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Dear McGinnis family,

This week, Nathan and I did a few odd jobs and just made sure the livestock were taken care of. In exchange, Randy gave us a few afternoons off, including Christmas. I couldn't help but reflect a lot during those afternoons. Reflect on what the place stands for, what my duty helps to provide.

Something that came to me just the other day that I had thought about back in November after the Whitefish clinic was the kind of person Buck had become. He has a personality that horses need. He sees things transparent and gives back humbly. He's never been a taker.

Although I was trying to be a study of horsemanship, I couldn't but study a better person. Maybe they both hold hands. I know a few people who have been through the same kind of turmoil as Buck, but none have attained the same trust and compassion that he shows in every clinic.



They used to say that if you take everything away that Bill Dorrance was renowned for—his roping, his horsemanship, his gear making—what you had left was just a fine human being. Hard work is a trait every horseman must have. But hard work without perspective is just a drill—a motion.



I catch myself often trying to work hard physically at something but without a thought behind it, it never prevails. True horsemen have the ability to let go—to work hard mentally. Those of us who try to climb higher tend to fall harder in order to find balance. Some people ride for a ribbon. Some ride for fame. These guys ride because they know it's good for their soul.

These thoughts and reflections can't help but spark the fire for my New Year's resolution and hopefully many others. A week filled with memories of compassion, trust and accurate riding could cut the trail of a refined way. What could your duty stand for?

Have a peaceful weekend and I'd like to leave you with a quote that has helped me a lot, "There is nothing stronger than true gentleness and nothing more gentle than true strength."

Roby