

Riding By Reasoning

By MONTE FOREMAN
 Photos by the Author
 PART VII

HERE are photographs of the riding done to win two different reining classes at the 1954 San Angelo, Tex., Quarter Horse show. Both of the girls — Wanda Harper, Mason, Tex. (all-around champion cow-girl of the world), and Julia Reed, Meridian, Tex. (riding the grand champion AQHA mare, Gay Widow) — have won many reining contests. They were the best at this show. Both deserved to win over the riders who contested against them. They are the *champions*. These pictures were not taken to criticize their riding, but to show by "photo-analysis" what happens even to the champions during the split seconds which are too fast for the eye to catch. Even these girls might be surprised to find what they looked like while winning the ribbons.

We have used photographs exclusively in this article since there might be some who would say a drawing like this was exaggerated or overemphasized to illustrate the point. Actually, all of the author's drawings have a photograph to back them up, but some people will believe a photograph when they would not believe a drawing.

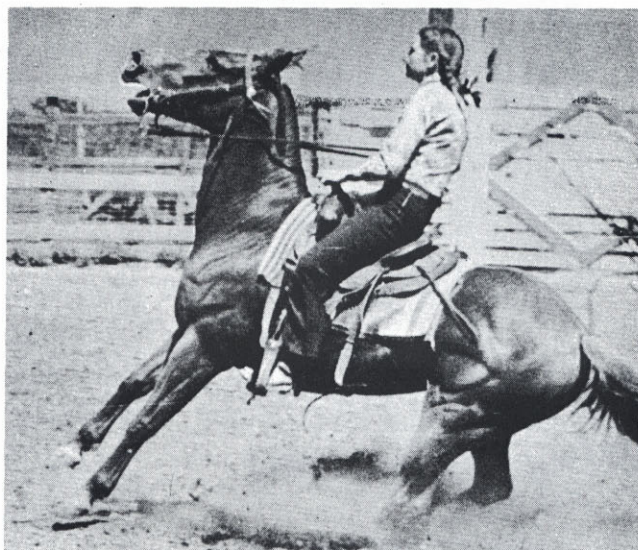
Your author has had these same riding troubles, but he wanted to do better, have his horses work easier — faster if speed was needed — with less pain and strain. After eight years of experimentation, he has come up with a saddle with riding and working qualities which you will have to see — as well as feel — to believe.

The sequence illustrations are of a small but vitally important phase of riding for both horse and rider — the stop.

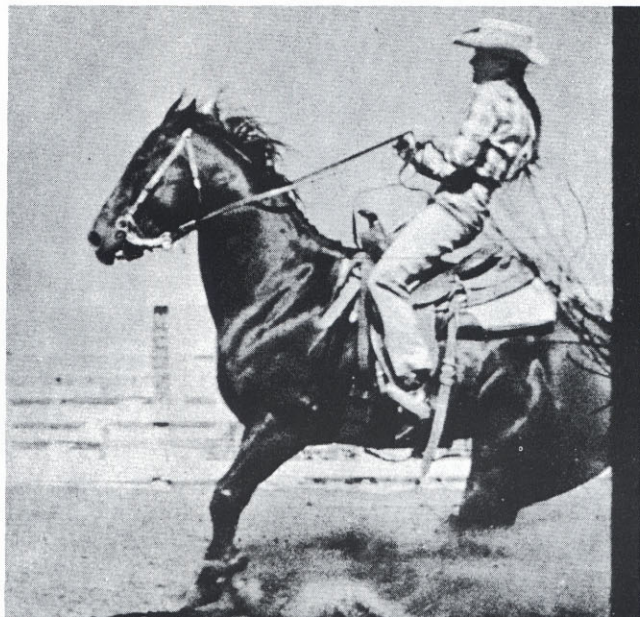


● Monte Foreman stopping Toots (named after Toots Mansfield). This horse is carrying 185 pounds plus a 35-pound saddle. Monte is using a running martingale in training to prevent pulling the snaffle bit higher than Toots' withers.

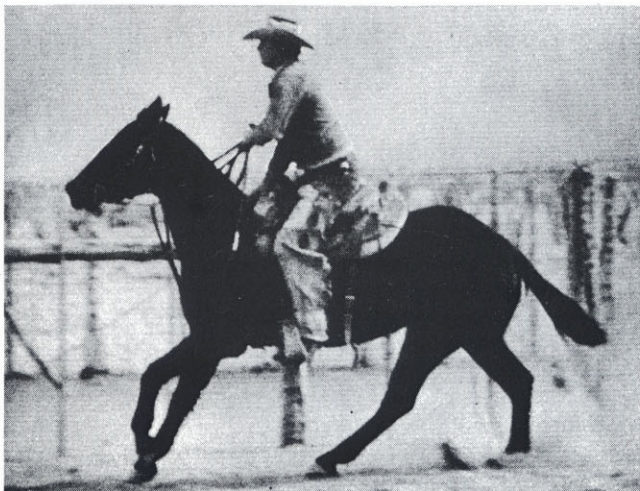
Riding the Stop



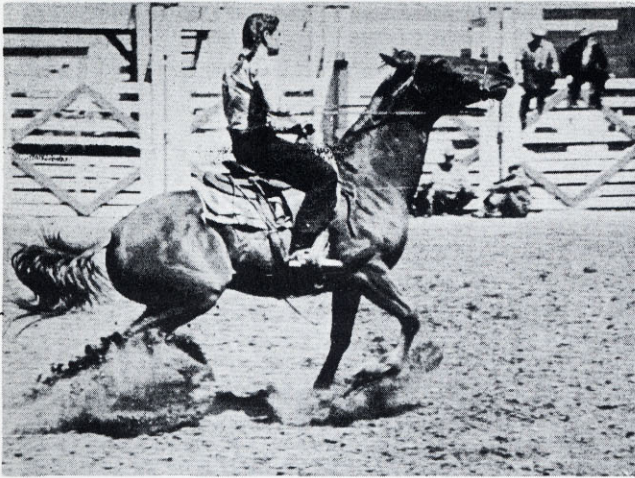
● 1. Wanda's stop going north. Note her weight has pushed the horse's back downward causing stiff, propped legs in front. The horse's momentum will cause her to land as in No. 3.



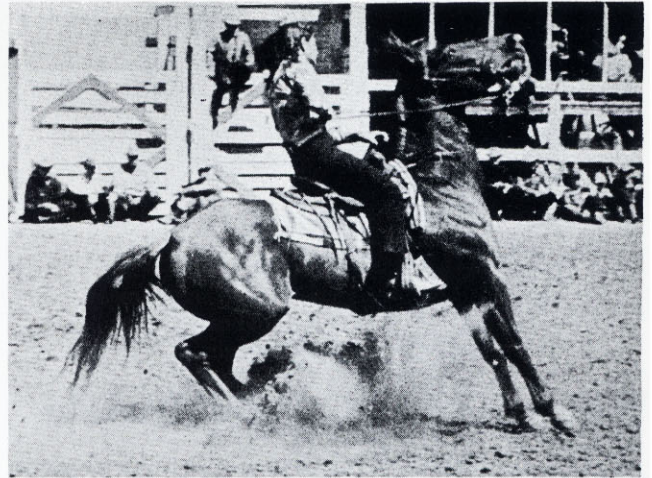
● 4. Little Julia Reed kind of spurs to stay on, too!



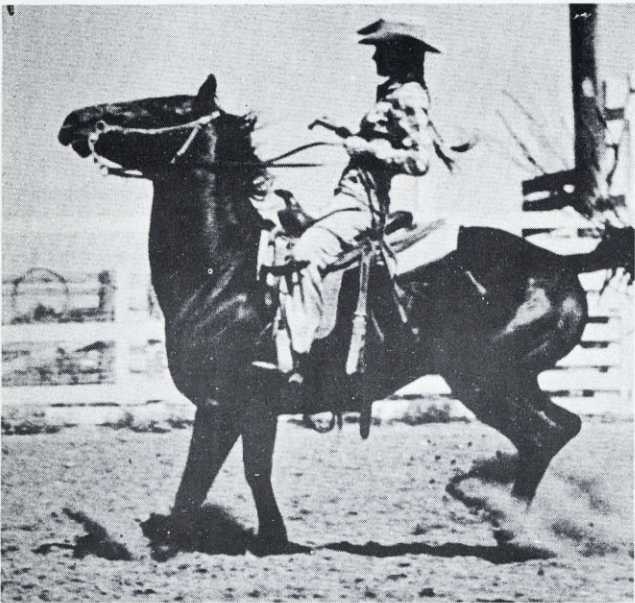
● 7. A stop like Foreman is getting in this sequence is easy in his "balanced ride" saddle — but difficult in the modern "feed trough with stirrups."



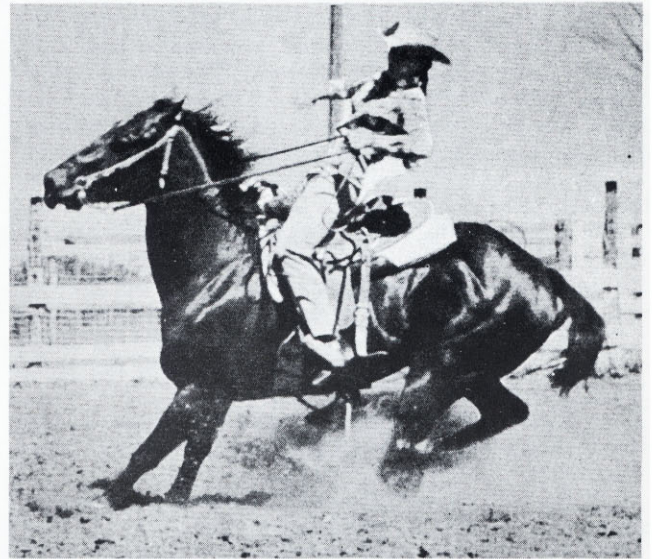
● 2. The stop going south. Note the men on the fence for distance of the stop. Same characteristic of breaking down the horse's loins . . .



● 3. . . . causing propped, spread-eagled whoa. Wanda's hold on the saddle horn helps keep her from flying up as Julia does.



● 5. . . . and as she falls backward, note her strain in all three pictures. Julia is riding a conventional saddle here.



● 6. Even with this little "fly-weight" on her, Gay Widow cannot bring hind feet under her for good hind leg work!



● 8. Toots is stopped by voice, weight put on the rider's crotch, legs, and heels — and the reins. Note how much pressure was necessary.



● 9. Balanced "whoa" complete. Toots would have been in balance to roll right or left with slight warning which would have been given earlier.