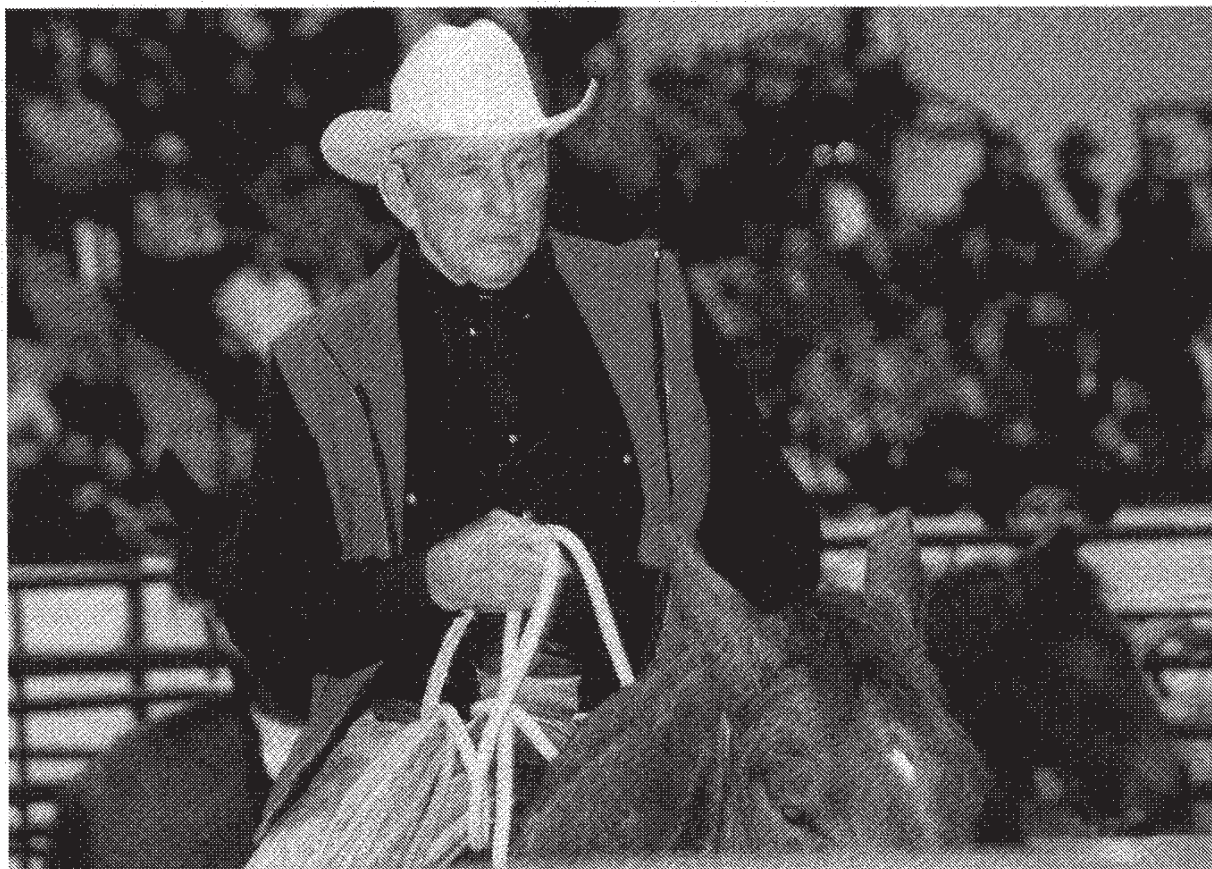


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“Friends of Tom Dorrance”

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The Friends of Tom Dorrance Benefit Clinic began with heartfelt comments from Ray Hunt: "We're here for a good cause: my friend. I'd like you all to think that Tom is watching you today."

Friends of Tom Dorrance

A once-in-a-lifetime gathering in Fort Worth paid tribute to one of the most influential horsemen in history.

Article and Photographs
by A.J. Mangum

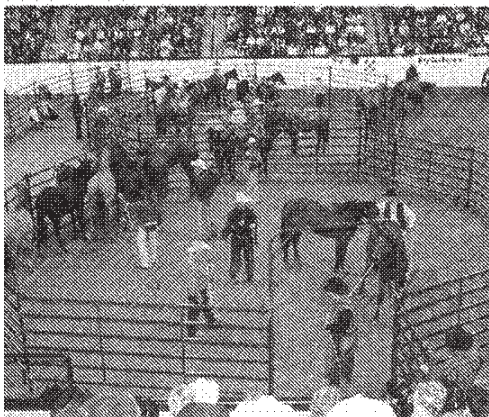
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IT'S IMPOSSIBLE to say how many horsemen have been directly or indirectly influenced by Tom Dorrance. The 91-year-old Californian created a revolution in horsemanship by advocating training techniques born out of respect for the horse, and taught his proteges to work with, rather than against, their mounts.

Today, clinicians who have learned either from Dorrance himself or from his students share his natural horsemanship philosophies worldwide, with most adding their

own interpretations in the process.

A historic gathering, held Feb. 24-25 in Fort Worth, brought together more than three dozen of these horsemen, including some of the most visible clinicians working today, for a Ray Hunt clinic benefiting Dorrance, who's been struggling with health problems. Buck Brannaman, Craig Cameron, Peter Campbell, Dennis Reis, Larry Mahan, Buster McLaury, Bryan Neubert, and Pat Parelli were just a few of the horsemen who paid \$1,000 per class to travel to



After drawing a colt in one of four round pens, many of today's top clinicians each took on the role of student, working under Hunt's supervision.

Texas and ride with Hunt.

Approximately 1,000 spectators filled the W.R. Watt Arena at the Will Rogers Memorial Center on each day of the weekend clinic, which featured colt-starting and horsemanship, and included a sold-out banquet and auction. General admission tickets sold for \$50 per day, with banquet attendees paying \$80 per person. Organizers donated all funds raised by the clinic to Tom Dorrance.

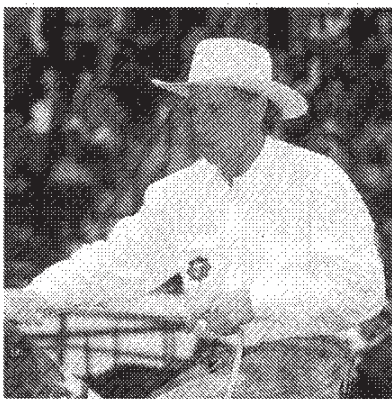
Not your typical clinic, the event began with each clinician drawing a number that corresponded with one of four round pens in the arena. Each pen contained eight to ten colts, provided by Hunt, the 6666 Ranch, and the Pitchfork Ranch. From there, each handler progressed at his own

pace, haltering a colt and introducing him to the saddle.

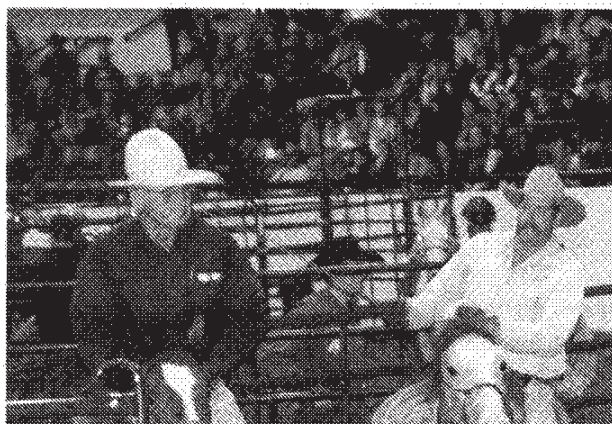
Each clinician worked under Hunt's supervision, but with an arena filled with horsemen, each working with a colt, it was up to audience members to select which handlers they'd observe. Hunt and his wife, Carolyn, provided continuous commentary.

Tom Dorrance, who had planned on being in Fort Worth for the event, was unable to attend. Hunt, however, made sure Dorrance was never far from the minds of attendees and participants.

For more photos from the Friends of Tom Dorrance Benefit, visit www.westernhorseman.com. ☛



From atop a panel fence, Buck Brannaman accustoms a colt to pressure from the lead rope.



Pat Parelli drew flag duty for one group of clinicians during the colt-starting session.



Larry Mahan preps for an afternoon horsemanship class.

Books & Videos

Tom Dorrance's book, *True Unity: Willing Communication Between Horse and Human*, includes his philosophies on horse-handling and is one of the best resources for the student of natural horsemanship. To order a copy, log on to www.rayhunt.com and follow the "Tom Dorrance" links.

Two Tom Dorrance videos *Greetings From Tom Dorrance* and *A Day With Tom Dorrance* have recently been released. *Greetings ...* was created from personal video footage of clinics throughout the United States and is a rare look at the horseman sharing his insight with his students. Ordering info: 661-822-1802. www.johnsaintryan.com

A Day With Tom Dorrance is a two-part video series originally shot for Larry Mahan's television series, *Horseworld*. In it, Dorrance shares his views on horse training, deals with a variety of horse problems, and puts Mahan through riding exercises that can benefit every rider. Ordering info: 818-446-0063. www.tomdorrancevideo.com

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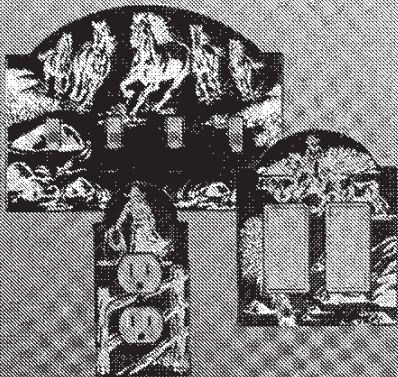
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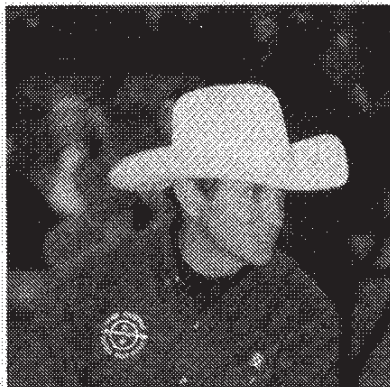


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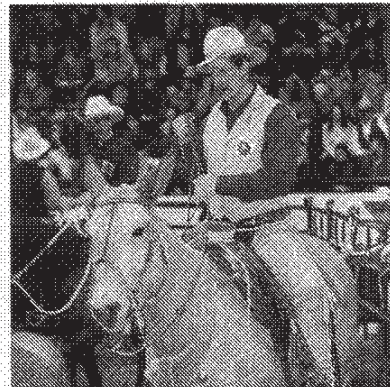
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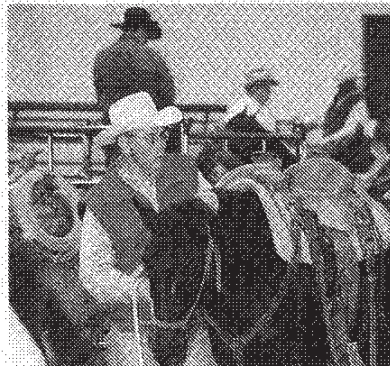
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Craig Cameron takes a quick break from a horsemanship session.

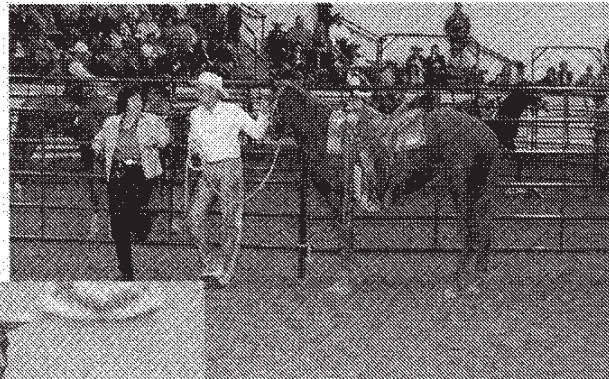


Brad Cameron rode a mule in the horsemanship class. The mixture of clinicians' styles, approaches, and philosophies made for a memorable experience.



Greg Eliel works with his colt after having saddled him. During the first colt-starting session, clinicians focused on desensitizing, and finally saddling, the young horses.

Below: Carolyn Hunt, left, visits with Brannaman during a colt-starting session.



Ray Hunt's emotions came through in his closing comments. He fought back tears as he told his fellow clinicians, "I think our friend Tom would be proud of you." 🐾