

Susan Mason Bio

High Mountain Ranch

I started out- no different than you. I had a dream and was a crazy horse girl.

I was thrown on my first horse at 3 years old at Armstrong's Stables, after my mom won riding lessons in a Bridge Tournament.

Rode with Virgil Hixon for a few years at the old Hixon stables and blessed to be one of the first to step foot in the new indoor arena at Hixon Horse world. From this moment-I was hooked to the sound of a cricket.

Grew up seeing my part of the country from the back of a horse visiting local trainers and ranchers, watching from the rail. From Johnny Longden (famous race horse Jockey and trainer) to Gary VanHoosen. My childhood spare time was spent watching and learning. I was so blessed that so many of these old timers took an interest and helped me so much.

Was given my first 3 horses. My first was given to me by my uncle a little palomino cow pony named Buck.. who bucked every Ranch hand he had off. Rode that guys for decades never an offer to buck. Second was a yearling Filly that Bill Rippee gave me out of his world Champion Halter stallion and a Running bred mare.

Then at 18 was given a 3 year old cow bred mare Rema Chex by Doc's Remedy off the Ward Ranch. To This day this mare is a matriarch in our Breeding program.

My parents never would buy a horse trailer so I grew up riding my horse to any and every event I could to participate. Even to Reedley College to join the Rodeo team. And of course had to make All my own horses.

I learned from many disciplines by watching the best. As we could never afford lessons.

I was Blessed to be allowed to Breeze against famous race horses on my cow pony bareback to Challenge Virgil and Gary's students to a match of disciplined maneuvers.

At 18, I joined the Race track for a year and traveled the west coast. As a groom, galloper, Bug and Assistant trainer.

Was in a car accident at 20 and broke my back. Being in a body cast for two years slowed me down a bit and felt that these fast disciplines needed to be sidelined and that's when I took up cutting blessed to ride with Floyd Boss. Then Fell in Love with Reined cow-horse's.

I was a 4-h leader for nearly 20 years. Coached many young Kids to local, state, national and World championships. In many Different disciplines. We continue to Breed, Raise, train and show Horses here at High Mountain Ranch with my two daughters Katie Mason and Brooke Miller. Still living the dream.