

REMEMBERING RAY HUNT

ISSUE No. 47

MAY/JUNE 2009

\$5.00

**ECCLECTIC**

# HORSEMAN



1929-2009

1 : selecting what appears to be best in various doctrines, methods, or styles  
2 : composed of elements drawn from various sources

1 : a rider or driver of horses; especially, one whose skill is exceptional  
2 : a person skilled in caring for or managing horses

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**On the Cover:** The late Ray Hunt at a Chugwater, Wyoming, clinic.

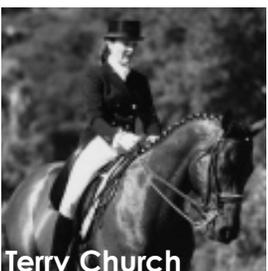
**An Eclectic Mission:** *Our mission is to bring "Just What Works" information to a knowledge-hungry public. We will create and present only ideas and techniques that work with and educate humans about the nature of the horse.*

# Contributors



Martin Black

**Martin Black** is a 5th generation Idaho rancher and 4th generation rodeo competitor. He has a lifetime of experience in handling horses, cattle and roping. In his youth, there was a strong influence of the California-Spanish style of horsemanship. His latest DVD covers traditional Rodea style branding. Learn more at [martinblack.net](http://martinblack.net).



Terry Church

**Terry Church** was trained through the FEI levels in dressage in both the United States and Germany. But after years of competing with tension as the predominant factor, she began a ten-year "apprenticeship" with Tom Dorrance, who helped her relearn everything she thought she knew about horses, and about herself. Currently, her clinics throughout the U.S. reflect this broadened perspective, appealing to horsemen of all disciplines. Likewise, her article reflects the integration of dressage principles with a more mindful and introspective approach she gleaned from Tom. Her recently published book, *Finding Pegasus*, details the ways of Dorrance and the transformative experiences of one who had the privilege of working with him.

**Lee McKinney** graduated from Montana State Horseshoeing School in 1977, and since then has either worked part-time or full time under horses or on top of horses. She enjoys writing, riding, working stock dogs, and has a passion for the art, science and labor involved in her farrier profession. Lee currently resides in Gardnerville, Nevada.



Gale Nelson

**Tom Moates** chronicles his introduction to horses in his book *Discovering Natural Horsemanship, A Beginner's Odyssey*. He lives in southwestern Virginia, on a solar-powered farm, with his wife, Carol, along with three horses and a mule. Learn more at [tommoates.com](http://tommoates.com).

**Gale Nelson** has written and edited technical articles and books for 20 years. A devoted student of the horse, she has spent much of the past decade learning about horsemanship methods that do not involve fear or force. She and her husband run their business—Online Publishing and Programming Solutions (OP2S, Inc.)—out of their home in Washington state, and Gale enjoys riding in the nearby Olympic National Forest.



Joe Wolter

**Jim Overstreet** grew up on a Montana ranch. Horses are a central feature in his life. He started breaking colts at an early age. He has ridden and trained polo ponies, hunters, cutting horses, rope horses and barrel horses. He regards meeting Ray Hunt in 1979 and later spending time with Tom Dorrance as turning points in his life.

**Joe Wolter** is a native Northern California rancher and horseman, who now resides in West Texas where he trains horses and conducts clinics, and has a pre-conditioning yard. Joe has prepared and had success in showing horses in Ranch Horse Versatility, NCHA Cuttings, and Ranch Rein Cow Horse Events. Look for his Ranch Roping and Colt Starting DVDs at [joewolter.com](http://joewolter.com).

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## Subscription Information

Eclectic Horseman is published bimonthly by

Eclectic Horseman Communications, PO Box 174 Elbert, CO 80106

Subscription Rates: \$24 (6 issues), Canadian and Mexican subscriptions US \$32; International subscriptions US \$55.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Eclectic Horseman PO Box 174 Elbert, CO 80106

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Please send your letters to:

Eclectic Horseman PO Box 174 Elbert, CO 80106

Call with your concerns, questions or comments:

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Ray Hunt was many things to many people. He was a father, a husband, a horseman, and a clinician. As members of the horse community, we all feel his loss; however, our hearts go out to his family, who have lost so dear a member.

The first time I saw Ray Hunt was in Wheatland, Wyoming. My friend Mindy invited me to come along with her and audit for the weekend. I remember knowing that what I was watching and hearing was true and right and pure in a way that I barely had the words to describe. I remember wishing that I had a photographic memory so that I could have perfect recall of all that Ray said and did during the clinic. Of course, I do not have such a memory, and so over the next decade and more I would go to as many of Ray's clinics as I could for the chance to see and hear the words and actions of a master.

And I found that what Ray said, and what he asked his students to do in the clinics over the years, did not change all that much. Why? Because the truth does not change. The truth does not involve a new marketing strategy. The truth isn't always kind or easy. What Ray did, clinic by clinic, horse by horse, was to speak the truth about what the horse needed and

how we could better meet those needs.

The definition of truth includes the statement "the property of being in accord with fact or reality." In my mind the best way we can honor Ray Hunt is to continue to seek the truth, the fact, the reality of what is going on with our horses, unsullied by our human projections. It fits right in with my favorite of his quotes, "You're not working on the horse, you're working on yourself."

I have assembled all that I could in a short time to serve as a tribute to Ray. We received a great many remembrances and photos that I was not able to include in the issue, but I will post them on the Web site for all to view. Thank you to all that sent in photos and memories on such short notice.

As this issue came to a close, I received word that we had lost another great icon of horsemanship, Sally Swift. Sally was to helping the rider what Ray Hunt was to helping the horse.

Thank you Ray for remaining true to the horse.

Take care,

## Classified Ads

3-year-old nice looking sorrel gelding. Gentle and great disposition. Joe Wolter rode him for about 160 days, roping, trail, ranch, cowwork . He was breed for reined cowhorse/reining. Sire LTE Approx \$25,000. Asking \$4,500. Call 918-949-0772 OK

Two Saddles for sale: 15" McCall Wade Lite. Rough out seat and fenders, basket tooling. 4" stirrups half leather covered. Matching breast collar, back cinch. Very good condition. \$2100. 14 1/2" Walt Goldsmith, Olsen Nolte Saddle Company, San Francisco, 1950's. Very good condition for age. \$800. Pictures available. suechiverton@dishmail.net Call Sue 575-536-3109 NM

Dynamic and Delightful: 17h branded and certified hanoverian/rhineland 4-yr old gelding for sale. Personable disposition, mild temperament. Beautiful gaits, sturdy build. Travels well and always receives compliments. Accelerating to Level 1 and can be an adult or youth horse. Displays a keen sense of tracking ability. \$17,000 724-738-0070 risinranch@earthlink.net PA

Wade Buckaroo Saddle: This is a ranch saddle (15 inch seat) made by Hamley Saddle Co. It has a 6 1/2" x 8" gullet, will fit most horses. Exposed stirrup leathers, 3 1/2" monel stirrups and mule hide wrapped horn with 5" cantle. Like new. \$3,200 Call Jim 303-772-8971 CO

For Sale: 11-year-old Bridle Horse. Double bred Driftwood & double bred Blanton. Won or placed on in Ranch Horse

competitions and Ranch Ropings. Big horse, 15.3 hands and 1400 lbs. Very athletic for his size. Please call Mike Doyle for more information 719-338-0160. CO

CARETAKER Position: Available in May in Longmont, CO area. Duties include mowing, weed whacking, hay tarping, irrigating, weed spraying, general maintenance on equipment. Small renovated farmhouse available to Couple or single. Horsemanship skills a plus! For more information contact Kathie Hibbard @ hibbard@mesanetworks.net with subject of CARETAKER or 303-579-4974 CO

FSBO: 10 ACRE HORSE PROPERTY: On beautiful Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. Two separate tax parcels, fenced pastures & paddock, loafing shed with hay storage. 4 bd, 2 ba home. Owner may finance and will consider lease or rental. For more info, go to www.mastdog.com/fsbo .WA

Healing Assessments: Intuitive interpretations and written assessments of overall well-being from photos. Supply two recent photos taken broadside of horse, standing in halter, with an uncomplicated background. Photos will be returned. Please send \$50 to: Christie Lynn Davis, PO Box 1766, Montrose, CO 81402. Questions? Call 970-778-0676

**Classified Ad Rates:** For subscribers only, \$24 for 50 words. Ads will be run for one issue. Payment is due in advance. Call for deadline 303-449-3537.



# Ray Hunt

August 31, 1929 – March 12, 2009

by Tom Moates

On March 12, 2009, the horse world lost one of its most legendary figures of all time, Ray Hunt.

Hunt's popularity and renowned training capabilities combined with his innovative development of the traveling clinician format to carry his fame and methods across all equestrian disciplines, and around the globe as well. Few, if any, horsemen in history exercised more influence across such a wide spectrum of equestrian activity than Ray Hunt.

"I'm here for the horse," became his celebrated motto (or perhaps more of disclaimer spoken before his honest observations started to fly during his clinics) as he pioneered the modern colt starting and horsemanship clinic.

Hunt was born August 31, 1929. Paul, Idaho was his first home as a young boy, and then his parents moved the family to Mountain Home, Idaho, where he grew up, went to school, and helped out on the family farm. In 1948, he married Millie Randall. Within two years, Hunt took a job as a cowboy working for the T Lazy S ranch in Battle Mountain, Nevada. By 1955, the couple moved to California.

A major pivotal point in horsemanship history occurred when Hondo, a troubled horse of Hunt's that he was incapable of fixing at the time, spurred him to seek sage advice elsewhere. A now fabled meeting with the celebrated California horseman, Tom Dorrance, resulted. That encounter is largely accredited as the flash point in history when the necessary elements came together which evolved into the now extremely popular modern horsemanship clinic movement.

Hunt learned a great deal from Dorrance, and then applied that knowledge to the art of colt starting, horse training, and helping others to fix problems with horses through better communication with them. He spent the remaining decades of his life devoted to the horse by taking this horsemanship philosophy, with its basis of gentle techniques and improving communication rather than dominating horses, to horse folk everywhere.

Dorrance said of Hunt, "I have never experienced anyone who could pick up on the slightest cue and build on it in the right direction in such a short time.... Soon I was asking Ray



the almost impossible and he would do it."

In 1980, Hunt married Carolyn Lord as he continued a rigorous traveling clinic schedule. In his later years, Hunt suffered shortness of breath from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Regardless of this challenge, the resolute cowboy continued a demanding clinic schedule, traveling extensively, often riding, and even using a portable oxygen apparatus to allow him to meet the demands of his life's chosen purpose.

Hunt recently contracted a minor lung infection, which he fought for several weeks. The legendary cowboy clinician apparently suffered a heart attack and passed away on the way home from a hospital visit, the family said.

Ultimately, Hunt is credited with starting more than 10,000 colts, positively influencing innumerable people through his unique style of teaching, and creating a recognizable and lasting heritage in horsemanship the world over.

Hunt's family has provided the following information for the public:

Ray passed away March 12, 2009 in Denton, Texas, after a long and courageous battle with COPD. Ray is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and daughters Geri Van Norman of Tuscarora, Nevada, Kathy Hunt of Salinas, California, Elaine Black of Homedale, Idaho, and Julie Ristau of Kodiak, Alaska, and sons Joel Hunt of Bruneau, Idaho, and Preston Lord of Mountain Home, Idaho, eighteen grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Ray was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, two sisters, 1 grandson and 1 great grandson.

In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to the Ray Hunt Memorial Fund administered by the Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association. It will be used solely in support of programs dedicated to horseback riding for people with disabilities. Ray was impressed by how the horses were able to impact people with disabilities in such dynamic ways, and this program really meant a lot to him. All donations are tax deductible. For more information on CATRA please go the Web site: [catra.net](http://catra.net) or contact Ben Nolt 717-649-9822. Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association, Inc. is a Not-For-Profit Organization Recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.



# MEMORIAL FOR RAY HUNT

by Lee Smith

## RAY'S

service at his Oak Valley Ranch in Texas on March 21, 2009, was one of two held in his memory. The service there was well attended with over three hundred people from

around the world who loved and respected Ray. The setting was simple. The barn was transformed into a country chapel. Ray's wagon served as a podium decorated with his harness, flowers and a beloved portrait of Ray. Also decorating the barn were Ray's saddle, chaps, bridle bit and reata. In the barn office was another portrait of Ray horseback, along with a guest book for those in attendance to record their memories, sentiments and well-wishes.

Frank Lamb was the director of ceremonies and introduced each of the speakers. On a personal note, Frank shared his remembrances of at times needing to escape Ray's watchful eyes, and realizing that Ray will now be able to see everything he does.

Wade Black opened with a prayer and spoke about his relationship with his grandpa. Then Wade's wife, Amaia, sang acapella a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace.

Bill Smith shared with the group a new poem that Ray was working to memorize called "The Horse Traders." Martin Black delivered a biographical time-line of important dates in Ray's life. Bruce Laird shared with the group his first meeting with Ray, and talked about Ray's endearing, humorous and quirky way of creatively altering people's names to remember them. Bruce became "Brucie," Kitty became "Kitten," and Ty Murray's wife Jewel became "Pearl." Wanda Dodd then sang "Ponies."

Buster McLaury shared one of Ray's favorite stories, The Mexican Submarine, and finished with a challenge to each of us to think of Ray when in the pasture with our horses. Ty VanNorman read from the Bible and spoke of his relationship with his grandfather, as well as the relationship between man and horse and man and God, and then closed with a prayer.

Although Carolyn Hunt did not herself speak at the services, she shared her thoughts in the memorial pamphlet provided to those in attendance as follows:

"Few of us will ever do anything that will be recognized or remembered by more than a handful of people. We are not great. We may be good, honest, hard working, loyal, kind, decent, or we may be otherwise, but we are not considered great.

"Greatness comes along so rarely that when we see it we

want to touch it. Ray Hunt allowed us to touch greatness, to be a part of it. He was a truly great horseman, who offered us all a chance to be a part of something great. Most of us will live long, happy lives, but will never again be this close to greatness.

"Ray Hunt was one of the great motivators. He believed in you and had the capacity to make you believe in yourself. He believed in the horse and encouraged you to believe.

"Whether you loved Ray Hunt or you didn't, you cannot deny his greatness.

"Once you've known Ray Hunt you carry him with you forever. You hear his voice, you see his face. You long for his approval.

"You remember his tongue lashings and lectures. With each success you want Ray to know about it. You want to say, 'Look, Ray, look what I'm getting done.' With each failure, you want to apologize for not being right within yourself. Ray refused to accept 'can't' and taught us to not use it as an excuse.

"There are times you get tired of carrying Ray Hunt around. You want to be able to screw up and not hear him bark. Then you'll hear him tell you to adjust to fit the situation. Give something you've never gave before to get something you've never had. Observe, remember, and compare.

"The voice is never far away. He taught us that the horse and life are only going to give back what we are willing and capable of putting into them.

"Ray Hunt was just a guy. He never aspired to be famous, but wanted each one of us to be famous. He said, 'If I am ahead of you it is only by a fraction,' and if we got there first, to come back and help him.

"Ray Hunt was a legend in his own time. His legacy will live on through his students and all who come after. His dream was to someday see a child working with a horse that was mentally and physically perfectly attuned to each other. When the child was asked, 'where did you learn to work with a horse that way?', the child answers, 'Is there any other way?'"

Also mentioned and in attendance were Honorary Pallbearers Candi Cowden, David Brown, Bruce Laird, Frank Lamb, Ken Haddon and Bill Muncaster.

After the services, a meal of brisket, cole slaw, beans and chocolate cake was provided by several of Ray's friends and students, and everyone reminisced and exchanged stories and memories of Ray.



# Memories of Ray Hunt

## MARTIN BLACK

In the early 70s, I would go to Nevada and help Bill Van Norman start the ranches' colts in the winter. He had recently married Ray's oldest daughter, Geri, and having had the opportunity to work around Ray some, he had a lot of new ideas on horses that he shared with me.

Bill was a real good hand in his own right and had been around some good buckaroos in northern Nevada. Being around Bill and these other guys, I had them on a pretty high pedestal, but they talked about Ray Hunt like they had him on a pedestal. If these guys had Ray on a pedestal, I thought he must not be to far away from God.

One summer Ray was coming to Van Normans and Bill invited me to come to the ranch to work with Ray. He showed up in a one-ton stock truck made to haul 4 horses and he had 6 or 7 in there. He could get more horses in a truck or trailer than anyone I'd ever seen. When it looked like he had them as tight as he could, he would send his old bridle horse in and he would put his head to the side and hit the other horses with his shoulder and knock them forward. Before the wave he created returned, the old horse would get his hindquarters in the corner and Ray would shut the gate.

Bill had a water gap where the cattle from outside could water on the creek below Reed Station where he lived. It was about 50 yards wide and twice that far to the creek from the gate. There were cattle lying on the creek banks in the willows and we shut the gate so they couldn't get out, then Ray would drive one cow from the creek toward the small end of the trap and the gate. If the cow would get by him and try to get back to the other cattle, his horse would have to work harder to get back between the cow and the rest of the cattle, at which time he would let them relax in position when he got the cow stopped. This experience of working cattle with this principle is the basis of the "A Pen" as I labeled it for lack of anything better, and it all started with my first lesson with Ray 35 years ago.

I believe it may have been that same summer, Ray showed a bridle horse at the Elko Fair in the Open Class. At that time the eliminations were in the morning and the finals in the afternoon. There was reined work, herd work and single cow work. Ray made the finals and in all six works, I never saw him pull the reins tight once. To this day, I have never seen anything like it in the show pen. Six runs at top speed, dirt flying and Ray and

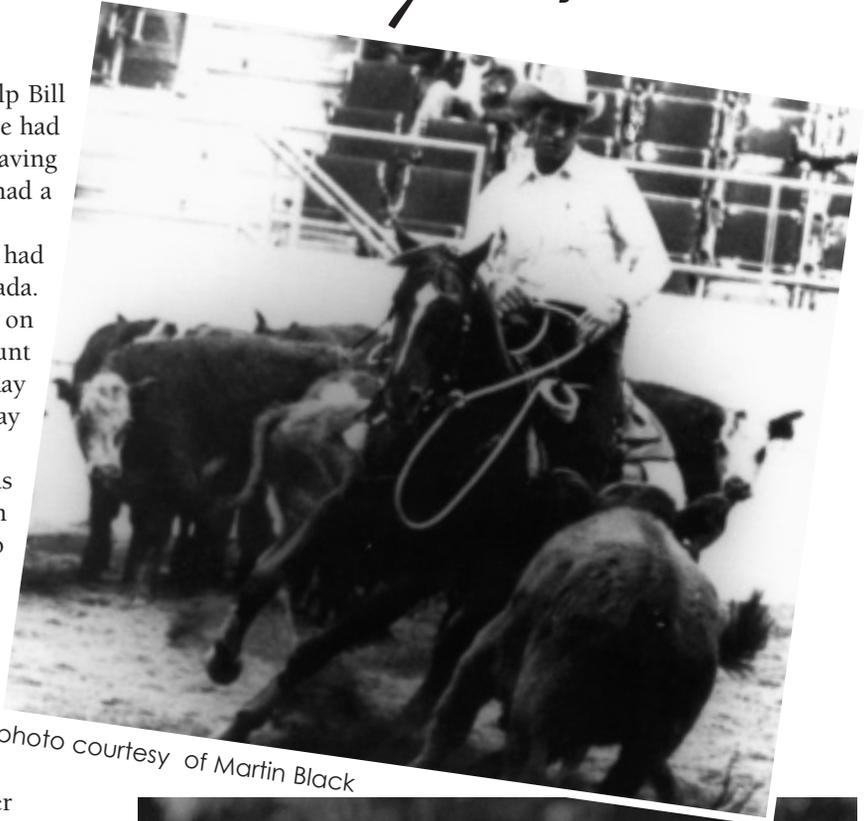
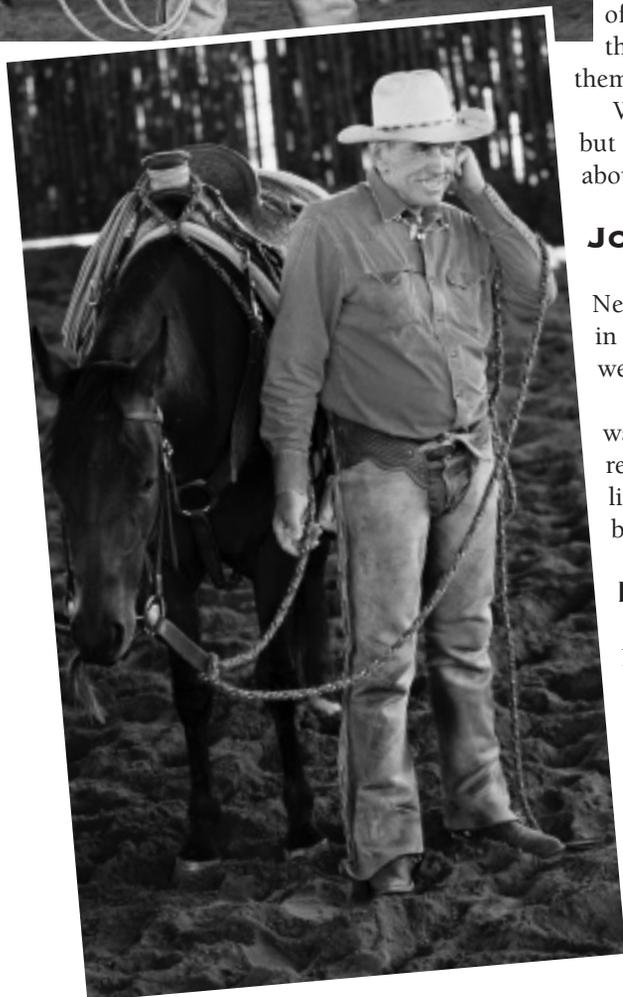
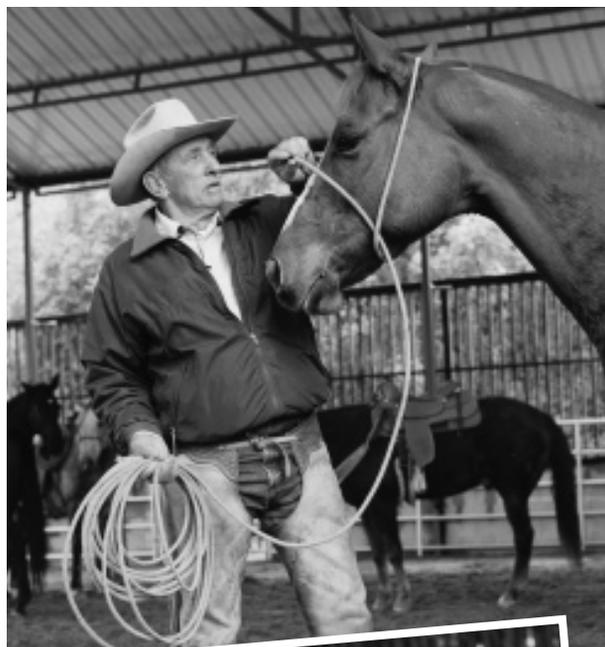


Photo courtesy of Martin Black



photo © Julie Chase Baldocchi



photos © Heather Hafleigh

his horse were so cool, just like a walk in the park.

Not only did he display great horsemanship, but he did the reining backwards and received a zero. When he got last place and asked the judge what he had done wrong, he laughed at himself, didn't cuss, wasn't upset, just a good sport about it.

Over the next few years I had the opportunity to work with Ray, before he started giving clinics full time. It was something I wish more people could have witnessed, especially my kids. A guy asked me once, "Who was the best all-around cowboy you worked around?" I said Ray Hunt, even though he expected me to say Tom Dorrance, but I never worked with Tom on the ranches like I did Ray. Ray was always in the right spot gathering and working cattle; he could have roped with the guys at the Californios and been right at the top. I never saw him buck off. He always kept a bucking horse busier trying to stay out of trouble than the horse could keep him trying to ride it.

He also was one of the best horse shoers I've ever been around. For a while, he taught at Cal Poly and of course shod his own horses on the ranch and for the show pen. Some of the things I learned about shoeing as a teenager from Ray are the same principles I use today after seeing a lot of high-dollar educated farriers. Ray knew how to shoe a horse to ride in the mud and rocks chasing wild cattle or to ride in the show pen and keep them sound as they got older.

We all know of Tom's message that helped so many of us with our horses, but I am thankful for Ray for being his messenger. Not only could Ray talk about it, he could do it better than anyone.

### JOE WOLTER

One of my most cherished times in my life was working for Ray in Nevada in the '70s. One particular time was when we were gathering cattle in the fall. We were a long way from home with a little bunch of cattle that we had to get home.

It was really cold and late in the day. We took turns walking a foot to warm up while the other kept the cattle moving in the right direction. We reached our destination about 1 a.m. As long as that day was, it never felt like it to me. Ray did to me what he did to his horses. We both wanted to be with him and I still do.

### BRYAN NEUBERT

After learning of the death of Ray Hunt and thinking about his life, I began to ponder how he affected mine. Most people know him from his clinics around the country. I never went to very many of his clinics unless they happened to be close by.

I first met him in 1968 when I was still in high school through our mutual friend Bill Dorrance. Since then I had worked for him four different times, either starting colts or cowboying on ranches.

One memorable time we started colts and took care of 4,000 head of heifers and blended our colts in on the cow work. This was especially fun because we had a lot of roping to do on those colts. Ray was almost 25 years my senior and a really good hand which made it exciting for me. It was so valuable because we were constantly comparing our horses and he seemed to have a real passion for my progress. We had

a chance to trade horses quite a bit, so I could feel how he had something going and how he coped with what I didn't have going. It was really a benefit for me to see how my horses would change in a short time with him, then feel how different they were when I got back on them. It was frustrating to me that oftentimes that new feel wouldn't carry very long after I got back on. I could see it, I could feel it, but I couldn't keep it.

But Ray was very encouraging to me and it helped to hear stories of how he went through the same thing while working with Tom Dorrance. But despite the fact that I couldn't acquire or keep a certain feel right then, it still gave me a goal for which to shoot. It was so exciting in time as my timing would improve on some certain phase and when I could feel a feel developed that resembled his horses. He seemed to be equally excited and having as much fun as I was.

At this time I was terribly shy and though I had met Tom Dorrance and was raised a half hour away from him, I didn't really know him. Ray insisted that I get better acquainted with him. That friendship changed my life, and if it hadn't been for Ray, it may have never happened.

Ray loved to tell stories of his cowboy days in Nevada and I loved to hear them. He got me my first job cowboying and riding colts on a big outfit. I stayed with that occupation for the next 20 years. It was a great opportunity to practice and experiment with so many of the things we worked on while I was with him.

Ray is the one that encouraged me to start in on the clinic trail, which caused me to leave the cowboy life. I'm fairly sure I wouldn't have done that if it hadn't been for him. I'm still trying to figure out whether I should give him credit or blame him for that one.

I think back when we had a chance to reminisce on our years together and how he had me wishing I could go back to those fun days when I got paid to play. I can only guess where I'd be and what I'd be doing had he not been a part of my life.

As I think about the effect he has had on horsemanship in general, I don't think I'm exaggerating to assume that perhaps no one in the entire history of horsemanship has affected it in a more positive way than has Ray Hunt.

## BILL RIGGINS

My fondest memory of Ray was watching him push my daughter on the swing in front of our house during a clinic we had at our ranch.

I always felt Ray Hunt was like my second father. He was one of the most sincere people I've ever met. He always knew how I felt and saw what was going on with me and my horse and helped me. It didn't matter if there were one or a hundred of us present, I always felt like he took time for me.

He left me with a saying and it's still on my bulletin board today. "If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning."

I truly loved him and will miss him. Until we meet again.



photo courtesy of Lori Wigen



photo courtesy of Helen Enzien

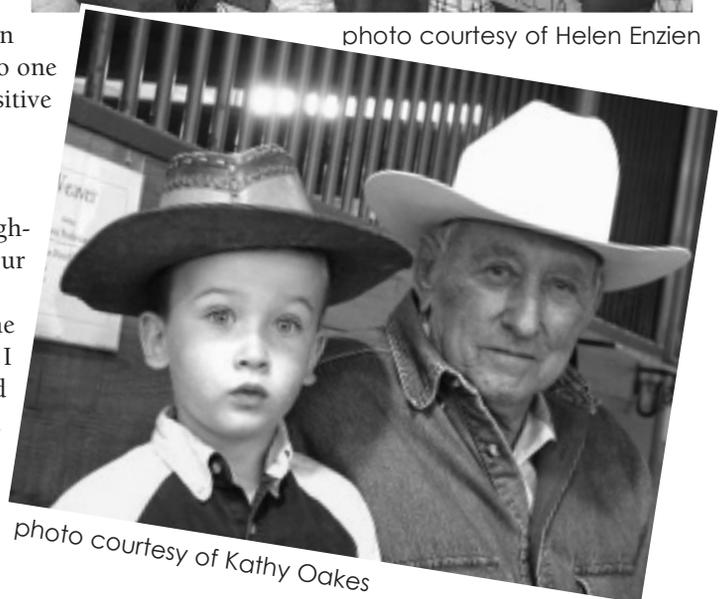
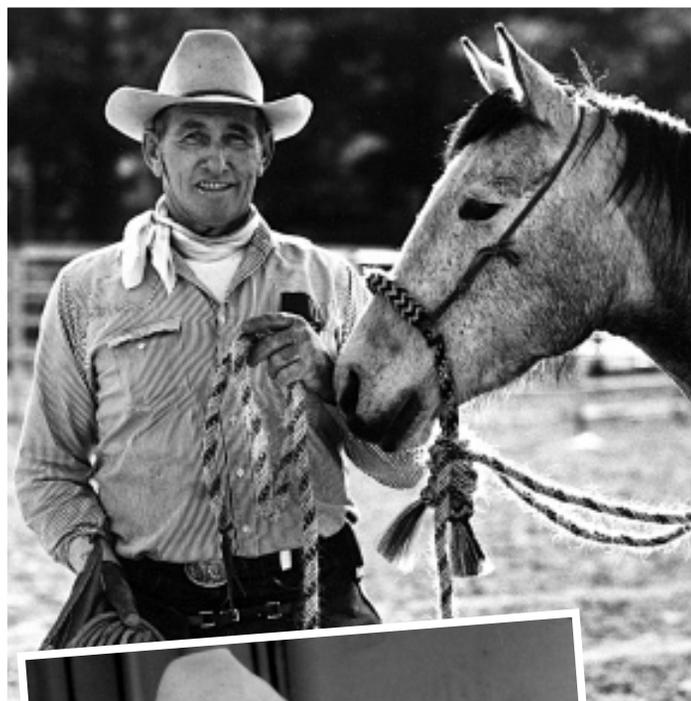


photo courtesy of Kathy Oakes



**BUSTER MCLAURY**

When Ray came along I thought I was getting along with my horses OK. But he could get things done with a horse I didn't even know were possible. At the 6666's he and Carolyn would eat supper with us, and my wife and girls got pretty attached to them. We felt like an extended family. Once when we were having a birthday party for my oldest daughter we discovered just how much Ray liked homemade ice cream... about a gallon at a time. He and my daddy were of the same generation, and if I ever needed an example of integrity, or work ethic, all I had to do was think of one of them.

**BILL MUNCASTER**

The first time I visited Tom Dorrance, there was a question I most wanted to ask of him. How come he and Ray became such good friends when he was such a patient, gentle man, and Ray, on his own admission to me, was tough and gritty. Tom looked me in the eye and simply said, "Oh, Bill, I never saw anyone ride a horse like Ray Hunt."

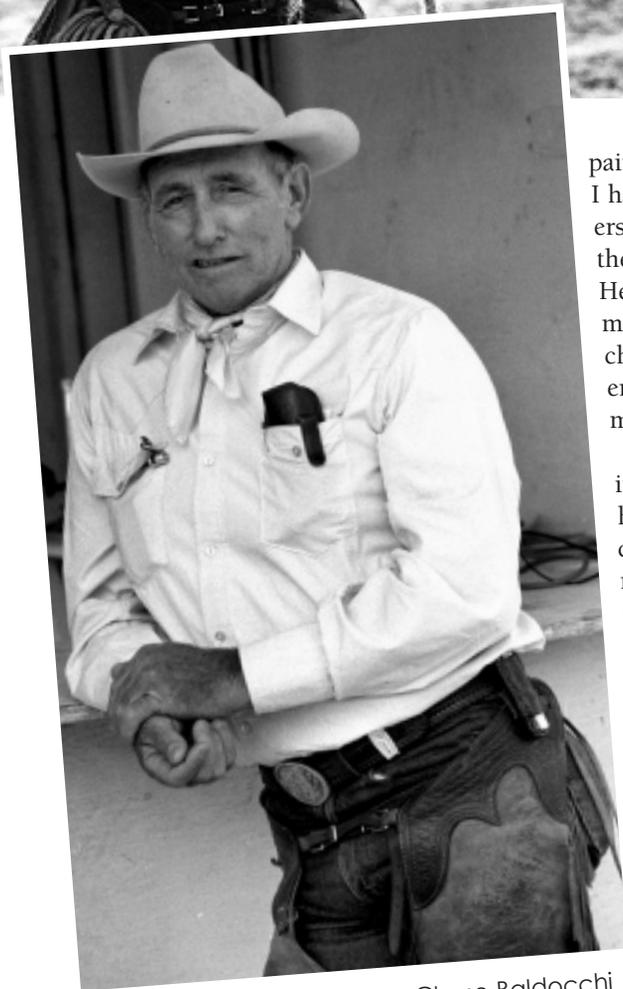
**PAUL DIETZ**

I have three stories, the first describes how humble Ray was, and how he believed in never limiting one's ability,

One time I was watching Ray ride this little gray and white paint. He was loping circles, and doing flying lead changes, and to this day, I have never seen a more effortless change, from Olympic horses, to reiners, bridle horses, etc. I said wow, Ray, that was nice! He said, not bad for the first time I loped her in a circle. I said, I hope I can do that one day. He said you don't want to do that, you want to do it like you do it. It took me years to understand that, and while it was still the most beautiful lead changes ever, I understand and enjoyed talking to Ray about those differences, While he will always be the ultimate, it was a pleasure to become me through his tutelage.

The second was a time, with a horse I was riding, and he was wanting to buck, and run away with his owner. Once I got on, he would do his "thing," and I would do a one-rein stop. Ray would say, circle him circle him. The next time, I would circle him, and Ray would say, one-rein stop, one-rein stop, This went on for days, and the horse got over it, but it soooo seemed like I was always on the horse backwards or something. Then several years later again, I understood. I asked Ray, and told the story, and told Ray the times I did a one-rein stop, I had already gotten to the feet, so there was no need to stop the horse and go through that all over, and the times I circled, there was no connection to the feet. Ray said, it's like Tom said, it's about the feet, the feet, THE FEET.

The third was a horse that bucked a fellow off a few times, and his wife had asked me to get on, It was on the edge, but I was just in sync and would be there right when Ray gave a direction. The horse never bucked with me and did so good. After that I just couldn't stop learning (imagine that) and asked Ray, should I have done this or that, waited here, or done more there? Ray said when you've had as



photos © Julie Chase Baldocchi

good of a ride as that, just enjoy it and leave it alone.

It's amazing, how slow I was, in taking those years to get the simple lessons. As Ray might say, It's amazing how it takes a lifetime to live a lifetime. There are so many stories, and we all have them to share, I look forward to sharing some more around the camp fire. Thanks, Ray. Keep all of us on track and save us a few to start.

### **JACK YOUNG**

There is an iron mine at a place called Palisades which is half-way between Beowawe and Carlin, Nev. on the Humboldt River. At the Horse Shoe ranch we had cattle at Rattlesnake Springs and they would get in the mines pit. When they got to be a problem, the mine boss would call us up and we'd go up there and get the cattle out. There was a railroad track alongside the Humboldt River and if you could go down the tracks, you'd save about 5 miles riding. The only problem was that there were two tunnels to go thru with the cattle. We'd hold the cattle up and as soon as a train came thru and got past us, Ray would take the lead so they could be stopped and I'd push them from behind and we'd start down the tracks and thru the two tunnels, with about 10 to 20 head. After you got thru the tunnels there was a kind of cliff the cattle could get up and it was only about a mile to Rattle Snake Springs. We'd do this about once a month and never had a problem. This was in 1967 or 68. The first time we did it, I couldn't believe that was what Ray planned, but by golly if Ray was going to do it, I sure wasn't going to weaken on him. I just took a big chew of Copenhagen and away we went. I still think about Ray and those tunnels every time we go to Elko.

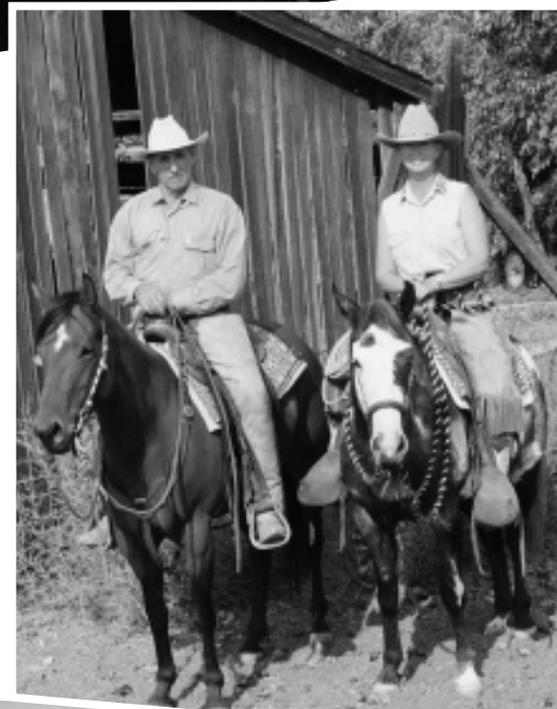
### **MARTY MARTEN**

Ray Hunt was THE Master Horseman – an inspiration to all. He had a rare gift and, fortunately, he chose to pass it on to us. His contributions to the horse industry are worldwide and immeasurable. They have become the cornerstone of any good training program today. Ray's principles apply directly to horses, as well as to humans. Over the years, he has opened our eyes to a whole new way.

All of us in the horse industry owe Ray Hunt a huge debt of gratitude in what he has taught us in working with our horses, in a way that is fitting to the horse. Ray was the trainer's trainer, the clinician's clinician. He paved the way for all who have conducted clinics. Without Ray going down the road giving clinics, very few of us would have ever heard of Tom and Bill Dorrance. Ray always willingly gave credit to them. I certainly owe what knowledge I have to Ray Hunt and Tom Dorrance.

I would not know many of my friends today, were it not for Ray Hunt. He brought us together. We proudly share in friendship for each other and partnership with the horse because of Ray. He motivated us toward a better spot within ourselves and with our horses.

He gave us the tools to enable us to think for ourselves. He encouraged us to look within. He helped us to establish a framework on how to work with our horse: making the right



photos © Heather Hafleigh



photo courtesy of Janet Wilson

thing easy and the wrong thing difficult. Even now, I hear his straightforward, powerful voice encouraging us toward a better way for our horses.

Ray Hunt has had a positive impact on us all. He will continue to be a mentor for generations yet to come. Ray Hunt was a legend in his own time and will be forever.

### VERLYN KLINKENBORG

When I heard that Ray Hunt had died, I found myself wondering how many times he had saddled a horse in his life. The number must be in the hundreds of thousands. Most of us can't put the second arm in the second sleeve of a coat as easily as Ray saddled a horse. I first saw him do it at a clinic in Wheatland, Wyoming, in the fall of 1992. I was new to saddling horses. I knew enough to know that I knew nothing about it. What I didn't know—until a long time later—was just how much nothing that was. Ray was one of the people who pointed that out, without so much as saying a word.

What I thought I saw in Wheatland was a man saddling a horse, a man who might have been saying to that horse, "Whatever you think of this is fine with me." And he meant that, but he'd also prepared the horse to be readier for the saddle than even the horse could know. Gentle, but not too gentle, ready, but not too ready—that was how it went. I've wondered since how Ray found the balance between those things. But I've realized recently that it was never that fine a calculation. Ray was ready for the consequences, whatever they happened to be. It was genuinely okay, whatever the horse did. It was all a step in the right direction. Me, I had a mental list of things I didn't want to see happen while saddling the horse I was starting. It was a long list. That changes everything.

I did not get to know Ray well, which is something nearly everyone who rode with him will be able to say. I try to think of what that Wheatland clinic must have looked like to him, and I suppose it looked like a bunch of worried, frightened mammals trying to saddle worried, frightened mammals. No matter what you thought of being human, you would think a little less of it after spending time with Ray. I try to think of who that man was, and the best guess I'm ever going to get will come from looking at the horse he's sitting on. She's the purest horse in the string, the one listening and watching and feeling, with eyes as bright as we've ever imagined the human soul to be.

### LEE SMITH

One of the most memorable times spent with Ray and Carolyn was our time together in Canada at the Gang Ranch clinic in 2007. Ray encouraged me to come with them to "God's country." He told me it would be like nothing I had seen before, so I went. And it was indeed spectacular. The country was more beautiful than I had imagined, and the atmosphere warm and welcoming because of Larry and Bev Ramstad (ranch manager and his wife). Ray and Carolyn arrived with their grandson Kalon, me with my friend Kitty (Ray called her Kitten), Tom and Trina Curtin as well as their daughter Tanna. All had a chance to enjoy the horses and our time together. It was friends, family, and horses. We laughed a lot, and absolutely had a ball! The clinic was well attended, somewhere around 15 head of colts to be started, a large horsemanship class, with a late afternoon

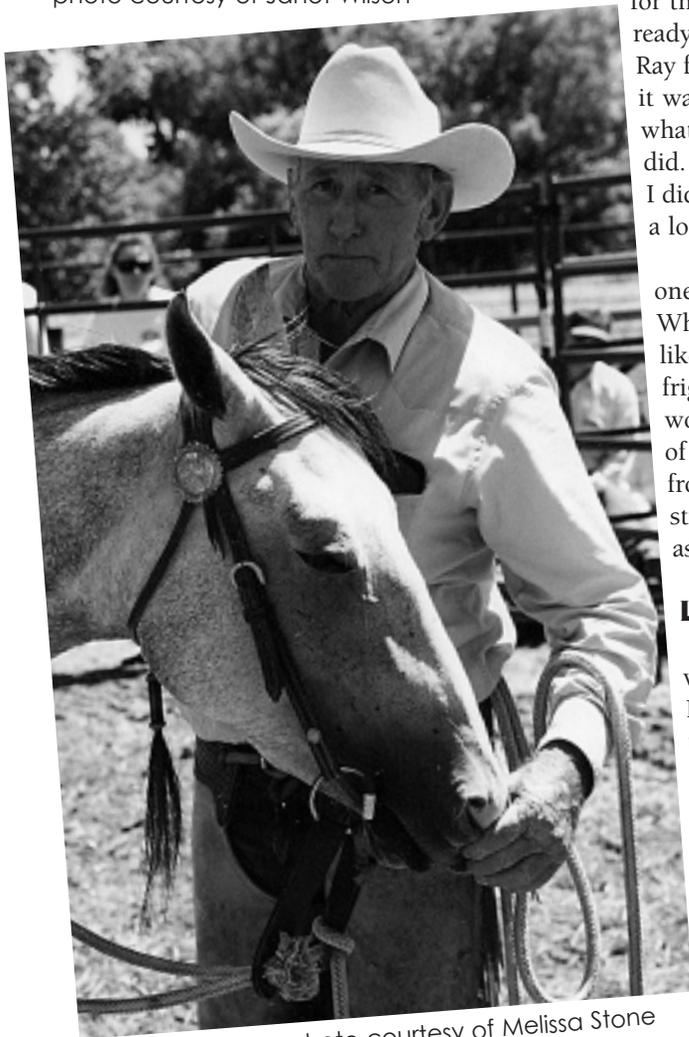


photo courtesy of Melissa Stone

cow working class. Ray gathered everyone up to one of the many round corrals and had us watch Tom and Kalon start two of the Hunt's young horses. Both the fellas had them going pretty good, when Ray suggested they open the gate to a much larger dry lot. From there things got a little western; actually it looked like something from a Remington painting, and you could just see that Ray was beaming with pride as those two fellas handled what came their way. He knew what it took, he had been there in days gone by, and I could just see how pleased he was with how well Tom and Kalon did with what took place. There were some really good hands at that clinic, and there were some folks there just like me, all of us eager to learn. I rode in all three classes, and learned something in each. It was the last colt starting clinic I will probably ever ride in and I will never forget it. What was so amazing was that from the front seat of the pickup Ray shared his wisdom and had us all getting along with our young horses well enough that after the colt class the second day we took them out of the arena to the open range, and on the third day the class rode the colts following the wagon Ray was driving around and through the many hay meadows. Ray always said he was "just a guy," but that "guy" even in his golden years was the most effective horseman I've ever known. The genuine article. What really left an impression on me was to see Ray with the driving lines in his hands. You could see the passion still burning within, as well as the unwavering respect he had for the horses. It was beautiful to see how much he enjoyed having the reins in his hands once again. I can only imagine what it must have felt like to the horses judging by how the team responded to him. It was truly an exceptional experience that I will always cherish, and never forget. I would have considered it a true honor to have been able to share even one day with him. It overwhelms me to call him my friend. I will miss him, and I will think of him every day I am with horses.

### FRANNIE BURRIDGE

Back in the early 1980s, I packed my bags and ventured out to Wheatland, Wyoming, to watch my first Ray Hunt Clinic. Since that time, I have been on a wonderful journey trying to figure out what it was that this man offered to a horse that a horse understood so well and was so right inside with. It is ongoing and I am sure will be for the rest of my life. For those of you that never saw this man interact with a horse, I am sorry, but I am very thankful for the memories I have. Raymond's unique way of teaching, which made one think about what he had to say for long periods of time, even years, is what I find so special about this man. Thank you, Carolyn, for sharing him with all of us for all these past years.

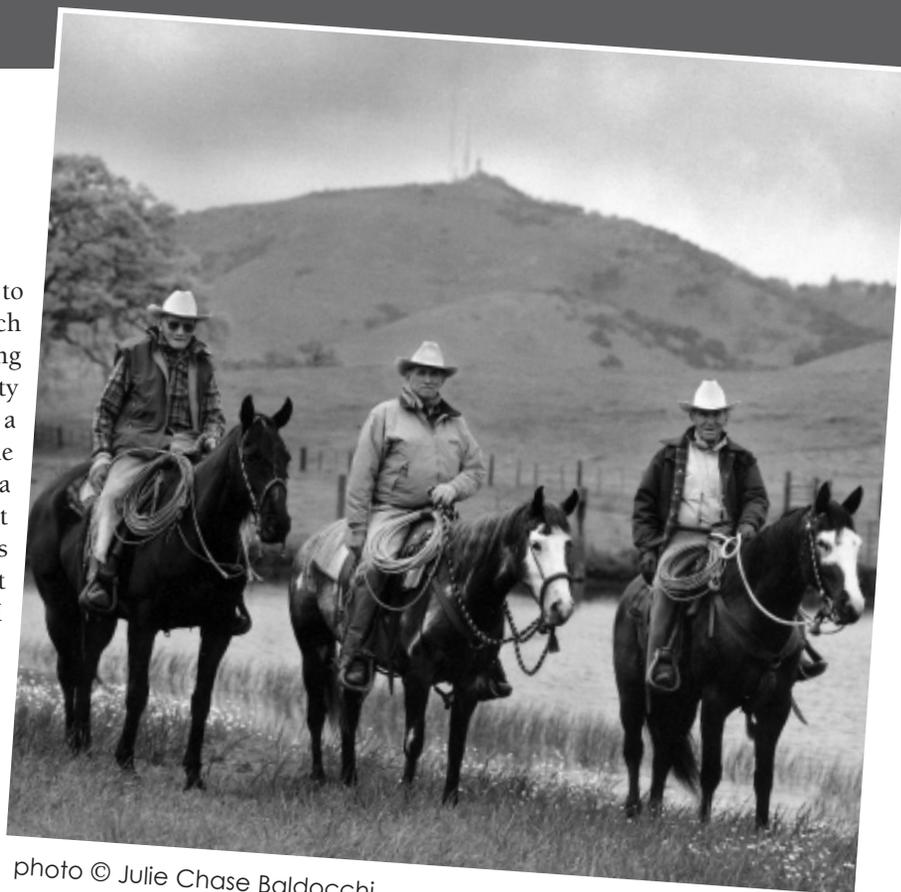


photo © Julie Chase Baldocchi



photo © Heather Hafleigh



## BACK AT THE BEGINNING

by Jim Overstreet

**I**N the days after I heard that Ray Hunt died, I was flooded by memories—mostly good. Ray influenced my life to a degree that was way out of proportion to the actual time we spent together. It's hard to believe how much different I, and others like me, rode before we met him. He was instrumental in a tidal-wave-size paradigm shift in horsemanship and I am proud to have been a part of it.

Ray passed almost exactly 30 years after I first met him in the spring of 1979. I was a semi-reluctant participant in a four-day clinic that he conducted in the horse pavilion at Montana State University in Bozeman. At the time I was working for the Madison River Cattle Company, a ranch that raised and sold lots of horses. That spring there was an obvious excess of unstarted two- and three-year-old geldings. Although the ranch manager, Mike Thomas, knew very little about Ray, he decided that if a half-dozen of us took colts to the clinic it would be a good start toward breaking the whole bunch.

I told Mike that he didn't need to send me to a clinic because I'd grown up starting colts. He said he thought we should never turn down a chance to learn something from "one of these bridle-horse men." I couldn't argue with that and picked out a long-pasterned colt that I figured I could ride if he bucked.

For a couple of days, I was a serious skeptic. I'd grown up the son of the best horseman in southwestern Montana, on a ranch that raised Thoroughbred horses and sold dozens of polo ponies and sometimes hunters to buyers in the East. By age 15 I started competing with my dad and quit learning from him. I had my successes as a horseman and roper and in our area was considered a good hand. Even so, I knew that Dad was a better horseman than me—I guessed that he had something I was born without. After I left home I started riding horses by the month and began to feel time pressure. Usually, I did OK, but like many other horse trainers, when I had a problem I figured I just needed to get tougher.

I tell people that I was over 30 before I got dumb enough to learn anything. In reality, I was only 29, and it was at this Ray Hunt clinic that I rediscovered both my ignorance and my willingness to learn. Those four days became a turning point in my life.

That first morning as I watched Ray chase one colt after another around the round corral then saddle them, I remained a cynic. It was interesting, but saddling a dozen colts in a couple hours without tying up a foot or sacking them out seemed downright foolish to me. Our group had heard that Ray often turned a dozen or more riders loose together on unbroken

horses without a bridle or anything on their head. As we watched and waited, we hid our apprehension behind gallows humor and wry remarks. At home, I'd have never considered riding a horse for the first time without driving him from the ground beforehand.

The ranch colts we'd taken to the clinic had only been haltered two or three times before—and one of those times they'd been thrown and gelded. For most of their lives they'd run nearly wild in big pastures. It took at least two people to lead them. I tied mine to a thick post in the arena fence and he pulled back for an hour or so. Once, Ray looked over at him struggling, grinned and said, "He'll find the end of that halter rope pretty soon." Even to a skeptic, that Ray was able to saddle those nearly wild colts with virtually no restraint was an amazing feat—especially in such a short time.

That morning Ray rode only to move the colts around after saddling. I liked some of what I saw—his mare was very soft and flexible. I especially liked the way she carried her head low and tucked without a tie-down. When Ray pulled her head around to his knee and rubbed her forehead, I wondered who would want a horse that rubber necked. (I thought then Ray was pulling. Within a few days, I learned better.) At the time, I figured a horse had to have little stiff spots so that he could push off hard to make a quick move.

That afternoon, when Ray began to get riders mounted on their colts, it wasn't long before I realized that whatever Ray was doing, he seemed to be able to keep horses from bucking. My colt didn't seem to care a bit that I was on his back. But it seemed to me that he wandered about aimlessly, even when Ray used his flag to drive us around. About the only control I had over him was the ability to start him moving if he stopped. At home, the colts I'd driven moved out good on their first ride and with a direct rein, I could control their direction.

It was on the second day that my first epiphany came. For the morning colt class, we put snaffle bits on our horses for the first time. Ray instructed us not to tighten the reins but to just go where the horse went. We just rode around slowly for a while drifting aimlessly. Then, Ray got out his flag and got us moving much faster. About the third time we were loping down the arena he asked us to lift the rein lightly and ask our horse to follow it. I chuckled to myself and thought, if he wants soft, I'll give him ridiculously soft. I reached out a little and smoothly lifted my right rein as if it were a feather—my horse couldn't have felt more than half the weight of my thin leather rein. To my utter amazement he followed that tiny suggestion of pressure around a looping turn right in the middle of the arena. It is hard to describe the elation I felt at this dis-

covery. I began to understand where that smooth, supple responsiveness that I could see in Ray's horse came from. As we progressed, that "wild" colt helped me begin to learn how to feel through my bridle reins softly. It didn't take long for me to realize that the smooth willing responsiveness was just as fast, and far more pleasant, than the darting quickness I had been feeling for.

Again that afternoon Ray shook my belief in the adequacy of my horsemanship. During his talk before the horsemanship class he sat on his little bay mare, April. As he talked, her head drooped slightly. She could have been asleep. Then, he proclaimed that if you want to, you can move any foot on your horse. He said, "Right front." With no visible movement on Ray's part, April lifted her right front foot as if she might take a step and then set it back down. Almost immediately, Ray said, "Left front." This time the mare lifted her left front and then replaced it. "Left hind." The left hind lifted and resettled. After he said, "Right hind" April didn't move for probably a second then lazily cocked her foot ahead before setting it back in the dirt. During all this, April's relaxed demeanor didn't change at all. Up until then, I had had no idea that you could control each foot that separately or that you could control any foot without motion. That he could do it with no obvious effort seemed baffling to me. All these years later I know about what he was doing, but I still find the off-handed and effortless way that Ray communicated with his horse incredibly impressive.

Riding in both the colt and horsemanship classes gave me a lot of opportunity to ask Ray "probing" questions. One of my co-workers accused me of being rude. He was probably right because I didn't attempt to hide my skepticism. I was lucky that Ray was at a time in his life when I didn't offend him. He grinned and answered every question with a serious response. The harder I dug, the more substance I found. As my skepticism faded, I became excited about the possibilities.

About the third morning of the colt class, we were stopped, listening to Ray talk about responding to the slightest try. He said that if you are asking a horse to take a step to the right, you should let the horse know he is doing the correct thing when he shifts his weight to the left foot. The horse can't lift his right foot if he still has his weight on it. So we have to recognize that the weight shift is a necessary preliminary action and that we have to respond in a way that tells the horse he's doing the correct thing before he takes a step. That example triggered another epiphany for me. I'm still working on the subtle ways that this rule applies and hope that I will continue

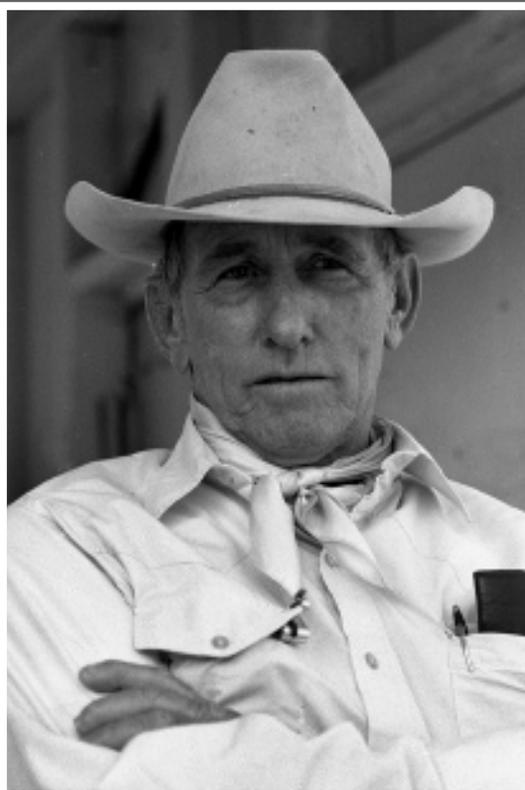


photo © Julie Chase Baldocchi

to get better at recognizing them.

In a practical sense, probably one of the best things I learned at that first Ray Hunt clinic relates to controlling the feet individually but is simpler. That is, controlling both ends of your horse—moving the front end either direction and moving the hind end either direction. I'd always thought that because I wanted my horses to turn off their hind end, it always had to remain in place. But Ray made me see the value of being able to move it separately. This made me much more aware of feeling the rear of a horse instead of focusing almost exclusively on the forelegs. I use this every time I ride, whether it's placing my horse where I want him in the roping box,

opening and closing a gate, avoiding a tree that is too close to the trail, or keeping a circle round, or in untold numbers of other ways.

As I think about it, much of what I learned came from watching him and subconsciously copying it—like the way he touched a horse. Other things seemed to come in a more general way. For example, I had always had trouble catching horses. Almost immediately, I could catch horses much better. Although it wasn't a hundred percent, even horses I had previously taught to be difficult to catch became easier. Within three or four years after that first clinic I virtually quit riding horses for other people and it has become much harder for me to sell a horse. If I ask a horse to trust me and to behave in a certain way and he does, over a couple weeks time or maybe a month or two we develop a personal relationship. Then, if I send him home with an owner who has very different expectations that the horse doesn't or can't understand, I feel like I've somehow broken my promise. The reality is that I have to sell a horse once in a while but it's more difficult. And, one of Ray's best gifts was that he made it necessary for me to meet Tom Dorrance.

This is the first thing I've written even vaguely about Ray. Some twenty years ago, I talked to him about the possibility of doing an article about him. He thought about it for a bit, then frowned and said, "Well, at least you know a little about what's going on." I know more now, but still only a little bit. In a way, that's part of what makes my relationship with horses continue to be exciting. That first clinic jolted me and set me on a new path. The possibilities were far greater than I imagined 30 years ago. My relationships with my horses are much more fulfilling. I think the way of being and thinking that relates to this carries over to much of the rest of my life in beneficial ways. Thank you, Ray Hunt!



# RAY HUNT QUOTES

compiled by Sylvana Smith  
Southern Pines, North Carolina October 1999

**WORKING WITH THE HORSE IS A WAY OF LIFE FOR ME.** He's my livelihood, my hobby, my passion. If given a little thought, a little understanding, and a little common sense, the horse gives back in full measure. If the human can give 5%, the horse will come from the other side with 95%. The horse never ceases to amaze me with what he can get done with very little help from the human.

**WHEN THE HORSE IS IN TROUBLE AND THE HUMAN DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO HELP HIM,** the human lets his pride get in the way and the first thing you know - it's a contest. The human makes it a win or lose situation, and if you're not real careful, the horse comes out the winner. The horse doesn't know what win or lose is, or what a contest is, until the human shows it to him.

**I'D LIKE TO HELP THE HUMAN UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH LESS HE CAN USE AND HOW MUCH MORE HE CAN GET DONE.** The human is so busy working on the horse, that he doesn't allow the horse to learn. They need to quit working on the horse and start working on themselves. They might get it done, but they don't get it done with the horse in the right frame of mind. The horse usually gets the job done in spite of us, not because of us.

**YOU NEED TO NOTICE THE HORSE MAKING CHANGES FOR THE BETTER. EXPRESSION IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.** The horse has body expression and mental expression. You must learn to read the horse's expression. The horse has multitudes of actions and reactions. They are all separate, yet inseparable. The horse will always tell you the facts. The horse is very honest. We can teach him to cheat by not filling in the blank spaces for him, but that comes from the human, not the horse.



photo © Heather Hafleigh

**PRACTICE DOESN'T MAKE PERFECT. PERFECT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT.** We need to be more disciplined within ourselves so that we can present our objective to the horse in a way that he can understand. Allow them to learn; allow them to work at things; allow them to figure things out. Make the wrong thing difficult, the right thing easy.

**AS TIME GOES ON, ALL THE LITTLE THINGS WILL FALL INTO LINE.** A lot of times, it is darkest before the dawn. Sometimes the horse might get a little worse before it gets better. We should be adjusting to fit the horse. Fix it up and let it work. You can't make it happen and you can't put a time limit on it. Sometimes the slower you go, the faster you learn.

# HOU LIHAN HORSE GEAR



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### Roughout Saddle

One beautiful saddle for sale. It is a 15 1/2" Wade roughout with smooth leather horn, cantle binding, billets, and latigo carriers. It has a 5 1/4" finished Guadalajara horn cap that is 3 1/4" high. The round cantle measures 4 1/2" and 12 1/2" wide. It comes fitted with 5" Monel stirrups that are leather-lined with heel blocks. This saddle has our standard gullet width and has 90 degree bars. **\$4,400**



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Get right to work with this high-quality flag. Constructed out of a steel whip antenna, with a custom-grip handle and durable stitched nylon flag in bright colors. Call for in-stock colors, 1-866-773-3537. **\$58**



## Double Diamond Halter Co.

### Parachute Cord Mecate 12-strand

Comes with a gaucho knot on one end and leather popper on the other. This mecate comes in 22' length for use with a snaffle bit. Available in black, white, black/tan, tan/burgundy, black/white/grey, or tan/green/brown. **\$145**

### Parachute Cord Mecate 8-strand

Comes with a gaucho knot on one end and a leather popper on the other. Available in black, white, black with tan tracer, black with brown tracer, brown with tan tracer and green/tan with white tracer. **\$130**

### Crossover Curb Strap

Perfect curb strap for the snaffle bit, attaches to bit with a slit & crossover tie. **\$10**

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**Halter and Lead** The Brannaman collection halter is 6mm in diameter with nylon core and a 16-strand nylon cover. Comes paired with a 12' white treeline lead. Available in black, copper, tan, sage green and burgundy. **\$50**



## Buckaroo Brand

These oversized wild rags are handmade and finished on a serger with a rolled hem. They will make anywhere from one up to ten of the same fabric. (We only have one of each color in stock at a time.) Chances are you will never see anyone else wearing the same wild rag as you. Some are made from vintage fabrics. Sized from 42" to 46" square. Call for in-stock colors. **\$35**



### Classic Pommel Slicker

Keep the rain off your back and your saddle with one of these stylish slickers. Remade to look and work like the classic trail slicker, they'll keep you dry. Available in Small, Medium, Large and X-Large **\$70**



# Why Do You Change Bits?

by Martin Black

*Why do we change from one bit to another on our horses? This can tell us something about our horsemanship and ourselves. Sounds like one of those dreaded self-evaluations? — “It’s not me, it’s them!”*

If you want to improve your horsemanship, look at what you are doing, let your horse evaluate you. He has nothing to prove, and he doesn't have an ego.

If we have a problem and we are changing bits to fix a problem, did you consider how to prevent from making the same mistake next time? Or is it something you accept as “just something some horses do?” A horse does not just get heavy in the face or fight the bit because he wants to go against pressure and get into trouble. He can't make sense of what we are doing so he becomes heavy and tolerant of the pressure or he becomes confused and frustrated. Then he learns to avoid the pressure from the bit by flipping his head or trying to pull the reins out of our hands to try and get some relief from the constant pressure of someone holding onto them. When this is the case, changing to a new bit might help for a day or two, but if you do not change your presentation with your hands, you will end up right back in the same place.

On the other hand, things can be going along reasonably well and we can change bits to give him a more refined signal where he can feel more and our hands can do less. This is received completely different. The horse accepts and responds positively. The other way the horse may respond but the acceptance isn't there, or he may be intimidated.

Some bits are designed to offer more feel and some are designed to inflict more pain. The reason being, the tongue of the horse has plenty of feel but yet is much more tolerant to pressures than the bars of the horse's mouth. The tongue itself is a muscle and the tissue that the tongue is made up of is tougher than the sensitive bar tissue. When the tongue is soft it has some give to it, so if he accepts the pressure of the bit, the tongue and the poll stay soft and he gives or responds to the bit. If he doesn't respond softly, the tongue muscle flexes along with the poll and he braces against the bit and is able to protect the more sensitive areas of his mouth.

Bits that don't operate on the tongue and put pressure on

the bars of the horse's mouth, such as “tongue relief” bits, are designed to inflict pain. The bars are very sensitive; they don't have any give like the lip or tongue; therefore, it doesn't take very much pressure from these bits to cause damage such as bruising, swelling, or tearing the tissue. The obvious signs of this are when the horse's head elevates and/or the nose goes out. If we are using devices to control the horse's head position, we have already by-passed the feel stage and are operating off of pressure by using more leverage, more pain, or we have his head tied down to inhibit the horse's negative responses. We are addressing the symptoms and not the problem. The problem is we are too aggressive, too quick or too strong with our hands, and the horse doesn't understand or doesn't have time to respond. The symptoms of this are for him to fight or go against pressure. If the horse can't get away from pressure, he will go against it.

The pallet is also softer tissue with little give, is very sensitive and can contribute a lot of feel and response to a bit. But, if there is so much pressure that we go beyond his feeling it and it becomes painful, he will open his mouth to get away from the pain. Here again there are devices to treat the symptom of this scenario and prevent his mouth from opening and the problem goes on unaddressed. The bits don't generally cause the problems we see with head position or mouth opening; it's the pressure we put on the reins that is the problem. We need to address our timing and the amount of pressure we apply with our hands.

The unfortunate thing is so many bits designed today are to inflict pain and intimidate the horse to respond. Bit makers are looking for a “new and improved” model to market and are willing to compensate a “Professional Horseman” to endorse it. Most of the time it is a “Professional Competitor” that is endorsing the new invention and you don't see all the horses that don't survive their program. Only the successful ones are acknowledged, so the new bit must work.

There are plenty of old designs from Europe and the old Spanish Bits modified in old California that were used for hundreds of years by arguably some of the best horsemen the World has ever seen. Their horsemanship was studied for military purposes and for work. Their survival depended on their success with their horses. I believe there is plenty to learn by understanding the way to use some of the old designs and not turn to the quick fixes. We need to take more responsibility for why it is not working instead of grabbing a bigger hammer to fix it.

# A Good Walk

by Buck Brannaman

*I'm* always thinking of a good walk when I ride. I ride with rhythm; there is a rhythm in my body so it is in time with the motion of the horse, and that's really all it takes to get him going. If he doesn't respond to that, then I use my legs, but I don't pedal a horse to get him to go or to stay in a nice lively walk. If I choose to walk slow, my horse walks slow, but he isn't lifeless. He rides the speed I ride him, but it is never dull.

Every time you walk your horse out you should be thinking about how he moves. Don't settle for dull. If your horse isn't already a good walking horse, it only takes a few minutes a day of being an inattentive rider to maintain that dull walk. And once you've got him walking dull, it doesn't take much to keep it. It takes quite a bit to change it though.

So a good walk should be an obsession with you. You ought to think about it every time you're going somewhere. For some folks it is easy to work at this in short bursts, but maybe not to sustain it and keep it going. But it has to become an ethic in you as a rider—you have to be consistent and real disciplined about it—to where every time you're going somewhere you look like you're on a mission.

You'll have fewer problems directing your horse if he is alive. Riding a horse that you have to pedal is like trying to hold on to a wet bar of soap because you don't have any drive to work with. If you don't have any life, you have nothing to work with. When he's moving out he's a lot easier to direct.

You'll get some horses that will either walk slow or they'll sort of jog, and it seems like there isn't any in-between—they won't find that fast walk. Well, if you've got the soft feel working really good for you, to where you can give him a little bump and he'll put his head down, then you could use that to help your horse learn to walk out with life. Bumping is not how you'd introduce the soft feel; you'd get your horse to where he's fighting his head. If you thought you were going to bump him to get his head down in the snaffle when you're teaching him to give you a soft feel, you'd mess him up—that should be a steady feel and a release, a feel and a release. But



*Don't settle for dull.*

if you've done your homework and you can literally just give him a little bump and he'll put his head down, then you could use that to your advantage to slow him from the jog, and then get your body into rhythm with him when he walks.

One way I set it up to get a good walk is to actually cause the horse to jog and then when he jogs, I make it unpleasant for him. I sort of bounce along in the saddle and my hands are kind of rude, bumping him on the mouth a little bit. And then when he walks I really get with him in that nice rhythm I'm talking about, and I make it real pleasing to him. First thing you know I can't even get him into the jog because it feels so bad to him. He'll say, "No way. I'll walk out, but I'm not going to jog because you can't ride. You're hopeless." So I don't make him walk, I let him. That's what I think of.

*Compiled and edited by Gale Nelson, from Buck's November 2008 clinic in Spanaway, Washington.*



# Dressage Levels for the Everyday Horseman

## Part 1 - An Overview of Dressage Basics

by Terry Church

*The word dressage means “training” in French, and was originally developed as a means of schooling horses to be highly maneuverable on the battlefield. Such maneuverability required a horse to work deftly off its haunches, performing actions that demanded a great deal of strength.*

Today, however, most of us recognize dressage as a competitive sport. Just like the term “natural horsemanship,” “dressage” is viewed positively in some circles and negatively in others. But stripped of personal judgments and competitive trappings, dressage remains a gradated system of gymnastic exercises designed to develop a horse’s physique, agility, attentiveness, and responsiveness. The exercises that make up this system are based on movements horses do naturally, oftentimes in pasture when at play. Under saddle these same movements are sustained over a specific distance or for a certain number of strides. From this perspective, dressage can be used to enhance a horse’s abilities in any discipline. More importantly, it can help to educate a person about the steps and stages a horse needs to go through in order to become adept at doing advanced work, all the while developing that person’s riding and handling skills. Through this process, we hopefully discover that a horse can figure out what to do for us only when we learn how to ask.

The “Object and General Principles” of dressage are listed in the rule book put out yearly by the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). They are cited here in part:

1. The object of Dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. As a result it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible but also confident, attentive and keen thus achieving perfect understanding with his rider.

2. These qualities are revealed by:
- a. The freedom and regularity of the gaits;
  - b. The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements;
  - c. The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating in a lively impulsion;
  - d. The acceptance of the bridle with submissiveness throughout and without any tenseness or resistance.

3. The horse thus gives the impression of doing of his own accord what is required of him. Confident and attentive he submits generously to the control of his rider.

These are the words that have attracted many people to the sport. They are also words to help us discern the ideal from what is actually put into practice. I had to learn the hard way that memorizing what is written on the page is the easy part, and that becoming a good technician is only half the battle. But learning to embody good intentions and express them into action has been a lifelong practice that never ends. Adding depth to a skill requires a willingness to be sensitive. Feel, that difficult-to-impart but not-impossible-to-learn ability, is inherent. Like the horse, it is a part of our make-up, too. By giving it value, we enhance our capacity for it, and like any other inherent personal quality that may yet be latent or weak from lack of use, each one of us has room for improvement.

Usually, however, we learn the mechanical steps of any new endeavor first. In an effort to enable the general populace to understand and then utilize the principles of dressage, a series of “levels” were standardized within countries that recognize dressage as a sport. In the United States, a body of judges and trainers are appointed to outline the levels every four years. The levels are: Training, First, Second, Third and Fourth (with other auxiliary levels for various competitive events). However, the subsequent, more advanced levels are standardized worldwide by an international body called the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale). Those levels are: Prix St. Georges, Intermediate I and II, and Grand Prix. Each level comprises a series of movements that are organized into “tests” performed in competition. Riders who opt not to compete can nevertheless use basic movements as stepping stones in preparing their horses for more difficult maneuvers, or to elicit greater agility and strength for other disciplines — or to ride just for fun.

Real strength and agility, however, require suppleness. An inflexible or stiff muscle cannot be adequately strengthened

because building muscle mass requires that the oxygenated blood flowing through arteries and capillaries reaches the muscle tissue, and that oxygen-depleted blood is efficiently removed so that the muscle can be continually replenished in order to grow itself. The more constricted or tense the muscle, the more difficult task the blood vessels have of allowing the blood to flow in and out of the muscle.

Basic dressage is primarily about suppling the horse, using movements to stretch the muscles and keep the horse's body malleable. According to the rule book, the objectives and standards of Training Level are "to confirm that the horse's muscles are supple and loose, and that it moves freely forward in clear and steady rhythm, accepting contact with the bit." In training level, the movements consist of riding the horse forward at walk, trot (usually posting) and canter, making large circles (20 meters) and bending lines (loops), making transitions gradually (not on-a-dime), and stretching the topline (nose to the ground). First Level is more difficult, asking for smaller circles (10 meter), more precise transitions, asking the rider to sit the trot (a forward trot, not a jog), changing leads through a few steps of trot, and preparing for counter-canter. However, the emphasis is still on suppling the horse by continuing the use of circles and bending lines (serpentines), stretching the topline, riding a free walk (loose rein), and then adding the use of leg-yields (side passes) and a lengthening of stride at the trot and canter. (A complete list of movements, figures and tests can be found online at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org), and at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org)).

Suppleness, however, cannot exist without some degree of relaxation. Relaxation is the emotional/psychological state of being that enables a horse to physically release tension or tightness in the body. While letting go of tension, a horse becomes more receptive to the person, and so their body becomes more receptive to the pressure of a hand, a leg,

or a person's intention, for example. The resulting responsiveness is another key factor in a horse's ability to be soft, light, and maneuverable. In every dressage manual, relaxation is acknowledged as a primary building block of dressage, and is supposed to make up the foundation upon which all subsequent "training" takes place. More importantly, a full measure of happiness cannot be realized without it.

### The Basic Movements

Using the suppling movements of dressage can be a wonderful way to learn about and elicit relaxation from our horses. Here are a few guidelines upon which those exercises are based:

- Any circle or bending line is, by its very nature, a suppling action, particularly for the horse laterally (along the sides).
- Stretching the horse's nose to the ground, particularly while in movement, is a suppling action for the horse longitudinally (over the topline).
- Lateral movements (sideways movements) such as turns on the forehand ("disengaging" the hindquarters) and leg-yields (side passes) are suppling actions as well, requiring the adductors and abductors (muscles on the inside and outside of the horse's forearm and hind legs) to stretch and flex as the fore and hind legs cross with every other stride.

It is possible, however, to ride movements by rote and is why we often see a great deal of tension in "dressage" horses, whether at home or while performing at horse shows. So what is the key to using the movements in a truly effective manner while maintaining our horse's happiness?

I would like the reader to consider that the vast majority of us have been brought up in a culture that is achievement oriented. That is not all bad, but we have generally been taught that in order to achieve success we have to make it happen. Many of us have therefore become adept at manipulating the

things around us, whether they be circumstances, events, other people — or our horses — to get what we want. The more we want something, the more we tend to use coercion to get it until we become habituated to preempting our days so that everything, including our training session, works out the way we had planned. If we approach our involvement in dressage with such a mind-set, we will go through the training of the movements exactly as described on the page and have a horse that does all the tricks but ends up wadded up in knots or stiff as a brick.

Most of us who would read a magazine such as *Eclectic Horseman* already know that good horsemanship includes engendering a respect for the horse as an individual and developing a natural curiosity of "the other," becoming more observant and sensitive to the positive or negative effect that our presence has on our horse and the world around us and then learning to see that world from our horse's point of view. It also includes going through the process of becoming better handlers and riders, of gaining experience through doing, of learning about our own bodies as we learn about the horse's and what it means for us to be relaxed, supple, in balance, strong, coordinated, and equally adept on both sides, to know which seat bone our weight tends to rest upon a horse's back and where our crooked places are. In other words, to achieve the kind of relationship where our horses happily respond to their own participation in this complex system of gymnastic exercises called dressage, we might consider holding ourselves to the same standards we set for our horses. Just as relaxation enables our horses to be more responsive to us, so does our relaxed demeanor bring us into a state of mind where we are more patient and thereby better able to deal with whatever our horse presents to us in each moment.

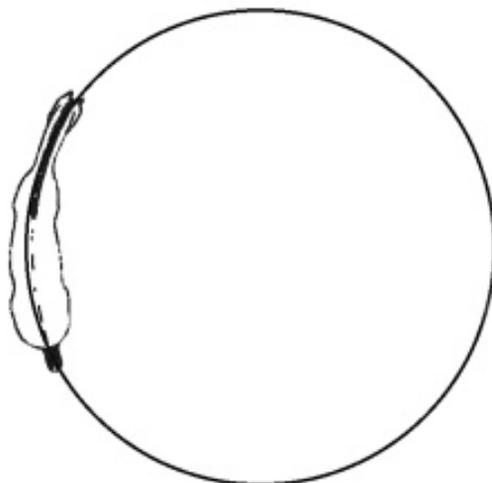
Another aspect to consider is that if we try to ride a dressage movement perfectly the first time out, our best



intentions for embodying patience and respect will go out the window. Breaking a movement down into parts, however, can allow us to maintain our equilibrium while we learn its complexities, its purpose and many benefits. A circle, for example, is one of the most basic suppling movements in dressage. It sounds simple, but ridden really well and in a way that is beneficial to the horse, a circle has its own intricacies.

On a turn, shown in Figure 1, a horse will normally lean in like a bicycle because it is the most expedient way to get from point A to point B. There is nothing inherently wrong with this, but if we are looking for ways to soften and supple our horses, we need to understand that leaning in on a turn makes them rigid, uneven, and causes their feet to scramble. In order to turn this circle into a gymnastic exercise, the horse will need to respond to the person in the following ways:

- Maintain the forward gait to warm up the muscles, loosen the body, engender freedom of movement, and to develop tone and responsiveness.
- Soften to the inside turning rein and allow its nose to flex to the inside to be guided in a direction, to yield and soften to rein pressure, and to begin the process of bending the body.
- Yield to the pressure of the rider's inside leg (the side closest to the center of the circle) in order to shift weight off the inside shoulder, creating a bend throughout the length of its body that aligns with the circumference of the circle, and thereby balancing more evenly on all four feet.



**Figure 2**

• Simultaneously reach farther underneath its belly with the inside hind leg, thereby carrying the bulk of its weight on that leg and so strengthening the inside hindquarter.

• Soften or yield to the pressure of the outside rein, thereby straightening or aligning the outside shoulder so that it does not fall out over the circle line.

• Yield to the pressure of the rider's outside leg behind the girth so that the hindquarters do not swing out off the circle line, but track up in alignment according to the circumference of the circle.

Figure 2 is an example of a horse who is balanced on the turn by bending its body according to the circumference of the circle.

If we try to ride such a circle the first time out, however, we wind up with a fight on our hands. There are too many pressures all at once that the horse has not been allowed to sort out and learn how to respond to. As a result, his instinct is to push back or resist what he experiences as sheer confinement. Riding a good circle can instead be practiced in stages.

The first step might simply be to work on our horse's forward response in a straight line or out in a large area. Or it might be to pick up a single rein and applying some pressure on that rein at a standstill (from the ground or in the saddle) until the horse learns to yield to the pressure of it. Or it might be to make sure the horse understands



**Figure 1**

how to yield to pressure anywhere on its body as well as by the girth area where our leg rests, both from the ground and in the saddle. From the ground we can use a hand, an arm, or the weight of our body. In the beginning, our actions do not need to look neat and tidy, or like any particular "movement." They are simply pieces of a puzzle we're putting together gradually, taking our time, seeing what the horse responds to easily or with difficulty,

where we need to be firmer or softer, when we need to hold our ground or to back off, all the while enjoying the process of what we're learning and discovering about our horse — and ourselves. As each piece is practiced and learned, we can begin to combine them together until somewhere down the road we have learned to coordinate our own body parts well enough to ask the horse to do the same.

In my own experience I have found that developing an in-depth understanding of the foundational movements and principles of dressage is what takes the greatest amount of time, effort and patience. Once that foundation has been laid, the upper-level movements, while more complex and requiring added skill, are the icing on the cake. If we hurry to "get to the top," we miss the more valuable lessons and insights that allow us to become truly good horsemen and -women — or good dressage riders — with the level of understanding and feel that makes all good things possible between ourselves and our horses.

# Community Listings

## Arizona

Buddy Uldrikson Horsemanship  
928-231-9279 928-684-7392  
diamondlilyhorses@gmail.com  
buddyuldriksonhorsemanship.com

Cowboy School  
Bob and Betty King  
cowboyschool@ranch-roper.com  
cowboyschool.net

## California

JB Cattle Co.  
Brandie & Jeremy Dunn  
661-332-7249  
jbcattleco.com

Richard Winters Horsemanship  
805-640-0956  
www.wintersranch.com

## Colorado

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Horsemanship  
Joe & Kim Andrews  
970-613-0121  
mountainmagicranch.com

Diamond Double T Ranch  
303-915-6444  
jjtointon@msn.com  
diamonddoubletranch.com

Last Resort Equestrian Center  
LuAnn and Jim Goodyear  
970-568-7682  
luannresort@aol.com  
lastresortequestriancenter.com

Katelyn Kent  
Through the Eyes of Equus  
303-601-7797  
kate@katelynkent.net  
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Kathleen Sullivan Horsemanship  
970-946-9681  
kathleen@kathleensullivanhorsemanship.com  
kathleensullivanhorsemanship.com

8th Heaven Horse Farms  
Beverly Swanson 303-688-5727  
eighthheavenhorses@yahoo.com  
8thheavenhorses.com

Mustang Hollow Equestrian Center  
970-897-2209  
robin@mustanghollow.com  
mustanghollow.com

## Florida

Ken Newman Horses QED  
407-617-3473  
kennewmanllc@yahoo.com

## Georgia

Gary Townsend  
Diamond T3 Ranch  
770-361-3764 or 770-483-0242

## Iowa

Hora Prime Beef  
Mike and Cindy Hora  
319-653-4892

## Massachusetts

Bob Burrelli  
Natural Horsemanship Trainer  
508-224-9430 bobburrelli.com

## Missouri

JKC Ranch Kevin Christy  
816-260-8751  
kevin@jkcranch.com  
jkcranch.com

## Nebraska

Derek Chappellear  
Real Ranch Work For Your Horse  
308-880-0006

## Nevada

Jack Young Clinics  
775-625-3133  
jnyoung@hotmail.com  
jackyoungclinics.com

## New Mexico

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Bill and Laurie Riggins  
505-472-5864  
rigginsquarterhorses.com

## New York

Natural Horsemanship  
Tim Hayes 800-959-3101  
hayesisforhorses.com

## North Carolina

Bill Scott  
828-369-9762  
thranch@dnet.net  
billscotthorsemanship.com

United States Refined  
Horsemanship Association  
Linda Hoover  
910-673-2173  
www.US-RHA.com

## Tennessee

Scott and Jo Stokes  
S Bar J Ranch 731-799-3087  
sbarjranch.com  
sjstokes@frontiernet.net

## Texas

Brent & Kris Graef  
806 499-3239  
Brent@BrentGraef.com  
BrentGraef.com

Hy Court Farm  
Janet Manley, BHSII  
512-581-3032  
hycourtfarm.com

## Virginia

Rocking T Ranch  
John Sanford  
434-882-1864  
vabuckaroo68@yahoo.com  
johnsanfordhorsemanship.com

## Washington

Hosker Livestock  
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deanie@hoskerlivestock.com  
hoskerlivestock.com

## Wisconsin

Northern Lakes Farm - Lisa Doerr  
Rocky Mountain Gaited Horses  
715-557-0384  
northernlakesfarm.com

## CANADA

Key Ranch - Keith Stewart  
The Northern Vaquero  
403-395-3395 or 403-601-7370  
denice@KeithStewart.ca  
rangeman@telusplanet.net

## EUROPE - Switzerland

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ac@antoinecloux.ch  
antoinecloux.ch

Community listings are \$75 for one year. Please call 303-449-3537 to place a listing.



# Life Outside the Round Pen

by Lee McKinney

## LESSON: GET A HORSE TO WALK PAST YOU TO LOAD IN A TRAILER

Trying to get around a bunch of replacement heifers on the New Mexico range doesn't resemble gathering on the wide-open prairie. Thick-branched juniper and piñon trees lining narrow rocky canyons might be interlaced with cow trails, but call them passable by horseback and you had better be getting paid.

Sure enough the heifers I needed to turn took to one of those "trails." It was the determination to stay with this bunch that took me deeper in the canyon brush with pine branches slapping and snagging at my face and hat. The dense growth finally forced me to get off and lead my horse. Suddenly she stopped dead in her tracks because a three-foot stump protruded into her path at shoulder height. With a totally engulfed horse, no way to back up and a bunch of heifers to gather, I was, well, stumped.

Then surprisingly I remembered a lesson I learned at a horse clinic, a world away from the New Mexico range. The object of the lesson was to load a horse into a trailer by first teaching him to walk past you. The loading wasn't applicable to my situation but the lesson was what I applied.

I walked back next to her shoulder, dove into the brush, grabbed the slender trunk and pulled it upright. Then I clucked my tongue and she moved on past while I was holding the trunk with one hand and the end of the mecate with the other. After she was safely past the stub I let it go and tugged on the lead to stop her. Leading her to a clearing, I mounted and finally got around those heifers.

Moral of the story: "Boy, was I glad I listened to those round-pen-reasoning guys" (Hunt, Parrelli, Cameron, Brannaman). Teaching my filly to walk past me not only taught her to load in a trailer, but it allowed us both to get out of a real predicament. And of course, by the time I got back to the horse trailer, the New Mexico wind was blowing so hard I had to lean against the door to hold it open and cue her to walk past me and into the trailer.

## LESSON: TEACHING A HORSE TO CATCH

Until very recently, I've never owned a round pen or lived within 50 miles of one, yet I've kept an open mind to breaking/training techniques that seem rooted in the round pen. I've read books on harmony with horses and conditioned-response training programs. I've watched videotapes on gentle horse breaking and horse-human relationships. And after attending a few clinics it was easy to see these methods, normally car-

ried out in a round pen, worked. Meanwhile, back at the ranch there was no round pen and many real-life situations weren't textbook or clinic examples.

If you attend what might be called a gentle way, natural horse breaking symposium or a horse-man-ship type clinic, don't get discouraged if you don't have a round pen when you get home. Just take time to think out all this horse psychology, then apply it to your horse and to your situation. Getting the correct response from the horse is the goal.

For instance, teaching the horse "to catch" by keeping him moving until he turns toward you as often demonstrated in a 40- to 60-foot round pen can work even without a round pen.

On one ranch, the owner bought a pony for his daughter. It was a nice pony once you got him caught. He would come to a can of oats and eventually let you get a halter on him. This outfit had no round pen or even a square pen. An arena-sized corral offered the only available place to attempt this round pen reasoning. However, chasing a pony around it until he stopped was not going to get the job done; besides, making the horse move out and not yourself is the idea.

Having to work with what I had available, I tied a few horses on the outside of the corral. When I turned the pony loose in the corral, he ran over by his buddies and didn't want to leave that corner. When I made him move out, he circled in less than half the arena so as not to get too far from his friends. Now I could stand in one spot as if in a round pen. He sometimes ran the length of the arena. So a few times I had to move out after him, but for the most part he created his own round pen "sphere." Not really textbook, but it worked!

## LESSON: TEACHING THE HORSE TO TRUST WHERE YOU PUT HIM

Sometimes, out in the real world, you may need to apply this clinic-learned horse psychology in reverse. I had a horse that was born and raised on one ranch and we were planning to move 1000 miles away to another ranch. Time had come for this horse to learn trailer loading. Leaning heavily on a method presented in a John Lyons book, I had the horse calmly loading and unloading in our two-horse trailer.

Most of the cattle work at the new outfit required trailering your horses from the headquarters out to the range. Since the ranch used a 20-foot stock trailer I knew my horse would have no problems after his two-horse trailer experience. Well, I was half right...

The young horse loaded great, all the way to the front, allowing more horses to load in behind. When I went to

# Learning From The Bay Mare

by Joe Wolter

unload him, he took two small steps backwards which in the two-horse trailer would have meant the anticipated step down to the ground. When this didn't happen, he stayed in a half-crouched position and ran backwards. When his hind feet did fall to the ground, his head flew up and hit the top of the trailer. This soured him quickly and he continued to fly backwards out of the trailer whenever I unloaded him.

A lot of good those gentle horse breaking, horse-man relationship, clinic-type lessons were doing me now! They all get you into the trailer, but many times things don't always go exactly as learned. I knew something should relate to this situation if only I could apply some horse psychology, in this case, in reverse.

One of the foremost basic concepts to obtain when teaching the horse something new is to have the horse calm and, in some cases, licking his lips as a sign of calm understanding. Every time I walked into the trailer and up to his shoulder he became nervous. So I began walking to the front of the trailer where he stood anticipating his walk backward. But when I reached his shoulder, I just rubbed him a little with my hand and retreated. I continued this until he didn't care where I was in the trailer. When I took hold of the lead rope that was draped over his neck, he again expected the frightening move backward. But I only rubbed his neck with it and moved the lead on and off his neck. In no time he stood there calm. Then I cued him to back up, which got him nervous, but I just wanted him to back one or three steps, then asked him to stop, get comfortable, and then walk forward. This was repeated until there was no sign of nervousness.

Whenever he completely blew out of the trailer, we would load again all the way to the front and start backing until his comfort zone began fading followed by two-three steps forward. Finally we got to the back where the next step would be the long anticipated step down to the ground. Again the object was not to unload from the trailer, but to calmly unload; so when the foot hit the ground followed very quickly by the whole horse he was unloaded, but the objective still wasn't met. When I allowed the backward motion to progress until a foot came out of the trailer and onto the ground, I immediately gave a tug on the lead to ask him to stand still. He learned to stand calmly coming out of the trailer with one foot out and three in versus when teaching to load you find yourself over the great hurdle when the horse stands calmly with one foot in and three out!

When I backed him further and he had both hind feet out, I had him stand until he stood calm. If he remained relaxed, we moved backwards; if he got excited, I got him back into the trailer. Now he not only unloads calmly, but waits for a cue to unload.

These few examples show that the real world out on the ranch can be different from the typical situation or setup at a horsemanship clinic. But remember it is the reasoning (not the round pen) that when applied can be beneficial to both horse and rider even at work.

In 1978 I took a job on a yearling ranch in Carmel Valley, Calif. My job consisted of taking care of about 600 head of yearlings during the winter. They also had about 18 head of horses to work with.

When I took the job the previous manager was still living there till I got familiar with the ranch. While showing me the horses I noticed a real pretty bay mare who was about 4 years old. She was by far the best looking of the bunch.

When I asked about her the fellow said, you might as well get rid of that one because she was crazy. Well, a few days later I got her in and saddled her to see what he meant. She was really troubled about being handled. She would not stand to be saddled and when you touched her it was like touching a rock. I had ridden horses like her before and didn't really know how to help her get better.

Now Bill Dorrance was my neighbor and was responsible for me getting this job. I called him and told him about this mare, and it was not long until he showed up. Bill really enjoyed helping others with their horses. Especially, if the person wanted to get better, which I did.

I want to go into everything we did with this mare but this is one thing that really sticks out that changed me with every horse I have ever ridden since.

The mare made lots of progress while I was there but she just would not totally let down especially when there was any speed involved. Bill spoke about how my legs had a brace in them. I would ride with pressure in the bottom of my stirrups. He said that maybe that was what was keeping the mare a little stirred up when we got to going fast.

I had ridden a long time that way and it was not easy to overcome that habit. When I would ride released with my legs moving with that mare, she would really let down. Doing that one thing was a big breakthrough for me.

I have a picture of myself riding that mare at a lope with the reins completely loose and the mare's ears are forward. Probably to anyone else that picture would not mean much, but to me it was a wonderful sight. It brings back the memories and the struggles I had and how valuable that mare was to my education. The nice-looking troubled mare also gave me the opportunity to get to know Bill Dorrance more and work with him.

Eventually I got to roping on the mare as well as any other job that was needed on the ranch. As far as the other 17 head of horses what I learned from the one mare helped all of them, although they did not have the trouble the one did. The lessons learned on the pretty bay mare helped me with any horse I have ridden since.

# Calendar of Events

Full listings for 2009 on [www.eclectic-horseman.com](http://www.eclectic-horseman.com).

- Arizona**  
5/8-10 Paul Dietz horsemanship and cow working clinic, Chino Valley, 928-636-0757
- California**  
5/1-3 Brent Graef clinic, Cool, 806 499-3239
- 5/1-3 Vaquero Horsemanship and Cattle Work with Richard Caldwell, Caldwell Ranch, Alturas, 530-233-2594,
- 5/1-4 Buck Brannaman colt starting and horsemanship 1 clinic, Ventura, 805-643-2555
- 5/7-9 Jack Brainard clinic, Cottonwood, Cottonwood Creek Equestrian center, 530-347-0212
- 5/8-10 Peter Campbell foundation horsemanship, cow working and ranch roping clinic, Tehachapi, 661-822-8802
- 5/9-10 Terry Church clinic, San Jose/ Cupertino, 408-391-3787
- 5/15-18 Peter Campbell colt starting and horsemanship clinic, Wilton, 916-687-7920
- 5/21-25 Neubert's Home Clinic, Alturas, 530-233-3582
- 5/23-26 Buck Brannaman horsemanship 1, cow working, and ranch roping clinic, Fort Collins, 970-568-7682
- 5/28-6/1 Neubert's Home Clinic, Alturas, 530-233-3582
- 5/30-31 Richard Winters advancing horsemanship clinic, Grass Valley, 530-268-8785
- 6/4-8 Neubert's Home Clinic, Alturas, 530-233-3582
- 6/12-14 Richard Winters at the Western States Horse Expo, Sacramento, [horsexpo.com](http://horsexpo.com)
- 6/12-15 Bryan Neubert horsemanship and cow working clinic, Penn Valley, 530-432-0519
- 6/13-14 Terry Church clinic, San Jose/ Cupertino, 408-391-3787
- 6/23-7/22 Richard Winters intern certification program, Ojai, 805-640-0956
- 6/27-7/3 Richard Winters ultimate horse course, Ojai, 805-640-0956
- Colorado**  
5/2-3 LeSatz horsemanship 1 & 2 clinic, Eaton, 970-454-3061
- 5/9 Marty Marten and Jody Marken
- trail and obstacle clinic, Berthoud, 720-494-9898
- 5/9-10 Joe and Kim Andrews trail 2 and 3 clinic, Loveland, 970-613-0121
- 5/15-18 Buster McLaury colt starting and horsemanship clinic, Platteville, 970-785-6449
- 5/16-17 LeSatz cow working 1 & 2 clinic, Bridle Bit Ranch, Eaton, 970-454-3061
- 5/23-24 Scott Grosskopf roping clinic, Kiowa, 303-549-2868
- 5/23-25 Joe Wolter versatility ranch horse clinic (NVRHA Contest & Clinic), Granby, C Lazy U, 918-949-0772
- 5/28-31 Wendy Murdoch clinic, Carbondale, 970-240-3258,
- 5/30 Marty Marten and Jody Marken trail and obstacle clinic, Berthoud, 720-494-9898
- 5/30 LeSatz trail clinic, Eagles Nest Trail Head, Livermore, 970-454-3061
- 6/6-7 LeSatz horsemanship and cow working clinic, Bridle Bit Ranch, Eaton, 970-454-3061
- 6/7-13 Ricky Quinn foundation horsemanship and cow working clinic Zapata Ranch, Alamosa, 970-381-8751
- 6/13 Marty Marten and Jody Marken trail and obstacle clinic, Two Spruce Farm, Berthoud, 720-494-9898
- 6/15-16 Bob King 4-H clinic, Fort Collins, 970-568-7682
- 6/18-21 Ricky Quinn foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Winding River Ranch, Grand Lake 480-223-3133
- 6/19 Benefit Ranch Roping competition, Brighton, 303-637-8116 or cell 303-249-0546
- 6/25-28 Ricky Quinn foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Denver, 303-898-0642
- 6/26-28 Vaquero Horsemanship, Cattle Work with Richard Caldwell, Uh-Oh Ranch, Kiowa, 719-541-5550
- 6/27 Marty Marten and Jody Marken trail and obstacle clinic, Berthoud, 720-494-9898
- 6/27 LeSatz trail clinic, Mt. Margaret Trail Head, Red Feather, 970-454-3061
- Connecticut**  
6/19-21 Wendy Murdoch clinic,
- Tolland, 860-614-5550 or 860-454-4004,
- Georgia**  
6/5-7 Brent Graef horsemanship and cow working clinic, Gay, 806 499-3239
- Hawaii**  
5/21-22 Richard Winters Basic Horsemanship Clinic, Mililani, 808-277-2674 or 808-384-0265
- 5/23-24 Richard Winters Advancing Horsemanship Clinic, Mililani, 808-277-2674
- Idaho**  
5/15-17 Alice Trindle riding clinic, Circle G Ranch, Emmett 541-856-3356
- 5/30-31 Alice Trindle riding clinic, Mackay, 541-856-3356
- Illinois**  
5/23-24 Southeastern Buckaroo Second Regional Competition, Goreville, 478-994-3397
- 5/29-31 Brent Graef clinic, Edwardsville, 806 499-3239
- 6/5-7 Terry Church clinic, Elgin, 815-943-4415
- 6/5-7 Scott Stokes horsemanship 1 clinic, LaSalle, 815-735-8007
- 6/6-7 Buster McLaury horsemanship clinic, Poplar Grove, 815-871-5715
- 6/12-14 Scott Stokes horsemanship 1 clinic, Triple G Ranch, Putnam, 815-646-4083
- Indiana**  
5/3 Steven Lantvit cow working clinic, Highgrove Farm, LaPorte, 219-778-4342 or 574-339-2000
- 6/25-28 Buster McLaury colt starting and horsemanship clinic, Michigan City, 219-778-2448
- 6/27-28 Steven Lantvit horsemanship clinic, Highgrove Farm, LaPorte, 219-778-4342 or 574-339-2000
- Iowa**  
5/5-6 Bob King horsemanship clinic, Sperry, 319-985-2551
- 5/5-7 Bob King ranch roping clinic, Sperry, 319-985-2551
- Kansas**  
6/5-7 Joe Wolter horsemanship, cow working and ranch roping clinic, Benton, 316-619-1613
- Maryland**  
6/19-21 Brent Graef clinic, Port Deposit, 806 499-3239
- Michigan**  
5/16 - 17, James Shaw 'Tai Chi for Equestrians' Clinic hosted by Sweetwater Farm, Ann Arbor. 734-663-0126
- Minnesota**  
5/13 Bob King ranch roping clinic, Chaska, 952-448-2074
- 5/14-16 Bob King horsemanship clinic, Chaska, 952-448-2074
- Missouri**  
5/1-4 Peter Campbell clinic, Archie, 816-524-4741
- 5/28-31 Ricky Quinn horsemanship and ranch roping clinic, Kansas City, 816-885-4311
- Montana**  
6/2-6 Bob King ranch roping and branding clinic, Red Lodge, 520-686-3776
- 6/5-7 Alice Trindle riding clinic, Kalispell, 406-257-1784
- 6/12-14 Alice Trindle riding clinic, Polson, 541-856-3356
- 6/18-20 Vaquero Horsemanship, Cattle Work with Richard Caldwell, Grosskopf Arena, Billings, 406-252-5000
- 6/27-30 Buck Brannaman clinic, horsemanship 1 and horsemanship 2 clinic, Bozeman, 406-582-0706
- Nebraska**  
6/25-28 Bryan Neubert colt starting, ranch roping and cow working clinic, Broken Bow, 308-293-0514
- New Jersey**  
5/9-11 Greg Eliel horsemanship 1 and horsemanship 2, 7 Springs Farm, Pittstown, 908-238-9587
- 6/18-21 Joe Wolter horsemanship and colt starting clinic, 7 Springs Farm, Pittstown, 908-238-9587
- New Mexico**  
5/1-3 Joe Wolter cow working and ranch roping clinic, Corona, 505-690-0795
- North Carolina**  
6/12-14 Brent Graef clinic, Monroe, 806 499-3239
- Ohio**  
6/26-28 Brent Graef clinic, Glouster, 806 499-3239
- 6/26-28 Terry Church clinic, Urbana, 937-652-3462
- 6/26-29 Peter Campbell foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Mansfield, 419-522-3846

**Oklahoma**

6/12-14 Joe Wolter versatility ranch horse clinic (NVRHA Contest & Clinic), Tulsa, 918-949-0772

**Oregon**

5/1-4 Alice Trindle and Dr. Narj Inab wilderness first aid safety for horse and rider, T&T Ranch, Haines, 541-856-3356

5/9-10 Alice Trindle trainers workshop prerequisites for colt clinics, T&T Ranch, Haines, 541-856-3356

5/11-15 Martin Black Alvord Ranch Experience, Alvord Ranch, 208-249-7070

5/18-22 Martin Black Alvord Ranch Experience, Alvord Ranch, 208-249-7070

5/23-25 Alice Trindle Memorial vacation package, T&T Ranch, Haines, 541-856-3356

5/28-31 Kathleen Lindley clinic, Rogue River, 541-582-6504

6/1-27 Martin Black Alvord Ranch School, Alvord Ranch, 208-249-7070

6/20-24 Alice Trindle colt to horsemanship clinic, T&T Ranch, Haines, 541-856-3356

**Pennsylvania**

5/8-9 Jesse Peters Level 1 Partnership and Patterns clinic, Willowbrook Farm, Catasauqua, 610-264-3006

5/10-11 Jesse Peters Level 1 advancing the partnership clinic, Willowbrook Farm, Catasauqua, 610-264-3006

5/12-13 Jesse Peters Level 1 Partnership and Patterns clinic, Willowbrook Farm, Catasauqua,

610-264-3006

5/16 Patrick King colt starting and problem solving clinic, Punxsutawney, 814-939-9178

5/23 Peter Fuller beginner cow working clinic, Willowbrook Farm, Catasauqua, 610-264-3006

5/24 Peter Fuller intermediate cow working clinic, Willowbrook Farm, Catasauqua, 610-264-3006

5/30-31 Northeast Stock Horse & Atlantic Reined Cow Horse event, 610-775-3564 or 610-756-4257

6/5-6 Christi Rains level 2 clinic, Willowbrook Farm, Catasauqua, 610-264-3006

6/7-8 Christi Rains advanced level 2/ intro level 3 clinic, Willowbrook Farm, Catasauqua, 610-264-3006

6/13-14 Northeast Stock Horse & Atlantic Reined Cow Horse event, 610-775-3564 or 610-756-4257

**Tennessee**

5/2-3 Richard Winters Advancing Horsemanship Clinic, Verona, 859-485-6542

5/17-21 Harry Whitney intensive horsemanship camp, Rogersville, 423-235-0559

5/25-29 Harry Whitney intensive horsemanship camp, Rogersville, 423-235-0559

6/1-5 Harry Whitney intensive horsemanship camp, Rogersville, 423-235-0559

6/15-19 Harry Whitney intensive horsemanship camp, Rogersville, 423-235-0559

6/22-26 Harry Whitney intensive horsemanship camp, Rogersville, 423-235-0559

6/29-7/3 Harry Whitney intensive horsemanship camp, Mendin' Fences Farm, Rogersville, 423-235-0559

**Texas**

5/11-16 Brent Graef ride the canyons - horsemanship on the trails clinic, Canyon, 806 499-3239

5/14-17 Joe Wolter cow working and horsemanship clinic, Aspermont, 940-989-2570

**Utah**

5/8-10 Vaquero Horsemanship, Cattle Work, and Ranch Roping with Richard Caldwell, Parowan, 435-477-3698,

5/14-17 Ricky Quinn colt starting and foundation horsemanship clinic, Heber City, 435-671-8487

**Virginia**

6/6-9 Wendy Murdoch clinic, Middleburg, 703-622-4230

**Washington**

5/7-10 Ricky Quinn horsemanship 1 and ranch roping clinic, Ellensburg, 509-859-3794

5/22-25 Buster McLaury horsemanship 1 and 2 clinic, Moses Lake, 509-750-8169

5/29-31 Vaquero Horsemanship, Cattle Work, and Ranch roping with Richard Caldwell, 425-985-8321

6/27-28 Alice Trindle at the Celebrate the Horse Expo, Payallup, 541-856-3356

**Wisconsin**

5/1-3 Terry Church clinic, Lake

Geneva, 847-989-4248

6/12-14 Buster McLaury horsemanship clinic, RNR ranch and Tack, St. Croix Falls, 715-483-9292

6/26-28 Joe Wolter horsemanship and colt starting clinic, 715-642-8602

**Wyoming**

5/29-31 Bruce Laird colt starting and horsemanship clinic, Torrington, 307-532-9902

6/10-11 The Californios traditional horsemanship/pre-roping clinic, Lander, 307-851-0859

6/12-14 The Californios ranch roping clinic, Lander, 307-851-0859

6/19-22 Buck Brannaman colt starting and horsemanship 1 clinic, Thermopolis, 307-868-2606

**Canada**

5/22-25 Peter Campbell colt starting and horsemanship 2 clinic, Kelowna, BC 250-491-8314

5/29-6/1 Peter Campbell colt starting and horsemanship 1 clinic, Lanigan, SK 306-287-3389

6/5-8 Peter Campbell colt starting, foundation horsemanship and horsemanship 1 clinic, Cochrane, AB 403-246-6205

6/5-14 Vaquero Horsemanship, Cattle Work, Ranch roping with Richard Caldwell, 3 separate clinics, Winning Strides Ranch, Alberta Canada 403-646-2345

6/12-15 Peter Campbell clinic, Grand Prairie, AB 780-568-4828

6/19-21 Peter Campbell colt starting and horsemanship 1 clinic, Russell, MB 204-773-3371

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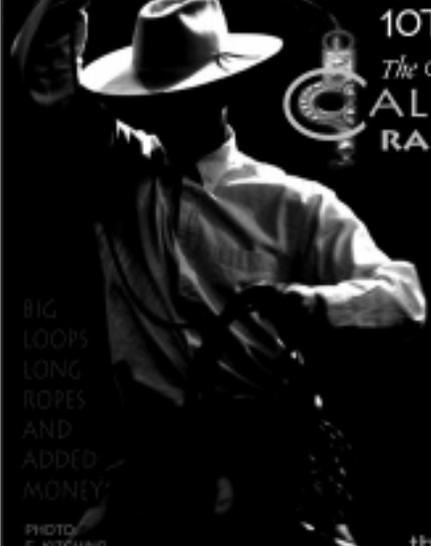
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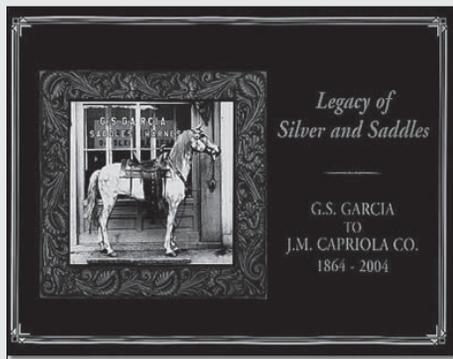
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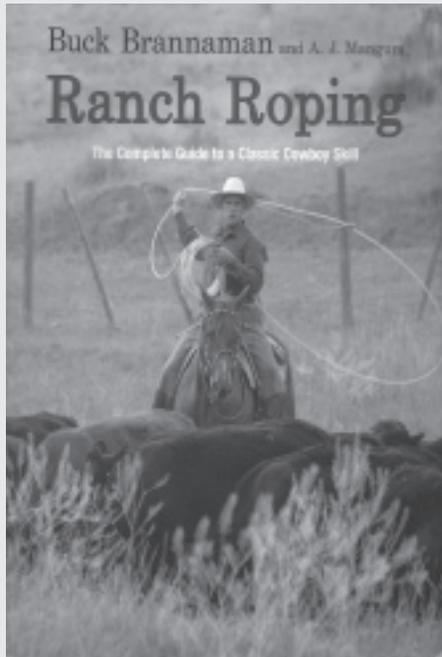
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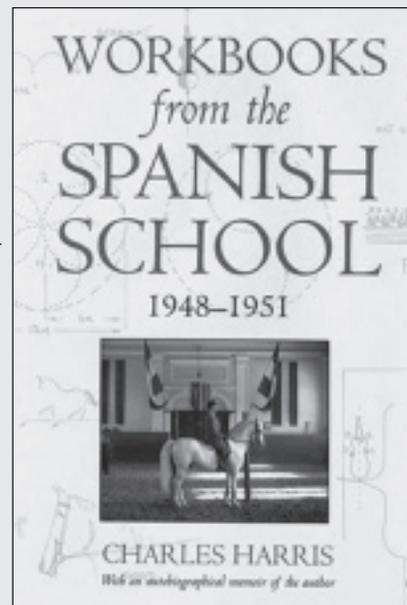
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by Dale Wimbrow, © 1934

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And the world makes you King for a day,  
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,  
And see what that guy has to say.

For it isn't your Father, or Mother, or Wife,  
Who judgement upon you must pass.  
The feller whose verdict counts most in your life  
Is the guy staring back from the glass.

He's the feller to please, never mind all the rest,  
For he's with you clear up to the end,  
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test  
If the guy in the glass is your friend.

You may be like Jack Horner and "chisel" a plum,  
And think you're a wonderful guy,  
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum  
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,  
And get pats on the back as you pass,  
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears  
If you've cheated the guy in the glass.