

Quality Pays Off for Arabian Horse Breeder

Concentrating on quality rather than quantity has paid off in the show ring for Doreen (Mrs. John) Christensen. Mrs. Christensen is an owner and breeder of Arabian horses, and last week her eight-month-old weanling was named junior champion filly at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition Arabian Horse Show.

"It's very unusual for a horse that young to be a junior champion," Mrs. Christensen said. "I'm very proud of Silver Phoenicia, and I think she's going to be an excellent horse for us."

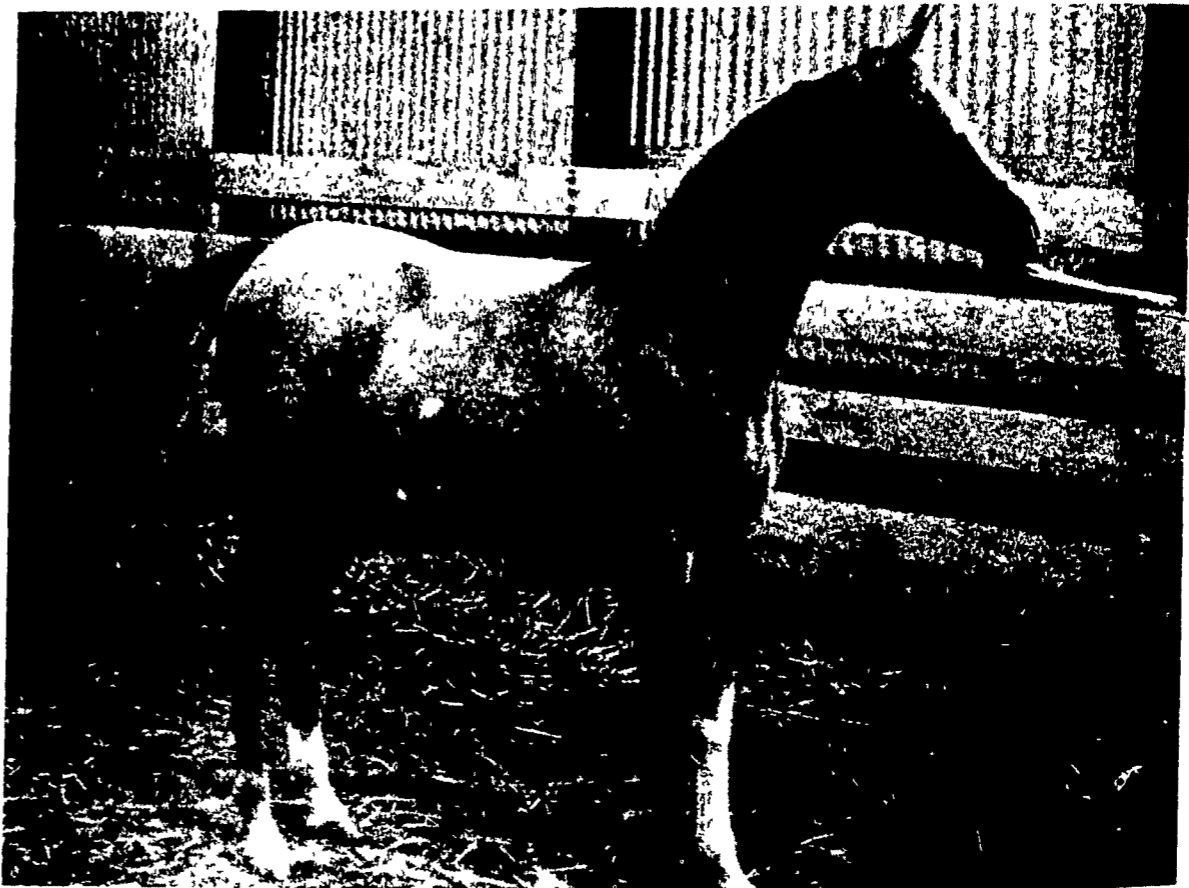
The Christensens are relative newcomers to the area, having moved to Manheim R4 just this past March. They bought a 19-

acre farm formerly owned by the Loose family when Mr. Christensen's company transferred him to the area from West Virginia.

"We were very fortunate to find this place," Mrs. Christensen said. "It's just perfect for raising horses and it has an excellent set-up for riding classes."

The horse barn is about 200 feet long, has a number of stalls, a tack room, heated wash room and office. A 25-foot aisle running the entire length of the building provides an indoor exercise area for the horses.

At the moment, the Christensen herd consists of an excellent four-year-old foundation mare, Rose



Silver Phoenicia, a eight-month-old weanling, surprised many of the Arabian horse breeders by taking junior champion filly honors at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition. Her owner and

breeder, Mrs. Doreen Christensen of Manheim, said it's very unusual for any horse under two years old to take a junior champion prize.



Doreen Christensen has an enormous appreciation of the Arabian breed. Mrs. Christensen is shown here with Silver Phoenicia, a prime example of the breed and already a prize-winner at eight months of age.

Araby, and two of her fillies. "When we started in the horse business, we decided we'd rather concentrate on breeding a few top-quality horses than a lot of average animals," Mrs. Christensen said. "Naturally you pay more for good horses, but once you've got the animal, your feed and veterinary costs aren't any more than they'd be for an ordinary old hay burner."

"Rose is carrying her third foal now, and we're having her bred only to top stallions," she added. Rose Araby is quite a show horse herself, having won a ribbon for being a top five East Coast mare at the 1970 Quentin

Horse Show.

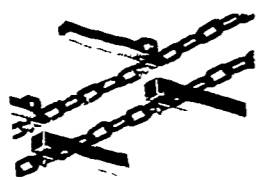
Arabians are the oldest recognized horse breed, Mrs. Christensen pointed out. They were first bred by nomadic tribes in the Middle East who used them

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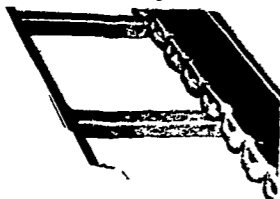
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