

The REAL Cowboy Way

"YEE HAW!!! Come on, Festus! Hide and heel that nag. Let's git 'er outta town! Heck fire, Festus. We gotta git outta here! And let me shoot my 30 shot 6-shooter.

"Them outlaws that stole them worthless confederate dollars outta the bank are gonna git away! I'm gonna show off this here \$500 fancy shirt and \$10,000 saddle!!! And Festus, we gotta git all this done before noon. I gots a Kobe steak and lobster lunch a wait'n fer me in my air conditioned trailer....."

Folks, this AIN'T got nothing to do with THE COWBOY WAY... never has and hopefully never will. This here is Hollywood (also known as Hollyweird) and the only thing they know about the West is that's where the map says they're at. They sure as shoot'n don't know nothing about Cowboys. Sadly, though, a lot of youngsters grew up with *The Lone Ranger*, or *Matt Dillon* (shot more times than a target at a military shoot'n range). These yesterday's kids grew up and some began to see that 'ole Sam Colt made a pistol that would shoot 30 times IF you reloaded it 5 times.

Some of these kids found out that "breaking a Horse" has nothing to do with a Horse. The breaking refers to what happens to the rider -- or at least his bones if he's dumb enough to get on an ill ground trained Horse. The bad thing is some of these kids from yesterday never learned what Cowboy really is. They still think what was on the silver screen or TV is what a Cowboy is.

Folks, let me introduce you a little to what being a COWBOY really is!!!

W O R K

For those of you cross-eyed green peas, that's WORK

That's right, folks. The Cowboy Way is about WORK... all of it hard, most of it dirty, a lot of it lonely, some of it painful. But ALL of it with **pride**. There is no way a Cowboy will WORK without his **pride**. This is not to say he is prideful, he is just proud of his BEST! He will be proud of his best and shamed of his not so best, and that not so best will be the thing that occupies his mind 'til it becomes his best.

The one thing that makes his best easier is his ability to work in tandem with his Horse, and his word. As a matter of fact, without these two things a Cowboy had



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might as well be a politician, or a used car salesman. When you spend 12 hours or more a day on a Horse you learn real quick, easy is better than harsh. He learns how to get his work partner to want to help him be his best, and he learns real quick asking is better than beating. You also learn your Horse is gonna be 100% honest with you and they expect the same in return. Again, easy is better than harsh.

You want to start a knock-down, drag out with a real Cowboy? (I hope not) Say something bad about his Horse, or be harsh with his Horse. If he IS a Cowboy, God help ya; ya'll fix'n to go a round. He has put so much of him in that Horse, he believes his Horse is the best part of him!!! (You could walk up and slap me, but slap Smokey Joe and I'm gonna pull my not Hollywood 6-shooter!) You see most Cowboys ain't got time for a wife and youngins. He's too busy trying to be the best at what he does. So his Horse becomes his wife, child, mom, dad, and bestest friend. (Don't make more outta that statement than what's there. This ain't about Brokeback Mountain.)

This does not mean that a Cowboy is perfect. I'm just saying he seeks perfection within himself. To do this, the "day" starts at least an hour before the 'ole sun gets up, and he ain't no way gonna go to bed before that day's job is done. Tell ya something else that's as important to a Cowboy as his Horse, and that is the only thing he ever will really own: his word. You see, that is all any of us ever really own, only *I can give my word and only I can break my word*. See, it's mine. Not the government's, not yours, and heck, it ain't even the Good Lord's. It's MINE! So to a Cowboy all he ever is, is his word.

My daddy taught me this, and I learned it better working cows off the back of a Horse, and it has served me well through all the walks of my life. I'll tell ya, I have seen green-peas that came on willing to learn and willing to admit they didn't know much, but they understood what a promise is and they'd promise the ramrod such-n-such a thing and damn near kill themselves trying to keep their word. These green peas are rare and they are the ones the Boss and Ramrod hire at full wages, to replace the draggers that got too big for their spurs. Again, does this mean Cowboys are perfect? NO, but a Cowboy seeks that perfection within.

The Cowboy Way is or should be The American Way ... and it used to be..... Somehow, though, Cowboy has become a "bad" adjective. It makes my blood curl to hear someone say, "he's cowboyled that Horse too much" or "he's a cowboy shoer" or he's just an @\$%## cowboy.



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Folks, if this idiot is doing all this, the LAST thing he is is a cowboy. Sounds to me the folks calling this idiot a cowboy need to turn Hollywood off and spend some time Ranch'n. They'll find out real quick the idiot they're calling a cowboy ain't no such thing. He's just a dime store plug in Horse riding IDIOT and should be left alone. More importantly, he needs to leave HORSES alone.

People, I'll tell ya now, and if ya don't believe me look around, the best trainers are what????? They don't wear foxhunting breeches. They have blue jeans on and a horn on their saddle. Chances are they understand THE COWBOY WAY. You see, to seek this within perfection ya have to learn "you" ain't good enough. "You" need help. And to a cowboy the closest friend we have to ask for help is our Horse. A Real Cowboy will ASK his Horse, he doesn't force or demand, he shares.

So I'll thank ya'll to call an idiot an idiot and call us Cowboys....Cowboys.

And with that, I'll tip my hat, kick off the dust, and offer ya a pot of coffee.....just brewed!!

Happy Trails and ya'll remember

"IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HORSE"



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