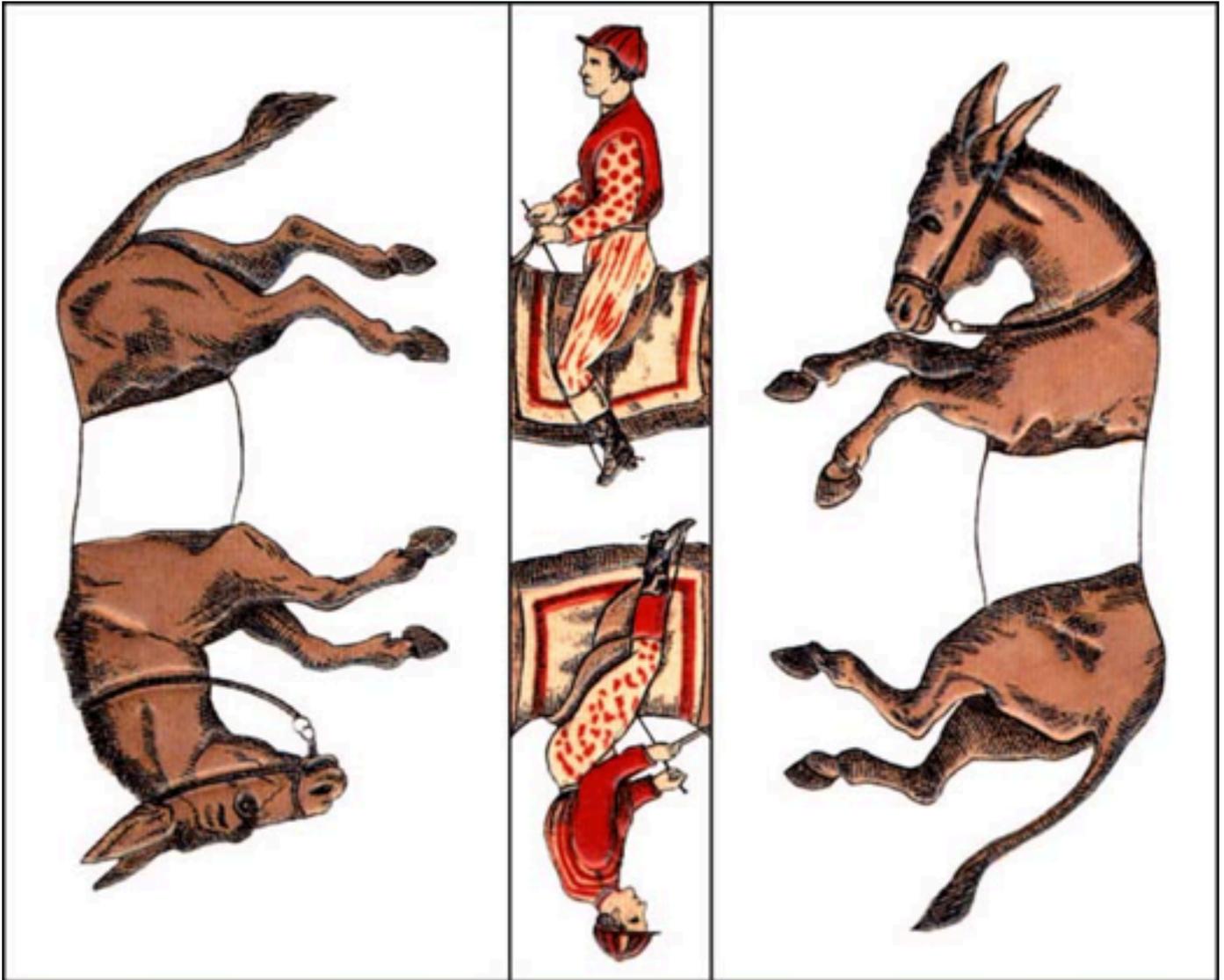
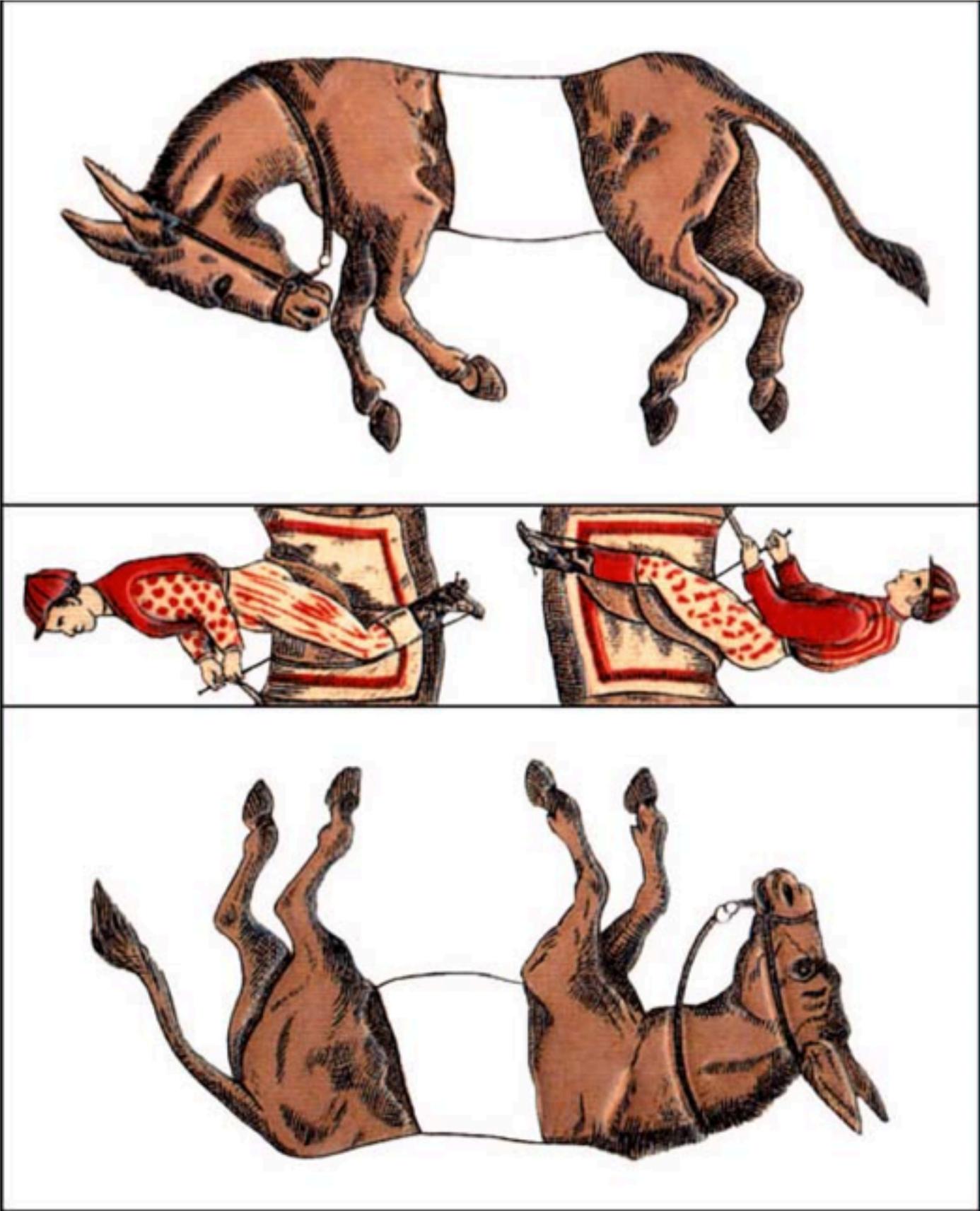
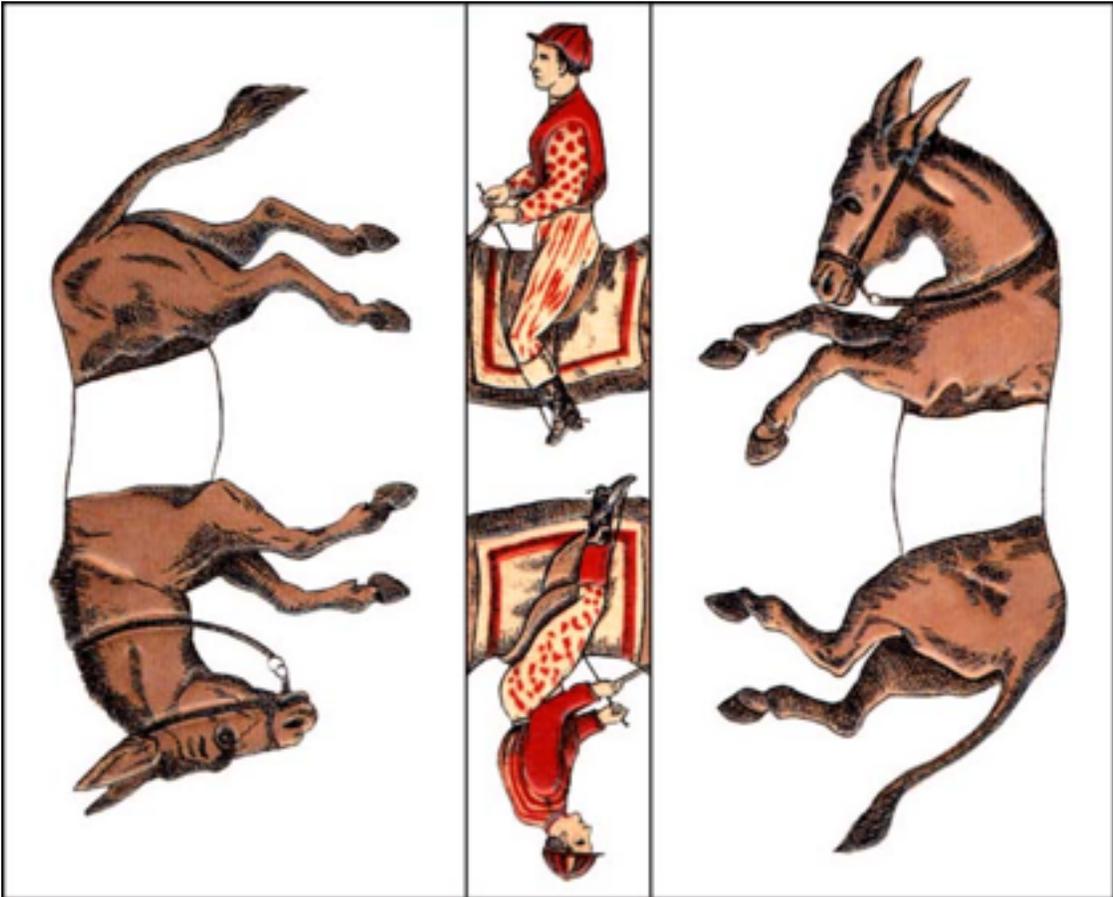
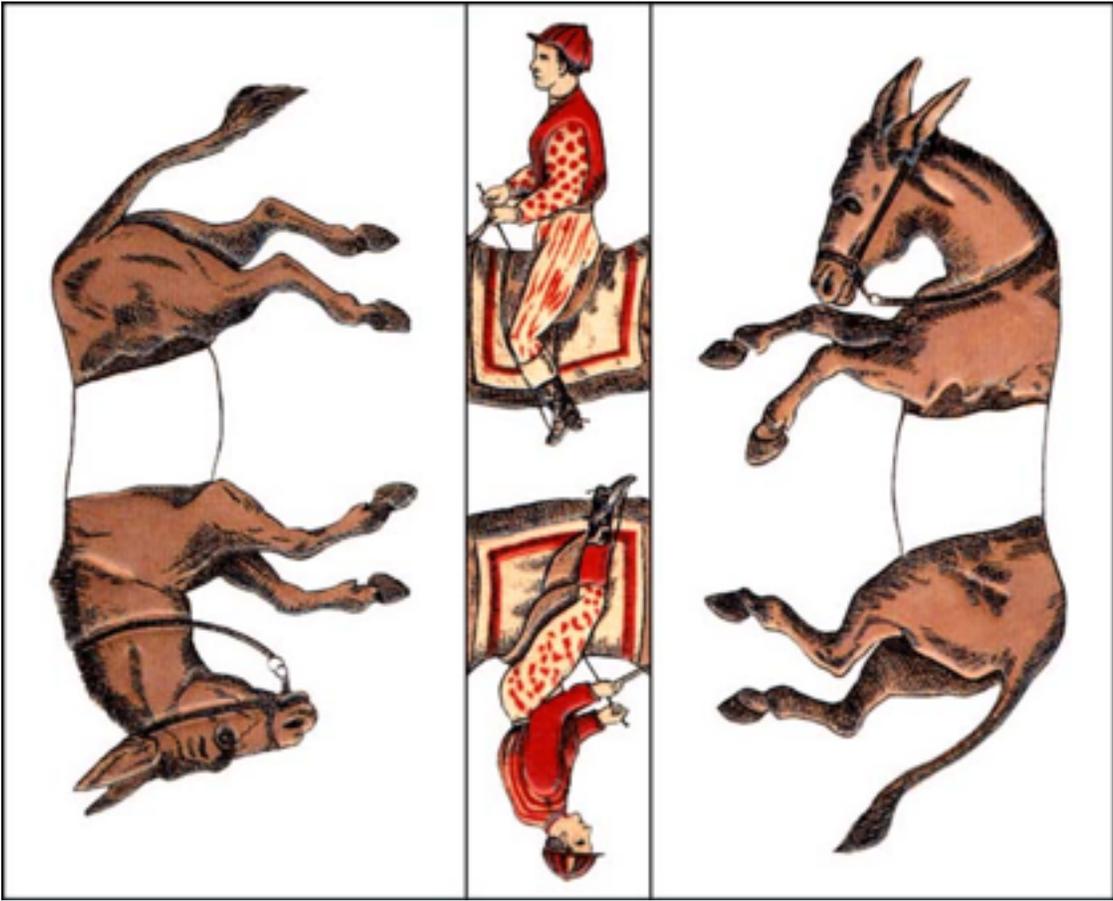


Sam Loyd's Tricky Donkey

Cut the drawing along the black lines and rearrange the three pieces so that each rider is saddled on their own donkeys. You cannot fold the pieces. The horses cannot overlap each other

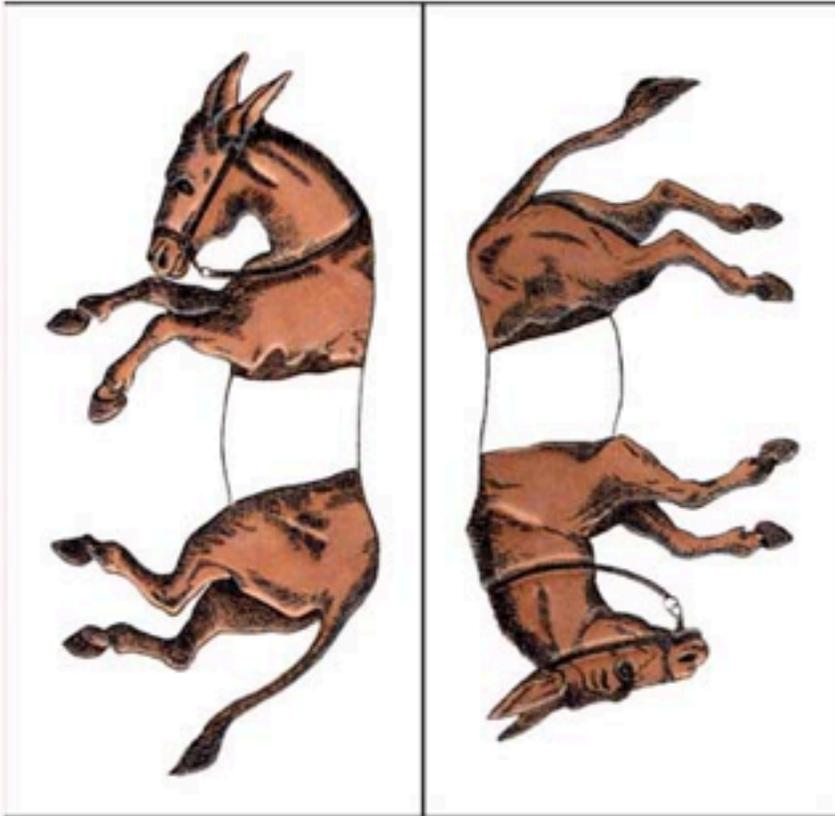




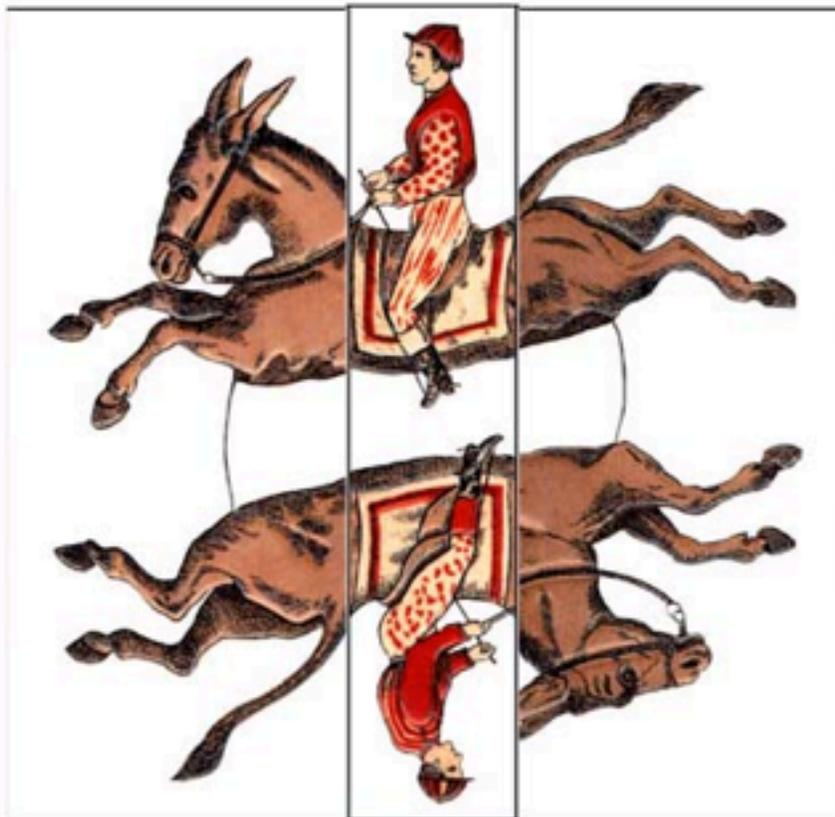


Trick Donkey solution

First, lay the mule pieces back-to-back...



... then lay the strip on the middle!



Trick Donkey Puzzle

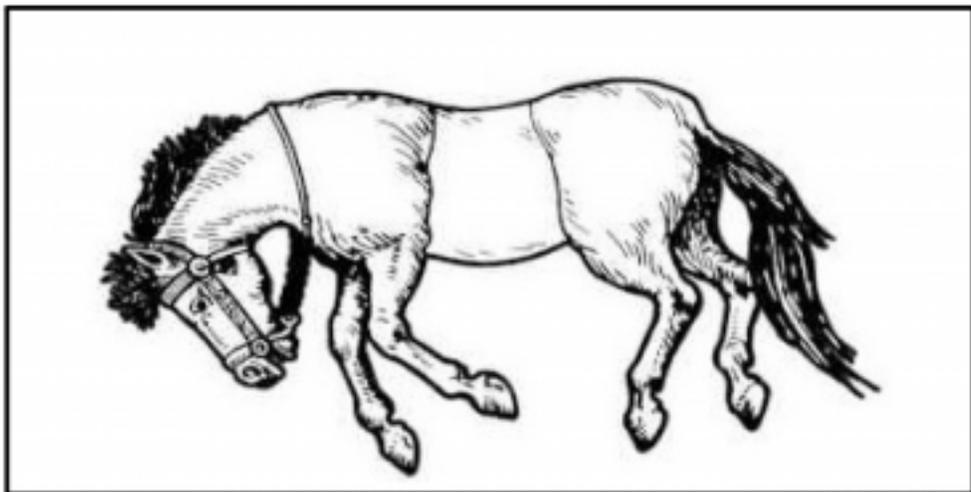
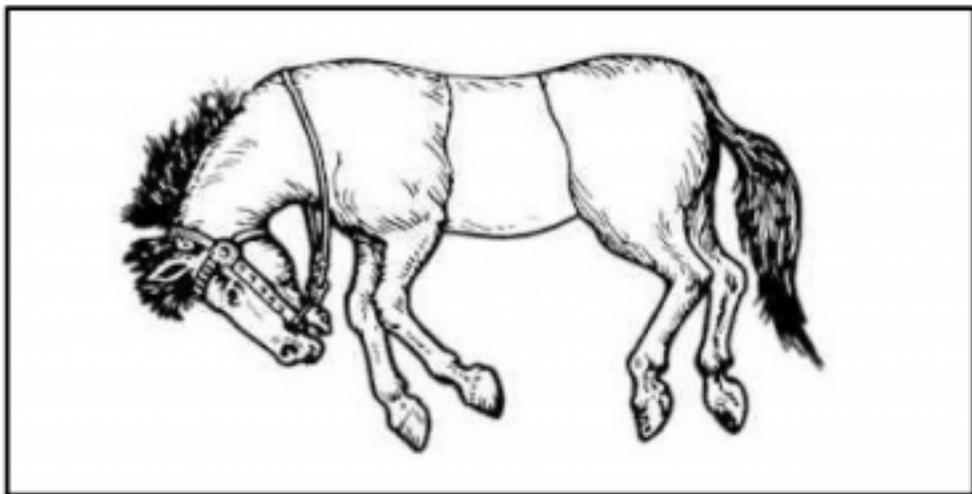
One of Sam Loyd's most notable puzzles was the "Trick Donkeys". It was based on a similar puzzle involving dogs published in 1857. In the problem, the solver must cut the drawing along the dark lines and rearrange the three pieces so that the riders appear to be riding the donkeys. Loyd sold his puzzle to P. T. Barnum, who marketed it as "P. T. Barnum's Trick Mules." Millions of the cards were sold, and supposedly Loyd earned a fortune of \$10,000 in just a few weeks.



Many different versions of the trick donkey have been introduced since the first puzzle. This add for screw fastened boots and shoes was based on the puzzle Loyd sold to P. T. Barnum's.

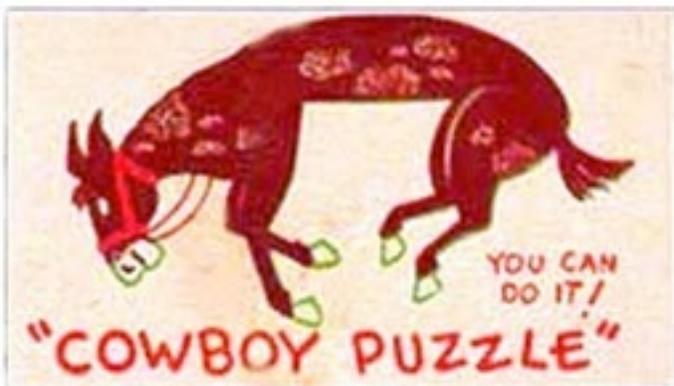


Many different versions of the trick donkey have been introduced since the first puzzle. It was a natural move to a horse and cowboy shown here.



Cracker Jacks Version of the Trick Pony

This version from 1939 was included as a prize in boxes of Cracker Jacks (the popcorn, peanuts and molasses snack which included interesting prizes.)



Can you mount the jockeys?

The Hotel Wellington in Albany, New York handed out these cards during the the 1950s.

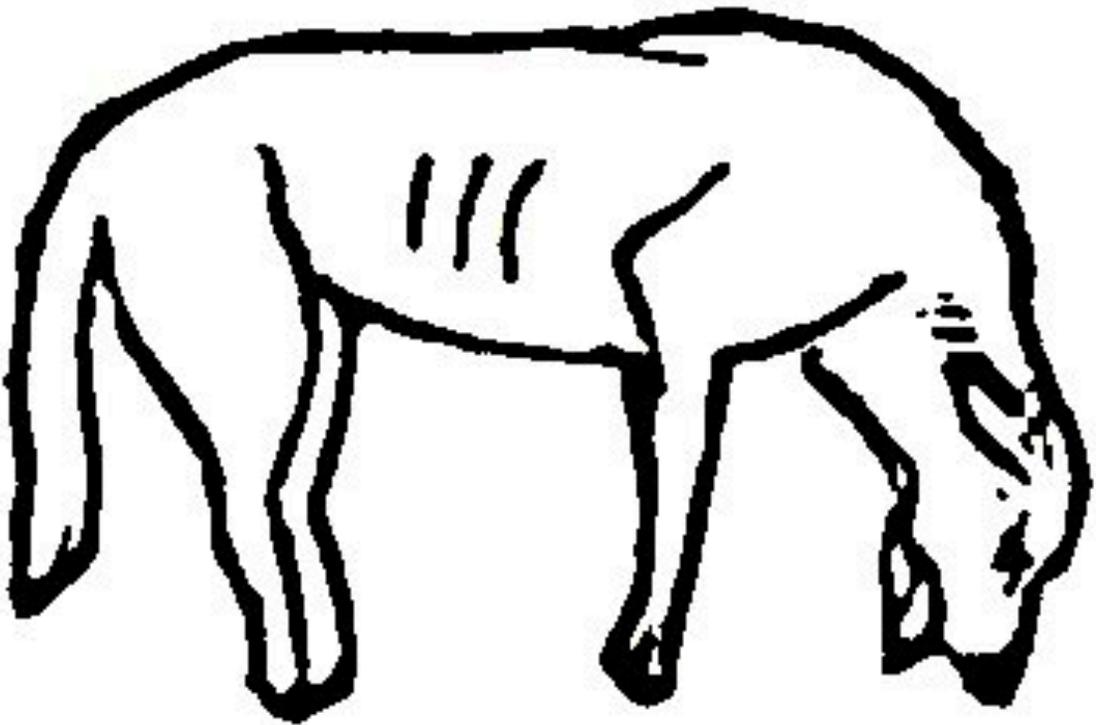


The Dead Dog Puzzle

This 1857 puzzle was the inspiration for the trick pony puzzle. The Dead Dog Puzzle is from *The Magician's Own Book or the Whole Art of Conjuring. Being a Complete Handbook of Parlor Magic*, and containing over one thousand optical, chemical, mechanical and magical experiments, amusing transmutations, astonishing sleights and subtleties, celebrated card deceptions, ingenious tricks with numbers, curious and entertaining puzzles, together with all the most noted tricks of modern performers. The whole illustrated with over 500 wood cuts, and intended as a source of amusement for one thousand and one evenings. By George Arnold and Frank Cahill. cf. Cushing, Anonymous. Publisher: New York, Dick & Fitzgerald. 1857, page 275. Free online at [open openlibrary.org](http://openopenlibrary.org)

The original text said: "These dogs are, by placing four lines upon them, to be suddenly aroused to life and made to run. Query, How and where should these lines be placed, and what should be the forms of them?"





The Dead Dog Puzzle Solution

The puzzle and solution are crude compared to the final version presented by Sam Loyd 40 years later but the basic idea is the same.

