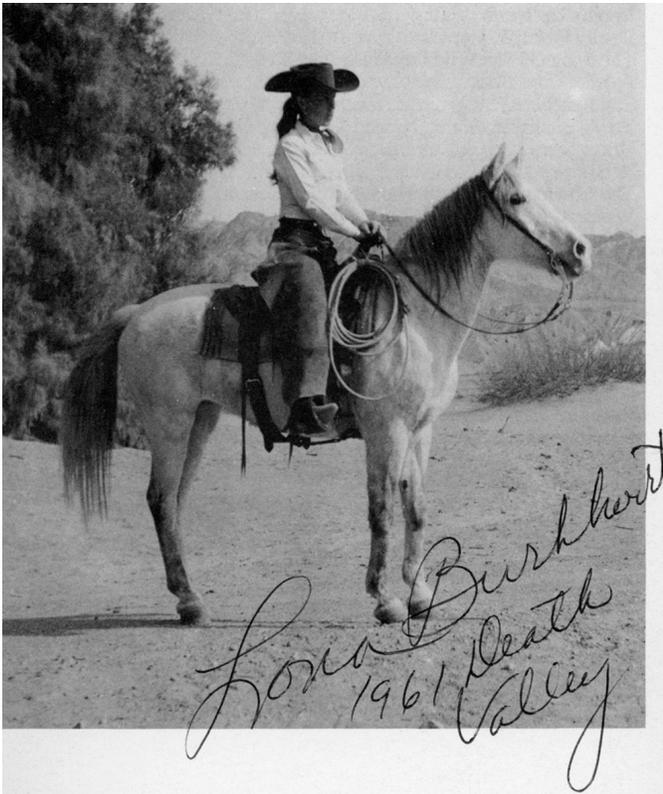


Lona Tankersley Burkhart

Lona Tankersley Burkhart has been a featured poet at the Elko, Nevada gatherings in 1987, 88, and 89. Some of the other places she has been featured include Medford, Pendleton, Bishop, and Wickenburg. She was featured at the 1990 National Ranching Heritage's Cowboy Symposium and Celebration in Lubbock, Texas. Her first book, WHERE OLD TRAILS MEET THE NEW, co-authored with Ramona Turmon, has sold out the second printing. Her heritage of the land and cattle is strong in her poetry, which is all true.

Both sides of her family fought in the Revolution. Her grandfathers people, on her fathers side settled on the Concho in Texas in 1864, and have been in the cow business ever since. Lona says there never was a time she did not own a few cows and horses. Her father has influenced her thoughts and way of life strongly.



Raised on an isolated desert ranch during the depression, she became the whole crew when her father was off trading cows, and later when he became ill. Lona also spent considerable time at the ranch on the Mongollon Rim in Arizona.

Lona moved to the East side of the High Sierra's in 1951, where she and husband, Gene, owned and operated the Sequoia-Kings Pack Trains, as well as a cow outfit, for many years. At this time she ran cattle in the Sierra foothills and in the Inyo Mountains on the East side of Owens Valley. She also owned and operated The High Sierra Rodeo Stock rodeo string, producing rodeos in California and Nevada. Lona put on the first mule competition at the rodeo in Lone Pine, Cal., which was moved to Bishop the following year to become the famous Mule Days. Lona judged the mule competition

there several years. She was active in the B.L.M. grazing board for her district, serving on the board and as chairman.

Lona held permits to gather wild burros in the Death Valley Natl. Monument and considers this the most exciting sport she has ever participated in. She ran wild horses on the desert and on the Mongollon Rim, but likes running burros better. She also team roped, calf roped, barrel raced and showed Quarter horses in cutting and working classes as well as halter classes.

Her Quarter Horse operation began in 1948 and continues today in her extensive breeding program with both her Quarter Horses and Paints. She held a race-training license at

age 19. She was one of the first two people in California to register her paint Quarter horses. She was awarded Life membership #4995 by A.Q.H.A. in 1978. Lona runs her mares and colts out in the juniper-covered canyons of her ranch, stressing natural environment for development of good legs, hoofs and wind.

Lona and her husband separated in 1972 when she moved to Fallon, Nevada, where she ranched for seven years before moving to the all deeded ranch in central Oregon where she now lives. She has one son, Raymond "Randy" Burkhart, who is a wilderness contractor and a captain in the Army National Guard, and lives in Redmond, Ore.

Along with her poetry, her art work emphasis her love of the land and ranch life.

