

POSSE NEWS

A monthly newsletter brought to you by The Galveston County Mounted Posse

VOL. 1, ISSUE 4

11.08.2017

Attached is a special article from Commander E. Rojas, Top stories in this newsletter:



The Santa Fe, TX Homecoming Parade was a success!



"He's Such a Brat!" A word from our very own Lt. A. Jones!



Become a GCMP Mounted Trooper Today!



Become a sponsor!

The Santa Fe, TX Home-Coming Parade was a Success!



We want to thank the Santa Fe High School Booster Club for letting us participate in the Home-Coming parade! We worked both the Front and the rear of the parade and had a great time! If you have any pictures or Video of us in the parade and would like to share them, please feel free to send them to us we would love to see them! We also wanted to thank you the citizens of Santa Fe for your continuing support. Santa Fe is our hometown, and base of operations! Although we cover all of Galveston County Precinct 2, We will always be there for Santa Fe and the surrounding area!

"He's Such a Brat!" A word from our very own Lt. A. Jones!



He's such a bad horse!

There are two reasons why a horse might fight you – because he thinks he must, and because he thinks he can. It isn't a really hard to concept to grasp, when you realize that horses are only doing what they think they need to do to optimize their situation.

The horse who feels they are in danger, or trapped, or confused.. that horse feels he NEEDS to bolt, buck, cross his head, rear, or any number of 'bad' behaviors to escape his situation. This can happen when a horse has beaten, scared or forced in his training. It can also happen when the rider's signals aren't clear, or conflict. My own horse had a really bad day just yesterday and it was because of an equipment issue that was sending mixed signals– had I just continued, or punished him, thing would have only gotten worse! A scared and confused horse needs a consistent, calm, patient rider or the situation becomes unbearable for them.

The horse who feels they CAN change their situation through bad behavior has usually been taught that he can. Horses are not programmed to work in the sense that we ask them to. They are supposed to mosey around all day and eat, with only the occasional gallop thrown in there. They LIKE the lazy life! Ending a training or work session because the horse is acting up only reinforces the unwanted behavior; instead, you have to be the teacher and calmly and firmly work past things to help the horse understand that work will continue even if they aren't perfect. In their mind, going back to the barn for dinner is the very best situation, but they need to know that work has to happen no matter what.

In general, horses don't decide to be punks. They are forced into it, or they learn it by being spoiled. In most cases, calm, patient, CONSISTENT handling will win them over and stop the fight.

Written by Lieutenant A. Jones



Become a GCMP Mounted Trooper Today!

We are always on the lookout for more members to our organization! We have a Junior Posse for ages 10-18 that will become our drill team for rodeos and events also to help in parades and trail rides, and the GCMP our 18+ mounted unit that helps in Trail Rides, Parades, Traffic control, Search and Rescue, and Much, much more! We have a very family friendly environment and are a close knit team. We have our trainings at The Santa Fe Equestrian Center Located at 7602 FM 2004. Hitchcock, Texas 77563. We will be conducting our Sunday trainings as normal for the first three Sundays of the month from 2:30PM to 5:00PM!

Feel Free to stop by and say hello meet the team and the Mounts!

Become a Sponsor!



We are always looking for new sponsors, We are a completely non profit volunteer community service organization that helps with trail rides, parking lots, parades and a whole lot more! With that being said most everything we use is our own personal equipment, feed, hay Etc.... All donations we receive go toward Hay, Feed, Fuel, Equipment that sometimes fails and needs to be replaced, and uniforms! As a sponsor you will receive a spot on our website, a public thank you on our social media page, Promote your business on our website and Facebook, We can also hang a banner for your business on our horse trailers during events (Think Galveston county Fair and Rodeo, Hitchcock Good ole' Days, Santa Fe Heritage Festival, and several Christmas parades!). If you have questions about sponsorship email donations@galvestoncmp.com!

Commanders Post

FORGOTTEN POSSE HISTORY

Written by **Commander. Ernesto Rojas**

Hello Troop, it's Mount Up Time!

Here's the continuation of my post on Forgotten Posse History, a three part article on the Cross Sabers Emblem and why it is a symbol of acceptance and certification in almost all Mounted Enforcement Agencies. Feel free to share and enjoy this lesson! God's blessings my friends!

Cmdr. E. Rojas

Understanding the Mounted Trooper's history is the key to unlocking unanswered questions of why Mounted Units execute the performance of their duties in the manner they do and why the Cross Sabers emblem pinned on their uniformed chest is not just for decoration or a merit badge.

Let's start by retracing their history.



Simulated combat and striking of the blades!

With the advent of the Civil War, both sides lacked men, horses and adequate training. Soldiers also depended on the "Saber" in battle and the ability to utilize it from horseback. Effective saber use required a special skill set and specialized training. Unlike pistols or rifles, which only required target and reload practices, saber training would require simulated physical combat with the striking of the blades. This training was necessary to reenact dangerous, challenging, and risky situations that the horse and rider could potential encounter. Without adequately prepared and trained troopers, situations could result in grave circumstances. Despite intensive training, very little of the valuable skills necessary to properly use the saber from the seat was taught to the horse or rider. The problem? ... Lack of "**Horse-Man-Ship!**" Most of these civil war era recruits were city and farm boys with little horsemanship skills, let alone battle knowledge. Their training was usually left to the judgment of

instructor(s) whose own certification was based upon whatever skills they had acquired throughout their own combat exposure. Coupled with the fact that their mounts were green-broke colts, or whatever the Army Cavalry could acquire...also please note that the Military actually paid Bronco-Busters for turn-key saddle mounts which were usually of the mustang persuasion. So you can imagine how this mixed scenario would end up with either a positive or negative result. Either way inconsistent.

The early years of mounted training failed to teach the skill of "Balancing" various body positions, proper hand and leg cues coupled with the "rhythm" of swinging a saber in hand. Horses were considered more like equipment and treated inhumanly, like people use Side by Sides and 4x4s in mudding today. Horses received limited training and preparation. In past times it simply wasn't addressed or explained. The trooper was expected to man up, or to have had a natural instinct to deal with his horse and training, or was expected to acquire his knowledge through on the job training...hence "The School Of Hard Knocks". Thousands of horses suffered from mindless mouth jerking, unbalanced riders and spurs to their sides by the hands of amateur recruits. Naturally there were also human casualties as one would expect. Only the highest achievers graduated and were granted the prestigious honor of carrying the sword and having a mount assigned to him. This honor distinguished a Mounted Cavalry Soldier from a foot soldier. These were the elite troops who were feared much like today's Green Berets or Navy Seals. In the following years, the mounted trooper would become a different person. Through mutual respect and admiration the trooper and his horse would become one with each other and operate as a single unit. A new era of horsemanship was born but again would see its ending.



A soldier weeps as he leaves his dying mount behind in the fury of bomb strikes...A mount stands watch over his dead rider.

Enter the "Tin Lizzy" that became the automobile. By 1903 this new mechanized invention would begin to take over the equine task especially for the Military. Horsemanship began to see its demise and the decline of the Mounted Cavalry Units.

In 1914, The Army Training & Regulations manuals began mentioning, and only as a cautionary note, instructions regarding the use of the rein hand that the rider not "jerk the horse's mouth while making any movements with the saber." Unfortunately, no other instructions were produced on body balance or horsemanship.

Horsemanship today is seldom thoroughly explained even with all of the self-help "horse whispering gurus." There are multitudes of instructors but there are very few who offer courses on true horsemanship. Many courses that are offered are inadequate, possibly for their lack of true horsemanship knowledge, or a profit driven agenda.

So, the real truth on horsemanship? ...Unless you're naturally born with this gift, you must be totally dedicated to the task of learning it whole heartily. If lacking the desire and dedication you will not learn horsemanship from an expensive book, video, or horse-whispering guru. Horsemanship can only be learned by immersing oneself slowly and carefully to the task at hand. As with any skill to be efficient at it, one must approach it with heart until an understanding is reached. Continued mentoring by those who have come to understand the skill, flow and beauty of true horsemanship will provide increased clarity. Working with various horses has taught me many things about myself and the animal. In all honesty, the whole time I thought I was teaching and training the horses, it was the horses who were teaching and training me.

In today's world there are few instructors that even vaguely qualify to instruct or teach the maneuvers executed from horseback to a potential mounted trooper. For the ability to communicate effectively with the horse while performing multiple tasks from the seat is the part that can only be learned and absorbed by the one who's seated amidst with the desire to do so and has that special human heart .

The Cross Sabers pin proudly displayed on an officer's uniform represents a deep seated respect and remembrance of the Mounted Troopers origins --- it represents the dedicated elite who received The Sword and A Mount. The trooper was a trusted representative for his mount who could not speak for itself. They were a trademark for what the Skilled Horsemen stood for and a Role Model for their Country and Community.



I'll leave you with a quote a great horseman and mentor told me once long ago...

"Knowledge in horsemanship begins when you realize that a horse, is a living, breathing, thinking creature...but the wisdom of horsemanship can only start when you realize, that you too are also a living, breathing, thinking creature. If trust, honor and respect is the way to my heart, then, it should be no different for a horse." Adelo Rojas

My father a true horseman and trainer told me this when I was 9 years old, It has stayed with me all my life and I have applied it's lesson to all living things...May God bless your trail today...Cmdr. E. Rojas

Make sure you take a look at the skill out sheet at the bottom of this article...

The following guidelines is what I look for in potential recruits, although I'm not looking for perfection, I am looking for that special willing soul in both horse and rider.

(1) The buttocks should be pushed well forward underneath the body and bear equally upon the middle of the saddle. The buttocks should not press against the cantle.

(2) The thighs should extend downward and slightly forward. They should rest without constraint upon their flat sides and clasp the horse evenly.

(3) The knees should be bent but without stiffness, and should clasp the horse snugly.

(4) The lower legs should extend downward and slightly backward; they should be in contact with the horse, but without contraction. When the lower leg is in proper position, the stirrup strap should hang vertically.

(5) The ball of the foot should rest easily on the tread of the stirrup, the heel slightly lower than the toe, the ankle without stiffness.

(6) If the rider is without stirrups, the feet should hang naturally, toes hanging down; they should be free from stiffness in the ankles.

(7) The upper part of the body should be easy, free, and erect. The spinal column should be supple, especially in the small of the back.

(8) The shoulders should be thrown back evenly but without hollowing or stiffening the back.

(9) The arms should be free, the elbows falling naturally by the side.

(10) The reins should be held in one or both hands as is necessary.

(11) The head should be erect but without stiffness in the neck.

(12) The eyes should not be downcast but alert and glancing well to the front.

Next Article: What kind of horse makes the cut? ...



It was common place at the turn of the century for the affluent to hire household help. These “helpers” were usually young women who were referred to as “Lizzies” or the shortened common name of Elizabeth.

So with the advent of automobile, only to the wealthier could afford its luxury. It wasn't until Henry Ford's assembly line approach would bring the low-cost automobile to the masses. The general public would soon discover the automobile (Model-T) to be a valuable household “helper” accomplishing many tasks such as farm work, running city errands, or providing tours of the country. Thus the moniker “Tin Lizzy” was born, a robotic-like household “helper”.

Sources:

Mounted Police -----Hand Book of Guidelines

Bexar county Sheriff's-----Posse Training Manual

Army Calvary-----Circa (1862-1943) Training Manuals

Ernesto Rojas-----Private Journal – My Life until God & Horses

My Personal Mentors-----Adelo Rojas-For my knowledge of horsemanship, Deputy. Dan Sendejas- For believing in the same dream, Deputy. Gene Corn – Who taught me much valuable untold history of the mounted police and the posse, Deputy. Jeff Wyers . For teaching me how to be a working leader in the mounted patrol.

I would like to give a special thanks to the following:

Deputy Constable, Sargent, Harris County Pct.1

Gene Benevidez:

Whose unfailing friendship and support is the reason I even got into the Mounted Patrol. There are few people I can call best friend, he is one of them.

Commissioner, Galveston County Pct.2

Joe Guisti

My good friend also, who's blessing and support is behind the Mounted Patrol & Posse

And last but not to think of as least,

Constable, Galveston County Pct.2

Jimmy Fullen.

My Chief Commander, without his 110% support, there would be no Constable Posse in this area of Texas.

There are few Standing Constables that will even entertain the idea and many Sheriffs Posses have gone belly up... Constable Fullen was a Mounted Patrolman himself once, and believes in its mainstay, he is probably the last of dying breed.