



George Schott
& Rick Lane

≈ BREEDER Q & A ≈

EVOLUTION IN MAINE

“To breed top quality show horses that represent the Morgan breed in the best way possible.”

That, states Lewiston, Maine businessman George Schott, was the simple goal behind partnering up in 1997 with Cabot’s Rick Lane to manage a course for the Maine Event Morgans breeding program.

A look at show results or at the list of entries in most any show program from New England to Oklahoma will attest to the success of the prefix. The joint efforts of the two men has been nothing short of a landslide in the Morgan show ring, across all the divisions from the saddle seat and fine harness classes, to the hunter, Western Pleasure, and even the road horse divisions.

George is proud of “the amount of horses in the performance ring that are performing up to expectations and are winning.

“The fact we have many horses I consider great now in the third generation is also very encouraging. MEM Sambuca and MEM Chill Factor’s foals are very nice,” George adds.

At the beginning of the MEM story George acquired a large and significant herd of Morgan breeding horses. In addition, there are now 148 animals registered with the MEM prefix. We asked George if he had any favorites, if there were any animals in the inventory that he was just amazed to be associated with. He said he thought of these as two groups: horses he owned, but that other people bred; and horses he both owned and bred. Of the first group he listed the honor of owning the broodmares AFF Beulah and Miss Bluegrass and the stallions Cedar CreekHarlequin, Nobility and Liberation First Star. Of the latter category, those he both bred and owned, he quickly sited MEM Sambuca (MEM Bailamos x Cabot Joie De Vivre), MEM Chill Factor (Serenity Masterpiece x Cabot

Joie De Vivre), MEM Shock & Awe (Serenity Masterpiece x AFF Evening Episode) and MEM Xanadu (Nobility x Miss Bluegrass). “You won’t know her, she’s a character,” he says of Xanadu. “She thinks she’s something else. She is our barn pet.”

By Stephen Kinney

Later he asks to come back to this group. He is reminded that MEM Bailamos (Futurity French Command x AFF Beulah) is a sentimental favorite of both his and of Rick Lane’s. “He was a hard one to sell,” George relates, “but he needed to go into the hunter division and so life moves on. We’re very proud of what the Naus and the Sogoloffs have achieved with Bailamos.”

“I’ve enjoyed them all,” George enthuses, adding, “I really enjoy foals being born. I love being there when my mares give birth.”

“I was very lucky to run into Rick when I did,” George observes. “With his help I got to a place in my breeding program I would not have been so quickly. His help got me there ten times faster.”

He continues, “Rick’s knowledge of the breed got me availability of horses that might not have been available without his connections. His knowledge of crossing bloodlines is beyond belief. He knows what works.”

George says he’s humbled and proud to “have been part of what has been going on in the breed in the past decade.”

With the recent sale of Rick Lane’s large farm in Falmouth, Maine, things will downsize somewhat for both Cabot and Maine Event. Georges assures us MEM will continue to “breed Morgans on a lower level and concentrate on crosses that we know are working.”

To give us details on MEM/Cabot then and now, Rick Lane sat down for an interview over lunch just days before this issue went to press. His candid, off the cuff answers to our questions follow:

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(Photos © Avis Girdler & Bob Moseder)

THE STALLIONS

(Clockwise from top left) *Futurity French Command*; *Cedar CreekHarlequin*; *Nobility: Liberation First Star*



With the sale of the farm and the state of the economy, what is the future of Morgan breeding at MEM and Cabot?

Rick: It's going to be scaled to a personal level that works for George and me. When George first started breeding horses we had a plan to have a ten-year span where we really bred. Which we did. George wanted to breed quite

a bit to get himself established, then he was going to rein back a little bit. The sale of my farm wasn't a planned thing, it just kind of happened. So we will continue. It won't be as large.

Do you expect to stand stallions again? Do you ever expect to return to a major stallion station similar to what you did in the 1990s with French, Harlequin, First Star, and others?

Rick: No.

With the sale of the farm, if we stand horses, they probably will stand elsewhere.

Is there a reason for that?

Rick: Staffing and a facility.

When you were doing it at the level you were doing, it must have meant you ceased to do a lot of the things horsemen like to do.

Rick: Standing stallions and training horses are two totally different things. For many years the stallions took center stage. When the stallions got popular the training took a back seat. A number of people were hired in both areas and it became less about the "one on one" contact with the horse and more about managing staff.

Talking about that group of stallions must evoke some strong emotions. What do you consider the contributions of *Futurity French Command* (Carlyle Command x Nobelle) to the breed?

Rick: Amateur horses and sons and daughters that are producing.

***Cedar CreekHarlequin* (I Will Command x Serenity Anna Rose)?**

Rick: For me, he gave the stretch I was looking for. I know that's not a popular word with everyone. But if it wasn't for Harlequin we wouldn't have the length of necks on our horses. He gave stretch and French gave such quality and trainability.

DOSSIER: Cabot/MEM

MEM-BRED HORSES: 148

NUMBER OF MEM-PREFIXED WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: 22

FIRST BRED: Maine Event Lacy (Rapidan Fury X Ro Pa's Tara)
1984 bay mare

STALLIONS OF MEM (NUMBER OF GET):

Nobility (250)	MEM Blue Chip (7)
Cedar CreekHarlequin (189)	MEM Chill Factor (6)
Liberation First Star (107)	MEM Bailamos (23)
MEM Thriller (2)	MEM Turn Up The Heat (8)
MEM Sambuca (4)	

MARES OF MEM (NUMBER OF PRODUCE):

Miss Bluegrass (17)	Cabot Joie De Vivre (18)
Carlyle Ten (8)	Star Lake Ellisa (23)
AFF Evening Episode (14)	Saralin's Markette (9)
AFF Beulah (20)	Liberation Starbrite (13)
JW French Miss (7)	LCS Pepperpot (5)

SIGNIFICANT SHOW HORSES OF MEM:

MEM No Inhabitions, MEM So Emotional, MEM Just My Style, Think About It MEM, Can't You See MEM, MEM La Vida Loca, On A Mission MEM, MEM Bailamos, MEM Heart And Soul, Matrix, Apostrophe, Total Request, MEM Say My Name, MEM Scan-Dal-Less, MEM Twisted Sister, MEM Erotica, MEM Playboy, MEM The Patriot, MEM Taser, MEM Shock & Awe, MEM Sambuca, MEM Chill Factor, MEM Just Alike, MEM Bonnie Blue, MEM Tough Enough, MEM Triple Sec, Lateda, MEM Mr Boston, MEM Have You Ever, MEM Gentleman Jack, MEM Premonition, MEM Once Again, MEM Virtual Insanity

NUMBER OF CABOT-BRED MORGANS: 43

NUMBER OF CABOT-PREFIXED WORLD CHAMPIONS: 20

STALLIONS OF CABOT:

Futurity French Command (271)
Cedar CreekHarlequin (189)

MARES OF CABOT:

LCS Pepperpot (5)	Graywood's Gweniver (5)
Forty Carats (8)	KJM French Confession (3)
Cabot French Pristina (4)	Bery Banke La De Da (11)
Carlyle Day Dream (9)	

SIGNIFICANT SHOW HORSES OF CABOT:

Cabot French Lieutenant, Cabot French Cuffs, Cabot French Elaina, Cabot Custom Order, Cabot Betty White, Cabot Carte Blanche, Cabot French Pepper, Cabot Femme Fatale, Cabot Manifest Destiny, Cabot First Things First, Cabot First Confession

Liberation First Star (Century Free Spirit x Liberation Starbrite)?

Rick: I think he gives a lot of the frame I was looking for. He gave more motion. His mother (Liberation Starbrite) was the reason he was so important to me. The shape of her neck, her heart and energy is what I was looking for in our breeding program.



Nobility (Noble Command x Lost River Sanfield)?

Rick: Nobility was really added when we already had a number of stallions. We bought him for his blood, for his motion and his go. I had trainability and I wanted to add more heart. When we were looking for heart, we went to Judy's breeding program. He was out in the middle of things at Oklahoma year after year and always digging in. Just like Judy (Whitney Harris) did as an individual—and Judy has had a big effect on me as a breeder.

Were any of these stallions specifically sires of stallions? Of broodmares? Of show horses? Most breeding stallions seem to hit in one area rather than in all three. Or would you not agree with that observation?

Rick: I believe a truly great breeding horse with a strong family of breeding horses has the ability to do all three. French, Harlequin and First Star all have sons and daughters who are producing in the breeding shed and are show horses.

You've purchased and resold some of the most expensive stallions in the history of the Morgan breed. Were they good investments for owners? Did top breeding stallions make money over the course of the last two decades?

Rick: Sometimes in the horse business, rather than saying making money, I call it turning money (*laughter*). We made money with the stallions. Some of them, to complete the cycle of making money, were sold. The last two decades were a different time.

You grew up as a rider and trainer. Who mentored you to become a breeder?

Rick: My first job was at Rum Brook, so I would say Meg Preston was the start. I was working with Judy Nason, as an assistant, and got to show some of the Rum Brook show horses. I remember when I started working for Meg, just going out to the broodmare field, and thinking she had such nice mares. When I went out on my own, Maxine Snow became a big influence. Those two women were probably my start, and then Marti (Morse) came along.

Then with French, it catapulted. Those three women and French were my mentors.

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THE MARES

(Clockwise from top left) *AFF Evening Episode; Forty Carats; AFF Beulah; Star Lake Ellisa; Miss Bluegrass* (Photos © Howard Schatzberg, Stan Phaneuf, Bob Moseder & Shane Shiflet)



What breeding accomplishments are you most proud of?

Rick: In the last couple years we had a horse in the barn that did not have an MEM prefix and we had an owner come along and ask if they bought that horse, could it have an MEM prefix. This question made me realize we had created a brand.

You are known as being quiet and modest, but we'd like to ask you, could you make an assessment of Rick Lane's contribution to the Morgan breed and/or business.

Rick: Horses drive the breed, but the people are what drive the business. I think my connection with different individuals and what they ended up doing is probably my contribution to the business. Marti Morse, George Schott, Mary Gaziano, Robin and Robert Veghte. I recently took a trip to Vermont and it started at the Museum opening, staying at Mendonhall, visiting Mary Gaziano (Golek). I really realized in that trip that my connection with people and their contributions to the breed is really what has driven my experience in the business.

Do you have a breeding philosophy or some rules of engagement that have guided you through the years of crossing these stallions and these mares.

Rick: I think it's personal preference. I try to breed a certain length and a frame to a horse. I like trainability, and that has shown up in the amateur horses. As I said, through some of the horses that came from Judy Whitney's, we looked for the personality and the heart she bred; I think you have to breed horses you like. You've got to use families that you really respect. You have to know these horses as individuals and as families. And then you have to follow your heart.

The breeding program has produced many titled show horses. Among them have been some very special hunters (MEM Bailamos, MEM Triple Sec [MEM Bailamos x Star Lake Ellisa], MEM Once Again, Apostrophe [both by Futurity French Command and out of AFF Beulah], etc). How do you feel about the hunters from the program?

Rick: I feel like if they were shorter necked they'd still be in our

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field. We got the necks long. The ones that didn't go up, have gone to the top of the hunter class. If it wasn't for the Harlequin influence in the length of neck, they wouldn't be winning. Part of the whole horse business is surviving. I've talked to other horse trainers who complain about all the hunters, and my response is, "Do you know how much money I've sold some of those hunters for?" I just sold a prospect for more money than some of my finished

horses. Bailamos, when we sold him, had never worn hunt tack and he sold for good money. I'm not saying always more money, but we're back to that proposition of turning a little money. The hunters, people will pay for them.

I'm really happy when I go to shows and I see the horses we have bred have gone to the top in these very large and competitive classes. To think that most of the horses we've bred have been useable

horses. It takes a pretty special horse to stand out in those classes. As long as it's a nice horse, I am pleased.

So I'm happy that we now have people who call us for hunters.

And we always have some available (*laughter*).

I'd like to play word association. I'll name some broodmares and you give me your reaction to what they mean to your program or to the breed?:

AFF Evening Episode (Cedar Creek-Harlequin x Amanda Lil Rogers):

Rick: Evening Episode means to me Libby McLemore and her family's Apple Flat Farm from which we acquired many of our top horses. I believe Evening Episode was the pinnacle of the Apple Flat Farm breeding program. She has now given us MEM Shock & Awe who represents the best of the MEM breeding program.

AFF Beulah (Cedar CreekHarlequin x MKS Destiny's Echo):

Rick: She's daughter of MKS Destiny's Echo. That's why we bought her and that's why she's been so great.

Forty Carats (Shaker's Destry x Bery B Fancy):

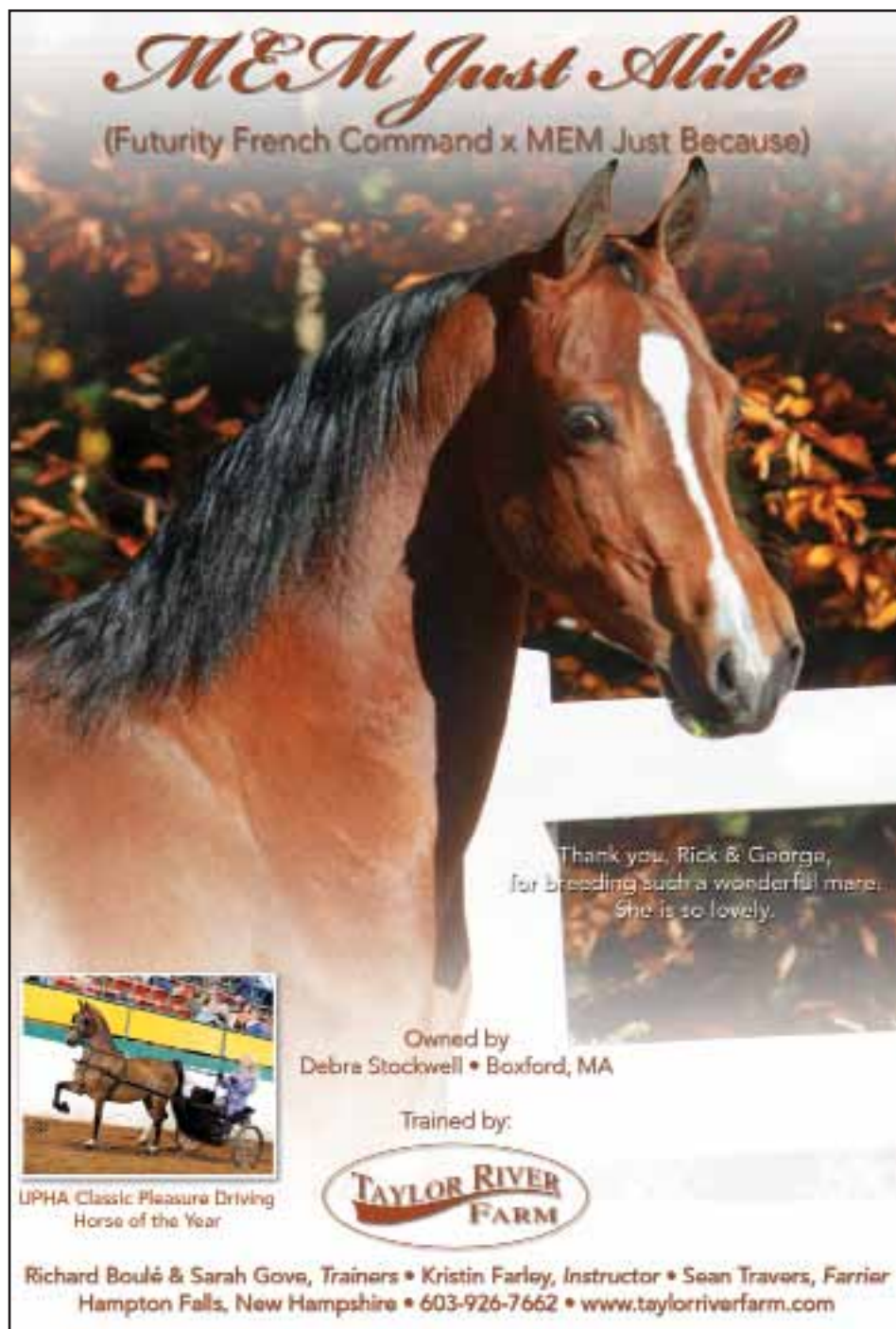
Rick: She's always been my favorite horse and the one I'd never put a price on. She's the closest thing I've had to a pet and she's still in my barn in her 30s. She was also a great producer.

Liberation Starbrite (Wham Bam Command x Austin Flying Cloud):

Rick: The best. When Marti and I added her to the program it was in our minds for her to be the dam of a colt by Futurity French Command. That happened, for Tony Lee in Astronomicallee! (*laughter*). When Robin won the Ladies Park Harness World Championship in 2000 it was the most fun I've ever had putting a show horse in the ring.

Cabot Joie de Vivre (Futurity French Command x Forty Carats):

Rick: The living connection between Marti



MEM Just Alike
(Futurity French Command x MEM Just Because)

Thank you, Rick & George,
for breeding such a wonderful mare.
She is so lovely.

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Debra Stockwell • Boxford, MA

Trained by:

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THE NEXT GENERATION

(Top row) MEM Forever Yours and MEM Shock & Awe. (Bottom row) Cabot Lynn Marie (Liberation First Star x Cabot French Pristina) and MEM Mojito (MEM Sambuca x AFF Evening Episode) are representative of the youngest generation of breeding from these programs.

Morse and George Schott, and the one Forty Carats daughter that we have retained.

Star Lake Ellisa (Carlyle Command x Suzy's Suzette):

Rick: She puts the 'go' in her foals.

Miss Bluegrass (Bourbon Street x Promise Of The Pine):

Rick: When I called to purchase Miss Bluegrass, Judy Whitney said, "Rick, I can't sell her, she is not for sale." I made an offer. Judy said, "I'll get right back to you honey." Needless to say we own her. She has been a blue hen mare with typical Judy Whitney go!

Suzy Suzette (Chasley Superman x Pinehaven Suzy-Que):

Rick: She gave us Star Lake Ellisa.

LCS Peppercorn (Tedwin Topic x Rose Down Peppermint):

Rick: Her contribution was Cabot French Pepper, one of the first really good ones.

JW French Miss (Futurity French Command x JW Miracle Miss):

Rick: Another one of our Judy Whitney mares with lots of go. When bred to Harlequin the "go" prevailed producing the World Champion Roadster To Bike MEM No Inhabitions.

As you look at the next generation, what stallions will you use to breed lovely show mares like MEM Shock & Awe or MEM Forever Yours (Liberation First Star x AFF Beulah).

Rick: My choice would be Dragonsmeade Icon, a great individual with an intense pedigree of breeding horses to back him up.

It's good to see you back in the ring with a larger string again. How's that feeling for you?

Rick: With just 16 horses to work, my day now has a beginning and an end. That is the gift I gave myself when I returned to training and with the sale of the farm. There is now time to do everything that needs to get done and to enjoy what I am doing. I began training a few horses. It almost feels like I am coming back full circle. ■