

Riding By Reasoning

By MONTE FOREMAN

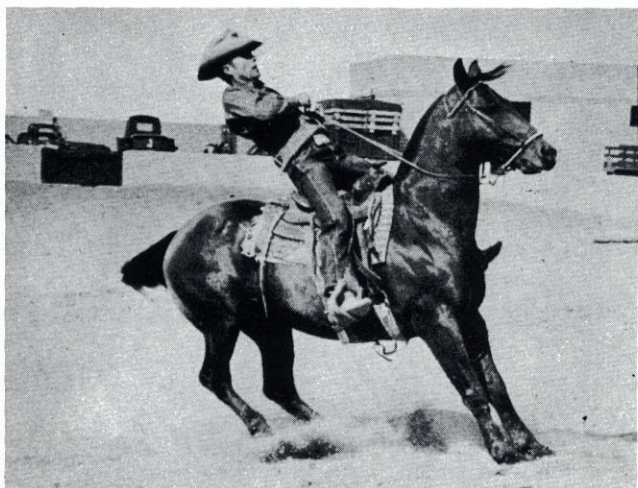
Photos by the Author

Part X

"Effect of Stirrups On Both Horse and Rider."

PART IX showed how and why the top rodeo bronc riders hang their stirrups farther forward than on the ordinary stock saddle. Forward hung stirrups allow them to absorb the shock of "impact" on their feet. On the riding and working horse they allow the same, but, being hung nearer the horse's "carrying spot," they make it easier for the horse to carry the man's weight, especially when his weight is kept on his stirrups. The illustrations show both horse and rider reactions; not posed or exaggerated.

When working with facts, particularly photographic facts, and under no illusions, we find that the majority of horses, *when stopped on the reins*, have to be pulled—hard! They do not stop easily—nor in balance. When



● 1. If we "rear back" on the stirrups of the average stock saddle to absorb the jolt of a front foot "prop" stop, note that even a light man makes his horse's back "cave in." (Photo analysis proves horses cannot stop *in balance* with *concaved backs*. However, some horses can stop fairly well in balance a low percentage of the time with weight on their loins, but they are exceptions which sometimes mislead the average rider.)



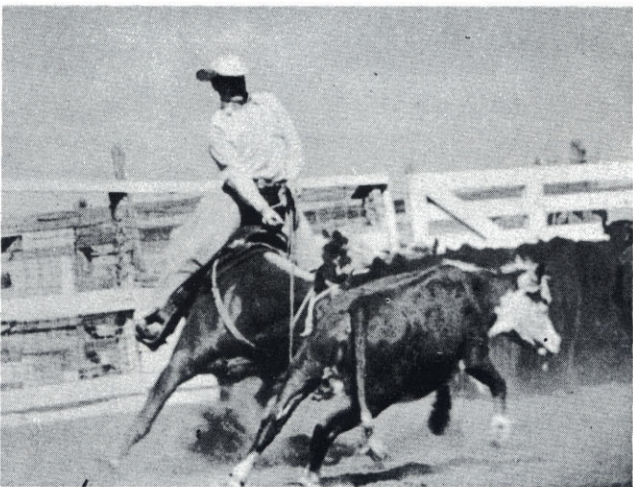
● 3. On a "roll-back" (ordinary saddle) the rider has to rear back—and *both his feet* go to the rear even though he tries to hold them under him with knee grip. (Five years ago, when this and many other photos were taken, the author was in the "big middle" of riding troubles. He wanted to know "why?" . . . RIDING BY REASONING—the result to date—is only a bringing together of the principles from the riding of many different types of horsemen—and their books—as applied to western horses and western horsemen.)

they do not stop easily, prop on the front feet, or "whoa" *out of time*, we have a riding problem to absorb the jolt and stay as near *in time* and balance with the horse as possible to prevent flopping around and spurring him unintentionally which happens much of the time when we bounce.

Even if we do not use spurs, that bounce makes our heels accidentally kick him "in the hay" which tells him to "go" when at the same time we're yanking on the reins telling him to "whoa." That's what photo analysis shows of the majority of riders—even the top riders! And, it just doesn't seem sensible to be kicking him in the same place to "go" and "whoa," does it? . . . accidentally or not! It's something to think about.



● 2. Suppose the rider tries to stand up and keep his weight forward? . . . His feet, especially on "free swinging stirrups," fly back into the horse's flanks. And even though this horse is stopping fairly well, the rider is in no position to ride a roll-back, inside roll—or get down without getting his feet back under him. Practically all the horse's "impact" has to be taken on the rider's knees and saddle swells . . . no help from his feet and stirrups! (None of these photographs were posed or exaggerated! They were made to study for better performance.)



● 4. On cutting horses, if the rider is to stay a little farther forward on the average saddle, he must force his feet forward—and try to pull his weight that way by hanging onto the saddle horn. (Loose riding also causes the horse to miss staying "head to head" with the cow!)

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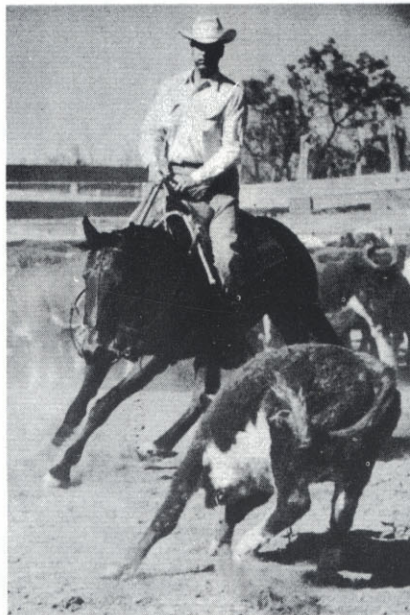
● 5. Even when the horse stops all wrong on a balanced ride saddle with its forward hung stirrups, note how the rider's weight is on his feet absorbing the shock as does the rodeo bronc rider. Compare No. 5 with No. 1 for rider position. More important is the difference in the horse's back which is not as caved in as No. 1.



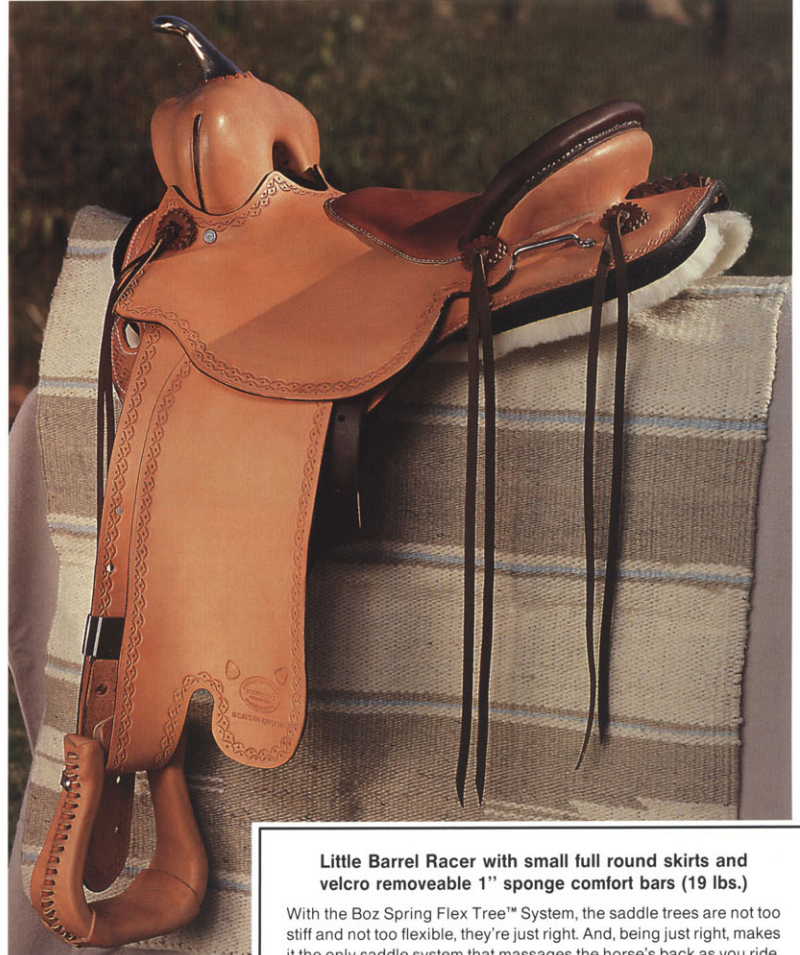
● 6. Compare with No. 2. Note where the buckskin's hind feet will go down. They're still up in the air traveling forward. Reckon he'd be able to do that with my 187 pounds, plus 40 pounds of stock saddle, back on his loins? (Photo analysis is critical . . . Author still flaws his riding. Says his back should be straight.)



● 7. Roll-back: note rider's left foot (visible under the horse's belly) absorbing the shock. No weight in the saddle seat. Horse's back free to bend upward. (Man's right leg is deliberately back using leg aid to prevent horse's hindquarters from moving to the outside of the roll. It will also assist him in riding the roll back to the left.)



● 8. Bob Farr rides Bay Joe on a roll-back easily, helping the horse to be at the right place, at the right time, with the least amount of fuss! (The first four photographs are on the average saddle. Last four illustrations show Balanced Ride Saddles used by riders who know and understand how to ride them which is "natural" when you get the "feel" of it.)



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