

HORSE TAILS

By AYELEEN

Dear Mother,

In answering your questions about what I think a Morgan should be I expect you might get a little confused at first. I realize that since you have seen us compete in the ring with other good Morgans you know that all Morgans do not look exactly like the ones I have.

As I picked out these Morgans in the first place because I found the disposition and way of going I liked, I hope to make it plain there is an abundance of the type I like as well as the variations. I have a very definite idea as to how My horses should look . . . no matter what breed I am admiring, MY preferred type will pop up to claim my admiration. Since the Morgans are shown to their best advantage in the ring you must have noticed that although all of them do not look EXACTLY alike, still they all appear to GO THE SAME . . . that is why so many people like me have Morgans instead of some other breed. You don't need a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry to handle or show the average Morgan (although wouldn't it be a help?) and the way they are presented in the ring is simply a dressed up version of the way they usually want to go anyway.

There must be more of us "amateurs" showing Morgan horses than there are good professionals. The addition of skilled trainers to Morgans has raised the standard of performance, which is very good. But it has also raised the cry that our natural horses are being ruined. There are always a few who unfortunately bring this upon themselves. Since there are few rules defining where expert training ends and pure artificiality begins it is difficult to change the situation. However, I think most of us could profit by trying to emulate the THOROUGHNESS of the good trainer's methods inasmuch as he turns out a horse that behaves. Most of us want the Morgan horses to go to ring without much of the artificial means. But we really don't want our horses to go to ring disobedient, barefooted and with burrs in their tails! We want them to be shown in a fairly natural state, but trained well enough to show the beautiful animated way of going that

IS more natural to MOST Morgans than people realize.

You mentioned that you thought a few of the winners were a different type . . . or appear to be more slender, some taller. There are some, of course and I believe they win because they are performing the best and thereby make the best appearance for the breed upon the public.

In my opinion there are more natural good going horses in the Morgan ranks than in other breeds. Therefore the average person has a good deal of success showing one and that one often serves as an active pleasure horse between shows. A natural horse in that sense is one that is fortunately born endowed with the proper carriage and way of going. Training is a simple process as they are "easy", so by virtue of the horse rather than our skill he turns out a credit to the breed and shows well on occasion. However, our knowledge of athletics makes us realize that in any sport some skill must be inborn BUT a great deal of perfection comes with constant supervised practice. Therefore when our natural horse comes up against one that is better trained we are defeated . . . it is no disgrace, it is just inevitable.

I like to think that the skilled trainer can take a more difficult horse and get the best performance from him with finesse. Think what happens when such a trainer gets a natural, like a Morgan often is, to train. Coupled with the horse's inborn assets, the man trains it to perfection and then you do have a combination . . . hard to beat.

But, the beauty of these Morgan horses is that under ordinary circumstances, this wealth of natural horses, owned by many proud loving amateur owners who do their own training, can successfully compete and be expected to win often enough so that any horse-lover who wants a good useful horse can show it also . . . if it is a Morgan and his owner spends some time with his horse so it will obey him. Our breed is unique in this dual use. I do not think we want all Morgans that are amateur owned and trained delegated to a "pleasure horse" category at a show. We want the Morgan ranks

boost the breed and faithfully show the family pride — win, lose or draw, with grace and good sportsmanship . . . if the horse is a Morgan.

filled with people, amateurs, as they

In my opinion, a Morgan should be rather small, but quite broad and compact . . . powerful appearing. I find that due to the history behind the Morgan you are quite apt to find this type in Morgans. When it is coupled with an alert friendly disposition (but with spirited personality) this is the horse for me. Each person who buys a Morgan is not looking for exactly what I want . . . therefore there must be some choice and variety. No one expects all ponies to be the same size; or Arabs the same color; or roadsters the same weight. No I don't think that we expect Morgans to be a certain height, size or shape . . . BUT we do expect them to show the same way and I think they do. A ringful of Morgans usually will all look alike when they move . . . it is that proud showy carriage, the upstanding neck, the prancy way of trotting with all the animation of a showy horse . . . that is Morgan to me. I am sure when a good natural Morgan comes along, and he is highly developed to show his best abilities, it won't matter much whether he is tall or short . . . he will be a Morgan.

Your loving daughter,