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Performance of Morgan Horses Under Saddle

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CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Introduction.....	1	Results—Continued	
Materials and methods.....	2	Transmitting ability of the	
Results.....	5	sires.....	29
Speed.....	5	Discussion.....	32
Endurance.....	19	Summary.....	34
Ease of riding.....	20	Literature cited.....	36
Other characters.....	24		

INTRODUCTION

Since 1941 the Bureau of Animal Industry has been conducting performance tests of 3-year-old Morgan horses for the purpose of determining the characters associated with performance and whether these characters are inherited and therefore can be used in the selection of breeding stock.

The three types of performance that have been studied are speed, endurance, and ease of riding. A large number of characters were measured or scored for each horse so that associations between them and performance could be determined.

Although many records on the performance of light horses have been made, the results have generally been difficult to interpret, according to Williams and Jackson (12).<sup>3</sup> Relatively few analyses have been made, and these have dealt with only certain phases, such as the relation of winning performances on the race track or in the show ring to ability to produce offspring which also win, as shown by Laugh-

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<sup>2</sup> The authors are indebted to S. R. Speelman, animal husbandman, and to W. V. Lambert and J. O. Williams, formerly animal husbandmen, of the Bureau, for assistance in planning the study and collecting the data.

<sup>3</sup> Italic numbers in parentheses refer to Literature Cited, p. 36.

lin (4, 5), Jackson (3), and Steele (11). Few attempts have previously been made to devise and use objective tests under carefully controlled conditions similar to those in actual practice for ordinary saddle horses.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data were available on 79 three-year-old Morgan horses that were raised and trained at the United States Morgan Horse Farm, Middlebury, Vt. Eleven of these animals had a tendency to pace and were omitted from the study. The remaining 68 horses were sired by 8 different stallions and ranged from 2 to 25 offspring per sire. There



FIGURE 1.—Morgan mare Damsel being tested under saddle at the trot on the training track at Middlebury, Vt. Time for 1 mile, 4.2 minutes; stride, 12.3 feet.

were 6 stallions, 20 geldings, and 42 mares. Most of the horses were tested in the spring of the year that they were 3 years old. All data were not available on all horses. Distribution of the offspring by sires, years, and sexes is shown in table 1. The training and testing procedures have been described by Phillips, Speelman, and Williams (9) and Phillips (6), together with the general plan of the breeding program; hence only the tests under saddle are described here.

The tests under saddle included a 1-mile walk around an eighth-of-a-mile oval track, a 1-mile trot around the same track (fig. 1), and an 11.35-mile cross-country ride. The track had a surface of sand and clay and was smoothed and rolled at frequent intervals during the tests. The cross-country ride was on unpaved roads and over rolling country with several steep grades. During this ride each horse walked 4.65 miles, trotted 5.65 miles, and cantered 1.05 miles. Markers were placed along the course to indicate to the riders the gaits to be maintained over each portion, as shown in figure 2. Each horse

TABLE 1.—*Distribution of offspring of Morgan horses by sires, years, and sexes*

Sire	Year								Sex		
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	Total	Stal- lions	Geld- lings	Mares
	Num- ber	Num- ber	Num- ber	Num- ber	Num- ber	Num- ber	Num- ber	Num- ber	Num- ber	Num- ber	Num- ber
Mansfield	3	2	1	0	2	2	2	12	2	3	7
Abbott	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	4
Canfield	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	16	2	8	6
Delmont	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Upwey King Peavine	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Goldfield	0	1	4	6	14	0	0	25	2	7	16
Hudson	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3
Laddie	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
Total	5	11	6	6	16	12	12	68	6	20	42

carried a load equivalent to at least 20 percent of its body weight. One pound of dead weight (bridle, saddle, and ballast) was considered equal to 2 pounds of live weight (rider). An effort was made to have the weight carried exactly equivalent to 20 percent of the body weight, but in some cases this was not possible, particularly with smaller horses, for which the weight of the available rider and a saddle

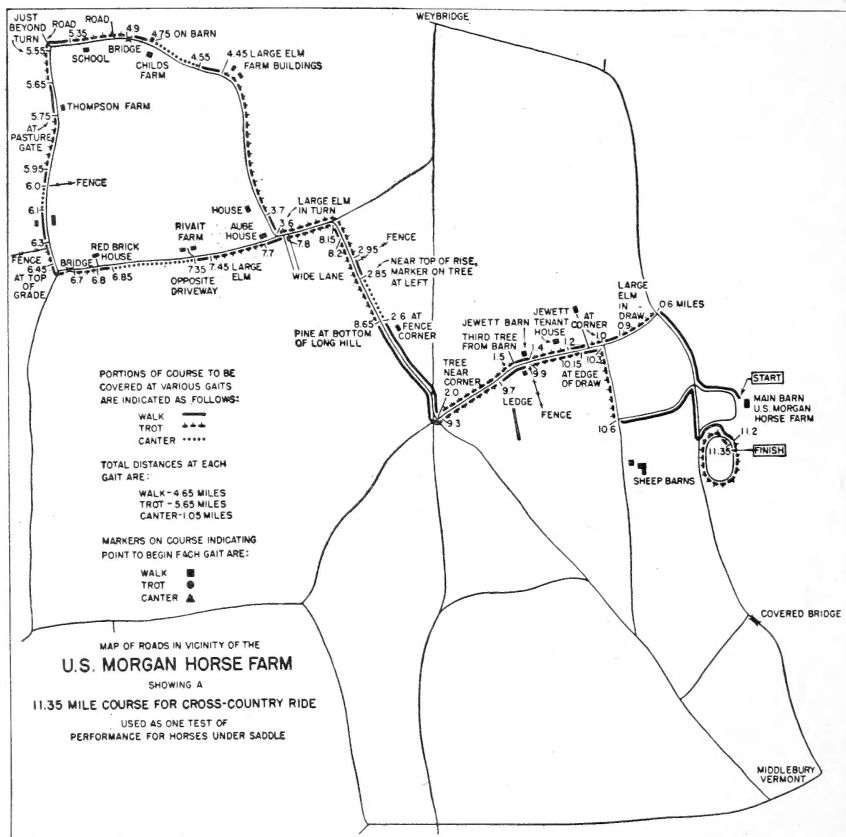


FIGURE 2.—Map showing 11.35-mile course for cross-country ride, one of the tests for performance of horses under saddle, United States Morgan Horse Farm, Middlebury, Vt.

somewhat exceeded the desired weight. Loading the horses on the basis of a percentage of body weight was an arbitrary procedure since data are not available on the relation of body weight to ability to carry a load. Work by Dawson (1), Phillips, Madsen, and Smith (8), and others has shown that light horses are able to pull relatively heavier loads for short distances in dynamometer tests than heavy horses, but no such tests have been conducted under saddle; hence an arbitrary basis had to be used.

Training of the horses began late in the fall and continued, except during the most inclement weather of the winter, until the recorded

tests were made in May. All animals were given approximately the same training. The horses were tested at their normal gaits without being pushed or allowed to lag. The test at the walk was given before the test at the trot with a 2-minute rest period between. The cross-country test was given on another day.

Speed and endurance were determined by trained observers—speed, by the time required to cover the total distance in each test; endurance, by scores for condition (signs of fatigue) at the end of the cross-country ride. The possible range of scores for fatigue was from 1 to 5, 1 indicating most fatigue and 5 the least. Ease of riding was measured by the riders' scores for ease of handling, performance of gait, and ease of gait to rider, at the end of the cross-country ride, for the walk, trot, and canter. These scores ranged from 1 to 5, 1 being the poorest and 5 the best.

Other data obtained in the tests and studied for association with performance were humidity, temperatures, riders, years, and the number of strides on the second, fifth, and eighth laps of the mile tests, from which the average length of stride was calculated.

Studies of association with performance were also made of the following factors: Height at withers, depth of chest, height at floor of chest, distance from point of shoulder to point of hip, heart girth, circumference of fore cannon, hind cannon, and knee, width and depth of fore cannon and depth of hock, general conformation, style and beauty, head, neck, top line of withers, top line of back, top line of croup, slope of shoulder, size and shape of feet, quality, condition (fleshing), temperament, action at walk, and action at trot. For most of these characters a score of 1 was the least desirable and a score of 9 the most desirable, but for some characters, such as temperament, a medium score was most desirable.

The data were analyzed principally by the analysis-of-variance technique given by Fisher (2) and Snedecor (10).

## RESULTS

### SPEED

The time required to walk a mile averaged 15.1 minutes (table 2), the range among individuals being from 10.0 to 18.5 minutes. The variations by years are shown in table 3. Analyses of variance showed a significant association between the time required and the following: Sires (table 2), years (table 4), length of stride (table 5), slope of shoulder (table 6), action at the walk (table 7), riders' scores for performance at the walk (table 8), and size and shape of feet (table 18).

It was impossible to evaluate accurately the effects of sires and years on the time required to walk a mile since the same sires were not used each year (tables 1 and 3). However, the variance between the offspring of sires within the same years and same riders was significant (table 4).

Significant differences were found between the time required to walk a mile by the offspring of individual dams, but it was not possible to separate these effects from those of the sires, owing to the small number of offspring from each dam. On the average, there was not

TABLE 2.—Average performance of offspring of different sires and analyses of variance<sup>1</sup>

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

Sire	Time required to—				Length of stride at—		Score for fatigue at end of 11.35-mile course <sup>2</sup>	Off-spring	Score for action at—	
	Walk a mile		Trot a mile		Cover 11.35-mile course				Walk <sup>3</sup>	Trot <sup>3</sup>
	Number	Minutes	Minutes	Minutes	Feet	Feet	Number	6.67	6.78	
Mansfield	12	16.0	5.8	115	5.1	9.3	4.17	6.83	6.00	
Abbott	6	15.1	5.5	111	5.6	9.9	3.83	6.31	6.12	
Canfield	16	14.6	4.9	100	5.4	10.6	4.44			
Delmont	2	15.5	6.1	122	5.5	8.8	4.00			
Upwey King Peavine	2	15.2	5.0	111	5.5	10.2	4.00	6.00	7.00	
Goldfield	25	14.7	5.1	110	5.4	10.2	4.04	6.79	7.26	
Hudson	3	16.2	5.7	115	5.4	10.1	4.33	6.00	7.00	
Laddie	2	15.4	6.0	107	5.4	9.0	5.00	5.00	4.50	
Total or average	68	15.1	5.3	109	5.3	10.0	4.18	6.51	6.61	

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>4</sup>		Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>4</sup>
		Between sires	Within sires		
Between sires	7	3.18	*1.28	6	1.47
Within sires	60	1.53	.44	50	1.83
Total	67			56	
					*4.00
					1.67

<sup>1</sup> Riders' scores for ease of handling, performance of gait, or ease of gait to riders not included in table, since none of the average mean differences between sires were significant.

<sup>2</sup> Scored on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 representing the most fatigued and 5 the least.

<sup>3</sup> Scored on a scale of 1 to 9, 1 representing the poorest action and 9 the best.

<sup>4</sup> \* = Significant, \*\* = highly significant.



TABLE 3.—Variations, by years, in time required to walk and trot a mile and to cover an 11.35-mile course

Year	Average time required to—		
	Walk 1 mile	Trot 1 mile	Cover 11.35-mile course
	<i>Minutes</i>	<i>Minutes</i>	<i>Minutes</i>
1941.....	15. 8	6. 0	122. 8
1942.....	15. 5	5. 6	113. 5
1943.....	15. 8	5. 7	116. 3
1944.....	13. 6	4. 8	108. 0
1945.....	14. 9	5. 1	108. 0
1946.....	15. 4	5. 3	107. 1
1947.....	14. 6	5. 1	99. 9

TABLE 4.—Analyses of variance of time required by the offspring of different sires within the same years and with the same riders

Source of variance	Time to walk a mile		Time to trot a mile		Time to cover 11.35-mile course	
	De-grees of free-dom	Mean square <sup>1</sup>	De-grees of free-dom	Mean square	De-grees of free-dom	Mean square <sup>1</sup>
Between years.....	6	*4. 17	6	1. 08	6	**424. 73
Between riders within years..	14	1. 37	14	. 59	17	100. 70
Between sires within riders and years.....	15	*2. 30	15	. 47	14	*87. 68
Within sires, riders, and years..	32	1. 11	32	. 42	30	38. 31
Total.....	67	-----	67	-----	67	-----

<sup>1</sup> \* = Significant; \*\* = highly significant.

TABLE 5.—Association of length of stride with speed and analyses of variance

## AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

Length, in feet, of stride at walk	Horses	Time required to—		Length, in feet, of stride at trot	Horses	Time required to—	
		Walk a mile	Cover 11.35- mile course			Trot a mile	Cover 11.35- mile course
	<i>Num- ber</i>	<i>Min- utes</i>	<i>Min- utes</i>		<i>Num- ber</i>	<i>Min- utes</i>	<i>Min- utes</i>
4.1-4.3-----	1	18. 50	107. 1	7.0-7.9-----	1	6. 30	121. 0
4.4-4.6-----	2	16. 25	123. 5	8.0-8.9-----	9	6. 38	114. 1
4.7-4.9-----	4	15. 45	102. 8	9.0-9.9-----	20	5. 64	113. 6
5.0-5.2-----	15	14. 86	111. 0	10.0-10.9-----	25	5. 05	106. 8
5.3-5.5-----	27	15. 23	108. 1	11.0-11.9-----	10	4. 61	101. 3
5.6-5.8-----	16	14. 59	108. 6	12.0-12.9-----	3	4. 20	106. 0
5.9-6.1-----	3	14. 53	112. 1				
Total or av- erage-----	68	15. 06	109. 2	-----	68	5. 32	109. 1

## ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Source of variance	De- grees of free- dom	Mean squares <sup>1</sup>		Source of variance	De- grees of free- dom	Mean squares <sup>1</sup>	
Between length of stride-----	6	*3. 50	*235. 2	Between length of stride-----	5	*4. 76	**306. 6
Within length of stride-----	61	1. 53	85. 7	Within length of stride-----	62	1. 83	82. 3
Total-----	67			-----	67		

<sup>1</sup> \* = Significant; \*\* = highly significant.

TABLE 6.—Association of differences in slope of shoulder with time required to walk a mile and with action at walk and trot, and analyses of variance

## AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

Score for slope of shoulder <sup>1</sup>	Horses	Time required to walk 1 mile	Horses	Score for action at—	
				Walk <sup>2</sup>	Trot <sup>2</sup>
	Number	Minutes	Number		
3.....	1	17.0	1	3.0	3.0
4.....	15	15.8	15	6.3	6.5
5.....	24	04.6	19	6.8	6.7
6.....	11	14.6	10	7.2	7.5
7.....	7	14.9	7	6.0	6.1
8.....	5	15.2	5	6.0	6.4
Total or average.....	63	15.0	57	6.5	6.6

## ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>3</sup>	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>3</sup>	
Between slope of shoulder.....	5	*4.15	5	*4.43	*4.62
Within slope of shoulder.....	57	1.57	51	1.53	1.65
Total.....	62	-----	56	-----	-----

<sup>1</sup> 1 = steep -, 2 = steep, 3 = steep +, 4 = medium -, 5 = medium, 6 = medium +, 7 = very sloping -, 8 = very sloping, 9 = very sloping +.

<sup>2</sup> 1 = poor -, 2 = poor, 3 = poor +, 4 = medium -, 5 = medium, 6 = medium +, 7 = good -, 8 = good, 9 = good +. Scores of 1, 2, and 3 indicate very deficient action; scores 4, 5, and 6, no major faults but in some cases sluggishness and minor faults; scores of 7, 8, and 9, straight and snappy action.

<sup>3</sup> \* = Significant.

TABLE 7.—Association of action at walk and trot with other measures of performance, and analyses of variance

## AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

Score for action at walk 1	Horses	Time to walk a mile	Length of stride at walk	Time to cover 11.35 mile course	Score 2 for—			Score for action at trot 1	Horses	Time to trot a mile	Length of stride at trot	Time to cover 11.35 mile course	Score 2 for—		
					Ease of handling at walk	Per-form-ance at walk	Ease of walk to rider						Ease of handling at trot	Per-form-ance at trot	Ease of trot to rider
2	1	116.00	4.40	121.0	1.00	1.00	1.00	3	2	6.10	8.85	119.0	3.00	1.50	1.50
3	1	117.00	5.50	117.0	5.00	2.00	2.00	4	4	5.50	9.75	103.5	4.50	4.00	4.25
4	2	12.85	5.05	95.0	4.50	3.50	3.50	5	5	5.20	10.16	101.2	4.00	3.40	3.80
5	7	15.30	5.46	111.3	3.86	3.57	4.14	6	9	5.24	10.26	108.1	4.22	3.78	3.67
6	13	15.47	5.36	112.5	3.69	3.62	3.92	7	21	5.38	9.84	112.2	4.00	4.10	3.76
7	19	15.07	5.38	106.4	4.21	3.74	4.26	8	15	5.07	10.39	104.1	4.47	4.47	4.27
8	14	15.03	5.31	104.9	4.21	4.50	4.57	9	1	5.80	9.70	109.0	4.00	4.00	4.00
Total or average	57	15.15	5.34	108.0	4.02	3.79	4.12		57	5.30	10.04	108.0	4.16	3.98	3.84

## ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Source of variance	De- grees of free- dom	Mean squares <sup>3</sup>	Source of variance	De- grees of free- dom	Mean squares <sup>3</sup>
Between scores----	6	*3.26	Between scores----	6	0.62
Within scores----	50	1.20		50	.41
Total-----	56			56	

<sup>1</sup> 1 = poor -, 2 = poor +, 3 = poor +, 4 = medium -, 5 = medium +, 6 = medium +, 7 = good -, 8 = good, 9 = good +. Scores of 1, 2, and 3 indicate very deficient action; scores 4, 5, and 6, no major faults but in some cases sluggishness and minor faults; scores of 7, 8, and 9, straight and snappy action.

<sup>2</sup> Scored by the riders on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the poorest and 5 the best.

<sup>3</sup> \* = Significant; \*\* = highly significant.

TABLE 8.—Association of riders' scores for performance at walk and trot with other measures of performance, and analyses of variance

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE													
Riders' scores for performance at walk <sup>1</sup>	Horses	Time to walk a mile	Length of stride at walk	Score for ease of handling at walk <sup>1</sup>	Score for ease of walk to rider <sup>1</sup>	Time to cover 11.35-mile course	Riders' scores for performance at trot <sup>1</sup>	Horses	Time to trot a mile	Length of stride at trot	Score for ease of handling at trot <sup>1</sup>	Score for ease of trot to rider <sup>1</sup>	Time to cover 11.35-mile course
	Number	Minutes	Feet			Minutes		Number	Minutes	Feet			Minutes
1-----	1	16.00	4.40	1.00	1.00	121.0	1-----	1	6.30	7.90	1.00	1.00	121.0
2-----	4	16.65	5.38	3.25	3.00	122.0	2-----	2	5.30	10.35	4.00	2.50	115.5
3-----	18	15.44	5.31	3.78	3.50	111.1	3-----	12	5.42	9.74	3.58	3.00	110.8
4-----	29	14.97	5.31	4.10	4.41	108.0	4-----	29	5.33	10.00	4.28	3.90	108.7
5-----	16	14.35	5.50	4.62	4.81	104.9	5-----	24	5.21	10.26	4.54	4.62	107.8
Total or average-----	68	15.06	5.35	4.04	4.13	109.1	-----	68	5.32	10.03	4.19	3.91	109.1

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE			
Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>2</sup>	Source of variance
Between scores-----	4	**5.48	Between scores-----
Within scores-----	63	1.47	Within scores-----
Total-----	67		

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE			
Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>2</sup>	Source of variance
Between scores-----	4	**5.48	Between scores-----
Within scores-----	63	1.47	Within scores-----
Total-----	67		

<sup>1</sup> Scored by the riders on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the poorest and 5 the best.      <sup>2</sup> \* = Significant; \*\* = highly significant.

a significant difference between the groups of dams to which the sires were mated, in time required by their offspring to walk a mile (table 18), but the offspring of mares mated to Mansfield and Hudson were significantly slower than those of the same mares mated to Canfield. Colts by Mansfield also were significantly slower than those out of the same mares by other stallions (table 9).

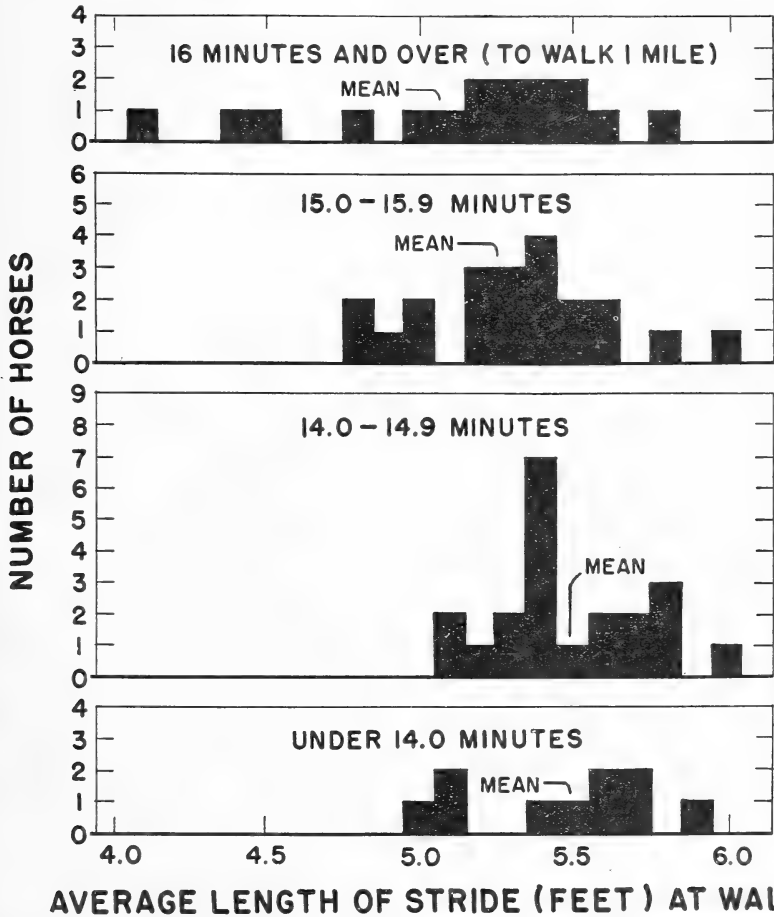


FIGURE 3.—Distribution of horses with different length of strides according to time required to walk a mile.

Horses having a medium slope of shoulder had the fastest walk, as shown in table 6. Horses covering the distance in the shortest time invariably had a fairly long stride (table 5). Slow horses, on the other hand, had either a short or a long stride. These findings are demonstrated in figure 3, which shows that slow horses (those requiring 16 minutes or more to walk a mile) varied in length of stride from 4.1 to 5.8 feet, whereas fast horses (requiring less than 15 minutes) varied from 5 to 5.9 feet. None of the sires produced all progeny with both

TABLE 9.—Differences in performance<sup>1</sup> between offspring from indicated sire and average of those from other sires but from the same dams

[Colts from at least 3 other sires were available for comparison]

Sire	Speed in—			Score for endurance	Score for ease of riding					
	Walking 1 mile	Trotting 1 mile	Covering 11.35- mile course		Ease of handling at—			Performance at—		
					Walk	Trot	Canter	Walk	Trot	Canter
Mansfield	Minutes * -1.22	Minutes ** -1.08	Minutes ** -12.1	-0.33	-0.29	-0.21	-0.10	-0.73	† -0.77	-0.24
Abbott	+ .16	- .31	- 3.3	- .22	+ 1.08	+ .75	+ .44	+ .22	- .58	+ .44
Canfield	- .11	* + .59	** + 12.4	+ .31	- .44	† + .68	+ .56	+ .69	+ .49	- .16
Delmont	- .30	- .80	† - 15.3	- .20	- 1.00	- .10	- .10	0	+ .70	0
Upwey King Peavine	+ .13	+ .67	+ 3.2	0	- .50	- .50	- 1.50	- 1.00	- .75	- .50
Goldfield	† + .69	† + .40	+ 1.1	- .26	- .21	- .38	- .45	- .01	+ .05	- .41
Hudson	- .63	- .20	- 4.0	+ .04	- .43	- .10	- .10	- .47	+ .47	+ 1.14
Laddie	+ .02	- .15	+ 13.0	+ .75	- .50	- .50	+ .50	- .25	+ .25	+ 1.00



Sire	Score for ease of riding			Length of stride at—		Score for other characters		
	Ease of gait at—			Walk	Trot	Tempera- ment	Action at walk	Action at trot
	Walk	Trot	Canter					
Mansfield	-0.70	†-0.86	+0.06	<i>Feet</i> **-0.49	<i>Feet</i> **-1.60	+0.38	-0.50	-1.13
Abbott	-.08	-.14	+0.25	+0.27	+0.15	-1.04	-.07	†-1.54
Canfield	†+.75	+0.39	+0.08	+0.05	*+.85	-.63	+0.68	+0.03
Delmont	-.30	+1.00	-.90	+0.38	-1.09			
Upwey King Peavine	+0.25	+0.50	0	+0.45	+0.60	-1.50	-1.50	-1.50
Goldfield	-.08	0	-.18	-.03	+0.32	*+.91	+0.44	*1.03
Hudson	+0.19	+0.33	-.14	+0.04	+0.14	-.34	-.83	+0.50
Laddie	-1.50	+0.25	+1.00	-.02	-.58	+1.33	-1.67	-1.33

† + indicates that offspring of the sire named were better than those of the other sires; -, that they were poorer; †, that the difference was nearly significant; \*, that the difference was significant; \*\*, that the difference was highly significant.

a fast walk and a long stride. Canfield had the best record, 69 percent of his progeny being in this group. Slope of shoulder and length of stride at the walk were not significantly associated although both were associated with length of time required to walk a mile.

Horses with good action at the walk generally made better time than those with poor action, as shown in table 7. Most of the difference in speed was found between the 5 horses with a score of 2 (a small narrow foot) that averaged 12.9 minutes to walk a mile and 58 horses with scores of 3 to 8 that averaged 15.2 minutes. Horses given a good score by the rider for performance at the walk made on the average consistently faster time than those given poor scores for this character (table 8).

The time required to trot a mile ranged from 3.8 to 7.3 minutes with an average of 5.3 minutes for the 68 horses. Sires (table 2), length of stride (table 5), general conformation (table 10), and years (table 18) were all significantly associated with time required. Analysis of variance showed that on the average there was not a significant difference, in time required, between offspring of different sires within the same years and with the same riders (table 4). In general, fastest average time at the trot was most closely associated with a medium score on general conformation, as shown in table 10.

TABLE 10.—Association of general conformation and slope of croup with time required to trot 1 mile and analyses of variance

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

Score for general conformation <sup>1</sup>	Horses		Score for slope of croup <sup>2</sup>	Horses		Average time to trot 1 mile
	Number	Minutes		Number	Minutes	
4-----	3	5.3	3-----	2	6.3	
5-----	7	5.1	4-----	4	5.1	
6-----	11	4.9	5-----	15	5.1	
7-----	26	5.4	6-----	21	5.4	
8-----	12	5.1	7-----	15	5.0	
9-----	4	6.2	8-----	6	5.6	
Total or average.	63	5.3	-----	63	5.3	

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>3</sup>	Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares
Between general conformation.	5	*1.09	Between slope of croup.	5	0.93
Within general conformation.	57	.41	Within slope of croup.	57	.42
Total-----	62	-----	-----	62	-----

<sup>1</sup> 1=poor-, 2=poor, 3=poor+, 4=medium-, 5=medium, 6=medium+, 7=good-, 8=good, 9=good+.

<sup>2</sup> 1=steep-, 2=steep, 3=steep+, 4=medium slope-, 5=medium slope, 6=medium slope+, 7=level-, 8=level, 9=level+.

<sup>3</sup> \*=Significant.

Horses with a long stride at the trot (11.0 feet or more) averaged 2 minutes faster than those with a short stride (less than 9 feet), as shown in table 5. None of the horses with short strides made fast time and none with long strides made very slow time. Canfield's progeny showed up better than those of the other sires, 62 percent of his offspring having long strides and making fast time. None of the progeny of Mansfield, Delmont, Hudson, or Laddie had a stride of more than 10 feet or trotted a mile in less than 5 minutes.

The sex of horses (table 11) and the slope of croup (top line of croup) (table 10) appeared to have some association with speed, although for neither of these characters was the average difference quite significant. Mares and geldings trotted at about the same speed, but the six stallions were on the average 0.6 minute slower. A medium slope of croup seemed to be the most favorable to speed at the trot, although the results were not consistent.

TABLE 11.—Association of sex and performance and analyses of variance<sup>1</sup>

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE							
Sex	Horses	Time required to—			Length of stride at—		Score for fatigue at end of 11.35-mile test <sup>2</sup>
		Walk a mile	Trot a mile	Cover 11.35-mile course	Walk	Trot	
	Number	Minutes	Minutes	Minutes	Feet	Feet	
Stallion.....	6	15. 0	5. 9	108. 3	5. 3	9. 1	4. 7
Gelding.....	20	15. 3	5. 2	107. 4	5. 5	10. 3	4. 3
Mare.....	42	15. 0	5. 3	110. 1	5. 3	10. 0	4. 0
Total or average.....	68	15. 1	5. 3	109. 1	5. 4	10. 0	4. 2

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>3</sup>					
Between sexes.....	2	0. 56	1. 06	52. 2	0. 24	*3. 59	*1. 22
Within sexes.....	65	1. 74	. 51	100. 5	. 12	. 98	. 33
Total.....	67						

<sup>1</sup> Riders' scores for ease of handling, performance of gait, and ease of gait to riders were omitted from the table because none of them were found to be significantly associated with sex (table 18).

<sup>2</sup> 1=extremely exhausted, 2=exhausted, 3=marked signs of fatigue, 4=slight signs of fatigue, 5=no sign of fatigue.

<sup>3</sup> \*=Significant.

The time required to cover the 11.35-mile cross-country course ranged from 83 to 129 minutes and averaged 109. It was significantly associated with sires (table 2), years (table 4), length of stride at the walk and trot (table 5), action at the walk and trot (table 7), score for performance at walk (table 8), top line of back (table 12), and riders (table 18). The average time required by the offspring of different sires ranged from 100 to 121.5 minutes (table 2). For years, the time required ranged from 122.8 for 1941 to 99.9 for 1947 and showed a constant decrease except for 1942 (table 3). The riders had a significant effect on the time made on the cross-country ride. They changed over the years. Some were used but 1 year; one was used 6 years. Obviously, it is impossible to separate entirely the effects of sires, years, and riders on the time required to cover the course. However, the average differences between the time required by the offspring of the different sires within the same years and with the same riders were significant (table 4).

TABLE 12.—*Association of top line of back and slope of croup with time required to cover 11.35-mile course and analyses of variance*

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

Score for top line of back <sup>1</sup>	Horses	Average time required to cover 11.35-mile course	Score for slope of croup <sup>2</sup>	Horses	Average time required to cover 11.35-mile course
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Minutes</i>		<i>Number</i>	<i>Minutes</i>
4-----	7	111.1	3-----	2	122.0
5-----	13	113.5	4-----	4	106.2
6-----	18	104.9	5-----	15	109.7
7-----	16	108.3	6-----	21	109.2
8-----	9	103.4	7-----	15	103.1
			8-----	6	108.5
Total or average	63	108.0		63	108.0

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>3</sup>	Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares
Between top line of back.	4	*207.6	Between slope of croup.	5	167.2
Within top line of back.	58	81.3	Within slope of croup.	57	82.7
Total-----	62	-----		62	-----

<sup>1</sup> 1=low, long -; 2=low, long; 3=low, long +; 4=medium -; 5=medium; 6=medium +; 7=short, level -; 8=short, level; 9=short, level +.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 2 of table 10.

<sup>3</sup> \*=Significant.

Horses with the shorter, more level backs (score of 6, 7, or 8 for top line of back) covered the 11.35-mile course in 105.9 minutes, on the average, whereas animals that were longer and lower in the back (score of 4 or 5) averaged 112.7 minutes (table 12).

Analyses of variance indicate that the scores for action at the walk and trot are significantly associated with the time required for the cross-country ride. In general, the horses given the best scores at the walk made better time than those with poorer scores (table 7). At the trot the results were inconsistent. There is no indication in the data that horses with good action at the trot performed better than those with medium action. There is, in fact, some indication that those with medium action at the trot may be the most efficient at covering ground. The two horses with poor action (score of 3) were much slower than the others.

On the average, horses with a long stride at the trot covered the distance on the cross-country ride in significantly less time than horses with a relatively short stride (table 5). Thirteen horses with strides of more than 11 feet averaged 12.4 minutes faster than ten horses with strides less than 9.0 feet.

At performance at the walk, horses that were given good scores by the riders made much better time on the cross-country course than those given poor scores (table 8). Sixteen horses with a score of 5 covered the distance in an average of 104.9 minutes, whereas five horses with a score of 1 or 2 averaged 121.9 minutes.

The association of the score for slope of croup with the time required to cover the 11.35-mile course approached significance (table 12). However, the averages for the different scores did not show a trend except that the two horses having the steepest croup had very slow time.

The relationship between the atmospheric temperature and the time required for the cross-country ride also approached significance. Temperatures of 40° to 49° F. appeared to be slightly more favorable than any others for making fast time, and temperatures of 80° or above were unfavorable. However, few horses were tested at these extremes.

As would be expected, the time required for the cross-country ride was significantly correlated with the time required to walk a mile ( $r=0.42$ ) and to trot a mile ( $r=0.35$ ).

## ENDURANCE

At the end of the 11.35-mile course, 19 of the 68 horses were fresh with no signs of fatigue (score of 5); 42 showed slight signs (score of 4); and 7 showed marked signs (score of 3). None of the horses were recorded as exhausted (score of 2) or extremely exhausted (score of 1). Both years and sexes were significantly associated with the degree of fatigue. The horses showed less fatigue in 1943, 1946, and 1947 than in other years. The 6 stallions showed the least fatigue, the 42 mares the most, and the 20 geldings were intermediate (table 11). Neither riders, sires, nor time required for the 11.35-mile test were significantly associated with the degree of fatigue shown. The relation between this character and the others has not been studied except for the measurements of the cannon bones and the circum-

ference of the knee. No association was found between them. So few horses showed fatigue that it was clear that a more severe test would be required if the scores for this character were to be used as a measure of endurance.

### EASE OF RIDING

Rider scores for ease of handling, performance of gait, and ease of gait to the rider were significantly associated with one another. Horses that performed the gait well were generally scored as easy to handle and had an easy gait from the standpoint of the rider (tables 8, 13, 15, and 18). In addition to these, the following associations were found: Ease of handling at the walk was significantly associated with length of stride at the walk (table 13), temperament (table 14), and general conformation (table 18). Ease of handling at the trot was significantly associated with action at the walk (table 18), temperament (table 14), and height at withers (table 18). Ease of handling at the canter was significantly associated with scores for style, head, and temperament (table 18).

Horses given the best scores for ease of handling at the walk, on the average, walked significantly faster than those given poor scores (table 13). Four horses given the highest scores on general conformation had the best average score for ease of handling at the walk, and three horses with the lowest score for general conformation had the poorest average score for ease of handling. Scores for intermediate classes, however, did not show a consistent trend. In general, horses receiving intermediate scores for temperament were the easiest to handle at the walk (table 14). The association between action at the walk and ease of handling at the walk was not quite significant (table 7). In general, horses with the best action were easier to handle than those with medium action. Horses with low scores for action were not consistent for ease of handling.

Straight, snappy action at the walk was more closely associated with easy handling at the trot than was medium action. The few horses that had the poorest action were not consistent. Horses that were easiest to handle at the trot were intermediate in height at withers. Fatigue, as measured by the score for condition at the end of the 11.35-mile test, was on the average not quite significantly associated with ease of handling at the trot. The three horses with the lowest scores on general conformation were on the average much harder to handle at the trot than the others.

Although differences in style and head were significantly associated with ease of handling at the canter, the results were not consistent. Horses with an intermediate score for temperament were most easily handled at the canter. The association of differences in general conformation and ease of handling at the canter approached significance. There was, however, no consistent trend in the means except that the 3 horses with the lowest score for general conformation were much harder to handle than the other 60 horses.

TABLE 13.—Association of ease of handling at the walk and trot with other measures of performance, and analyses of variance

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE													
Score for ease of handling at walk 1	Horses	Time to walk a mile	Length of stride at walk	Score for performance at walk 1	Score for ease of walk to rider 1	Time to cover 11.35-mile course	Score for ease of handling at trot 1	Horses	Time to trot a mile	Length of stride at trot 1	Score for performance at trot 1	Score for ease of trot to rider 1	Time to cover 11.35-mile course
	Number	Minutes	Feet			Minutes		Number	Minutes	Feet			Minutes
1	3	16.33	4.93	2.00	2.67	116.7	1	2	6.05	8.65	2.00	1.50	123.0
2	3	15.80	4.77	3.33	3.33	105.3	2	1	5.50	10.30	4.00	4.00	95.0
3	7	15.11	5.44	3.43	3.71	105.1	3	8	4.96	10.22	3.62	3.12	107.0
4	30	15.04	5.43	3.87	4.10	111.1	4	28	5.47	9.79	4.00	3.89	111.0
5	25	14.82	5.33	4.12	4.56	107.4	5	29	5.21	10.28	4.41	4.31	107.4
Total or average	68	15.06	5.35	3.81	4.12	109.1		68	5.32	10.03	4.07	3.91	109.1

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE			
Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares 2	Source of variance
Between scores	4	130.9	Between scores
Within scores	63	97.0	Within scores
Total	67		

Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares 2	Source of variance
Between scores	4	**3.50	Between scores
Within scores	63	.67	Within scores
Total	67		

1 Scored by the riders on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the poorest and 5 the best.  
 2 \* = Significant; \*\* = highly significant.

TABLE 14.—Association of temperament with performance and analyses of variance

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE														
Score for temperament <sup>1</sup>	Horses	Time to walk a mile	Length of stride at walk	Score for ease of handling at walk <sup>2</sup>	Score for performance at walk <sup>2</sup>	Score for ease of walk to rider <sup>2</sup>	Score for action at walk <sup>3</sup>	Time to cover 11.35-mile course	Time to trot a mile	Length of stride at trot <sup>2</sup>	Score for ease of handling at trot <sup>2</sup>	Score for performance at trot <sup>2</sup>	Score for ease of trot to rider <sup>2</sup>	Score for action at trot <sup>3</sup>
	Number	Minutes	Feet					Minutes	Minutes	Feet				
2	1	17.0	5.50	5.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	117.0	5.90	9.80	5.00	2.00	2.00	3.00
3	1	16.40	5.60	1.00	2.00	4.00	5.00	125.0	5.80	9.40	1.00	3.00	2.00	7.00
4	5	15.08	5.44	4.22	4.20	4.60	6.40	102.8	5.12	10.60	4.40	4.40	4.20	6.40
5	18	15.17	5.48	4.22	3.78	4.17	6.89	111.0	5.29	10.06	4.33	4.06	4.00	6.89
6	17	15.32	5.18	4.12	3.88	4.00	6.53	106.5	5.44	9.86	4.35	4.18	3.82	6.59
7	13	14.62	5.36	3.92	4.00	4.38	6.69	105.3	5.04	10.34	4.00	4.00	4.00	7.00
8	1	16.00	4.40	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	121.0	6.30	7.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00
9	1	15.20	5.30	5.00	4.00	5.00	7.00	103.0	5.50	8.80	4.00	3.00	4.00	5.00
Total or average	57	15.15	5.34	4.02	3.79	4.12	6.51	108.0	5.30	10.04	4.16	3.98	3.84	6.61

## ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>4</sup>												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total			
Between scores	7	1.42	*0.26	**3.03	*2.26	*2.48	**5.47	141.7	0.43	1.41	**3.21	**2.34	*2.33	**4.63
Within scores	49	1.42	.10	.85	.77	.87	1.27	82.3	.43	.94	.51	.62	.92	1.53
Total	56													

<sup>1</sup> 1 = very sluggish; 2 = somewhat sluggish; 3 = somewhat alert; 4 = moderately alert; 5 = active but gentle; 6 = very active, easily handled; 7 = very active, difficult to handle; 8 = very active, vicious; 9 = very active, very vicious.

<sup>2</sup> Scored by the riders on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the poorest and 5 the best.

<sup>3</sup> Scored on a scale of 1 to 9, 1 being the poorest and 9 the best.

<sup>4</sup> \* = Significant; \*\* = highly significant.



TABLE 15.—Association of ease of walk and trot to the rider with other measures of performance and analyses of variance

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

Score for ease of walk to rider <sup>1</sup>	Horses	Time to walk a mile	Length of stride at walk	Score for ease of handling at walk <sup>1</sup>	Score for ease of performance of walk <sup>1</sup>	Time to cover 11.35-mile course	Score for ease of trot to rider <sup>1</sup>	Horses	Time to trot a mile	Length of stride at trot	Score for ease of handling at trot <sup>1</sup>	Score for ease of performance of trot <sup>1</sup>	Time to cover 11.35-mile course
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Minutes</i>	<i>Feet</i>			<i>Minutes</i>		<i>Number</i>	<i>Minutes</i>	<i>Feet</i>			<i>Minutes</i>
1-----	1	16.00	4.40	1.00	1.00	121.0	1-----	1	6.30	7.90	1.00	1.00	121.0
2-----	4	16.12	5.02	3.50	2.50	109.5	2-----	6	5.82	9.38	3.33	3.17	117.0
3-----	10	15.76	5.37	3.80	3.20	113.4	3-----	13	5.08	10.25	3.85	3.46	108.8
4-----	23	14.85	5.32	3.70	3.74	110.3	4-----	26	5.37	10.06	4.38	4.15	107.8
5-----	30	14.82	5.43	4.57	4.33	106.3	5-----	22	5.21	10.13	4.55	4.73	108.1
Total or average-----	68	15.06	5.35	4.04	3.81	109.1	-----	68	5.32	10.03	4.19	4.07	109.1

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>2</sup>		Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares <sup>2</sup>	
Between scores-----	4	3.28	*0.39	Between scores-----	4	1.14	*4.97
Within scores-----	63	1.60	.11	Within scores-----	63	.49	.58
Total-----	67			Total-----	67		

<sup>1</sup> Scored by the riders on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the poorest and 5 the best.

<sup>2</sup> \* = Significant, \*\* = highly significant.

As judged by the riders, performance at the walk was significantly associated with action at the walk (table 7), speed of walk and length of stride at the walk (table 8), and the rider, scores for head, slope of croup, and temperament (table 18). Performance at the trot was significantly associated with temperament (table 14), and years and action at the walk (table 18). Performance at the canter was significantly associated with temperament (table 18).

Average scores for performance at the walk varied from 3.67 to 4.67 with riders that rode three or more horses. Horses given the best scores for performance at the walk, on the average, walked faster and had longer strides than those given poorer scores. Horses with high scores for head had the best average scores for performance at the walk. Horses with an intermediate score for slope of croup generally performed better than horses given extremely high or low scores. However, there were few horses in the extreme classes. There was considerable difference in the performance at the walk by horses of different temperaments but no consistent trend (table 14). There was a consistent trend for performance at the walk with action at the walk (table 7). The differences in the performance at the walk were highly significant when the horses were classified on action at the trot, but there was not a consistent trend.

Horses that were active but not vicious or difficult to handle performed better at the trot than either sluggish or very active vicious horses (table 14). Straight, snappy action at the walk and trot was highly associated with a good score for performance at the trot (table 7). Very active but easily handled horses performed best at the canter.

Ease of walk to the rider was significantly associated with action at the walk and at the trot (tables 7 and 18), temperament (table 14), and with riders, condition (fleshing), and type of head (table 18). Ease of trot to the rider was significantly associated with action at the walk and at the trot (tables 7 and 18), and temperament (table 14).

Average scores for ease of walk to rider varied with different riders from 3 to 5. Although the analyses showed significant differences in ease of walk for horses with different scores for conformation of head, condition or fleshing, and temperament, the results were not consistent. Horses with a straight, snappy action at the walk and trot in general had the easiest walk (table 7). Those that were given the best scores for ease of walk walked faster on the average, although the differences did not quite reach significance.

The differences in ease of trot for horses of different temperaments showed no trend (table 14). Those with a straight, snappy walk had the easiest gait at the trot. However, good action at the trot was not consistently associated with ease of trot (table 7).

#### OTHER CHARACTERS

Length of stride at the walk varied from 4.1 to 6 feet, the average being 5.4 feet. It was significantly associated with time required to walk a mile and time required to cover the 11.35-mile course (table 5), performance at the walk (table 8), temperament (table 14), ease of walk to the rider (table 15), and ease of handling at the walk (table 18).

Length of stride was not associated significantly with sex, sire, dam, year, or rider.

Horses with the best scores for performance at the walk and ease of walk to rider had the longest average strides. Although statistically significant differences were found between the average length of stride at the walk for horses with different scores for temperament, there seemed to be no obvious reason why this relationship exists as judged by the average scores. It may be due to the fact that the temperament score was based on several factors including activity, ease of handling, and viciousness or it may be that the differences are only a chance relationship. Heart girth and slope of croup were somewhat associated with length of stride at the walk but the differences were not significant (table 16). Horses with medium heart girth and medium slope of croup had the longest average strides.

TABLE 16.—*Association of heart girth and slope of croup with length of stride at the walk and analyses of variance*

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE

Heart girth (cm.)	Horses	Average length of stride at walk	Score for slope of croup <sup>1</sup>	Horses	Average length of stride at walk
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Feet</i>		<i>Number</i>	<i>Feet</i>
163-165-----	3	5.3	3	2	5.3
166-168-----	4	5.5	4	4	5.4
169-171-----	8	5.3	5	15	5.5
172-174-----	10	5.2	6	21	5.4
175-177-----	19	5.5	7	15	5.4
178-180-----	11	5.4	8	6	5.0
181-183-----	5	5.0			
184-186-----	3	5.2			
Total or average-	63	5.3		63	5.3

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE

Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares	Source of variance	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares
Between heart girth	7	0.21	Between slope of croup.	5	0.24
Within heart girth---	55	.10	Within slope of croup.	57	.11
Total-----	62			62	

<sup>1</sup> 1=step-, 2=step, 3=step+, 4=medium slope-, 5=medium slope, 6=medium slope+, 7=level-, 8=level, 9=level+.

Length of stride at the trot ranged from 7.9 to 12.4 feet with an average of 10 feet. It was significantly associated with sire (table 2), time required to trot a mile and to cover the 11.35-mile course (table 5), sex (table 11), general conformation and top line of back (table 17), and ease of trot to rider (table 18). Geldings had, on the average, the longest stride (10.3 feet); stallions, the shortest (9.1 feet); and mares, intermediate (10 feet). Averages for the offspring of different sires ranged from 8.8 to 10.6 feet (table 2). However, an analysis of the variance between the offspring of different sires within the same sex showed that the average difference was not significant.

Horses with different scores on general conformation differed significantly, though not consistently, in average length of stride. In general, horses with intermediate scores for conformation, as well as for top line of back and top line of withers, had the longest stride (table 17).

Action at the walk, which was significantly associated with time required to cover the 11.35-mile course, performance at the walk, and ease of walk (table 7), and with ease of handling at the trot, was not significantly associated with differences between sexes, offspring of the various sires, or the progeny of sires within sexes.

Action at the trot was significantly associated with the sire (table 2), time required to cover the 11.35-mile course, performance at the walk and trot, and ease of walk and trot to rider (table 7), and differences in the dams (table 18). Considerable spread was found in the distribution of the offspring from some of the sires (figure 4). This may indicate segregation of genetically different types.

Temperament, which was significantly associated with length of stride at the walk and all the riders' scores except for ease of canter, was not significantly associated with differences between sexes or between the progeny of sires within sexes.

Heart girth, which was somewhat associated with length of stride at the walk (table 16), was not significantly associated with differences between the offspring of the various sires when the effects of sex were removed.

General conformation, which was significantly associated with time required to trot a mile (table 10), length of stride at trot (table 17), ease of handling at walk (table 18), and sex (table 18), was not associated with differences between the offspring of the various sires. The stallions averaged the highest conformation, mares the next, and geldings the lowest.

Top line of back, which was significantly associated with the time required to cover the 11.35-mile course (table 12) and length of stride at the trot (table 17), was not significantly associated with differences between the offspring of the various sires, although the association approached significance. The averages for the different sires ranged from 4.3 (medium) for Hudson's progeny to 7.5 (short, level) for Laddie's progeny. The progeny of Goldfield and Canfield averaged medium+ (6.0 and 6.1, respectively).

TABLE 17.—Association of general conformation, top line of back, and top line of withers with length of stride at the trot and analyses of variance

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE																		
Score for general conformation <sup>1</sup>		Horses		Average length of stride at trot		Score for top line of back <sup>2</sup>		Horses		Average length of stride at trot		Score for top line of withers <sup>3</sup>		Horses		Average length of stride at trot		
		Number		Feet				Number		Feet				Number		Feet		
4	-----	3	10.4	4	-----	7	9.9	4	-----	5	8.0	5	-----	10	10.2	5	-----	10.1
5	-----	7	10.3	5	-----	13	10.1	5	-----	10	10.2	6	-----	19	9.7	6	-----	10.4
6	-----	11	10.7	6	-----	18	10.4	6	-----	16	10.1	7	-----	21	10.5	7	-----	10.1
7	-----	26	9.8	7	-----	16	10.1	7	-----	9	9.7	8	-----	11	10.1	8	-----	10.1
8	-----	12	10.3	8	-----	9	9.7	8	-----	8	10.1	9	-----	1	10.2	9	-----	10.2
9	-----	4	9.0	9	-----	63	10.1	9	-----	63	10.1	Total or average	-----	63	10.1			

ANALYSES OF VARIANCE											
Source of variance		Degrees of freedom		Mean squares <sup>4</sup>		Source of variance		Degrees of freedom		Mean squares <sup>4</sup>	
Between general conformation.	-----	5	* 2.41	Between top line of back	-----	4	* 3.04	Between top line of withers	-----	5	2.12
Within general conformation.	-----	57	.93	Within top line of back	-----	58	.92	Within top line of withers	-----	57	.96
Total	-----	62	-----	Total	-----	62	-----	Total	-----	62	-----

<sup>1</sup> 1 = poor, 2 = poor, 3 = poor, 4 = medium, 5 = medium, 6 = medium, 7 = good, 8 = good, 9 = good + level +.

<sup>2</sup> 1 = low, long; 2 = low, long; 3 = low, long; 4 = medium; 5 = medium; 6 = medium; 7 = short, level; 8 = short, level; 9 = short, level +.

<sup>3</sup> 1 = flat, wide; 2 = flat, wide; 3 = flat, wide; 4 = medium; 5 = medium; 6 = medium; 7 = sharp, well defined; 8 = sharp, well defined +.

<sup>4</sup> \* = Significant.

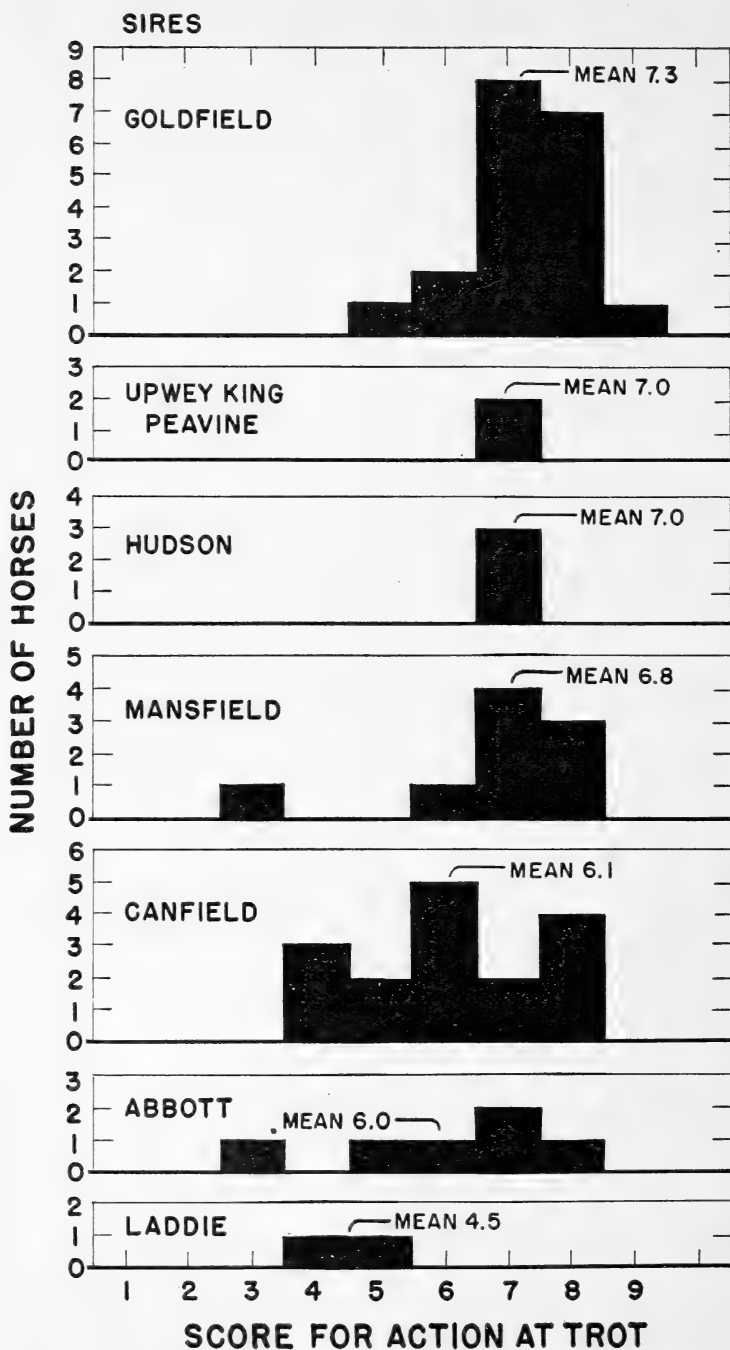


FIGURE 4.—Distribution of offspring of some of the sires for action at trot.

Slope of croup (top line of croup) was significantly associated with the riders' scores for performance at walk, approached significance for time required to cover the 11.35-mile course, the time required to trot a mile, and the length of stride at the walk, and was significantly associated with the differences between the offspring of the various sires and offspring of sires within sexes. It was not significantly associated with sex. Average scores for the progeny of different sires ranged from 5.3 for Hudson's progeny to 7.5 for those of Upwey King Peavine. Goldfield's progeny averaged 5.4.

Slope of shoulder was significantly associated with the time required to walk a mile (table 6) and with differences between sire-progeny groups within the same sex groups. It approached significance for differences between sexes and between sire-progeny groups.

### TRANSMITTING ABILITY OF THE SIRES

The relative breeding value of the sires was indicated by comparing the average performance of the colts of a given sire with the average performance of colts by other sires from the same dams (table 9). In many of the comparisons the numbers were so small that only extreme differences could be shown to be significant, and it was not possible to consider the effects of years and sex. Apparently, no one stallion had superior transmitting ability in all characters. Canfield's progeny, however, made the best showing when all the characters were considered. Mansfield's progeny, on the other hand, generally did not perform so well as those of the other sires. In regard to speed, stride, and temperament, it has been assumed in comparing the sires that the faster the speed, the longer the stride, and the higher the temperament score, the better were these characters.

Style and beauty, although not directly related to performance, are generally desired in saddle horses and must be considered in selecting breeding stock. Differences between the progeny groups were found to be significant (table 18). The means for the progeny of the different stallions from highest to lowest were Mansfield, 7.7; Laddie, 7.5; Canfield, 7.2; Goldfield, 7.1; Hudson, 7.0; Upwey King Peavine, 6.5; and Abbott, 5.5. Delmont's progeny were not scored for style and beauty.

Determination of the transmitting ability of the sires is only partly covered by the tests reported in this study. Thus, Mansfield's 12 colts that were tested are only a small sample of those sired by this stallion and may not have included the best. In fact 2 of his colts that were not available for testing have won the 100-mile trail rides of the Green Mountain Horse Association, indicating they had some excellent qualities. This fact does not detract from the findings of the present study but illustrates that the ability to evaluate the sires is limited by the inadequacy of the tests and the samples tested.





Character	Speed and length of stride							Rider's scores							Body measurements							Miscellaneous scores																		
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	44	45	46	48	50	51	52				
32. Depth of hock.....																																								
33. Circumference of fore cannon.....																																								
34. Circumference of hind cannon.....																																								
35. Circumference of knee.....																																								
36. Width of fore cannon.....																																								
37. Depth of fore cannon.....																																								
<i>Miscellaneous scores</i>																																								
38. Condition (fatigue) <sup>3</sup> .....																																								
39. General conformation.....																																								
40. Style and beauty.....																																								
41. Head.....																																								
42. Neck.....																																								
43. Top line of withers.....																																								
44. Top line of back.....																																								
45. Slope of croup (top line of croup).....																																								
46. Slope of shoulder.....																																								
47. Size and shape of feet.....																																								
48. Quality.....																																								
49. Condition (fleshiness).....																																								
50. Temperament.....																																								
51. Action at walk.....																																								
52. Action at trot.....																																								

<sup>1</sup> Numbers at top of columns correspond to numbers and description at left.

<sup>2</sup> Studied by analyses of variance; — = Not significant; + = approaches significance; \* = significant; \*\* = highly significant.

<sup>3</sup> Scored at end of 11.35-mile test.

## DISCUSSION

The results presented must be considered as only an approach to many of the problems involved. Although the number of animals was fairly large considering the relatively long interval between generations of horses and the expense of raising and training them, the number and distribution of progeny by sires or dams were not adequate to more than indicate some of the possibilities from the standpoint of inheritance. Moreover, most of the tests should be repeated several times with each horse in order to get reliable estimates of its ability. In a preliminary study, Phillips, Brier, and Lambert (7) found this to be true for time required to walk or trot a mile in the carriage. In repeated tests, however, with the same horses under saddle at the trot no significant differences were noted between the tests.

No check has been made of the reliability of the data obtained for the time required to walk a mile under saddle or to cover the 11.35-mile course; for the riders' scores for ease of handling, performance of gaits, and ease of gaits to riders; or for the scores given by the trained observers.

The significant differences between the progeny of different sires give strong indications that factors controlling the following characters are inherited: Speed at the walk and on the 11.35-mile course, height to floor of chest, length from point of shoulder to point of hip, style and beauty, slope of croup and shoulder, and action at the trot. Such significant differences as were found are undoubtedly due to both environmental and genetic factors. With the data available there is no way of accurately measuring all these effects. However, in the case of speed, which one would expect would be affected materially by environmental influences, the indications of the influence of inheritance are strengthened by the significant differences for speed at the walk and on the 11.35-mile course within the same years and with the same riders, the significant differences for speed at the walk between the offspring of different dams, and the significant differences between the offspring of certain sires mated to the same dams. The fact that differences in temperature and humidity at the time of the test did not, on the average, have a significant effect also tends to eliminate these environmental factors. Some of the differences that were not statistically significant, such as differences between the offspring of the different sires for speed at the trot in the same years and with the same riders, might with repeated experiments and different samples prove to be inherited to a measurable degree.

Many of the interrelationships among the characters have not been adequately studied. Some of these may be complex, as Dawson (1) found in studying the relationship of weight and heart girth to pulling ability in draft horses. A number of the associations found may be coincidental. For example, some of the sires might transmit both small feet and speed to their offspring, thereby making it appear that speed was dependent on the size of the feet, when actually there was no relationship other than that both characters were inherited together and the sample was not large enough to randomize such occurrences.

It should be borne in mind that the primary purpose of the breeding work at the United States Morgan Horse Farm has been to produce animals for use both under saddle and in the carriage. To qualify as good saddle horses, they should have clean gaits that are easy on the rider, be easy to handle, possess considerable endurance, and have a reasonable speed. Excessive speed, as that of race horses, is not desired or attempted.

The speed that a horse attains in a given test is due to the influence of many factors. From a breeding standpoint, the factors that appeared to be most important in this study were length of stride, temperament, action, length of leg, slope of shoulder, and slope of croup. Shape and size of feet, which were found to be associated with speed of walk, were probably coincidental combinations. The five horses with the smallest feet were by two sires, Canfield and Goldfield, which also had the fastest walking progeny. Sex undoubtedly had an influence on speed both directly and through its association with length of stride at the trot and general conformation. Unfortunately, there was not a normal distribution of sexes. The castration of most of the males and disposal of others before testing were undoubtedly factors that resulted in the elimination of certain types. The fact that the stallions, on the average, had a shorter stride at the trot than the geldings might indicate a selection for a type with a shorter stride. On the other hand, it might be due to a difference in temperament directly connected with the presence or absence of the sex glands.

At the walk, a long stride was not necessarily associated with speed since a considerable number of horses with long strides did not naturally walk fast. Speed, however, was dependent on the horses' having a reasonably long stride since none with short strides walked fast. Since straight, snappy action was associated with speed at the walk, it is evident that ability and willingness to move the feet fast in combination with ability and willingness to take a long stride are essential for a horse to make good time at the walk. Although slope of shoulder, which was found to be associated with time required to walk a mile, did not seem to be associated with length of stride, it was associated with action or willingness and ability to move the feet fast.

At the trot, none of the horses with a long stride were very slow and none with a short stride were fast. Slope of croup was also associated with speed at the trot but was not significantly associated with length of stride. The apparent lack of association where it might be expected may be partly due to the fact that medium slope of croup was found to be the most favorable. The same statement may apply also to slope of shoulder in relation to speed of walk, and to top line of back and withers where a medium condition was associated with a longer stride at the trot but not with the greatest speed at the trot. Also the lack of association may be due to the characters' being related to speed in different ways but not necessarily to one another.

On the cross-country ride, speed was an even more complicated measure since it involved three gaits and, furthermore, the long distance might involve endurance to a much greater extent than the 1-mile tests. The fact that only seven horses showed marked signs

of fatigue and that the association between speed and fatigue was not significant indicates that the test did not satisfactorily differentiate endurance between the horses. The differences between riders (environmental factors) were also associated with speed to a greater extent than on the shorter tests. This fact may in part account for the correlations between time on the cross-country test and on the shorter tests not being higher.

On the average, horses with short, level backs made the best time on the cross-country test. This may have been due to the association between top line of back and length of stride at the trot, or it may have been a coincidental association. Canfield's offspring, on the average, had relatively short backs and were also the fastest.

The riders liked a fast walk with good action and were able to recognize it, as indicated by the fact that in general they gave the best scores for performance at the walk to horses with the fastest time, longest stride, and best action. They were not, however, so consistent in scoring performance at the trot, indicating that they did not all prefer the fast trot with a long stride or that they did not recognize it. However, in scoring performance, they liked a straight, snappy action at the trot. Just why good action at the walk should have been associated with ease of trot to the rider when good action at the trot was not, is not clear to the authors. Many horsemen believe slope of shoulder is associated with ease of riding. It did not appear to be in this study.

According to Steele (11) the need for progeny testing has already been recognized by some light-horse breeders but more need to practice it. He says, in effect, that performance and meritorious production should be made the basis of selection and retention rather than the current use of lengthy pedigrees.

## SUMMARY

This circular presents results of performance tests for speed, endurance, and ease of riding under saddle of 68 three-year-old Morgan horses raised and trained at the United States Morgan Horse Farm, Middlebury, Vt. These horses were by 8 sires and ranged from 2 to 25 offspring per sire. Tests consisted of 1 mile under saddle at the walk and 1 mile at the trot and an 11.35-mile cross-country ride at the walk, trot, and canter. On the 1-mile tests records were made of the time required for the test and the length of stride. On the 11.35-mile test records were taken of the time required; fatigue at the end of the test; and riders' scores on each horse for ease of handling at each gait, performance of gait, and ease of gait to the riders. Other measurements and scores were made on each horse.

Horses with a fast walk, on the average, had a long stride, straight snappy action, and a medium slope of shoulder. Slow horses had either a short or a long stride. None of the sires produced all progeny with both a fast walk and a long stride. Canfield had the best record, 69 percent of his progeny being in this group.

Horses with a fast trot had a relatively long stride and in general had a medium score on general conformation. Differences between the offspring of the different sires were not on the average significant when the sex of the progeny was considered.

On the cross-country ride, horses that made the fastest time had a long stride at the trot, performed the trot well in the opinion of the riders, and had relatively short, level backs.

At the end of the cross-country test, stallions showed the least fatigue and mares the most. So few horses showed fatigue that the test was not considered adequate as a measure of endurance.

The easiest horses to handle at the walk, on the average, were those with a long stride, a high score on general conformation, and a medium score on temperament. Horses that walked fast and had a long stride, high scores for head, an intermediate slope of croup, and straight snappy action generally had the best scores on performance at the walk. In general, horses with a fast walk and a straight snappy action at the walk and trot had the easiest walk for the rider.

At the trot, horses that had low or medium scores for temperament, straight snappy action at the walk, and intermediate height at the withers were, on the average, the easiest to handle. Horses that were active but not vicious or difficult to handle and had straight snappy action at the walk and trot as a rule performed best at the trot. Horses with a straight snappy walk had the easiest gait at the trot to the rider. Riders did not prefer horses with the longest stride.

At the canter, horses with intermediate scores for temperament were the easiest to handle. Horses that were very active but easily handled performed the best.

The significant differences between the progeny of different sires give strong indications that factors controlling the following characters are inherited: Speed at the walk and on the 11.35-mile course, height to floor of chest, length from point of shoulder to point of hip, style and beauty, slope of croup and shoulder, and action at the trot.

Characters that were associated with performance and that differed significantly between the sexes were length of stride at the trot and general conformation. Canfield's colts, when compared with colts by other stallions from the same dams, made the best showing on performance of any of the sire progeny. Mansfield's colts had a higher average for style and beauty than those from other stallions.

Because of the relatively few sires and inequalities of distribution of the progeny and sexes, some of the results may be due to coincidence of characters being transmitted together.

The results of this study indicate that some of the existing beliefs concerning the relation of physical characters to performance of saddle horses are not based on sound assumptions and that more comprehensive studies should be carried out to determine the relationships between form and function. Until better information is available, it is suggested that breeders select for characters shown in this study to be associated with performance and, when possible, use breeding animals with proved ability to transmit performance.

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