

Jubilee Hall Of Fame Inducts Doug and Marti Wernick ~ Hi Mist Fair Warning



Friends and family joined in the celebration as Doug and Marti Wernick were inducted into the Jubilee Hall of Fame along with their prized gelding Hi Mist Fair Warning. (photo by Howard Schatzberg)

SPRINGFIELD, IL - The Jubilee Hall Of Fame welcomed its newest inductees on Saturday, September 3 at the Jubilee Regional Horse Show. The Jubilee audience welcomed back Doug and Marti Wernick as they were honored along with their grand gelding Hi Mist Fair Warning. Master of ceremonies Peter Fenton read the following, while Jubilee president Betsy Bishop and a host of family and friends joined the Wernicks.

In the late 1950's, Doug and Marti met at the Latigo and Lariat Saddle Club that Marti and her sister started in the suburbs of Chicago. Shirley Orlando joined the saddle club with her Morgan Willowaw, which was the first Morgan that Doug and Marti met.

In the early 1960's, Doug and Marti went to work for Mrs. N. W. Harris of Little Kemah Arabians. Due to an illness, Mrs. Harris leased the facilities to Doug and Marti in the early 1970's. At this time Doug and Marti took on their first Morgan training horse - Prince Valiant. They liked working with him so well that they bought Funquest Ben Star as their first Morgan horse for their children Dave, Mary and Denise. Several more Morgans filtered in for training at Little Kemah from Vernie and Phyllis Alberts of Hi-Mist Morgans, Ann Kent of Kentview Morgans, Mary Ellen Sloan, Brendan Heintz and Dan and Milly Morgan of Morganhill Farm.

One of the most important additions to the stables was the stallion Cajun Pepper owned by Thalia Rinedollar. Cajun Pepper was sired by Brown Pepper and was a major bloodline in

several Midwest barns. Thalia was so pleased with how Doug handled Cajun Pepper that she gave him half ownership in the stallion.

In 1979 they made a decision to move to Dennis and Judie Fancsali's Bellmara Stables. Most of their clients moved with them along with Cajun Pepper. Doug and Marti were instrumental in growing Bellmara Stables into a prominent Midwest Morgan breeding and training stable that bred and foaled many Cajun Pepper horses and routinely took 10-20 horses to many horse shows including the Jubilee.

While at Bellmara, Doug and Marti mentored the Fancsali children Jeff, Beth, Cheri and Greg. Jeff with his wife Anita own Wingait Farms. Beth became a world class equitation and amateur rider. Cheri was an equitation rider and rides the trails. Greg is showing in the pleasure division and competing with mini-horses.

In addition to the Little Kemah clients, other prominent clients who joined Ballmara include Jeannie Kent, Terry and Cheryl Mc Call of Wood-N-Brook Farm and Byron and Joanne Holsten of Fox Hollow Farm.

Some of the horses in attendance at Bellmara were World Champion Maple Ridge Sonatina, Cedarcrest Gem, Morganhill Starborn, Top Talents Estaban, Top T Illini Leader and several Hi-Mist horses including Hi Mist Fair Warning. Dubbed "the shoemaker's kid" by Tim Doll of Saddle Horse Report, Hi Mist Fair Warning made his debut in the show ring at the age of 5. His owner Doug Wernick had let him run in the

pastures of Vern Albert's Hi-Mist Morgan Farm because he had not had time to work with him - the customer's horses always came first. In the fall of "F.W.'s" four-year-old year, it was decided to do "something" with the horse to make him saleable. As his training progressed, Doug realized he had something very special on his hands.

In 1983, "F.W." finished his first show season as the Reserve Grand National Champion Park Saddle Gelding and was also Reserve Grand National Champion in Park Harness for mares and geldings.

1984 found "F.W." winning in hand as well as harness and saddle. At the 1984 Grand National he was crowned Grand National Champion Park Saddle Gelding and again Reserve Grand National Champion in Park Harness for mares and geldings. He also was top ten in the Grand National Championship for Five and over gelding and top ten in the World Park Saddle Championship. But of all "F.W.'s" wins Doug was the most proud of his win of the Jubilee Regional Park Saddle Championship. Not bad for a "shoemaker's kid"!

In 1986 Doug and Marti moved to San Diego, California where Hi Mist Fair Warning retired as a Roadster Horse. In 1990 Doug and Marti moved back to the Midwest to Vernie and Phyllis Alberts Hi-Mist Morgans. In 1995 they moved back to Bellmara Stables showing National Show Horses until their retirement in 2005. Over their career, they trained 297 Morgan horse and a total of 370 horses.