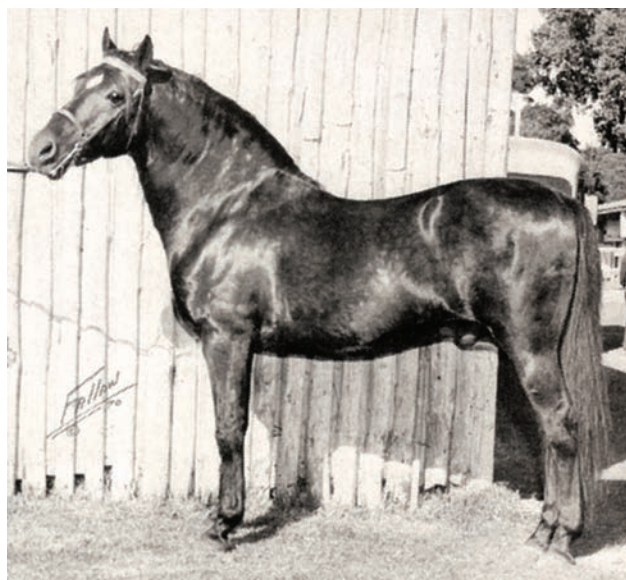


≈ MORGAN FAMILIES ≈

THE WESTERN WORKING FAMILY OF MORGANS, ON RANCHES AND, NOW, IN DRESSAGE

This article is a combination of a slightly edited earlier work by Gail Perlee on the history of the Working Western Family of Morgans with some additional information that shows the strong influence of WWF Morgans in today's dressage Morgans. A special thank you to the Morgan Dressage Association, Gail Perlee, and Bernadette Stang for allowing The Morgan Horse the opportunity to reprint the following article.

By Gail Perlee and Bernadette Stang



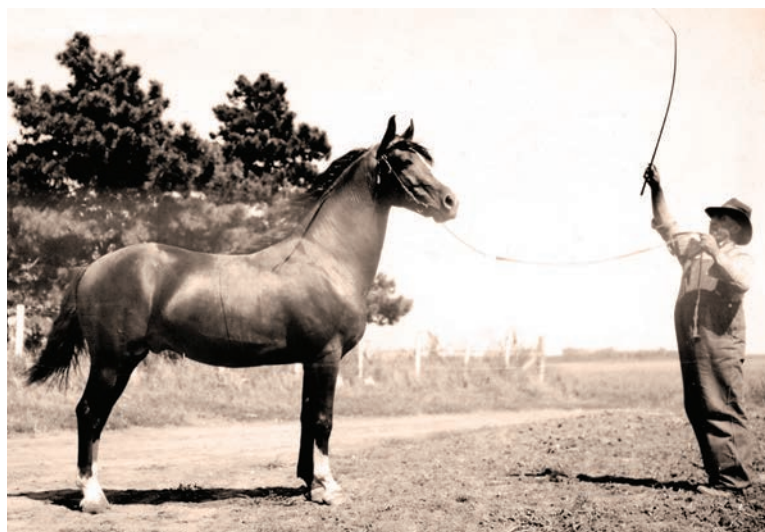
Although a more recent addition to the traditional families of Morgans (i.e. Brunk, Lippitt, and Government), the Western Working Morgan Family (WWF) has been around as long as the others, but have only been seen as a separate family for the last 15 years largely due to the research and writings of LaVonne Houlton of California. Western Working Morgans are not the product of any one breeder, but rather are a group of related individuals developed specifically for cattle and ranch work in the rugged, wide open spaces of the American West. Today, although many of them still earn their oats as working cow horses, the family is used mostly as a source of size, substance, stamina, and athletic ability within the breed, and is well represented in the highest levels of Morgans in dressage.

TEXAS

The fountainhead of the WWF was the Sellman Ranch near San Angelo, Texas. Richard Sellman, a wealthy Marylander, founded the 40,000 acre Mountainvale Ranch in the late 1800s where he raised cattle, sheep, and Morgan horses. At the time of his death in 1925, Sellman had registered 689 Morgans, making him one of the largest breeders in the history of the breed. The influence of Sellman breeding includes such horses as Major Gordon 4294, Major Antoine 4776, Gold Medal 4847 and the Jubilee De Jarnette son, The Admiral 4871. But the founding sire was the magnificent Headlight Morgan 4683 (Ethan Allen 2nd x Lady Stratton).

Bred in Illinois and foaled in 1893 in Kansas, Headlight Morgan didn't come to the Sellman ranch until he was 21 years

ABOVE (LEFT TO RIGHT): Headlight Morgan; Easter Vermont (Fallow).



LEFT TO RIGHT: Linsley; Chocolate.

old. A horse of impeccable Eastern bloodlines, beauty, soundness and endurance, Headlight Morgan was awarded a silver trophy by the Morgan Horse Club in 1900 as the best living representative of the original Morgan type. In his 12 years at stud for Sellman, Headlight Morgan produced 112 registered foals, many of whom were sold throughout Texas and the West as working ranch horses and breeding stock.

The last great Sellman stallion was Red Oak (General Gates x Marguerite). He was purchased from the US Government Farm in 1925. He sired 84 foals for Sellman, including the sires Romanesque (sire of Major R M), Redolent, and Romance.

CALIFORNIA

The Western Working Family in California began with Sellman stock. In 1920, Reginald O. Parsons of the Mountcrest Ranch near the Oregon border purchased a railroad car of Sellman broodmares and a Headlight Morgan stallion. In the first foal crop, Parsons got Montcrest Sellman (Joe Bailey x Kitty E), who was sold to millionaire newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst to head his stud at the Piedmont Land & Cattle Company in 1932. Mountcrest Sellman sired the stallions Montabelle (x Red Dot by Pongee Morgan) and Redman (x Jinglebells by Querido), who sired Blackman and Red Gates.

In 1922, Roland Hill, owner of the sprawling Horseshoe Land and Cattle Company in California and the 40 square mile Blue Horse Ranch in Nevada, decided to try Morgans. After experimenting with various breeds and crosses and failing to develop an ideal ranch horse, he bought a four-year-old stallion from the Sellman Ranch. Hill was so pleased by the stallion that he went to Texas to personally select 13 broodmares, and several years later went back for 14 more. He then purchased the Government stallion Querido (Bennington x Artemisia) to cross with these mares. Later, Hill chose the Government stud Sonfield (Mansfield x Quietude) to use on the Querido daughters. Using this formula, Hill went on to become the biggest breeder of Morgans in the

country as Sellman had been before him.

Most of the Hill colts were gelded for ranch horses, while the mares carried the family forward. One example is Helen Mala (Querido x Hemala [x Headlight Morgan]) who produced the full sisters Helen May and Helen Field, both by Sonfield. Helen May was the dam of Kennebec Count, who was three times the United States Combined Driving Pairs Champion with his son Kennebec Russel. They were the first Morgans to serve on a United States Equestrian Team in Europe. Helen Field became a foundation mare for Shawalla ranch in Washington. Others include: Roseta May (Sonfield x Roseta Mala) and Bessie Ro (Querido x Roboss x Red Oak), the granddams of Dapper Dan, and Katrina Field, Alma Sonfield, Addy May Field, Iva Sonfield, Kitty Field, and Anita Blossom, all good producing daughters of Sonfield.

Later, the Government stallions Uhlan (Bennington x Poinsetta) and Gay Mac (Mansfield x Dew Drop) were used on Hill/Sellman stock by the Hearst-Sunical Corporation and rancher C. C. Reed, respectively. In 1940, the last major sire was brought into the California branch of the WWF when the Davis Breeding Farm purchased the Brunk stallion, Red Vermont (Jubilee King x Daisy Knox). Some of his breeding sons were Monty Vermont, Domino Vermont, Easter Vermont, Sireson (who went to the Neeley's Teton ranch in Idaho), and Homestake. Two of his best known daughters were Verdonna Vermont and Ginger Vermont, dam of Montey Vermont.

Today most Western Working Morgans trace to California stock several times.

KANSAS

A good example of the Kansas branch of the family is Fruita, dam of Eethree Supreme (x UVM Gates) senior sire at Roy-El farm in New Mexico. She was line bred to Headlight Morgan through the stock he left in Kansas, tracing to him eight times on both sides of her pedigree. The closest cross is through Linsley (General Gates x Sunflower Maid [x Headlight Morgan]), who founded another



LEFT TO RIGHT: Flyhawk & Linspar; Senator Graham.

branch of the WWF family. His dam was bred in Kansas, but sold to the Government Farm as a yearling in 1911, and lived out her life in Vermont.

Linsley, foaled in 1918 at the Government Farm, was named after D. C. Linsley, the breed's first historian. The colt grew into a strapping 15.2 hand, red-chestnut stallion, was transferred to the Remount Service, and assigned to Elmer Brown at Halstead, Kansas, in 1921. Brown's excellent broodmare band included three Headlight Morgan daughters, Hazel S, Helen S, and Lady Skinner, as well as the Donald daughter Donbelle. These mares and their daughters by Sparhawk 6874 and Dude Hudson 5654 were all bred to Linsley to produce most of his 53 get. Some of the mares from this program that bred on were May Hudson, Bird Hudson, Lady Spar, Sparbelle, Viola Linsley, and Lemax. Linsley stallions that appear in Western Working pedigrees today are Linspar and Sparbeau (x Sparbelle), Sir Linsley (x Sparta), Rosco Morgan (x Lady Spar), Hawk Jim (x Lady Spar), and Chocolate #7586 (x Lady Spar).

Chocolate #7586 was a true working ranch horse, of whom R. S. Sentney who owned the horse in old age said, "[he was] the best cow horse I ever rode. He can turn on a dime and cut fish right out of the pond." Chocolate stood in Kansas for George Hineman where he sired Powerful, who stood at the Pine Ridge Indian Agency in South Dakota and later was used by O. E. Sutter to produce the Dot S Morgans in Kansas. Another son of Chocolate, Raymond S Sentney, was out of the mare, Skinner, intensely line bred to Headlight Morgan. Raymond S Sentney stood at the Theis ranch near Dodge City, Kansas, and produced many of the famous Theis mares that were bought by Cecil Ferguson and shipped back East to be used in the Broadwall program.

Linspar, also foaled in 1925, went on to become a sire of note for the LU Sheep Company in Wyoming. His full brother, Sparbeau, went to Roland Hill's Horseshoe Cattle Company in California. Hawk Jim, a full brother to Chocolate #7586, foaled in 1929, was sold to the US Army for use in the Remount Service. In his later years, he stood at Merle Evan's Crabapple Farm in Ohio,

where his daughters wore the Devan prefix and were bred to O C R. While there he sired the versatile stud Devan Hawk.

The Hiebert Brothers at Hillsboro, Kansas, crossed the daughters of Linsley with the Sellman stud, Romanesque (Red Oak x Maria K), to produce the good breeding horses Plains King (x Ella Linsley) and Hiebert's Challenge (x Viola Linsley), whose name was changed to El Cortez after he went to California.

MONTANA AND WYOMING

When Richard Sellman died in 1925, his herd of over 300 Morgans was dispersed. The US Department of Agriculture bought 17 mares and shipped them to the United States Range Livestock Experiment Station at Miles City, Montana. Bred to the Government stallions, Revere (Mansfield x Folly) and Monterey (Mansfield x Scotanna), they became the nucleus of a breeding herd that produced 82 registered Morgans between 1925 and 1934.

When the station was eventually discontinued, the horses went to various ranchers and Indian Agencies including the Crow Agency (Montana), the Carson Indian School (Nevada), the Windriver Agency (Wyoming), and the Coleville Indian Agency (Washington).

The Jackson Ranch in Montana acquired Delbert (Revere x Alibirdie). The Jacksons had bred their own ranch horses almost from the time Thomas Jackson homesteaded the area in 1869. For many years they had used a combination of Morgan/Standardbred stock crossed with local mares, but in 1925 they purchased their first registered Morgans. Some of the stallions used by the Jackson ranch were Chief Buglar (Tyee x Gala Girl) from the Montana branch of the C. X. Larabee estate, Monte L (Major R.M. x Jumina x Jubilee King), Fleetfield (Mentor x Norma x Canfield), Ken Carmen (Jubilee King x Heroda), Rosefield (Sonfield x Rose Mala x Querido), and the homebred Senatfield. He was by Fleetfield and out of an LU Sheep Company mare, Parka (Senator Graham x Lupine x Plains King), and sired many well-known Morgans under their Montana prefix.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Warhawk; Flying Jubilee.

The LU Sheep Company of Worland, Wyoming, had also used Standardbred stock to improve their ranch horses. They first used a son of the harness racing champion Dan Patch (who traced to Justin Morgan on his dam's side) on native mares. Then in 1927, a yearling black colt was selected from the herd of J. C. Brunk in Illinois and shipped to the LU Sheep Co. as future herd sire. This was Flyhawk (Go Hawk x Florette), and by the time he was ten, he was a top cow horse and had so many offspring that he could no longer be used in the LU program. In 1936, Flyhawk was sold to the nearby Padlock Ranch, where he was used at stud and for ranch work and loaned to the Pitchfork and Antlers Ranches for breeding. Helen Brunk Greenwalt came west in 1939 and traded King De Jarnette for Flyhawk. Back home in Illinois, the former ranch horse was named Champion Morgan Stallion at the State Fair in both 1940 and 1941, and became an integral part of the Brunk line.

The LU Sheep Co. acquired another young Brunk stallion in the early 1940s. This time it was Senator Graham (Senator Knox x Fanita x Tiffany). On daughters of Flyhawk, he produced stock prized by local ranchers for soundness, ability, disposition, and cow sense. One of them was Starfire (x Wanda) who would sire Waseeka's Nocturne. Senator Graham remained at the LU as a ranch horse and breeding stallion until 1951 when the Brunks took him home to Illinois. There he became the most successful sire of futurity winners of his time. Besides the Brunk stallions, the LU Sheep Co. used the Kansas bred Linspar (Linsley x Sparbelle) whom they purchased in 1928 as a three-year-old. Linspar was bred to Flyhawk daughters and Flyhawk was bred to Linspar daughters, and both were used on the trotting bred mares to produce geldings for ranch work and the mare band that crossed so well with Senator Graham.

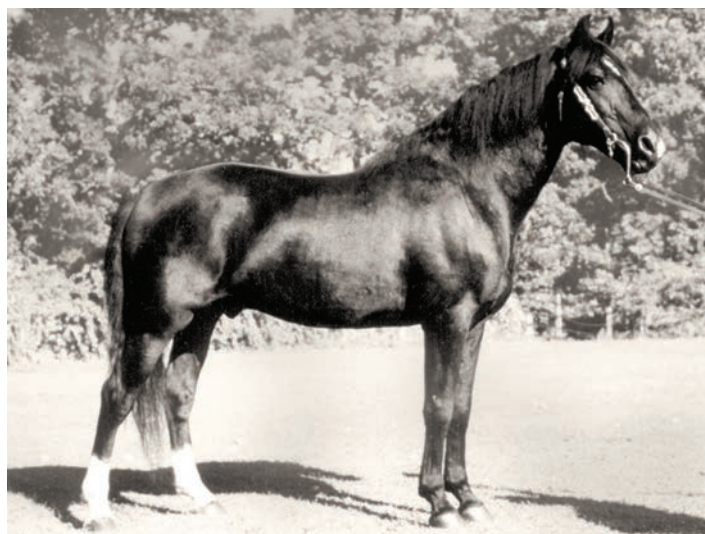
Another Wyoming ranch that has long used Morgans as cow horses is the Cross Ranch. George Cross of the H Bar Ranch began using Morgan blood to upgrade the horses on his cattle ranch in the 1920s. First he bred native ranch mares to Imperial (Admiral

George Dewey x Duchess x Meteor Jr) who was foaled in 1912 in Illinois and sold to the superintendent of the Fort Washakie Indian Agency in 1915. His daughters were then bred to Glider (Jubilee King x Gizea), a stallion which Cross bought from the breeder, J. C. Brunk, as a yearling, in 1936. Cross began to register his stock in the early 1940s under Rule Two. In 1944, the Cross Ranch bought the two-year-old stallion, Warhawk (Flyhawk x Sentola) from Helen Brunk Greenwalt. Using the blood of these three stallions, the Cross Ranch has bred WWF Morgans for more than 75 years, with Ab Cross carrying on for his father with the H-prefix on the Cross Ranch.

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The Northwest had a long Morgan tradition going back to the 1850s. In Washington, the Western Working Family has its roots in James W. Clise's Willowmoor Morgans. His program began in 1906 with the purchase of a band of New England mares and the stallion Troubadour (Jubilee De Jarnette x Bird Pepper) bred by C. X. Larabee of Home Park, Montana. Active only until 1919, Willowmoor's contribution was mainly through Troubadour Of Willowmoor (Troubadour x Fannie 2nd x Bob Morgan) who was purchased along with other Clise stock in 1911 by the Government farm, and there sired Quietude, Sonfield's dam. Sonfield himself spent his last years at stud for Leo Beckley of Beckridge Morgans at Mount Vernon, Washington. The state also produced Keystone (Pomulus x Redlass x Redman). Foaled in 1950, he was out of a Sellman/Hill mare and by the locally bred Pomulus (Escort x Oroloma x Troubadour Of Willowmoor), a foal of 1927.

The largest Western Working breeder in the Northwest was Clarence Shaw of Walla Walla, Washington. In 1954, he founded the Shawalla program using the good roping, pick up, and bull dogging horse Silver Rockwood (Agazizz x May Rockwood x Rockwood) as his foundation sire. This horse was bred by Robert Tynan of Stella, Nebraska, and foaled in 1942. His sire was a pure Brunk grandson of Jubilee King and his dam was by a Government



LEFT TO RIGHT: Blackwood Correll; Whippoorwill Dorado.

stallion and out of a Headlight Morgan mare. Shaw went to Roland Hill for his mares including Rosella A (Sonfield x Rosella x Montcrest Sellman), Katrina Field (Sonfield x Blazie Q x Querido), Table Field (Sonfield x Tab x Texas Allen) and Helen Field (Sonfield x Helen Mala x Querido). He also purchased Leretta (Monte L x Loretta) from the Jackson ranch. Using this foundation stock, Shawalla eventually produced more than 400 Morgans, including the beautiful Rockfield (Silver Rockwood x Katrina Field) and the full siblings Shawalla Princess and Shawalla Prince (Silver Rockwood x Helen Field).

In Oregon, the Hearst bred Sonoma (Piedmont Apache x Rose B x Querido) foaled in 1938, started a breeding program for Phil Morrison of Grants Pass. Later, he used Aranafield (Sonfield x Lady Margaret). One of his best mares was Abbonette, a daughter of the Remount stallion Abbott (Monterey x Klyona) who had been brought to Oregon in 1945 by Marvin Jeppesen along with some Gay Mac mares from California.

UTAH

In Utah, three stallions stand out as Western Working sires. The first of these was Stellar (Mentor x Naiad). Bred by the US Government farm, he was foaled in 1948 and sold to J. Holman Waters of Salt Lake City in 1951 when the Government stock was dispersed. For Mel Frandsen of Mary-Mels Morgans at American Fork, he crossed well with Brunk mares to produce a line of quality using and ranch horses. Out of the great mare Wingo (Flying Jubilee x Cynthia) he got the full brothers Omar Sheriff and Gringo, who went on to found dynasties of their own.

Second to arrive was Flying Jubilee (Flyhawk x Jumina x Jubilee King). Also foaled in 1948, and bred by Helen Brunk Greenwalt, he had stood for two years at the LU Sheep Company before being sold to cowboy writer Ern Pedler in 1953. Pedler used the stud hard for Mustanging over the roughest terrain imaginable, and, of course, for breeding, as well. His daughters, especially out of Brunk or Western working mares, were wonderful producers.

Last to arrive, in 1957, was the great broodmare sire Townshend Gaymeade (Meade x Gayselba x Ulysses). Foaled in 1949 on the farm of Anna Ela, but of Government breeding, he was purchased in 1953 by Helen Brunk Greenwalt and transferred to the LU Sheep Co. There he ran with a band of mares until sold to Ern Pedler in 1957. Pedler kept him only one year before selling him to Tas-Tee farm in Ohio. Gaymeade left excellent daughters in Wyoming, Utah, and the Mid-West including Ecstasy (dam of Bill Bailey), Osogay (foundation mare for Paramount), Belle Meade (foundation mare for Dick Nelson's Primavera stock horses), Gay Maid of Wenloch, Rosemeade, and Gay Flower.

THE WESTERN WORKING FAMILY IN DRESSAGE

As the use of Morgans on ranches declined and the interest of Morgan owners and breeders turned to showing, the Western Working Family came on hard times. Many fine examples of the line did not breed on or were absorbed into the Quarter Horse breed. Others, mostly mares, were crossed with Eastern lines to produce a new generation of show horses. The WWF was in danger of extinction. Then in the early 1990s a back-to-basics foundation movement surfaced. New breeders sought out and acquired the last, aging members of the family and began breeding, and the few older programs that had stuck to their guns experienced a renewed interest in their horses.

A market for WWF Morgans, admired for their soundness and usefulness, has developed among Morgan sport horse enthusiasts. Not surprisingly, the influence of WWF in dressage is very evident. An article in *The Morgan Horse* ("Significant Sires in the Pedigrees of Morgan FEI Dressage Horses," September, 2016) found that Red Correll son, Blackwood Correll, was rated second (behind Greentree Bonniejohn, who actually carries significant WWF blood on his dam's side) for stallions appearing within the first, second, or third generation of multiple FEI dressage Morgans (Red Correll himself was 13 out of a total of 68 stallions). As this



LEFT TO RIGHT: Triple S Goldust Correll (Dixie Stewart Photography); Iron Forge Starman; Gladheart Linhawk (CBP 2012).

breeding is somewhat uncommon and, until the latter 1980s more regional in its distribution, it is noteworthy.

The Working Western influence of Red Correll, often through his son Blackwood Correll, is well represented at FEI. For example, of the 16 Morgans who have competed at Grand Prix, four (25%) carry Blackwood Correll/Red Correll: Blueandwhite Raven (coming through his paternal grandsire, Triple S Red Major), Whippoorwill Dorado (through his sire, Triple S Goldust Correll and his dam's sire Whippoorwill Newmoon, a Blackwood Correll son), Whippoorwill Ebony (a Blackwood Correll son), and BTMM Colonel's Lady, the only Morgan mare to compete at Grand Prix, through another Red Correll son, Shenandoah Red. Whippoorwill Dorado and Whippoorwill Ebony reflect the addition of Blackwood Correll to Mary Jean Vasiloff's program through an agreement with Bob and Jan Painter (Triple S Morgans) who initially stood Blackwood Correll in Nebraska.

Kennebec breeding, this time represented by Margaret Bailey-Miller's Prix-St. Georges mare, Kennebec Ladyhawke, goes back to Red Correll through both Blackwood Correll and Silverton Morgan on her sire's (Triple S Dark Eagle) side. Triple S High Noon (who competed through Intermediate I) has similar breeding; his dam, Triple S Soap Suds, is by Blackwood Correll out of a Silverton Morgan granddaughter.

Purchased by the late Wendy Gray-Bizzaro from Greentree Ranch (Bill and Louise Green, and their daughter Cece Green-Yelek, then located in Loveland, Colorado), the Intermediate I Morgans Greentree Courtney and Greentree Ever Reddi have strong WWF ties (Red Correll) through their dams (Niobrara Mayfair and Reddy Ann Eager, respectively). Gray Barron Midnight Serenade claims WWF heritage through her dam, Greentree Ever Reddi.

While the Grand Prix stallion Iron Forge Starman's top line is mostly Government and Brunk (with one line to Lippitt), his dam, Cambridge Susy Q, is almost half WWF. It is also worth noting that, although Susy Q's paternal grandsire, Micky Finn, is 100 percent Brunk, her paternal grandma, Echo's April Dawn, was

100 percent WWF. The Cambridge Morgans, and the sometimes related Topside Morgans, were bred in the West (Colorado) with mostly Eastern sire-lines and WWF dam-lines. Both programs often used high quality Brunk and Government-bred studs and lesser known WWF line broodmares.

The WWF is present in a number of FEI Morgans through Flyhawk who (although pure Brunk), was used on WWF mares on several ranches including Stuart Hazard's Funquest Farm where Hazard's foundation stock was almost completely WWF from Kansas, including 29 from the Chilocoo Indian School. Gladheart Linhawk (primarily through his sire, Funquest Diviner), Rogue Hill's Galaxy (who shares many of the same bloodlines as Linhawk), Fortune's Nightingale (through both her sire, Funquest Monarch, and her dam, Funquest Onyx Lady), and Fortune's Maestro (via his dam, Funquest Silhouette) are examples. WWF is also often seen in horses with the Caduceus prefix, such as Caduceus Herod (through his sire, Wyoming Flyhawk), Statesman's Eclipse (through his sire Caduceus Montour, who is a Wyoming Flyhawk son), and SC Island Jubilee (through sire, H-Ken, a Warhawk grandson). EMR Maximus inherits WWF from his sire (Coal Creek Dallas), as well as being a grandson of Iron Forge Starman.

Caduceus Herod and SC Island Jubilee also have strong WWF blood from their dams (Doll-Rose is an Easter Vermont daughter and Caduceus Margaux traces back to Easter Vermont through her sire, Patchett Hill, respectively). The Prix St. Georges gelding, Spring Hollow Legend, also boasts WWF blood through Patchett Hill.

Other FEI Morgans with WWF links in the first two generations include: Malibu's Fawnita (Waers Fawnette, dam), WTR Chocolate Bar (VAS Trigger ML, sire), Montana Jubilee (Montana Lila, dam), and West Mt Casey (West Mt Rachel, dam and Belle Rogers, paternal granddam).

While the original purpose for Western Working Morgans as a working ranch horse is becoming rare, their value in producing top-quality sport horses is increasingly being recognized. As such, a bright future of Western Working Morgans is ahead. ■