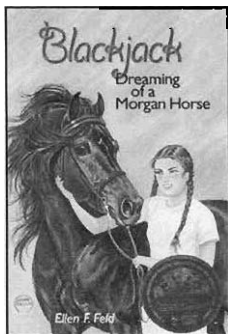


## Book Review

### Blackjack: Dreaming of a Morgan Horse

By Cassie Mayer



**Blackjack** is the first installment of the Morgan Horse series, in which award winning author Ellen F. Feld introduces Heather Richardson, a teenage girl who dreams of a special Morgan Horse. Feld has won the Children's Choices awards twice, winning over her targeted group of pre-teen and teen readers. Feld writes about the daily life of Heather, who is portrayed as a normal, high school attending, horse loving teen. When Heather

discovers that the horse in her dreams is not a figment of imagination, but is a Morgan stallion named Gallant Image, owned by Chauncy Campbell, she is ecstatic to have the chance to care for him.

Readers will enjoy the antics of Heather as she grows into an accomplished equestrian and horsewoman alongside the beautiful Morgan stallion. When tragedy strikes the Gallant Morgan Horse Farm and Gallant Image, who has been nicknamed **Blackjack**, must be sold, he falls into the hands of an abusive trainer. The reader is held in suspense as Heather tries to save her beloved Morgan Horse before it is too late.

This book is great for anyone who has a love of the Morgan Horse or someone who just likes a great horse adventure. It can be read to a six-year-old or by a sixty-year-old and be enjoyed just as much either way. When you read this book, you can't just read a chapter at a time. Be prepared to sit down in a comfortable chair, grab a pair of fuzzy slippers and a mug of hot chocolate, and read **Blackjack** cover to cover.

There are currently five additional books in this series: Frosty, Rusty, Robin, Annie, and Rimfire which came out this fall. I hope there will be more!



## Future Newsletters

Do you have an idea for an article that you think would be interesting or helpful for fellow Morgan people?

Or have an interesting tidbit about your horse that you would like to share?

Or have one of those rare GREAT pictures that you have taken of your horse?

If you do and would like them to be a part of the next VMHA Newsletter, please send them to:

Cindy Mayer - 4395 South 116 Road, Bristol, VT 05443  
or [camayer@gmavt.net](mailto:camayer@gmavt.net)

**Submittal deadline for the next issue is  
January 31, 2010**



## Trivia Answers

Questions on Page 2

Question 1: Blackhawk

Question 2: Dexter

Question 3: Hale's Green Mountain Morgan

Question 4: Billy Root - he was Sherman's son, Justin Morgan's grandson.

Question 5: Massachusetts

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## Buffalo Soldiers

(continued from page 8)

The group reached Fort Ethan Allen and joined the parade that traveled on Dalton Drive beside the Fort Parade grounds through the Fort. The VisionQuest youth that were not on horseback, met at Fort Ethan Allen in full uniform ready to march. The parade got under way at 11:30. The group of Buffalo Soldiers rode in a bus cart pulled by two draft horses. After them was the 40<sup>th</sup> Army Band, followed by several Army vehicles. The next group in the parade was the VisionQuest boys marching on foot. They had prepared a march/dance to perform for the crowd during the parade! It was absolutely amazing! They led a chant to the tune of "Everywhere we go, people want to know..." and as the song continued they proudly announced who they were - Buffalo Soldiers. The dance was one of rhythm and beat, they would stomp, march, and clap in unison that produced a spectacle that pleased the eyes and the ears alike. The marching boys were followed by the mounted riders that participated in the Bringing Home the Colors presentation.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famous Buffalo Soldiers, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry US, was an educational celebration reenacting an important part of Vermont and United States history. The youth from VisionQuest and the Buffalo Soldiers played a large part in making the event authentic and successful. Their visit to the UVM Morgan Farm, along with the participation in Vermont's quadricentennial historical celebration made for a memorable experience for the participants as well as the audience.

For more information on the VisionQuest youth visit:  
[www.vq.com/states/buffalosoldier.html](http://www.vq.com/states/buffalosoldier.html)

Form more information of the Buffalo Soldiers visit:  
[www.uvm.edu/~vtbufalo/](http://www.uvm.edu/~vtbufalo/)



**To blanket or not to blanket? That is the question.**

Everybody has different thoughts on blanketing their horse. Should you blanket your horse if they are being worked through the winter or just put the horse out, and let them grow a winter coat? Should you only use blankets if the temperature goes below 30 degrees? Should your horse have a complete and fashionable light, medium, heavy, weatherproof and stable blanket wardrobe?

With all the different advice you can get, it can be hard to decide what to do with your horse's wardrobe in the cool months in Vermont. If you have a system that works for you and your furry (or blanketed) friend, share it with us, and have your ideas published in the next issue of this newsletter. Explain why you do what you do. Did you hit the books for some heavy research, or did you just ask the advice of your trainer? Do you think there are health risks either way? Do the benefits outweigh the cost?

Send your blanketing do's and don'ts to Cindy Mayer - 4395 South 116 Road, Bristol, VT 05443 or [camayer@gmavt.net](mailto:camayer@gmavt.net).



**Thank You to all that contributed to this newsletter.**

They are: Barbara Beaugard, Anne Brown, Amanda Ryan, Karen McKnight, Cassie Mayer, Ellen Feld, Dennis Tatro, UVM Farm, Victoria Brown, Nancy Creswell, Anne Smith, Janet Yager, Bethany Towne, Nancy Creswell, Deb Blackett and Sue Ford