

# Donald “Happy” Campbell

## *Buffalo, Alberta*

Donald “Happy” Campbell was born in British Columbia, Canada, in 1913 and moved to Alberta in his late teens.

He worked for a few ranchers in southern Alberta until he married Mary Fletcher. They had five children and in 1946, they purchased their ranch near Buffalo, Alberta, along the Red Deer River. After they settled on the ranch, they had three more children.

Happy started an American Quarter Horse broodmare line with his partner, Royal Burrows. They built up a good herd of mares and stallions, working to get buckskins into their bloodlines using such stallions as Poco Sunday, Jerry Bart, Dandy Jess, Sorrel Fugitive and Doc Bueno Egger.

The ranch uses pasture breeding, with two broodmare bands of about 15 mares each. The stallions go in among them from May 15 to July 15. Horses bred on the ranch are used on the ranch.

“We need horses on our day-to-day ranch operation,” Happy says. Colts are handled when they are a few months old, weaned

and kept in the corral during the winter. Some are sold as yearlings, and the rest are turned out until they are 2 years old. At 2, they start their training, are ridden for a few months then turned out until they are 3 and strong enough to handle ranch work.

Quarter Horses wearing the 07 brand can be spotted at rodeos, team ropings and in neighbors’ ranch pastures.

“One of my greatest achievements has been seeing my horses compete in rodeos and team roping,” Happy says. “I like training horses and having people buy them and then give them good homes.”

Hip surgery a few years ago keeps Happy from riding these days, but he celebrated his 100th birthday May 30, 2013.

Happy’s youngest son, Bill, has been living with his family on the ranch and is carrying on the family tradition of raising good ranch and rope horses.

BY LARRI JO STARKEY

