

Mississippi Valley News

By Pat Werts

About forty people turned out for the March meeting of the Mississippi Valley Morgan Horse Club. Spring, for all her fickle ways, behaved admirably and gave us a lovely day; the flat, fertile, newly-green checked farm ground and neat white farm buildings made a typical "calendar-type" spring scene. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Niebruegge of Valmeyer, Illinois were hosts.

Coming under discussion at the meeting was the MVMHC Field Day coming up on May 28th; there were reports on the new directory of members and horses, now being printed, and on the National Morgan Jubilee. The premium list for the Jubilee is completed, and five new classes have been added.

These are a Youth Cutting Class, English Pleasure Stake, Rider under 18, Western Pleasure Stake, Rider under 18 Amateur Saddle Stake, and Amateur Fine Harness Stake. Lyman Orcutt will handle the judging duties.

Following the meeting, Marlin Manning demonstrated his abilities as an auctioneer, as "white elephants", donated by members, were sold. (A few people found themselves with articles they hadn't bid on, seems they nodded at the wrong time.) The bakery goods, also donated by members, went like the proverbial "hotcakes." Needless to say, the MVMHC treasury was a good deal richer by the end of the afternoon

A delicious buffet was served by Mrs. Niebruegge and the Niebruegge girls, Barbara and Janis.

The only disappointment of the after noon was not being able to see the expected foals. Several foals were due, but did not put in an appearance. The Niebruegge family has a good dispositioned group of Morgans. They use their Morgans for pleasure and trail riding, and do their own training. The big, typy bay stallion, Mitchie Prince (Duke of Lebanon x Clover Queen), has made many friends for the Morgan breed with his quiet, good manners and handsome appearance. The little bay mare Melodee Maid (Cinnamon King x Fanny De Jarnette) is Morgan from head to toe and is proving her worth abilities. The bay two year old filly, as a brood mare in addition to her other Melodee's Shadow, by Gallant Tex, has the same good disposition and resembles her dam, as does the bay yearling stallion, Mitchie Rebel, by Mitchie Prince. Another good youngster is a high-headed flashy, chestnut half-Morgan yearling stallion. Recently joining the Morgans at Mirchie Farm is Westcrest Shawnee, a pretty chestnut two year old filly, purchased from Pendleton Farms and originally out of Wyoming. Foals are expected from Mebodee Maid, Maple Velvet and a grade mare. We have active new members from the Kansas City area. Mrs. Lucy Grey jumped into the Morgan business with both feet last fall when she bought A.E. Swartz's remaining Morgans, six head, including three mares, two fillies, and a weanling stallion. She also has the dark chestnut three year old stallion Kedron Cointreau (Kedron Champagne x Gamie's Swan Song). The other newcomer from this area is Lt. Col. John Bailey, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He owns the flashy chestnut three year old stallion, Laddy Cotton (Major Cotton x Cargill's Lady), which he bought from Mr. Swartz a year ago while home on leave from Saudi Arabia. We had the pleasure of meeting Lt. Col. Bailey recently when he stopped to see our

horses. He is quite interested in Morgans and told us of visiting with Ted Willrich, trainer for Mrs. Nicholds in Colorado, and looking over her Morgans. He hopes to acquire a brood mare or two in the near future. At present, Laddy is in training with Ted Bryan at Hilltop Stables in Raytown.

The newest member from the Springfield, Illinois area is Nancy Anlerson, the proud young owner of the Morgan gelding, Meadow Flight by Major Cotton out of June Flight. Nancy keeps her Morgan with Tom and Edna Brunk, and enjoys riding him on the trails.

Leonard Piccione of St. Louis has joined us, also. Though not a Morgan owner at present, he is seen frequently with Wesley Dent. so look for him to have a Morgan in the future.

Our Iowa members, also members of the Hawkeye Morgan Club, are in the midst of planning a field day and clinic to be held on Saturday, May 21st at Oskaloosa Iowa. One of Warren Hohmbraker's yearling stallions, Hillview Lucky (Prince Cobra x Illawana's Romance) will be auctioned off at that time.

We are sorry to hear that Marilu Morse of St. Lewis, one of our junior members, is considering selling her two year old Morgan stallion, Wales Farm Simon. As with so many young people, she finds her time pretty well taken up with school and other activities. Simon, a very dark chestnut, was purchased as a weanling from Wales Farm. Middlebury, Vermont, and sent to St. Louis in a crate. He is sired by Wales Farm Major Bet, a son of Parade, and is out of Sleepy Hollow Gayconga, a daughter of Townshend Gayrmeade.

Skeeter Mills of Kansas City has sold her chestnut two year old Madonna to Bill and Lorraine Byers, well known Morganites from the southwest. Bill is "nuts" about roadsters, and since Madonna's full sister, Jubilee's Pastime won many roadster classes for him a few years ago, he is hoping the filly will follow in her hoofprints. The get of Skeeter's old stallion, Independence Jubilee, have been endowed with a tremendous way of going, both in four cornered action and in speed as seen in Pastime, Jubilee's Jo-Lesa, and General Cotton, to name a few.

Dr. D. F. McCarthy of Ferguson, Mo. has sold his remaining Morgans to Ronald R. Edwards of Plainfield, The last to go were two Yearlings, sold Indiana a filly by Cinnamon King out of Cin-Dee, and a stallion by Amber Sun out of Roselyne. Missouri's loss is Indiana's gain, as "Doc" sold most of his Morgans to that state over the past few months, and the folks over there have added some good Morgans to those already present.

Funquest Farm has sold the top notch cutting stallion, Funquest Gold Hawk, to Circle C Ranch, Southmayd, Texas. Gold Hawk has been winning friends and stock, cutting, and pleasure classes ever since he was a two year old. He has been trained and shown by Dean Smith o Hutchinson, Kansas, and will continue in his hands.

The first MVMHC foal is a pert little bay filly, seven-eighths Morgan, owned by Billy and Janette Dove of Sorento, Illinois. Her dam, Coco is by Bert Hammond's black Jigg, a Flyhawk son, and her sire is the Bellm's Royal Promise. Both Coco and a 3-year old half-Morgan mare of the Dove's will be bred to their young stallion, Phantom Hawk this spring. Billy reports their Funquest Itzibob, a yearling stallion purchased at Hazards sale last fall is developing into quite a horse.

Mr. Swartz of Independence, Mo., Called to say that two of Mrs. Grey mares (which he takes care of) had foaled. Both Cargill's Lady and Ruby Jubilee have stallion foals again this year, chestnuts with white markings, and sired by Major Cotton.

While attending a Jubilee show committee meeting at the Ryan's in Delavan, Illinois, Linda and John Howard took the opportunity to look at the top Morgans of Irish Lane. Outstanding is the three year old chestnut stallion, Irish Lee. a son of Senator Graham and Rachel Lee, who impressed the Howards with his handsome appearance, and high, natural trot. Linda says he looks even better than he did last year, when he won both two year old line harness classes he was shown in. Also in top shape is Irish Lane, the big-trotting brown gelding by Shadow Hawk. Of the three yearlings, the Howards especially liked a chestnut by Senator Graham out of Elain Bar. Doris has been Acting Principal of the Delavan School since the first of the year, and finds time for the horses at a premium.