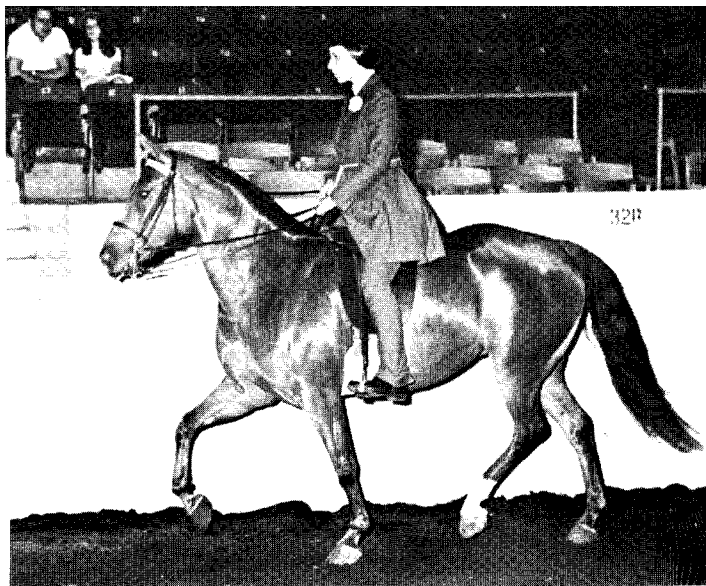


New York State Morgan Horse Society, Inc.

By BETTY PLAUTH

BLUE BONNET with Jeanne Plauth, up, winner of Amateur/Owner Pleasure Stake and the English Pleasure Championship at the Gold Cup Show, owned by Blue Spruce Farms, Altamont, N. Y.



Spring brought Blue Spruce Farm a filly foal: Blue Minuet out of Ann-nigh's Little Miss, by Wasecka's Serenade.

This makes four of Serenade's offspring on our farm: Blue Mist, Little Miss's 1967 filly will be shown at the Eastern National in 2 year old driving and Blue Print, her 1968 colt will be in the yearling class. Our good pleasure mare Blue Bonnet has set some kind of record for us in her first two shows this year. At the Breeders' Show in Syracuse in May, she was 1st in Combination, Western Pleasure, Morgan English Pleasure Saddle, Morgan Pleasure Driving and Reserve in the Pleasure Championship. At the Gold Cup in Ohio in June, she was 1st in Road Hack, 3rd in Combination, 3rd in Pleasure Driving, 4th in Western Championship, and the winner of both the Pleasure Amateur Stake and the English Pleasure Championship.

We had never been to the Gold Cup and were very impressed with the spic and span attractive tackrooms and the neat stable areas. The committees were very helpful and most hospitable. The trophies in gold finish are really something to behold and we have never seen such ribbons — pleated, gold edged, and each color comes with a gold streamer included. It was truly a Gold Cup Show for us.

Although Columbus seemed far away to us at first, we found it quite an easy trip with good highway all the way.

Wasecka Serenade has put out his best for us this year too. At the Breeders Show he was 2nd in Amateur Saddle Class and 3rd in the Stake. Ohio was a Gold Cup Show for him also. He was first in Stallions 5 and over, Champion Senior Stallion and Reserve Grand Champion Stallion. He was first in Amateur to ride and Reserve Champion in Amateur Owner Stake.

Applevale Valentine, my gelding, although not rating a show career, has also made his contribution to Morgan promotion. A young bride-to-be had located a surrey with fringe on top but wondered where she could find a horse. She is a young teacher in East Berne, N.Y., originally from New Hampshire and wished to have her Dad enjoy the fun of driving the bridal party to the church. Valentine was volunteered and pulled that surrey to church as nicely as though he did it every Sunday. He made everyone proud of him that day. He deserves a gold feed bucket for his effort.

There is some other information I should like to share with any reader who may have a broodmare that does not accept its foal. We had that trouble with our mare Little Miss. On the 6th day Little Miss refused to have anything to do with her first foal so it was raised on formula from a plastic bowl. She had a stud colt the following year and on the 6th day refused it. We did

everything we thought was proper to force her to accept the foal; but it lost a pound a day and even intravenous feeding did not save it. The autopsy showed it was perfect organically but lacked feed.

So, with the next foal (Blue Mist) we made sure we had a nurse mother. We rented a Quarter Horse mare who became devoted to "Misty" as much as she was to her own colt. Our Little Miss was bred again, and in 1967 she foaled her colt in the pasture before we had the chance to put her in the stall and make things comfy, cozy and sanitary. When we saw the foal, we left them in the pasture and yes, she loved that foal and took care of it all 6 months! So, the secret of Miss's foaling problem was "don't put her in a stall!" She apparently resents being penned up in a small area. This Spring we left her outside again to have her foal. Another success — she loves her baby — we leave her outdoors and everyone is happy.

APPLEVALE VALENTINE owned by Blue Spruce Farms, Altamont, N. Y., taking the bride and her dad to the church.

