

Linton's' Doll – The little horse that could

My name is Ray Suiter. Back in the mid 1970's I did not even know how to ride a horse. At that time I asked my father, Gene Suiter, if he would teach me. He told me to go ask my brother, Dan Suiter, to help because he did not have the time. My brother Dan started to teach me.

After a couple of months I started hanging out at the barn watching my dad work horses almost every day. After some time he let me turn back for him. One day, he asked if I wanted to work a cow out of the herd; I said “yes!”. At first I was terrified, he put me on his open horse Johnny Gay Bar. That was all it took, I was hooked.

At that time my dad had a trainer named Whitey Rarick who started working for him breaking all the young horses. I watched Whitey start them all under saddle and I was intrigued by the whole process. I asked every question I could soaking up all his knowledge. Out back at the ranch there was a little mare named Linton's doll who was just being ignored. I asked my dad why Whitey was not breaking her. He told me that she was bowlegged, small and kind of ugly and that he was just going to turn her in to a brood mare in a few years. I asked him if I could break and ride her. He said “go ahead”. I thought it would be a good learning experience for me.

After about a week of riding Linton's Doll I let a cow in to the round pen and started chasing it around. She absolutely loved this new found activity. I rode Linton's Doll nearly every day for several months and one day I remember walking her up to the tack room to saddle her. She was eating from a bale of hay that my step mother, Margie Suiter, liked to leave there. Suddenly, I heard a loud noise. I turned around and Linton's Doll was laying on the ground! She had bitten through a live extension cord, used for the horse clippers, which was left lying on the hay bail. Much to my relief, she jumped right up like nothing had happened and started eating again. The breaker on that circuit had tripped so the shock she felt must have hurt substantially considering she was standing on steel horse shoes. It was a very close call which could have killed her.

Finally, one day my dad said he wanted to watch me work Linton's Doll out of a herd. I proceeded to work her for him and he said that she might be one of the best horses we have going to the PCCHA Cutting Horse Futurity that year. The next day my dad said “saddle her up, I want to work her.” At this point I am thinking to myself “there goes my horse”. I figured my dad wanted Linton's Doll for himself. When my dad went to get on her I warned him that she gets scared easily and to just let her work. He looked at me like I was just a dumb kid and he was the horse trainer in the family. After he rode her, he admitted I was right in that she did not like to be told what to do. He handed me the reins and told me that I would be showing her in the PCCHA Futurity and I only had one month to get ready. I had only ever shown a horse about 50 to 60 times and it never had amounted to much.

We hauled up to the Central California area to Frank Monaco's ranch in Clements, California. What a beautiful ranch it was. The Futurity started and if I remember correctly, there were 66 horses entered in to the event. I had a pretty average run in the go rounds, but I made the finals on Linton's Doll. The finals were the next day and I could not sleep that night at all. I just kept tossing and turning thinking about going to the finals. I knew I had a horse that was good enough to possibly win. The vision of Linton's doll and myself walking in to the herd were running through my head all night.

The next day the finals started and my name was called to be up next. All I can remember was how nervous I was. My dad was turning back for me. When it was our turn I rode by my dad. He said “Just relax and cut a cow.” A calmness came over me that I cannot explain. It was as if the stars and planets

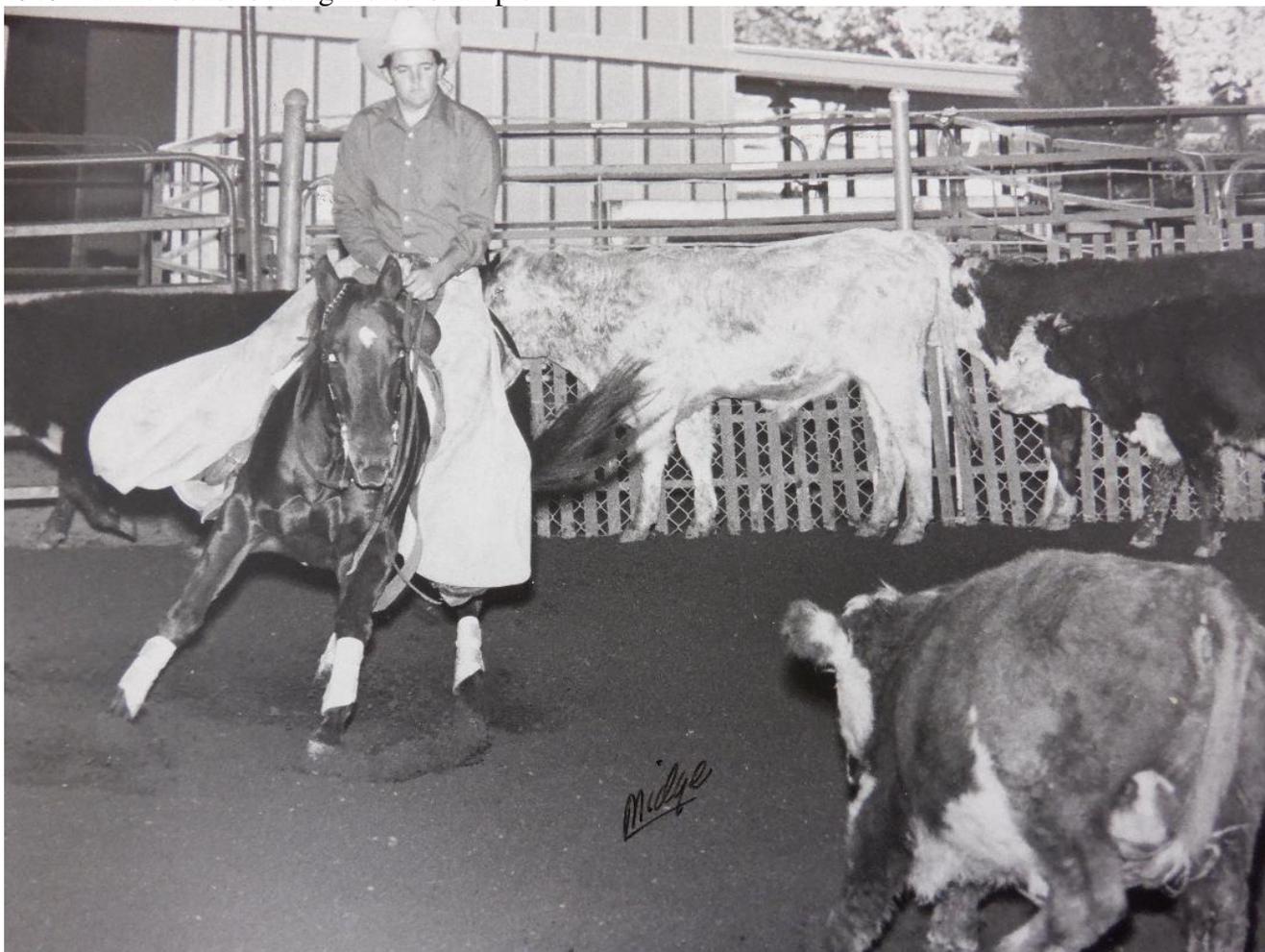
aligned for Linton's Doll and I. I believe I only cut two cows before the buzzer rang. I rode out of the arena by my dad and he winked at me and said that should put me in the money. The announcer called out the score "Ray Suiter and Linton's Doll scored a 220". There were only a few horses left to work and we had the high score! My dad screamed out with happiness and threw his hat up in the air. I had never seen my father so proud of me ever and it was an awesome feeling I will never forget!

I was awarded the 1979 PCCHA Futurity championship which included a new saddle, that I still have to this day, and it has never been on a horse. That day in Clemens California was the best day of my life at that point. Proceeded of course by the day I married my wife, Jami, of 37 years and the birth of our son, Rick.

After the dust had settled and I had time to reflect about Linton's Doll I realized that she taught me more than I taught her. Not bad for a little, ugly, bowlegged horse.

Thank you for reading.

Ray Suiter
1979 Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Champion





PRELIMINARIES, cont'd. . .

	Horse	Owner	Rider
196	Cal's Cowboy	John Everett Acampo, CA	Dell Bell
193	Calleo Bar	Dick Knight Cottonwood, CA	same
193	Conquest Bars*	William Speight Alberta, Canada	same

* Non-Professional Entries

THE FUTURITY

	Horse	Owner	Rider
220	Linton's Doll	Gene Suiter Glendale, AZ	Ray Suiter Glendale, AZ
218	Tamarak's Lass	Ed & Modine Smith Escalon, CA	Lindy Burch Lake Elsinore, CA
216	Tee Bars Alibi	Leon Beckwith Atascadero, CA	Leon Harrel Helm, CA
215½	Doc's Moonlighter	Pamela Dyer Pinole, CA	Jack Adams Acampo, CA
215½	Ms Nu Pride	Lisa & Anthony Sinclair Santa Barbara, CA	Leon Harrel Helm, CA
214	Rockin Docs Lynx	Col. Chas. F. McKee, USA Ret. Hereford, AZ	Mike Mowery Scottsdale, AZ
213½	Hug Me Maria	James R. McNulty Rosamond, CA	Gary Bellenfant Watsonville, CA
206½	Hol E Sport	Herb Garms Smith, NV	same
203½	Cal's Convoy	Edwin "Bill" Jones, Jr. Redding, CA	same
202½	Nu Little Indian	Robert Rocha Escalon, CA	same
199	Podoco	Barbara Black Jenner, CA	Phil Ames Lincoln, CA
196	Holly Athena	Kelly Graham Scottsdale, AZ	same

NON-PRO RESULTS

	Horse	Owner	Rider
431½	Conquest Bars	William Speight Alberta, Canada	same
426½	Linton's Doll	Gene Suiter Glendale, AZ	Ray Suiter
426	Cal's Convoy	Edwin "Bill" Jones, Jr. Redding, CA	same
425½	Nu Little Indian	Robert Rocha Escalon, CA	same
425	Double Kay Miss	Wayne Hodges Wasco, CA	same
422½	Holly Athena	Kelly Graham Scottsdale, AZ	same

"1st" ANNUAL
FUTURITY



"Linton's Doll" looking at the Champion Trophy Saddle donated to our "1st" Futurity Champion by Bill Groff of Bar G Bar Supply of El Cajon, CA.

Trudy and Frank Monaco, gracious hosts of the Rancho Remuda, site of our "1st" Futurity - are doing the presenting to the happy rider Ray Suiter of Glendale, AZ. Proud owner of "Linton's Doll" and father of Ray is Gene Suiter.