

The Freckled Rascal

US : 1929 : dir. Lewis King : F.B.O.

Silent : 62 min

prod: : scr: Frank Howard Clark : dir.ph.: Nick Musuraca

[Buzz Barton](#)

Milburn Morante; Tom Lingham; Lotus Thompson; Pat O'Brien; Bill Patton

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3803a	1½	1	0	657	- - - - -	No	unseen



Not a still from this specific film – but a rare shot of Buzz to prove that he was indeed freckled, and in all likelihood a rascal to boot. So it all falls neatly into place, don't it?

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

“Tom Lingham wants to make the townsfolk of a small western town pay for their water. If they won't do that, at least not as much as he wants, he'll cut off the supply. Buzz Barton springs into action and organises a water-wagon. He's attacked but, together with his friends, is able to put the bandits to flight. In the process Lingham gets lost in the desert. Buzz searches for him and finds him nearly dead of thirst. He offers him water in exchange for water for the town. A typical Western scenario for that time

from Frank Howard Clark. Nick Musuraca did the fine camerawork. **1½ ”

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", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "Silent Movies - a Picture Quiz Book", "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. Save the town and lick the bad guys, and *still* they call you a "freckled rascal". There's no gratitude on the prairie, Buzz. Here 15, I suspect he still wasn't judged old enough to be seen involved in gunplay, and had to hit the trail with an empty holster, as in most of his 14 matinee vehicles. **"THE SLINGSHOT KID"** (27) makes clear the kind of weaponry Buzz was packing. Milburn Morante was his regular adult sidekick (a satisfying switch) in many of his films. See **"THE BOY RIDER"** for a list of the other titles.

See subject index under **KIDS OUTWIT THE CROOKS, SILENT CINEMA** and **WESTERNS**.