

Mike Goebig & Broadmoor From Junior Exhibitor to Many-Time World Champion

In the Spring of 2009, Mark Langdon, Nancy Vidler and I had the opportunity to visit with Mike Goebig of Broadmoor, who as a youth had been a frequent exhibitor at our New York Morgan show with his mare, Tas Tee's Indian Summer. I was excited to visit with Mike and learn more about the path he took from his junior exhibitor days to becoming the exceptional horseperson that he is today.

Mike says, "I grew up in a barn. My dad had horses for the city of Philadelphia (he was born in 1898) and those horses did everything that trucks do now. I was always surrounded by horses. I don't have any memory of not having horses around."

His mother also had an interest in horses and in the late 40's or early 50's, she went to Ohio with one of her friends to see some parade classes. It was out there that she saw Nugget, who was owned by Sugar Run Farm, and that was the beginning of the Goebig connection with Morgans. It was not much later that she went on a venture and bought Jubilee Lighting (out of Jubilee King) from Grace Brunk Woods in Maine. Mike said, "The division was that my mom did it for fun, and my dad ran a business."

In 1959 Mike bought his first Morgan, Tas Tee's Indian Summer, at the Tas Tee Morgan Horse Farm dispersal.

Due to the death of the owner, over 70 registered Morgans were auctioned off. Mike remembers going to the sale and specifically picking out the yearling, Tas Tee's Indian Summer (out of OCR), commenting, "At the time I was nine and probably picked her because she was one of the fattest ones there!" She cost him \$600.

Mike's father was responsible for the early work, showing her in driving classes. Then when she was ready to show under saddle, it was Mike's turn. Mike says, "We just learned as we went." Of her he says "Tas Tee went pleasure to start with, and there were no junior exhibitor classes...you just showed in open classes, and the more times I could get in the ring the better."



In one year, Mike can remember Tas Tee winning 30 blue ribbons – saying, "That gives you the expanse of how many times I went into the ring." Mike and Tas Tee would go into Western, Roadster, Park, and Pleasure Driving classes, and that the two best things she did in the end were Roadster and Pleasure Driving. He says, "To me she was the ultimate teaching object...every day I went out and did something to figure out how it worked, and she kind of tolerated that...and was still able to thrive in spite of me." He describes her as being resilient.

He also had Spring Glo (who came in 1964) so there were two horses to work every day, and to experiment on after every horse show he would come home from. Mike says, "It is cause and effect, a kind of a critical thinking"...and that he was allowed to do that. He'd get home from school and go out to the barn, until it was too cold or dark. He didn't have any other thought except to work with the horses, saying, "I was pretty lucky."

At that time Mike also remembers closely watching Sullivan Davis, an exceptional horse trainer that he would see at many of the shows he went to, calling him, "A genius with a full bridle" and that, "He was the only person to have sent people to



Cont on next page



Sullivan Davis, up

Orcland Supreme Aire

(Orcland Supreme x Mistress Dolli Dawn)

OPEN PARK SADDLE CHAMPION

Madison Square Garden to win the Maclay Medal and Good Hands twice. “Because he was so good with all breeds...I got to watch him a lot.” He also has a vivid memory of meeting Johnny Lydon at the Pennsylvania National and seeing him ride the incomparable Waseeka’s Nocturne. Mike says of Johnny, “He was the ultimate showman, in every way.” Johnny spent the last part of his life in Scranton, Pennsylvania about an hour from Mike... who would frequently go visit him to watch him work horses. One of Mike’s highlights was being there when Waseeka’s Showtime got off the van to be trained by Johnny.

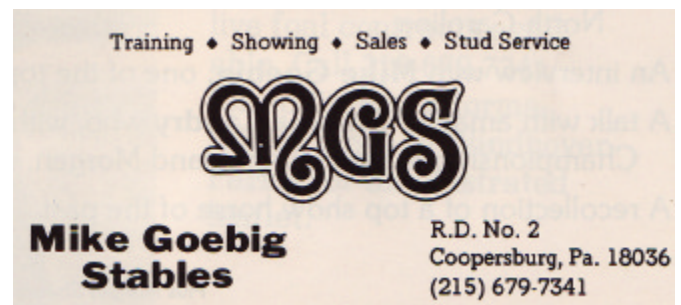
Mike says, “That’s how I learned...there were so many people that were successful,” and “when Joe Parker, John Lydon and Fred Herrick were at their zenith, the last class of the show, the Stake class was the most important.”

Mike says, “Those guys had Saturday Night horses, and they made it happen – they pulled it out, and it was fun to watch them. And it didn’t make any difference if it was Syracuse or New Brunswick, New Jersey.”

He remembers that they had distinctive styles and that he would watch and absorb how they worked their horses. Dr. Bob Orcutt was another that Mike remembered as a great horseman. Mike remarked, “So all those guys’ butted heads on Saturday night.” He recalls an unusual Park Saddle championship on the final day at the New England Morgan show, Harry B. Thornton of Kentucky was judging, and with a ring full of horses, he called for a 6 horse workout. Then Harry put Gladgays Pride and Bay State Gallant back on the rail for a third workout. On this Sunday, and in a typical New England summer afternoon heat, the horses “fired” and worked as good as they had the first go.

Of the early years of the Mid-A club, Mike remembers his first show being sometime around 1961 and Orcland, Waseeka, and other major farms participating – saying that there was a great sense of camaraderie. He remembers the Show Manager Mike Brittain, and his welcoming personality. The Vona family was also one of the big name farms at that time. Later, Mr. Showmaster Vona came to Mike as a five-year-old after Harry Binkley had successfully shown him as a junior park saddle horse. Mike remembers, “He was huge hearted and bottomless, and would just go.”

In 1970 Mike used his parent’s barn and with 22 stalls he opened his public stable saying, “I just did it.” Two years later he bought his farm in Coopersburg. Around that time, Dayton Sumner was with him, and he credits him as being another big mentor. Mike said, “Dayton was a highly talented and respected judge who was a great rider.” Robin Rodewalt was Mike’s first customer with Zip Code and Gladgays Promenette. “She was a very competent rider” Mike says. “It’s a great push off to have had such a super horse and talented rider.”



In 1980, Mike took a break and Harry and Carolyn Sebring rented half his barn. Sally Longnecker (who Mike had known for quite some time) wanted someone to assist her with starting Saralin farm, and she enlisted Mike’s help. He did this for about three years saying, “It was a lot of fun getting the horses and going to different horse shows that I’d not experienced before.”

After Saralin, Mike built and opened Broadmoor remarking, “The Broadmoor facility is the barn that was in my brain for a lot of years”...and “I was able to construct my dream.”

Dwayne Knowles started working at the Coopersburg facility in the late 70’s, and it was there that he developed his connection with the Morgan horse. His first official trainer position was with Limerick Morgans, and then in 1994 he joined Mike once again at Broadmoor as a Partner. Dwayne has had his share of World Champion titles and Get Busy and Signed Sealed Delivered are two of the many memorable Morgans he’s had direct responsibility for guiding to their accomplishments. Mike says their training styles differ, and that they develop a feeling for who they fit with the best, and sometimes the criteria by which they select who trains whom might have to do with “a personal connection – a horse that is bred out of a mare that one of us likes a lot.”

Of training horses Mike says, “I like the process...if I never went to another horse show again that would be fine...” The process is what is interesting to him. He enjoys starting and then finishing the horses – trying to stay in the process and not predict what a horse will be – not letting a pedigree decide what a horse will do. When asked how much he looks at a pedigree he remarks “I used to look at it a lot, and would be up at night waiting for the horse to arrive...but there have been enough disappointments that now I just make sure I don’t have any preconceived ideas and go through the process with the horse.”

Being the World Park Saddle Champion four times with The Master’s Touch was “overwhelming” says Mike and he remembers when “Matt” was four he could have taken the easy way out and shown him in the four year old championship but instead went for the World title . Mike remarks, “He was really the most natural horse, and there is nothing forced about him. He’s wired to win, and didn’t ever make an error” and that he is “a once-in-a-lifetime horse.” He notes that Matt wore the same set of shoes for all championships.

Mixing it up, Mike drove Greentree Maryjane to two World Champion Roadster to Bike titles. He says, “Driving Maryjane was like being sucked through a vortex” and that she would “just climb around the corners...no slowing up.” Mike said he is “ready for any division with a nice horse, it simply makes no difference to me.”

In a Morgan, Mike looks for “personality first, disposition and that I think that there is a symmetry about a Morgan that you don’t see in other breeds. I try really hard to have those horses that look like Morgans,” but notes that he has a public stable and works with what comes in their doors. “It’s our job to work horses and not make moral judgments, but if we have anything to do with breeding them then we’re going to make sure they look like Morgans.” Part of their business is the Broadmoor Stud and currently there are four stallions standing; The Master’s Touch, Stand And Deliver, MEM Heart and Soul and Astronomicallee.

Mike stresses that they have a business model of keeping the farm small and their client’s operations smaller so that everyone has enjoyment and that they don’t have too many Morgans such that they stop having a good time. He believes that Broadmoor’s success comes from their being flexible and by recognizing the importance of clients that wish to have fun showing their own horses. Mike says, “It’s a hobby, and people can take their hobby money and put it in a lot of places, and they have a hobby for fun. We feel that we can’t control the ribbons they win, but we can help the experience of having a good time at a horse show.” And judging from the loyalty of Mike’s clients, many of whom have been with him for a decade or greater, they appreciate that as well.



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Over the years, Mike has been President of the Mid-Atlantic Morgan horse club, and most recently President of the American Morgan Horse Association. Mike says, “The breed has been remarkably good to me...and the best way to give back was to get involved, and that really after being President of the AMHA I realized that it has to start from the local clubs.”

In closing I asked Mike if he had any words of wisdom for youth coming along as he did, and he said, “The only time you make an error is when you don’t learn from it, and that’s how I learned, I made a lot of errors, but in the end I’m basically self taught.”

Please join us on-line and listen to Mike share his story; <http://www.nysmhs.org/history/goebig>