



## EVENTS

Oct. 21

### LSAC horse show

Info: palosverdes.com/lisac  
Ernie Howlett Park

Oct. 21

### PVPHA general meeting

Location TBD

Oct. 27-28

### Lee Smith horsemanship clinic

Contact: 310-345-3274  
Ernie Howlett Park

## NEW FOOTING, FENCING FOR ERNIE HOWLETT

by SANDEE OSHIRO and  
NICOLE MOORADIAN  
PALOS VERDES PATCH

Two of the main riding arenas at Ernie Howlett Park Equestrian Center have had their fencing and footing replaced, according to Rolling Hills Estates officials.

While installing the new fencing, the city enlarged both arenas to make them safer for competitions and recreational riding, officials said in a news release.

The new, all-weather footing material is a mixture of sand and recycled textile fabric, the city said. Both arenas were regraded for better drainage, and a sprinkler system was installed to keep the footing moist and reduce dust.

"We are really pleased with the



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**Work has been completed on arena renovations at Ernie Howlett Park.**

results and have received a number of compliments from the equestrian community," Community Services Director Andy Clark said in the release. "These improvements not only benefit the various horse show organizations, but also recreational riders, students and trainers."

See ERNIE HOWLETT, Page 9.

NEXT PVPHA GENERAL MEETING: OCT. 21

## Try your hand at roping in October

by BETSY SCHOETTLIN  
PVPHA VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION

What do you think of when you think about the Wild West? Cowboys roping wild cattle! Have you ever wanted to try your hand at swinging a rope? Come on out to the next PVPHA general meeting and give it a try! Talented roper Leo Ringer will demonstrate the ins and outs of roping from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21. After the demonstration, you will have the opportunity to twirl and toss a real rope. Don't worry, no livestock involved! Just you, Leo and the rest of us having a rip-roaring time. The location is to be determined, so keep an eye on your email. ●



JOHN SCHREIBER / PALOS VERDES PATCH

Page 7: Selected Portuguese Bend National Horse show results.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**Updated trail guides for sale**

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association trail guides are now available for purchase through the organization and local tack stores.

The trail guides, which include a directory of equestrian services, are available for \$20 plus tax at the Rolling Hills General Store and Lomita Feed. People can also order the guides online at [pvpha.org](http://pvpha.org) for \$22, including tax.

**Trails in Rolling Hills Park Estates open to public**

Despite a rumor that the trails around the Rolling Hills Park Estates and the Ranch communities were private, the trails are indeed open to the public, Rolling Hills Estates Director of Community Services Andy Clark said.

The bridle and hiking trails are maintained by the local homeowners association. ●

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: It's been a busy month!

by **CHARLENE O'NEIL**  
PVPHA PRESIDENT

We had lots going on this month with the City Celebration on Sept. 13 (don't forget the Poker Ride and all the amazing prizes) with great food, penning, drill teams, demonstrations, music, booths and more!

Two weeks later was Cowboy Days hosted by the Empty Saddle Club, with team sorting, a gymkhana and great food!

With all that excitement and after receiving the schedule of Parent Open House nights for Torrance and Palos Verdes, which seem to land on our third Thursday evening meeting date, we decided to pass on September's meeting.

For October, we are having a roping clinic with our own famous and skilled roper, Leo Ringer. It will be held on Sunday—yes, a Sunday—Oct. 21 from 1-3 p.m. The location is to be determined, so check your email blasts.

Happy trails to all! ●

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# Can equestrians, mountain bikers share trails?

*The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy surveys trail users as Rancho Palos Verdes considers opening up more trails to mountain bikers.*

by **ERIN RYAN**

PVPHA RECORDING SECRETARY

*Editor's note: The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy recently conducted a survey of trail users in the Portuguese Bend Preserve. On Oct. 2, the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council voted to designate additional trails as multiuse; however, Landslide Scarp and Ishibashi are among those to remain pedestrian-equestrian. Check the next issue for more details.*

Since I had other commitments that morning, my girlfriend Nicole and I decided to trailer over to the Preserve to make up some time. We parked at the top of Crenshaw where there was plenty of street parking and wide enough to easily do a U-turn with my trailer to get us in the right direction when it was time to return home. After briefly grooming and tacking up, we walked over to the gate that marks the top of Burma Trail.

The Preserve volunteers had a base camp right at the entrance, requesting those interested to briefly answer a few questions regarding use of that area and how often they visited. The location was perfect for pedestrians and bicyclist, but I doubt many horse people would be coming through that entrance. Unfortunately for the equestrians, the person who was supposed to man the fire station location was a no-show.

Oh how I do love living in this century. We have almost instant communications via cell phones and texting, and we put them to good use.

We knew Kelly Yates' Junior Drill Team riders were riding the Preserve that day, so over Kelly rode with her 10 riders. We also saw a few others who were kind enough to make the detour. I only hope other equestrians were able to locate the survey takers.

Most bikers are considerate riders—no one wants a collision. On occasion it could be possible to have an unhappy encounter even with precautions. Personally speaking, before riding on the preserve, I peer over and try to assess how many bikers are in the area and what trails they are using. If the area has busy bike traffic, I simply make the decision not to ride on the Preserve that day.

There is always a better way to manage things, and if



CONTRIBUTED

**Volunteers with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy survey trail users.**

dangerous situations can be limited or altogether eliminated, I am all for it. The question is, how to manage property that everyone has a right to use? I have asked around, and here are some of the suggestions that have surfaced. Please keep in mind there are many others I am not aware of, so if any of our readers want to forward their ideas, the Preserve does accept emails.

Several National Parks have hikers wear bells to warn bears. Equestrians could also wear bells, or something that makes an audible sound, for those situations when a biker is coming down a single tract blind curve.

Another option would be to have alternating weekends. For example, pedestrians and equestrians would be assigned the Preserve for the first and third weekends of the month; pedestrians and bikers get the second and fourth weekends. Instituting and regulating such a schedule would need planning, advertisement and clear rules.

Separating users by territory may be a simple possibility. For instance, the bikers and pedestrians use Forrester with the equestrians and pedestrians using the Preserve.

You can see there are many great ideas; all need to be presented to the city of Rancho Palos Verdes for its consideration. A big thank-you to all those who rode over and took the survey. If we want to be represented, we need to be counted. ●

# GOOD READS:

## PVPHA hosts book night

by ERIN RYAN

PVPHA RECORDING SECRETARY

At the August general meeting, everyone was invited to bring one of their favorite horse-related books.

### **Arabians, by Peter Upton, photographs by Rik van Lent, Sr. & Jr. Brought by Dana Adams.**

She mentioned the beautiful paintings and the rich history that was researched about the breed. The Amazon description of this book says it is lavishly illustrated and has an impressive history, including some of the ancient origins of the breed. International interest began in the 17th century and continues today. There are more than 250 gorgeous color photographs touching down in many countries and continents where this versatile breed has earned a loyal following among equestrians. It also features a list of Arabian horse organizations, registries and societies, and a glossary of Arabic terms.

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### **Them (1859 edition), by Henry William Herbert. Brought by Linda Miller.**

This particular edition would provide different advice from the updated 2000 edition, which makes it all the more fun to read, since some of the information is outdated by today's standards. The book goes over colic and what are the causes, such as cold, extreme temperatures, grass, new corn, cold water, drenched with rain, overfed and over fat horse, inflammation of bowels along with some of the remedies (from an 1859 viewpoint) give at once 3 ounces of turpentine (probably frowned upon this day of age), hot ale, ginger, along with several additional old times remedies. Bleeding 4-6 quarts to avoid inflammation (they did that in 1859, and as a side point, that is how our first President died—bloodletting). Rubbing the belly and avoidance of all violent motion is advised.

They even have tips on how to learn to ride sidesaddle. The illustrations are interesting. Riding conformation at the time recommended ramming the feet in the stirrups all the way, so the legs were straight. There was lot of interesting stuff, letting us know how much we have improved equine veterinary care over the years and at the same time wonder what advice will be changed in 100 years from now.

### **Little Black Pony, by Walter Farley (1968). Brought by Kelly Yates.**

This sweet book tells the story of a little boy and his pony, Little Black. The boy loves his pony, but one day he decides to try and ride a horse named Big Red. Big Red can run faster, jump higher and is in general more exciting to ride than Little Black. Each time Big Red is chosen over Little Black, Little Black gets sadder and sadder, until he runs away one winter morning. The boy rides Big

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Red to try and get his pony, and ends up trying to cross a frozen river. The ice breaks under Big Red and the two fall. I am not going to tell you the ending to this tale but allow you to read it for yourself. In the end the little boy discovers that there are some things a big horse cannot do, but Little Black can.

This book is told from the little boy's point of view and is illustrated nicely. Kelly mentioned her love of this book to her husband and he went out and got a copy of it for her Christmas gift. Now that is a nice ending.

***Recognizing the Horse in Pain ... And What You Can Do About It!* By Joanna L. Robson, DVM (2009). Brought by Tiffany Chu.**

Many people believe that their horse's bad habits are simply that... bad habits. But they have never considered what is causing those habits and that it very well may be a reaction to pain. This book is easy for anyone to understand, and has many picture examples. If you are having problems with bucking, rearing, ear pinning, girthingness or aggravation when saddling, or a myriad of other behavioral problems, check this book out. I love reading up on these topics because I want to continue to be inspired.

***Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry (1970).**

This book was brought in by one of our young readers (I am sorry but did not get the little girl's name). This is a classic story of the ponies of Chincoteague Island (which is still geographically present). She read it on her Kindle.

Betsy also bought Misty. By 9 she had already read it several times. This book was very powerful. She was so sure she was going to get a pony for Christmas every year that she would go out and check in the garage thinking that was where her parents had hid it. She eventually did get that pony!

***The Black Stallion*, by Walter Farley (1941). Brought by Meagan and Sharon.**

Teenaged Alec Ramsay and an untamed, apparently wild black stallion, are stranded on a desert island after their ship, returning from Arabia where Alec was visiting his uncle, sinks. Dependent on each other for survival, the boy and horse learn to trust and love each other as they establish an amazing lifelong bond.

Sharon also brought in the Black Stallion. Reading this when she was young inspired her to go out and buy herself a big black horse on her 50th birthday!

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***Hold your Horses: Don't Forget to Say Thank-You When You Finally Catch Him.* Brought by Patty.**

This book has really funny illustrations and is so cute.

***Considering the Horses: Tales of Problems Solved and Lessons Learned (2nd Edition)* by Mark Rashid. Brought by Cindi Ham.**

If you want to solve your horse's problems then this book is a must. It is a book that suggests things that may work, or you can experiment and come up with a solution on your own. This book will help you find those fixes.

***Horses Never Lie: The Heart of Passive Leadership (2nd Edition)* by Mark Rashid (2011). Brought by Cindi Ham.**

The author was a ranch hand. Although not a manual or a How to.. book, but a text full of experiences. It's not literature about horses but a book about different horses and experiences, giving clues about horsenalties and personalities.

Ham also shared her adventures while attending a 5-day clinic with Lee Smith in Colorado. What a fantastic experience. Lee Smith is scheduled to visit the hill shortly. Keep your eye out for the dates in the *Dispatch*.

***Bluegrass Champion* by Dorothy Lyons. Brought by Jan.**

Jan brought several books to share. *Bluegrass Champion* by Dorothy Lyons. This was the first book she had ever received about horses, given to her in 1960 by friends in Wisconsin. It is about a little girl who rescues a paint that no one else wanted. Jan must have known subliminally that she wanted a paint all of her life.

***The Eighty-Dollar Champion: Snowman, The Horse That Inspired a Nation* by Elizabeth Letts. Brought by Jan.**

This is a tale about a quiet gentle giant who gave pony rides to little children and taught timid beginners not to be afraid. He's so loyal that he repeatedly jumps both paddock and pasture fences to return to the man who rescued him from the slaughter truck. Harry De Leyer is a young horseman with a growing family who desperately desires to run his own horse business. He's looking for that magic horse who can take him to the top.

***Wild Horses* by Dick Frances. Brought by Joan Urban.**

A story about what racing has evolved into, and what should not be done. Thomas Lyon, ex-jumps jockey and

presently filmmaker is signed on to make a movie based on a novel based on a 26-year-old police case regarding the alleged suicide of a trainer's wife. In the small British racing world, Lyon and the trainer are connected through various channels, and Lyon, along with the film's reluctant producer O'Hara, idly speculate that maybe, in the making of the film, they might actually solve the case.

Joan also mentioned that a pamphlet printed by Spaulding Fly Predators is available on how horses act from their wild behaviors.

***The Horse Around the House* by Patricia Jackson and Marcia Hayes. Brought by Charlene O'Neil.**

It covers a broad range of topics with depth of information and most importantly, the information is correct. Teaches even stark beginners the very basics but is quite useful even to those with years of experience.

***Horse and Pony* by Niles Kelly. Brought by Erin.**

Erin rides in junior drill team. She says this is a good book for little girls, it has a little bit of everything, and it comes with stickers!

Kelly brought in a few other notable books: *Ray Hunt: Think Harmony With Horses*. It contained wonderful and deep thoughts in a Ray Hunt sort of way. Also, *Beyond Horse Massage* by Jim Masterson.

Although I was at the back of the room typing away on my laptop, trying to retain some thoughts regarding those excellent books best remembered by our members, I also have a submission that I will share now. That is *The Red Pony*, by John Steinbeck (1933). The stories in the book are tales of a boy named Jody Tiflin, who is innocent, dedicated, and polite: "He was a little boy, ten years old, with hair like dusty yellow grass and with shy polite grey eyes, and with a mouth that worked when he thought."

The book has four different stories about Jody and his life on his father's Californian's Ranch.

The book's action begins when Mr. Tiflin gives his son Jody a red pony colt. The pony does get sick, but I will not go into details, again allowing those interested in reading for themselves the ending.

I hope some of these books will spark your imagination as well as inspire you to read, read and read. For those with you having children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, reading can mean escaping to different lands, having grand adventures and developing a lifelong love of reading. ●

# ERNIE HOWLETT HOSTS ANNUAL PORTUGUESE BEND HORSE SHOW

by **JOHN SCHREIBER**  
PALOS VERDES PATCH

The 55th Annual Portuguese Bend National Horse Show wrapped up competition Sunday afternoon at Ernie Howlett Park with the \$15,000 Seahorse Jumper Open Classic and the Pacific Coast Horse Show Association Horsemanship Medal Finals for riders 14 and under.

Taking home the \$15,000 prize this year in the Seahorse Jumper Classic was Michelle Parker riding Solomon's Pride.

Sydney Hutchins finished first in the PCHA Horsemanship Medal Finals for riders 14 and under.

All proceeds from the show benefit Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. This year's proceeds will help fund the hospital's Endowment for Advancing the Developmental Neurosciences, which funds advanced early diagnosis and treatment of neurodevelopmental disorders with children.

## **\$15,000 Seahorse Jumper Open Classic Results**

1. Michelle Parker riding Solomon's Pride
2. Amanda Mcquady riding Picardo
3. Sophie Simpson riding Cenzo

## **14 & Under PCHA Horsemanship Medal Finals Results:**

1. Sydney Hutchins
2. Hannah Von Heidegger riding Beckham
3. Alexandra Ladove riding Schubert

*Editor's note: This article originally appeared on Palos Verdes Patch. It is republished here with permission. ●*



PHOTOS BY JOHN SCHREIBER

Riders compete at the 55th Annual Portuguese Bend Horse Show

# Speaker tells ins, outs of saddle fitting

*Sarah Booth details how to fit your horse for a new saddle and proper leather care.*

by **ERIN RYAN**

PVPHA RECORDING SECRETARY

At July's meeting, Sarah Boothe from Custom Saddlery and Bliss of London spoke about the services she provides, including saddle fitting and the types of saddles—mainly English—that can be made to fit your horse properly.

During her presentation, Boothe offered tips on saddle fitting, general leather care, and showed us all the absolutely beautiful saddles that can be custom made.

As many of us know, an improperly fitting saddle can cause not only wear spots on your horse's coat, but pain and behavior problems.

For saddles specifically made for a particular horse, the first step is a proper fitting. There are fit kits available, or better yet, you can have a professional such as Sarah come to do the fit so you are assured the measurements are correct in every detail.

Every saddle should fit regardless of your discipline. There is a wide range of styles designed to accommodate all horse-and-rider combinations.

The goal of taking measurements is to determine the shape and what size gusset that is needed. This will ensure that the saddle fits and is properly balanced.

Tools needed are a flexicurve or curves around 24 inches long (either with the Custom Saddlery fit kit or available at any art or office supply), along with a file folder or large craft paper. If you desire a fit kit, email [sarah@saddlecpr.com](mailto:sarah@saddlecpr.com) with your address and request. Before starting, be sure your horse is on level ground in cross ties or with a friend holding him on a lead.

To give you an idea of what is involved in measuring your horse for a saddle, here are some of the steps. Talk to a fitter to fine-tune your understanding of the process if you decide to do it yourself:

**Step 1:** Find the rearward end of your horse's shoulder. It's about three fingers behind the horse's shoulder.

**Step 2:** Use your hand to make a line on the horse's coat at this point. Dipping your fingers in water will make the line more visible. This is the point where the saddle tree fits over your horse's withers.

**Step 3:** Make your wither tracing at that mark. Make sure that your horse is square with his head erect and up. Mold the flexicurve to the shape of the horse's withers; make sure it fits snugly on both sides. You can test the shape by picking up the flexicurve and placing it back



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## English saddles on a rack.

down in the same spot. Gently remove the flexicurve, lay it on your tracing paper and trace the underside onto the paper to determine the shape of your tree.

**Step 4:** Next, create the spine/topline tracing. Starting at this point where you took the wither tracing, lay the flexicurve on your horse's back spine, molding it to its shape. Gently remove and trace the underside of the flexicurve. Try to include as much as possible. This determines the size of the saddle gusset, which allows proper balance on your horse.

Or, you can have Sarah come over to do this procedure. Not only can you expect to get an exact fitting saddle, but you can customize the color, piping and other items on the saddle to your liking.

To care for your new saddle, break it in and condition it as often as you can—usually about once per day or about two weeks. Condition the entire saddle with a leather balm at least 2-3 times a week or whenever the saddle seems dry. Clean off dust with damp sponge.

Respect your tack by never leaving allowing the leather to dry out in heat or direct sunlight. Do not place your saddle on posts or fences, as this will damage the gullet. Do not ride in denim jeans, and be sure stirrup leathers are not rough or cracked—this may wear away the surface of the leather. Finally, never pull on the rear of the saddle to mount your horse. This will weaken or twist the tree of your saddle. Use a mounting block.

Sarah Boothe can be reached at 805-757-4739 or [sarah@saddlecpr.com](mailto:sarah@saddlecpr.com). You can visit her websites at [mysaddle.com](http://mysaddle.com) or [saddlecpr.com](http://saddlecpr.com). ●



# ERNIE HOWLETT: New, improved facilities built with QUIMBY, Chandler Ranch funds

*Continued from Page 1.*

Additionally, new bleachers were installed. "It's really looking nice over there," Clark told the RHE City Council at the Aug. 14 meeting.

Contractor FCP Construction and Leone Equestrian completed the \$200,000 renovation ahead of schedule with Quimby fees and money donated by the Chandler Ranch Development for equestrian-related improvements. Developers are required to pay cities Quimby fees as part of residential development projects. Quimby fees are used for park, open space and recreational improvements; however, they can't be used to pay for ongoing maintenance.

Other Quimby-funded improvements at the park include a new warm-up and lunging arena with new sand.

"I think we've got all the top-end requirements that were voice to us by the Portuguese Bend (National Horse Show) representatives in order to achieve the highest possible quality facility for the national shows," City Manager Doug Prichard told the council in August.

The Chandler Ranch Development money is part of an agreement with the city and local equestrians over the removal of the horse overlay in the residential area of the planned development at the site of the Chandler Quarry and Rolling Hills Country Club. Homes within the horse overlay must meet a minimum lot-size requirement, but developers of the Chandler Ranch community said the project would not work financially if they could only build 56 homes—rather than the planned 114—on the approximately 60 acres marked for residential properties.

The city, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association and Chandler Ranch Development hammered out an agreement in 2011 that said the developers would provide the city with money for equestrian improvements. In exchange, the city would match the payment with Quimby fund money it would earmark

specifically for equestrian use. As part of the compromise, the PVPHA also agreed to not oppose the removal of the horse overlay.

*Editor's note: This article originally appeared on Palos Verdes Patch. It is republished here with permission. ●*

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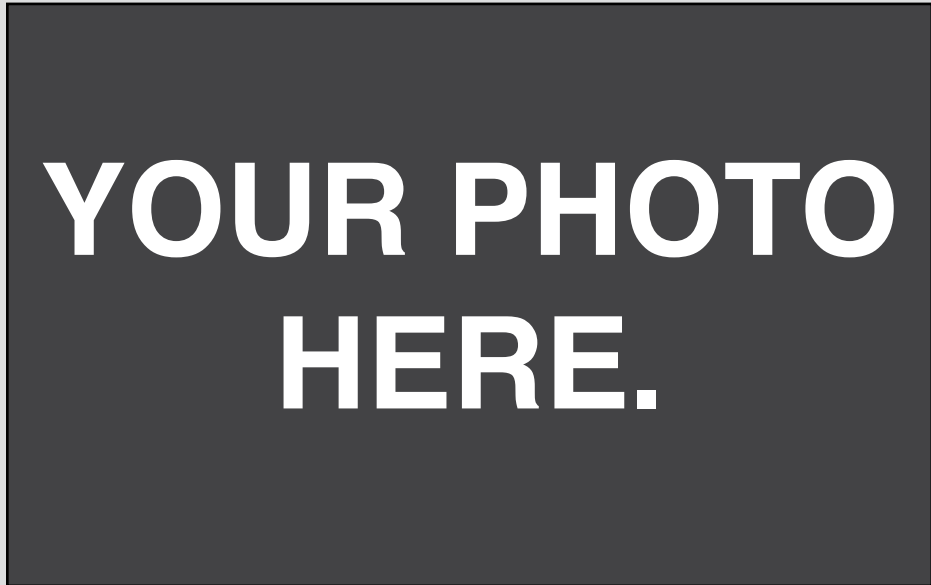
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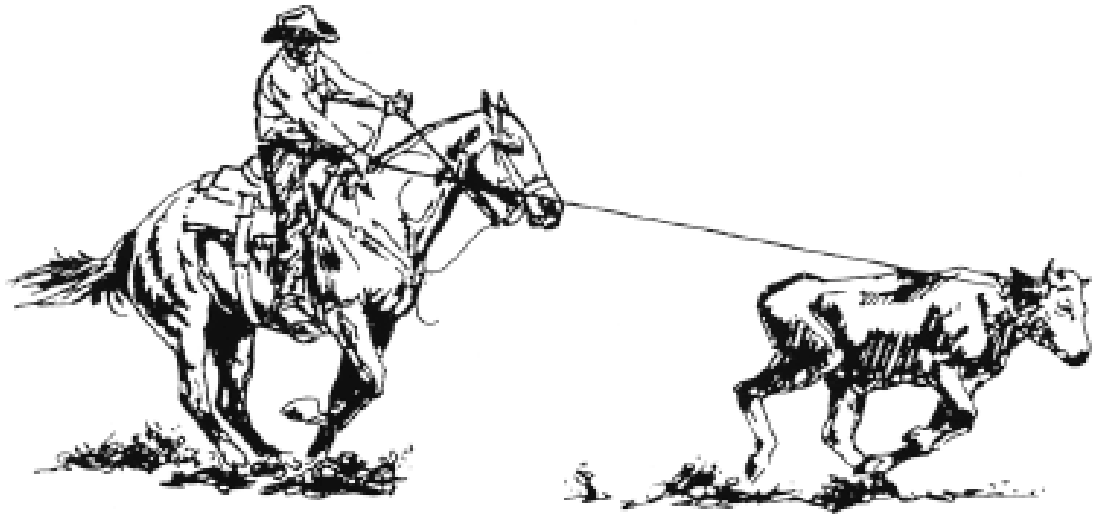
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