

The Slingshot Kid

US : 1927 : dir. Louis King : FBO

Silent : 48 min

prod: : scr: Oliver Drake : dir.ph.: William Nobles & Roy Eslick

[Buzz Barton](#)

Frank Rice; Jeanne Morgan; Buck Connors; Jay Morley; Arnold Gray

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Saddle-sores imminent? Barton with Jeanne Morgan and Frank Rice.

Source: The Silents Majority website

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Action-packed Western in which Buzz Barton and friend Frank Rice have to flee from a gang of cattle rustlers and then land in a ghost town where they meet a man and his daughter driven off their ranch. It comes to a showdown in the town with the gang. Oliver Drake adapted the story by John Twist and Jean Dupont. William Nobles and Roy Eslick did the camerawork.

King was a younger brother of Henry, and lived 1898-1962. He entered the film industry as an actor in 1919 and made his directing debut this year as co-director of "IS YOUR DAUGHTER SAFE?". He made his solo directing debut with the start of the Buzz Barton series: "THE BOY RIDER". He directed thirteen of the fourteen, but would continue directing Westerns until his death, during which time, among others, the TV series "Deputy" with Henry Fonda and Allen Case. **½ "

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)", "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. Not listed in any other source. The title indicates the kind of sidearm its hero was packing. His producers felt it wouldn't be appropriate to let so young a boy wield a pistol. Buzz Barton was 13, and this was an early title in the series of 14 silent matinee Westerns which starred him, until 1931. His career then suffered a hiatus - which may or may not have been coincidental with the advent of sound, or of puberty, as the case may be - and when he returned in front of the camera he was relegated to supporting roles.

See subject index under **KIDS OUTWIT THE CROOKS**, **SILENT CINEMA** and **WESTERNS**, and for more of Buzz's exploits see **"THE LITTLE BUCKAROO"** (28), **"WIZARD OF THE SADDLE"** (28), **"THE LITTLE SAVAGE"** (29) and **"RIDERS OF THE CACTUS"** (31).