

PRETTY BUCK P-2103



Although registered as being brown in color, this early photo of Pretty Buck clearly shows the broad dorsal stripe that identifies him as a dun. Bob Burton, the Waggoner Ranch hand who broke Pretty Buck, Poco Bueno and Jessie James to ride, holds the good looking stallion in this rare photo.

Pretty Buck, a 1942 dun stallion by Pretty Boy and out of a mare by Buck Thomas, was bred by the Waggoner Ranch of Vernon, Texas. At the time of the stallion's birth, E. Paul Waggoner - the son of ranch founder W. T. Waggoner - was in charge of a horse breeding operation that was producing upwards of 300 foals a year.

Although often forced to play second fiddle to the legendary Poco Bueno, Pretty Buck was shown successfully at halter, broke to ride and trained as a rope horse, and utilized as a breeding animal. At the 1946 Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Texas; and the 1947 National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado; Poco Bueno earned grand champion stallion honors, while Pretty Buck was named as the reserve champion.

While owned by the Waggoner Ranch, Pretty Buck sired Snipper W - 1953 NCHA World Champion Cutting Horse and NCHA Hall of Fame Horse; Buck Tommy - AQHA Champion; Buck Deuce - AQHA Champion; Strummer - AQHA Champion; and Rita Buck - Superior Halter (105 points).

In January of 1953, Pretty Buck was sold to Oscar Dodson of Chillicothe, Texas. Two years later, he was re-sold to John Taylor of La Habra Heights, California. In January of 1959, Taylor was struck and killed while changing a flat tire en route to the National Western Stock Show.

Taylor's horses were dispersed in a watershed event which was held August 12, 1959. With Hank Wiescamp handling the auctioning duties, records fell like rain.

An all-time high average of \$5,806 was achieved on 51 head with Pretty Buck setting the benchmark when he sold for \$15,800 to G. W. "Glynn" Sams of Forth Worth. With Patsy Buck leading the way at \$14,000, 13 Pretty Buck daughters averaged \$5,031. Eleven pretty Buck colts, including yearlings and weanlings, averaged \$3,555. The \$117,500 gross and \$4,895 average that the 24 Pretty Buck get elicited at the event also established a record for the get of one sire.

Pretty Buck would only remain in the state of his birth for two years. In the fall of 1961 he was acquired by the man who would be his last owner - Harold Schafer of Bismarck, North Dakota.

Schafer, with the help of his ranch manager Ted Ressler, put together one of the Northern Plain's most unique breeding programs. Known appropriately as the Blackburn Ranch, it was headlined by Pretty Buck and virtually all of the Blackburn daughters who were left alive that could be bought.

The famous stallion's last foal crop hit the ground in 1965. He lived in comfortable retirement for seven more years before passing away in 1972 at 30 years of age.



Rita Buck, a 1952 bay mare by Pretty Buck and out of Rio Rita, by Chubby, was her sire's top halter point-earning get. The heavily muscled champion earned 105 halter points during her stellar show career.

Pretty Buck

Pretty Boy

Mare by Buck Thomas

Dodger

Little Maud

Buck Thomas

Waggoner Mare

Harmon Baker

Froggie

Tip

unknown mare

Peter McCue

Stockings

unknown sire

unknown mare