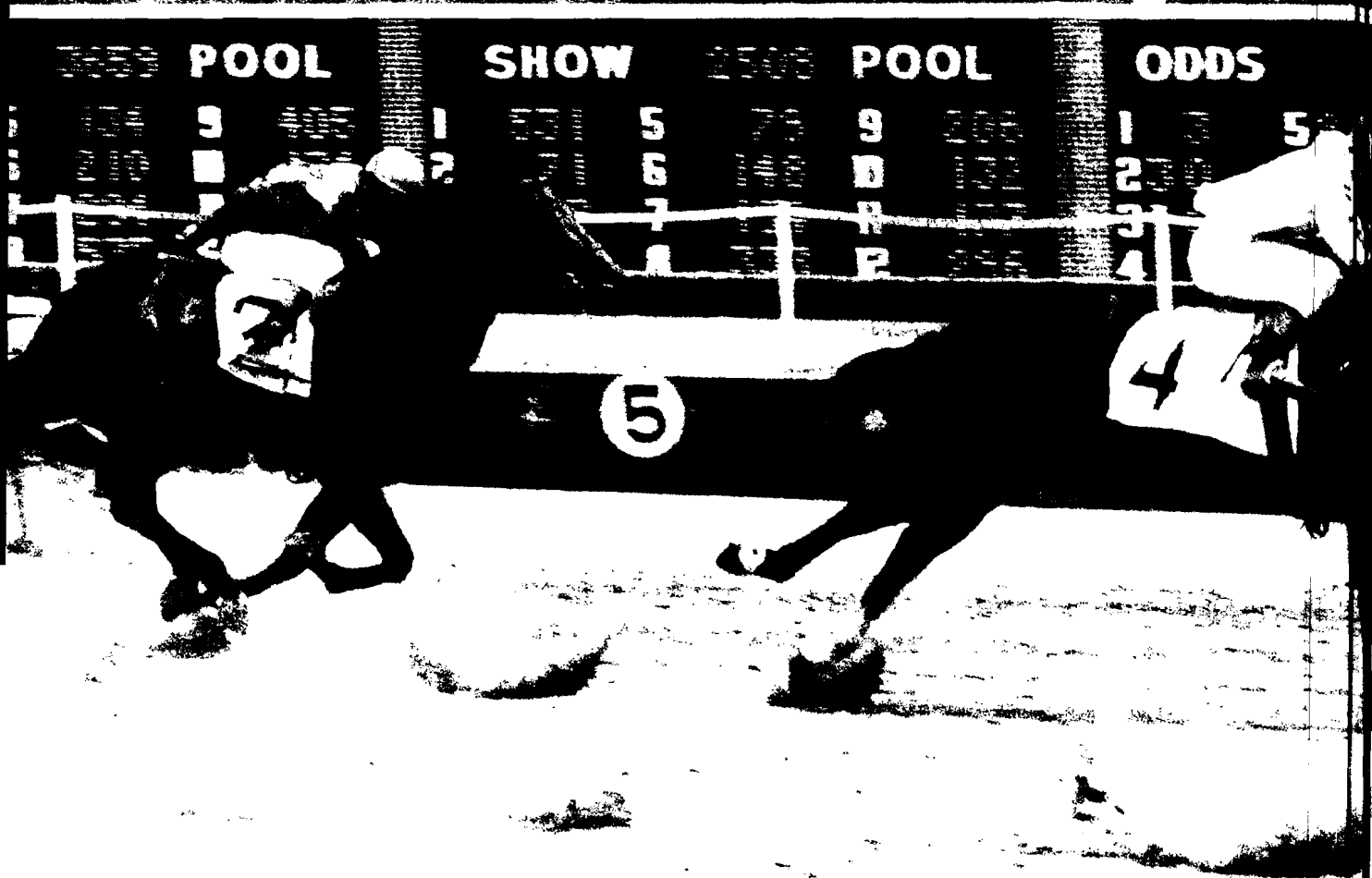


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Rutland Ranch horses in a 1,200-acre pasture rented south of Coffeyville, Kansas, taken about 1968.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RUTLAND RANCH





the
KANSAS
RANCH
BUILT ON THE
PACIFIC

The story of Guy Ray Rutland and Pacific Bailey.

By Neal McChristy

PACIFIC GREY LASTED ABOUT 14 MONTHS, BUT PACIFIC Grey by but records in the Midwest and beyond, later being a show champion and a top sire of registered American Quarter Horses.

Jeff Rutland owned "Pac" or "Ol' Pac," as he was known. Gold King Bailey, Pacific Bailey's grandsire, helped him get started and put away his cow-milking equipment and race horses, but it was the champion Pacific Bailey that carried the name from the Rutland Ranch southeast of Independence, Kansas, to the rest of the horse world.

Jeff Rutland, Guy Ray's son, said his dad, "was basically a cowboy. When Jeff grew up, he wanted to be like his dad. He wanted to be a cowboy.

Rutland's first purchases were Gold King Bailey, a 1945 palomino, and a Thoroughbred stallion named Carrara Marble. Gold King Bailey, by Hank H and out of Beauty Bailey, had 10 starts in 1948 and earned a double-A rating. He was grand champion stallion at the National Western Stock Show in Denver and Fort Worth Fat Stock Show the same year.

"Gold King Bailey was the foundation of our breeding operation," Jeff said. "He had the overall Quarter Horse aspect that dad looked for, whether he was cowboyin,' going to the racetrack with them for speed, or going for conformation.

"Then Gold King Bailey got to breed to some pretty good-quality mares," Jeff continued. "We had some good friends up in Terra Haute, Indiana, and that area. Dad would take a truckload of horses up there and bring a couple of cars back down here. He'd sell horses and take that money and get a car. That's how he started having an outlet for his horses he was actually raising and breeding."

The golden palomino sired 32 Register of Merit race qualifiers and 15 Register of Merit performance winners, plus nine AQHA champions.

The Bud Warren Ranch in Perry, Oklahoma, provided the connection for the next step in the Pacific Bailey ancestry. Rutland and Bud Warren were connected in many ways. Warren's American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame sire Leo sired Rosa Leo, the dam of King Leo Bailey, a 1961 chestnut owned by Rutland Ranch. South Pacific, a racehorse who was the granddam of Pacific Bailey, was out of Randle's Lady by Leo. South Pacific was a dark sorrel, who stood under 15 hands, according to Bud Warren's son, George. But she was one of the Warren Ranch's better broodmares.

"South Pacific foaled some good runners for us," George Warren said, "and we named them all Pacific and Caribbean names."

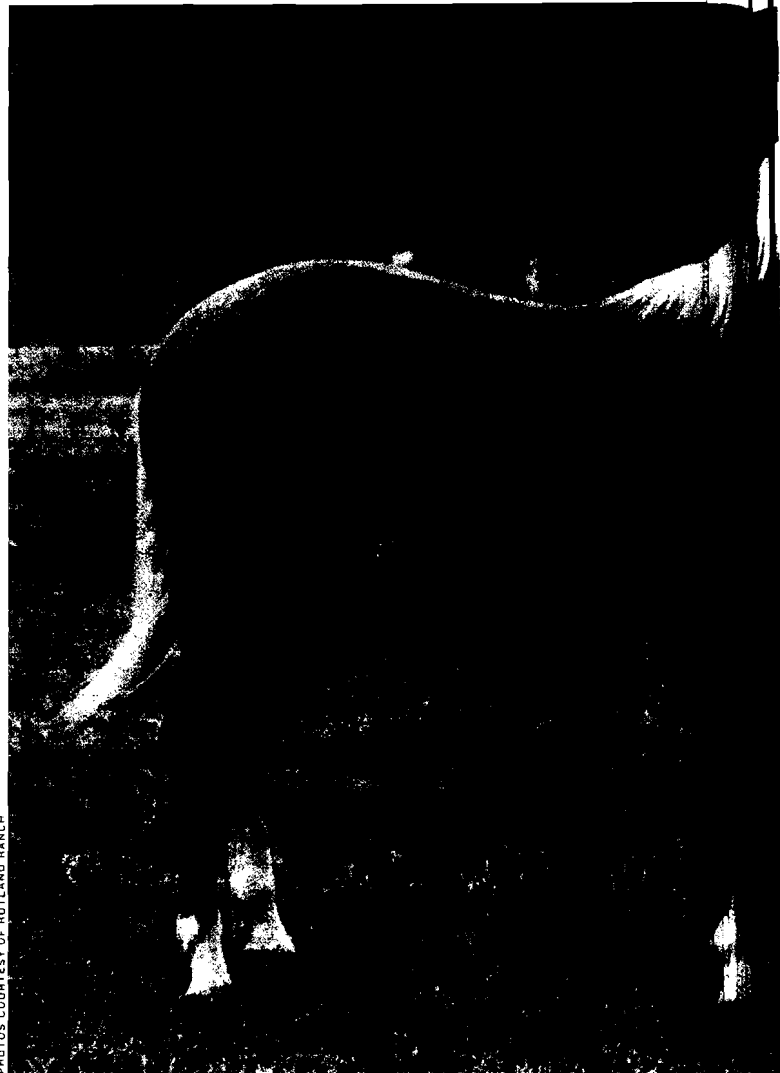
Rutland swapped a buckskin filly to Warren for Gold Pacific, who was foaled in 1958 and would become Pacific Bailey's sire.

Gold Pacific was triple-A rated and raced on brush tracks before winning on some triple-A tracks.

Computer Mind

RUTLAND WAS A WELL-RESPECTED, HONEST MAN, AND PEOPLE who knew him said he would never say anything bad about anyone. Odis Craighead, of Vian, Oklahoma, the jockey for Pacific Bailey in all but two races, said of Rutland, "If he told you something, that's the way it was."

"He knew as much about a horse as I think a human could know," said AQHA Director Darrell Hare of Denver, Colorado, who worked for Rutland. Rutland won people with his winning smile, and his horses won races because of his "computer mind."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUTLAND RANCH

"He could almost take a mare and a stud and just computerize what that colt was going to look like when it was born," said Cliff, Guy Ray's oldest son, who trained Pacific Bailey.

It was something he used when he had Gold Pacific stand for Nell Bert McCue, Pacific Bailey's dam. Nell Bert McCue was foaled in 1956 and traced to such legends as Peppy, Oklahoma Star and Peter McCue.

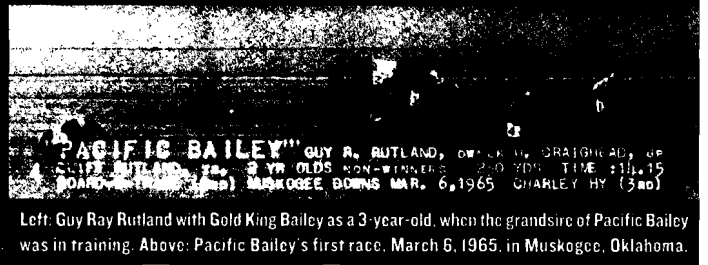
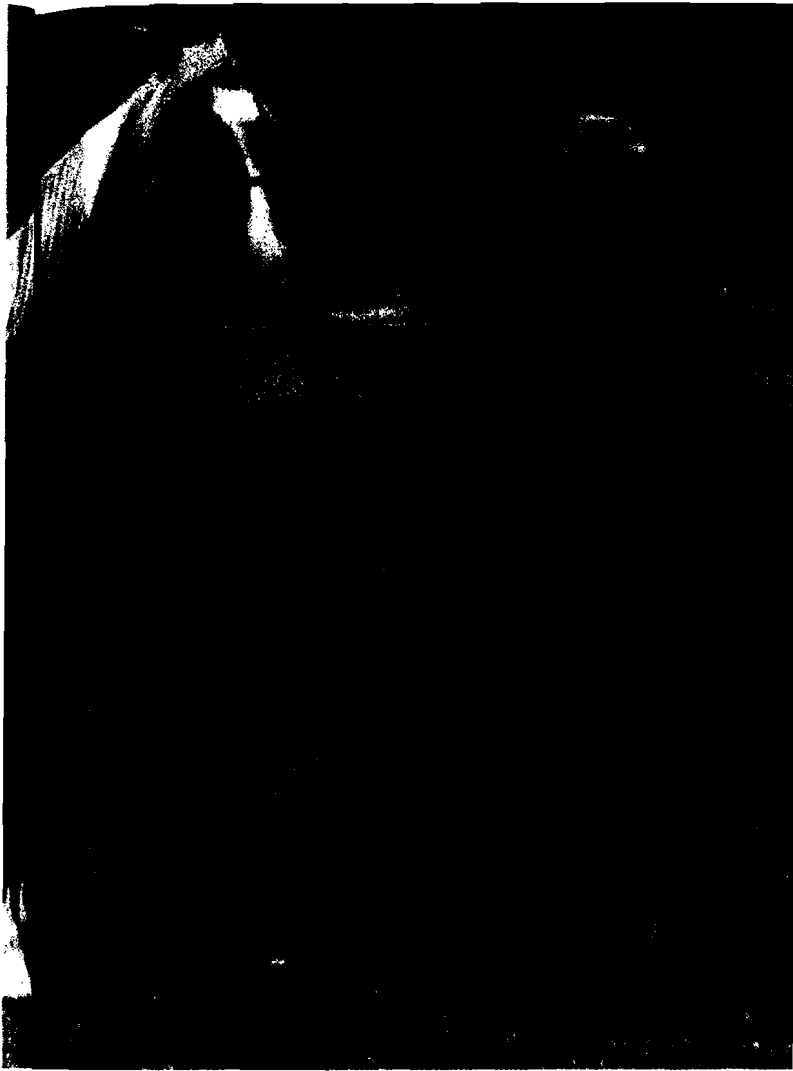
In the September 1971 issue of *The Quarter Horse Journal*, Rutland was quoted as saying, "Pacific Bailey's mama, Nell Bert McCue, wasn't too much to look at, but I'm thankful today that blood was thicker than water."

Pacific Bailey grew to be a 15-3 hand sorrel with a blaze. But he was, like his sire, a "scrawny-looking little colt," Cliff said. "But Dad had him programmed what he was going to look like when he got older. When he was a weanling, he offered to sell him for \$400 - he had him in a pen full of colts down there. Nobody'd buy him and when he was a yearling, he upped the price to a thousand, and still nobody wanted to buy him. So he just said, 'Well, we'll just keep him and outrun them, then.' So we did, and he did."

Leader was the Pac

IN 1964, GOLD KING BAILEY DIED AT AGE 19, JUST ONE MONTH after Gold Pacific died of colic.

The yearling colt that changed Rutland's fortune tested his trainer. Cliff started Pacific Bailey by ground driving him



Left: Guy Ray Rutland with Gold King Bailey as a 3-year-old, when the grandsire of Pacific Bailey was in training. Above: Pacific Bailey's first race, March 6, 1965, in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

with a surcingle, but Cliff said Pacific Bailey didn't like that. "I told Odis, 'We can't work him (that way), so let's just put a saddle on him and ride him.'"

Rutland Ranch mares and colts were kept in a 1,160-acre pasture south of Coffeyville, Kansas. Pacific Bailey started his training at a local track with a four-horse gate, Craighead said. He won his first race at a brush track in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Craighead raced Pacific Bailey on his first AQHA-recognized track April 11, 1965, at Marble Downs, a now-defunct track in Carthage, Missouri. He ran 300 yards in 16.15 seconds to win by a length.

In his second race, Pacific Bailey outran Bird Man, a renowned Thoroughbred who had won five straight futurities. He then won the Ozark AQHA Futurity, over Cee Bar Deck, a AAA-rated racehorse.

He ran second in his fourth race, but Cliff said the Oklahoma Futurity trials at La Mesa Park in Raton, New Mexico, May 22, 1965, were on a track that had three different types of weather during the day, including a hail-storm during the race. He lost by a neck to Cee Bar Deck.

Marble Downs had a way of bringing out the young horse's best all season. November 14, 1965, Pacific Bailey won by two lengths and broke the world's record for 2-year-old stallions, running 300 yards in 15.76 seconds.

Craighead rode the horse to nine firsts and three seconds for 16 starts his 2-year-old season, with eight triple-A races

and four double-A races. His highest speed index was 100. Pacific Bailey also garnered a nickname for Cliff and Craighead – the "Gold Dust Twins."

Pacific Bailey placed among the top-five contenders for the champion 2-year-old stallion honors that year.

His 3-year-old season started by placing fourth in his first race January 8, 1966, at Blue Ribbon Downs at Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Craighead didn't ride the horse. But Craighead rode him to win two races January 16 and February 6.

The Rutlands sent Pacific Bailey to California in March 1966, where he incurred the first of two injuries that eventually forced his retirement.

While in California, the stallion rolled in his stall, pulled a horseshoe and stuck the nails into his hoof.

The hoof injury healed, but another injury dropped him from racing after the race at La Mesa Park, June 4, 1966 in Raton. After placing fourth in the derby trial race, he was found to have a chipped knee.

Pacific Bailey had raced 24 times in 1965-66 winning 52 racing points in triple-AT, triple-A and double-A races by the end of his racing career.

Champion

WHEN BROUGHT HOME WITH THE INJURY, THE CHOICES WERE to risk an operation that would leave the young stallion with a swollen knee his entire life or retire him from the track. Rutland chose the latter.

"Dad said, 'Let's make an AQHA Champion out of him,' so we got to hauling him. I showed him in the halter classes, and he made enough to get his AQHA (champion title)," Cliff said. "He beat about all the top halter horses in the nation that year."



NEAL McCHRISTY

Cliff Rutland of Independence, Kansas, with Pacs Miss Possumjet, a daughter of Pacific Bailey.



The Rutland Ranch holding pens began to fill. "When I was showing him," Cliff said, "I'd take him to a show of a morning. Then in the afternoon, we'd breed mares to him."

At times the huge Rutland barn was full with more than 200 mares waiting to be bred to Pacific Bailey.

The first maturing foal crops showed Pacific Bailey was siring racers, too. Only Warren's Jet Deck outpaced Pacific Bailey with the first crop, putting Pacific Bailey as the second-leading sire of 2-year-old race qualifiers in 1970.

Get of a Champion

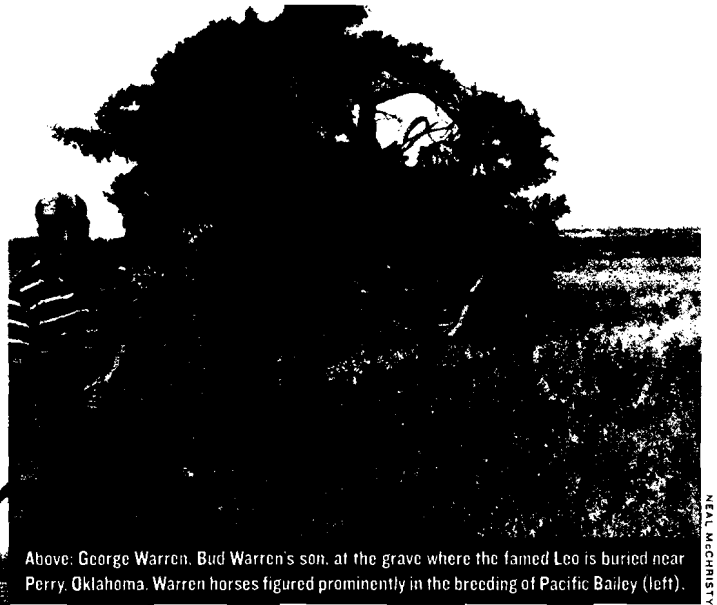
ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN GET OF OL' PAC, PACIFIC DAN, HAS a corner dedicated to him in the office of the Rutland barn. This 1971 racing son of Pacific Bailey and Lizzie Lea Hank had a speed index of 104 as his best, posted 57 starts, 29 wins and earnings of \$53,015. Pacific Dan was a derby winner throughout the Midwest and West from 1974 to 1976, set four track records in 1974 and three in 1975. In 1974, he was the world champion 3-year-old gelding. He retired from racing in 1977.

Another son of Pac in the same era, Cotton Pac, was a palomino gelding foaled in 1971. He won \$7,161 with 46 starts, 17 wins, was a winner of two futurities in 1973 and earned his Superior in 1975. Cotton Pac 2, a 1974 palomino racehorse trained by Bill Weger of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, won \$57,920 in 43 starts. The stallion set five track records in the 1978 season.

Pacific Bailey sons Jumbo Pacific and Mr Smooth Pac were both stakes winners with 10 wins in 1981 and tied for third place among leading horses of races won, giving their sire the status as the only one with two leading horses in the 21 qualifiers. Jumbo Pacific became a Superior racehorse in 1983.

Mr Smooth Pac, a stakes winner raised by A.J. Pursley of Coffeyville, Kansas, was foaled in 1977. The stallion won more than \$37,000 and 27 races. He later became the sire of a number of sprinters.

In 27 breeding seasons, Pacific Bailey sired 1,364 registered foals. *America's Horse* stated he was the top AQHA-registered



NEAL MCCHRISTY

Above: George Warren, Bud Warren's son, at the grave where the famed Leo is buried near Perry, Oklahoma. Warren horses figured prominently in the breeding of Pacific Bailey (left).

sire of foals in the 1970s. By 1999, his progeny had 1,326 starts and 655 wins, 91 stakes winners and one world champion.

"Pacific Bailey did this on the lower-rotor-pole mares and competing with Easy Jet and those horses," Cliff said. "They got the better type of horses."

TLC

PACIFIC BAILEY HAD A GOOD, STRONG HINDQUARTER BUT A NOSE that was too "Roman" for Umholtz. As for his personality, Cliff said, "Pacific Bailey was kind of like me – kind of ornery."

Craighead remembers that ornerness the first time they took Pacific Bailey to the brush track in Muscogee. When

they'd try to saddle him, the former jockey said, "He'd try to get out of the paddock."

Craighead calls the get of Gold King Bailey "spirited." When he was in the irons, Pac "would take a while out of the gate to settle down and run."

And a bad day for Pacific Bailey was also tough on his jockey. "If he took a notion to run off with you, he'd just take off and go," Craighead said.

"He wasn't mean, he was just a good-feeling horse and ornery," Cliff said. "People say, 'Oh, those Pacific Bailey horses buck,' and everything. No, they don't buck. They just need some TLC – tender, loving care."

Craighead, whose riding career spanned from 1951 to 1978, rode Pacific Bailey in his last race in June 1966. "I believe I liked him better than any horse I've ever ridden," the former jockey said.

Rutland Ranch

OCTOBER PRODUCTION SALES IN PAW'HUSKA, OKLAHOMA, LATER moved to Independence, Missouri, were an important part of the ranch operation. People sat on folding chairs Rutland would rent and borrow, and Cliff said he had seen 2,500 people at the sales.

The barn that Pacific Bailey built and filled with sales prospects is still filled with horses at the Rutland Ranch, although fewer trace back to Ol' Pac and now more trace to the new main Quarter Horse stallion, My Designated Driver. There are about 40 descendants of Pacific Bailey in the Rutland herd. Pacific Jake, a 1985 son who won 131 points and \$13,507 at the track from 1987 to 1994, now ponies young horses around at the ranch.

Maybe the biggest tribute to Pacific Bailey's presence is that his image was etched on the elder Rutland's gravestone in 1988. Pacific Bailey died in 1993.

"Colic," Cliff said. "Old age was starting to set in on him, and he had complications from that. He was still holding his own, but the complications from the colic culminated in his death."

Cliff has handled many colts since, but when he talks of Ol' Pac, he said, "He was my pride and joy. He was dad's horse, and we all claimed him. But he was my pride and joy." ■

Neal McChristy is a freelance writer who lives in Pittsburg, Kansas.