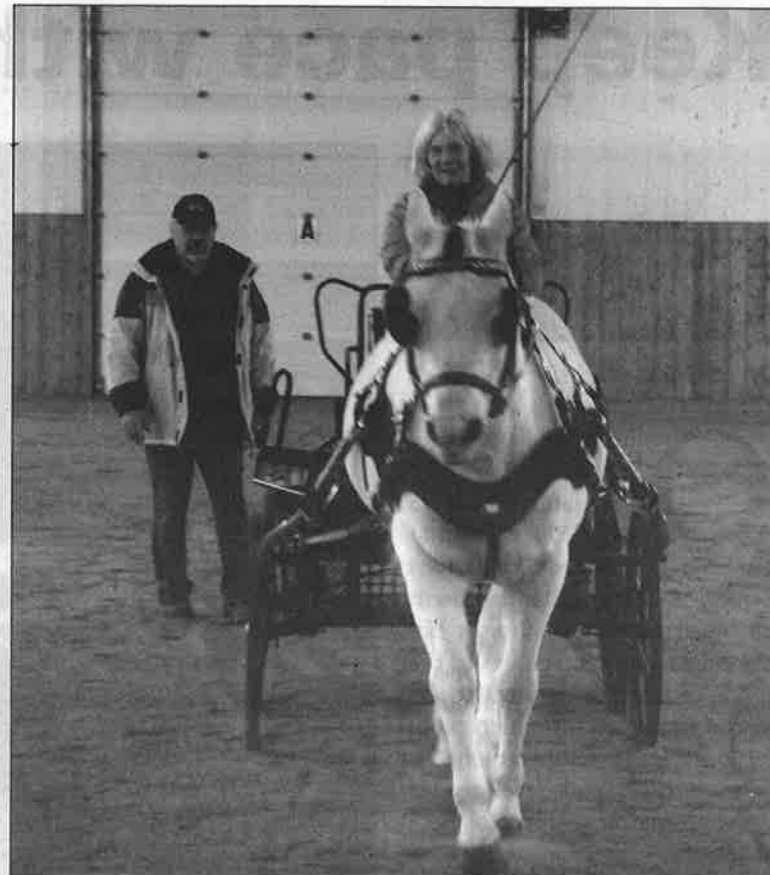




Betty Ellis drives Herbie, newly trained to harness by Frank Winkler.



Sharon Davis with pal Mickey follow Frank's directions.

# Dressage horses learn some new tricks

HIGH COUNTRY  
CARRIAGE  
DRIVING  
CLUB

www.highcountrycarriagedriving.org

Submitted by Lynne Jupp

In March, several Calgary area dressage riders found out that having their dressage horse pull a carriage

opportunity to introduce driving to dressage riders. Being here for only two weeks it was a bit of a crash course to get the horses pulling, but with lots of ground work, understanding and patience horses and their "new" drivers rose to the challenge and were all driving by the end of the visit.

High Country Driving Club members also had the opportunity to acquire some of Winkler's shared knowl-

ridden. Each discipline complements the other and makes for a better performance horse. Working a horse in harness develops muscles over the back, the loin and hips while allowing the horse to carry itself and find its balance without the extra weight of a rider on its back. Working under saddle makes it easier to train lateral work to develop bend and suppleness.

Several members were

went well and all improved their skills — horses and drivers alike.

At latest report all of the dressage riders who got their horses started in harness with Winkler, are still incorporating driving as part of their regular training program. I'm not sure I can say that many of the drivers have started working their horses under saddle, but perhaps if summer ever comes that too will become part of the

Country's annual Spring Fling Driving Trials at the Calgary Polo Club fields. Spectators are always welcome (no charge) but if you want to get up close and personal as these equines and their human partners go zipping through hazards or the obstacle course, be a volunteer. No experience is required — you get on the job training. For more information contact Neil Jowett at (403) 931-6722 or njowett@nucleus.com