

Published in Hilliard NW News on September 24, 2003

***Horse Whisperer promotes human-equine
communication***

Please click Print or choose Print from the File Menu to Print this Article.

September 24, 2003
Volume 34, No. 5
50 cents

Hilliard

Northwest News



www.SNPonline.com

'Horse whisperer' promotes human-equine communication

By KEVIN CORVO

Hilliard Northwest News Reporter

They may not learn to talk as easily as Wilbur did with Mr. Ed, but Central Ohio horse lovers will have the opportunity to improve their communications skills with the objects of their affection next week.

A California "horse whisperer" will teach them how during a class Tuesday evening at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Hilliard.

Dennis Reis, founder of the Reis Ranch School of Universal Horsemanship in northern California's Sonoma Valley, is visiting the Midwest for the first time to offer tips on communicating with horses.

Reis' 29-state tour will conclude in December during the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, a city where Reis has sold out 30 shows. Reis also hosts a program on satellite television.

"It will be a truly extraordinary evening for anyone who works with horses," Reis said last week from Milwaukee. On his way to Central Ohio, Reis will make first-time stops in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

Reis said the five-hour seminar includes instruction and demonstrations using eight of his own horses.

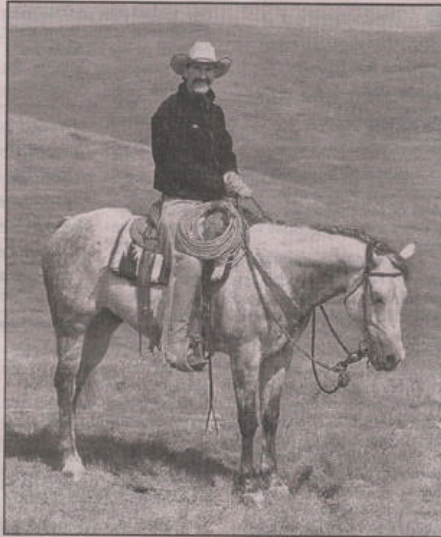
"You will witness the infinite possibilities of the bond of horses and humans," he said.

Reis said some horse trainers rely on discipline, but there are more effective and rewarding ways of molding the animal's behavior.

"A relationship built not on fear, but on the nature of the horse will be much stronger," he said.

Seminar topics include the "invisible round pen," in which Reis explores the relationship between horse and human; the "big red ball," which uses a 6-foot red ball, sirens, flares and other devices to demonstrate the riders' ability to control their mounts; and the "magical ride," where Reis demonstrates bridless running patterns, jumping and other maneuvers.

Reis said the seminars also



Dennis Reis, seen mounted on Beau, will offer tips on communicating with horses Tuesday at the Franklin County Fairgrounds.

strive to improve the safety of riders and horses.

"Every five minutes in the United States there is a horse-related accident," he said.

Reis' clients include nine-time world-champion cowboy Ty Murray and his girlfriend, pop star and poet Jewel.

The 29-state tour has the dual purpose of garnering support for a National Day of the Horse.

Last year, the California Legislature recognized the second Saturday in December as the Day of the Horse, and

Reis is collecting signatures on petitions to make the day recognized nationally.

The horsemanship seminar will take place from 6 to 11 p.m. Tuesday at the Franklin County Fairgrounds, 4100 Columbia St.

Tickets are \$65 in advance and can be ordered by calling 1-800-732-8220 or visiting the Web site: www.reisranch.com.

For groups of five or more, tickets are \$36 each. Children under 12 are admitted free.

Tickets are \$100 each at the door.