

Connie Bradley McLaughlin was the youngest of 3 children of a rural farm family living south of Nokomis, Illinois. As such, she was the third one to have a hand me down family owned Shetland pony that was never thoroughly broke until she came along. As a young teenager, she was allowed to ride the family owned American Saddle Horse that was extremely high strung. Connie's first venture at showing horses started back in the early 1960's when she finally convinced her parents to allow her to attend parades riding the American Saddle Horse in the parade classes. She was a naturally high stepping horse and put Connie in the winner's circle the very first time out. This started her intensity in raising and showing horses.

The summer of 1961, Connie sold greeting cards to obtain enough money to buy her first very own Quarter Horse. She purchased a green broke bred palomino mare. The mare foaled a palomino stud colt on February 1, 1962. Connie began showing the colt successfully at halter his weanling year at local horse shows. Connie finished breaking his dam to western pleasure in 1963 and began showing her successfully at local shows.

Connie has raised foals off and on since 1962 showing them at local, county and state fairs. She began showing at PHBA & AQHA/IQHA shows in the mid "60's". She purchased a yearling mare, Skippa Hi Fancy by Easter Skip Too, from Dick Adams in 1979. She purchased a second mare as a 2 year old, Budas Fancy Geisha by Impressive Buda, from Dick Adams in 1983. These mares were both broke to ride and shown in halter and western pleasure often times with foals left at home on a temporary basis. These two mares offspring put her in the winner's circle numerous times and always in the top 10 at IQHA shows. She bred and raised Justa Buda by Impressive Buda in 1990. He was Grand Champion Stallion multiple times as well as the IQHA Yearling Stallion Futurity winner. She currently has 2 broodmares and a yearling show filly with a new foal due shortly.

In the spring of 2005, Connie started a quarterly newsletter for the IQHA. In the spring of 2006, Kandi Lane joined her as the publishing editors for the IQHA's "The Yearling" quarterly publication. This joint venture ended with the December, 2011 edition due to the increasing futurity workload.

Connie has served as the IQHA's New Futurity Secretary/Treasurer since August, 2006. In December 2006, she received a call from Chris Arentsen informing her that no one was going to prepare a stallion auction book for the 2007 IQHA SSA. So, needless to say, she told him she would help out and subsequently is still "helping out" as the IQHA SSA Chairman. She has served as the IQHA Central Region Vice President since January 2008.

She married Frank E. McLaughlin on December 18, 1971. Although supportive of her love of showing horses, he normally stays at home and takes care of the dogs and horses that do not go to the shows.

Connie worked for the State of Illinois in Springfield, IL for 37 years. The final 30 years was spent with the Department of Professional Regulation working in the Personnel Section serving from 1986 until her retirement December 31, 2001, as the Department's Labor Relations Administrator.