

The Lippitt Club News Visits

Sandgate Morgan Horse Farm



"Since 1966"

The Sandgate Morgan Horse Farm is located in the town of Sandgate, Vermont in the south western part of the state and is owned and operated by Ed and Rita Walling. Their farm consists of 60 acres and some of the greatest variety in Lippitt Breeding to be found on any one Lippitt Breeding Farm today. To see so much Lippitt Breeding on one farm is quite a thrill for anyone who professes to be interested in the survival of the Lippitt Line. To me, Ed and Rita's herd consists of basically 3 different groups of Lippitts, with a fourth group just over the horizon.

Ed and Rita bought their foundation stock, consisting of three mares and a stud colt, from Dana W. Kelley. This foundation "group" I call his first group and included Royalton Comet (Royalton Ashbrook Darling x Royalton Edellen). Comet was small but very typey and trappy, and the few times that I saw him was a constantly moving bundle of energy. His presence is felt today in Ed's herd through the stallion Sandgate Bob Moro (Royalton Comet x Royalton Robyn), the very pretty mare, Sandgate Amanda Ash (Royalton Comet x Royalton Maria Ash), and the Comet "replica", Sandgate Damien. Damien, a young 3 year-old Comet son, is out of Sandgate Indrita, a Stillwater Indigo daughter, and is also very typey with a very cute head. Like his sire he is small but he sure does remind one of the perpetually moving bundle of energy that Comet was. Amanda Ash, the Comet daughter has a nice filly by her side by Lippitt Alert.

Included also in this first group of foundation stock were the mares Royalton Sandgate (Royalton Ashbrook Darling x Alert's Miss Muffet), Royalton Marita (Royalton Bob Woodstock x Royalton Melissa), and Royalton Robyn (Royalton Bob Woodstock x Royalton Justine Darling). With the good "old Vermont" blood behind Robyn and Marita and the truly impressive pedigree of Sandgate, Ed and Rita began their breeding program on a very firm foundation.

Ed's second group is what I would call an "Indigo" group. Ed began to breed his top mares to Lester Welch's 3-time Lippitt Champion Stillwater Indigo (Moro Hill's Adonis x Natick Moro Independence). The results are some of the best-bodied Morgan mares one could hope to find. They are Sandgate Cinderbrook (out of Royalton Sandgate), Sandgate Indrita (out of Royalton Marita), and Sandgate Sarita (out of Marita also). Were "Cindy" a brown like the other two it would be very difficult to tell these mares apart. As one could imagine, Ed and Rita were impressed with this cross and Ed went to work studying pedigrees until he had made up his mind to have another stallion within his own herd that could accomplish the same thing.

This resulted in the selection and ultimate purchase of Chet Treftc's Moro Hill's Mandarin (Moro Hill's Jeremy x Moro Hill's Michelle). The acquisition of Mandarin was a great delight for Ed and Rita, and they since have purchased a filly from the Treftc's, Moro Hill's Mini Sue (Moro Hill's Jeremy x Moro Hill's Melinda).

Ed has started using old Lippitt Alert a little more extensively now, and the results are the third group, or what I would call the "Alert" group. These offspring are all basically similar in appearance with a few minor variations. They are uniformly good-bodied with long and straight legs. The best one may be the good daughter, Sandgate Nancy Moro, out of Royalton Robyn. I would reserve judgement on that I guess as the Amanda Ash daughter, Sandgate Ellen may someday be as good or better. Lippitt Alert (Lippitt Moro Alert x Lippitt Nancy Moro) was obtained by the Wallings a few years back from Hartland Morgans, in New York state. He is a proud "old warrior" and one of the last of the stallions left from Mr Robert Lippitt Knight's breeding program. It is always a treat for me to see Alert and to see that he is playing an active role in a Lippitt Breeding program to this day. A photo I took of Alert a few years ago is one I treasure. It appears below.....



This would bring the Walling's breeding program to what I would call the fourth group or "Mandarin" group. This group is not here yet, but from what Ed says, this is his next step - to breed Mandarin to the Alert and Indigo daughters. For one so interested in the crossing of Lippitt lines, like myself, this is something I will be anxious to see.

Ed and Rita's other stallion, Sandgate Bob Moro will also be used some, but Mandarin will be the primary stud in the Sandgate Breeding program to come. Bob Moro was the favorite of the Wallings son, Ed who died suddenly last year before he had a chance to play a bigger role in their breeding operation. In my discussions with the Wallings it is evident that this untimely tragedy is still with them. Bob Moro is still with the Wallings today, as he probably always will be, but he nearly died himself, the result of a sudden and violent colic attack. Surgery in the nick of time saved his life. Ed says he will always be grateful for the quick and unhesitating action on the part of the Dave Carrs, as they transported Bob Moro in the night to New Hampshire for the necessary surgery. Ed himself was in New York when this incident took place.



MORO HILL'S MANDARIN

Mandarin charges around his paddock - once he knows the mares are watching him!



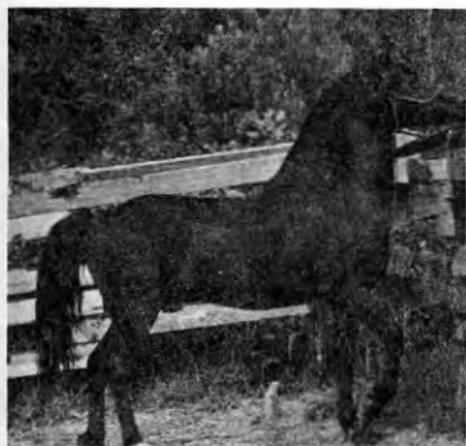
SANDGATE ELLEN raf

There were several impressions that I came away with from my visit to Ed and Rita's, but some I won't soon forget are the following: First, the compactness and countenance of Moro Hill's Mandarin. When turned loose in his paddock he charged around us, stopping just long enough to check and see if the mares were watching him. His exuberance of spirit, intelligence and pleasing temperament were impressive. I tried hard to capture some of these things in my photos.

Second, that the Lippitt Family is made up of individuals that represent more than one Lippitt line. Proof of this lies right at Sandgate Morgan Farm. The difference among the stallions, Lippitt Alert, Sandgate Bob Moro, and Moro Hill's Mandarin is at once very obvious. In the broodmare band the Alert daughters do not resemble the Indigo daughters and neither group resembles the older, foundation stock. Yet each group is serving a definite purpose, as Ed's breeding program progresses.

Third, that this is a Pure Lippitt Breeding operation that is relatively, on a very large scale. That in itself makes this program unique. One has to come away with a great deal of appreciation for all the effort and expense involved in caring for these animals, as Ed and Rita obviously do. If preserving this line is important, we all ought to be grateful for what's going on here.

I would like to thank the Wallings for having me into their home, especially when I had to change dates and times on them. They are very fine and gracious people and I would strongly suggest that anyone who wants to learn more about Lippitt Breeding put The Sandgate Morgan Horse Farm on their list of stops. You won't regret it...JLA



Mandarin checks to see if the mares are watching him



SANDGATE BOB MORO