

THE MORGANS BEHIND THE AQHA LEGENDS, PART VI

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FILLINIC 0116707

Arizona Junie x Alouette

1957 - 1983

Fillinic was a hot, sensitive, incredibly athletic little Quarter Horse mare who became a legendary reined cow horse, and went on to found a dynasty of reiners and cutters that prospers to this day. She brought fame and fortune to her young owner, Greg Ward, and was the key element in his success as a major breeder and trainer of top performance Quarter Horses.

Fillinic's story begins with a wild mare captured in the Arizona desert, which later had a foal by a cow horse stud known as Old Henry. He was sired by the well-known foundation Quarter Horse sire, Possum (aka King), and out of a Morgan mare. The identity of this Morgan mare is unknown, but she may well have been one of a large herd of Sellman Morgans that came to Arizona in 1925. J. C. Kinney, a pioneer rancher, purchased 100 mares and seven stallions at the Sellman ranch dispersal and shipped them to his La Osa ranch near Red Rock, Arizona. Kinney bred his own cow horses from 1914 until his death in 1949. He started with 100 "Spanish" mares and a few studs from California. Next he brought in two Steel Dust stallions, and then the Morgans. Kinney was obsessed with breeding the perfect cow horse, and was less interested in pedigrees and registration papers than in individual excellence in his breeding stock. Later he used Standardbred, Arab and Thoroughbred blood, as well as acquiring three more Morgan studs. In his later years, Kinney said that his horses remained predominantly Morgan and that if he had to stick to any one breed to produce the qualities he desired, he would have chosen the Morgan. Since Kinney's were almost the only Morgans known to be in Arizona at the time, it is probable that Old Henry's dam was either from the original Sellman herd or was one of their offspring. The only other possibility is one of two New Mexico bred Morgan mares owned by Melville H. Haskell, owner of the Rincon Ranch & Stock Co. near Tucson. It is interesting that both men were important players in the early days of AQHA. Kinney was an inspector for the fledgling organization and was named an Honorary Vice President in 1941. Haskell sat on the AQHA Board of Directors 1945-50, was on the Executive Committee in the early 1950s and was one of the founding fathers of Quarter Horse racing.


The union of Old Henry and the wild mare produced Patsy Sue. Mated to the good cow horse sire, Crowder, Patsy Sue foaled Powder in 1934, and she in turn produced Alouette to the service of the Thoroughbred, Master Boss, in 1942. Alouette, AQHA #2034, was the dam of Fillinic. Although Alouette had no performance record, she was a full sister to Dusty Boss, the 1948 Arizona Cutting Horse of the Year, and was herself 1950 Arizona Broodmare of the Year. The sire of Fillinic was the Quarter Horse, Arizona Junie. Like Patsy Sue, Powder and Alouette, he was bred by K. B. McMicken of Goodyear Farms in Litchfield, Arizona. McMicken, a cousin of the president of Goodyear Tire Company, was sent out West to grow the cotton that was needed to manufacture tires during WWI. He stayed and became a major commercial horse breeder from 1920 until the late 1950s. Fillinic was the product of his long established breeding program. Her pedigree, a mix of cow horse, Steel Dust, Thoroughbred, Standardbred, Arab, Morgan and unknown blood, was not that unusual among foundation Quarter Horses, and may have set the stage for her phenomenal success as a performer and producer.

Fillinic, foaled in 1957, was sold by Goodyear Farms as a yearling. She changed hands several times before turning up in California. When she was brought to young Greg Ward for training, Fillinic had deep scars on her nose and hind legs and was a nervous wreck. The little, barely 14.3 hand, mare was short coupled with a big engine in the rear, a pretty head and was quick as a cat. Almost immediately Ward knew that he had something special and wasted no time in borrowing \$3,000 from his mother to buy her. Horse and trainer proved to be a perfect match. Soon they were competing and winning in reined cow horse competitions. In those days, the sports of Cutting and Reining were in their infancy and were just beginning to develop out of the reined cow horse and stock horse events of the day. Two years in a row Fillinic and Ward won the prestigious Open Hackamore Championship at San Francisco's Cow Palace, then came back the following year to win the Open Bridle Championship. Three times they made Top Ten in the California Reined Cow Horse Association (CRCHA), and in 1966 won the CRCHA Open Bridle Horse Championship. This was before the CRCHA went national and became the National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA).

Ward and Fillinic made each other's reputations in competition. As a broodmare, Fillinic put the Ward family near

the top among performance Quarter Horse breeders, a position they still hold today. She had ten foals, every one of them a champion performance horse or producer. Some of them were: Sugarnick, 1976 CRCHA Stock Horse Champion; Springinic, two time winner of the Hackamore division at the Cow Palace; Wininic, 1975 CRCHA Futurity Champion and dam of Master Remedy, winner of \$177,000 and many times on the Leading Sire List; and Reminic, winner of more than \$90,000 in the Cutting pens and a major sire. Reminic appeared on the Leading Sire lists of NRCHA, NCHA and NRHA a total of 14 times.

Today Greg Ward is gone, but his son, John and his family carry on at the Ward Ranch in Kingsburg, California. Over 200 of Fillinic's descendants, now in the fifth and sixth generations, continue to excel as reined cow horses, reiners and cutters. The great little mare Fillinic had but a sliver of known Morgan blood, but like so many other early Quarter Horses, her family tree traces back to Justin Morgan.

FILLINIC  ch. M, QUARTER HORSE, 1957							
FILLINIC* ch 1957 QUARTER HORSE #0116707	ARIZONA JUNIE* ch 1950 QUARTER HORSE #0039841	G FS PUNCHINELLO* ch 1945 QUARTER HORSE N0004564	JAKE MCCLURE 1 QUARTER HORSE	BEN HUR* sor 1921	RAINY DAY 1 NETTIE JACKET	1914 sor	
			G FS PIERET ch 1939 QUARTER HORSE N0004554	PAUL HIRTENSTEIN ch 1926	BALLOT* ELAINE	ch 1904 ch 1917	
		MCS LONE WOLF ch 1934 QUARTER HORSE #0026502	RO HORSE				
			QUARTER HORSE U0078814				
		ALOQUETTE ch 1942 QUARTER HORSE AQHA#0002034	MASTER BOSS b 1935 THOROUGHBRED (USA)	GOLDEN BOSS* ch 1920 THOROUGHBRED (GB)	THE BOSS ch 1910	ORBY* SOUTHERN CROSS	ch 1904 br 1897
				BABY EVE b 1928 THOROUGHBRED (USA)	GOLDEN HEN b 1901	CHEVELE DOR HAZLEHEN	ch 1893 b 1892
	POWDER ch 1934 QUARTER HORSE AQHA#0002033		CROWDER 1	CONVOY b 1917	UNCLE ORSINA	ch 1905 blk 1900	
			QUARTER HORSE U0069946	EVE b 1912	FIRST CHIP GRACIE GOULD	ch 1900 b 1903	
			PATSY SUE 1 QUARTER HORSE U0077758				
						* - Photo Available	

Pedigree from All Breed Pedigree



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