

# Riding By Reasoning

By MONTE FOREMAN

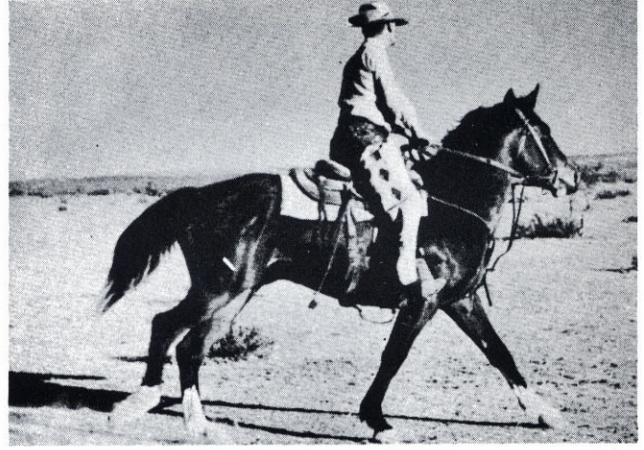
Photos by the Author

Part XV

## "Effect of Rider Weight on Change of Leads"



● 1. Leading with left front and left hind legs, the horse (Sawyer Cattle Company's Cowboy Hancock) is in the left lead.



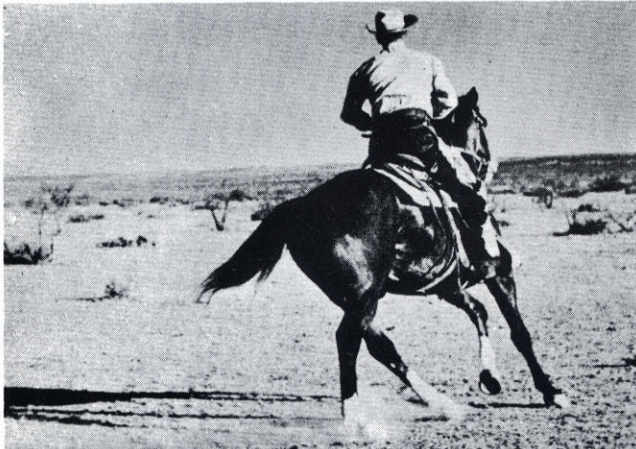
● 2. His right hind leg comes off the ground just before the left front one goes down.



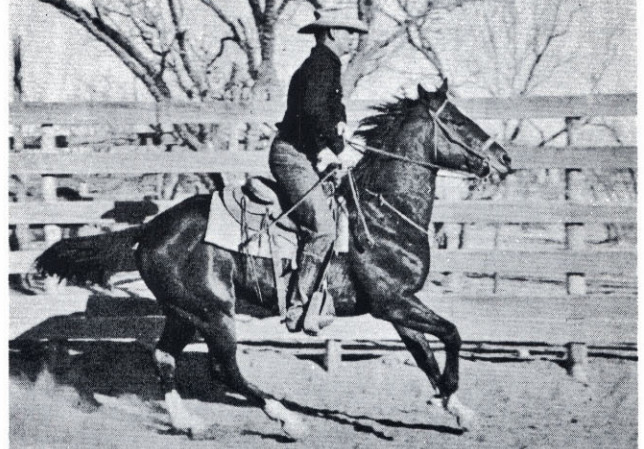
● 3. Now the left hind and right front come off the ground as the left front (lead leg) bears all his and the rider's weight.



● 4. Still on the left front leg, the right hind will now go down as the left front goes up.



● 5. Next, the left hind followed almost simultaneously by the right front, and the horse is back in the same position as in No. 1.



● 6. Cowboy Hancock at the right lead. Compare it to photographs 1 and 5.

**I**T is incredible so few people know the loping horse is either right or left handed. In other words, he will be "handier" to the right if he is galloping in the right "lead," and "handier" to the left in the left "lead." His *right side legs lead* at the *right lead* and the mechanics of

his loping leg-work will not allow him to turn to the *left* with ease or speed — nor to the *right* in the *left lead*. Therefore, the rider must be able to change his horse's leads when it is necessary.

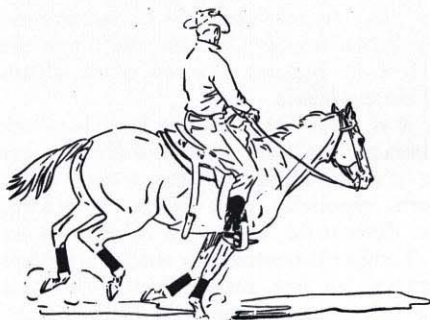
Some persons (not horsemen) say horses should take care of their leads

— and perhaps (?) one horse out of a thousand can do a pretty good job of it, but the motion pictures I show before horse audiences prove beyond a doubt that even the good, balanced horse can do better if his rider knows how to change leads in the most effective manner for the particular case. It is also interesting to know that the horse's *hind feet should change first* for the majority of changes.

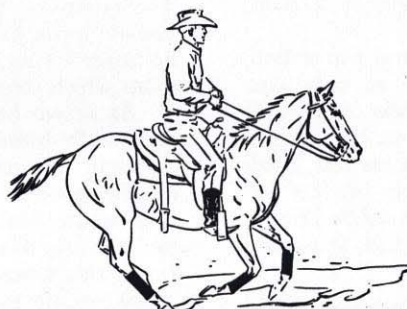
*It is very easy to change the horse's front feet. But the hind feet must also change in the same stride, even at the simple "front-feet-first change."*

*The more weight the horse is carrying on his loins, the more difficult it is for him to change his hind feet!*

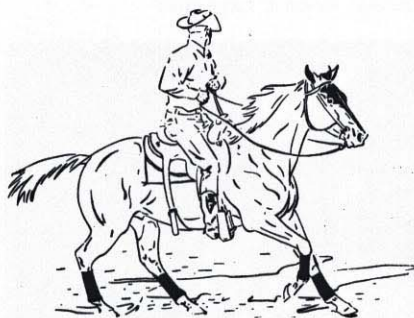
*It helps the horse for the rider to get off his seat onto his feet!*



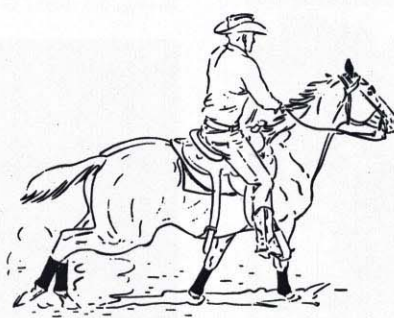
• 7.



• 8.



• 9.



• 10.

←

• In drawings 7, 8, 9, and 10 you can see it is easy to change a horse's front feet. Getting the hind feet to come across and change in the same stride is the hard part — especially when he is carrying the majority of the rider's weight on his loins! If he changes in front, but does not change behind, he is in the *disconnected* (or *disunited*) canter, like two dancers — one out of step. Although one is correct, neither can get into rhythm until both are in step. It's like that with the *disconnected* horse, too! *The more weight the horse carries on his loins, the more difficult it is for him to bring his hind feet across to complete his change of leads!*



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