

This story is about Real Luck, a beautiful stallion born in 1968; his sire was Beattle Luck, and his dam was Real Maria. He was sorrel with a flaxen mane and tail and three white socks. Jerry and Betty Wells of Purcell Oklahoma were the owners originally, and Jerry showed him at the Congress has a yearling winning against a small yet formidable field of stallions.

Claire Gsell was looking for a stallion of the highest caliber and asked Dean Landers of Western Arena in Ankeny, Iowa, to find him one. They flew out to the Congress in Columbus, Ohio, that year to look at Real Luck. They became partners in his ownership.

Dean showed him in halter the next Congress as a two-year-old; he won again against some fabulous stallions. And, yes, he repeated with a Congress win in his three-year-old year with Dean showed him in halter again against fabulous stallions.

Claire purchased Dean's share of Real Luck and became the sole owner when Real Luck was a 2 year-old year. Claire started building his broodmare band with top stock. Yet Claire did not stop there. Real Luck was a beautiful mover even though he was so massive. Claire hired John Kimberlin to train him for western pleasure. He quickly earned a superior in both halter and western pleasure. Then Claire's daughter Sue showed him in English now known as Hunter under Saddle and earned a register of merit very quickly again.

They discusses and considered making Real Luck superior in English and then an AQHA champion. Claire "I have already had 84 people call me wanting to breed to him. I am not going to allow him to show anymore because you know how studs can get during the breeding season. I think that's the best decision". Real Luck was 15 three hands tall, weighed 1600 pounds, had a massive forearm, plus a beautiful head, neck, top line and a great hip. He was very correct on his feet and had the disposition of an old puppy dog. He also had a sense of humor. When he was standing at Western Arena he would watch TV and when they would shut it off he would paw at the door of his stall until they turned it back on. If you would scratch his upper lip he would stick out his tongue and want to scratch it. He was quite the comedian and gentle with everyone.

I guess you can look up his show record and his get record to find out how many of his get that have gone on to be super

successful. Oh by the way, Echo Luck Ranch was established in Johnston Iowa in 1968. It was owned by Claire and Mary Gsell until dad sold Real Luck to Gene Wilson. Mary Gsell is still living, and she is 99 years young. The family was absolutely shocked when CLaire sold Real Luck to Gene Wilson, but Gene made and offer that couldn't be refused. Claire kept the right to breed mares and took advantage of that.

While this is a story about Real Luck, it's also a story about families that were blessed to be involved with him (the Gsell's, the Kimberlin's and their kids who formed formed Kimberlin Farms in Waukee Iowa. Bobby and Becky Siebert took over the breeding operation and showing the horses at halter. The families had many great times in the old days. Claire's daughter lives in Denver, Colorado, and thanks everyone who were great supporters throughout the years.

Is there a family friend present who will accept the award?