

Ole Paint

A Life Lesson Horse at Hope Givers

Dennis: Ole Paint came to me here at Cappel Systems for training carrying a load of baggage from his past. He is a very loud colored horse with an attractive profile. He is a pretty moving horse with lot of reach in his stride. However his facial expression was somewhat troubling. His expression was one of confusion, rebellion, and a lack of trust. His owner was honest about his behavior. He had bucked off every person who had ridden him. I worked him on the ground for awhile and he appeared to be in a good state of mind and ready to ride. When I first stepped on him he felt he was looking for an opportunity to throw me off. But after a while he walked off and began to soften in my hands. He was moving forward at a walk and trot, turning left and right pretty well. When I asked him to lope he threw me over his left shoulder before I knew what had happened. I got back on and rode him for a while and that was my first experience with Ole Paint.

Scott: One morning I came into the barn as usual, did all the feeding and watering. While doing this I noticed we had a new horse back behind the barn. Later on in the day Mr. Dennis went and got this horse from behind the barn and brought him up to get saddled. The horse seemed to have a crazy eye. Mr. Dennis looked at me and said "TAKE a GOOD LOOK AT THIS HORSE AND NEVER BUY ONE". Then he continued to explain how the horse bucked him off the night before. So Mr. Dennis saddled the horse put the bit in his mouth, then put some draw reins on him. While he was doing this I was thinking there isn't anything wrong with that horse. So now that he was warmed up Mr. Dennis said, "GO ahead and get on and I'll drive him with you on him". So I got on and everything was going good, then we asked him to LOPE. Then he came unglued. So we did this for a couple of weeks. He started to ride good. Then we decided to take him for a ride around the neighborhood. Everything was going good, then out of nowhere I was going over the top of his head. Went and caught him after I got up. Then continued to head down the road, and he started bucking again, somehow I ended up under the horse, going down the road full speed, couldn't hang on to much longer, so I smashed into the gravel. After that I disliked this horse.

Dennis: Scott had just started helping me and was getting more interested all of the time in learning to train horses. He had developed a good work ethic and attitude about learning. I believe the rebellious attitude, of this paint horse, was going to make it difficult for his owner and him to come tougher enough to be safe. The risk of this horse throwing her was inevitable. However for the young man, Scott, I felt the horse's rebellion behavior might produce an opportunity of learning for both the horse and the young man. I suggested this horse be

donated to the Hope Givers Ranch so Scott could have this chance. Cindy thought I had lost my mind. She thought I was going to get Scott hurt with this horse. I told her I thought there was more to this horse than we were seeing now. I told her Scott and this horse were a lot alike and they would help one another to become more together than they would apart.

Scott: As soon as Ole Paint became mine, I started to care about him. I paid attention to what he was feeling, and tried to understand what was going on with him. I started to look at things through his eyes. Trying to help him to know I wasn't there to hurt him. I rode him every day and we became best friends with trust for each other. He no longer try's to throw me across the state. He's biggest problem he had was trusting me. With each ride I attempted to gain his trust and help him to feel secure. He always was looking back up in the saddle thinking that I was going to hurt him. So I worked on moving him around when I was up there on him. Used a rope off of him, and worked other horses off of him. Finally he is looking out between the bridle. Looking where he is going not where he has been. I am wanting to ride him in the extreme cowboy challenge.

Cindy: Doctoring Scott from the falls taken by Ole Paint I was disappointed he was to end of here on the place. But I knew Dennis' judgment of horses was reliable and my heart said leave it alone, Dennis knows what he's doing ,this will work out. I watched Scott everyday ride this horse and one day I said to him look at that horses eye. It was soft for once. He wants to be with you and he is comfortable just standing there waiting on your next move. Scott lit up , I could see that it meant a lot to him that this horse was starting to trust him. Scott would tell me daily of the ups and downs they would have and you could tell how much his heart was in this to achieve a relationship with Ole paint.

Well, Scott and Ole Paint are buddies. Dennis was right.

Thank you God for using Ole Paint to touch and teach us all.

Happy Trails to all,