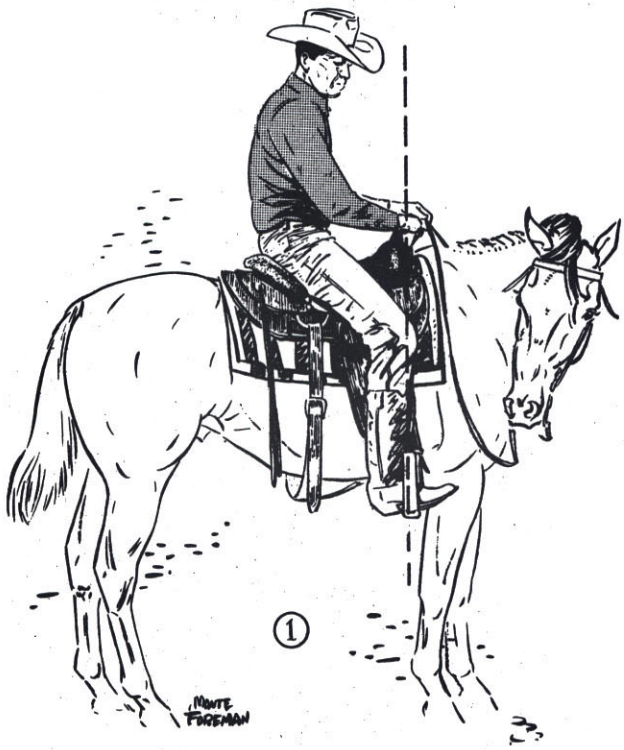
Riding By Reasoning

By MONTE FOREMAN
Illustrated by the Author

Part V

The past four installments of "Riding by Reasoning" pointed out that there is one place on a horse where he is able to carry weight fastest at any distance, jump higher and wider, yet be controlled better at all speeds . . . Now, if a feller wants more speed, endurance, control and/or better performance, shouldn't he start figuring on how to ride that "carrying spot"?



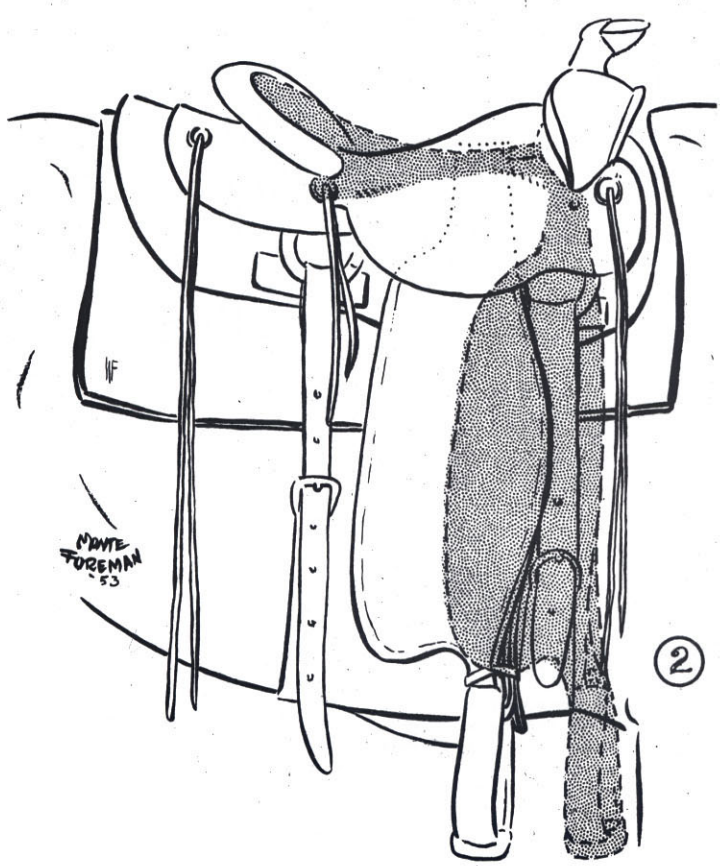
Something to Think About . . .

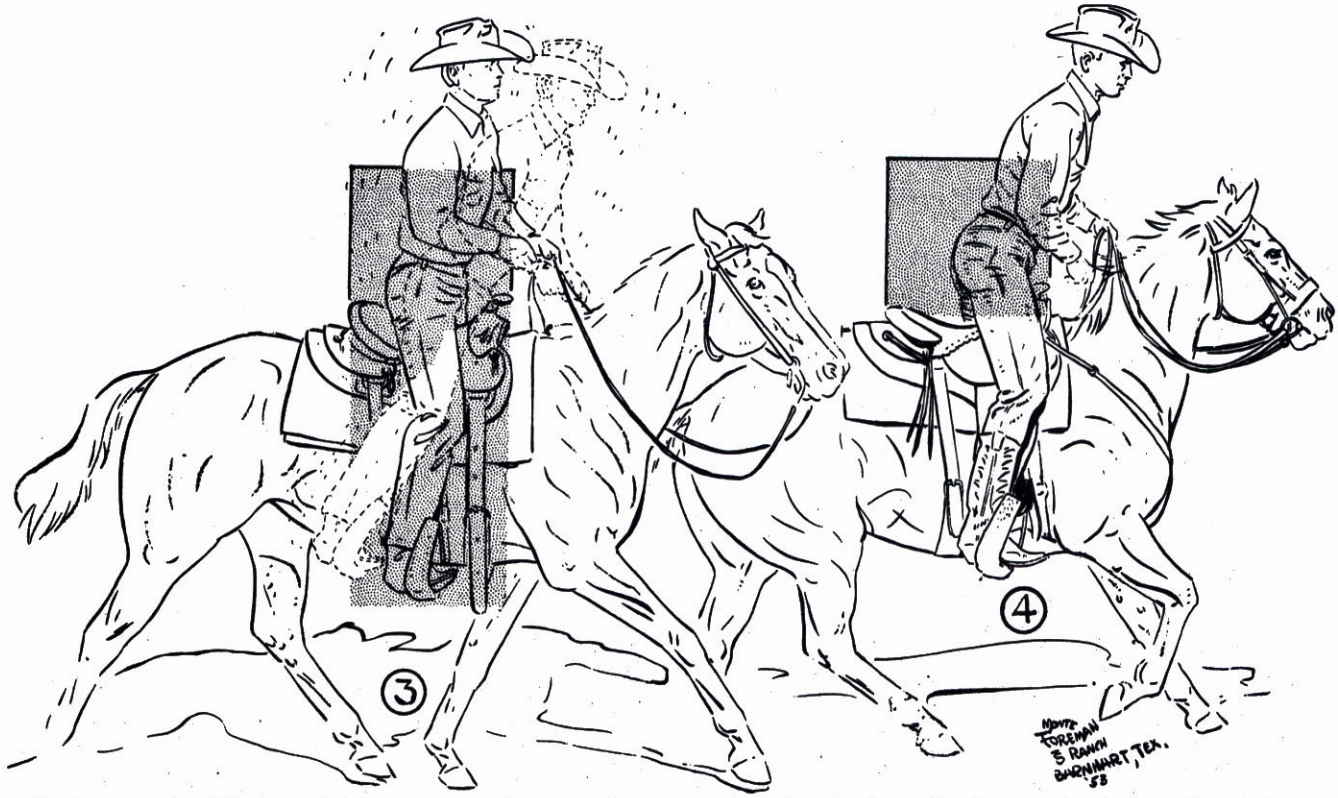
THESE illustrations are from sequence photographs taken here on the Bar S (165,000-acre "home" ranch, owned by The Sawyer Cattle Company), where the author is the horse-man. Sam Redford, 6-foot, 185-pound cowboy, born and raised on ranches, and a doggone good all-around hand — about average as a horse passenger — was used as the model. He's proud — and kinda touchy about his saddle; figures it's mighty comfortable — and it is, going slow. He's finding out uncomfortable things about it now; more next week when we start 11 "long-three" colts. So far (and he likes to argue) Sam admits, "W-e-l-l, I don'no. Ain't sold yet, but I gotta admit, Foreman, you got me all mixed up!"

All right, folks, let's have a look at why Sammy's all mixed up. Bear in mind that the majority of today's 1954 model "Knights of the Saddle" lay down on a horse this-a-way. Like my boss, Bob Farr, says, "It's time somebody hooked a spur into their shoulders, made 'em drop an ear over and find out they're not up there to sleep! There's work to be done!"

• 1. On today's "feed-trough-with-stirrups," with its dug-out cantle and built-up front end, the majority of the passenger's weight is a long way from the carrying spot (vicinity of the dotted line).

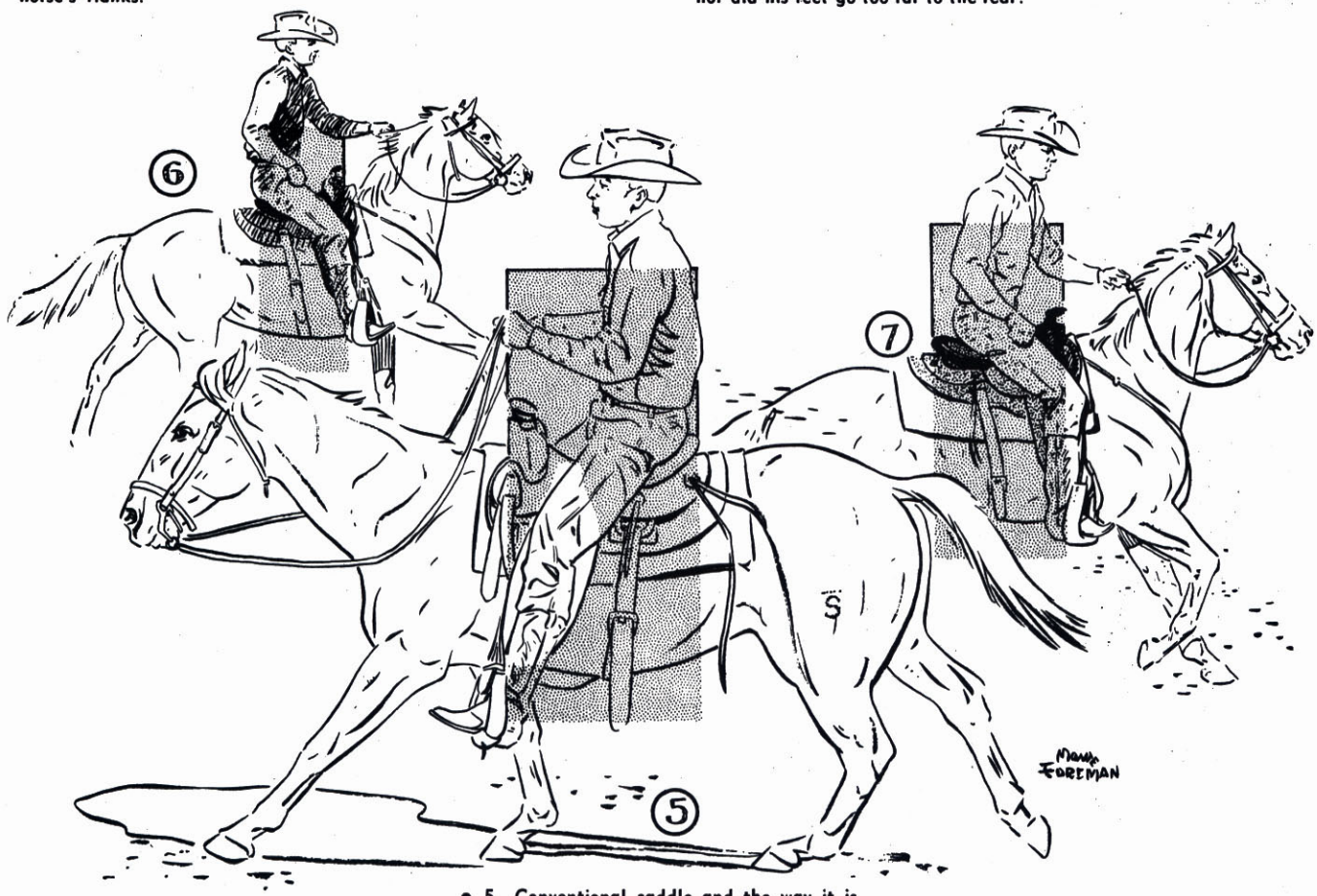
• 2. Let's make three of five major changes in his saddle. (The others are in the bulk of the rigging and stirrup leathers.) Cantle seat is built up slightly; pommel seat lowered to the bars. This helps the rider straighten his back. Stirrups are moved forward until the pull, when the rider stands, comes from about the center of the horn-post. (Compare with the photograph.)





• 3. Conventional saddle: hang of the stirrup is more important than the seat. Man is standing over the spot where his stirrups hang. He cannot stay there without falling forward, or back, without holding onto the saddle horn. And his feet always go too far back into the horse's flanks.

• 4. Balanced ride saddle: Sam, at first, had trouble standing up; just couldn't get used to going up that far forward for his balance. Finally, with instruction, he got the hang of it at all speeds. It put his weight around the carrying spot; he did not need anything to hold to; nor did his feet go too far to the rear!



• 6. Balanced ride saddle: Sam, at first, climbed back onto the rumble seat. It did not help the horse any more than his own saddle would have.

• 5. Conventional saddle and the way it is usually passengered: at a lope Sam rode Revielle Sawyer (Bar S three-year-old stud colt) with all his weight way back on the horse's loins — a long way from the carrying spot.

• 7. Balanced ride saddle: with coaching, he started moving his seat and weight toward Revielle's balance. More weight went onto Sam's feet, which helps.

RIDING BY REASONING *(Continued from page 39)*

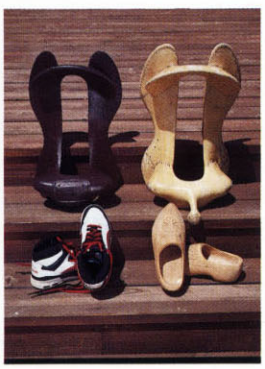
• 8. Balanced ride: on Cowboy Hancock (Bar S AQHA stud) the rider is "hunkered" around the carrying spot. Note that his feet are under his weight — and bearing the majority of it. No weight on his seat. Rider is nearer the carrying spot with more security.

• 9. Conventional: compare rider positions. Which are closer to being with the movement of the horse? How many horse passengers that you know ride the "cultivator seat," laying back on their horse's loins? Get your camera out and take pictures of 'em — then add the percentages.

There is finally a saddle with a velcro system sewed into the bottoms of the skirts, so you may custom fit your horse perfectly by peeling and sticking different thicknesses or densities of what we call sponge comfort bars. You can even custom sand a set for each horse. We now have many, many different options.

The rigging in a Boz Saddle is spread out and behind your leg for security instead of under your knee, or worse yet, in front of your leg adding nothing but bulk, pain and no security. In the Boz Saddle rigging, you will feel more leg contact, more security and more comfort than you have ever felt before.

Don't Be Fooled! "A Wooden Tree Only Fits A Wooden Horse!"



(Left photo) Just as 12 pair of socks will not make wooden shoes fit your feet as comfortably as a pair of sneakers, additional padding will not make a wooden tree fit your horse's back during movement as comfortably as a saddle built using the Boztic Spring Flex Tree™.

(Top left photo) Even under weight, the traditional wooden "No Flex Tree" remains rigid and cannot conform to the contours of your horse's back. Worse yet is the English Steel Tree — no matter how you pad or stuff it!

(Bottom left photo) Boztic Spring Flex Tree™ offers maximum flexibility.