

Quarter horses and TLC

# Local breeder produces Top U. S. race winners



The brains behind the Rutland operations are Guy Ray Rutland, foreground, and his son Cliff. Rutland calls Cliff "my right hand man" and he plans to turn the ranch over to him and youngest son Jeff in a few years.

The Rutland ranch, the nation's top breeder of quarter horses for two consecutive years now, runs a herd of about 350 horses. The horses are pastured southeast of Coffeyville and in Nowata County, Okla. The mares are brought to the ranch headquarters near Independence in the spring for breeding and Rutland holds an annual colt sale in the fall.





The pride of the Rutland ranch is Pacific Bailey, one of the nation's leading race horses a few years ago and now one of its top sires. A painting of Pacific Bailey holds a prominent place in the living room of the Rutland home.

Guy Ray Rutland is a man who loves horses and they have done well by each other.

Rutland, who until a few years ago was a cattleman, today is one of the nation's leading breeders of quarter horses. It took years of study, lots of hard work and perhaps a dash of luck.

The Rutland Quarter Horse Ranch, located two miles southeast of Independence, is currently a beehive of activity for the Rutlands as they have a new project underway. They are building a barn.

Rutland laughingly calls it "my mare hotel." And, the description makes some sense.

The barn is a super-structure measuring 250 x 350 feet. When finished it will house 160 horses each with its own individual stall. In addition, the barn will boast a private office for Rutland, a breeding room, a laboratory and feed room. There are four wide aisles to allow trucks to deliver feed to the stalls.

The project was started June 1 and it was supposed to be completed by now. It isn't and the contractor may need another two months to finish the job.

There are several reasons the delay is causing Rutland some nervousness. But, clearly, the biggest disappointment is the fact that he may not be able to hold his annual colt sale there on Oct. 14. This is Rutland's sixth annual sale and former sales were held in Pawhuska, Okla. "I hope it is done in time," Rutland lamented last week. "But things don't look promising."

The sale is no small event. It draws between 600 and 800 buyers from across the United States and Rutland will sell about 120 colts which will

bring an average of \$1,050 each.

As a breeder, Rutland is concerned primarily with raising and selling quarter horses. His herd averages 350 horses which he grazes on 1,600 acres of land located southeast of Coffeyville and in Nowata County, Okla.

The Rutland operation is headed by Guy Ray and his eldest son Cliff whom the father refers to as "my right hand man." Says Rutland, "Cliff is manager, foreman, feeder, choreman and everything else rolled into one. I guess you'd have to call him a partner."

The youngest Rutland son Jeff also helps out on the ranch. "Jeff wants to be a veterinarian," his father explained. "Needless to say, there will be a place for him here some day."

Other key Rutland personnel includes a full-time veterinarian whom Rutland is losing to private practice in a few weeks. Dale Weger, a Coffeyville school teacher, is Rutland's chief trainer and Jack Sutton of Neodesha also works as a trainer.

Weger is considered the leading quarter horse trainer in the United States," Rutland proudly points out, "And he only trains Rutland horses, I might add."

Cliff, who formerly trained the horses, still helps out in that capacity but he has turned his attention mostly to breeding these days. However, if the Rutlands are racing a horse Cliff is always there to assist.

Rutland was a cattleman until nine years ago. A native Oklahoman, he was reared on a cattle farm near Okemah and moved his family to Inde-

pendence from Pawhuska in 1950. Although the cattle were his main interest, Rutland had always kept a few quarter horses on his ranch and he moved them to Kansas with him. From time to time he acquired a few mares and eventually bought a good stud. When the horses began paying for the cows' feed bill, he went out of the cattle business and into the horse business exclusively.

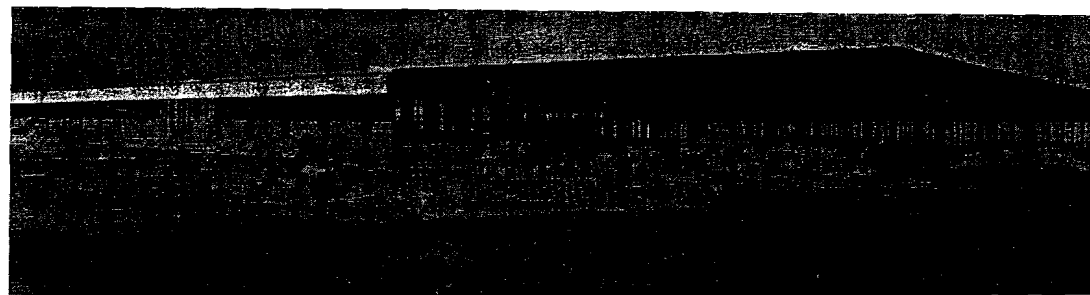
In 1946 Rutland got his first real break when he purchased a palomino colt he later named Gold King Bailey. The horse became one of the great palomino quarter horse stallions, winning grand champion honors in the Denver and Fort Worth Stock Shows in 1948, one of the few horses ever to achieve that distinction in the same year. A permanent injury retired Gold King Bailey, however, and he was retired to stud. The horse immediately set about establishing a name for himself as a top sire.

Among his offspring was Gold Pacific, also a top race horse before he was retired at the age of four years. It was Gold Pacific who steeled the pride of the Rutland stable today — Pacific Bailey.

Pacific Bailey wasn't much as a colt. In fact, Rutland tried a number of times to sell him but could never find a buyer. Finally, Cliff decided to train the animal and see what, if anything, could be done with him. The rest of story is quarter horse legend.

Pacific Bailey, as a two-year-old, won 14 races and placed second three times in 19 starts. As a halter horse he won 13 first place aged stud placings and the American Quarter Horse Association

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The latest project undertaken by Rutland is the building of a giant barn in which he will house 160 horses. The barn measures 250 x 350 feet and is considerably larger than a football field. In addition to 160 stalls, the barn will have a laboratory and breeding rooms, a feed room, and a spacious office for Rutland.

Independence

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Reporter

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Sunday, September 10, 1972

Just finishing the Seli Barn

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championship in 1967. One of the nation's two leading sires of winning race horses, Pacific Bailey last year had 62 colts that won 141 races and over \$84,000 in prize money.

Rutland accepts his success casually, even modestly. He was the nation's No. 1 breeder of quarter horse race winners in 1967, 1970 and 1971. If pressed, he will admit to the honor but he likes to skirt other questions that deal with his success. For example: Are you also the largest breeder of quarter horses? "Well, I don't know. Maybe. I don't know. I might be."

One thing Rutland will talk about, though, is what he considers to be the secret of his success. That is TLC — tender loving care. He frequently uses the phrase "lots of care" in talking about his horses. He says it is important. And, after all, who is to argue with the nation's top breeder?