

Pacific Bailey 325535 TAAA AQHA Champion

To tell the story of Pacific Bailey, I guess I would have to go back to the beginning of Pacific Bailey's grand sire, Gold King Bailey. In 1946 I was looking for a palomino stallion. I was at the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Show at Ada in August 1946. I had been looking at several palomino studs which none had suited me. I was walking through the show barn and saw a little palomino yearling colt. The card on his stall said, "Little Fox" by Hank H by King out of Beauty Bailey by Old Joe Bailey. I stopped and told the man with me that this is what I'm looking for if he was just older. I liked him so well I decided to try to buy him and wait for him to grow up.

Jack and Paul Smith, of Indianola, Oklahoma, were the owners and breeder of the colt. They owned his sire Hank H a AA race horse who was a full brother to Squaw H - AA. They hadn't brought this colt to the show to sell, just to show. So it wasn't as easy as I thought it would be to buy him. We finally got together and settled on the price of \$1,250.00 and I was the new owner of, who I named, Gold King Bailey. He got his name from his perfect golden color and his grandsires.

Gold King Bailey 9941-AA (1945-1964) developed into what I thought he would. He was one of the all time Great Palomino Quarter Horse Stallions. He was Grand Champion at Denver and Fort Worth Stock Show in 1948, one of the few to accomplish this honor the same year. He was one of the top match and purse racing quarter horses in his day, defeating all but one horse that he ever raced against at one time or another in his racing career. He was permanently injured before we could have a rematch with this one horse. He was raced only twice on approved tracks, and made his AA ROM in the days when AA was the highest rating.

Gold King Bailey is the sire of 31 ROM Race Qualifiers, 14 Show ROM Qualifiers, and 8 AQHA Champions. He is the Maternal Grandsire of 50 Race ROM, 15 Show ROM, and 6 AQHA Champions.

Gold King Bailey passed his potency as a sire on down to his sons including Gold Pacific AAA who is the sire of Pacific Bailey. Gold Pacific 88856-AAA (1958-1964) was one of the most perfect little palomino quarter horses you ever saw. He didn't stand tall on this earth, only being 14 hands and weighing 1100 pounds, but he stood tall and mighty on the race track and as a sire.

Gold Pacific was bred by Bud Warren. Bud always liked Gold King Bailey and wanted a sorrel filly by him out of a Leo mare. Bud asked me, "What would I do with him if I got a palomino stud?" (I had been looking into the future and was wanting a palomino stallion by Gold King Bailey to take his place some day. If I had my "druthers" I would want the mare to be by Leo) So, I told Bud, "trade him to me". He said he would. He brought over a little sorrel filly, South Pacific, (a full sister to Rosa Leo and Croton Oil) by Leo out of Randle's Lady, who was better known as "Little Breeze." The Good Lord was on my side, because Bud's mare had a palomino stud. Several palomino breeders tried to buy him, but Bud made his word good and told me to come over and look at him. It was in the winter after he weaned him, when I first saw a little long haired palomino colt with red dirt all in his hair that Bud named "Gold Pacific". He said he didn't want to sell him but wanted to trade him for a Gold King Bailey filly. I came home that night and told my wife I had seen the palomino colt I was looking for. I said, I wouldn't want Gold King Bailey to know I said it, but, Gold Pacific might be better." But, after all that is a qualification for a great sire for his get to be better. Bud and Reba came over the next day and I traded him Jana Bailey, whom he bred to Leo and raised John Leo-AQHA Champion.

Gold Pacific earned his AA ROM as a two year old and AAA'd as a three year old. He was one of the toughest match race horses in the country, defeating some of the best. Gold Pacific was retired to stud at four years old in 1962. He stood for three seasons until his untimely death on July 7, 1964. He ate his night feed and when I went to feed him the next morning, he was dead in his stall. He showed signs of an acute case of colic.

Gold Pacific was truly a great sire by carrying on the tradition of his ancestors, to produce better with each generation. I believe Pacific Bailey will carry on with this tradition to produce better than himself.

Pacific Bailey's dam, Nell Bert McCue, wasn't much to look at but "blood was thicker than water". When I bred Gold Pacific to Nell Bert McCue my son Cliff wanted to know, "Why"? I told him to raise the fastest horse he ever sat on. He made fun of me then but now I believe he agrees with me.

Pacific Bailey didn't always look like he does now. I can remember when he was a weanling colt I tried to sell him for \$400.00 and I would tell people he would be a race horse. I tried to sell him as a yearling for \$1,000.00 still telling people he would be a race horse. I still couldn't sell him. I had told people so long that he was going to be a race horse until I got to believing it myself so I decided not to sell him and put him in training. Cliff, my son and trainer, trained him. Odie Craighead rode him every race he ran as a two year old winning 14 firsts and 3 seconds from 19 starts. He ran 7 AAA and 5 AA races.

Pacific Bailey, "Pac" as we call him, ran his first race at Muskogee, Oklahoma on March 6, 1965 winning by daylight. Cliff ran Pac in his first race with his halter on under his bridle and after he won, Cliff being a superstitious person, he ran him every race he ever ran in this halter. He even got it O.K.'d as special tack at Raton. After looking at him after he won his first race you may see why people didn't buy him as a colt and weanling. But after ten more months of TLC (Tender Loving Care) he developed into a lot different looking horse. He had just won a 350 yard open race for 3 year olds and up in 17:93 setting a new track record to that date at Blue Ribbon Downs.

Still wearing that winning halter, Pacific Bailey's first official start was at Marble Downs, Carthage, Mo. on April 11, 1965. He won by daylight in official AA time. His second start was April 17 in the Ozark Futurity trials at the same track. He was in the same heat with Bird Man, who hadn't been outrun and had already won three futurities. There wasn't pari-mutual wagering but the side betting was good. They were laying 2 to 1 and taking Bird Man and giving the field. I told them if they would lay me 4 to 1 I'd take Pacific Bailey and give them the field. One man almost tore his pocket off getting his money out to bet on me. He told the men to come on that I was "giving" my money away. The bets were made, the chips were down, and the tension was on. The gates were opened and Pacific Bailey quickly took the lead and going away. He won by 2 3/4 lengths setting a new track record for 350 yards in 18:05. Bird Man ran second and was from 3 1/2 to 10 lengths ahead of the rest of the field. Pac's next race was April 24 for the futurity finals. The finalists were Pacific Bailey, with the fastest qualifying time, Bird Man, Cee Bar Deck, Suwanee Bars, Little John Dial, Leo's Reckonette, Bailey Marble, and Ator's Mary Leo. The betterers were confused. They wanted to bet on Pac but they couldn't overlook W. E. Steele's entry of Bird Man and Cee Bar Deck. So they finally took Bird Man and Cee Bar Deck and layed 2 to 1 and gave the field. They wouldn't lay me the odds and give me the field so I took Pac and gave them the field and they laid me 5 to 2. Pac won by 3/4 length over Bird Man, 1 1/4 length over Cee Bar Deck, and 1 3/4 length over Suwanee Bars, setting a new track record in 18:03. Needless to say this futurity was one of my biggest thrills in horse racing. It looked like my prediction about Pacific Bailey being a race horse was going to come true.

A fellow has to learn to take some bitter with the sweet and that is just what we did with his next start in the Oklahoma Futurity trials at LaMesa Park, Raton, New Mexico on May 22. A lot of people swallowed a bitter pill that day. The electric timer broke and the trials were hand timed. There were 14 time trials and no matter how hard you try, I don't believe you can hand time that many races accurately. I dare say everybody but the finalists were very unhappy and wanted to run the trials all over again. But the conditions don't read that way so that's just the breaks of horse racing. Before the trials Raymond Cates, the owner of Savannah Jr., told me he thought Pacific Bailey was the only horse he couldn't outrun.

In Pac's trial heat while they were still in the saddling paddock it came up one of those freak mountain storms. There was a 27 mile per hour head wind and pouring down rain. We were in the same heat with Cee Bar Deck. Pac was the favorite. They bet him off the board. He paid \$2.20 for a \$2.00 ticket. While they were in the gates it started hailing. Pac had never been in the gates in the hail he stood there with his head down and when the gates opened he still just stood there. The rest of the horses were out running before he decided to break. The jockey started to pull him up then he saw an opening and headed him toward it. He passed all the horses by daylight except Cee Bar Deck who outran him by a neck. Pacific Bailey didn't qualify. Cee Bar Deck was the last qualifying horse in the last consolation. Cee Bar Deck won his consolation race in faster time than the first consolation or the futurity finals were run in.

Anybody that doesn't make a mistake doesn't do anything. I made a mistake at Raton. I came on back home after the trials instead of staying and carrying out my plans. I had hoped to do some good in the Oklahoma Futurity and planned on paying the penalty in the Raton Futurity, (which Cee Bar Deck won), and the All American Futurity. I believe I had a horse with the potential to win them both. But feeling pretty blue after the trials we came home instead of staying and taking another run at 'em.

Pac's next start was in the Kansas Bred Futurity Trials at Eureka Downs, Kansas on June 26. He won his trial heat by 2 lengths and came back July 4 and won the finals by 3/4 length over Becky Marble AAA, a filly I raised by Carrara Marble out of Becky Bailey AAA. Cliff was training this filly for Ivan Karr her owner.

Cliff and Craighead loaded Pac and Becky Marble up the next day and headed for Owosso, Michigan for the Midwest Futurity. Pac won his trial heat in AAA time on July 10. He got shut off at the gates in the finals on July 18 and had to pull up but Becky Marble won the Futurity and set a new track record to date for 350 yards in 17:93. On July 24 he won his trial heat in the Michigan Futurity in 18:07 for 350 yards for the fastest qualifying time. As luck would have it in the finals on August 1, Pac was in the 5 gate and the 4 horse broke into him and turned him sideways and before he could straighten up and get daylight ahead of her she hit him again in the hip and nearly turned him around. He finally got straightened out and got daylight ahead of her but he didn't have time to win the race. He finished 4th by a nose. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th place horses were a photo finish with just a nose between them. The first 3 place horses didn't get into any trouble.

After all this ruckus Cliff, Craighead and Pac headed for Atlantic City, New Jersey for the Eastern Quarter Horse Racing Association Futurity Trials. Pac won his heat by several lengths and won the finals by daylight on August 16. Mr. Howard Linger presented the winner a silver tray of which we are very proud.

They loaded up again and headed west to Warrington, Mo. for the Missouri Futurity Trials on August 25. Pac won his heat by daylight in deep mud on a new track. The miles of hauling and every weeks racing was beginning to tell on the little sorrel colt. And believe it or not we just "hung the bridle on him" and ran him. All he got was good feed and hay and TLC (Tender Loving Care). In the finals on August 29 Pac ran second to Bruce's Charge who won in 18:02 for 350 yards. No excuse, Pac just ran out of gas and got outrun.

His next start was September 18 in the Magic Empire Fall Futurity Trials. This was his first time to run 400 yards. He won his heat by daylight. He came back in the finals the next week with Cee Bar Deck, Jenny Dial, Suwanee Bars, Bird Man, Hy Diamond Bar, Becky Marble, and Vino Alwin. I guess everyone that runs horses has a lot of excuses for not winning and I guess I'm like all the rest. Pac had it won all the way to about 30 yards of the wire. The jockey said he knew he had it won and was just "whistlin Dixie" and slacked off riding and started posin for the picture. Pac, thinking the race was over as it was 50 yards farther than he had ever run, slowed up a little and Cee Bar Deck caught him at the wire and won it. Pac ran second. The rest finished in the above order. I didn't feel bad being outrun by Cee Bar Deck because he had outrun some of the best that year. I'll tell you something else a fine fellow and a good sportsman owned him.

His next start was in the Bluestem Downs Two Year Old Feature on October 23. He won it in 15:89 for 300 yards.

His next start was on November 14, 1965 at Marble Downs, Carthage, Mo. in a Two Year Old Open race for 300 yards. He won it by two lengths in 15:76 and set a new World Record for 2 year old colts for 300 yards to that date. But as the luck of the Irish goes the AQHA race committee at their next annual meeting voted to stop having worlds records and instead have track records. So his record was never published by the AQHA as a new worlds record for 2 year old colts for 300 yards even though it was the fastest time a 2 year old colt had ever run on any official track to that date according to AQHA records. We had set our goal for that record so after he set the new record we thought he had earned a well needed rest. So that was his last race as a two year old. A total of 19 starts with 14 wins, 3 seconds, 1 fourth and 1 seventh.

This little sorrel colt that I couldn't sell for \$400.00 as a weanling or for \$1,000.00 as a yearling, with TLC (Tender Loving Care) had grown to be a good looking stallion and race horse. In December 1965 I refused to sell him for \$100,000.00.

In January 1966 he came back in top form and we just had to run him some more. On January 8, 1966 we started him at Blue Ribbon Downs for 300 yards. This is the first time he was ever raced without Craighead aboard. Pac got out a little bad and they cut him off at the gates. He ran 4th by 3/4 length in AAA time. On January 16 we ran him at Blue Ribbon Downs with Craighead aboard. He won and set a new track record to that date for 350 yards in 17:93. On February 6 we ran him back at the same place at the same distance with Craighead aboard. He won in the same time equaling his own record and defeating Bruce's Charge who had outrun him in the Missouri Futurity in the Fall of 1965.

We made another mistake. We sent him to California to another trainer. This was the first time in his life anyone else except Cliff had trained him. I sent him to C. B. Davidson who had done me a real good job of training in previous years. In fact he had AAA'd Gold Pacific the sire of Pacific Bailey. Red entered him in a AAA race at Sacramento. Pac got outrun a nose by Go Rebel Go in 20:04 for 400 yards - TAAA time. I guess Pacific Bailey was like Sampson when he got his hair cut off. Red took Pac's halter off. We talked to Red on the phone. Cliff asked Red did he kiss him good morning. Red said he didn't. Cliff told him that was what was the matter that he kissed him every morning. Red said he'd kiss him then. Well from here on out Pac only had bad luck. He never won another race after we sent him away from Cliff and Craighead. He had a freak accident

by sticking a horse shoe down through his front foot and was laid up for awhile. He had a chipped bone on both front knees. But in spite of all his hard luck and handicaps they started him 5 times and with his heart to run and try, even though he never won a race, he ran TAAA twice, AAA twice and AA once. When they brought him home that summer we retired him from racing.

With a limited amount of showing at halter he made his AQHA Champion award in 1967.

His first year in stud service was in 1967. His first crop of colts were in 1968. Through September 1970 according to AQHA records he has 21 ROM Race Qualifiers including AAA and AA Stakes Winners that have won 9 Futurities so far this year. To help to prove Pacific Bailey's potential as a great sire, only 6 of his ROM Qualifiers had ROM dams, the rest were out of maiden and unproven mares. Pacific Bailey's goal this year is to be "Leading Sire of Two Year Old ROM Qualifiers in 1970". He is now standing first or second with him and Jet Deck having a driving head to head finish right down to the wire. We will have to wait for the picture December 31st. Pacific Bailey's colts are winning Grand Champion at halter and he has 2 Show ROM Qualifiers.

We are very proud of Pacific Bailey and truly believe he will be a great sire and carry on the tradition of his ancestors, "to produce better with each generation."