

Pacific Bailey



*"Poor boy's"
pride & joy is
all-time
leading sire.*

BY LESLI KRAUSE
GROVES

When our computer wizards asked AQHA's AS400 to name the sire with the most progeny registered, everyone was surprised by the results — even Jeffrey T. Rutland of Independence, Kansas, the last recorded owner of Pacific Bailey.

"Really?" said Jeff. "Dad always advertised him as No. 2, behind Easy Jet."

Jeff's father, Guy Ray Rutland, bred, raised, raced, loved and promoted Pacific Bailey, the sire of 2,941 registered foals during 27 breeding seasons.

Pacific Bailey consistently appeared on the list of leading sires of earners of racing Registers of Merit during the 1970s-80s. By Gold Pacific out of Nell Bert McCue, he wasn't as blue-blooded as his main rivals on that list — Easy Jet and Jet Deck. And he was certainly promoted differently.

Guy Ray Rutland had to borrow \$5 to get married, and worked as a short-order cook at a pig stand before he made his living with horses, which was his dream.

"I guess we had what you'd call a poor boy's philosophy," said Jeff, who was 10 when Pacific Bailey was foaled. "When he won the Ozark Futurity, he beat some good horses, a couple of which made the finals of the All American. Dad considered supplementing

him to the All American, but it just was too much money."

Instead of going to the mecca of New Mexico with their two-year-old, the Rutlands sufficed by setting track records at Marble Downs in Carthage, Missouri (at 300 and 350 yards), Bluestem Downs in Emporia, Kansas, and Maplewood Downs in Owosso, Michigan. The stallion was trained by Guy Ray's eldest son, Cliff, who had ridden Pacific Bailey's sire, Gold Pacific, in match races.

Guy Ray's *Quarter Horse Journal* ads were the style that advertising professors use as bad examples. Lines and lines of small type. Rarely a photo. No "white space."

However, the ads evidently worked.

People hauled in their broodmares from all over the United States, and Guy Ray built a 350x252-foot barn to accommodate them. He also stood Bar Money and Jet Stop, also leading sires by number of progeny, and was

among the first to utilize artificial insemination. Like the campaign promise of a chicken in every pot, Guy Ray was going to put a fast horse in every barn.

When it came to bringing mares to his stallions, Guy Ray was his own best customer. By the early 1980s, when Quarter Horse racing was near its peak, Jeff said his family owned 450-500 broodmares. Another 400-500 outside mares cycled through the facility as well.

Jeff says Pacific Bailey was a joy to be around — a camera-hound you could drive the mares in on. However, his progeny have a reputation for being strong-willed. "Dad would tell people, 'Just give 'em that TLC, and they'll come around. Don't tell them what to do, ask them.' They're smarter than the average horse, and have a lot of heart," Jeff said. "Of course, what we called heart, some people might call something else."

From the mare owner's perspective, part of the stallion's appeal was his "value-range" pricing. Pacific Bailey's stud fee started at \$350 and was never more than \$1,500. His book was unlimited. "Dad always said, 'If a man thinks his mare is good enough to breed, who am I to tell him different?'"

The percentage of his progeny earning race ROMs was as high as 41 percent. Some were cutters and halter horses; more were barrel, rope and "cowboy" horses. Their diversity, and ability to have a career after the track, was important to Guy Ray. As a former "poor boy," it appealed to his sense of value.

Pacific Bailey was very much like the foundation Quarter Horse the original Association sought to preserve — well-muscled, tough, durable, with cow sense as well as speed. ♠



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