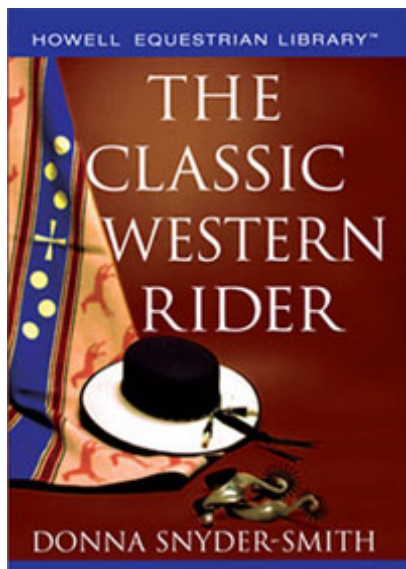


Book Review



By Pat Ingram (AQHA Journal, June 2008)

Sensible, informative and Current all describe this useful book. Drawing from many sources, Snyder-Smith assembles a text that is suitable for the beginner, yet has much to offer the intermediate rider. This is the first horse book using George Carlin as a source. No, I won't spoil the surprise. You have to read it.

The philosophy of horse training is as important as the mechanical aspects of it (stand here, poke here, move over there, be ready to respond...), and I enjoy that feature. Discussing basic ground work, including work in the round pen, and moving on to establishing the elements of control for work under saddle, the details are there, and so is the life, the joy of being out with horses every day.

The pictures are small, all black and white, and it would have been nice if the publisher had sprung for color. The picture of a covered round pen is intriguing. It's covered with a fabric cover like those you see on carports. You know, the ones that blow into the next county the first time there's a good storm. Jus how much training can one get done with a goosey horse underneath a yurt-sized tent when the wind blows? Yes it's very good for the horse to learn this is harmless, but I think I'd want an ambulance standing by.

She tells an anecdote of an off-track Thoroughbred that was very frightened the first few times he encountered sloping terrain, as he had never experienced it. With so many of today's horses being bred on micro-ranchettes, this is an increasingly common issue. A lot of horses have never seen anything higher than the manure pile. Of course that doesn't matter if you only ride in an arena, but oh, how dull.