

Riding By Reasoning

By MONTE FOREMAN

Photos by the Author

Part XVII

"Change-over from seat to feet"

THIS Balanced Ride Saddle will help you ride the way you should to get the most out of a horse," says Dell Owens, who has trained, shown, and contested on many outstanding horses, including the unbeatable Red Fox. He's also one of the best heelers in the business, and about 25 years ago won many saddle bronc riding championships.

To riders like Dell Owens, this way of riding is nothing new or different. The saddle only makes it easier for him to do more things easier and better with a more secure ride. Dell puts his legs down, gets his weight over them and his feet, drops his heels down, and naturally "fits" around the horse's barrel. It is not the better riders who try to lie down on a horse!

Just let one of the "cultivator-seat" boys step on your Balanced Ride Saddle, and you'll see what I mean. I hate to admit it, but he can lie down in it farther than on the "feed-troughs-with-stirrups." First, he sticks his feet way out front (instead of putting his weight on them), then tucks his tail under him almost sitting on his backbone, then he leans back, throws his reins away and spurs Ole Dobbin into a lope. His only contact with the horse is his seat, and once in a while a stirrup—or his saddle horn. No, you couldn't tell him what he is doing to his horse's work—unless you took a movie of him at 24 or 32 frames per second, got the film developed, then showed it to him, pointing out his riding's reaction to his horse's disconnected, out-of-time way of trying to get around. However, I guarantee you

this is absolutely no way to win friends and influence people!

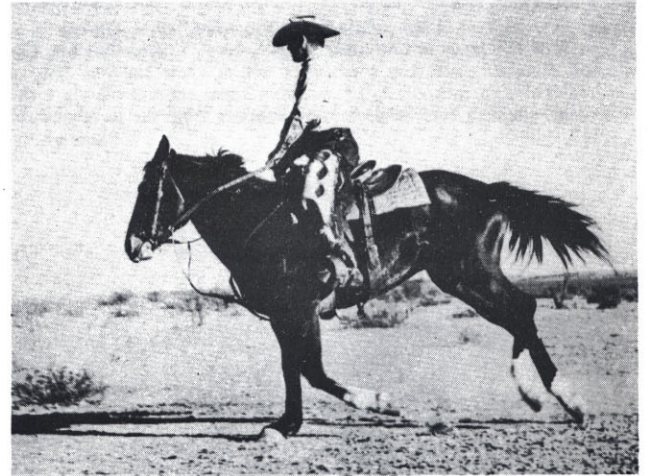
In past articles I have used photographs of good riders in critical positions to prove we have a need for scientific saddle improvement and sound fundamentals for better riding. *No one likes medicine when sick*, but if it makes him well, it serves its purpose . . . so it was with the photographs and criticisms—none intended personally. In future articles I will go back to drawings when criticism is needed, but the drawings will always be backed up with photographic proof left unprinted in my files. Life is too short to criticize people you admire—and I have never used a photograph of anyone I did not admire and like very much personally.

The purpose of Riding By Reason-

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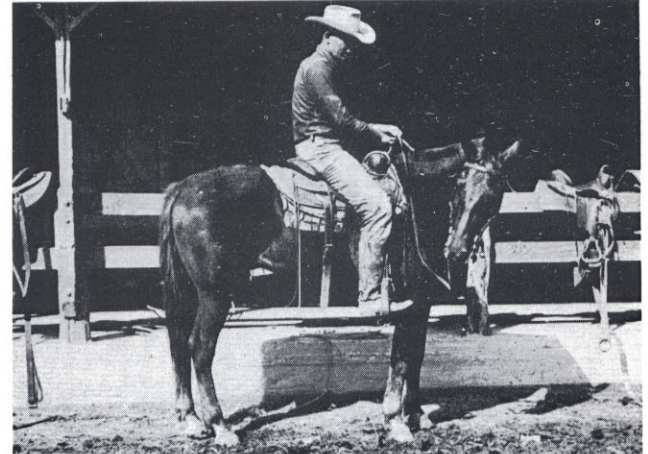
● No. 1. At first it is rather difficult for the seat rider to get up and over his stirrups. It takes practice.



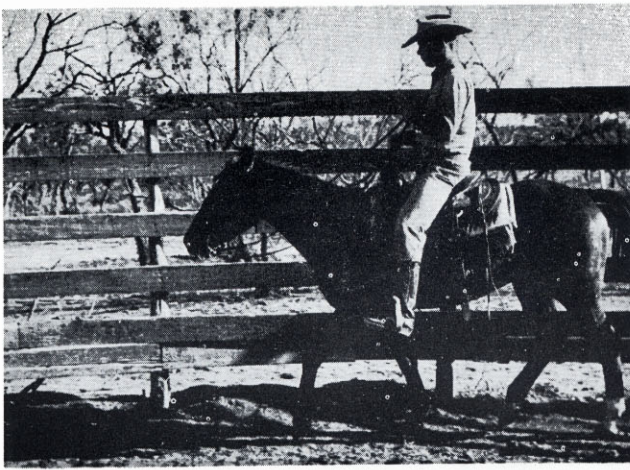
● No. 2. Once he gets the hang of it there will be nothing unnatural about it. He gets with the horse's movement.



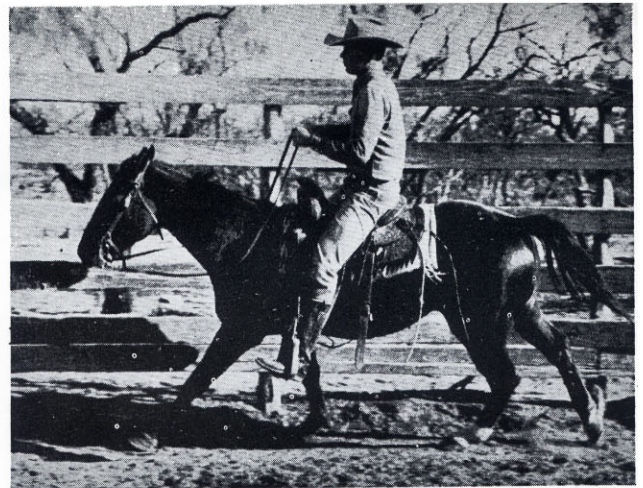
● No. 3. He keeps his weight on his feet and legs with his heels dropped down—which gives him a better grip around the horse's barrel.



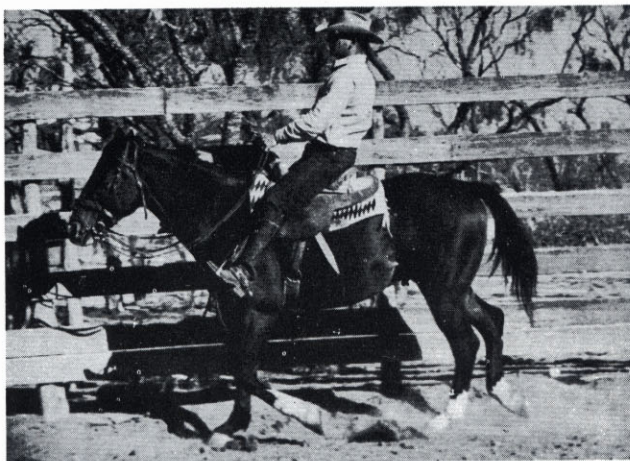
● No. 4. Perhaps it is more comfortable for a short while for a rider to sit like this, but it's hard on the horse.



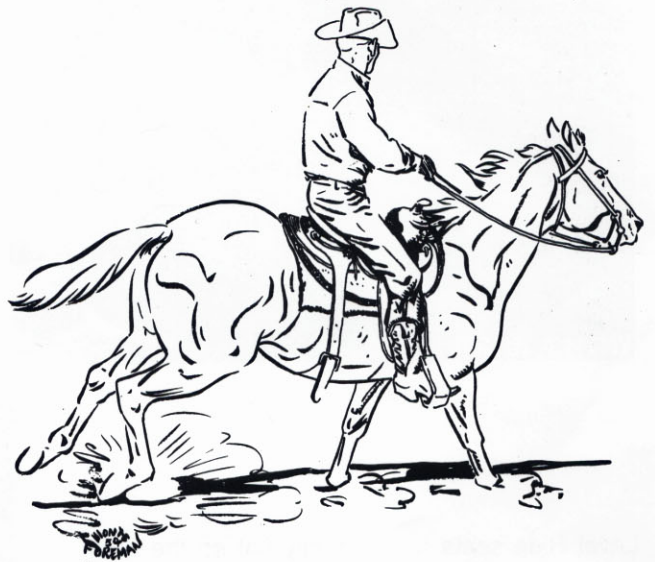
● No. 5. The horse has to carry the rider's weight back on his loins which is the weakest part of his back.



● No. 6. At a lope, the sit-back is still more difficult for the horse — especially if he has to change leads, stop, or turn.



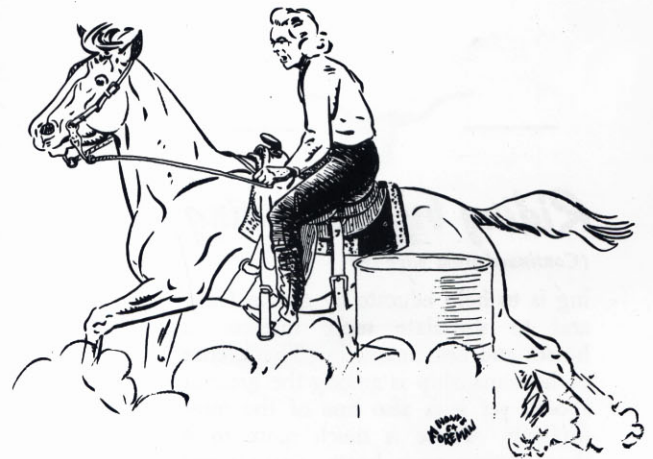
● No. 7. If a rider has the tendency to sit back and lie down on a horse, it becomes worse on a balanced ride saddle. (We hate to admit this, but it's true.)



● No. 8. At the change of leads while sitting down and back, the horse's hind legs are caused to take a shorter step by the loin weight.



● No. 9. He ends up in the "disconnected" lope, or cow lope or disunited canter. One lead in his front feet; the other lead behind.



● No. 10. On anything requiring speed and turning, the rider is liable to go anywhere on a saddle he can't get a real close leg grip on. (Drawings are from photographs.) Riding like this would not help the horse nor cut down the time!

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Level Ride seats are perfectly flat so the rider can get into the Riders Groove right behind the withers and elbow of the horse. This is where the world's top 2% of equestrians prefer to ride.



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(Continued from page 18)

ing is to help educate by giving facts, and to stimulate more interest in horses and horsemanship. The science of horsemanship is among the greatest sports, yet it is also one of the most difficult. There is much more to it than getting on a horse, putting one leg on each side — keeping your mind in the middle, which is only the beginning. There's an old saying, "The outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man." But, how many men are good for the horse? It's something to think about!

