

The Little Buckaroo

US : 1928 : dir. Louis King :

Silent : 51 min

prod: : scr: Frank Howard Clark : dir.ph.: Roy Eslick

[Buzz Barton](#)

Milburn Morante; Kenneth McDonald; Peggy Shaw; Al Ferguson; Walter Maly; Robert Burns; James Welch; Florence D Lee

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2829a	1.5	1	0	584	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

“Everything in Frank Howard Clark’s script hinges on Peggy Shaw, daughter of a murdered gold prospector. Buzz Barton and friend Milburn Morante take her under their wing and Kenneth McDonald wants to marry her and protect her in the future. Ferguson is the arch-villain, also the murderer, who even manages to incriminate McDonald of the murder. But Buzz unmasks the villain. Sam Nelson, later a director, was assistant director here, and Roy Eslick did the camerawork.
**1/2 ”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Barton:

“ **"THE BOY RIDER"**, **"THE BANTAM COWBOY"**, **"THE FIGHTIN' RED-HEAD"**, **"THE FRECKLED RASCAL"** – Buzz Barton’s film titles tell it all. (His real name was Billy Lamarr.) He was the archetypal junior cowboy of the closing years of the silent cinema. If it hadn’t been silent, he’d have made a lot of noise – ridin’, roarin’, ropin’ and fightin’ till the cows came home.

He was generally the protagonist, his own boy, not a sidekick like his younger contemporary Frankie Darro. His russet hair bristled, his honest blue eyes glared defiance, he whooped exultantly. He was so completely the prairie rider that his name passed into the folk memory. Buzz Barton air rifles were sold. (And a decade or so later the Buzz-name was attached to another boy rider of the screen, Buzzy Henry.)

Barton had been raised on a ranch, and at 12 won the title of Champion Trick Rider and Fancy Rider. In 1926, performing in a show at Cheyenne, Wyoming, he was spotted by a scout from FBO, and soon afterwards was launched in **"THE BOY RIDER"**. From the 1931 serial **"THE LONE DEFENDER"** onward, Buzz Barton rode, shot and fought steadily through the Thirties, but no longer a prodigy, just a cowboy among others. He didn't return to the saddle after World War Two, not in front of a camera anyway. An unrecognisable Buzz Barton is the train conductor in **"IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT"** in 1967.”

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "Hollywood in the Twenties", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Buzz Barton, dubbed by his studio "The World's Greatest Boy Rider and Western Star", was 14 here. Milburn Morante, for a satisfying change, served as his regular adult sidekick. Barton starred in a dozen or so of these quickie matinee Westerns toward the end of the silent era, but is completely forgotten today. Other of his titles include: "**WIZARD OF THE SADDLE**" (28), "**THE LITTLE SAVAGE**" (29), "**PALS OF THE PRAIRIE**" (29) and "**RIDERS OF THE CACTUS**" (Ouch! 31). Yippee-ky-yayy!

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