

CWM Audio 4-4

Lucio Cristiani Interview, March 6, 1972

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Part 3

Lucio Cristiani: It's a matter of beliefs, it's not a matter of training a horse. I have my own [inaudible 00:00:06] of people. They've got their own methods. One is better than the other, but that's debatable, see? The [inaudible 00:00:20] of training a horse and the relationships will be continued. If you want a good relationship with the horse, you could feed him and be aware that with most, the horse knows you. He knows your voice and he knows when he hears your voice. Never beat him up. If there's any beating to be done, it's going to be by the rider, [inaudible 00:00:52]. When he hears your voice, that's a reassurance that it's friendship to him, you see. Eventually, the horse will calm down when he hears your voice.

[00:00:30]

[00:01:00]

[00:01:30] If the horse is good whenever you ride it, and he call him up and he knows it's your voice, he knows that he's with a friend. That's how it's a relationship between. I can go over there and call the horse at feeding time, he won't like that. Somebody else calls, he just looks around, that's all. He knows my voice. That's the best relationship with the horse.

Richard Flint: Now what about the first time a rider would mount the horse?

Lucio Cristiani: Well, do you mean for the rider or for the horse?

Richard Flint: Well, both.

Lucio Cristiani: You mean a professional rider?

[00:02:00] Richard Flint: On a new horse and then beginning rider on a horse?

Lucio Cristiani: You get really close to him and then you pull on the horse. You start riding like that. I prefer to hold his reigns to give the feeling of [inaudible 00:02:14]. Some people, they use sound. I like that, but if you normally don't do that, start riding them right away like this. Slowly, you move back because you know, the moment they feel that you move back, they might stop. You move back slowly and the horse will get used to it, then you move back a little more and then you start [inaudible 00:02:42]. When you get off the horse that's barely stopped, you're teaching them to keep going, regardless of what is [inaudible 00:02:49], you keep going. Then you learn to stop, go, you're watching that he keeps the same speed, the same cantor. Then you slowly go back. You go up and so on. It's just a matter of time, the horse will get used to you.

[00:02:30]

[00:03:00]

Richard Flint: Now what about putting a new rider on an old horse?

Lucio
Cristiani: Unless you hurt him, the horse will accept him. If the rider is rough and so on, either way, understand that if he's a new one or a rough rider, if he hurts him, eventually, the horse is going to resent that. He'll either buck or run fast.
[00:03:30]

Richard Flint: How do you teach a new rider to ride a horse?

Lucio
Cristiani: First of all, you put him on the horse, unless he was a saddle rider before. He's got his leg [inaudible 00:03:52]. Well, you let him ride and then you make him calm down with the leg over the neck, and you teach him to roll with the timing. He can't run too because he has to wear the [inaudible 00:04:20], and then when he's got it all the time, you stand up. He has to get it accurate too. Walking, on the horse, you make him walk up and down like that. You get that timing because everything about a horse is timing, you know, 1 2, 1 2.
[00:04:00]
[00:04:30]

Richard Flint: Is the back of the horse always level, or does he have some up and down motion?

[00:05:00]

Lucio I don't know what you mean.

Cristiani:

Richard Flint: Well, when the rider is standing on the horse, is there some up and down motion?

Lucio Oh yeah, sure. That's what we call the cantor.

Cristiani:

Richard Flint: Right.

Lucio
Cristiani: Some horses give more than the others. Now, a giving horse, it's easier to do a somersault because you use that momentum to go up. Like this, like that over there, you see the item, that somersault because the horse is training, you know? A horse, when you push like that, they feel it so they give, and that's how you get that lift.
[00:05:30]

Richard Flint: Would you use that one horse only for somersaults?

Lucio It's harder, but one is better than the other.

Cristiani:

Richard Flint: But I mean would you keep the other horse in the act for other tricks?

[00:06:00]

Lucio
Cristiani: Oh yes, you do, but the majority of good horses, they're good for somersaults. The other thing is that one can give more than the other and you control it because it's easier, it's less [inaudible 00:06:11] on your part.

Richard Flint: Right.

Lucio
Cristiani: Some of them, they never break for a somersault. You use it for something else or for training fast horses, jumping horses and so on. We jump with them. You'd prefer them a little lower than the other. It's easier to get down.
[00:06:30]

Richard Flint: What type of tricks can one do when riding acts?

Lucio
Cristiani: Well, it all depends on his ability, on his acrobatic ability. If he's a good acrobat, he can do a somersault, jerk, pirouette and all that, jump. It all depends on his ability of how good an acrobat and timing. That's why we have a good rider and a mediocre rider and a bad rider.
[00:07:00]

Richard Flint: What about the [inaudible 00:07:09] I guess you would call it, when you have 3 horses side by side and ... ?

Lucio That's what we call pyramid.

Cristiani:

Richard Flint: Pyramid.

Lucio That, I find, is the easiest type of direct training. You can fake a novice and teach him
Cristiani: that in about 4 or 5 weeks. He leans on the stack and he falls back, he's got the stack to hold on.
[00:07:30]

Richard Flint: Right.

Richard Flint No, that's not difficult at all. It looks good and you have more people. That's the easy
Lucio part of [inaudible 00:07:52].

Cristiani:

Richard Flint: Surely. Well, it's very near 6 o'clock.

[00:08:00]

Lucio Yes, I guess I'll have to feed the ...

Cristiani: