

Like a meteor, the Bounty Hunter's career was bright but short lived. He became World Grand Champion September 29, 1973, and died of colic on June, 1 1974.

The Bounty Hunter was purchased in 1972 from Ronnie Spears by John B. Hester, Jr. In March 1973, Ralton Baker told Athel Hargett to come to Hester Farms in Belgreen to see this special horse. Mr. Hargett agreed to purchase him if Ralton would train him. Ralton Baker trained and showed this popular gelding throughout the Southeast in 1973. Neal Hargett also showed" the horse with the big heart." Floyd Baker rode him in juvenile classes. Each of his riders enjoyed the thrill of victory.

The bounty Hunter became World Grand Champion in one short season. He won over 12 blue ribbons at the following top shows in 1973: the Spring Fun Show in Shelbyville, Tennessee; the Carrollton and Bowdon, Georgia shows; the Little Rock, Arkansas show; and the Tuscaloosa, Jasper, Florence, West Point, and Decatur, Alabama shows. The Bounty Hunter always gave his best.

Mother Nature prepared a hard test for the championship contenders the night of the Racking Horse World Celebration. The mud and rain balance and speed difficult for all entrants, but The Bounty Hunter had a special test of endurance. Because he had shown primarily as a juvenile horse throughout the 1973 show season and because he had won a preliminary world championship on Friday night, The Bounty Hunter was forced to qualify in the Juvenile World

Championship on Saturday night with Floyd Baker in the irons. Immediately following this class, Floyd's father Ralton Baker, returned on The Bounty Hunter to over an hour to win the World Grand Champions. Many said the he delivered the greatest show they had ever seen any horse make in any show ring.

The Bounty Hunter is buried in front of the Ralton Baker Stables in Union, Alabama.



