

Working Lines....

River Bluff Ranch

BY LARRY THORNTON

Rex Cauble was the man that took a young palomino stallion and made him a legend. The young stallion's name was Cutter Bill. Cutter Bill became the 1962 NCHA Open World Champion as just one of several titles he earned in the arena.

After his show career, Cauble continued to promoted his stallion making him one of he most famous horses in the breed. His success was reinforced as a sire of Champions in all types of events including cutting, reining, working cowhorse, halter and roping. The success of this great stallion earned him a place in the AQHA Hall of Fame.

Cauble was always quick to tell you about the disposition of his Cutter Bill bred colts. One time he told THE QUARTER HORSE JOURNAL about his famous stallion's first colt and his apparent affection for the human race. Cauble told that the appropriately named Cutter's First showed no fear of humans. He would come up and want to be petted and scratched. He was so friendly that he made his mother a nervous wreck and she didn't breed back that year.

Another instance that Cauble used to demonstrate the good disposition of the Cutter Bill horses would occur in the pasture with the colts. Cauble would walk up behind one of Cutter Bill's colts and slap it on the rump. The colt would simply squat and never offer to kick.

The easygoing ways of Cutter's First and his brothers and sisters was first seen in Cutter Bill. When Cauble broke his famous cutting horse they put the saddle on the colt and "he never pitched, he just walked off."

This is the kind of disposition the River Bluff Ranch of Walnut Grove, Missouri is working to produce. Bud and Tena Sherman, along with the kids, Jesse, Jody and Justin, have put together a breeding program that is founded on good dispositions and that is their first goal as breeders. They want a horse with a good disposition that is based on the good nature of the foundation bred quarter horse.

"There was a point in time that I was against having horses in general," related Bud about how he got started in the horse business. "I raised a lot of cattle and I'd had horses as a kid. But I never really liked horses very well."

He continued, "The funny part of all this I was actually looking for riding horses for me when this all got started. We had owned different types of horses, some appaloosas, POA's and some paints. But what really tuned me onto the foundation quarter horse was when I went to a neighbor, who had a paint gelding for sale out of a quarter horse mare."

He continued, "I was absolutely sold on the fact that I wanted to buy this pretty paint gelding. But some friends of ours that were with us didn't

like the way the paint gelding was acting. They started looking at the quarter horse mare and they told me to look at the mare. So I did and she had a great disposition and I ended up buying her."

Bud's story continues with his response to the mare and what happened next, "I rode her and I was amazed at how responsive she was to what I wanted her to do. She was a little bit of an older mare and I thought I would like to get a little bit more of this kind

of disposition." Little did he know that this was the first step to a full fledged breeding program striving to get that good disposition in the horses he would breed.

"I knew a local breeder named Eddie Limpus that had some foundation quarter horse stallions, so I ended up breeding her. I had done some of that as a kid," recalled Bud about the first breeding.

"While I was at Eddie's place I started looking around, walking around the pasture and I was amazed at how those colts really wanted to know me and be my buddy. These colts were just out in the pasture with about 35 mares and had not been imprinted by any means and I was surrounded by these colts."

"Immediately I decided to buy two so that one would have a buddy to the other. So then I found two more that I liked and I bought two more and that is how it got started. It just escalated from there. I was sold on the mind set and the willingness to please of the colts and that sold me on the foundation quarter horse."



Cutter Bill San is one of the double bred Cutter Bill stallion is being used to perpetuate this famous bloodline and help the River Bluff Ranch breed foundation quarter horses with a good disposition.

Photo Courtesy River Bluff Ranch

"I started researching these legendary bloodlines that Eddie had and another friend named Clyde Turner, who had similar bloodlines with a lot of King breeding, Poco Bueno and Jessie James."

"Our goal at that point was to breed 4-H kid horses. These horses were so responsive and so gentle and tame and willing to please. So I started to concentrate on disposition first. We wanted to breed a horse that people could want and depend on in that area."



Poco Bueno was a great performer and his ability to sire great performance was a key to his status as an AQHA Hall of Fame stallion. His presence in the River Bluff Ranch breeding program tells us that his disposition is a key to their success as breeders.

Photo Courtesy The AQHA Hall of Fame and Museum

"Eddie Limpus mentioned that I should go to the Foundation Quarter Horse Registry Roundup and Review to learn more about it and that is what I did," related Bud about the next step in his entry into breeding foundation quarter horses.

"So it was at that point I started getting heavily involved with foundation horses. Because I had a heart for kids and really wanted to breed horses for them, I ended up founding and forming the Youth Foundation Quarter Horse Registry."

"This has been a successful project. We've held three national youth shows here in Missouri to try and help encourage youth in horsemanship and also to educate them about what the foundation horse is all about."

"It's not so much the marketing end of it that got me involved, but the ability to sustain these legendary bloodlines that could die out. I was really sold on the fact that these horses really wanted to be a servant to the cowboy."

The bloodlines that Bud found were based deep in quarter horse history. When the breeding program got started the first mares included Jessie King Glory from the Limpus

- King P-234
- Poco Bueno
- Miss Taylor
- Poco Plan
- L H Chock
- Lady Chock 58
- Dun Waggoner Mare
- Bills Poco Tona
- Buddy Dexter
- Cutter Bill
- Billie Silvertone
- Bills Tona
- Scooter S
- Daytona
- Amarillo S
- Cutter Bill Poco**
- Poco Bueno
- Poco Diego 007
- Thurmond Sorrel
- Poco Diegos Jessie
- Jessie James
- Jessica Jimmy
- Dafa Do It
- Jessica Jamie
- Buddy Dexter
- Cutter Bill
- Billie Silvertone
- Cutter's Pretty
- Silver King
- Silver Fairy
- Bay Fairy

breeding program. This mare shows the kind of blood these horses carried. She was sired by Poco Diegos Jessie, by Poco Diego 007. Poco Diego 007 was sired by Poco Bueno. The dam of Poco Diegos Jessie was Jessica Jimmy by Jessie James. Poco Diegos Jessie was a direct grandson of Poco Bueno and Jessie James.

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Of course we are all familiar with the legends of Poco Bueno and Jessie James. Poco Bueno was an AQHA Champion. He was so good that they had to stop showing him and let him exhibit his skills instead of as a performer in competition with other cutters. He has gone on to be a legendary sire and that has earned him a place in the AQHA Hall of Fame.

Jessie James was the 1951 NCHA Open Reserve World Champion Cutting Horse. He made the NCHA Open Top Ten again in 1953. His prowess as a cutting horse was legendary with the snake like movement of his head and neck that intimidated the cow. His success as a sire was limited but he has left a legacy of great performance from the past.

Here is an added note—Jessie James success as a sire was often found when crossed with Poco Bueno and a mare named Pretty Rosalie. Pretty Rosalie was the dam of Poco Pine and Poco Stampede. Both successful sons of Poco Bueno. Jessie Rose by Jessie James and out of Pretty Rosalie, was the dam of Poco Imprint, an AQHA Champion by Poco Bueno. Pretty Rosalie was sired by Pretty Boy, the sire of Pretty Buck. More on this bloodline later.

The dam of Jessie King Glory was Stars Winged Glory. This mare was sired by Kings Starfire by Big China King, a grandson of King. The dam of Big China King was King China Lady by Major King by Royal King by King P-234.



King P-234 was noted as a sire of great performers with a good dispositions. He has become a foundation sire for the River Bluff Ranch.

Photo Courtesy J. L. Hankins

The dam of Kings Starfire was Miss Cook 3 by Mr Blackburn 71 by Poco Eagle. Poco Eagle was sired by Poco Rey by Poco Bueno. The dam of Mr Blackburn 71 was May Blackburn by Blackburn. The dam of this mare was Buckalita by Pretty Buck.

The dam of Stars Winged Glory was Dominos Dusky Dell and this mare was out of Blue Lady Dell, a double-bred Poco Bueno mare. Her sire was Speck Randal by Poco Dell

by Poco Bueno and her dam was Stampede Lady by Poco Stampede by Poco Bueno.

The blood of Poco Bueno and King is found in this pedigree from top to bottom—with some Jessie James blood thrown in for good measure. This mare represents the bloodlines that would be the start of the Sherman breeding program.

The next set of mares to impact the Sherman breeding program were daughters of a mare named The Gold Dust. Sherman explained, “The Gold Dust mare was a golden palomino mare that produced several full sisters by Squaw Creek Squirt, a horse we called Ol’ Blue that Rodney Lowe had owned. He was a full brother to Stopper Blue.”

“I had been watching these mares and what they had produced before I actually bought them. I actually bought fillies out of them first and got to see them grow and we got to use colts out of those mares.”

The four full sisters were Pretty Bucks Squaw, Pretty Bucks Star, Pretty Foundations and Pretty Gold Dust. Their sire, Squaw Creek Squirt, was sired by a stallion named Blutchter Buck.

Blutchter Buck was the sire of three AQHA performers and all three were point earners. His leading point earner was Stopper Blue, the full brother to Squaw Creek Squirt.

Stopper Blue earned 12 AQHA Amateur performance points and 7 AQHA open performance points. He took in 78 International Buckskin Performance points and 2 International Buckskin Halter Points. Stopper Blue sired three AQHA performers including Stopper Star, who earned \$4,748 in the NCHA. She earned 11 AQHA performance points as well.

Blutchter Buck was the maternal grandsire of five AQHA performers with three point earners. The leading point earner produced by his daughters was Dusty Bar Blue. This mare was an AQHA Superior Amateur Barrel Racing Horse and an AQHA Reserve World Champion Amateur Pole Bending Horse. This mare earned 30 open performance points and 82 amateur performance points.

Blutchter Buck was sired by Pretty Boy Buck by Buck Tommy. Buck Tommy was a son of Pretty Buck. His dam was a daughter of Blackburn. Buck Tommy was an AQHA Superior Halter Horse. He was ROM in the arena with five AQHA cutting points. He was an NCHA money earner.

Blutchter Buck was out of Jacks Fancy, by Hobo Reed. Hobo Reed was the sire of ROM arena horses. They were Hobo Jess, Hobo’s Wonder and Jobo Dungone. The sire of Hobo Reed was Paulo by Bolo. The dam of Hobo Reed was a Joe Reed P-3 mare. Jacks Fancy was out of Pepper, who was sired by a Remount stallion.

The dam of Squaw Creek Squirt was Miss May Blue. She was a $\frac{3}{4}$ sister to Blutchter Buck. She was sired by Pretty Boy Buck and out of a Hobo Reed mare. Her dam was Judy Patterson by Hobo Reed and she was out of Pattersons Judy by Sandy Siemon by Sandy Benear.

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Red Buck Lady was the dam of Judy Patterson. Red Buck Lady was sired by Silver Boy and out of a Red Buck Mare. Silver Boy was sired by Silvertone. Silvertone was the sire of Billie Silvertone, the dam of Cutter Bill.

Silver Boy was out of a Red Buck Mare. Red Buck Lady's dam was a Red Buck mare. Thus Red Buck Lady was inbred to Red Buck by Buck Thomas. The interesting part of this is that Pretty Buck that figures so prominently in these horses was sired by Pretty Boy and out of a mare sired by Buck Thomas. Red Buck was sired by Buck Thomas.



Pretty Buck has been a key to the River Bluff Ranch. He was a big factor in the original mares used by Bud Sherman.

Photo Courtesy Dillon Shook

The Gold Dust was sired by Mr McClure by Henry McClure by Lightning Bank by Lightning Bar. Lightning Bank was out of the great quarter running mare Miss Bank. Miss Bank was the dam of Bankette and she was the dam of Champion Quarter Running Horse Rebel Cause.

Lightning Bank was an AA rated racehorse. He was the sire of ROM racehorses and arena performers. His son Henry McClure was an ROM racehorse. Albonita was the dam of Mr McClure. She was sired by Sacatone by Hard Twist by Cowboy P-12. Hard Twist was an AQHA Champion Quarter Running Stallion.

The dam of The Gold Dust was Shanks Silky by Shanks. Shanks was the broodmare sire of 8 AQHA performers. The leading performer out of a daughter of Shanks was Ace's Eagle. This gelding earned his ROM with 75 AQHA performance points in the open and youth division.

Shanks was sired by Eagle Chief by Chief P-5. Chief P-5 was a son of Peter McCue. Pretty Pearl was the dam of Shanks Silky. Pretty Pearl was sired by Dust Storm by Billy Clegg. Bar V Pearl was the dam of Pretty Pearl. Bar B Pearl was sired by Chubby.

Bud continued about these mares, "So I got to the point that I wanted those mares as the foundation of my herd. They produced exceptionally nice conformation. They are capable of producing color but that wasn't as important to me as it was the disposition first."

"I kept every filly out of Pretty Bucks Squaw and Pretty Bucks Star and I still own those two mares. The exceptional quality of these mares as a broodmare is obvious in what they produce.

They milk well. They produce real gentle colts, nice pleasing colts. In fact a lot of times the colts out of those mares are the first ones to sell off our farm. They are just eye appealing."

Bud introduced the next stallion in his breeding program. "I went looking for the Poco Bueno/King breeding and I found a grandson of Continental King by King P-234. He crossed really well with those Gold Dust mares. His name was Mr LX"

Mr LX was sired by Heza Kings Ransom. His sire was Continental King by King P-234. The dam of Continental King was Sue Hunt by San Siemon by Zantanon. Zantanon was the sire of King P-234.

Continental King was an NCHA Certificate of Ability winner and a Superior Reining horse in the AQHA. He would sire many noted reining horses including Continental Clene, NRHA Futurity Champion, Miz Liz Dodson, NRHA Futurity Reserve Champion and King Of Four Mac, 1990 AQHA High Point Reining Horse. Continental King is an NRHA Hall of Fame stallion.

The dam of Heza Kings Ransom is Miss Fanny II by Super Leozan by Super Chief by Spot Cash by Skipper W. The dam of Miss Fanny II is Miss Prime II by Mr Blackburn by Poco Birthday by Poco Bueno and out of Waggoner IX by Blackburn.

Bonus For Brownie was the dam of Mr LX. This mare was 3 X 4 X 5 to Pretty Buck. Her sire was Fortys Bonus by Mr Blackburn 40 by Pretty Buck. Blackburn 53 was the dam of Fortys Bonus. This mare was sired by Poco Eagle by Poco Rey by Poco Bueno. Her dam was May Blackburn by Blackburn. Blackburn was sired by Yellow Jacket and out of Siss by Peter McCue.

The dam of Bonus For Brownie was Brownie Blackburn by Uncle Dude by Blondy's Dude by Small Town Dude by King P-234. The dam of Brownie Blackburn was Blackburn 20 by Mr Blackburn 40 by Pretty Buck. Blackburn 20 was out of Blackburn 13 by Poco Mos by Poco Bueno. Poco Mos was out of Pretty Me by Pretty Buck. The dam of Blackburn 13 was Lady Black 33 by Blackburn.



Pretty Bucks Squaw one of the foundation mares Bud sought out to help achieve his goal of producing disposition.

Photo Courtesy River Bluff Ranch

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"I kept several mares sired by him for my broodmare band. Every broodmare out of him has been a really good producer. They have good maternal characteristics and they also have good eye appeal in their colts."

One of the first things that was suggested to Bud was to breed to one of the last living sons of Cutter Bill, to put the Cutter Bill disposition into his program. He did this but the introduction of Cutter Bill was reinforced by another grandson of this great stallion. Bud explained it this way, "I had an older stallion here that I really loved. In fact both of my kids have riding geldings by him. His name was Bills Poco Tona. He was an own grandson of Poco Bueno and Cutter Bill."

The sire of this stallion was Poco Plan by Poco Bueno. Poco Plan was out of the L. H. Chock mare Lady Chock 58. Her sire L H Chock was sired by King P-234 and out of Miss Alice, one of the great mares bred to King. L H Chock was a full brother to several top show horses including the AQHA Champion Gelding L H Quarter Moon.

The dam of this horse was Bills Tona by Cutter Bill. The dam of this mare was Daytona by Scooter S. This makes Bills Tona a $\frac{3}{4}$ sister to Cutter's Streak, the 1962 AQHA High Point Two-Year-Old Halter Stallion. He was an AQHA Champion and full brother to Cutter's Jane, a Gulf Coast Cutting Futurity Champion.

"This is the horse that sold me on the Poco Bueno/Cutter Bill cross. This stallion was rather unique. When I was breeding a mare and I would lead him up to breed the mare, he would stand behind me to make sure the mare wasn't going to kick. He would put his head around me to see if it was ok to breed the mare. He was worried whether he was going to get kick. That is how smart this guy was. This horse was so easy to handle as a stallion that I wanted my kids to have riding horse out of him."

"My daughter hand picked her gelding based on what I was telling you about how friendly the Cutter Bill's are. My daughter had set next to the fence and this colt came up to her and laid his head on her lap and she said 'Daddy can I have this horse.' She loves this horse and he wants to please her all the time.

This is the basis of what I was telling you about the Cutter Bill/Poco Bueno cross. So we have kept several mares by this horse. I have several out of the Bills Poco Tona/Pretty Buck foundation mares.

The future for the influence of Bills Poco Tona was coming about with a colt named Cutter Bill Bueno. This colt was sired by Bills Poco Tona and out of Prettycutter by Poco Jess Blackburn. This colt was shot while in the pasture by a road hunter. He introduces us to a Cutter Bill mare named Cutter's Pretty.

Cutter's Pretty was sired by Cutter Bill. This great mare was the dam of several noted cutting horses and producers of cutting horses. Her son Col Bill Cutter is the sire of Col Bills Sweetie, the 1991 NCHA Non-Pro Futurity Reserve Champion and a PHBA World Champion Senior Cutting

Horse. Golden Denny, who is out of Cutter's Pretty was the 1987 Bonanza Six-Year-Old Open Co-Reserve Champion.

Cutter's Pretty is closely related to Bills Tona and Cutter's Streak. They were sired by Cutter Bill and out of a daughter of Scooter S. She is sired by Cutter Bill and out of a Silver King mare. Silver King was the sire of Scooter S.

The mares Prettycutter and Jessica Jamie are out of Cutter's Pretty. Both of these mares have been used in the River Bluff breeding program. Jessica Jamie is the dam of Cutter Bill Poco by Bills Poco Tona. Cutter Bill Poco was fourth in the FQHR Roundup and Review Jr. Youth Barrel Racing. This is the gelding that came up to Jody at the fence and entered her heart.

"I have five grandsons of Poco Bueno and five grandsons of Cutter Bill that I have added on since then. I think the Cutter Bill/Poco Bueno bloodlines speak for themselves. Great dispositions!"

The Poco Bueno bred stallions that have been used on the River Bluff Ranch include Poco Bueno Diego, Poco Bueno Sugar, Poco Ojos Diego and Poco Bueno Too Smooth. Poco Ojos Diego has a 2 X 3 breeding pattern to Poco Bueno. Poco Bueno Diego is also double bred to Poco Bueno and his dam is a granddaughter of Jessie James.



This action photo of Cutter Bill shows him with Sonny Perry. Sonny Perry was one of many trainers and riders for Cutter Bill. This is an indication of his outstanding disposition and willingness to please the rider.

Photo Courtesy The Palomino Horse Breeders of America.

The Cutter Bill stallions standing on the River Bluff Ranch include Cutter Bill San and his full brother Cutter Bill Dexter, Cutter Bill Smoke, Cutter Bill Badger (who is 2 X 3 to Cutter Bill) and Docs Dry Cutter, who is out of a daughter of Cutter Bill.

The sire of Cutter Bill San and Cutter Bill Dexter is Cutters Rags. This 1975 stallion was one of the last surviving sons of Cutter Bill. He has an interesting story. His dam was given by Rex Cauble to Silas B. Ragsdale for his youth ranch.

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She was bred to Cutter Bill. The plan was to introduce the friendly disposition of Cutter Bill to the youth ranch.

The dam of these two stallions is Smooth Cutter San. This mare is a daughter of Bills San. Bills San was an NCHA Bronze Award winner. He is the sire of a multiple World Champion Team Penning Horse Tyrel Bill.

Dry Docs Cutter is a son of NCHA Futurity Champion and NCHA Hall of Fame winner Dry Doc. Dry Doc is one of the two famous sons of Poco Lena and Doc Bar. The dam of this horse is Bills Vanette by Cutter Bill. Her dam is Roy's Reno Van, who is out of Reno Omit. Reno Omit is the dam of Hollywood Lin, NCHA World Champion Open Cutting Horse.

King Hollywood Bill is another stallion being introduced to the public with foals in the annual sale. This grandson of Hollywood Bill was recommended by the Sherman's daughter. Bud thinks she is right as he is producing foals that are, "very gentle, nicely shaped and very intelligent."

King Hollywood Bill also carries the blood of King P-234 and Cutter Bill. His sire is Hollywood At Dawn by Hollywood Bill by Hollywood Gold. The dam of Hollywood Bill is the great Four Sixes broodmare Miss Jo Kenney by the great roping horse Joe Barrett. The dam of Hollywood At Dawn is Queen Dawn, a full sister to the great Hank H and Squaw H.

The dam of Kings Hollywood Bill is JAF Hollywood Sand. This mare was sired by Bills Hoss Power, a son of Bills Will Power by Cutter Bill. The dam of Bills Will Power is Willful Miss, a daughter of King P-234. A closer look will show that Kings Hollywood Bill actually has a breeding pattern of 2 X 5 to Hollywood Bill. JAF Hollywood Sand is out of Sand Brand O Bar, who is out of Holly Tonto Bars by Gran Holly Bars by Hollywood Bill.

"What is really amazing is when I go out in the pasture with the colts it is very evident what colts are produced by what stallions. Generally speaking the Cutter Bill colts will come up to you and want to be petted. They are curious. They want to know you more than the others. They don't require you running them down."

The River Bluff Ranch breeding program is in place but the evolution of this breeding program will continue with the latest addition being a linebred Jessie James stallion. Bud explained his thoughts this way, "The introduction of Jessie James is going to be a bit of an experiment on my part. I purchased a colt from Mel Belcher of Holliday, Texas. This buckskin colt was out of the only 50% Jessie James mare I was aware of that was still alive. He traces back to Jessie James three times on his papers. He is a triple bred Jessie James. He could be the highest percent Jessie James colt in the world. His name is Jessie Jimmy."

"The Jessie James first came into play when I bought those first four mares. They were sired by a grandson of Poco Bueno and Jessie James named Poco Diegos Jessie. Consistently those first fillies had the disposition we were looking for. We were a little concerned with the Jessie James by itself. But the cross with Poco Bueno was good." Bud

went on to tell me that his Jessie James bred horse was easy to handle and halter break. He thinks this colt has a bright future in his breeding program.

Bud summed up his thoughts this way, "It's been a hard time in the horse business lately. But we have tried to stay true to our goal because we are breeders. We have a heart for these horses and these older bloodlines are forgotten sometime but they are the horses that they need. It doesn't matter what you are doing trail riding, working cattle, cutting these are the horses we will need down the road. A dependable mount we can count on."

I think the Sherman's mission statement certainly sums it up for us, "To breed and produce quality ranch horses and dependable mounts that exemplify the legendary Foundation Quarter Horse and dignify the American horseman." They certainly appear to be on the right path, a path that is perpetuating the blood of the foundation quarter horse. A path that is a source of outcross blood for many of our popular bloodlines of today and you can be assured they have a good disposition too.



Poco Bueno Diego represents the grandsons of Poco Bueno in the River Bluff breeding program. He also shows the influence of Jessie James in the breeding program.

Photo Courtesy River Bluff Ranch

Larry Thornton is a pedigree analyst and breeding consultant. If you have any questions concerning this article or other bloodlines, feel free to call him at 479-885-3144 in the evening. Please try again if you do not reach Larry the first time you call. Also visit his website: www.PedigreeNotes.com