

LUCKY THREE RANCH, INC.

By Meredith Hodges

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“LITTLE JACK HORNER”

Little Jack Horner, 13 HH sire-supreme of the Lucky Three Ranch in Loveland, Colorado, was the last jack born at the famed Windy Valley Ranch in Healdsburg, California. He was foaled June 11, 1980, by the renowned Windy Valley Adam (14.2 HH) and out of Windy Valley Maude (15 HH). His ancestry can be traced back to the original breeding stock of George Washington's Mount Vernon farm.

In 1984 and 1985, Little Jack Horner captured second place in the Bishop Mule Days World Show class for Standard Jacks. His impeccable show record consists of first and second place standings at halter in his home state of Colorado, and in 1986, he placed first at halter in the A.D.M.S. Registered Jacks class at the A.D.M.S. Nationals in Dallas, Texas.

In 1984, he made his debut in performance at the Colorado Classic Horse Show, placing first in Donkey Driving and Donkey Pleasure. His willing disposition has held him in good stead, placing him second in Donkey Driving at Bishop Mule Days in 1987. To date, he is training in Dressage and jumping along with his numerous offspring mules. Though the Dressage is proving difficult (as it would be for any donkey), his incredible athletic ability is shining through in his jumping; he has cleared fences to 5 feet without a rider and is working at 3 feet plus with a rider aboard. In keeping with traditional Dressage, he is currently working on a Pas de Deux in jumping with another Colorado Standard Jack, Blue Zebulon. Those who know the difficulty of working jacks alone, let alone together, can appreciate the good manners and dispositions of jacks such as these I two! Little Jack Horner has proven himself, not only as a well-conformed jack, but an athlete as well! As a breeding jack, Little Jack Horner is producing some of the finest mules in the world. Consistently, his genetic makeup is responsible for extremely attractive heads, refined straight legs, and good angle in the hip and shoulder of his offspring mules. In addition, these mules reflect a smooth flowing topline, with depth in the girth and good length of neck for overall balance and beauty. The mules are generally becoming the mare's height or 2 inches better, despite L.J.'s own smaller size.

It doesn't seem to matter what kind of mare he is bred to; these particular qualities shine through in his offspring, causing them to appear more like nice looking horses with longer ears! Not only does Little Jack Horner seem to improve on mares, but on jennets as well. At the Lucky Three Ranch, we have

endeavored to produce a Mammoth donkey with these same refined characteristics. To date, he has sired two jennets, Lucky Three Pantera and Lucky Three Serendipity, who have indeed retained his refinement within a much larger frame. Pantera, a two-year-old jennet, currently stands 14.3 HH and Serendipity, a yearling, stands 13 HH, the same height as her sire. Little Jack Horner has proven time and time again that the jack is indeed responsible for the shape and thickness of bone, and not necessarily for the overall height of the offspring.

Be it donkey or mule, Little Jack Horner's offspring are always placed at the top of the halter classes in shows. Since the eldest offspring is coming only five years old in 1988, it will be a few years before we can truly measure their standings in performance; but, indications during training sessions point toward ultimate success in a big way! We hope Longears enthusiasts everywhere will find a way to come and visit to see just how Little Jack Horner has made the Lucky Three Ranch what it is today and what it will be in the future!