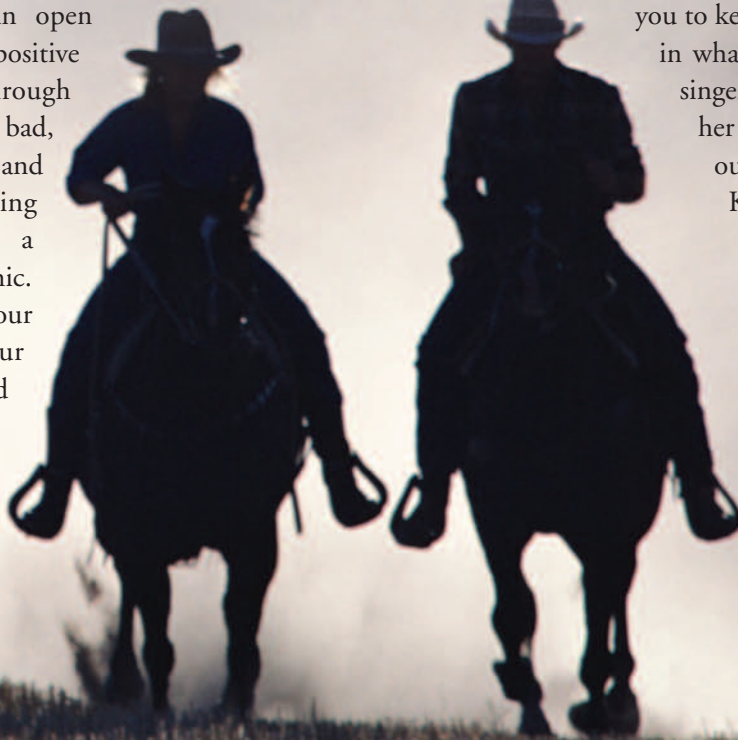


traveling and all the exposure to radio, TV and magazines the bottom line is still like the old days; it is about the quality of a cowboy's work that counts. The work only continues to come, not by just "talking the talk" but you need to "walking the walk."

The tradition of horsemanship and its way of life is about an individual's work and the horse being a reflection of that individual. The horse is only as good as the trainer and seeks the level of the rider, be it good or bad. The best cowboys accept the challenge of horsemanship and rise to the occasion. Doing things right is not always the easy trail, but just like the old times it is the tough trail that teaches us the most. The toughest horses are the best teachers. The old navy men used to say, "A calm sea never made a great sailor." Cutting legend Pat Patterson said, "The horse and cow business is a workhouse everyday."

Great and aspiring horse people keep an open mind and a positive attitude through good times and bad, through highs and lows. Cowboying is still about a solid work ethic. It is about your word and your reputation and being able to honor both



with a handshake. After all, honor is a principal that builds great relationships like a relationship bond between men, women, horses, livestock and the land.

Whether you are on the ranch, the road or in the office a guy can still be a cowboy because being a real cowboy is a way of life and about keeping this way of life alive. It is a tradition the old-time cowboys fought for and believed in. It is our turn to keep it and preserve it.

Some people say cowboying is extinct. I think it is growing! In the sixties and seventies it might have gone into remission but thanks to people like Roy Rogers, Casey Tibbs, Larry Mahan, Ray Hunt, Tom Dorrance, Ty Murray, Red Steagall and thousands more it has comeback. I think the old-timers would be proud and happy to know how cowboys and horse are going strong and getting better.

In the spirit of the old cowboys, I challenge you to keep the tradition and "cowboy-up" in what ever field you choose. Like the singer-song writer Jewel says in one of her songs, "Keep on going till we run out of road."  
Keep on riding!

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