



Ken Pedlar – Hall Of Fame Honouree

I am fairly certain I was in my teens when Ken Pedlar joined the OMHC, he saw our booth at the Royal Winter Fair and became a member! He owned the mare Burnt Mtn Bridget, his first Morgan I believe and she was a fabulous driving horse. I'm sure it was this mare that got Ken hooked on Morgans as driving horses! But Ken's horses had to be all round family horses too and as he got more involved with the breed, he joined the OMHC board when my father Gord Joyce was president.

These were the days before the internet, even fax machines. The OMHC held regular board and general meetings and because Ken lived in the Kingston area, it was a challenge for him to get to them. But he made it work; he was usually in Toronto for business once or twice a month, and Dad would arrange their meetings around Ken's busy schedule so he could attend. A lot of those meetings were held at the office of the Ontario Equestrian (formerly OEF) so it was a bit of drive for everyone coming in the

country! But they were a dedicated bunch.

Ken's daughter Karen was also very involved helping out Dad with the horses and for many years, Ken and his family came to the shows especially the Classic and helped develop the Carriage Driving division where his horses won many high points. He also would host a short Non Denomination Church service on Sunday morning for those who wished to spend a few minutes in prayer.

Ken and his family also bred some nice horses over the years; they bred for their own purpose and were not in the business of marketing their horses. They only sold a very few and they went to homes he trusted and knew would be suitable with a right of first refusal on any resale.

Ken currently owns 3 Morgans; **Justice Sergeant Major, Justice Blood and Fire and Northline Corsair.**

Ken is still riding Sergeant Major with one of my granddaughters weekly. He considers it a blessing to spend time with his 13 year old granddaughter, enjoying the outdoors on the trail.

His favourite driving horse is **Northline Corsair**. He is a beauty, sired by Northline Rainbird.

The Morgans the family is famous for showing the most often are Justice Sally Ann, Justice Billy Booth and Justice Lieutenant Colonel, have all passed on in recent years. We have many very fond memories of all of them and our OMHC friends. Ken was very successful competing at Walnut Hill too, the height of success in the carriage world!

Ken and his family are well, Ken is nearing retirement (he is well passed 65....) and currently chairs the Board of a National charity and is involved with several local nonprofits and very is busy with their church. He also traveled to South America with an International Human Rights organization as well.

Ken is certainly keeping busy; his children and grandchildren are active within the horse industry to some degree. The Pedlar Family truly are a wonderful example of how a family who keeps busy with horses stays together!

Submitted by Nancy Kavanagh

Justice Lieutenant Colonel – Hall Of Fame Honouree

April 26, 1996 – November 8, 2013



Justice Lieutenant Colonel was born on April 26, 1996, as a beautiful dark chestnut colt who grew to be 15 hands and was gelded at two years of age. The Colonel was born at our farm, named after my father, who was a lieutenant colonel in the Salvation Army. Colonel was sired by the wonderful multi-award winning Morgan stallion Adancas Balios and out of the irrepressible “little Morgan mare that could” Burnt Mtn Bridget. Thanks to Bruce and Alice Murray for selling us Bridget, who also gave us Justice Sally Ann, and to Tim and Wendy Inch for allowing us to breed Bridget to Balios. Sadly, Colonel died from a sudden bout of colic on November 8, 2013, at age 17.

The Colonel was a “once in a lifetime” show horse for us. He found his place in Carriage Driving. Along with many wins and excellent placings, he was High Point Carriage Driving Champion at the OMHC Championship Classic five times, as well as the Gaits of Caledon show, where the carriage classes were large and open to all breeds. He also won 12, (three in August of 2013), of the highly sought-after pewter plates and four Reserve Champion High Point awards at the prestigious Walnut Hill Driving Competition, again open to all breeds. The significance of those accomplishments at Walnut Hill is probably only fully understood by those who have competed there, where any placing is often difficult to achieve. We are strictly “back yarders” who dust off the horses each spring and compete in only one or two shows each season. The Colonel took us places we really did not expect to go.

One year at Walnut Hill, we entered the “Pick your own route” cones class on Saturday afternoon. Usually, the top placings in those classes are within a second or two or often a fraction of a second. That day he won by more than six seconds. There was a brief delay in announcing his time, as they needed to confirm we had gone through all the cones on the course. The ring crew were very taken by his performance and spoke to me about it the next day, stating it was unprecedented for them.

The world of Carriage Driving opened up new opportunities for us to compete against all breeds. It is also a great opportunity to promote the Morgan breed, when you are going head to head against other wonderful breeds like Friesians, Dutch Harness Horses, Saddlebreds, Arabians, Haflingers, Canadians, Cobs, etc. and a variety of crossbreds, such as Welsh/Standardbred, Arab/Saddlebred, and even heavy horses crossed to lighter breeds. The late Jack Reeves said to me years ago, “If you want to know what kind of a Morgan you have, compete in a Morgan show. If you want to know what kind of a horse you have, compete against other breeds.”

The other aspect of true Carriage Driving shows that really appealed to me was the wonderful obstacle classes, both cones and cross country. Cross country is the most fun, with water hazards, covered bridges, trail through

the woods, etc. Obviously, those types of facilities are not available at breed shows and the cones classes are often much more restricted, due to the limited size of the show rings, compared to a true Carriage Driving ring. We were first introduced to those classes at the Canadian Carriage Driving Classic, with Justice Sally Ann, and immediately knew this was what appealed to me, much more than the show ring. I like not only the fun and excitement, but the much more objective standard of speed and accuracy, rather than the subjective nature of a judge's opinion regarding headsets and turnouts that go with some other ring classes. With both Sally and Colonel, we were blessed with great boldness and speed, which suited me just fine.

Much more than showing, however, I have always enjoyed driving on the quiet roads near our farm, or out through the back of our property, up and down hills, along and through stretches of woods. The weather in the fall is spectacular and the Colonel and I greeted the sunrise many mornings as it hit the beautiful fall colours, contrasted with the lush green fields, often gently covered with a morning mist. I will never forget those times we shared together. It is not like losing a person who is a family member, but it is still a significant loss, perhaps only fully understood by those who have gone through something similar. It has always been the relationship with the animal that has kept me in horses for the past 42 years.

One of the challenges with showing Colonel at Carriage Driving shows was the time spent harnessed and waiting to go on a cross-country course or into the ring for an obstacle class, driving the cones. He would not be happy standing in the shade with the other horses even under extremely hot and humid conditions. He eventually got over that habit and was able to stand quietly but there were several years when we are the only ones moving around out in the hot sun while others stood in the shade wondering what we were doing.

One of Colonel's quirks was that he was camera shy. At least that is what I told people to try and explain why he seemed offended to stand quietly to get his picture taken when having a ribbon and/or a trophy presented. At Walnut Hill, they soon knew to keep their distance because it was safer that way. We have one picture of him with only one foot on the planet in the ring at Walnut Hill while they are trying to present him with a pewter plate for winning a class. It is a little disconcerting when you are sitting in a carriage or cart behind him at those moments. Eventually, he did accept his awards more graciously and also learned to stand quietly in the shade with the others. On Sunday mornings at Walnut Hill, there is a pleasure drive that takes all the vehicles to a state park through various public roads and people come out on the lawn and have breakfast and wave and it is a very pleasant experience. We had some difficulty with Colonel on one occasion when he refused to stand while waiting for approximately 45 minutes in a field at the park for all the horses to arrive so that we could start our way home because we are usually in the first three or four groups to be sent out and there are around 60 or 70 vehicles at least that go out on these drives. The drivers are served juice and cheese and crackers, etc., and, again, it is a very sociable time, if your horse decides to wait patiently for their turn to head back to the show grounds.

It is essential to participate in that drive when you win a championship or the championship is forfeited. The last year that I took Colonel on that drive, he stood quietly for 45 minutes in line with other horses. At the end of the drive, a horse-drawn artillery unit, reportedly the only one in North America, which had been at the show doing demonstrations, came by with their steel-wheeled vehicle on which was mounted a canon, and which was pulled by four horses. It passed within 20 metres of where we were standing. They were driving on a hard top surface and made quite a racket. Colonel stood quietly and did not move a leg. I enjoyed that drive more than any other part of the show even though he had won several awards and a reserve high point championship during the week.

One of my friends, who has since passed away, had a "bucket list" which included driving a horse. He and his wife came over and he drove the Colonel down our road pulling a lovely oak wagonette. One of our sons took a picture of that occasion. When I visited the funeral home following my friend's death, a framed 8 X 10 copy of that picture

was on prominent display. He was a bit nervous when I handed him the reins as we drove down the road in front of our farm. I told him not to worry, Colonel would take care of him, and he did.

The Colonel is buried on our farm, next to Justice Sally Ann, on a hill in the pasture close to their favourite apple tree. It is the highest point of land, just 200 metres from the barn. Sometimes I inadvertently call his name when I am calling to the other horses to come to the barn.

After the Colonel passed away, Tim and Wendy Inch sent me a lovely piece of flat stone with a plaque with his name on it and the years he was born and died. The inscription read, "Too Admired to ever be Forgotten". Those words pretty well say it all for me. Submitted by Ken Pedlar

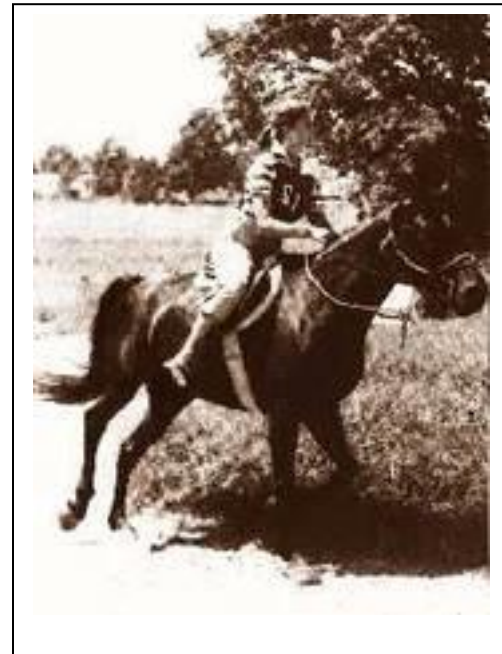
Trija's Whipopper – Hall Of Fame Honouree

March 26, 1971 – March 26, 2006 CMHA # 1747

Very few of my Morgans were Canadian Bred as there were very few Morgans in Canada in my time. Pill Peddler's Henry was a good horse and a decent Morgan with versatility. He was shown successfully in English, Jumping, Games, Foxhunting and Long Distance Riding.

But..... If I was to choose one of my Morgans that deserve to be in the Hall of Fame, it would be Trija's Whipopper. He was not a show horse, Popper excelled at Long Distance Riding having done about twenty 100 mile rides in his career, many of those North American Championships and one Worlds, FEI of course. I have 5 international 100's listed in his Passport ridden by four different people, once to Spain but usually to the Canadian team. I have some great stories about people riding Popper.

Popper's skills are not the usual Morgan Club material. I did try to show him once at Markham Fairgrounds, Morgan Show in the geldings in Hand... Poor Popper freaked out with all those whips around him. And I was a bit embarrassed as I didn't realize how showing had changed. He won the hunter class but the jumps were very low. No he was not a "show" horse!



Popper was awarded both the Stall of Fame and Honour Roll Horse in OCTRA— from the OCTRA 50 Book. Trija's Whipopper was purchased as a five year old Morgan after completing and winning the Junior Division of the Vermont three day 100. He continued his varied career competing in all types of long distance riding as a very sound and steady mount. Popper returned to Vermont at 19 to complete the one day 100 mile ride with the photographer, Wendy Webb as rider and finish 7th in a field of 33.

Popper was ridden by Peter Jennings in an early 100 at Earle Baxter's near Waterloo Ontario, that has a good story behind it. Mike Cottenden had his beginnings on Popper and of course Nancy (myself) had some great adventures as did daughter Natalie Beacon (now Powers). The 1987 North American Championships Popper was again Peter Jennings mount on the very tough Old Dominion trails in the mountains of Virginia. Canada won a Bronze Medal. The next year on the same tough course Popper took Spain to its first finishing for a team from Spain. (Another good story). He was also a great Ride & Tie horse. Popper would get to know the sport he was in. When the rider would tie him to a tree and dismount and run away. Popper would turn his head and look for his next rider. When spotted the

damn horse would whinney at the incoming runner. "I'm coming Popper " making the exhausted runner put on speed.

This horse was on many a runner's top Ride & Tie team thru the years. In 1985 Trija's Whipperpopper won the Top overall horse in OCTRA. That meant he had top points in Competitive Trail Riding, Endurance and Ride & Tie.

I guess you could say that I am nominating Trija's Whipperpopper to the Morgan Hall of Fame and I'll forward some of these stories that are fun to read.

Thanks Nancy Beacon and Heather Starck for the nomination of Popper!

(check out <https://sporthorse-data.com/pedigree/trijas-whipperpopper> to learn more about Popper)