 the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station began its operation. Unlike the farm at Middlebury, Vermont, which was founded to produce cavalry horses, the Miles City Station focused on producing working ranch horses. Like any government program the Miles City program was done on a large scale. The *Morgan Horse Register*, Volume V lists 93 horses registered to the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station, accounting for four percent of all Morgans registered between 1915 and 1939. Numbers alone made Miles City the fifth largest Morgan breeding operation in the country at the time, surpassed only by the programs of J. C. Brunk, Elmer Brown, Roland Hill, and the Government Morgan Horse Farm at Middlebury.

Of the original foundation horses used at Miles City, 27 were purchased from the estate of Richard Sellman, and three were transferred from the Middlebury farm. The Sellman mares were purchased for \$54.00 each (\$753 in 2017 dollars). If the mare had a foal by her side, the foal was purchased for \$24.00 (\$334 in 2017 dollars). The Miles City Stud Book used letters to precede each number to indicate the breeding of the horse: M for purebred Morgans; S for Standardbred and Thoroughbred crosses; and W for light Draft.

THE FOUNDATION MORGANS

THE STALLIONS

Revere (Mansfield x Folly), foaled in 1924. Bred by the U.S. Government Farm in Middlebury, Vermont. As a yearling, he was transferred to the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station in Miles City, Montana.

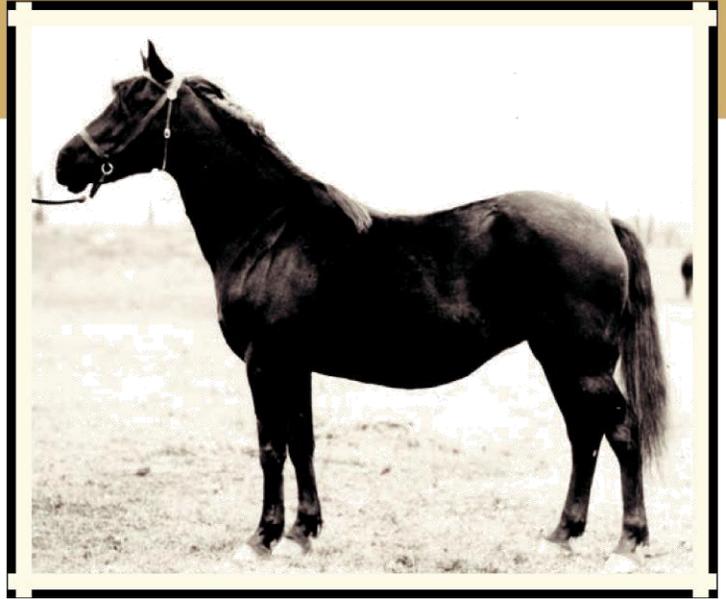
Monterey (Mansfield x Scotanna), foaled in 1925. Bred by the U.S. Government Farm in Middlebury, Vermont. He was transferred to the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station in Miles City, Montana in 1929. On March 20, 1936, Monterey was transferred to the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula, Montana. Monterey sired more horses for the Miles City Station than other any stallion, with his total offspring numbering 60.

Roosevelt (De Jarnette Jr x Alice Dean), was foaled in 1929. He was purchased by the U.S. Forest Service in 1932 from Thomas Adams of Chinook, Montana.

THE SELLMAN HORSES

- **M1 – Baby Lu** (The Admiral x Emma Antonie), foaled in 1910 and arrived in Miles City with her foal, Emalu. Emalu was sired by Rojeneiro, a son of Red Oak. Baby Lu died in 1927 of undetermined causes, and Emalu was retained for breeding purposes.

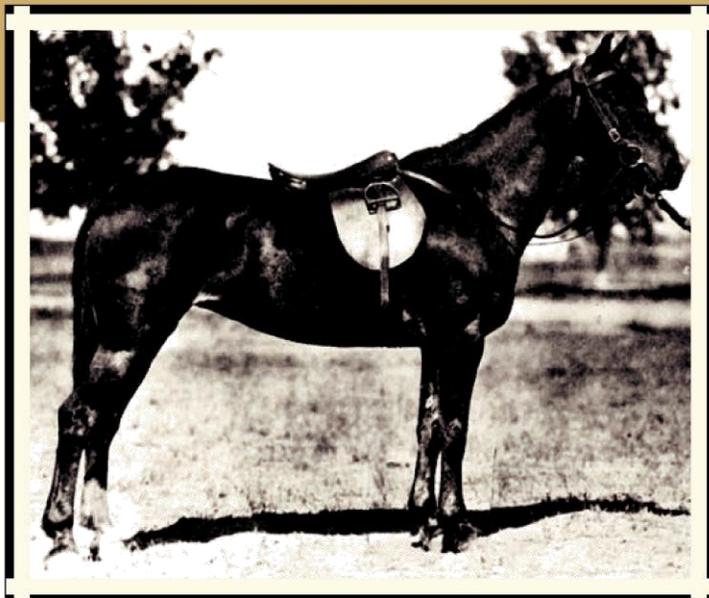
U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station Revisited



LEFT TO RIGHT: Red Oak (General Gates x Marguerite) was the sire of numerous Miles City Station foals; Sunflower Maid (Headlight Morgan x Franny P.) produced Linsley, who was known for siring working ranch horses.

- **M2 – Fantina K** (Headlight Morgan x Florie A.), foaled in 1916 and arrived in Miles City with her foal, Tinajane. Tinajane was sired by Rojeneiro, and was retained by the Station for breeding purposes. In 1931, Fantina K was sold to L. L. Beerce of Berthold, North Dakota for \$55.
- **M3 – Travis K** (Headlight Morgan x Baby Lu), foaled in 1917 and arrived in Miles City with her foal Travaqueen (M23), who was by Red Oak. Travaqueen was retained for breeding purposes.
- **M4 – Nokomis K** (Headlight Morgan x Nita B.), foaled in 1917 and arrived with her colt, Oakomo, who was sired by Red Oak. He was sold as a two-year-old to the Winnecook Ranch Company in Winnecook, Montana for \$250.
- **M5 – Fidelia K** (Headlight Morgan x Kitty D.), foaled in 1917 and made the trip to Montana with her colt Rednick (M25), who was sired by Red Oak. Rednick was sold as a yearling to R. G. Sutton of Stacey, Montana for \$400. Fidelia K. died at the age of 11 from pneumonia.
- **M6 – Cleptomania** (Headlight Morgan x Baby Girl), foaled in 1918 and had a filly by her side, Rediclem, (M26), who was sired by Red Oak and was retained by the Station for breeding purposes.
- **M7 – Rocono** (Red Oak x Conant K), purchased as a five-year-old with Conoflash, (M27), by her side. Conoflash was by Acbar and was retained by the Station for breeding purposes. Rocono produced 11 foals for the Station and was one of the most productive mares.
- **M8 – Joballa** (Joe Bailey x Puss), foaled in 1920 and died less than a year after her arrival at the Miles City Station. The cause of death was listed as strangulation by a neck rope while in a stall.
- **M9 – Jobaria** (Joe Bailey x Travis K), foaled in 1922.
- **M10 – Alaska** (Alamo x Nedda K.), foaled in 1923, and was first bred to K of K. She produced Alberta (S65) who was retained by the Station for breeding purposes. Alaska was sold to J. M. Venable in 1935 for \$50.
- **M11 – Alatte** (Alamo x Georgette K.), foaled in 1923. Alatte was sold to R. G. Sutton of Stacey, Montana in 1927 for \$150.
- **M12 – Alibirdie** (Alibaba x Birdie K), foaled in 1923.
- **M13 – Alibonnie** (Alibaba x Bonnie K.), foaled in 1923. Alibonnie was sold in 1932 to A.G. Jones for \$25.
- **M14 – Alita** (Alibaba x Anita K.), purchased in 1925 from Sellman's estate for \$49. J.M. Venable purchased Alita, in 1935, for \$25.
- **M15 – Brodia** (Brown Kid x Birdie B.), foaled in 1923. In 1935, J. M. Venable purchased Brodia, then in foal to Roosevelt, for \$50
- **M16 – Brolibbie** (Brown Kid x Trilby B), foaled in 1923. In 1935, Brolibbie was sold to J. M. Venable for \$25.
- **M17 – Bronita** (Brown Kid x Anita B.), foaled in 1923. In 1935 she was sold to the Spear Morgan Livestock Company in Sheridan, Wyoming for \$125.
- **M18 – Alalotta** (Alibaba x Carlota K.), foaled in 1923. Alalotta was sold in 1932 to A. G. Jones of Miles City, Montana for \$10.
- **M19 – Unnamed filly** was foaled in 1924 and was not registered. She was purchased from the Estate of Richard Sellman on July 20, 1925 for \$44. The Miles City records do not indicate the filly's sire or dam. Four months later, the filly fractured her leg and was destroyed.
- **M20 – Brown Betty** (The Brown Kid x dam unknown), foaled in 1924. In 1932 Brown Betty was sold to A. G. Jones of Miles City, Montana.
- **M21 – Emalu** (Rojenerio x Baby Lu), she arrived at the Station with her dam in 1925.
- **M22 – Tinajane** (Rojenerio x Fantina K), she arrived at the Station with her dam in 1925.
- **M23 – Travaqueen** (Red Oak x Travis K), arrived at the Station with her dam in 1925.

U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station Revisited



LEFT TO RIGHT: Travis K (Headlight Morgan x Baby Lu) came to Miles City in 1925 with her foal Travaqueen by her side; Dewey (General Gates x Mrs. Culvers) sired many good Morgans in Montana.

- **M24 – M25** These weanlings colts were purchased from the Estate of Richard Sellman on July 20, 1925 for \$24 each. There was no information available on these colts.
- **M26 – Rediclem** (Red Oak x Cleptomania), she arrived at the Station with her dam in 1925. She was reported missing from the range in 1933.
- **M27 – Conoflash** (Acbar x Rocono), there was no information available in the Miles City records on this mare.

THE GOVERNMENT MARES

- **M28 – Qualification** (Sir Ethan Allen x Leila), foaled in 1923. She was transferred from the U.S. Government Morgan Horse Farm on October 18, 1925. She was sold, in 1935 to the Spear Morgan Livestock Company of Sheridan, Wyoming, for \$125.
- **M29 – Quatanna** (Bennington x Gertrude), foaled in 1923. She was transferred from the U.S. Government Morgan Horse Farm in 1925. Quatanna was sold in 1935 to Robert Yellowtail of Crow Agency, Montana, for \$50.
- **M30 – Revena** (Bennington x Nunda), foaled in 1924. She was transferred from the U.S. Government Morgan Horse Farm as a yearling. In 1934, Revena was transferred to the Mule breeding program at the University of Georgia in Athens.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE QUARTER HORSE

The American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) was formed on March 15, 1940 in Fort Worth, Texas. Agents of this new organization spread out across the United States looking for horses that conformed to the ideals of AQHA. In the northern plains states they found the horses bred by Miles City working the ranges and convinced their owners to register the horses with the AQHA.

I would be remiss not to mention the Thoroughbred stallion K of K (Glasgerion x Mrs K by Americus) who stood at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and at the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment

Station, Miles City, Montana. While he was at Miles City he sired registered Quarter Horses from the Miles City Morgans: Alaska, Alalotta, Alibirdie, Alatte, Alibonnie, Animation, Brodia, Brolibbie, Carol, Emalu, Qualification, and Tinajane.

In 1935, the Spear Morgan Livestock Company purchased ten Morgans from the U.S. Range Livestock Experimental Station. In a conversation with Tory Johnson of Busby, Montana, the grandson of Willis Spear, founder of Spear Morgan Livestock Company told me that “The Spear Ranch’s original stock was Thoroughbred-grade crosses.” He explained that “The only Morgan blood in Montana at that time were horses bred by C. X. Larrabee. These horses were bred for speed and didn’t make good working horses.” Mr. Johnson explained that “In the late 1920s the Livestock Station at Miles City brought in a bunch of Morgans and started using them to work the range,” he continued “Slowly, the ranchers began to see that the Morgan had the ability to work the range as good as the Thoroughbred. In fact, in some ways they were better than the Thoroughbred.” He went on to say, “They required less upkeep and they didn’t tire as quickly. The only drawback was that they didn’t have the legs under them to cover a lot of miles in a day.” To resolve this perceived shortcoming he added, “The ranchers started crossing Morgans and Thoroughbreds and found they got the best of both breeds—the ultimate cow horse.”

While the Miles City horses contributed greatly to the formation of the American Quarter Horse it removed some very good horses from the Morgan gene pool.

THE LEGACY

On November 11, 1935, J. M. Venable purchased 34 Morgans from the Miles City Station. Within four months he sold 27 of the horses to Ernest Snelling of Musselshell, Montana. A group of these mares were sold to the Crow Indian Agency to be used in a breeding program to upgrade the existing reservation stock. In 1940, six

U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station Revisited

of these mares, Dilita, Falita, Glacier, Grand Slam, Grosbeak, and Gyration were transferred to the Carson Indian School in Stewart, Nevada. Later that summer, the school purchased the Miles City bred stallion Euchre. Between 1942 and 1945 the school raised 16 foals from these mares crossed to Euchre .

In conversations with the Carson Colony Museum I was not able to find anyone that remembered the horses or the fact that the Morgan breeding program ever existed.

In 1945 the mares, with nine of their offspring, and Euchre were sent to the Wind River Agency in Fort Washakie, Wyoming. While at Wind River, the mares apparently disappeared from the annals of Morgan history.

While at Wind River Euchre was bred to the mare Easter Fine S (Silver Ranger x Dans Baby) and sired the colt Buckles in 1946. George A. Cross, of Dubois, Wyoming, sent four Warhawk daughters to Buckles, including the mare Cree Woman who, in 1971, produced the black mare Cree Charmer, #021527, Cree Charmer from a breeding to Chingadero.

Cree Charmer became an important broodmare for Bill and Louise Green's Greentree Ranch and produced the mare Greentree Blackbird who, in 1989, was sold to Sweden. From a breeding to Isaksbo Jeronimo (Hanover Super Dan x Duclcina) she produced Stall Mistys Brave Star who, in 1991, became the Gold medalist of marathon, individually and team, in Carriage Driving World Championships in Austria 1998.

In 1940, Joel Jackson, of the Jackson Morgan Ranch, purchased the stallion Delbert from W. H. Donald. Over the next nine years, Delbert sired 91 offspring, including Cherye, dam of Speedfield (by Fleetfield). Speedfield went on to sire 68 foals at Drumlin Morgans, of Alberta, Canada. George A. Cross found success with utilizing the blood of Delbert and Kenfield (Speedfield x Lora Lee) in his breeding program during the 70s and 80s.

Another source of Delbert blood can be found at Cary and Leigh Ann Newman's Cream Ridge Morgans, Lenore Idaho. Their foundation stallion, Cream Ridge Mirzay, sired 22 registered Morgan offspring. He is by the many-time Western Working and cow cutting champion Mortana Pat and out of the many time Morgan Pacific Northwest (PNW) Regional Champion mare in halter and performance classes Ida-Ho Mary. Mirzay compiled an impressive record in reining and cutting winning the honors in 1987 as the three-year-old Cow Cutting Futurity Champion at the National Morgan Cutting & Stock Horse Association National (NMCSHA) Finals, the 1987 Snaffle Bit Reining Championship at the NMCSHA National Finals, the 1988 Open Reining Champion at the NMCSHA National Finals, the 1988 Open Reining Champion the PNW (Pacific Northwest, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington) Morgan Regional Championship Show, the 1989 Open Reining Champion at the PNW Morgan Regional Championship Show, and the 1990 Open Reining Champion at the PNW Morgan Regional Championship Show.

About Cream Ridge Mirzay, Cary Newman says, "Mirzay was a marvelous performance horse and showed the characteristics of the remount program stock. He had tremendous endurance, easily a 100 mile per day mount, with a long reaching stride at any gait and willing to give that energy to you at the slightest encouragement.

Athletic too, many time winner in both cow cutting and reining while also competing in open breed shows against the Quarter Horse breed."

While at the Miles City Station, Revere sired 20 purebred and 15 part-bred Morgans. In 1930, he was transferred to the U.S. Army Remount Service. He then disappeared from the American Morgan Horse Registry until 1936, when he resurfaced as an important part of Clark Ringling's breeding program in Lovelock, Nevada.

Sunshine R, sired by Revere and out of the Revere daughter Golden Revere, was crossed with the Miles City mare Gay Girl (Roosevelt x Del Rio by Revere), and in 1952 sired the colt Stormy H. The Stormy H son, Ko-Wala, played an important role in the breeding program of Millard Ulich of Susanville, California where he sired 26 registered foals. In 1987, I purchased the Ko-Wala daughter, Satin Doll, out of the mare Roe Star who was a granddaughter of Ringling's Revere. It was Satin Doll that was responsible for starting my research into the Miles City breeding program.

An important source of Revere blood was Clark Ringling's Winnemucca, #8312, who was the grandsire of Calvin Womack's California King. California King sired many important Western working Morgans such as California Prince, California Lady, Impala Blossom, Impala Claudette (dam of Mantic Bulrush), Mr. America, and Windswept Candy.

I was introduced to this bloodline when, in 1982, I hauled a mare for a friend up to George Howard's ranch in Los Banos, California. As I was preparing to leave, George convinced me to take three mares home with me. These mares were California Bay Lady (California Prince x Lady Gay), California Star (King Bob x California Lady), and Ransome Lady (Kings Ransome x California Lady).

These mares quickly became the cornerstone of our breeding program. RTF Spin Doctor, (Hi Trots Shillelagh x RTF Fair Elana – out of California Bay Lady), carries California Prince on both sides of his pedigree, and became a champion Western Pleasure Horse and was undefeated in most Classic Morgan classes.

RTF Calamity Jane (RTF Captain Courageous x RTF Fair Elana) became the dam of RTF Beacon Of Hope who went to Michael Trauboth, of Milda, Germany, in 2010 to become a foundation broodmare.

In 1936, Mr. Ringling bred the mare Anneka Van Horn to Revere to get the mare Peggy Revere. The Peggy Revere daughter, Gypsy Allen, became the dam of the well-known California based stallion Traveler, foaled in 1970. Traveler became a well-known Park and Halter champion for Julia Rose's Regency Morgans, of Simi Valley, California. Traveler went on to sire 53 foals while at Regency Morgans.

Before being transferred to Miles City, Monterey sired several horses on the East Coast. Most notable of these were Hepatica, who in 1944 gave birth to the important sire Pecos; and Abbott, who was the grandsire of Mayphil, dam of Vigilmarch.

Another important source of the Monterey bloodlines was Sun Dust (Gary Owen x Adams Monterey). Sun Dust produced many fine Skagit prefixed horses for Louise D Bates, Red Top Farm, Arlington, Washington.

In 1943, J. C. Jackson, bred the Delbert daughter Cherye, to Windcrest Monterey (Upwey Ben Don out of the Monterey

U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station Revisited

daughter Monterey Belle). This mating produced Cherinda, who in 1972 produced the important sire Mortana Beaver, who went on to sire 39 foals. In 1981, Mortana Beaver produced the mare Micky Midnight, who became a fine broodmare for Bobbi Blankenship's TruWest Morgans in Roberts, Montana.

THE END OF THE MILES CITY MORGAN HORSE PROGRAM

In 1935, the decision was made to end the Morgan breeding program at the Miles City Station. The general consensus is that two actions took place that led to this decision. First, the original supervisor of the Station left and was replaced by a person that thought the breeding program should be more focused on Quarter Horses; and second the U.S. Department of War had purchased

a band of Nonious horses from the government of Austria, where they were used as Calvary and movers of light artillery. The Department of War wanted to start a Nonious breeding program to breed Calvary horses for the Army. The original band of six Nonious horses were shipped first to the U.S. Government Morgan Horse Farm in Vermont and from there to Miles City. Unfortunately in 1937, the herd was hit with an outbreak of Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (WEE). It was determined that the Nonious horse was more susceptible to WEE than the other breeds currently in the United States. In 1940, the program was suspended and the remaining horses were transferred to the U.S. Forest Service. By 1939, only six Morgan geldings remained at Miles City.

On March 20, 1936, the stallion Monterey was transferred to the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula, Montana, and was sent to the Nine Mile Remount Station in Huson, Montana. While at Nine Mile, Monterey shared the stallion duties with two other Morgan sires, Roosevelt (De Jamette Jr x Alice Dean), and Rosin (Red Oak x Sunset Morgan).

From W. C. 'Cap' Evans, who was the foreman at Nine Mile from 1934 to 1954, I learned that these three Morgans were chosen by the Forest Service to upgrade the quality of their horses. In the 1930s, the Forest Service was having trouble finding horses who could withstand the rigors of working the Bitterroot and Rocky Mountains. In 1932, the Forest Service purchased Roosevelt from Thomas Adams of Chinook, Montana, and the mares Alibonnie and Travaqueen from the Miles City Station. In 1934, the Forest Service returned to Miles City and bought the mares Emalu and Tinajane. By the time Monterey arrived at Nine Mile, the Forest Service was sold on the use of Morgans.

About Monterey, Cap Evans said, "The first time I saw Monterey was in the summer of 1934. I went over to Miles City

to pick up two mares and a group of geldings. The minute I saw him, I knew he was a good one. He was standing out in one of the pastures with a group of mares. I told them that if they ever wanted to get rid of the horse to let me know. When they called us in 1936 and said they were getting rid of the Morgans, I hightailed it back to Miles City before they had a chance to change their minds."

And so it was that only after nine years since its inception the only U.S. Government program focused entirely on breeding working ranch horses came to an unspectacular end. In those nine years, the Miles City Station produced 93 Morgan horses (48 colts and 45 fillies). The original purchase price for the foundation horses was \$1,183.00 (\$16,136.00 in 2017 dollars) and had gross sales of \$6,405.00 (\$87,365.00 in 2017 dollars), for a gross profit of 81.5 percent. Not bad for a Governmental program.

STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE MILES CITY BREEDING PROGRAM

TOTAL MORGANS RAISED.....	93
Colts.....48 (52%)	Fillies.....45 (48%)
TOTAL MORGANS SIRED BY REVERE.....	29
Colts.....16 (55%)	Fillies.....13 (45%)
TOTAL MORGANS SIRED BY MONTEREY.....	60
Colts.....31 (52%)	Fillies.....29 (48%)
TOTAL COST TO PURCHASE FOUNDATION STOCK.....	\$1,183.00
TOTAL FROM SALES OF MORGANS.....	\$6,405.00
AVERAGE SALES PRICE.....	\$68.87

Today the U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Station is known as The Range and Livestock Research

Laboratory. The current research program focuses on improving efficiency of beef cattle production for rangeland in the Northern Great Plains. These rangelands, some 150 million acres in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, are both ecologically fragile and vital to the economic well-being of the region. The work involves studies in genetics, reproductive physiology, nutrition, and growth of beef cattle, and in range pasture development, improvement and management. This mix of disciplines provides an effective and integrated attack on basic and

applied problems related to efficient and sustainable use of rangeland resources for livestock production. Emphasis is on problem solving basic research to meet the immediate and future needs of farmers and ranchers in the region and nation. Funding for research is provided by appropriation through the USDA-ARS (Agriculture Research Service). Cooperation with Montana Agricultural Experiment Station provides livestock and labor resources to the laboratory. No appropriated funds are received from the State of Montana.

EPILOGUE

The breeding program at The U.S. Range Livestock Experiment Start at Miles City played an integral part in developing the modern day cattle horse and thrust the Morgan horse into the limelight as one of the premiere working ranch horses in America. I was pleased to see that the Miles City bloodlines have continued to spread within the Morgan breed. If you are lucky enough to be granted guardianship over the remaining shreds of this Morgan history I can only say use it wisely. To the Morgan breeders of today, I would suggest that if you do not have some Miles City blood in your breeding program then go get some; If you are lucky enough to have some then get some more. ■