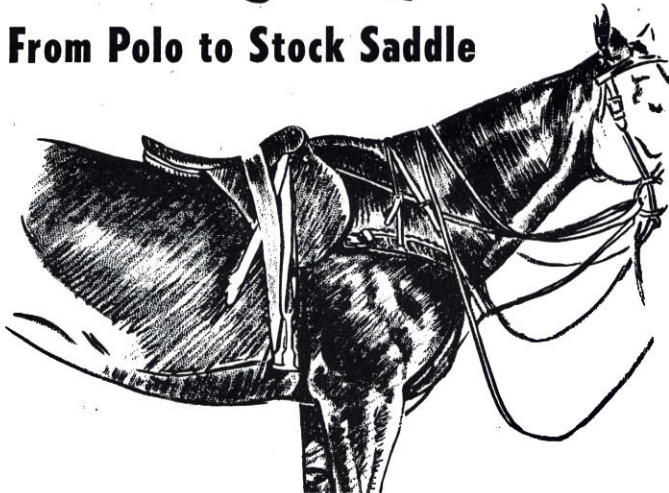


Riding By Reasoning

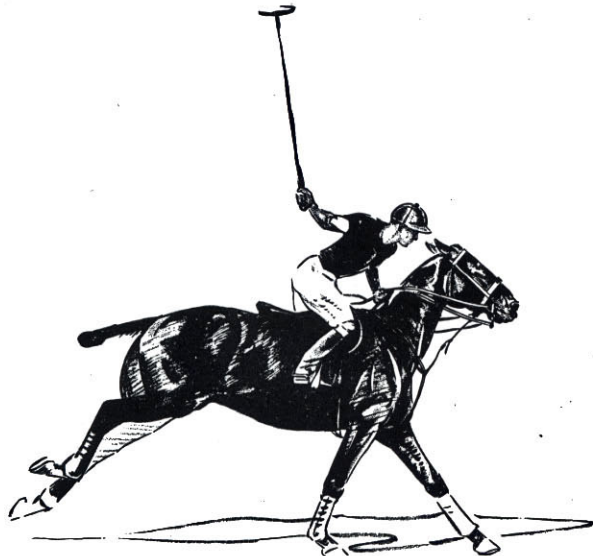
By MONTE FOREMAN
Illustrated by the Author

PART III

From Polo to Stock Saddle



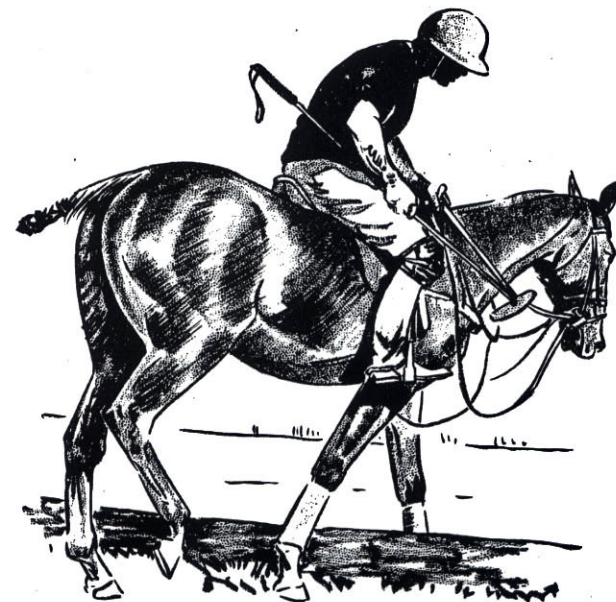
● 1. Stirrups are hung in the same place as on a jockey saddle. During play most of the rider's weight is carried on them — putting him close to or on the horse's carrying spot.



● 2. Most hitting is from a standing position. Stirrups, while the rider is out of the saddle, do not have a tendency to get behind his seat. They help support him there.



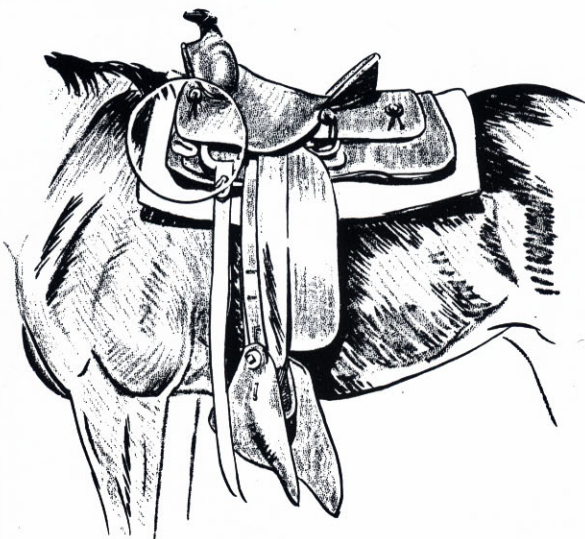
● 3. The stirrups are far enough forward that the polo player can brace, without sitting down, against the horse's pull, yet stay at the horse's center of balance.



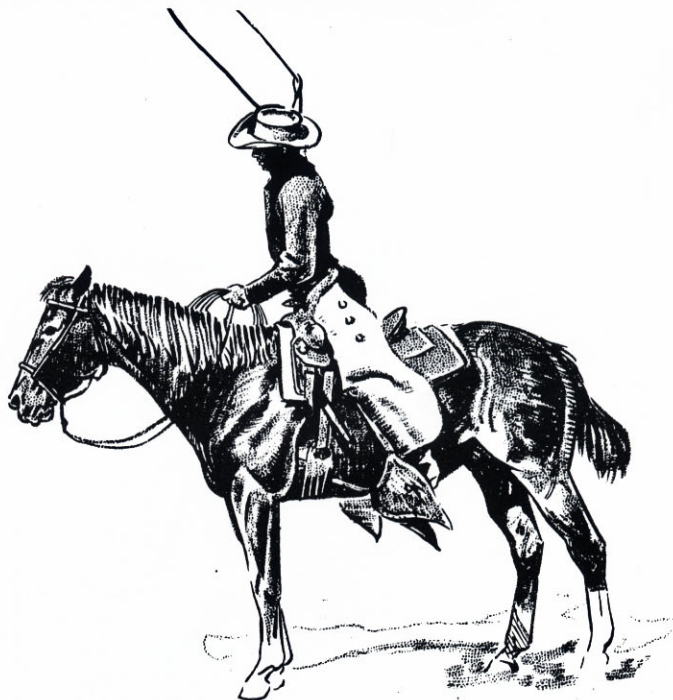
● 4. Stirrup length depends on the man's height. Here's six-goal Bill Barry's, who is about five feet eleven.



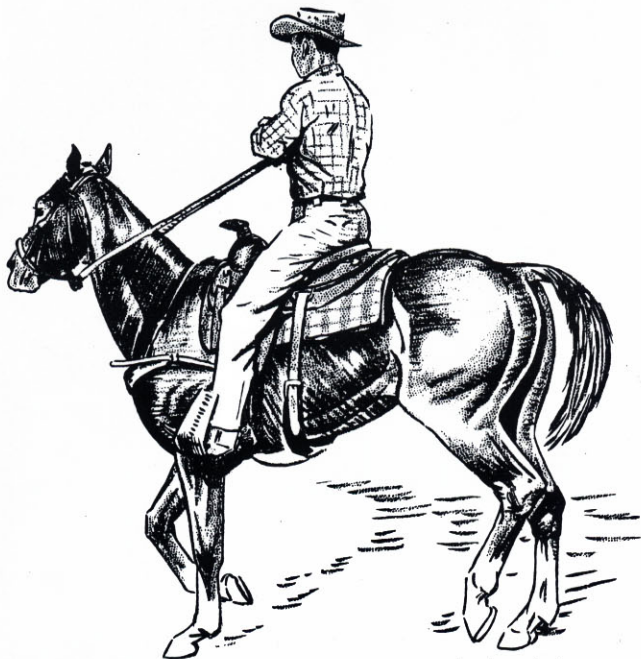
● 5. J. Watson Webb ranked ten goals and was about six feet three. He played on three U. S. international champion polo teams and is said to have been the greatest left-handed player of all times.



● 6. For those who want a little extra gasoline for their stock horses — and a lot of us want more speed — here are a few things for consideration. The circle shows the horse's carrying spot. Can a rider get up to it even when he stands on his stirrups?



● 8. But . . . if we stand up to rope, back go our feet! It's shown here on a standing horse. Imagine a running pony on rough ground!



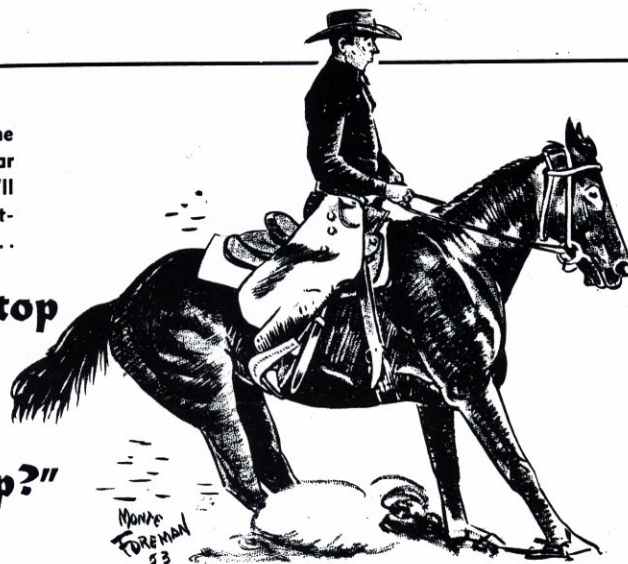
● 7. Most of us, even on roping saddles, will sit back and shove our stirrups forward — trying unconsciously to get our legs toward the front, especially on new rigs.



● 9. In the past two years I've watched 17 boys get bucked off just about the time they started jerkin' their slack because the back swing of the stirrups let their spurs get into their horses' flanks.

● 10. Stand up to check, turn or stop . . . and back go those doggone feet again. The reason is simply that the stirrups are hung too far toward the rear to support a man while he's standing. Perhaps you'll ask, "Why stand?" . . . In later articles we'll take that little eight-ball and cue it around a bit, but we'll leave you with this thought . . .

"Do calf ropers sit down to stop after they have roped their stock? Is their weight on their seats—or on one stirrup?"



Monty Foreman '53