

MARIAN VANDY WRIGHT In Loving Memory

She was a strong, independent woman, devoted to Morgan Horses and the lives of young people. Marian Vandy Wright, born in 1903 in Union Hill, New York, died October 27, 1997 in the Blossom View Nursing Home in Sodus, New York.

Ms. Wright's childhood was spent following after her father Orin Frank Vande and mother Lenora Divonia Hathaway Vande, on their farm in Union Hill, New York. Here she learned to care for the animals and to enjoy looking after the apple orchards. She often spoke of riding on the back of fruit wagons to the dry house just north of Old Ridge Road and learning the "trading" business from her dad, with her younger brother Ken.

Marian Vandy attended the Webster Schools and the elementary grades with her future husband, Francis Burnett Wright. Within this period, Marian took up her life-long love of horses. She began by working at the riding stables along Klem Road in Webster, training younger riders and acquiring her own horses. When she graduated from Webster High School in 1922, she received a scholarship to Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. At the college, Marian continued her high school involvement with athletics and drama. She spent summers working on the Red Path Chataqua as a youth counselor, earning money and gaining experience for the next year's education. Her studies paralleled many of the early medical students with courses in anatomy and physiology along with the general physical education course of instruction.

Upon her graduation from Ithaca College in 1926, Marian went to work in a number of different school districts including Mt. Morris, Utica and the Rochester City School District. She frequently returned to Webster, NY to work in a variety of stables, and eventually helped establish a school riding program for the Rochester Board of Education at the Culver Street Armory. In 1929, with only two days to prepare, she married her long time sweetheart Francis Burnett Wright and moved to Chicago, where he worked in the St. Regis Paper Company.

As the depression deepened, Marian and Ted Wright moved back to his family's home on Lake Road in Webster where Marian assisted with the tasks of caring for the Wright household, substitute teaching and continuing her teaching of horseback riding. Throughout this period, she spoke of extended trail rides with her "horse buddies" riding to Penn Yan and Canandaigua and down into the Bristol Hills.

Marion's favorite home was the farm house that she and ted bought in Barrington, south of Penn Yan. Here Marian found work teaching in the Dundee Schools, and coaching an award winning cheer leading squad. For years, she entertained her friends and family with Dundee cheers, tartan plaids and her special gymnastics demonstrations. In the pastures behind her house, she raised Morgan horses and gave riding lessons and courses in equine care. From here, she served as secretary to the New York State Morgan Horse Society, setting up trail rides through out the state, judging for 4-H and Morgan Horse competitions and overseeing the Annual Morgan Horse Show at

the New York State Fair Grounds in Syracuse. Frequently, Marian could be seen leaving the farm with her horse trailer, and a sleeping bag thrown in the back seat, calling out instructions to Ted concerning the care of the rest of the horses. Marian and Ted also participated in the Barrington Grange and kept up their acres of vineyards, overlooking Keuka Lake.

Ted's illness forced the couple to sell their farm and move to a cottage on Keuka with winters spent in Texas. Here Marian continued her horse activities and Ted spent time rowing about the lake. Eventually the couple took up permanent residence in Zephyr Hills, Florida, until Ted's death in 1991 when Marian returned to New York state. Her last residences included an apartment in Palmyra, adjacent to the Fair Grounds, where she still walked to see the horse stables, The Gables in Brighton and the Blossom View Nursing home

Marian is predeceased by her beloved husband Francis Burnett Wright (Ted). She is survived by her brother, Kenneth Vande and his wife Beatrice Vande; two nephews Mark Vande (Kathleen Katus) and Bruce Vande (Judie Swayze); one niece Marsha Treiber (Ken); four grand nieces Kasha, Marya, Melissa and Katherine and two grand nephews Matthew and Laird; and many special friends.

Reprinted from Memorial Service

The family has asked that memorials be made to the Ithaca College or to the New York State Morgan Horse Society. If you would like to send cards to the family the address is:

Mark Vande
1776 Walker Road
Palmyra, New York 14522

Marian was a very active participant in the early years of the New York State Morgan Horse Society and served on the show committee for the New York Morgan Show. She was awarded a Silver Horseshoe in 1973, the first year they was presented. She helped organize our trail ride program and she loved the Brookfield Trail rides, she was the Recording Secretary and was always full of energy, stories and smiles. Marian was one of the first to be nominated an AMHA Master by the NYSMHS.

If you would like to send a gift in Marian's memory please send your checks to Linda Burke, NYSMHS Treasurer, 436 Middle Road, Horseheads, NY 14845 with a notation that it is for the Marian Wright Memorial Fund. The family will be notified of all donations.



This is a group of riders ready to head out on the trails at the 1975 Brookfield Trail Ride