

Riding By Reasoning

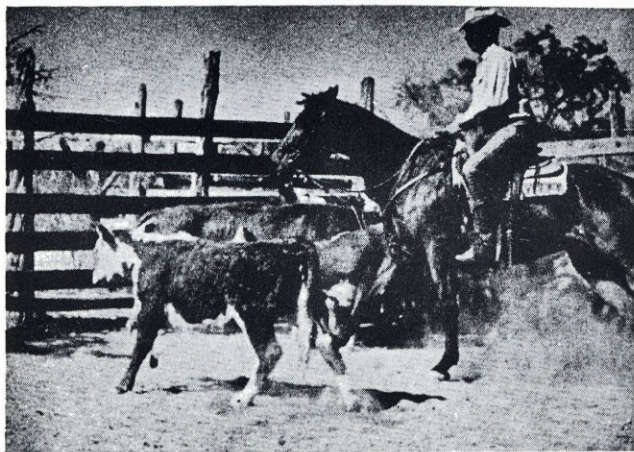
By MONTE FOREMAN

Photos by the Author

Part XI

"Horse's Reaction to Rider Weight"

(Your author learned about this from watching two world's champion cutting horsemen's way of riding — and their horse's reaction (Bob Corbett on Housekeeper, and Phil Williams on Skeeter and Little Tom W.). (There were 18 pictures in this sequence of Bob Farr on Bay Joe.)



● 1. Bob was caught behind his horse's drive for a couple of seconds.



● 2. He'd forgotten about his weight (225 plus a 50-pound saddle). Note how Joe's back is pushed down.



● 4. Bob remembers. Starts to raise up, putting his weight on his stirrups.

SO many people figure that managing to stay on a horse's back is all that is necessary. As these pictures show, there's much more to it than that; for in a horse's work an all-important factor is allowing his hind feet to come up under his body. Very few horses can do this with much weight on their loins, which causes them to stride short in their hindquarters; bend their backs downward making for propped, spread out, jolting, out of balance, front leg "take-ups," turns, and stops.

Here is a series of sequence pictures of Bob Farr, superintendent of the Sawyer Cattle Company (author's ex-boss), mounted on "Bay Joe," using a balanced ride saddle. These pictures — frozen for the eye to study — show the horse's reaction to the man's riding.



● 3. . . . And how he lands "spread" — with a jolt!



● 5. . . . And Joe's hind legs, freed of the loin weight, go up under him.

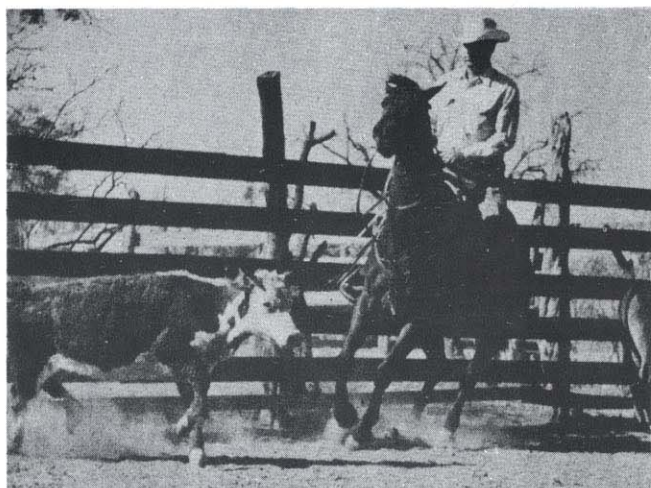
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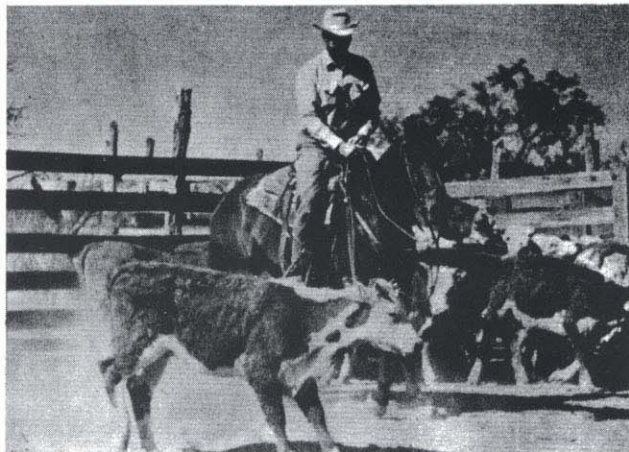


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• 6. He rolls back "head to head" with the heifer . . .



• 7. Blocks as she checks—and gets a "turn-out." Note Bob's
weight is still on horse's forehead—near horse's "carrying spot."