

**MORGAN
TALES**



January 2007

MORGAN TALES

January 2007

The official publication of the Mississippi Valley Morgan Horse Club
AMHA 1995, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 Club of the Year
www.mvmhc.org

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President's Column

Happy New Year!

As I stated in the previous Tales, we had a wonderful buffet at Ruth Catlett's home. Thank you Ruth and family for great food and lots of stories to share.

Please try to attend the January Meeting. It is the forefront of the activities of the year. Changes, decisions and expenditures are made that day.

Stay warm, dry and happy.

Best wishes for a great new year.

Brenda

First Call - 2007 and 2008 Scrapbooks

The theme for the 2007 scrapbook is Celebrate the Past As We Look to Our Future. 2007 will be the Club's 49th year. Send anything (including pictures) that you think fits this theme. If you have old pictures of you or your horses and modern ones, that would be great. Try past generations of horses or people and current offspring. Also I'd like generations of horses or families doing things together. Get creative and please label everything you send. The 2008 theme will be Go For The Gold. We'll be looking for pictures taken in 1958-59 (since the Club was founded in December), so if you find some lay them someplace handy or send them marked for 2008. There will be section on each decade so also be hunting pictures from 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008.

Bad/Goofy Picture Contest 2007

This contest will be repeated this year so send those pictures. We had 28 entries last year. Maybe the two winners from the 2006 contest will use their prize to enter this year.

Membership Renewal/MVMHC Directory

It is membership renewal time again. All memberships expired on December 31, 2006, unless you joined the club since September 2006 (check your mailing label if you are in doubt). PLEASE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED FORM WHEN YOU RENEW. Many times, people just pay and never fill out the form. That's a good way for you to get omitted from the directory, as the forms are used when the directory is compiled. Also, it is a way to confirm your address and telephone number.

Also, please consider listing your horses in the club's directory. It only costs \$2.00 per horse (no, it is not included with your membership fee) and is a great way to let everyone know who you own! Also, if you have a horse for sale, the directory is used when inquiries are received for persons looking for horses. There is no additional charge to list a horse for sale.

Advertising is also a great way to let people know about your farm or business. There are 300 copies of the directory printed each year, and they are distributed at Horse Fair, the MVMHC Sale and area horse shows. Where else can you get a full-page ad for just \$25?

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR THE DIRECTORY IS JANUARY 28, 2007. THIS INCLUDES ALL ADVERTISING AS I HOPE TO HAVE THE DIRECTORY DONE PRIOR TO THE AMHA CONVENTION.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January

27 - MVMHC Meeting, Collins', Springfield. Executive Committee 10:00 AM - General Membership Meeting 1:00 PM.

28 - Deadline for MVMHC Directory

February

14-17 AMHA Convention, Atlanta, Georgia

March

2-4 IL Horse Fair, IL State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL

24 - MVMHC Tack and Horse Sale, IL State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL

If you know of any events that would be of interest to our members, please send them to: Kathy Firch, 6009 Old Salem Rd., Springfield, IL 62711 for a free listing in the calendar of events.

Midwest Charity Horse Show Association Donates \$10,000 to SIU School of Medicine's Camp COCO

The Midwest Charity Horse Show Association has donated \$10,000 from its record breaking 2006 multi-breed show to Southern Illinois University School of Medicine's Camp COCO.

The Midwest Charity Horse Show held in June 2006, wrapped-up another successful edition. According to Midwest President, Judy Kjellander, "Midwest Charity 2006 was a fabulous show. With world-class competition and well-filled classes, it was a show to remember. Even though the show has more than doubled since the mid 1990s, our hard working group of dedicated board members is able to offer a first-class multi-breed horse show that trainers, exhibitors and spectators have come to love."

Since its inception, the Midwest Charity Horse Show, an all volunteer, non-subsidized organization, has donated its annual proceeds to a Springfield area charity and has selected Camp COCO as the beneficiary since 1988, creating an endowment fund, with its donations equaling \$134,000.

Camp COCO is a free, week-long summer camp for children suffering from cancer, leukemia and other blood disorders. Camp is staffed by volunteer medical personnel from the SIU School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics who work with the children all year and enjoy giving their patients a pleasurable break from the daily rigors of hospital medical treatments.

In 2007, Midwest will be held June 12-16 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. For more information about the Midwest Charity Horse Show go to www.midwestcharity.com and for more information about SIU School of Medicine's Camp COCO call (217) 545-2955.

The Year in Review

Another year has come and gone. There were many good times during the past year with only a few bad. The time spent with horse friends is always a good time. There were many times to enjoy the company of Morgan Horse friends! Shows, club events, sales, and going to farms/homes made it a very eventful year.

I moved right before fair which in a way was a good and bad thing. I hated the packing and moving part, knowing that the fair was right around the bend. Morgan friends helped make the move easy by giving a helping hand. I wasn't sure initially, but I really enjoy apartment living. Never a dull moment!!!

Illinois State Fair was as always a blast! Since I do both sessions of the fair, by the end of it all, I get a little tired, but the State Troopers kept everyone on their toes this year, and many of you know that first hand!!!

Anytime I get to show in hand classes, I am very happy. This year I got to do a lot of that and my knees held up very well. Both the Morgans and ponies did very well this year. The fair is always the highlight of the show season for me. There is so much going on also! Plus, the Cow Guys across the road at fair are always an entertaining group.

During this past year I think the best thing that happened was that we, as a Club, did many things together and we didn't lose any Club Members! I also had the honor of being again elected Vice President of the Club, which I try my best to do the best at that job for the good of the club. This November, I became President of the Midwest Hackney Association. So you would think I would not have much time to get into trouble, but that seems to not be the way it is. I will let you all think about what kind of trouble I can or did get into over the year!

Overall, 2006 was a good year and I have a wish for all of you that 2007 is even a better and more eventful year. Happy New Year and good luck as I am sure I will be seeing you all!

Darlene Wise



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Banking Summary - Q4 2006:2
10/1/2006 through 12/31/2006

Category Description	10/1/2006- 12/31/2006
INCOME	
CD Interest	10.11
Directory Ads	130.00
Directory Horse Listings	44.00
Membership	205.00
Promotional Sales	
Misc Promo Items	48.00
TOTAL Promotional Sales	48.00
TOTAL INCOME	437.11
EXPENSES	
Awards Banquet	100.00
MVMHC Demonstrations	
Other MVMHC Demonstrations	200.00
TOTAL MVMHC Demonstrations	200.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	300.00
OVERALL TOTAL	137.11

AMHA Election for Director at Large

AMHA members in Region 5 are eligible to vote in the Director at Large election. It is important that all AMHA members vote in this important election. The following are the two biographies for the candidates.

Bill Pettis

Rio Linda, California

My wife, Carol, and I have been breeding Morgans at our Hidden Villa Ranch (HVR) and promoting them for over 28 years. Here are some highlights of our work with the Morgan breed: Bred and shown Morgans in several disciplines such as carriage, reining, and western and hunter seat; demonstrated the Morgan horse for 22 years in carriage and in-hand at the California State Fair in Sacramento; past president of the Golden West Region VII Council that honors breeders in the West, trainers, and provides scholarships for youth; working member of AMHA Clubs such as the Sacramento Valley Morgan Horse Club (SVMHC), the Pleasure Horse Society, Robert Morgan's Morgan History Club; member of the board of SVMHC, past vice-president, past president, and show chairman for five years; founding member and currently president of the Buffalo Soldiers of Northern California, a chapter of a national organization dedicated as a living history unit. We are a fully mounted chapter (mostly Morgans). Our goal is to educate the public to the role that the Buffalo Soldiers played in the settling of the West; AMHA representative to the California Equine Drug Management Program; received 1998 AMHA Promotional Award; received 2001 Region VII Double FF Award (Named in honor of Frank and Freda Waer); and mem-

ber of the AMHA Awards Committee; I recently retired as a technical consultant for the State of California. I will be able to devote time as a director on the AMHA Board and will be able to use management and negotiating skills honed over 30 years.

I consider myself to be a practical problem solver who involves everyone in identifying problems and agreeing on a solution. When I took over as Show Chairman, our club was unable to pay the fairground expenses for the previous year. The future of the club and our show was in doubt. I called a meeting, and with full cooperation of incredibly loyal club members and sponsors, we were able to secure sufficient funding to commit to having a show; all funds advanced were credited as either entries or sponsorships for that next year's show. At the same time I negotiated a four-year contract with the fairgrounds and locked in a fixed rate. We retired all debts within four years. When I retired as Club President, the treasury had a surplus and the club was once again on sound footing.

Over the last several years AMHA has experienced a number of crises and survived. I think this is reflected in the current climate within AMHA; many members are concerned and uncertain about the future. From conversations with members in my region and at the 2006 Grand National, I heard a number of concerns that need to be addressed; most can be addressed and solved with member input and open communication. What I would like to see changed are dialogues that create conflict, dialogues that pit one group or section of the breed against another: Trainers vs. Amateurs; Park vs. Pleasure; Small breeder vs. Large breeder; "New style" Morgan vs. "Old style" Morgan, and positions that are inflexible and become destructive to the breed as a whole. There is always a place for discussion and honest disagreement, but at the end of the day what we should have is our primary emphasis, the Morgan horse, in all of its incarnations, and disciplines.

The challenges are many, but communication with all the members is the primary goal. I don't have a pre-defined agenda for the Board, but I do have goals that I will do my best to carry out while on the Board: help maintain a fiscally sound AMHA; help increase membership; continue to promote the Morgan in all venues and in Morgan and open competitions; listen to, represent, and communicate openly with all members.

The Morgan horse is the most versatile breed of horse available and as such has made a significant impact in all disciplines. Increased success of the Morgan is only limited, by our lack of participation in those fields.

My concern is are we promoting our Morgans at every opportunity that presents itself? Presentations and demonstrations at fairs, equine expos, and such events allow us to show the Morgan as the versatility champion he truly is. We need to increase the exposure of the Morgan horse on

all levels. This is how we provide an outlet for our Morgan horses and increase our membership. We must use every opportunity to promote the Morgan horse, to communicate the beauty, grace, tractability, and longevity of the Morgan horse to the non-Morgan world.

Robert Painter-Incumbent
Crawford, Nebraska

My wife, Jan, and I have been raising Morgan horses since we got married in August of 1958. We were in our sophomore and junior year in college, respectively. Much to our parent's displeasure, within two months after we were married, we used money given to us for college tuition and expenses to purchase our first Morgan stallion. We have been raising Morgans ever since. Our Morgans have gone to buyers from coast to coast, to Canada, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, and many points in between. Our son, Nathan, and his wife, Kate, and family, as well as many other family members, are now involved.

Our horses have done well in many ways, including Dressage, reining, competitive trail, pleasure riding and showing, as well as foundation stock for other breeding programs. We have made a concentrated effort to raise the kind of Morgan that can excel in all the ways that the Morgan breed is asked to perform. We want to raise the kind of Morgan that we read about in the history of the Morgan breed. These were the saddle and driving horses of the past that have played such an important part in the history of our country.

AMHA has focused their primary efforts on promoting the "modern show horse" ever since the name of the Association was changed from Morgan Horse Club of America to AMHA. The AMHA needs to refocus its priorities so that the "traditional" Morgan horse receives its fair share of AMHA's efforts to promote, protect, and preserve the Morgan breed.

After the transfer of the building in Vermont is completed, I would like to see a "foundation" put in place to ensure financial security for maintenance and care of the building in Vermont that houses the AMHA headquarters and the museum. There are no "silver bullet" answers for these projects.

As a part of the minority on the Board, I can do four things to bring about the changes we need to see in the AMHA. First: Work tirelessly to call for equal attention to the diverse and various issues within the Association. Second: Gain support from the membership, so the reforms necessary to accomplish these goals can be put into place. Third: Try to bring together the various ideas and opinions of the Board in open, non-threatening discussion with the object being mutually agreed upon solutions to our many problems. Fourth: Open communication with the general membership from a Board that is fully informed of all the happenings within the Association.

The one thing that would be the most helpful in resolving the issues facing the AMHA would be to find a way to re-establish trust between the members of the board and the general members. Once this is established we then could all work together to achieve our common goal. The first and most important step that could be made to restore the trust of the AMHA members and the full Board of Directors is a forensic audit of AMHA finances.

My vision of the future for the Morgan horse is that AMHA becomes a true association of all its members working diligently together to do what our charter states. I want the AMHA to become the kind of organization that will work together to do as our charter proclaims: promote, protect, and preserve the Morgan breed.

Again, all I can do either alone or as part of the minority is to ask for member support to address these important issues and to institute a fair and balanced Board.

Dear AMHA Members,

It is my understanding that a large percentage of the AMHA membership are confused by misinformation given to them regarding the lawsuit I filed against AMHA in connection with the 2005 election for the Board of Directors.

This lawsuit was filed to gain relief for AMHA members who had lost certain rights resulting from a tyrannical attempt by the AMHA Bylaws Committee to deny us rights allowed for under New York's Not-for-Profit Law for open and free elections.

In a teleconference on December 11th 2003, the minimum quorum possible of the AMHA Board of Directors voted to change bylaws 3.7 and 3.9. These bylaws provided the members of AMHA the right to inspect the election proxies for a period of 60 days after an election. These bylaws were changed to read that the members have the right to inspect the list of actual voters who participated in the election for one hour after the election results are announced. There is no way the results of an election can be validated by a simple examination of the list of actual voters.

This teleconference vote took place long after the slate of candidates for the upcoming election in February 2004 had been set and within three weeks of the record date for mailing proxy ballots to the membership. In fact, the Board quorum voting on altering these election bylaws contained five directors personally up for re-election within a few short weeks.

No provision whatsoever was made in the new versions of bylaws 3.7 and 3.9 to allow the election proxies to be inspected for the purpose of validating an election. No official announcement of this bylaw change was published in any information sent to the members prior to either the 2004, or the 2005 elections. These bylaw changes were not published in the AMHA Directory until August of 2005, well after the 2005 election was over and almost

two years after the bylaws were altered.

A logical conclusion to draw from this unannounced manhandling of our bylaws is that it was a deliberate attempt to facilitate preventing the election of a candidate who might not vote according to the wishes of the sitting Board of Directors.

Immediately after the results of the 2005 election were announced, it became apparent that proper procedures were not followed in conducting and tabulating the election. The Tabulator, with proxies in hand, left the hotel in Phoenix so fast after the results were announced that no one had even a few minutes, let alone one hour, to examine the List of Voters. Other apparent irregularities brought to my attention in the days following the election included the fact that many members did not receive a proxy ballot, some proxy ballots were mailed so late that people did not have time to vote, and the proxy ballot itself was very confusing and hard to understand. In fact, at the preliminary hearing in Vermont, Presiding Judge Norton stated that it would have required the late US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis himself to understand AMHA's proxy ballot.

Because of these apparent election infractions, an AMHA member approached me to ask for a recount of the 2005 proxy ballots. I agreed, and because of elapsed time since the election, contacted the Tabulator directly to ensure that the physical materials from the election would be preserved. Over the ensuing weeks, AMHA prevented me from performing my duties as an appointed Election Inspector to verify the proxy ballots and validate the election. Their position was that at the immediate conclusion of the election my status reverted to a general member - and members are no longer permitted access to proxy ballots. I strongly disagreed with this interpretation and so did the court.

After almost three months of attempting to no avail to tactfully make arrangements with the AMHA Executive Director and Bylaws Committee to do what the bylaws describe as the duties of an Election Inspector, I was given no recourse but to file a lawsuit in order to gain permission to audit the 2005 election proxy ballots. This audit was granted by the Court and duly performed over the late summer of 2005. At its conclusion it was determined that despite irregularities connected with the tabulating process there was a lack of sufficient evidence to proceed to trial. I informed the AMHA member of this result, and we agreed to ask for a dismissal.

As a direct result of this lawsuit, the Board has recommended that the bylaws be revisited and a possible revision done ...a task that has not been tackled for a number of years and is long overdue. For this year's election, AMHA is using for the first time a professional tabulating company, Amplitude Research, for processing and tabulating proxy ballots. And, our proxy ballot has been

redesigned so to be more easily understood, tabulated and verified in the election process.

It is my sincere hope that all AMHA members in the future continue to have recourse when they are faced with what seems to be insoluble problems or concerns with our Association. There was never any need to go into a courtroom on this issue but I was forced to do so when I was not allowed to fulfill my duties as an Election Inspector as provided for in our bylaws and New York law.

I continue to believe, as I believed then, that our Board's responsibilities extend not only to our great breed and the Association itself, but to the members who ask us to represent them.

Respectfully,
Robert L. Painter

STRAIGHT FROM
THE HORSE'S
MOUTH



Welcome to the 2007 Mouth

Mouth was going to take a month off after the Scrapbook, but the phone kept ringing or people kept giving me stuff.

There are @#%*! Members in this month's Mouth as we worked to get the scrapbook in on time. It took all four photos taken at the Horse Sale to ID everyone as they hid their faces from embarrassment or laughter. Everything else was going fine until we hit Member News then it was "!@#%\$%^&*()" as I was missing pieces. The scrapbook is done (all 275 pages and 12.2 pounds of it) and was in the mail on the 28th. In December we only had one working color printer so there were numerous printer wars. DON'T BUY A NEW COMPUTER IN DECEMBER (if you are doing the scrapbook and Tales) unless this Club wants to elect two new officers at the January meeting. For what it is worth the lone printer ran out of ink with one page to go on the scrapbook. We had two cartridges on hand and both were faulty.

What do you do with a broken hall broom? Cut it in half, sand off the edges and make horse brushes. This was a Junior member's idea and he is working on them.

She is getting too big/old for her horse. She wants one that will go faster. Actually she wants to learn how to drive before she enters Kindergarten and with a horse that even her Aunt won't drive yet. Her brother rides anything offered.

Santa still made his rounds even if Grandma blitzed Blitzen. The then tuna can, next town car, is now a cross county car that will La Crosse over anything hopefully.

Christmas Eve she played her new harp like an angel then punched Prancer (the name the cop put on the accident report) on the way home. That was the third deer for this family, but the first doe. Two were shot and one was not. The harp, Mom & "Angel" are fine, but the van is a mess. January 4th this same family got another buck when "little" sis hit it just a short distance from home. The cop didn't want to do the paper work for discharging his weapon so allowed

the sisters to shoot it (after "big" sis brought their gun from home), then watched while they loaded it. He was a little green around the gills. The van is now nearly totaled. She will be paying "dearly" for this one.

How unnerving is it to call someone say "May I speak to ****" and have the person reply, "I can't remember his name"? This is before you have even identified yourself. Was it intuition or caller ID? Actually both, as Mouth was calling for a name of a horse. As few days later Mouth answers the phone and all I hear is (something) Tornado. After a moment of confusion the name is repeated (the caller still hasn't identified himself) and I realize who I am talking to. That was the last missing piece for the scrapbook.

The last function of the Club for 2006 was the Scrapbook Party on the 26th. Five people worked for almost 4 hours to finish off the clip art and eat some really good pizza. If you are pasting down clip art make sure that you have taken the page out of its sleeve. More than one thing was pasted on the plastic instead of the page. There were some scrap wars over food, horses and girlie things. "I need bits." "No bits, but I do have lots of bits and pieces." "Pizza". "It's still in the oven." If you look at the pages closely there are some really great puns between the photos, word balloons and clip art.

Mouth tracked the scrapbook as it traveled through FedEx. 12/28/06 4:24 PM delivered & packed at Springfield Box Shop; picked up & transferred to FedEx Springfield 5:18; arrived FedEx Springfield 6:42PM; left Springfield 8:36 PM; arrived Champaign 11:50 PM. 12/29/06 left Champaign at 10:09AM; arrived Willington, CT on 1/2/07 at 2:59PM. Left Willington at 11:01PM. Arrived at Williston, VT at 4:05AM on Jan 3. Left Williston at 5:57 AM and was delivered to AMHA at 4:08 PM. That scrapbook by the time it gets back from the convention in Atlanta will be a world-class traveler. The book will have traveled through 11-16 states (depending on how it gets from Vermont to Georgia).

The 2007 scrapbook already has two major pages, 10 section/cover pages and other things already done thanks to the Springfield *State Journal Register* giving us front page and a "Little" coverage on New Years Day and the 2nd.

Pop Tops

Keep saving those pop tops. We turned in almost 200 pounds last year. We have about 20 pounds that we missed the last time. If you don't drink pop (or that other drink), then look at many of your other cans. Friskies cat food, Campbell's tomato juice (small cans), some smaller canned veggies and other things also come in aluminum. An easy way to tell if there's printing on the top it's probably steel. You can also look at the label near the bottom of the can. Steel cans will say steel either in or above the recycle logo. Almost two gallons have been turned in so far in 2007.

Comments on the Scrapbook (2006)

Twass the night before Scrapbook was due in the mail, but it was coming together as slow as a snail.

Many pages had been created with care, in hopes that all the information would be there.

Pieces were missing so the phone lines were ringing, as were the e-mails and fax lines singing.

Many pages had been laid out with precise precision, but the exact order was a major decision.

On Budget, on Membership, on PopTops and Glue Sticks, on Morgans, on Demos and those missing pix.

To the front of the book, to the back let's re-look, now move again, move again, still pizza to cook.

Let's bring in the help and lock up the cats, break out the clip art, glue sticks and all that.

Twass heard by many as it mailed out of sight, Seasons Greetings to all, let's turn out the lights.

In Memory – Leighton P. Zenge

Leighton P. "Late" Zenge, 96, of Canton, MO, died on December 23, 2006.

In 1999, Late purchased a Morgan, Islamadora, known as Cricket. Cricket brought great joy to his life and he delighted in her performances at horse shows. In 2005, Cricket was the USDF all-breeds grand champion and the USEF horse of the year in her class. Cricket knew the sound of Late's truck when he drove to the barn and loved peppermints he always brought. His last visit with Cricket was in late November when Cricket's trainer, Julie Inghram, brought her to visit Late at the Sycamore Healthcare Centre in Quincy, IL

Memorials are suggested to the Shriners Children's Hospital or to Culver-Stockton College Library.

SALE BARN

Advertising Rates: Full page \$10, half page \$5, classified ads \$2 per column inch. Ads due by the 25th of each month. Send to do Kathy Firch, 6009 Old Salem Road, Springfield, IL 62711. Payment payable to do MVMHC must accompany ad.



Happy New Year

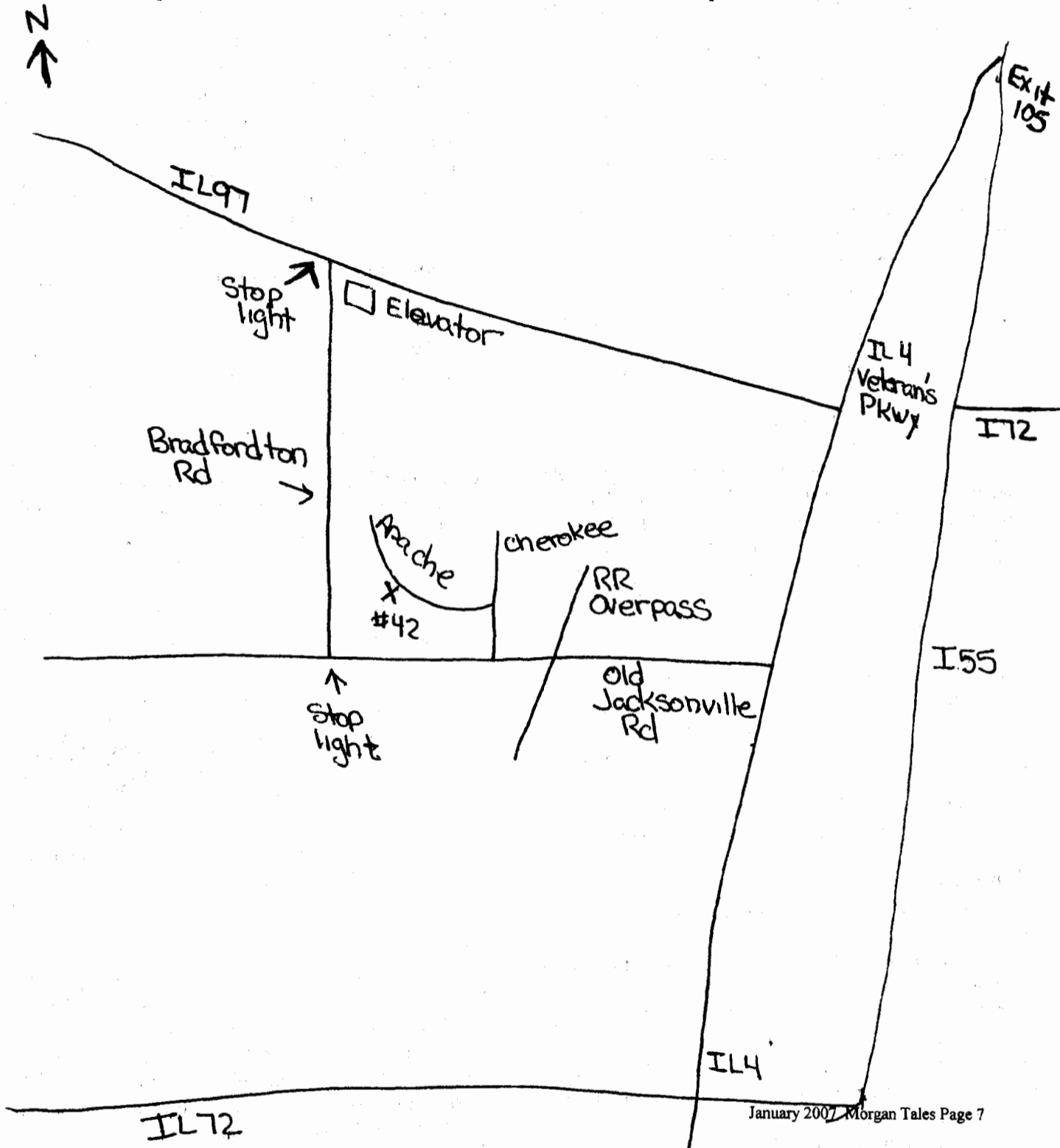
Each year during the Holiday Season we take great pleasure in setting aside our regular work and send a heartfelt message to all our Morgan friends.

How joyful we are that this time has come again, to extend to you our sincere blessings and a bright and prosperous 2007. May you all have a coming year overflowing with all the good things in life.

Cotton Hill Farm

**Map to the January 27 (Saturday) MVMHC Meeting
Home of Ellen, Randall, Leah and Benton Collins
42 Apache Drive, Springfield (217/546-8306)
Executive Committee 10:00 AM
Membership Meeting 1:00 PM**

**If you have suggestions for a meeting, or would like to host a meeting,
please let one of the MVMHC officers know prior to the 27th!**



MVMHC MEMBERSHIP AND DIRECTORY LISTING

Please fill out this form to register your yearly membership and to list your Morgans for the directory. Please use the back of this form to list your horses for the directory with stallions first, followed by mares and geldings. PLEASE PRINT! Also, please include a copy of any advertising you wish to have in the Directory. If pictures are included, please try to submit them in black and white. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES, LISTINGS FEES AND/OR ADVERTISING FEES NO LATER THAN JANUARY 28, 2007.

Name: _____ Farm Name: _____
 Full Address: _____ Telephone: _____
 Town, State, Zipcode _____ E-mail address: _____

For family membership, please list all children under 18 years of age.

Name	Date of Birth	AMHAY (Yes or No)
_____	_____	AMHAY
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Check if you are a member of: AMHA USAE Land of Lincoln IHPBEA Jubilee IL Morgan Futurity MidStates Morgan
 other (please list): _____

_____ Membership Dues (Family \$20, Individual \$15, Youth \$10) Mail to:
 _____ Horse listings (\$2.00 x _____ number of horses) Kathy Firch
 _____ Full page ad - \$25.00 Springfield, IL 62711-6016
 217793-0723 evenings
 217793-9727 fax
 E-mail rockinghorseorgans@springnet1.com

_____ Total Amount (Please make checks payable to MVMHC)

