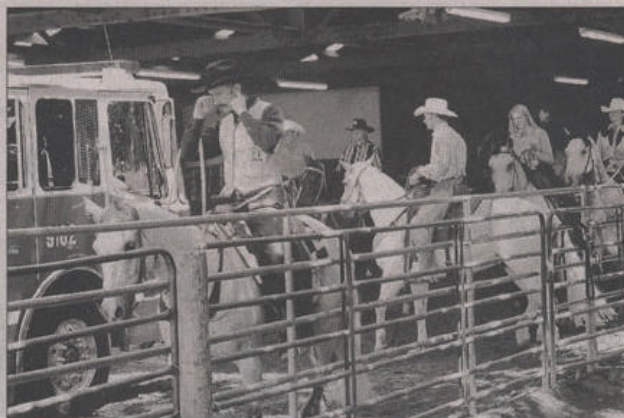
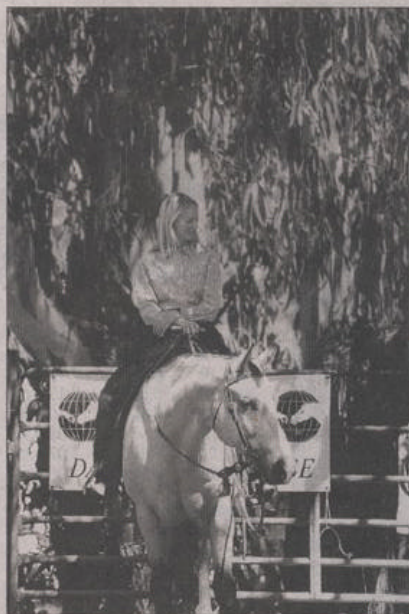


Published in Argus Courier on September 17, 2003

***Penngrove's Horse Whisperer Takes
Equine Crusade to NY***

Please click Print or choose Print from the File Menu to Print this Article.



Left: Jewel, an internationally acclaimed pop singer, rode a horse at the Reis Ranch in Penngrove recently when she accompanied her boyfriend, rodeo rider Ty Murray, to an event to publicize the effort to create a national Day of the Horse. Above: Dennis Reis, Penngrove's famed horse whisperer, controls his brideless horse past a fire truck's loud siren.

PHOTOS BY JOHN JACKSON/ARGUS-COURIER STAFF

Penngrove's horse whisperer takes equine crusade to New York

By JOHN JACKSON
ARGUS-COURIER STAFF

Dennis Reis, Penngrove's famed horse whisperer, successful in his home state, is taking his evangelical crusade to promote a national Day of the Horse to New York.

Reis managed to get the horse honored in California when the state Legislature proclaimed the second Saturday in December, this year Dec. 13, California's Day of the Horse.

The legislation honoring the horse was carried in the Legislature by Assembly member Joe Nation, D-San Rafael. Nation was on hand at the Reis Ranch in Penngrove recently for a Day of the Horse seminar and jumped on the bandwagon for a national day honoring the horse.

"I was proud to sponsor the resolution to recognize the role horses play in our lives," Nation said, "and to empha-

"This country owes everything to horses. It is time we gave them more recognition."

DENNIS REIS

size how important horses are to our economy. I encourage everyone to get this to the national level so we will have a national Day of the Horse."

Way out in front and helping lead the bandwagon for the national horse day is rodeo legend Ty Murray. A seven-time world champion rodeo All-Around Cowboy, Murray is not only a strong advocate for Day of the Horse, but an absolute believer in Reis's horse training methods which emphasize leadership and communication over force.

"We have a day for about everything else, why not a

day for the horse?" the cowboy legend says. "The horse has been important to the history of this country. Just try to find a history book that doesn't have a picture of a horse. They are majestic animals."

Murray says that after he heard of Reis's training methods, he began to do his homework, reading about the horse training and watching his videos. "It was clear that this was the real deal," he says.

A cowboy in the truest sense of the word, Murray was motivated by his desire to "make myself a better horseman." He contacted Reis and began to work with him. Not only did the rodeo champion become involved, but he also brought along his father, Ray, an acclaimed horse trainer in his own right; mother, Joy, a two-time world champion women's bull rider; and friend Jewel, an interna-

tionally acclaimed pop singer. All participated in Reis's workshop in Penngrove.

During the five-hour workshop, a combination clinic, show and Day of the Horse advocacy session, Reis outlined a few of the basics of his approach to horse training. He preaches leading horses into obedience, rather than forcing them to respond.

"It works on any horse, end of story," says Murray.

Key to the training is what Reis calls a "selection of progress," meaning that the rider first asks the horse to do something; if that doesn't work the rider suggests; and if that doesn't work the rider promises (by taking away pressure).

"I try to understand the nature of the horse," he explains. "I try to get along with them."

Reis, who grew up in Marin County, says all riders can learn to understand and lead their horse. "We can supply the inspiration, if they supply the perspiration," he says.

Reis is currently supplying that inspiration on the east coast, teaching his training methods at a series of seminars and advocating for a Day of the Horse at every stop.

"This country owes everything to horses. It is time we gave them more recognition," he proclaims at every opportunity.

(Contact John Jackson at acsports@arguscourier.com.)