

MARIAN VANDE WRIGHT - AMHA MASTER

Always a superb horsewoman, Marian's association with horses began in childhood on her father's farm. She has often talked of his favorite team of Morgans which he used for light farm work and hauling the produce to market. Marian and her Mother also used the team for quick trips to town. Marian attended Ithaca College and graduated with a degree in physical education. She married Francis (Ted) Wright in the mid-twenties. During the Depression, besides teaching assignments which included riding instructions at the Rochester Armory, she operated a public stable using many breeds of horses, but favoring Morgans and Morgan crosses. She often rode in the Genesee Valley Hunt during this period. She was also called on to judge horse shows, usually open events or 4-H shows. Her knowledge and patience with youngsters made her a popular judge.

Marian and Ted bought a grape farm in Penn Yan in the 1940's. There were always horses in the barn, Marian's favorite being the Morgan bred gelding, Lofty. Her last Morgan was Arnona Linsley Dash, a gelding purchased from Mary Arnold. Dash was in training when an injury forced Marian to give up riding permanently. Ted's ill health forced them to sell the farm in 1975. The last horse to leave was Indian Princess, an aged Morgan mare owned by Mary Kipp.

Marian was never a prominent breeder or exhibitor of Morgans but she was always a tireless promoter of the breed. As an early member of the NYSMHS, Marian was one of the first secretaries of the New York All Morgan show in the early 1960's. In the early 70's she drove to Tarrytown each spring to help organize and run the NYSMHS promotion event, Morgan Day at Lyndhurst. In 1971, Marian as chairperson of the newly formed trail ride committee, organized the first NYSMHS trail ride at the Brookfield, Horse Trail system in Brookfield. This event is still held yearly and is eagerly awaited by the clubs die hard trail riders. At her insistence, all the rides are open to guests who aren't riding Morgans. She was always hoping that these people would see the value of Morgans and eventually become Morgan owners.