

# Robert “Buzzy” Henry

Titles: 23      Sources: 2      Stills: 3

Born: Colorado; September 4<sup>th</sup> 1931

Died: Los Angeles; September 30<sup>th</sup> 1971, in a road accident



*A very spruce and pensive cowboy. Republic attempted in 1940 to give him his own matinee series, but it wasn't a hit with the kids – doubtless because the studio watered down their Western action for a 9-year old hero, and a watered-down adventure is no use to anyone.*

*Source: CVMC website*



Henry (centre) in *"DANNY BOY"*, back in the olden days when kids knew which end of a baseful cap pointed front.. The boy furthest left is presumably Charley Bates, the others as yet unidentified Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

#### The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"Robert - who soon adopted the nickname of "Buzzy", in the tradition of ridin' boys like Buzz Barton - won a medal for trick riding at the age of two in a Colorado rodeo. A mere month or two later he was filming in a Western with Buck Jones, and had made more than a dozen such pictures by the time he was five.

Buzzy or not, he was a very untypical ridin' boy: sensitive-looking (with soulful brown eyes), slender, almost delicate. Starting earlier than Barton, he had ten years as Boy Rider of the Silver Screen. In his late teens, he continued with hardly a let-up. There were four films in 1947: **"KING OF THE WILD HORSES"**, **"LAST OF THE REDMEN"**, **"LAW OF THE CANYON"** and **"ROLLING HOME"**.

In 1948 he was in the Tex Granger serial, and in one or two films a year during the Fifties, including **"THE INDIAN FIGHTER"** (55), **"JUBAL"** (56) and **"COWBOY"** (58). Between times he toured the rodeo circuits.

Buzz Henry was seen in some popular films of the Sixties, like **"SPENCER'S MOUNTAIN"** (63), **"SHENANDOAH"** and **"VON RYAN'S EXPRESS"** (65) and **"TONY ROME"** (67).

But he was also in demand as a technical adviser, stunt coordinator and sequence director, and was frequently the second unit director, for instance on **"THE COWBOYS"** (72). His untimely death came at the age Of 40."

**Speelfilm Encyclopedie** comment on his abortive matinee Western series:

"Dick L'Estrange produced two Westerns for Arthur Ziehn Productions with 9-year old Buzzy Henry, of which [**"BUZZY RIDES THE RANGE"**] was the first. The philosophy behind the films was that the young Western fans would love to see a youthful hero. Buzzy was not bad, but the kids failed to identify with him in any case... A good ten years later Republic would try once again to launch a boy star, in Michael Chapin. An attempt in 1937 to start a Bobby Nelson series failed even before the first was shot. The example for the producers was, of course, Buzz Barton, who reaped considerable success in the late twenties. His competitor Newton House did not make it either, however, so that Barton is the only boy star known to Westerns to have had any success."

**Speelfilm Encyclopedie** general comment:

“...As "Buzzy" he would play many B roles in forties Westerns and non-Westerns. In the fifties he became Robert "Buzzy" Henry on the credits of many Westerns, and in the sixties he became a celebrated stunt specialist who put

together the fight scenes for, among others, "**THE WILD BUNCH**". In 1971, just 40 years old, he perished in a car accident.”

[no listing in “Halliwell’s Filmgoer’s Companion”]



*In “WILD BEAUTY” Buzzy plays an orphan indian boy living with a kindly old storekeeper, and he’s hellbent on rescuing a herd of wild horses from conversion into lucrative shoe leather. Kitted out in a dolly-mop wig, he was **not** one of the screen’s more convincing indian bravelets.*

*Source: The Universal Story*

## FILMOGRAPHY

| Year | Age | Title                                       | Role                                     |
|------|-----|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 35   | 4   | WESTERN FRONTIER                            |                                          |
| 36   | 5   | THE UNKNOWN RANGER                          |                                          |
| 37   | 6   | RANGER COURAGE                              |                                          |
| 37   |     | RIO GRANDE RANGER                           |                                          |
| 38   | 7   | THE COWBOY AND THE LADY                     |                                          |
| 40   | 9   | <a href="#">BUZZY RIDES THE RANGE</a>       | matinee series pilot film, in title role |
| 41   | 10  | <a href="#">BUZZY AND THE PHANTOM PINTO</a> | in title role                            |
| 41   |     | MR CELEBRITY                                |                                          |
| 42   | 11  | RIDIN' DOWN THE CANYON                      |                                          |
| 44   | 13  | THE GREAT MIKE                              |                                          |
|      |     | with Leon Tyler                             |                                          |
| 44   |     | THREE OF A KIND                             |                                          |
| 44   |     | TRAIL TO GUNSIGHT                           |                                          |
| 44   |     | TRIGGER TRAIL                               |                                          |
| 46   | 15  | <a href="#">DANNY BOY</a>                   |                                          |
|      |     | with Charley Bates, etc                     |                                          |
| 46   |     | DRAGONWYCK                                  |                                          |
| 46   |     | HOP HARRIGAN                                | ? x serial                               |
| 46   |     | SON OF THE GUARDSMAN                        | ? x serial                               |
| 46   |     | <a href="#">WILD BEAUTY</a>                 | in central role, Johnny                  |
| 46   |     | WILD WEST                                   |                                          |
| 47   | 16  | KING OF THE WILD HORSES                     |                                          |
|      |     | with Bill Sheffield                         |                                          |
| 47   |     | LAST OF THE REDMEN                          |                                          |
| 47   |     | LAW OF THE CANYON                           |                                          |
| 47   |     | ROLLING HOME                                |                                          |
| 48   | 17  | TEX GRANGER                                 | ? x serial                               |