

Morgan Horse Typically American

Government Runs Unique Breeding Farm in Vermont

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—Some time ago the world was startled to learn from Pravda, the official communist party newspaper in Moscow, that it was a Russian who discovered "wireless" (as radio was called in its youth), and as if that weren't enough, it was announced later by the same authority that the electric light, which poor Thomas Edison certainly thought he had something to do with, was likewise a Russian invention.

If I ever read, as some day I fear I shall, that ice-cream sodas and hot-dogs were first discovered on a pleasant afternoon by some mysterious Muscovite as he sat dreaming on his back steppes, I shall announce that bortsch and vodka are American products and that the Volga boatmen were simply a prodigal local of the CIO maritime union.

Meanwhile, however, I am reminded by the department of agriculture that one thing which is as American as America and which no foreigner had better try to appropriate as a home-grown product, is the Morgan horse.

Justin Morgan is immortalized in bronze and you can see him today standing on his pedestal before the main stable of the United States Morgan horse farm which covers about 1,000 acres of rolling, wooded country two miles north of Middlebury, Vt.

The original farm of 400 acres was presented to the United States department of agriculture by Joseph Battell. Colonel Battell had long been an admirer and breeder of Morgan horses, and had founded the American Morgan register. The farm was established in 1827. The area was increased by an additional gift of about 35 acres by Colonel Battell in 1908, and by purchase of about 550 acres from Middlebury College in 1917. The land, underlain with limestone, is well adapted to the production of horses.

In the selection of foundation breeding stock, and in planning subsequent matings, emphasis was placed upon size and quality, and ability to perform the three gaits, walk, trot and canter. These points



Morgan brood mares, with their foals, run in one of the pastures of the department of agriculture's U. S. Morgan horse farm near Middlebury, Vt.

continue to be emphasized. Also, every effort has been made to preserve adequate muscling and depth of body and to preserve and enhance desirable temperament.

The stocky stallion, original of the post-mortem effigy was named for its owner, a singing schoolmaster, was foaled in 1793 and died in 1821. He (I mean the stallion not the schoolmaster) had a romantic career and he is the progenitor of the breed, which as the department of agriculture says, is one of the few breeds of horses developed in the United States. Justin was a "small, active animal of great power and endurance, with the reputation of being able to outwalk, outrun, and outpull any other horse in Vermont and the neighboring states."

He had the power to transmit these qualities, says the department, to his three known sons and the United States government is doing its share to perpetuate the characteristics for which his ilk is known: — "beauty, easy keeping, soundness, endurance, and spirit coupled with gentleness."

The first time I ever went to Vermont I was attracted to these plucky little horses. Later I learned more about the Morgan horse. He weighs less than 1,000 pounds, he is not over 14 hands high, round-barrelled, with powerful chest and leg muscles, a proud head and a stout heart. He has done a lot to develop the state of Vermont and his adventures have carried him far afield. In a fictionalized but remarkably accurate story of "Justin I," Marguerite Henry tells how the boy Joel, who "gentled" Justin as a colt, later lost track of him and finally found him again and how Joel, in his cavalry uniform with a sprig of evergreen in his helmet, sat proudly on his diminutive mount when President Monroe re-

viewed the Green Mountain boys when they came back from the War of 1812.

The author has Joel say about Justin afterward: "He was just a little work horse that cleared the fields and helped Vermont grow up. Come to think of it, he's like us. He's American... that's what he is, American."

The Morgan horse helped other states and territories grow up, too, for their equine brotherhood went West with the emigrating farmers, and more than one American soldier was proudly mounted on a Morgan as he went into battle. General Custer rode off on a Morgan horse when he went out to fight the Indians, a whole regiment of cavalry had Morgan mounts in the Civil War.

Breeding Program Is Under Way

Now, "The Morgan horse breeders" Dr. McFee of the animal husbandry division of the department of agriculture told me, "have given more attention to the traits desirable in a riding horse." (Forty descendants of Justin became famous as trotters. Some of you remember such names as Ethan Allen, Black Hawk and Dan Patch.)

At the Morgan farm today usually about forty-five horses are under test.

According to the official description, the breeding program there calls for "the measurement of each youngster at one year of age, at two years, and at three years. All are trained under saddle and in harness and are put through controlled performance and endurance trials when about three years old. The data thus obtained form the permanent records of the individuals. They are used also in studies of sire and dam inheritance and as criteria for formulation of the station's breeding program. For the tests of three-year olds the department's horse specialists have devised specific trials to measure the walking and trotting gaits and the horses' endurance in harness and under the saddle."

Always versatile, the Morgan was as chippy when he went to the meeting house on Sunday pulling the surrey with the fringe on the top as it was weekdays when it could drag a log to the sawmill which often took a team of its big brothers to budge. And where buggies are still used, you'll often find a Morgan between the shafts. He is used on the trail, too, for his forte these days seems to be under the saddle.

The Morgan horses have found homes far from the shadow of their native Green Mountains and today the stock probably is increasing more rapidly in California than anywhere in the East. I regret to say that on my last trip to Vermont, this summer, though mighty Mount Mansfield looked up at the heavens with the same stern profile that it did when I first panted, pack-laden to its top, the maple-sugar tasted as good (though it cost too much), the mist still held the peak of Killington as gently as ever in its graceful fingers. But I missed the quick tattoo of those small strong hooves on the hard highways, and the silhouette of an arched neck against the sky above a mountain pasture.

I'm glad that Uncle Sam is doing his part, in the shadow of Justin's statue, to perpetuate the breed that is "just like us," as Joel said:—American.



HOW TO CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY . . . Triplets Maureen, Michael and Michele Yosco of Flushing, N. Y., got all dressed up to celebrate their first birthday. They also had three lovely cakes. Put them all together—clean clothes, gooey cake and inquisitive one-year-olds—and they spell washday for mother.

NEWS REVIEW

Rioting Flares in India; British Get Stern Rule

INDEPENDENCE: India Riots

During the two days before fateful India became a land of free men, more than 200 died in a bloody orgy of violence and rioting in the huge northern province of Punjab. Lahore, the capital, was the center of the disturbance, but fierce fighting also took place throughout the west and east Punjab countryside. Wide sections of Lahore were aflame.

This took place on the eve of India's independence day, just before the Indian constituent assembly sat down to function as a free governing body.

Cause of the rioting, incited, as always, by terrorists, was the bitter disagreement arising out of the partitioning of India into two separate zones—one for Hindus, the other for Moslems.

In New Delhi, the independence day ceremonial program began with two minutes of silence for those who died in the fight for freedom which was finally achieved through amicable negotiations with the British.

IRON HAND: Britannia Ruled

It well may be true that "Britons never, never, never shall be slaves," as the anthem has it, but in view of Prime Minister Clement Attlee's new emergency action giving the government stern powers over British industry and labor, many in the islands are now harboring serious doubts about that.

The emergency bill, which Winston Churchill charged invoked such restraints as the government has never before imposed except in time of war, has been passed by both houses of parliament and now—for better or worse—is law of the land.

Designed to bring Britain out of her deadly economic slump, the bill empowers the government to command labor and industry to do practically anything and every thing, if it is in the national interest.

Rallying cry of the British conservatives, led by Churchill, is "dictatorship."

Anthony Eden, former foreign secretary, got into the fight by asking that parliament cut short a planned vacation so the members can be on hand to examine the measures which the government will order.

"The house cannot be an absent spectator while the government does a split over the ever-widening abyss," said Eden, also a member of the Conservative party.

CO-OP INQUIRY: Two Questions

Although the public is not too well informed about it, one of the most important and fiercely waged domestic post war battles is that being fought between private business and cooperative enterprises.

Crux of the feud is the fact that cooperatives are tax-exempt, while private business is not. From this evolve two basic questions:

- 1. What effect does tax-exemption have upon growth of the cooperatives?
- 2. Is tax-exemption a factor of discrimination against private business?

A house small business subcommittee has begun an attempt to find the answers with an investigation of the cooperative community enterprise at Greenbelt, Md. In the Greenbelt case, business groups have charged that the government has aided the cooperative in keeping private business out of the development area.

This hearing, as well as others on the west coast, is being conducted by Rep. B. Walter Riehlman (Rep., N. Y.) as acting chairman of the subcommittee.

In view of the theory that taxes will remain high, compared with the past, for at least 50 years, according to economists, the tax-exemption feature of co-ops' existence will grow increasingly important.

RED SAUCERS: Soviets Curious

Those flying disks were fun while they lasted, but by this time everybody has practically forgotten them.

Well, almost everybody. Latest report having to do with the aerial chinaware is that Soviet agents in the United States have been ordered to solve the mystery of the disks. Presupposing the report to be true, it means, at least, that the saucers were not of Russian origin.

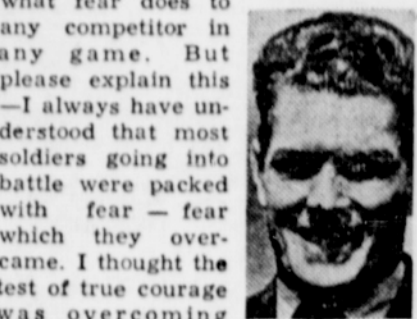
Soviet espionage agents here are said to have been advised that the Kremlin believes the flying saucers might have some connection with army experiments on methods of knocking out enemy radar.

Tourist Trade

Operating on the highly plausible theory that left-over land mines are not only unhealthy for wandering tourists but are also bad for business, the French ministry of reconstruction is working hard to clear all possible danger spots in former fighting areas around France. While the French admit that erstwhile battle zones might attract heavy tourist trade, they are not taking any chances.



"GENE TUNNEY'S interview on fear in competition is one of the most interesting articles I have read," writes H. F. L. "He told what fear does to any competitor in any game. But please explain this—I always have understood that most soldiers going into battle were packed with fear—fear which they overcame. I thought the test of true courage was overcoming fear. It is my opinion that most brave men are afraid, facing death or defeat, but they rise above this fear."



Gene Tunney

This happens to be, by all odds, the most interesting angle in sport. Certainly, the brave can be afraid and the dumb, minus any imagination, can remain unafraid.

A complete absence of fear is one of the rarest of all qualities. We have known only three men so blessed—Theodore Roosevelt Jr., Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker and Col. Wild Bill Donovan.

There must have been many others. We are speaking only of the three that we have seen tested, where death was a completely unimportant matter—where life was even more unimportant—compared to the job they had to do. They also had imagination.

But in the matter of fear and courage, there is no possible way to compare sport with war. In this respect, they belong in two different worlds. A brave soldier might curl up in some competition in sport. A strong sporting competitor might not be so hot in war action.

Two Different Games

Sometime back I was talking with a famous boxer. He was an army instructor. "I can't figure it all out," he told me. "When I tap a few of these soldiers in the nose they want to quit. But next day they'll go over the top or lead a charge. I don't mind being hit in the nose or knocked down. At least I don't fear it. But I don't believe I'd lead any charge against machine guns, without ducking into the first foxhole I saw. I guess it's two different games—two different angles."

Here he called the turn—two different games and two different angles that are far apart.

Back around 1911 I saw Christy Mathewson cut the corner of the plate against Home Run Baker for the third strike and the game. Only the umpire called it a ball which later led to Baker's home run. "I cut two inches over the plate," Matty told me later. He had the courage to do this in a world series.

A few days later in a golf match Mathewson and I played with Mike Donlin and Fred Merkle. Matty missed a putt by three inches. His hands were shaking.

Here is the answer. Baseball was Matty's game. He had the skill and confidence to meet any situation in baseball. Golf wasn't his game.

On a general average, I would say that the basic quality of fear and courage in sport must include three factors—skill, experience and condition—which lead to confidence. The confident competitor, who is in shape, who is experienced, who has his share of skill, usually comes through.

Few Are Quitters

There are not many quitters in sport. Quitters don't like hard competition and the grind needed to get them up around the top. This applies especially to football and boxing, the body contact games.

Among the most fearless of the greatest competitors I have seen in sport are: Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Hans Wagner, Old Pete Alexander, Walter Johnson, Bobby Jones, Walter Hagen, Gene Sarazen, Harry Greb, Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, Tommy Hitchcock, Dev Milburn and too many football players to even start a count.

Tunney's idea or angle was this: "Get ready with the best you have to give. Condition is terribly important, although there are notable exceptions. You can throw these out against the thousands who need condition. There are always exceptions that prove no rule.

"But once the game is on, whatever it is, fear of defeat and worry about the result must be eliminated. For fear of what might happen will upset your brain, freeze your nerves and, in turn, wreck any chance for coordination between mind and muscle."

Desperation often gets credit for courage. So does raw luck.

All you can figure on is the general average. In 80 per cent of this division you will find those who worked to develop their skill, who kept in condition, who had the confidence needed to face the problem or tackle the handicap. This doesn't include everyone. It merely takes in the majority, including those mentioned above.

No race or nation has any copyright on courage. But those equipped with what it takes to win usually get the call.

Beauty and Health By Simple Exercise



ARE large matronly hips keeping you from enjoying slacks and other sportswear? Why put up with them any longer? You can literally melt away that flabby flesh through exercise.

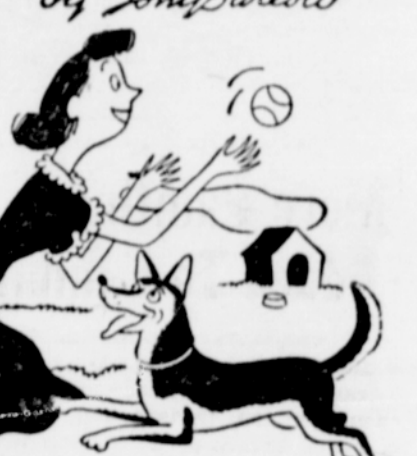
Here's one that helps: Sit on the floor, legs straight, hands on floor behind hips. 1. Pull knees up to chest, raising feet a few inches from floor. 2. Swing knees from side to side, first touching floor on left side, then left. Sixteen times altogether.

Alaskan Indians Honored Lincoln on Totem Pole

Probably the only white man to have his figure carved on a totem pole was Abraham Lincoln, says Collier's. In 1867, the Tlingit Indians of Alaska learned that the United States, to which their country had just been sold, had abolished slavery and, therefore, it was illegal among them. To honor the man responsible for their freedom, the ex-slaves and their descendants for more than 50 years placed a huge carved statue of Lincoln atop their totem poles.

Of the many made, only three have been preserved, one each in Juneau and Saxman, Alaska, and one in the Illinois State museum in Springfield.

Dogs I've Known...



Frolicky Fritz Eats well, acts well, is well—on a basic diet of Gro-Pup Ribbons. These crisp, toasted ribbons give him every vitamin and mineral dogs are known to need. Economical, too. One box supplies as much food by dry weight as five 1-lb. cans of dog food! Gro-Pup also comes in Meal and in Pel-Etts. For variety, feed all three!

