



JOE YOUNG'S PINELAND MORGANS

The South's First Colorful Morgan Breeder

by Laura Hornick Behning

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AUTHOR'S NOTE: After rescuing Fancy Gadget, a Devan/Pineland-bred mare, from starvation and abuse in 1994, I became curious as to just where all the Pineland Morgans had gone. The last of them were bred in the early 1980's, so surely there had to be some around, more than the few I knew of here and there. Thus began my search (which my husband -only slightly jesting- termed "the woman with a mission attitude"). I knew Joe Young must've bred more than a hundred Morgans- the list AMHA sent me of Pineland Morgans had 103 horses on it! Unfortunately, upon inquiring of the owners, it turned out that most of the horses on the list were deceased, many without leaving progeny. After years of letter writing, farm visits, phone calls and poring through 40 some odd years of THE MORGAN HORSE magazine, here is what I discovered.

It was 1945 when Joe Young met his first Morgan. He had admired the breed since he had been a student at Auburn University in Alabama. While stationed with the army in California he became friends with Merle Little, owner of El Rancho Poco near Monrovia, and was incredibly impressed with Merle's typy stallion SUN DOWN MORGAN (Raven Chief X Texsky). "From then on I was sunk," Joe reminisces in *Morgans in Georgia: A Tribute to Joe Young* (TMH, May 1986). "Merle didn't have to sell me. All he had to do was help me find something to buy... I asked him if there was such a thing as a palomino Morgan, and if so, where could I find one? And he said "Yes, and she is in foal to Sun Down." " The mare turned out to be Carmel Snow (Night Tide X Kaycee), and she became the first horse (and the first Morgan) Joe ever owned.

As far as Joe knew, there weren't and never had been any registered Morgans back home in Georgia. He began to wonder just who he would breed Snow to after she foaled. Initially he thought about buying a young untrained colt, because he didn't think he could afford a mature stallion. Merle, however came to his rescue, and found him the four year old Jolly Roger. As Joe tells the tale: "The next morning we set out for somewhere in the mountains. In due time we drove onto a flat place dug out of the side of a hill and in less than no time Merle dropped the ramp to his van and had led three horses out of the barn and fastened them in the truck before I knew what was going on and then turned to me and asked, "How did you like your horse?" I said, "What horse?" The only thing that made an impression on me was that from the kicking and snorting that was coming from out of the truck we would do well to get home with the pieces. But we did.

When Merle put the stallion in his pen, it bounced from end to end and side to side. I told Merle he was too much horse for me, that I would never be able to do anything with him. Merle said, "Aw, he'll cool off by tomorrow.' He then made arrangements for the lady who owned and trained him to come over the next day and put him through his paces for me. The next morning I was first up and tip-toed out to where I hoped to find my bouncing bundle of dynamite. To my pleasant surprise he was still in his pen. I walked over to the fence- spoke to him and reached through to rub his front leg and as soon as my hand touched him he picked his foot up and held it there for me to see, and I said to myself -"well, maybe after all..."

Before the fog completely wapped me up, Mrs. Knowles came around the shed lugging a saddle, followed by Mr. Knowles and Mr. and Mrs. Little. Mrs. Knowles only weighed about one hundred and ten or fifteen pounds; she didn't ask that stallion the first thing. She told him what to do and he did it. She opened the gate to his pen and told him to come there. He came up to her and she told him to get over to the back side. He did. She told him to come to her again. He did. "Come up

*Photos above, left: Joe Young on the foundation sire of Pineland, **JOLLY ROGER** (Rosco Morgan x Herodona). Center: The house at Pineland (photo courtesy of Carlton Huhn). Right: Helen and Joe Young, 1982. (photo courtesy of Carlton Huhn).*

closer," she said. He did. She put a halter on him and led him out into the open which wasn't too much room at best. She rode him with a halter and with a bridle, bareback, english, and western. She slid off his rump, picked up his front feet, pulled his hind feet out back of him, crawled under him, pulled his tail and while she was standing a matter of inches directly back of both his heels, she turned to me and said, "You say he will kick?"

He was next hitched to a two-wheeled cart and she drove him all over the place. While trotting down the lane where a mare and colt were along side the fence, he spoke to the lady and made a move in her direction and Mrs. Knowles slapped him with the lines and said, "Tend to your business." That was all she needed to do. Even after all of this I still wasn't so sure he was, "my horse." What would he do, with me handling him? With his trainer and a person he knew and who knew him, yes, but what if something happened that wasn't in his book nor mine either and I didn't know what to say or do? Then what? It was all new to me.

Mrs. Knowles was unhitching him from one side and Mrs. Little was unhitching from the other. When they were ready for him to step up out of the shafts they spoke to him and he stepped up - but someone had failed to unfasten one of the straps and it failed to let the shaft fall clear of the harness. It pulled him across the fastened shaft with the end of it sticking him on the inside of his left hind leg and sliding up into his flank. One would tell him to step up and the other would tell him to whoa. He was either getting stuck in the leg or tangled up in the harness. Either way he was between a rock and a hard spot. In the midst of this confusion, airplanes were roaring back and forth from the municipal airport that joins Merle's lot, which was of course strange to the stallion and at the height of this confusion, some children came running and hollering out of the house along with a barking dog and as they ran under the shed next to where we were, the noise and excitement scared a bantam hen off of her nest and she flew out over the top of all of us screaming and cackling like only a setting hen can do. If that wasn't enough to scare the wits out of everybody, a peacock sitting on the other shed let out a yelp and sailed out over the whole works and by that time I was too limp to stand and slide back onto my bale of straw, wondering what kept that stallion from kicking the living daylight out of everybody and heading for the tall timber. But he didn't. He just stood there and trembled.

Then I said, "That's my horse." That was what I wanted to see and why it all had to happen when it did and as it did, I will never know. But it sold me Jolly Roger MHC 8479 by Roscoe Morgan out of Herodona. A Morgan in looks. A Morgan disposition. A Morgan in his get. What more could I ask for?"

Joe also bought two more mares before he left California, Princess Field and Gypsy Field, both daughters of Sonfield and purchased from Roland Hill. Princess was out of the Hearst bred half Arabian mare Princess Sabab, and Gypsy was out of the Quierido daughter Luetta A. On August 10, 1946 Carmel Snow foaled a palomino colt, Sun Rex Morgan. Joe's active duty was terminated the following month and he began to make plans to get himself, five Morgans and nine head of cattle he had also purchased home to Georgia. In November they were on their way in their own specially hired private railroad car. After ten days, enduring alternately freezing and very hot temperatures, the train rolled into LaGrange Georgia- and Pineland Morgans was born.

Sun Rex Morgan was used briefly at stud, but Jolly Roger was Joe's favorite. His son Pineland Smoky Joe (out of Gypsy Field) carried on for his sire; in turn, most of the horses born at the end of the Pineland breeding program were by Smoky Joe's son Pineland Sir Major (also out of Gypsy Field). There was quite a bit of inbreeding. Joe's only outcrosses were a few to Devan Hawk (Hawk Jim X Starflake by Captor) and one to Nabob's Welcome (Nabob Morgan X Lippitt Adeline). The cross of Nabob's Welcome, who was owned by Fred Aldred of Summerville GA., and Pineland Little Snow resulted in the gelding who became Joe's best advertisement. Pineland Joker Joe became the much beloved mount of thirteen year old Maureen Hennigan. She wrote Joe a letter telling of her love for her horse, which Joe incorporated into a very popular advertisement for Pineland.

Martha Von Redlich, Devan Hawk's owner, is an equine artist who knew Joe very well- he even proposed to her! This was before he met his wife Helen, and after an unhappy first marriage to a woman Martha says he referred to as the "old woman". At the time Martha thought she was too young to get married, and Joe was old enough to be her father, so she declined.

Martha's stallion Devan Hawk was closely related to Joe's other Morgans. After breeding Carmel Snow to Hawk and getting Pineland Little Snow in 1958, Joe leased Hawk for the season. There were four more foals resulting from Devan Hawk crossed on Pineland mares, including the 1959 stallions Pineland Sundae Rage, a palomino out of Pineland Carmel Sundae, and Pineland Candee Dandee, chestnut, out of Pineland Carmel Candy. Both were owned by Ben and Ruth Malone of Fairburn GA. and had offspring which have so far not bred on to any great extent.

The Devan/Pineland cross was successful for other breeders as well. The Edsalls of Foothill Morgans in South Carolina used their type, upheaded chestnut sabino stallion Devan Hondo (Devan Duke X Devan Flirt) to produce many show ring winners in the 70's. In fact, in the 1970 Georgia Morgan Horse Club directory Foothill Farm has more Pineland Morgans listed than does Pineland itself! Champions bred at Foothill by Devan Hondo included the geldings Foothill Figure (X Pineland Jolly Gypsy) and Foothill Jolly Joker (X Pineland Jolly Julia), the stallion FoothillFlashback (X Princess Gypsy) and Foothill Figurine (X Pineland Jolly Gypsy).

After the Edsalls dispersed, most of their herd was purchased by Jo Gill Fender of Quail Meadow Morgans,



Left: **PRINCESS GYPSY** (Pineland Candy King x Pineland Jolly Gypsy), 1961 buckskin mare. Photo courtesy of Carlton Huhn.

including Hondo and the mares Pineland Jolly Gypsy, Princess Gypsy, and Foothill Jolly June (Pineland Smoky Joe X Pineland Monday). Jo already owned Jolly June's full sister, Pineland Flashback (X Princess Gypsy) and Foothill Figurine (X Pineland Jolly Gypsy). After the Edsalls dispersed, most of their herd was purchased by Jo Gill Fender of Quail Meadow Morgans, including Hondo and the mares Pineland Jolly Gypsy, Princess Gypsy, and Foothill Jolly June (Pineland Smoky Joe X Pineland Monday). Jo already owned Jolly June's full sister, Pineland Blue Belle. Quail Meadow Morgans' current stallion is Quail Meadow Flash, by Hondo and out of Princess Gypsy. His full sister Quail Meadow Gypsy is the dam of Fancy Gadget, the mare who started me on this quest to learn more about the Pineland Morgans.

Shannon Loomis wrote me about her 1981 chestnut gelding Quail Meadow Star (Foothill Flashback X Foothill Jolly June): "I purchased Star as a five year old from Charles Merrill of NC at an auction here in SW Ohio. Star was essentially wild and very scared- what training he had as a park horse was abusive and poorly done. I brought Star home and discovered that it took three people to put a saddle on him and four people several hours to catch him in the pasture (I didn't have the heart to lock him up). He also windsucks and is very spooky, both remnants of his short show career. It took me six months before I could deal with this horse outside of his stall. Over the years I have been able to calm him down some and gain his trust, but I am very aware of his little idiosyncrasies at times. Star is a veteran distance horse, with well over 1,000 competition miles under his belt and he is always in the ribbons against the Arabs. I also event him. He placed third at his very first novice level event years ago and goes clean over all courses without refusing. I also do lots of dressage. He is a very versatile horse who does everything I ask of him and he does it well." Star is also one of a very select group- a winner of the AMHA Sport Horse Award!

The other major "nick" with Pineland horses came with the mainly Brunk bred DeBoyd Morgans of Beamer and Mary Donahoe, then of Barnesville GA. The DeBoyd Morgans deserve a complete article of their own! This cross formed the foundation for Carlton Huhn and Frank Calhoun's Harmony Hall Stud, using the Battersea prefix. Their breeding program using Pineland mares on DeBoyd stallions has produced, amongst others, the 1987 bay dressage and driving stallion Battersea Dukeheart (Donahoe DeBoyd X Pineland Sandra), the 1988 black mare Battersea Eiffel (Bennett DeBoyd X Pineland Gypsy Joyce) and the 1985 black multi-titled carriage driving mare Battersea Bess (Bennett DeBoyd X Pineland Sandra).

But the most famous product of the breeding program at Harmony Hall has to be Anne (Mimi) Thorington's 1986 bay gelding Battersea Chancellor (Donahoe DeBoyd X Pineland Gypsy Joyce). Chancellor has won much acclaim in combined driving with his accomplished driver Lisa Singer. He started his career with Lisa beginning in 1996, having previously been successfully shown by CeAnn Shipley. Along with his stablemates Avalon Avant Garde and Meadowgreen Treasure, "Chance" has been a member of the USET at three World Driving Championships. This team has won an incredible three National Pairs Championships and two Triple Crowns. Lisa says "Chance is a beautiful mover and does best in dressage. But he is good in all the phases of the CDE's. He is sort of a prima-donna. He loves to make sure that the crowd is watching him during dressage. He performs better when there is a larger crowd."

Another of the most well-known Pineland bred horses was also a combined driving horse, the 1968 chestnut gelding Faimead Damien (Adrian Ashmore X Pineland Fashion, by Jolly Roger and out of Princess Field). In his youth he was used in pleasure driving and English Pleasure classes, winning the 1980 State 4H Horse Championship. Sold through the Dixie Cup sale in 1985 and purchased by Tom Hilgenberg of Newnan Georgia, he became an integral part of Tom's introduction to the combined driving world. The Hilgenbergs have also owned several other Pineland-bred horses over their many years of involvement with the breed including their son Chris' old equitation mount, Pineland Cimmaron (Pineland Smoky Joe X Pineland Little Snow), a 1966 bay gelding. By the way, Tom's wife Charlene is Carlton Huhn's sister- keeping those Morgans "all in the family"!

Right: **BATTERSEA CHANCELLOR** (Donahoe DeBoyd x Pineland Gypsy Joyce), a 1986 bay gelding, had a successful career in combined driving with Lisa Singer. Photo courtesy of Carlton Huhn.



The Pineland bred mare Lady Quietude (Jubilation X Pineland Fashion), a half sister to Faimead Damien, has produced several sport Morgans. Lady Quietude was a big chestnut mare, standing around sixteen hands, and owned most of her life by the Sollenbergers of Ponderosa Morgans, Newnan, GA. Most of her foals have also been large. Probably the most noted of her offspring is the 1994 World Champion Hi-Point Carriage Driving singles gelding, Ponderosa's Challenge (by Ponderosa's Foreman), a 1986 bay. Several other Lady Quietude foals were successful in the dressage ring, including the big mare Ponderosa's Splendor (by Applevale Commander) and the gelding Ponderosa's Tally Ho (by Turfwood Royal Flush). Also from Ponderosa Morgans came a mare of local reknown in Georgia, the 1972 chestnut Ponderosa's Bout Time (Turfwood Royal Flush X Pineland Fan), owned by Barbara Dawson of Marietta, GA. She too was originally an English Pleasure horse who in her later years made a successful switch to the sport horse world via hunter pleasure. A good sized, long striding mare, she will always be one of my favorites from past GMHC shows.

As for Morgans with Pineland breeding on the "show horse" scene, Morgana's Westwood, four time World Champion Park stallion, is the most well-known representative. Owned by Peggy and Laurie Wood of Ohio and trained and shown by Kathryn Schwartz, this very flashy chestnut stallion is out of the Devan/ Pineland cross mare What-A-Lady (Devan Debonair X Chaffin's Glory Be, by Pineland Candy King out of Pineland Charm). He is also a successful breeding stallion.

Of the stories that I received from owners of Pineland-bred Morgans, several really hit home for me because they reminded me of my experience with Fancy. Eunice Kirkman in Virginia owned the 1968 buckskin stallion Pineland Billie (Pineland Smoky Joe X Princess Gypsy), and bred several foals from him out of Pineland mares. Billie was shown as a Park horse at a time when "color wasn't cool". Eunice wrote "I loved that horse. He was one of a kind. The story is that at six months of age he was sold to someone who very badly neglected him. He had been standing in a stall that was much too small for him, had not been cleaned in months, and he had been very poorly fed and cared for. When I saw him, he was the most pitiful looking animal I have ever seen! But, HE HAD CLASS. Something no amount of neglect or mistreatment could take away from him. He was two years old when I bought him. If there is a horse heaven, then he's there. He was the most gentle, patient horse that ever lived. He seemed to know that he had found a home that would love and care for him. For several years he ran free in the pasture with his mares. You wouldn't believe some of the things he would do. If a mare was slow in obeying him, he'd find a stick, pick it up and whack her with it. Smart? Sure he was, somebody taught him that sticks were for punishment. He'd do the same thing to a person he didn't like if they came too close to him. Somewhere along the way in his first two years he'd injured his back, and always had a hump along his spine. That's why we never showed him at any of the major shows, strip time would have gotten him. He was a natural Park horse. He needed no training for the natural gait to take over, he had it! "

Pineland Jolly Boy, 1965-1991, (Pineland Smoky Joe X Princess Field), was owned by Steve Mullinax of Villa Rica, Georgia and won much in open English Pleasure competition, culminating in the AMHA National Open Competition reserve championship award in 1973. This horse was, from his pictures, quite lovely but he sadly left very few offspring. Steve had a lovely black daughter of his, Hilmeadow Jo Jo, out of Pineland Little Kate (Pineland Smoky Joe X Pineland Gypsy Queen) whom he also owned, there when I visited him in 1995. He would not part with them- I tried! What incredible movers!

Pineland Morgans have done well in endurance on a national level as well. Those belonging to the late Joe Frankum of Rockmart Georgia did much to promote the breed in this sport. The 1971 mare Pineland Miss Gypsy (Pineland Smoky Joe X Pineland Gypsy Queen) was awarded the AMHA's Bronze medallion for her accomplishments in endurance; Palisade Troupador (Jody's Ace of Spades X Pineland Miss Finale, by Jolly Roger and out of Princess Field) was bred by the Frankums and became their most successful endurance horse, winning AMHA and AERC awards year after year in the late 80's.



Above left: **PINELAND BILLIE** (Pineland Smoky Joe X Princess Gypsy), buckskin beauty- park horse! (photo courtesy of Eunice Kirkman) Center: **QUAIL MEADOW STAR** (Foothill Flashback X Foothill Jolly June) at the Greater Dayton Horse Trials in 1992. This horse had a long and distinguished career in endurance and CT. (photo courtesy of Shannon Loomis) Right: **PINELAND PAULINE** (Pineland Sir Major X Pineland Gypsy Finis), one of the last Morgans bred at Pineland, was registered chestnut but was actually a bay. (photo by Laura Behning)



*Left: **PINELAND LITTLE KATE** (Pineland Smoky Joe x Pineland Gypsy Queen), 1973 chestnut mare, with her 1983 black daughter **HILLMEADOW JO JO** (by Pineland Jolly Boy). (photo by Laura Behning)*

Pineland Miss Gypsy and her dam Pineland Gypsy Queen (Pineland Candy King X Pineland Jolly Gypsy) bring me to another topic of interest I uncovered in my research: misregistered colors. According to Debbie Kovacs, who worked at ineland as a teenager and knew the horses, Gypsy Queen, registered as bay, was in actuality a buckskin. This would seem to be true based on the fact that Gypsy Queen produced a buckskin, Pineland Dawn, by the black Pineland Sir Major (Pineland Smoky Joe X Gypsy Field- neither of which have colorfults in the immediate background). A photo of

Pineland Miss Gypsy the Frankums sent me shows her to be a golden buckskin, and there is a foal at her side, Palisade Omni, who is buttermilk buckskin! But Miss Gypsy was originally registered as chestnut, which was later changed to brown. The Frankums admit Miss Gypsy was an "odd" color and that there was much debate over what color she actually was. Miss Gypsy is the dam of Palisade Gypsy Rose (X Sugar Run Top Hat, bay), a 1991 buckskin mare who has been a great producer for Roxanne and Jean Rigg's colorful breeding program at their SFG Morgans in Commerce Township MI. (and several other breeders in recent years).

The Frankums also owned Rockwood Gypsy (Pineland Playboy, palomino X Pineland Rocky Cocoa, registered as chestnut) who was registered as a bay, but who must have been buckskin- she was the dam of Palisade Rambo, a 1985 buckskin gelding (by Sugar Run Top Hat). Ah, fun with color genetics! Ruth Malone, mentioned earlier, told me that their mare Pineland Lady B (Pineland Smoky Joe, black X Pineland Monday, palomino) foaled in 1971 was actually buckskin, not the chestnut she is registered as.

Another horse whose papers are incorrect I saw in person: Pineland Pauline, 1980, mare, (Pineland Sir Major X Pineland Gypsy Finis), owned by Ralph Driskell of Douglasville, GA. She was registered as chestnut but is actually mahogany bay. Perpetuating the mistake, she has had offspring registered as chestnut also- and there they were in the field with her, bay as can be! Pauline is a lovely mare who fox-trots or singlefoots and may have a new owner at this time. It seems there were a few other Pineland Morgans who were gaited- Jo Fender tells me her 1969 mare Pineland Blue Bell (Pineland Smoky Joe X Pineland Monday) would singlefoot. Interesting!

One of the goals for Joe's breeding program was to produce palomino Morgans, which were also registered with PHBA. Because of the misregistration of colors in just the small number of cases I studied, I think it highly possible that there were more palomino Pineland Morgans than the 17 in the registry, and definitely more buckskins than the 6 (including one dun) on the books.

Steve Mullinax told me Joe Young did not really believe in vets, but that "nature should take its course". The Pineland horses lived outside year round on the 5,000 acres of piney woods and pasture that made up the farm. They lived long and productive lives- Jolly Roger lived to age 28, and many of the Pineland horses who were sold produced well into their 20's. This continually impressed me in my research- the same mares came up as dams of foals year after year (Pineland My Gypsy had 10 foals, Pineland Gypsy Queen, 13; most mares had at least 8!)



After Joe Young's death in 1986, the house and approximately 2,000 acres passed to the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Home. They maintain a riding program for the children who live on site. The Home shelters boys who are mostly from abusive homes, and the riding program is an integral part of their therapy. Debbie Kovacs, who was a friend of the Youngs and worked there one summer halter breaking

*Left: Joe Young and **PINELAND SMOKY JOE** (Jolly Roger x Gypsy Field) in 1970.*

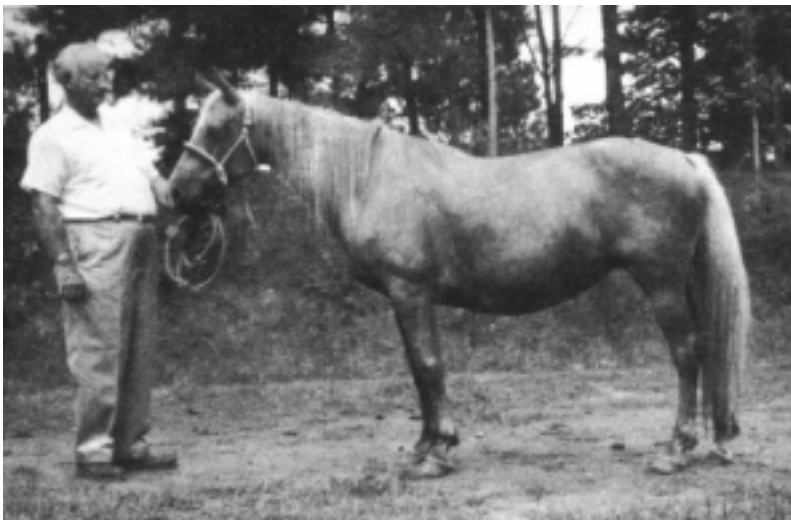
foals, had been promised the remaining Morgan stock. However, the Sheriffs Youth Home considered them part of the estate. After a lengthy legal dispute, Debbie received Pineland Sir Major and the mare Pineland Flo, who joined the gelding Pineland Don Ho whom she already owned. Debbie says there were other horses she did not get, including a young palomino stallion, but nobody seems able to discover where they went. My efforts at locating Helen Young were met with returned letters and frustration and I am not sure that she is still living; however I am told she was not much into the horses and so the answers might not be there either. If anyone has any further information I would be very interested in hearing from you!

Where did all the Pineland Morgans go? I am still left wondering. The bloodline seems to be one of the most under-utilized and little appreciated sources of type, soundness, longevity and correct movement. The number of Pineland bred horses who have excelled in the sport horse fields alone should indicate this. I was surprised not to find more of them around.

What about their descendants? Perhaps it is not too late.

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*Right: Joe Young and **PINELAND LITTLE SNOW**(Devan Hawk x Carmel Snow), 1958 palomino mare.*



*Left: Martha von Redlich on **PINELAND CARMEL CANDY** (Sun Rex Morgan x Carmel Snow), 1952 palomino mare.*



*Right: **PINELAND GYPSY FINIS** (Jolly Roger X Gypsy Field), one of the last producing mares at Pineland, at the farm in 1982. (photo courtesy of Carlton Huhn)*