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MORGEN was supposed to be a reining prospect but as seen here with trainer Pam Thompson, has dressage talent.

Morgen, an Arabian Champion

It was love at first sight eight years ago when Jan Finseth of Mullica Hill first encountered Morgen, a 2-year old Arabian filly, at breeder Ann Dorsett's farm in Woolwich, N.J. She had gone there to look at other horses and an unbroken youngster was not on her list; but, as Mrs. Dorsett puts it, "Jan saw the soul of the horse."

Mrs. Finseth acknowledges that a novice horse and a novice rider are not generally a good combination, but, "I wouldn't give up a minute of it. The training process was so enlightening." In Mrs. Dorsett's opinion, "She took the raw

material and went on to develop this mare. You couldn't find a better buyer."

Morgen was originally intended to be a Western reining horse, but the trainer told her owner: "She needs to be kept busy." As Mrs. Finseth recalls, "Dressage kept coming to mind," and the horse went under the tutelage of Pam Thompson of Cochranville, Pa. Ms. Thompson, who competes Morgen for Mrs. Finseth, shows her on both the United States Dressage Federation and Arabian circuits. Their accomplishments include East Coast Champion Second Level in the Arab shows, and the International Arabian Horse

Association Supreme Legion of Honor award.

The next step will be to compete Morgen at Third Level in open shows against warmbloods. While the thought initially intimidated Mrs. Finseth, after Ms. Thompson put together a program with Morgen "that blew me away" for the East Coast Championships, her mind was made up.

Mrs. Finseth thinks Arabs are good dressage prospects because of their "intelligence, attitude, expression, and the way they carry themselves. They're light on their feet, and because of their intelligence, they respond to the trainer's cue quickly."