

# The P. W. Jackson Breeding Program 'Short Cuts Haven't Worked'

Quite possibly the most popular attractions of the first two Morgan Horse Weeks in Detroit were the breeding panels at which individual Morgan breeders outlined their programs for the benefit of others.

The first Breeders Panel featured Mrs. Helen Brunk Greenwalt and her brother, J. Roy Brunk; W. Lyman Orcutt, Mrs. Anna Dickson Ela, Dr. Donald J. Balch, Earl B. Krantz and Mabel Owen. The 1974 panel consisted of Dr. Balch, Mrs. Doris G. Ryan, Thomas Ruble, Doris Norton and Philip W. Jackson.

Since The Morgan Horse magazine realizes that the newer breeders may be able to find helpful hints in the experiences of others who have been at the game a little longer, we will, from time to time, publish these experiences.

The first of these is the presentation made in Detroit by Mr. Jackson, who,

with his family, operates Petalbrook Farm in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. Mr. Jackson, president of the New York State Morgan Horse Society, put it this way in his talk at the 1974 Breeders Panel:

"The primary reason that I have been invited to participate in this panel, I believe, is that we have a small operation. We have only five broodmares at the present time with the sixth joining the band in 1975. This is the situation after about 17 years of Morgan ownership and 15 years of Morgan breeding. This has been a team effort and at this time I would like to introduce my wife Jean who has worked with me from the beginning in developing our program.

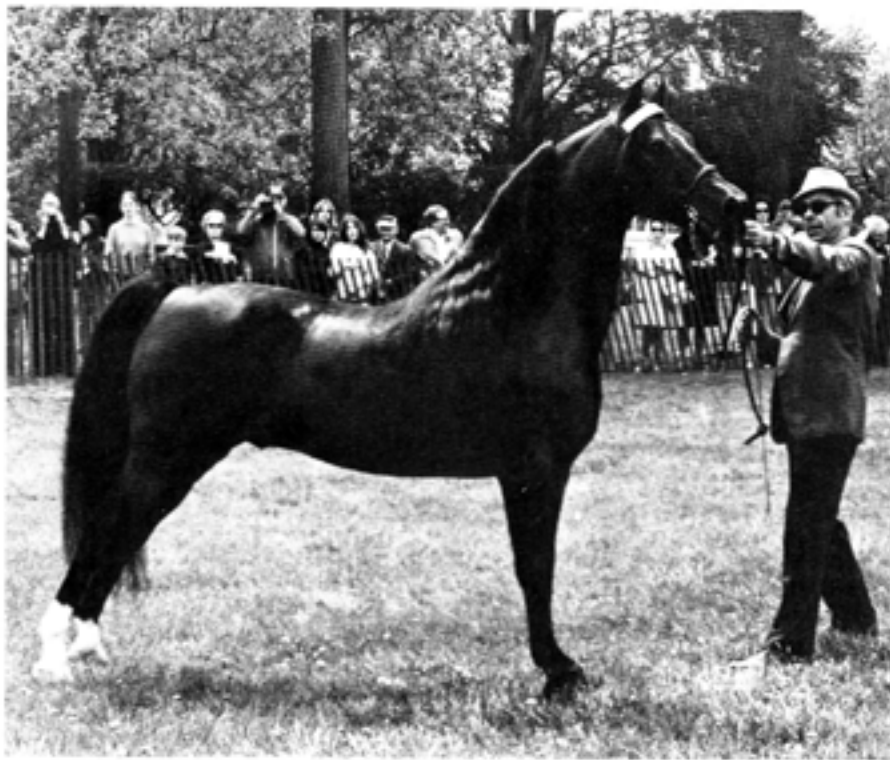
"In 1954 we attended our first National Morgan Horse Show in Northampton. As a result of this exposure, we embarked on a search for

a Morgan mare. We had two constraints: 1, our idea of what this Morgan mare should look like; and 2, a price that we could afford. As a result, it took us nearly three years to find a mare that satisfied these criteria. This mare was named UVM Annandale and she was a product of the breeding operations at the University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm, Middlebury, Vermont. She was sired by Tutor and was out of Norma. You have heard Dr. Balch speak of these animals in his discussions.

"From the beginning, even before we acquired Annandale, we had planned to find a mare that we could breed to Upwey Ben Don and had this in mind throughout our search. However, it turned out that we bred Annandale the first time to Sealect of Windcrest. The result was so good, in our opinion, that we continued to breed to Sealect of Windcrest. This combination produced two members of the get which were behind Sealect of Windcrest at the 1962 National Morgan Horse Show, where he won the Get of Sire. It also produced the winning produce for UVM Annandale at the same show, where she won the Produce of Dam.

"These animals were Petalbrook Sigmalect and Petalbrook Amylect, who have become the foundation of the breeding program at Petalbrook Farm. I might say that our first mare was purchased from Gordon Voorhis of Red Hook, New York, and we are indebted to him and to his trainers, Jeanne and Fred Herrick, for the advice, counsel and help which they provided us.

"I think anyone who embarks on a program of breeding animals, whether they be horses or other types of animals, should have a mental picture of what he is trying to produce. We started breeding dogs and I think it helped us to understand the conformation of horses when we moved into the horse breeding area. In our opinion,



PETALBROOK SIGMALECT

### **JACKSON PROGRAM (Cont.)**

breeding is very much a matter of working with excellent individuals. It also is a matter of using a consistent approach both in the short term and the long term. We have heard discussion of selection and it is absolutely essential, in my opinion, that one practice selection in a breeding program. Line breeding may also be practiced, assuming that care is taken in the selection of animals used in this process.

"I am not a great believer in the fabulous pedigree. It still comes down to a matter of the mating of the two individuals that you see before you and it helps if they are members of producing families. However, it is possible to develop a strong pedigree with careful planning. I believe that one should be particularly aware of the importance of the animals at the 25% level of the pedigree. Here it is possible to strengthen the pedigree in all the lines. Line breeding is a technique which can aid in this process.

"Dr. White has asked for comments on success or failure. One measure of success is the showing of the product of your breeding program in the in hand classes at all-Morgan Horse Shows. We have bred 32 animals with the Petalbrook prefix since we started our

operation and of the 32, 66 percent have won ribbons in the in hand classes at the Connecticut All-Morgan, the National (New England) All-Morgan and the New York International All-Morgan Shows. This is a most difficult competitive arena for Morgan horses, where classes include from 20 to 40 animals.

"Our failures have resulted from misfortune, in the case of having lost our foundation mare, UVM Annandale, after only four foals were on the ground, and having lost our great show mare Petalbrook Carolect before we could produce anything for the program. I think, however, our greatest difficulty has come in areas where we have tried to take short cuts by purchasing inexpensive mares which we thought might possibly produce something if bred to an outstanding stallion. This strategy has not worked well for us."

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