

Riding By Reasoning

By MONTE FOREMAN
Illustrated by the Author
PART II

Last month the author went into the finer points of riding for maximum speed. This time he points out the similarity between race and bareback riding. As this thesis develops, Monte will try to show in word and picture technique how you can help your horse to give his maximum effort in various types of performance.

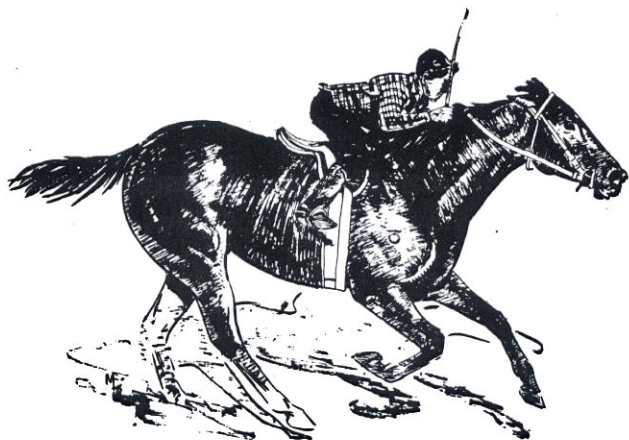
Similarity Between Race and Bareback Riding

ASK today's ranch hands what's the best way to ride . . . You'll get a conglomeration of answers — different answers, and probably you'll end up more discombobulated than before.

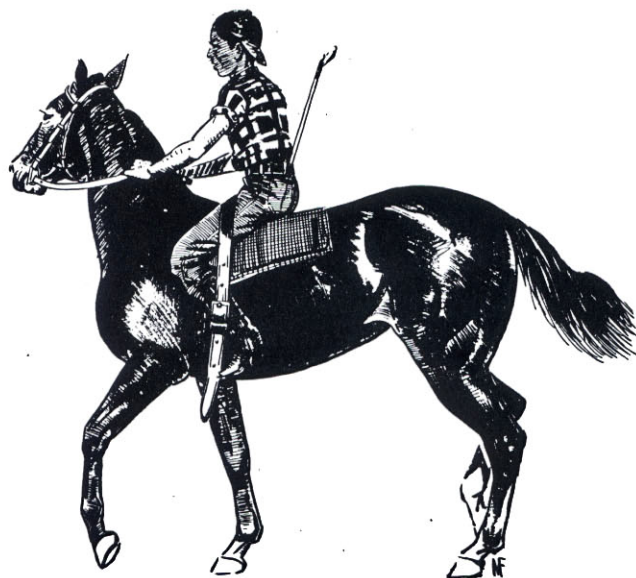
Should it be that way? After 4,000 years of horse riding haven't we learned positive facts about how to help horses carry our weight? . . . Yessir, we have, but these obvious facts seem to have been known to a few — and they haven't been much at passin' 'em around in cow-country.

The many different ideas are due to limited experience; usually from people who have never made a living by competition-riding. Contesting calls for a horse's maximum effort, and every way the rider can help this maximum effort pays off. Contest boys are always looking for something new to them that will make a better time or performance. They have to use brains as well as strength. Many rodeo contestants are picking up new wrinkles from photography.

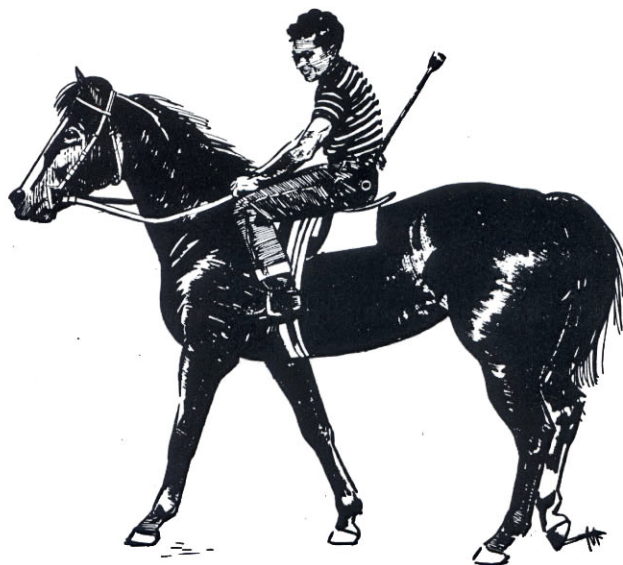
Motion pictures, especially at slow-motion, will help 100 per cent on judged events, and also let us study how to train, ride and get the most from a horse. Being interested in rendering service to you, it became necessary to equip myself with a complete movie set-up, including sound, to film anything of entertainment, advertising and educational value concerning horses, horsemen and horsemanship. Although these sound movies are only in the "egg" now, we hope to get 'em "hatched" out soon, to become available to horse clubs, schools, colleges, associations and individuals.



● 1. The short-track rider gets his weight on the horse's shoulders like DeSpirito (new world record of 390 winners in one year), Shoemaker, Arcaro and others.



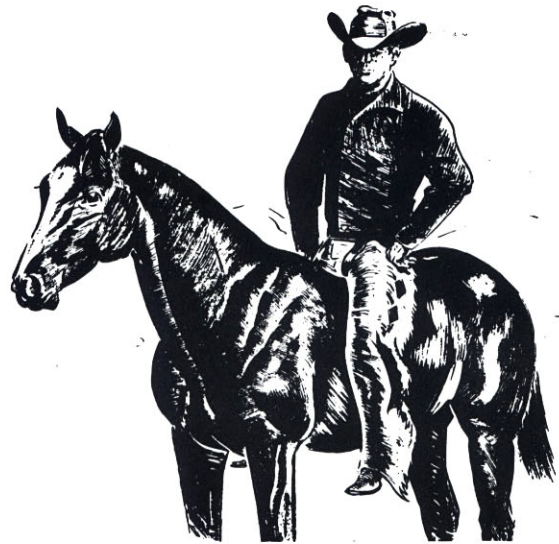
● 2. By raising up slightly and putting his weight on his knees the bareback kid can just about get to the same spot where the horse can carry him fastest, as on a jockey saddle. Not much difference, is there?



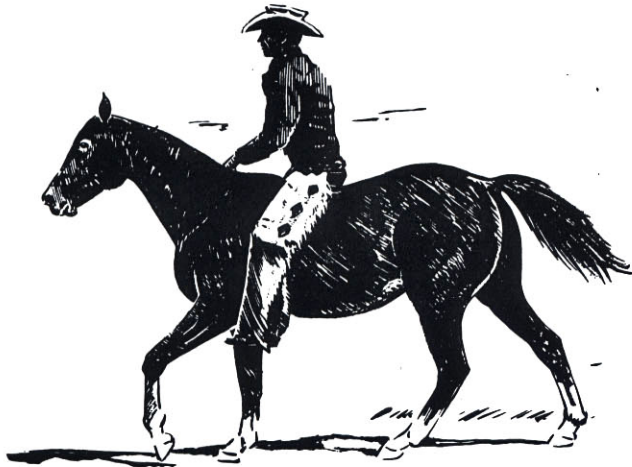
● 3. Jockeys do sit down; but not during a race. A sitting-rider position has nothing to do with running, because the seat hardly touches, if ever. (For proof of this go to a big-time track where movies are taken of every race and study the riders.)



● 4. Here's a test you can try. Ride "injun" style for a couple of weeks to get in practice — and it doggone sure takes practice. Figure where you ride best; first at a walk, then at faster gaits until you can go wide-open across rough country. Can you get with him best here?



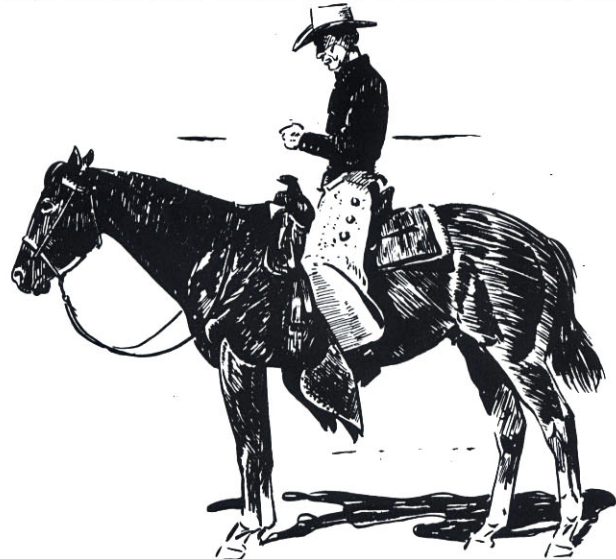
● 5. . . . or here? This kinda looks like a border country wood-chopper on a burro! If possible, have photographs or movies taken so you can study them later.



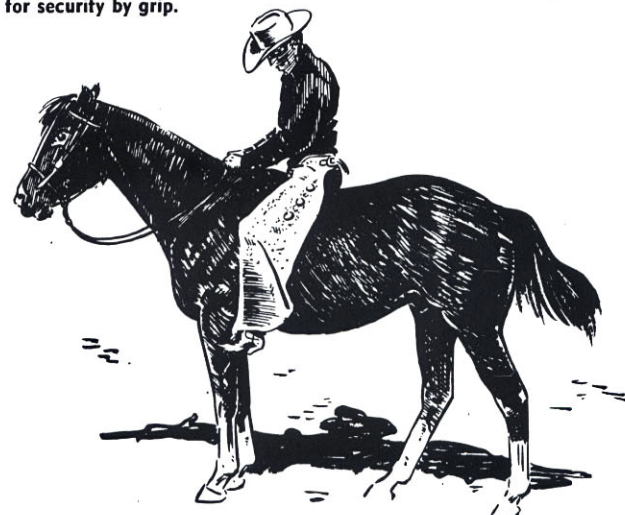
● 6. At a slow lope you'll find the photographs look similar to this. Some people bow their backs while riding, but if they do it puts more weight on their seats, making it harder for the horse to carry them.



● 7. Keep the fact in mind that when you run you will naturally have to lean forward to stay in balance with him — and that's the way he can carry you best. The steadier the horse goes the less need for security by grip.



● 8. Now, consider the average stock-saddle rider. He's a pretty far piece from the horse's balance, isn't he? Even when he stands up in his stirrups, which are hung 8 or 10 inches behind, where the horse carries him best, he still can't get far enough forward to help the horse as a jockey does.



● 9. Compare the bareback rider to the saddle passenger. How do you figure three race horses, equal in running ability, carrying the same total weight, would finish, if one were ridden with a stock saddle, another ridden with a race saddle and the third bareback for a distance of from a hundred yards to as far as they can go? How would you place your bets?