

**A Cowboy's Best Friend Is His Pony**  
**A Story About Randy Lee**  
**By Cindy K. Roberts©2009**



Through every man's journey there are times for him to reflect on where he has been and where he wants to go from here. A time in his life where he can look back and determine if he had been successful and more importantly, to say that he is indeed satisfied about the road he traveled. Randy Lee has taken that journey and he often reflects on his childhood and what it all means. A metaphysical man that has the inspiration to work with people and their horses to get past their own fears, Randy Lee is a remarkable guy that is able to give confidence to both horse and rider. As Randy will tell you, it is all very simple when it comes down to communicating with your horse. Randy will not take credit for

his accomplishments in the equine world, as Randy puts it, "A cowboy's best friend, is his pony."

His dad died when Randy was merely 9 years old. Mom then married his stepfather who placed him on a horse to let him figure things out on his own. It wasn't long and Randy was being disciplined for ruining his stepfather's pleasure horses. Randy's stepfather decided to economically purchase a three year old that had never been saddled. "That was my first experience," says Randy. "They stuck me on it, blind folded the horse, ears twisted, let go of it and it took off runnin'. We ran down a couple of fields, jumped fences and we ended up standin' in his stall with my pant leg halfway ripped off." The stepfather approached Randy and asked, "What do ya think of that?" Randy, an adventurous child, replied, "Well, I love this!" The horse's name was Rastus Russell and he became Randy's best friend.

One afternoon, it started to get cloudy and it looked like it was going to storm, so Randy drove back to the ranch and turned into the driveway. Rastus was standing out in the front corral with twenty-two other horses. "When he would hear my car he would rear up and paw the sky," said Randy, "he was such a cool horse." As I drove up to the barn, I saw Rastus rear up with his front legs pawing at the sky when I watched lightening hit him and he dropped over dead. I was devastated." I called my stepfather (who was on vacation at the

time with Randy's mother) to see what to do, and he said, 'well, it's your horse, bury him.' I took the tractor and buried him, I didn't want another horse, it hurt me so bad. So I started riding other people's horses."

Randy built a western town that has that cowboy-town-kick-up-dust atmosphere. There is plenty to do around the ranch and most of all, it is good for a man's soul...the cowboy soul. Horses require time in the saddle and a commitment to see them through their idiosyncrasies. "Every horse is a challenge to some extent," says



Randy "I have trained mustangs that were adopted and came from the wild. The only safe place to be was on top of 'em. Because if you would lead them, they would paw you in the back. I really like Doc Bar horses, but you don't want to pick a fight with one unless you had a good night's sleep and a good breakfast. I like a horse that I have to work with. A horse that is too easy, I feel I have not done a good job for the person. I want one to try me while it's here. I want it to do whatever it's going to do."

Why are there so many green horses? "I don't think people spend enough time finishing their horses, remarked Randy. "If everyone would come and ride a really good horse, then they would be surprised how good their horse could be. A horse is so sensitive, he can feel a fly landing on it's back. We don't have to gouge a horse to get his attention. I believe horses are extremely intelligent...a lot more intelligent than we know about."

What is your philosophy on children and horses? "I believe I would have been in big trouble had I not owned a horse. My dad died when I was very young and I was in a family of women. My stepfather did not like me. He got me a horse and that horse made all the difference in the world to me."

Randy is legally deaf and this is a surprise to a lot of people. Randy is limited to a certain range of decibels where he is able to hear on a very limited basis, yet his speech is very clear. Randy is able to read lips and believes his senses are heightened due to his hearing

impairment. This may be why Randy has an enhanced perspective about the world that surrounds him. A sensitive and advanced awareness that enables him to work with troubled horses.

Has God had an impact on your life's journey? Randy smiled, "I think God gives everyone a talent. I think if you are lucky in life, you will find out what that talent is. I believe I am the luckiest man in the world, because I know my talent. I work hard at what I do and I have no regrets. Because no doubt, without horses in my life, I wouldn't be here where I am today. That is why I believe...(he pauses) a cowboy's best friend is his pony."

[Randy Lee of Desoto, Missouri can be reached through his web site <http://leesquarterhorseranch.com/> or by phone 636-337-0060.]



Author Cindy K. Roberts is a contributing feature and column writer that has a lifetime experience with horses and mules. Cindy's equine heart, and passion for the wilderness rich in wild west history keeps her on the road with her mules - in search of the cowgirl spirit. Cindy can be reached through her web site [WWW.EVERYCOWGIRLSDREAM.COM](http://WWW.EVERYCOWGIRLSDREAM.COM) or write [cindy@everycowgirlsdream.com](mailto:cindy@everycowgirlsdream.com).