

Mississippi Valley News

By RENEE M. PAGE

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Well, it's news time again. And since Pat Werts, our usual reporter, is busy caring for her two small bundles of joy, it is my task to write the column this month. Yes, Neal and Pat Werts are the proud parents of twins; two darling boys, Dean and Dale, who arrived on the fifteenth of January. A nice way to start the New Year, don't you agree?

Cold weather has been the mark of the Mid-west for the past few months, but you can't keep Morgan owners and enthusiasts down. The December meeting and Christmas Party were held on December tenth at the home of the Truman Pocklingtons. About 25 members joined in the holiday festivities, where the main topic of discussion was our coming horse show. The date has been set for Saturday, May nineteenth at the Illinois State Fair Grounds in Springfield. The show will be held in three sessions, a morning, afternoon, and evening performance, and the classes will be as follows:

Breed Classes: Yearlings (any sex); Mares (2 years); Mares (3 years); Mares (4 years and over); Stallions (2 years); Stallions (3 years); Stallions (4 years and over); Grand Champion Mare; Grand Champion Stallion. Performance Classes: Western Pleasure, Western Parade, Fine Harness Morgan, English Pleasure, Morgan Roadster, Western Pleasure (Jr. Rider Under 18 years), Three Gaited Morgan - over 15 hands, Stock Horse Reining, Three Gaited Morgan - under 15 hands, Junior Fine Harness (4 years and under), Gay Nineties, Junior Saddle Class (4 years and under), Three Gaited Morgan Stake.

As you can see we are having a good selection of classes, in which there is a place for every type of Morgan. So tune up your Morgans and plan to be there!

After the meeting some of the hardier members ventured out to the barn to look over the Pocklingtons' Morgans. Among them is Indian War Chief (Chief Red Hawk x Gayneta), a very flashy coming two year old. He is a dark liver chestnut with a white mane and tail who can really move well. Also there is the bay two year old, Maple Lane Prince who is the image of his sire, Don O Don.

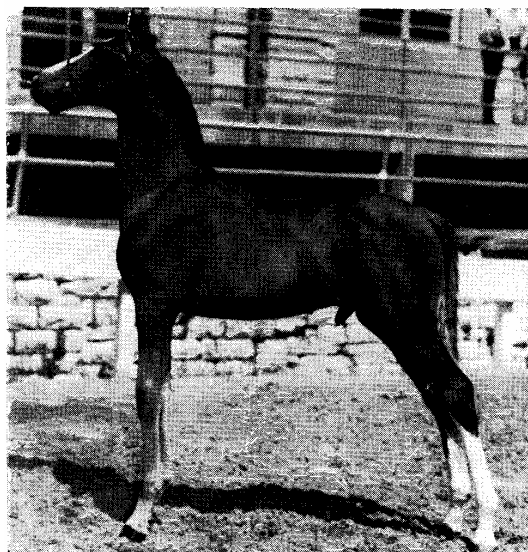
Last month we told you of Dr. D. F. McCarthy purchasing two Morgans in Minnesota, but we knew only one mare's name. The other, a nice little filly, Mora's Simsec (Joe K x Milaca Springstar), he sold to Miss Barbara Monfort of Kirkwood, Missouri. Barbara received quite a Christmas gift when she received "Simi". "Simi" is a dark chestnut with a flaxen mane and tail who can really move well. Also since Simsec is an unusual name, Barbara wrote to the filly's breeder about the name and received a very informative reply. It seems that "Simi's" breeders had an exchange student from Turkey sharing their abode when the filly was foaled. Seeing the marking in her face he exclaimed, "She's a little Simsec, (pronounced Shimsec), which in Turkish means Lightning. So translated "Simi's" name is Mora's Lightning and from what I hear she really lives up to her name. Barbara also owns the nice bay gelding, Fancy Dan (Congo x Delama), whom this writer had the pleasure of riding a few weeks ago. And St. Louis area Morgan exhibitors had better take notice to him and Simsec, for they just may be the ones to beat this summer.

While in St. Louis for the Christmas holidays, the W. C. Byers of Albuquerque, New Mexico and former members of the MVMHC spent much of their time visiting various St. Louis area Morganites, but as usual they just could not squeeze enough time in to see everyone. At present Lorrayne is busy working her very typy little stallion, Rex Linsley as a stock horse and she says she might bring him to the MVMHC show if he is ready to show this spring.

Our January meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Gerhardt, and as usual there was snow and more snow, which kept some members away. Again the main topic of discussion was our coming show and other shows which might include Morgan classes in their classes. Lisa Clemens gave a report on the St. Joseph's Academy Horse Show, one of St. Louis' larger shows. This show will again put in two classes, a fine harness and three gaited Morgan. The show committee feels that last year the three gaited Morgan class was a success, but think the fine harness class should be improved, as there were only two Morgans in it last year. It is well to remember that it is through such shows as this one that our breed can become more popular and it is this writer's opinion that the Morgan will only gain the popularity he richly deserves when he is put in the eyes of the public. And the only way to do this is by showing him where there are classes and seeing that such classes are filled. Let's put the Morgan at the top of the ladder of the equine field! Let's fill these classes!



FANCY DAN 10793 (Congo x Delama) owned by Miss Barbara Monfort of Kirkwood, Mo.



THE BRAVADO 13230 (Panfield's Thor x Kamlah) owned by Mary C. Gerhardt.