

A passion for learning turns into a career in teaching

Daryle Schmidt has a passion for what he does. The Rocky Rapids-area horse trainer has spent more than 25 years sharing his knowledge and love of all things equine.

His affinity for and aptitude with horses was evident from the beginning. "I've been training horses part-time since 1981. What I had to learn was how to run a business.

"It takes a lot of time to start a business. You have to be committed to spending the time it takes, which means there are sacrifices," he says.

"For me, it was travelling around Alberta and Saskatchewan teaching clinics to generate interest and awareness of my horse training business. I missed a lot of special family occasions."

But Schmidt was determined to make his dream a reality. "I hoped the business would have enough financial rewards to allow me to raise a family."

It's taken time for the Saskatchewan native to realize his ultimate goal. "After getting married, we moved to Southern Alberta to work on the Bar K 2 Ranch. Then in 1985, we moved to the Cynthia area to start up and manage the Pembina Provincial Grazing Reserve.

"As a part-time job, I built up a

business in training horses and teaching clinics."

Thirteen years later, in 1998, he made a decision to pursue his business full-time and moved to his present location east of Rocky Rapids. "When the opportunity presented itself, I had no doubt in my mind what I was going to do."

Schmidt credits his mentor Ed Smith with influencing his career aspirations. "(He) loved buying, selling and training horses. His enthusiasm for what he did rubbed off on me real quick."

"He gave me my first riding job which started a sequence of events that has me where I am today. I'll always remember him and owe a lot of my success to him."

Many years and miles later, the horse trainer has the satisfaction of knowing he has passed on that enthusiasm by schooling countless horses and teaching over 1500 people in clinics and lessons throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan.

He's come a long way from his humble beginnings as a seasonal farrier & pasture rider, trimming horses' hooves and helping people catch their troublesome horses. It's a fact he finds very gratifying.

"I'm proud of helping people to

understand how to get their horses to be more cooperative and save them the efforts and frustration of trying to find (methods) that work," he added.

"I like meeting new people and (developing) friendships that are made through business. I am proud to have the occupation of 'horse trainer', one that only a few people can claim." He also enjoys the opportunity to visit new places and drive down the road less travelled.

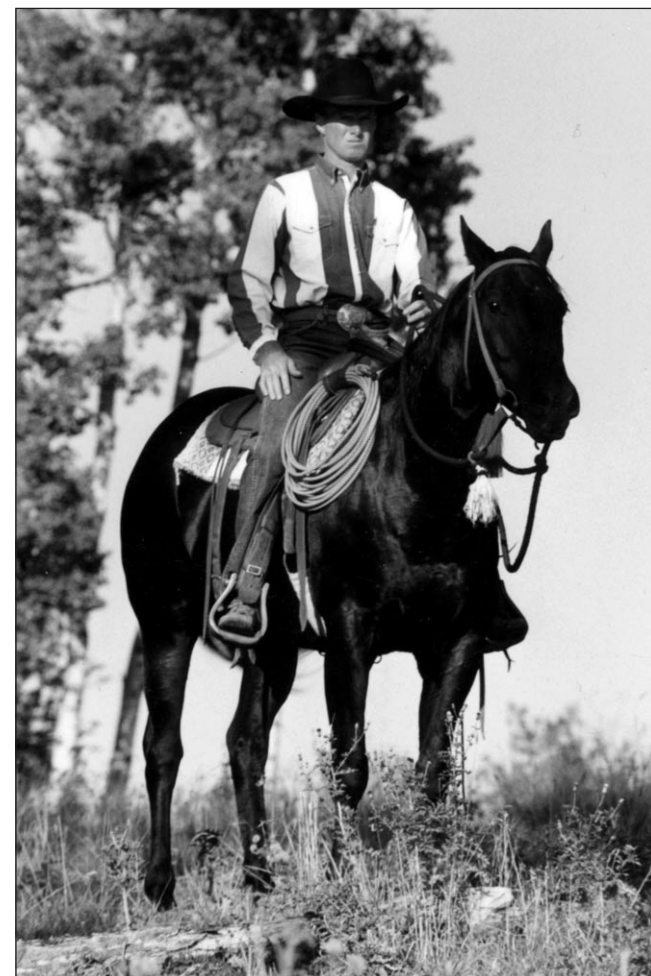
He credits his family for helping his enterprise succeed. "My wife Debby does the books for our company, D & D Ltd. Our son Tyler helps out after school and during holidays moving horses around and cleaning pens and the barn."

"He will soon be at the age where he can help me out in the arena."

Schmidt appreciates the part-time assistance he receives from Samantha Osbourne, Jocelyn and Kristen Chapman, Taylor Ochsner and his son Tyler. "They are great kids who are learning a good work ethic with the belief in high standards."

The businessman has given back to the community through his involvement in the West Valley Light Horse 4-H Club, coaching of minor hockey, organizing junior rodeo and volunteering at the local drag races.

Animals may be a main interest, but they are not his only one. He enjoys playing hockey, fast cars and dirt bikes, as well.

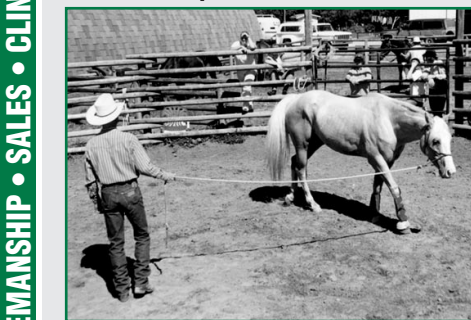


Daryle offers lessons at every level of riding – from the inexperienced to the seasoned rider looking to gain a competitive edge at a higher level.

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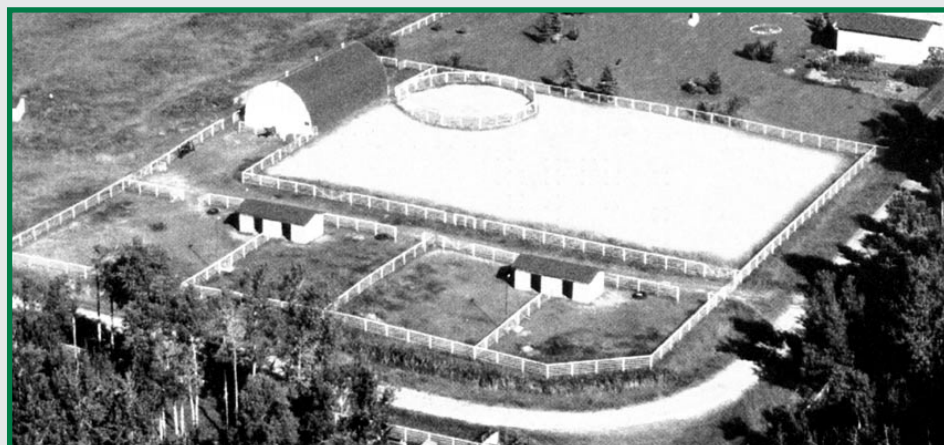
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"The key to success with horses is developing a solid foundation."

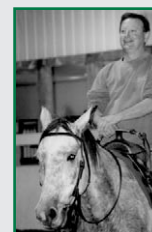
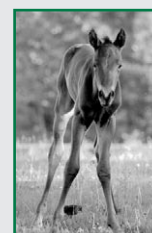
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