

**BONNIE HENDRICKS** was born along the Columbia River near White Salmon, WA. Her father was a concrete worker and was hired to work the Coulee Dam Construction located on the Columbia River. At that time her family relocated to follow her Father during the construction of the Dam. Her family moved to an Indian Reservation now known as the Colville Indian Reservation.

During this transition, Bonnie was around 8 years old when she discovered an interest in horses. The Reservation was made up of about 2100 square miles of land. She quickly fit in with the locals who lived there and started riding with them. She would saddle up first thing in the morning and not return home until late evening. She rode to help round up calves, she rode to help break colts and most of all she rode for the sheer fun of it all. She always managed to make it back, for at times she had rode out 20 to 30 miles from home! She described the bliss of being able to ride out to almost anywhere, no fences to hold her in.

She owned a stallion she called Dandy who she trusted to ride with a cotton rope just around his jaw and completely bare back. She did this until trusted Dandy realized he was a stallion and ended up charging a small herd of mares with her clinging to his back – BARE BACK of course. Luckily no one was hurt!

Bonnie competed in bush track races with her horses and had won several races. She had a part thoroughbred that she kept until he was 24 years old. She currently still has 3 horses: a Grulla mare, Red (Grulla mare's daughter) and Pal. All her horses have a special place in her heart.

Bonnie's lifelong interest in horses was yet to drive her to new larger than life accomplishments. Her drive for knowledge and her ever curious mind left her on constant look out for more. Her curiosity was spiked when she read an article in Horse & Rider. The article talked about Col. Hugh Nevins of Monument, CO importing a Holstein stallion to the United States. She started to wonder about the different breeds of horses. Horses could be so different in temperament and structure defining the way that they could be used. She thought about the horses from the Indian Reservation, the horses that cowboys rode and some of the primitive breeds. The primitive breeds are mostly duns, grullas, buckskins and through our selective breeding we have gotten many other colors. Bonnie thought about how a horse breed, if left alone, would go back to the primitive colors.

With all these questions running through her mind she decided to learn more about the breeds of the world. She started to write to foreign countries inquiring about their different breeds. They sent her back photos and information of their breeds. Her inquiries lasted about two years and around \$4,000 in postage later she had the information to write a book on the breeds of horse. Her book would later be released by the University of Oklahoma Press in 1995 and called the International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds.

During her research of this book, the different countries not only sent information, but photo references as well. She noticed that the Morgan horse appeared to have a lot of the Canadian horse's confirmation traits. Up to this point the Morgan horse did not have a point of origin. She was contacted by a gentle man by the name of Gus Cothran. He was at the University of Kentucky at the time. He was interested in the information that Bonnie had acquired researching her book. He was largely interested in the contacts that she had made with the different breeds. He was in the beginning stages of learning how to use blood samples to prove relationships through DNA testing. Through his DNA research, they found that the Morgan horse was a descendant of the Canadian horse.

If writing a book about International breeds of horse was not enough, Bonnie found herself compelled to promote duns, grullas and buckskins. She remembered how the cowboys appreciated them for their color and toughness. Bonnie began an association for these special colored horses, they are more than just a color. She began the association out of a spare room in her house. The association quickly out grew the spare room and was moved out to the garage. She ran an article in 'Western Horseman' to announce the new Association with \$5/year memberships. She was flooded with about 1,000 new memberships almost immediately. The Association took care of itself from the beginning and was incorporated at the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of inception. Bonnie was the Executive Secretary during this time and was also the publisher of the Associations official publication, the 'Buckskin News'.

Bonnie resigned as Executive Secretary of the Association after a disagreement with the Board of Directors. Not finished with promoting the duns, grullas and buckskins she started yet another breed association that is what we know today as the International Buckskin Horse Association. For two years she fought to bring this new registry to its feet, but her health forced to turn over this new Association to Rich. She knew that Rich would take the Association and build it up.

During these times Bonnie raised 4 wonderful children, 3 daughters and a son. All of whom have interest in horses! She now has 14 Grandchildren and 11 Great Grandchildren. Most of her family lives locally.

She later met her soul mate Gary Hendricks and they were married after only knowing each other for only 30 days! They moved to Anderson, CA where she has now lived most of her adult life. Unfortunately Gary died after only 3 years of marriage.

Recently, Bonnie turned 71 years old. She still enjoys taking care of her horses. She is an accomplished artist and quilter. She paints, works with clay and concrete. One of her paintings sold at our Youth Scholarship Auction.

Please welcome us in presenting this award to an extraordinary woman. Thank you Bonnie for all of your accomplishments and contributions to our Association making it what it is today!