TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL HORSE ISSUE
WHEN the incomparable King P-234 passed on to the land of perpetual green pastures in 1958 he left a “vacancy” sign over the stall of the theoretical Grand Champion Quarter Horse Stallion. When an undefeated champ steps down in any field of sport there are many contenders for his title. There is a generous handful of logical rivals for the mythical Quarter Horse stallion crown. Poco Bueno P-3044, an outstanding son of King owned by E. Paul Waggoner of Vernon, Texas, must certainly be considered one of the front runners—perhaps the ultimate winner.

Poco Bueno, a beautifully proportioned prepotent sire of 15 years, has a heritage of bloodlines any horse might envy. His own performance record and that of his get would fill many pages with an extensive list of their accomplishments.

Sired By King

Poco Bueno was sired by King by Zantanon, known as the “Man O’ War” of Mexico. Zantanon was sired by Little Joe, the outstanding son of Traveler, a horse whose background is virtually unknown. Traveler’s potential as a running horse was discovered in the 1880’s by a saloon keeper from Baird, Texas. He was teamed at the time with a mule pulling a scraper used in the construction of the Texas and Pacific Railroad between Port Worth and El Paso. The owner of the good looking stall was a man named Triggerfoot Self who acquired him in a trade for one of his mules. Traveler graduated from the scraper to the track and won many a matched race for his enthusiastic backers. He died in 1910 after enduring his get with his steely bloodlines. Joe Moore for example, a son of Little Joe, is proving a potent sire of contemporary Quarter race horses. Little Joe Jr. P-430 traces his breeding to Possum, an own son of Traveler.

DAM MISS TAYLOR P-2636

The breeding on Poco Bueno’s dam’s side is just as impressive as that of his sire. His dam was Miss Taylor P-2636. Her grandsire was the above mentioned Traveler. Her dam was sired by Hickory Bill by Peter McCue whose name is legion in Quarter Horse circles. Hickory Bill, owned by the venerated George Clegg was out of a Dr. Rose mare that was brought to Texas from Kentucky and doubtless carried a lot of Thoroughbred blood. Hickory Bill is perhaps most famous as the direct progenitor of Old Sorrel, the foundation sire of the fine horses bearing the brand of the King Ranch.

The performance record of Poco Bueno and his get is both outstanding and convincing. The May 1959 issue of the Quarter Horse Journal lists his owner, E. Paul Waggoner, as way out in front as the Leading Breeder for 1958 of halter class winners, Register of Merit horses and winners of grand championships. The record shows that Waggoner bred 42 winners that were grand champions 122 times. The King Ranch was second with 39 winners of a total of 47 grand championships.

LEADING SIRE OF WINNERS

Poco Bueno was shown in Denver in 1947 and walked off with the grand champion stallion award. He won the same honor at five other big major shows through 1954, including Fort Worth and San Antonio. He picked up a creditable number of points at halter
CROWN OF THE QUARTER HORSE BREED

and in cutting. His name is at the head of the list for leading sire of halter horses and halter class winners. In addition, the phenomenal success of his get is adding further evidence to the prepotency of this popular sire. His stud fee is currently set at $5000, but he is available to only a limited number of approved mares.

Space precludes a complete rundown of the records of the many Register of Merit AQHA champions sired by Poco Bueno. We will list some of the outstanding ones and beg the forbearance of owners whose horses were not mentioned. Some of the most recent tabulations follow:

Poco Lynn P-44,927 has won 86 points at halter, 20 performance points in reining and 12 grand championships. Poco Lena P-30,475 has won 114 points at halter, 153 performance points in cutting and 15 grand championships. Poco Lena has won over $50,000 in prize money since 1952. Poco Mona No. 27,651 has won 28 points at halter, 168 points in cutting plus two grand championships. Poco Stampeade P-44,340 has won 71
Poco Bueno
(Continued from page 39)

points at halter, 174 performance points in cutting and 17 grand championships. Poco Tiyo P-17,396 has won 13 points at halter, 19 performance points in cutting and two grand championships. Poco Dell P-33,075 has won 35 points at halter, 15 performance points in cutting and 12 grand championships. Poco Bob P-42,965 is rated as one of the top cutting horse stallions and his owner has reported excellent results in the sale of Poco Bob's yearling and suckling colts.

BOUGHT POCO BUENO FOR $7500

When E. Paul Waggoner drove to Rocksprings, Texas, in the fall of 1944 he had just one thing in mind—to become the new owner of Poco Bueno. He wasn't the only interested buyer by a long shot, but he wasn't about to let Jess Hankins sell that fine looking weanling to anyone else. E. Paul related the incident with that knowing Waggoner look. “When I drove up to Hankins’ ranch I noticed a visiting horse trailer with the name Poco Bueno already blazoned on its side. Right then I knew I was in for a battle, but I had made up my mind to have that colt. I finally bought him, but it took $7500 to do it.” In retrospect, it was doubtless one of the most fortunate purchases Waggoner ever made. It is one that has given him a lot of satisfaction and enjoyment.

By the time E. Paul first saw the light of day in 1889, the Waggoners were getting well established, but they were still fighting every inch of the way. E. Paul learned the cattle business from the vantage point of a saddle slung over the withers of a sturdy half Shetland, half Indian pony. When he was nine his grandfather Dan put him in charge of 250 registered Herefords pastured along the banks of Denton Creek. E. Paul handled the dehorning, branding and vaccination with the aplomb of an old cowboy.

As the Waggoners prospered in the cattle business they gradually moved towards the northwestern part of Texas looking for better grass and more water. E. Paul can remember back around 1904 when he and his dad took off in a horse and buggy in search of additional land near their present home a few miles from Vernon, Texas. Their “outfit” is called Sachuesta and consists of about 552,000 acres under fence. That would make it second in size to the fabulous expanse of the King Ranch which is located in the southern part of Texas. Under normal conditions of rain and grass, they “run” a herd of about 25,000 head of cattle which is a lot of stock in any man’s language.

KENTUCKY THOROUGHBREDS

When W. Tom Waggoner said he wanted to have the best horses possible, he really meant it. In 1908 when E. Paul was 13, his dad took him to Lexington, in the heart of the blue grass country of Kentucky. They visited with the fa-

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JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA
famous Colonel Matt Wynn and also a chap named Phil Chin who sold them seven Thoroughbred mares. They brought the mares back home and bred them to the best available sires. W. T. Waggoner is responsible for some of the colorful names of their colts; Heel Fly, Money Getter, Double Heart, Cal Roper and Line Rider. They also raised a horse named Vermajo, that won the gold cup and $83,000 in the 1912 Futurity at New Orleans. So you can see, the Waggoners were right there winning big purses in those days. We can't take time to fill in all the details of the Waggoner activities in the racing world, but in 1926 they bought a horse named Pharos in England—for a tab of $106,000. In 1937 E. Paul built a beautiful racetrack at Arlington, between Fort Worth and Dallas, in a golf course later, Texas put an end to organized track betting that forced the big tracks out of business.

All of which brings us back to Vernon, Texas, in a few big jumps, to that well-bred sire named Poco Bueno. His name and registry number are boldly painted at the entrance to his airy barn, in which he occupies the stall of honor. The barn is surrounded by a well-planned layout which is doubtless the finest of its kind in the land. It is the scene of the annual Santa Rosa Rodeo and Horse Show. There is a covered grandstand built along one side of the performance area. Spacious barns are available for visiting horses. The grounds are beautifully landscaped with lawns, flowers and trees. It is here in this tidy, snug little horse paradise that E. Paul centers his boundless energy and enthusiasm. In fact, there is a neat little house right on the premises which he uses to advantage when not "at home" in the more formal domicile he occupies with Mrs. Waggoner at Sachuelta. The little house is called "Knott Inn," a name which fails to reveal the warm hospitality extended to the many visitors who come to look and talk about his favorite subject—horses.

HAND-PICKED MARES

For the past decade the main objective at the E. P. Waggoner rodeo grounds has been to breed and buy the best possible brood mares for Poco Bueno to cover. Here again we find the present tied close to the past because the band of hand-picked mares have bloodlines with roots deep into both Waggoner and Texas Quarter Horse history. Near the turn of the century the Waggoners owned an excellent Thoroughbred race horse named Strideway. His daughters were bred to the heralded Yellow Jacket whose daughters were bred to the first Yellow Wolf, by Weatherford Joe Bailey. The Waggoners bought a stud named Blackburn P-3228, a son sired by Yellow Wolf who was by Pid Hart or perhaps by his brother Anti-Pro. Beaver Creek, a son of King was another Waggoner sire whose bloodlines are preserved in many of the present Waggoner dams. They also owned the stud, Pretty Boy, who incidentally, is the grand sire of an outstanding Poco Bueno stud colt. In addition E. Paul has acquired outside mares carrying the best blood available to bring into the fine band.

The mares are turned out under range conditions in an enclosure consisting of several thousand acres at Sachuelta. The colts and fillies of each crop are carefully culled. A few outstanding colts and fillies are groomed for performance and halter classes, others are selected for the semi-annual Santa Rosa sale. The remainder are broken for use on the ranch.

The horses selected for ranch work are an integral part of the Waggoner operation. Good cow horses are needed to
supply each of 40 cowboys who use an average of about 15 horses. The cowboys are scattered at widely-spaced camps spotted on the vast 750 square mile Ranchita confines. John Biggs, who is E. Paul’s son-in-law, has taken over the supervision of the cattle domain which leaves E. Paul more time to devote to his horses. Biggs is also interested in the horses and is a director of the AQHA.

Meanwhile back at the rodeo grounds, E. Paul is sitting in his comfortable air-conditioned office talking with his trusted manager of 15 years service, Fagan Miller. They are surrounded with pictures of Waggoner horses, trophies and countless award ribbons which are mostly blue. Perhaps they are talking over the results of their 1958 breeding program—trying to improve it for 1959. Maybe they are planning a campaign for a couple of promising colts who occupy the stalls down the line from Poco Bueno. One is named Poco Man. He is by Poco Bueno out of a Pretty Boy mare named Pretty Me. This colt is one of the most perfect Quarter Horses ever to set foot on the ranch. He has already created quite a stir at some of the local shows and you may be hearing a lot about him in the future. The second colt, Poco Emprint, is another great prospect. He, too, is by Poco Bueno out of Jessie Rose by Poco Bueno out of a Jesse James mare.

E. Paul and Fagan might be talking about a young filly named Lady Pep Up. She is by Poco Bueno out of a Pep Up mare. Fagan is training her for the cutting arena. Judging from what we saw of her in action, she has a good cow sense which one would expect to see based on her breeding.

HOLD SALE EVERY OTHER YEAR

Of course, it is quite possible that this pair is talking about the 1960 rodeo, horse show and sale which takes a lot of advance planning and paper work. They hold a sale every other year which permits an offering of well-culled weanlings and yearlings. June 20, 1960, is the day set aside for the sale which comes at the same period as their well-attended Santa Rosa Rodeo and Horse Show. The 1960 sale should prove a memorable event, as it will be restricted to the get of Poco Bueno. It is open to the public and will doubtless create quite a stir in Quarter Horse circles.

It may take awhile for Quarter Horse people all over the country to tacitly agree on the sire to wear the crown vacated by King. Maybe there never will be any one sire which will be accorded the niche occupied by King. If there is, there are many who are convinced the accolade belongs squarely on the proud head of Poco Bueno. There’s one thing we are sure of and that is his get are piling up an accumulation of wins as Register of Merit Quarter Horses, which certainly can’t be duplicated at the present writing.

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