

Pendleton Farms

By PAT WERTS

7809 N. Ridge Road

Raytown, Missouri 64138

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Illinois has long been known for its fine Morgan stock and dedicated Morgan breeders. From the breeding farms of the J. C. Brunk family, the C. J. O'Neill family, the Taylor brothers and others, down to the many present day Morgan establishments, have come some of the finest Morgans ever raised. These Morgans have gone to all parts of the United States and to foreign countries, adapting themselves to a wide range of tasks and environment. Most of the Morgans produced in Illinois in past years have been trained, shown and used as pleasure and show horses. Though countless Morgans have demonstrated their ability as ranch horses in the west, only recently has the Morgan been promoted in the western field in this area. Now, through the efforts of a new Morgan breeding farm, he is making himself known as a stock horse.

Set amidst approximately 1,900 acres of south central Illinois farm ground is Pendleton Farms, owned by Del Rutherford and managed by Marlin Manning. Located only about twenty miles from DuQuoin, site of the great DuQuoin State Fair and the running of the Hambletonian, Pendleton Farm presents a serene picture with its white buildings surrounded by improved pasture and farm ground. Pendleton is a working stock farm, with the raising of Morgan horses an important part of the over-all picture. Five-hundred and fifty acres of corn are being raised at the present time - yields are better than 90 bushels per acre, compared to a county average of about 60. Corn acreage will be increased in the future. About 150 acres of wheat are harvested a year, some of which is retained for use in Pendleton's feeding operation. Approximately 1,400 hogs (of which about half are raised on the farm) are fed and marketed each year. Also fed out yearly are about 150 head of steers. The purebred cattle program at Pendleton was started with the purchase of a group of registered Angus heifers in November 1957. This was followed up in the spring with another purchase, this time of brood cows, and today the registered cow herd numbers 140. In line with their thinking that top-quality bulls were necessary to improve their cattle, they purchased Dot Mac Bardoliermere 410, a son of Dor Mac Bardolierm at the 1962 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. He is siring top quality calves for them. At the same time, they purchased Aberan Elevate 64, a son of the Perth Supreme Champion. Half-interest was later sold to Lamont Angus Farms, Crossville, Illinois. Marlin and Del are much impressed by the calves from this great Scotch bred bull.

After the initial purchase of cattle, it became evident that horses would be needed to help in the cattle operations. Del Rutherford and Marlin Manning, both horse lovers, decided to purchase a couple of Morgans, and in the spring of 1958, Sand Man, a chestnut yearling stallion, by Pride of King (Bennington and Jubilee King blood lines) out of Princess Toby (Plains King and Bennington bloodlines) was purchased from F. K. Dzegolewski of Lebanon, Illinois. That fall two yearling fillies were acquired. Over the next few years, the Morgan band grew. Sand Man proved to be the real promoter his intelligence, willingness, stamina, and enjoyment of his work, whether it be as a trail horse or cutting horse, left their impression upon Del and Marlin. The small band of Morgans, originally planned as a "practical hobby", began to grow by leaps and bounds. Last winter, Marlin visited many of the Morgan breeders in the Rocky Mountain states, purchasing broodmares and fillies with the type, conformation, and other qualities desired. These mares represented the best bloodlines in the west. In going through the pedigrees of these foundation mares, one finds the names of such renowned stallions as Jubilee King (through Red Vermont, Juzan, Redberry, Captain Kellogg), Flyhawk (Warhawk), General Gates (Linsley, Querido, Red Oak, Mentor), Cornwallis and Senator Graham. Echo's Pixie, a top-notch cutting mare by Homestake, a son of Red Vermont, out of Majoret P., in addition to six other mares, was purchased from Chancy Hamilton. She recently turned in some top performances to win the Novice Cutting at the National Morgan Jubilee. Several head were bought at the Funquest Farm Production Sale a year ago, most of them sired by Pukwans, a Senator Graham son. Two Warhawk mares were purchased up in Iowa from Ernest McEihinney. One of these, Sally de Jarnerte, has been in the ribbons consistently in western pleasure classes this year. Several good mares came from the Jackson Morgan Ranch in Montana; two more mares and eleven yearling stallions from R. G. Morgareidgc in Wyoming. These stallions will be gelded, broke and sold as using Morgans to create more interest in the breed. The Morgans number about seventy head at

the present time; plans are for a herd of about fifty brood mares, plus young stock in training. Sand Man, a high-headed, showy stallion has been getting some typy colts. The junior sire is Astroflight, a well-made four year old dark chestnut sort of Top Flight (Fiyhawk x Sentola). His dam is Annie S. Sentney, a Juzari daughter.

Pendleton presently has three Morgans which will be shown extensively in cutting horse events - Sand Man, Echo's Pixie and Twinkle M. (Royal Major x Maurcena L.). Sand Man journeyed west this past summer to win the Novice Cutting at the Rocky Mountain Show in Utah, and placed third in both Novice and Open Cutting at the Western National at Estes Park. Twinkle M placed second to Echo's Pixie in the Novice Cutting at the National Morgan Jubilee. Other Pendleton Morgans are used daily in routine cattle work around the farm.

A huge, 108' by 128' steel barn was erected last year, with big stalls on each side and a working arena in the center, with the idea of pushing the show cattle. However, with a stepped-up emphasis on the Morgans, this has been taken over largely by the horses. At the present time, Pendleton has Morgans in training for reining and pleasure as well as for cutting.

Here at Pendleton they will specialize in the raising and training of Morgan stock horses - for use in cutting, reining, roping and pleasure. While the training emphasis is on a western horse, it is not their intention to raise Morgans specifically for this one field; rather, they hope to produce horses with the type, substance, intelligence, motion and disposition to excel in any field for which they are trained.