

# Chubby

*Chubby's influence on the breed was positive and far-reaching.*

By Frank Holmes

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**Opposite Page: Foaled a decade and a half before the formation of the AQHA, Chubby founded a family of west Texas Quarter Horses known for their conformation and working ability. Chubby was 100% Foundation.**

*Although he came from a top line of ranch and race horses, and was a top-notch performer in his own right, Chubby never enjoyed widespread acceptance at the stud. As a result, few top mares found their way to his court. Despite this, his impact on the breed was positive and far-reaching and serves as proof that, one way or another, genetic prepotency will have its way.*

Chubby was foaled in 1924 on the famed Waggoner Ranch of Vernon, Texas. Midnight, his sire, was by Badger (by Peter McCue) and out of Nellie Trammell by Pid Hart. In addition to Chubby, Midnight also sired such notable stallions as Waggoner (usually referred to as One Eyed Waggoner) and Midnight Jr.

Fourth of July, Chubby's dam, was by Bobby Lowe (by Eureka) and out of Old Mary by Old Joe Bailey, according to AQHA records. However, some historians say Old Mary was by Ben Burton. In addition to Chubby, Fourth Of July also produced the top sire F&H Bill Thomas (by Buck Thomas). Old Mary, in addition to producing Fourth Of July, was also the dam of the foundation Waggoner sires Yellow Wolf and Yellow Bear.

So, all things considered, Chubby was fashionably bred, with a pedigree chock-full of top turn-of-the-century Quarter Horses. The common denominator was speed.

Midnight, Chubby's sire, was a top sprinter in his heyday. Bred by Jess Cooper of Roosevelt, Oklahoma, and

foaled in 1916, he won several match races as a 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old against tough competition.

Among the horses he defeated were Roger Mills, the fleet daughter of Peter McCue and Nellie Trammell; A.D. Reed, the son of Peter McCue and Good Enough; and Article, a racehorse imported from Cuba.

After he was purchased by the Waggoner Ranch in 1923, Midnight's racing career continued. Raced regularly for a number of years, he once set a mark of 33 seconds for three-eighths of a mile at Abilene.

Since Midnight, Badger, Nellie Trammell and Peter McCue were all top sprinters in their prime, the top side of Chubby's pedigree was laced with speed. The same held true for the bottom.

Fourth Of July, his dam, was reported to be one of Waggoner's fastest race mares. Old Mary, the dam of Fourth Of July, had achieved such recognition as a runner that W.T. Waggoner paid the unheard of price of \$500 each for her and her weanling colt, Yellow Wolf, in 1915.

So, however you care to dissect his pedigree, Chubby was bred to be fleet of foot. All he needed was the chance to prove it.

Early accounts of Chubby's life are sketchy at best. At maturity, he has been described as a blood bay, standing 14.2 and weighing 1,100. He was branded 5 inside a D on his left forearm and 4 on his left hindquarter.

It is also known that the Waggoners sold him as a young horse, probably in the late 1920s, to a man named Scott,



**Here's a photo of Chubby taken when he was registered with the AQHA. Although past his prime, the 16-year-old stallion still had the strong, low hocks that stood him in such good stead as a racehorse.**

who lived in the "Panhandle country." Scott then sold him to Bill Bryan of Plainview, Texas.

It was in 1932, while owned by Bryan, that Chubby received what would be his first two documented tests as a runner. The events took place while Bryan was riding the stallion on a horse drive from Plainview to Dimmitt - a distance of 40 miles. On the return trip Chubby was matched against a local country boy's horse. The winner's purse was \$35 and Chubby claimed it.

Later that same day, he was matched again. This time the competition was a race mare being trained by R.E. "Shorty" Warren of Plainview. The purse was a sack of oats, and Chubby again emerged victorious.

Warren was known as one of the top race trainers in the Texas Panhandle, and it wasn't long after the horse drive

**Chucker Vee, a 1953 bay stallion by Chuck Wagon W. and out of Miss Wardlaw 50, was an AQHA Champion and a Superior Halter Horse. Emmett Dalton of Dallas, Texas, holds the Chubby grandson after he had been named the reserve champion stallion of the 1958 State Fair of Texas.**



that Chubby wound up in his hands to be seriously conditioned for the track.

Over the course of the next several years, Warren matched Chubby 21 times. The bay stallion won 20 on the contest, with his sole defeat coming in his last race. Matched for 220 yards against a mare from Oklahoma and, by Warren's own account, out of shape and with a strange jockey aboard, Chubby was narrowly defeated.

During his short but highly successful racing career, Chubby met and defeated such horses as Barney Owens, Joker Joe and Driftwood - at such locations as Olton,

Odessa, Fort Stockton, Lubbock, Abilene and San Angelo.

On one day in Abilene, Chubby was entered in and won two 440-yard races. Entered in a third race - a 330-yard event - he broke to an 8-length lead, and held on to win by a narrow margin.

Throughout his career, he was known as a savvy "lap and tap" starter whose powerful getaway was considered the secret to his long string of victories.

By 1933 Chubby's race career was over, and he was sold to J.C. Hooper and sons of Plainview. In 1940 Hooper registered the then 16-year-old stallion with the newly formed AQHA, and he was assigned number 656.

Unfortunately for Chubby, the Hooper family was more oriented to raising and using good ranch horses than to showing, rodeoing or racing. As a result, for much of the rest of his life, Chubby headed a band of largely nondescript ranch and draft mares.

This doesn't imply that Hooper didn't value Chubby and his offspring. By all accounts he did. He was just not interested in breeding for competition. As a result, Chubby was not heavily promoted, and went unnoticed for years by much of the Quarter Horse world.

## A Few Good Mares

Luckily for the stallion, however, there were a number of local horsemen who did enjoy competing, and they were quick to use the blood of Hooper's bay stallion. Shorty Wheeler was one of the first to bring a top mare to Chubby's court. Her name was Ruth, and she was a product of the famed J. Frank Norfleet horse program of Hale Center, Texas.

The first result of the Chubby-Ruth cross was a mare named Little Ruth. Although the year she was foaled is unclear, it is known that she won 19 successive starts as a 2-year-old before succumbing to blood poisoning.

In 1935 Manitobian, a full brother to Ruth, was foaled. Eventually sold to Eldon Fancher of Paicines, California, this breed-looking stallion became a top rope horse and runner who could go up to five-eighths of a mile.

Before he left west Texas, Manitobian sired Bartender - the horse who would be most responsible for seeing that Chubby's blood was perpetuated.

After Shorty Warren, the next local breeder to jump on the Chubby bandwagon was S.B. Barnes of Tulia, Texas.

The breeder of Bartender, Barnes assured himself a permanent spot in the annals of Quarter Horse history when, in 1936, he bred Bartender's mother, The Old Vaughn Mare, to Chubby.

Miss Chubby, the resulting foal, was sold to Lester "Pete" Williams of Fairfax, Oklahoma, under whose ownership she went on to become one of the breed's premier matrons. Two of her most accomplished foals were the Register of Merit runners Maudie Williams and Lady Fairfax.

Maudie Williams, a 1946 brown mare by Billy Anson, produced seven ROM racehorses and two AQHA Supreme Champions – Leo Maudie and Joe Fax. Lady Fairfax, a 1949 sorrel mare by Leo, produced Fairfax Joe AAA; Quincy Lady, AQHA Champion and Superior Halter; and Fairbars, AQHA Supreme Champion.

A Supreme Champion family to be sure; and two out of four were double-bred Chubby descendants.

## Curly Daugherty

After Wheeler and Barnes, Frank "Curly" Daugherty of Olney, Texas, began making judicious use of the Chubby blood. Beginning in the 1930s, Daugherty was one of the

most respected horsemen in west Texas. Like Wheeler, His broodmare band was steeped in the blood of the J. Frank and Bob Norfleet horses and included daughters of such famous Norfleet horses as Jim Trammell; Spark Plug (by Jack McCue); and Panzarita (by Spark Plug).

At one time, Daugherty even owned the legendary Panzarita, 100% Foundation, whom early day AQHA inspector Jim Minnick once described as the most perfect mare he had ever laid eyes on.

Such cornerstone matrons as Patsy Daugherty, Panzarita Daugherty, Peaches Daugherty and Mayflower Daugherty came from the Curly Daugherty program, and it was mares of this quality that the intuitive horse breeder took to the court of Chubby.

Jim Dandy, a 1939 bay stallion out of Panzarita, was the first of the Daugherty-bred Chubbys to make a name for himself. Sold to Elmer Hepler of Carlsbad, New Mexico, in utero, Jim Dandy was shown by Hepler at the 1940 Southwestern Livestock Exposition in Fort Worth. After topping a class of 22 2-year-old stallions, he sold to August Busch of St. Louis, Missouri, for \$3,000.

Patsy Daugherty, 100% Foundation and a famed performer, was the next Daugherty mare bred to Chubby. A

1932 sorrel mare by Spark Plug and out of Puss (by Red Bird), "Patsy" was one of the great reining and roping mares of her day. In 1948, at the age of 16, she was the all-around champion at the Stamford Cowboy Reunion Horse Show and was awarded the first trophy saddle ever presented by the AQHA.

Patsy had three foals by Chubby. Diamond Ring, a 1941 sorrel mare was the first. Sold to the Diamond 2 Cattle Company of Kirkland, Arizona, she be-



**Leo Maudie, a 1961 bay stallion by Leo and out of Maudie Williams – a Chubby granddaughter – was an AQHA Supreme Champion.**

came the cornerstone mare of their race breeding program. Bred to Little Joe Jr., Diamond Ring produced the ROM runners Diamond Tongs, Diamond Too, Diamond Tiara, Diamond Match and Diamond Pin.

Diamond Tiara and Diamond Match, in turn became top producers with such AAA speedsters as Boy's Ranch, Come Across, Diamond 2 Bar, Burning Match, Hijo Blaze, Shes A Jewel and Well Lit to their credit.

Billy The Kid Edwards was the second foal from the Chubby-Patsy Daugherty cross. A 1944 bay stallion "Billy" sired two daughters who produced AQHA Champions.

Peaches, the third foal to result from the cross, was a 1946 sorrel mare and the dam of two performers.

Panzarita Daugherty was the final mare that Curly Daugherty took to Chubby. A 1942 bay mare by Little Joe the Wrangler, Panzarita Daugherty was a model mare who won a number of grand championships at halter. Bred to Chubby in 1947, she foaled Rio Rita the following spring. Like her dam, Rio Rita had excellent conformation and was shown successfully at halter.

Sold to E. Paul Waggoner in January 1951, Rio Rita produced three Superior halter horses - Rita Buck, a 1952 bay mare by Pretty Buck; Poco Sail, a 1957 bay

mare by Poco Bueno; and Poco Rico, a 1959 bay mare by Poco Bueno.

## More Outstanding Offspring

If there had been any doubts up to this time in anyone's mind about Chubby's ability as a sire when bred to good mares, the results obtained by such breeders as Wheeler, Barnes and Daugherty erased those doubts forever.

By the mid- to late 1940s, interest in the Hooper stallion had, indeed, picked up. Standing to a full book of outside mares during those years, Chubby responded by siring some of his most notable show offspring. Among them were the 100% Foundation horses:

- Chubby III, a 1940 bay stallion out of FH Chili Bean, was the grand champion stallion and winner of the get-of-sire class at the 1945 Amarillo Quarter Horse show.
- Chubby W, a 1942 chestnut stallion out of Miss Wade, was a champion as well.
- Dutchie Chub, a 1944 sorrel mare out of Dutch Lady, was the grand champion mare at the 1947 New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque.
- Dutch Boy, a 1946 bay full brother to Dutchie Chub, was sold to western movie star Wild Bill Elliot and won the 2-year-old stallion class at the

1948 Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association show.

- Chuck Wagon W, a 1946 bay stallion out of Miss Nubbin, became a Superior halter horse and a good sire.
- Jole Blon S, a 1947 dun mare out of Dundee S, also won a Superior at halter and went on to become a top producer.
- Betty Lou Q, a 1947 sorrel mare out of Pocahontas II, was Chubby's top runner. AAA-rated, she earned a Superior in racing and went on to become a AAA producer.
- Alchereta, a 1948 bay mare out of Cupie Doll, earned an ROM in racing.
- Jess Shurbet, a 1950 bay stallion out of Fleeta S, also earned an ROM in racing.

AQHA records reveal that Chubby sired 237 registered horses, of which 29 were performers. In racing, nine of his get earned three ROMs and one Superior. In halter, 11 performers earned



**Chubby Rachelle, a 1957 sorrel mare by Chubby W. II and out of Rachel Girl, was one of Howard Pitzer's first three show horses and the forerunner of a program that would one day lead the nation.**

two Superiors and 165 points. In performance, three horses tallied two ROMs and five points.

Living as he did before the AQHA point system really took hold, Chubby did not rack up very impressive numbers as a sire. He did, however, fare somewhat better as a broodmare sire.

Forty-nine of Chubby's maternal grandget went to the track. They earned 13 ROMs, one Superior in racing and \$59,146.

As show horses, 71 second-generation Chubbys earned eight AQHA Championships, 13 Superior halter and performance awards, 34 ROMs and 2,095 points. And they also accounted for \$12,747 in NCHA earnings.

Chubby passed away on the J.C. Hooper Ranch estate in June 1950, at the age of 26. His influence on the breed continued for years to come. ☺

**Below: Jole Blon S, a 1947 dun mare out of Dundee S., was Chubby's sole Superior halter award winning daughter. She is pictured here with breeder/owner Doyle Saul after earning grand champion honors at the 1949 Paducah, Texas, show.**

**Fairbars, a 1961 sorrel stallion by Three Bars (TB) and out of Lady Fairfax (a Chubby granddaughter), earned his AQHA Supreme Championship in 1968.**

