



Kinship

Kissin' cousins.

Words & photo by Larry Angier.

Knox Dell'Orto, center, is the object of affection for his two cousins, Bretta and Elsie Brooks. They are all dressed up to attend the wedding of another Sierra foothill cowboy, a distant-in-lineage shirttail cousin near Jackson, Calif. Knox and his two brothers are the sons of J.W. and Anne Dell'Orto. Bretta and Elsie are the daughters of Anne's sister, Kate, and her husband, Justin Brooks.

The kids from these extended families, a large new generation growing up in ranching, regularly appear in the pages of *RANGE* and its books. Bretta starred on the cover of Summer 2013.

The cousins are learning the ropes of cowboying handed down from their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, all of whom have run cattle in the foothills of Amador and Calaveras counties since the 19th century. ■

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