

Jackie Bee Too Good To Bee True

From the late 1960s to the early 1980s the halter classes were dominated by big, good looking gray horses. They were being shown at halter but they looked like they would be equally at home on a ranch in the branding pen. These horses were the offspring of the great Jackie Bee, a 100% Foundation legend. Jackie Bee was owned for most of his life by Duane Walker a modest man who didn't let Jackie's success change him. Walker says his good fortune with Jackie Bee was "mostly luck" but talk to anyone who knows him and they will tell you that Duane Walker is a true horseman in every sense of the word.

There is an old saying, 'If you have one good wife, one good dog, and one good horse in your life then you are a lucky man.' and although Walker's success was not due to luck he is lucky. Duane and wife Jo have been happily married for 53 years, his dog Smoke was his faithful companion..... and he had Jackie Bee.

by Debby Preso

A Kansas Man

"My dad had draft horses and saddle horses and my brothers and I always had horses to ride." says Duane Walker. "By the time I was a teen-ager I was buying colts, starting them and selling them. I was doing something with young horses just about all the time." Duane grew up in a farming and ranching family in Kansas

where he has lived all his life. The horses they had were for work as much as play. He and his brothers learned the value of a good working horse.

Walker says that in the beginning he bought horses based on their own merit rather than on their pedigrees. "But," he adds, "behind most good horses you find a pretty solid pedigree."

There were some good horses in Kansas and one was a cutter called Ready Money W who had been the five-time Kansas champion. "I knew the horse well. As a kid I'd watched him cut many times and always enjoyed it." recalls Duane. The Ready Money W

The Walkers had a lot of success showing Frosty. Shown by Duane and Jo's son Tim she was the first AQHA high-point youth halter mare in the country.

Duane also had his eye on a half-sister of Frosty Money owned by Ronnie Crowther. "I liked that filly - she was probably 60 days old when I saw her and I bought her when she was about four months old." This filly was Tee Jay Rusty and the Walkers showed her along with Frosty Money. Tee Jay Rusty was the High Point 2 Year Old Halter mare in 1966.

The decision was made to sell Frosty Money, "We had two reasons for selling her. The first was that we had done everything that we wanted with her. The second reason was that we were just starting out. We didn't have much more than our love for each other." says Duane. He and Jo had bought a small place and with the sale of Frosty Money they could afford to work on it and also buy some more broodmares for their breeding operation.

Frosty sold for \$10,000. She went on to be an AQHA Champion and a Superior halter horse. She was also a great broodmare producing The Continental and Robert Redford.

Duane bought Frosty's dam and her granddam and leased her sire, My Red Money. He never felt tempted to buy My Red Money though. He

had seen the stallion he wanted to build his operation around. It was a new-born, gray colt by Jimmie Mac Bee, his name was Jackie Bee.

Jackie Bee

It was pretty much love at first sight for Duane when he first saw Jackie Bee. "He was only about two or three hours old when I first saw him." He continues, "I liked that he was a gray and it was obvious that he was going to be big."

Jackie Bee's breeding was also a big reason that Duane Walker liked the colt. It wasn't just the fact that he was by Jimmie Mac Bee however, he also liked Jackie Bee's dam, Jackie Diane. Jackie Diane was a gray mare by Jack R out of My Jackie Waggoner. "I knew she had produced some other good foals. The fact that she was gray was pretty important to me." Jackie Diane's gray color became a trademark of the Jackie Bee offspring.

Jackie Bee was owned by Glen Davis, a good friend of Duane's who also lived in Canton, KS about a half mile from the Walkers. "He was a real good friend and we did a lot of horse trading between ourselves. Sometimes just for the sake of having a trade!" Walker chuckles.



Duane Walker borrowed \$300 to buy Frosty Money. Shown by Duane's son Tim she became the first Youth Hi-Point halter horse in the nation. The Walkers sold her for \$10,000 and she went on to produce The Continental and Robert Redford.

bloodline is still a constant in the Walker breeding operation and Duane says of the bloodline, "It seemed like wherever you found one it was a pretty nice horse."

He had also seen Ready Fred a son of Ready Money W. "He belonged to a gal named Barbara Underwood who was from Kansas. She rode him in every class she could at the horse show from barrel racing to western pleasure." Duane later ended up with a full sister to Ready Fred as a broodmare. Says Walker about the Ready Money W horses, "They did about everything."

Another bloodline that Duane liked was owned by neighbor Ronnie Crowther who had a stallion called Jimmy Mac Bee. Jimmy Mac Bee was a dun by Sonny Day Bee out of Miss Hackberry. Walker says that Jimmy Mac Bee's dun color still crops up from time to time in their Jackie Bee horses.

Crowther was instrumental in getting Duane into the Quarter Horse business. "He was in it from the beginning and I learned a lot from him." says Duane. "I bought his horses for two reasons, one was because I liked them and two is because they were available!" he laughs.

Duane and Jo were both working full time and raising their young family. They did not have a lot of money to spend on horses. Duane borrowed \$300 from the bank and bought a Jimmy Mac Bee filly called Frosty Money.

Davis priced Jackie to Duane but he also wanted to include the rest of his horses in the deal. "He had some mares and I don't know what else," he remembers. "I'd have been better off if I'd just gone ahead and done it then but I was kinda hard headed about it. I shouldn't have been." Walker states matter of factly.

Duane had already bred some mares to the handsome gray so he knew what kind of offspring he could produce. When Jackie was a five-year-old Duane told Glen Davis that he was going elsewhere to look for a stud and that when he left the next morning his standing offer on Jackie Bee was off. Davis fell for the bluff and called Walker later to tell him that Jackie was his.

So Jackie Bee at five years old had really never been heard of outside the Canton, KS area but that was about to change.

The Walkers showed Jackie a little just to let people know they had him. He always placed well but Duane says, "We never really had him halter fit. We were breeding him when we were showing him which kept him pretty busy."

Jackie also worked on their ranch, working cattle. Duane, an avid roper, says he didn't have the time to rope as he'd like then so Jackie didn't compete but that he was a good rope horse on the ranch.

Aside from the fact that Jackie Bee's obvious physical characteristics Duane describes what he liked best about the big gray. "Jackie had a great disposition, I guess you'd say a great personality. He liked people. He was kind. We had little kids and I didn't have to worry about them being around Jackie. We had one grandson who would get up on the fence and Jackie would come over to him. He'd get off the fence onto Jackie and ride him around the pen without anything on him." The kids were safe with Jackie.

Duane's dog Smoke was also safe with Jackie. Smoke had been given to Duane in the mid '70s by cutting horse trainer Sandy Hollar. Smoke and Jackie had their daily routine. "Jackie was kept in a pen

near the house." recounts Duane. "Every day Smoke would run into the pen and growl and snap at Jackie and Jackie would take after him and run him out of the pen. They would keep it up until they got tired and then Smoke would lie down in the shade

between Jackie's legs and go to sleep. Jackie just stood over him, like he was protecting him."

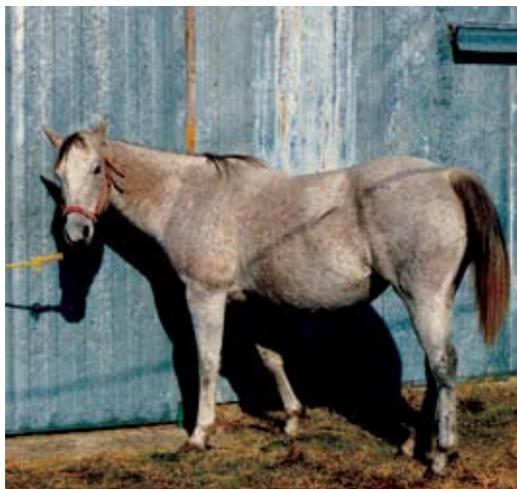
The disposition of Jackie and his get was of prime importance to Duane then and still is today. "I feel that it is something that we've let get away from us in a lot of horses these days. I've been very particular about that in our horses. Our mares today have that. I think you've just got to have a good disposition."

Duane describes the first mares he bought to breed to Jackie, "They weren't high-dollar broodmares. We bought what we could afford." He is being a little modest about the quality of the broodmares they had though. Their mares might not have had the most well-known bloodlines but they were good bloodlines.

"The mares that I tracked down and bought were the daughters of the good mares that we had and that Ronnie Crowthers had." He had Frosty's dam, Red Dee Money, and her granddam, Irvin's Babe. (they are now having the 7th generation foals from Irvin's Babe) and Duane found mares through what he calls luck and what everyone who knows him calls knowledge.

Duane Walker worked hard to get good broodmares. "I tried to get mares that were from proven families," he says. Although the broodmares were an integral part of the breeding operation he gives the lion's share of the credit to the gray stallion who changed his life. "Nearly all the mares that were bred to him produced better than what they had been producing."

"The families our mares came from had pretty well proven themselves but the key to the production from those mares was Jackie Bee." Walker says modestly and then finishes with



Jackie Bee's dam Jackie Diane. The famous Jackie Bee gray color came from her and is still dominant today.



Ronnie Crowther with Jimmy Mac Bee. "I learned a lot from Ronnie. He was in the Quarter Horse business from the beginning." says Duane Walker.

this statement, "Any success that I had breeding horses has got to be attributed directly to him."

By the time Duane acquired Jackie he had colts on the ground but they hadn't begun to attract the attention of outside breeders. The first of Jackie Bee's offspring to have success were shown by the Walkers but Duane says it wasn't long before others joined them.

A high percentage of Jackie's offspring were successful. Duane notes, "It seemed that even before our horses came along the judging was done with a yardstick." He remembers, "Our horses were bigger. But they were also better." Duane says he was surprised by the dominance of Jackie's get but Jo says, "No he was not surprised." Whether it was a surprise or not there is no doubt that the Walkers were both pleased and proud.

Jackie not only changed the size of the halter horse but he changed the color. More and more big, good looking, gray or black horses with the Walkers Tee Jay (or Tee J) prefix went home with the championship.

Duane did some of the showing himself but his job kept him pretty busy. "I had a guy that worked for me and he did a good job. We'd usually take a truck load of horses to a show. He conditioned them and hauled them but sometimes if he had his hands full I'd show one. I wasn't really a showman."

The Walkers showing success was quite a feat considering that Duane was working full-time at the grain elevator and many of the other competitors were on the road showing all season.

Tee J Black Jack and Tee J Black Jill were two of the first of Jackie's successful offspring. Tee J Black Jack earned 31 halter points and went on to become a



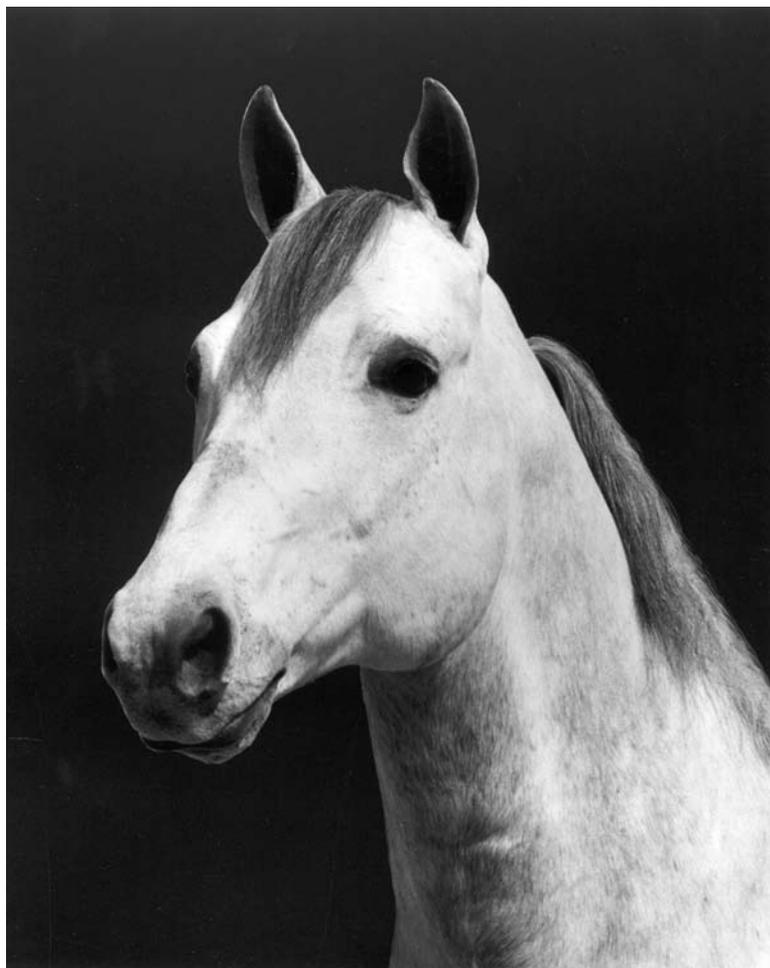
successful sire. Tee J Black Jill was the first AQHA Champion sired by Jackie Bee. Her breeder was a neighbor of the Walkers and Duane bought her as a youngster. She was a Youth and Open AQHA Champion with Superiors in halter and western pleasure.

They sold on a lot of top horses because Duane was interested in getting Jackie's offspring out where they could be seen. He says, "If I had an opportunity to sell one to someone who would do something with it I sold it. Most of Jackie's offspring were shown by someone else."

Jackie's offspring were the ones to beat during the 1970s and one of the most famous and successful was a gray mare owned by George Freeman called Te Jay O'Hara Miss. This beautiful mare won the 'Triple Crown' of halter by standing Grand at the Congress, won the World Championship and the year-end High Point a feat that was duplicated by her daughter Heavenly Ohara. Freeman says, "I think they are the only mother/daughter combination to do that."

Quarter Horse legend Jackie Bee. This 100% NFAQHA stallion passed his looks and conformation to his offspring and they dominated halter classes across the nation.

His get also proved to be versatile and today the Jackie Bee's are some of the most sought after ranch horses in the country.



The Lucky Finds

Duane Walker credits his ability to find good broodmares to his luck. One of the best crosses Walker had with Jackie Bee was a Burnett Ranch-bred mare Duane found called Badger Gal 50 She was by Gray Badger II and out of Triangle Lady 50 by Red Buck.

"I bought a filly out of that mare but she died not too long after I bought her. I went back to this man and stopped to talk and see what else he had out of that mare. Well, he told me his stud had died and that mare was just running out in the pasture not raising a colt. She was 17 years old. I told him I'd like to have her but he said he couldn't sell her as she was a gift.

"He asked me what I wanted to do with her and I told him I'd like to breed her to my horse, maybe raise a stal-

lion out of her. He told me to just take her and raise the colt. I said, 'That won't work very well for you.' We worked out a deal and I had her until she was 24. She had seven foals and every one of them was a really good one. I think the first one I gave to him was the grand champion mare at Denver Stock show."

Among the seven foals she had for Walker were, Tee Jay Badger Bee, an AQHA Champion and Superior halter horse, Tee Jay Bee Bee who was an AQHA Youth Champion and Superior halter horse and Tee Jay Be Hancock who was the 1984 Youth World Champion and a Superior halter horse.

"I truly believe I had something guiding me the day I turned down that driveway."

Duane found the mother of Te Jay O'Hara Miss in this same "lucky" way. Earlier Duane had sold the mare but he'd decided he wanted her back and went looking for her. "We couldn't find her. We couldn't even find the guy that had bought her." he remembers.

Giving up on finding the mare Walker went out one day to look at a horse for his son who was starting to calf rope. "I knew where there was a nice Ready Money W bred mare. So I bought her, her sire, and a daughter of Paul A and some others. Then the seller tells me that there's a guy down the road that wants me to come down and look at some horses.

"I said, 'I don't want any more horses. I've already bought more horses than I should have!'" He told Duane that they could go down together and Duane wouldn't have to buy anything.

"Well, to make a long story short I went down there with him and there was that mare that I'd been looking for! She didn't look too good but she had a really good daughter. So I wound up buying those two mares for little o' nothing. She didn't have too many colts for me before she had Te Jay O'Hara Miss."

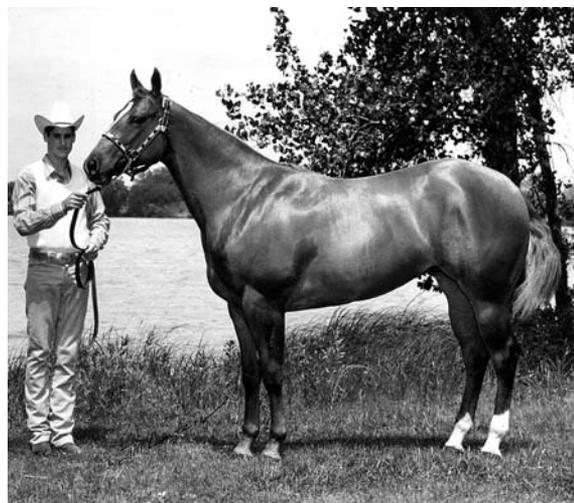
As Duane tells of these finds he is constantly putting it down to luck or guidance, "I wasn't smart enough to do that. At least it sure didn't seem like I was."

Tee Jay Janie was another instance of Duane's "luck". "I had leased an own son of Leo from a friend to breed a few mares with. For the lease he wanted me to ride this three-year-old mare." They made the deal and Duane went ahead and rode the mare. He says, "She was nice, she wanted to get along really well but I didn't have the time to ride her enough to really help her."

Walker paid \$300 for the mare and they bred her to Jackie Bee and Tee Jay Janie was the result. The mare was the 1977 AQHA High-Point Halter horse, AQHA Champion Halter horse and Superior in halter.

"That's how we got our good mares. And I do believe I had help or luck because I wasn't smart enough to pick them out." Walker goes on to say, "Some of those mares had been bred to other horses and they hadn't raised anything spectacular. But the did with Jackie."

In the case of Jackie's offspring, they not only looked good, they worked good too. "They were good athletes. They might not have been as quick as some of these little horses today but they were fast. They were long distance horses, if you really needed to use them they had lots of bottom. We haltered them in the morning and showed them in whatever performance classes there were in the afternoon." He says that with all the performance classes on offer today it is a shame that the halter exhibitors don't take advantage of the opportunity.



Some of Jackie Bee's halter stars

Top: Tee J Black Jill

Center: Tee Jay Bee Bee

Bottom: Te Jay O'Hara Miss



Best Friends - Jackie and Duane's dog Smoke show their affection for each other.

Sixteen Jackie Bee offspring earned their AQHA Championship which requires the horse to get a minimum of 15 points each in halter and performance for a total of at least 35 points. The Jackie Bee's excelled in both areas and Duane feels, "In a halter class a horse's conformation and attitude still have to say performance." He goes on to say, "As I understand it, the halter classes were started as a way to improve the Quarter Horse's conformation as it related to performance."

The fact that Jackie's get were such good performers stood them in good stead as the more specialized Impressive horses began to take over the halter classes. The big, gray horses never missed a beat as horses like 1980 AQHA Champion Tee Jay Roman and 1984 AQHA Sr Reining Horse Champion How D Mae Bee showed how versatile Jackie's get really were.

Duane says that although they excelled at halter the Jackie Bee's like a job. "They'll lope around in a circle if that's what you want them to do but they like a job. They like working cattle and they've got lots of cow in them.. They like to be used."

Jackie Bee's show up everywhere from the cutting pen to the pleasure arena. George Freeman of Freeman Ranch in Sallisaw, OK owned and showed the great Te Jay O'Hara

the great modern broodmare sires. "We couldn't be prouder of the Jackie Bee family. Breeders and ranchers tell us, 'Those are our best horses.'"

In all, Jackie Bee's get earned 7,879.50 points from 268 shown. In these were 16 AQHA Champions, 12 Halter Superiors, 91 Performance ROMs, 8 Performance Superiors and 3 World Champions.



Jackie Bee rests at the Walkers where he spent most of his life. Says Duane, "We had a lot of good horses. But only one Jackie Bee."

Miss, her daughter Heavnelly Ohara and Tee Jay Janie. Today he is still winning with Jackie Bee bred horses.

"I'm a tremendous fan. We just got done winning the Italian Nationals (Pleasure) on a horse that goes back to Jackie Bee." Freeman says. "It's not like the blood is dead. It just keeps going stronger."

He adds, "I can go any direction with them." He certainly can, Jackie Bee's are also versatile geographically. "I've got more horses in Europe and the UK right now than anybody." states Freeman.

Freeman is lavish in his praise of Walker and his breeding operation. "He could go to an auction and pay \$400 or \$500 for a broodmare that nobody had ever heard of," he says of Duane Walker, "and the offspring would bring \$10,000 for the next ten years. It was just phenomenal how much that man knew."

Jackie Bee's are highly prized as broodmares. Duane and Jo are proud of the fact that Jackie is recognized as one of

Other Stallion Stars

At the same time they were standing Jackie Bee, Tee Jay Quarter Horses also had some other fine stallions. Diamond Tender was a stallion who crossed great with the Jackie Bee mares. "I'd always liked Diamond Tender. I didn't really need him that bad when I got him but I talked to the guy and he leased him to me. Then the guy died and his wife told me if I paid out the lease I could have him."

Diamond Tender had been shown in several performance classes and even won a little money on the race track but as always Walker liked him for his good attitude. "He was really gentle and safe. He was just right."

Walker bought Gold Fingers along with 30 mares from the Lewis ranch in Texas. Once again he was in the

right place at the right time. "I was looking for an outcross horse then. Diamond Tender was gone. The inheritors of the ranch were dispersing due to the inheritance tax. So I made a deal with them."

He actually got the mares when luck or fate or just living right kicked in again. "They called me wanting some breeders certificates. I asked what they were doing and it turned out that they were selling this bunch of mares. I'd seen a black mare in there that I wanted so I asked if she was in the deal and she was. There were several other good mares and I ended up buying them for killer price."

Gold Fingers crossed well on the Jackie Bee mares, and Jackie crossed well on those mares of which many were Gold Fingers bred. He says that the Gold Fingers/Jackie Bee cross was "excellent."

Duane says he tried to recognize his opportunities and as he tells the stories of how he acquired many of these horses you'd have to say he did a good job.

Losing A Friend & Partner

Duane stopped standing Jackie to the public when the stallion was around 25. Jackie had developed a problem with swallowing when he was around 23 years old. He'd lost the muscle



Top: Jackie Bee son WYO Three Bars ridden by legendary horseman Ray Hunt. The 91% NQHA stallion helped Bill & Carol Smith start their WYO legacy.

Bottom: Duane on WYO Ace High a son of WYO Three Bars. The heeler is World Champion J D Yates.

tone in his esophagus and would sometimes choke when he was eating. He was really good about treatment because he knew what it took to relieve him. He'd just stand while he was tubed to withdraw some of the food that was choking him."

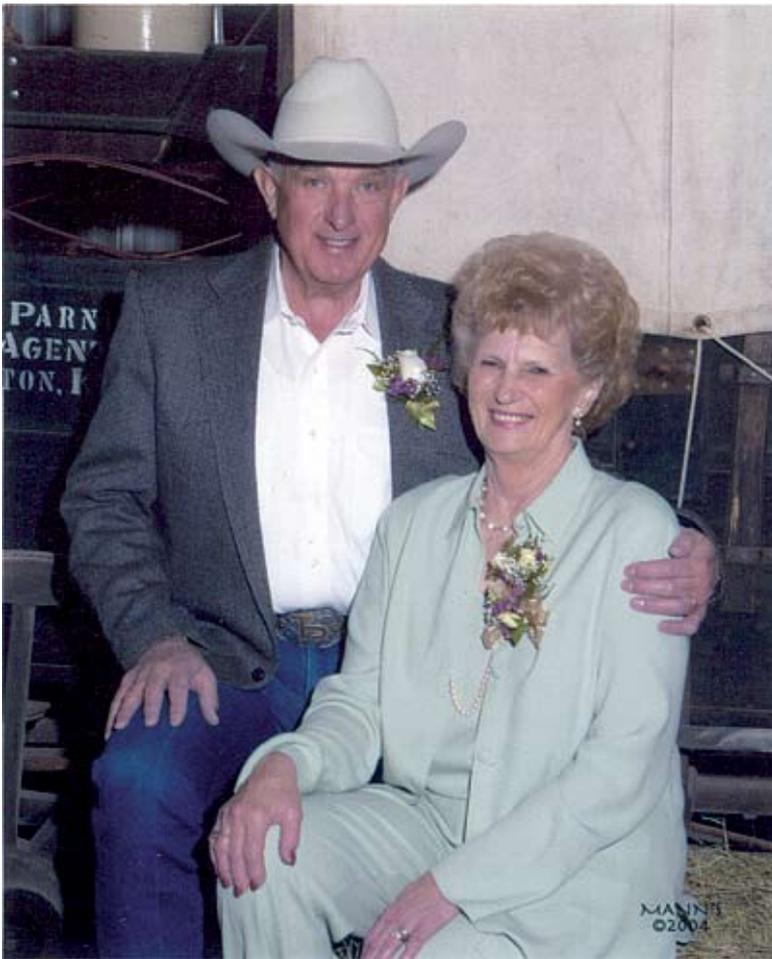
Duane remembers standing out at Jackie's pen not long before the big gray died. "Jo and I were out just talking to him on a Sunday morning. He liked to come out and show off a little bit. He came out and reared and showed us what he could do - it wasn't like a five-year-old but he still felt good."

The following Tuesday Jackie choked again. "Usually he would be off his feed for a day or two and then he'd go back to eating and drinking but this time he didn't." They gave Jackie IV fluids to try to get him going and made the decision that if this didn't work he would have to be put down.

"I always feared that - I'd always feared the fact that we might have to make the decision to end his life." The Walkers had gone over to Manhattan, KS to attend the funeral of former AQHA President Orville Burtis and returned home to find that Jackie had died. "He didn't really suffer," says Walker. "He just decided it was time."

The Walkers dispersed nearly everything in 1990 after Jackie Bee died selling about 225





Top: Duane and Jo celebrate 50 years together.
Below right: Just starting out

head. They kept just a handful of mares, all daughters of Jackie Bee.

Today Duane and Jo have daughters, granddaughters, and great granddaughters of these mares. Their stallion OT Seven Come Eleven is turned out with the mares. They don't stand him to the public.

They are expecting 17 colts this year. And although he can't look out of his house and see his good friend Jackie Bee any more Duane says "The bright spot for me is going out to the pasture and finding those babies."

Duane's love for horses is a life-long passion and he says he will have horses as long as he can take care of them. "I hope that when my light goes out I've just brushed one. After I'd just ridden him if possible."

Through all of this Duane and Jo have been partners in everything. They raised their family together, worked together and Jo was behind Duane 100 percent in the horse business in spite of the fact that she was not raised around horses. She says of her hus-



bands ability to find gold nuggets others have missed, "Let me tell you this, it's not all luck."

George Freeman agrees, "Duane was lucky when he found Jo but the horses are not luck. That's knowledge!"

From Halter To The Ranch

These days Duane has a Jackie Bee grandson he rides called WYO Ace High or 'Ace'. Ace is a big, good-looking gray gelding by Tee Jay Three Bars out of a Gold Fingers mare. Like his grandsire he has a lot of heart and a good disposition. Duane can team rope off him and being a typical Jackie Bee he is so gentle that Duane's grandson has shown him in 4-H.

The Walkers have 1500 acres of grass they let for grazing where Duane and Ace keep an eye on the cattle. As Duane says, "The cattle are a good reason to saddle your horse."

Cattle are the reason many Jackie Bee's are saddled these days. Bill and Carol Smith of the WYO Quarter Horse Ranch in Thermopolis, WY have some of the most sought-after working ranch geldings in the country.

Bill tells of how he first met Duane. "There were two stallions I was interested in and one was Gold Fingers and the other was Jackie Bee." remembers Bill. "My brother Rick and I were in Kansas and we weren't too far from the Walkers. We didn't call, we just drove up to the house."

"Duane Walker is one of those people who, if he sees you drive up, comes out of the house to meet you." Bill Smith is a 3 time World Champion Saddle Bronc rider. Duane, a big PRCA fan, recognized him immediately.

With typical hospitality Duane invited them in and they ended up spending the night, They have been close friends ever since that day. "Duane is the biggest single influence in how I run my horse sale and the way I handle my horse business. If there is one guy in the horse business I admire it's Duane Walker."

Bill and Carol found the stallion they were looking for. Tee Jay Three Bars - 91% NFQHA - was a son of Jackie Bee. The Smiths picked him out of a field of colts at the Walkers and says Bill, "We team roped off him and he was an ideal ranch horse. He lived with us his whole life."

The Smiths hold annual production sales in the spring and fall and the quality of their Jackie Bee stock is well known. Their specialty is good, big, working ranch geldings and they always bring a good price.

However, even the Smiths were surprised at their May 2000 sale when WYO Gray Bars Butch sold for the incredible amount of

\$81,000. “We keep in touch with the gentleman, he lives in Maryland. He’s still riding him and just loves him.” says Carol Smith of the handsome gray son of Tee Jay Three Bars.

Jo Walker just happened to be sitting by the loser in the bidding war who told her, “It’s a good thing my husband wasn’t here because he won’t quit. But I was only going to go to \$80,000.” Jo’s comment, “I couldn’t believe it. I thought she’d lost her mind!”

Duane says of the horse, “The bidding turned into a competition to see who could get the horse. That’s why he went so high. But he was the real deal. He was a real nice horse.” The horse is a full brother to Duane’s WYO Ace High.

Says Bill Smith, “The mainstay of our WYO sales throughout the years has been the big, good-looking, gray, Jackie Bee bred ranch gelding about 7 or 8 years old.”

The Jackie Bee horses have grown increasingly popular in the rodeo arena. They are big and strong but they are also sensible enough to deal with all of the hoop-la that goes with rodeoing.

Bucking bull stock contractor Jimmy Crowther uses them in all aspects of his business. Jimmy is the son of Ronnie Crowther, Duane’s mentor and the owner of Jimmy Mac Bee. “We use these horses for everything. We run a cattle operation as well as stock contracting. They do everyday ranch work plus we use them at rodeos. They’re pick-up horses, we drag bulls out of the arena on them, judges flag on them. They can do all that and then you can put your kids on them.” says Crowther.

Jimmy grew up showing and working the Jimmy Mac Bees’s. “They were horses that could win a halter class and then you could go do your ranch work on them too.” he says of Jackie Bee’s sire.

“Duane lives just nine miles from me so I’m real familiar with the horses, I like them and I’ve had a lot of success with them. Jackie Bee was probably the best son of Jimmy Mac.” states Crowther. “The horse I’m using now is a Jimmy Mac/Jackie Bee horse.”

So Jackie Bee’s offspring have lived up to the versatility that Foundation Quarter Horses are known for. In the 1970’s their excellent conformation made them nearly unbeatable at halter, Times changed and today that same body style makes them coveted as working ranch horses.



Duane and Ace in life and in oil.
Duane has a life-long love of horses and says, “I hope when my light goes out I’ve just brushed one.”



Mike Jones is the ranch manager at Chain Land & Cattle and first met Duane when he took a mare to be bred to Gold Fingers. He also bought some Jackie Bee colts that they broke and used on the ranch.

Jones rodeo’d and says, “I had really good luck with the Tee Jay Badgers (a son of Jackie Bee). In fact I ended up with Tee Jay Badger. He was here until he died.”

"I always thought Tee Jay Badger was one of the better sons of Jackie Bee - as far as using horses - that they had." he says. "They were good roping horses. A lot of the Badgers I had were natural pullers and would track a calf really well."

He also liked the Jackie Bee/Gold Fingers cross and still has some granddaughters of the cross. He has two stallions on the ranch that he is crossing with these mares. One is a son of Grays Starlight and the other is a son of Playgun.

"Jackie Bee was never really recognized as a top cow horse but I use the horses here on the ranch and I've won some top ranch horse awards with them. They have cow."

He adds with a chuckle, "And I always like to ride a good-looking horse."

One of the things we heard over and over from the Jackie Bee owners we talked to was that the Quarter Horse has become so specialized today. You have to have this bloodline to do this and a different bloodline to do that and yet another one to do something else.

They were all in agreement that one of the things that makes the Jackie Bee bred horses so special is their versatility. As Bill Smith of WYO Quarter Horses says, "They are an all-around horse. They're not a cutting horse but they have plenty of cow, they aren't a race horse but they have plenty of speed. They have a good disposition, they're good people kind of horses. And they're pretty."

Bill has a great quote about these horses. "They can stand prosperity." By this he means that they can be over-fed and under-used and still take care of their riders.

Although many good horses have come and gone through the Walkers' lives Jackie Bee left an empty place in both Duane and Jo's hearts when he died. "Jackie was my favorite of all the horses we had." remarks Jo. "By quite a bit."

Duane has been quoted as saying, 'The grain elevator business made our living but Jackie made our living better.' Owing Jackie Bee changed their lives but it didn't change the way they lived. Duane and Jo stayed in Kansas, went to work every day, and raised their horses for love not money.

"I think and I believe that if someone really wealthy had owned Jackie, someone who could have bought really good mares to breed to him he could have been more successful than he was in our hands.

"We had many offers on him. One excellent offer was for an amount of money I still can't believe. It was more money than I ever expected to be offered for all of my horses put together. There were a lot of things I could have done with that much money but I never even thought about it.

"Jackie was a part of our family. He had made our world so much larger, we had met so many good people and made so many friends because of him. I just never thought about selling him."

"We've had a lot of good horses. I guess you could say we've been smiled on. We have a good horse now, OT Seven Come Eleven. But he's not Jackie Bee."

Maybe it was a lucky day for Duane Walker when he saw the newborn gray colt but listening to the affection in Walker's voice you have to think Jackie Bee was a pretty lucky horse.



Broodmares
King On Their Papers
In Foal To Bobs Little Pistol
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