



“Preserving Our Falconry Heritage”

Heritage

e-Newsletter

Summer 2009 • No. 6

Introducing Bill Mattox Publications Associate

5th in a Series: Archives Associates

Bill Mattox, a publications associate at The Archives of Falconry (TAF), attended Dartmouth College where he studied local peregrines (“duck hawks”) in Vermont and New Hampshire with Professor Charles Proctor and College Naturalist Doug Wade. He mapped nest sites (his original map of 1951 is in TAF) and banded nestlings of this now-extirpated population. When a college junior, he sailed to Greenland on the “McFadden-Turner Arctic Expedition,” which returned to the USA with 11 passage gyrs. In addition to gyrs, he flew peregrines, Prairie Falcons, Cooper’s Hawks, and goshawks.

At Dartmouth, following the Greenland gyrfalcon trip, he specialized in the geography of northern areas, attending seminars led by famed arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson and his thesis advisor Trevor Lloyd.

Bill received a Swedish Govern-



Jan. 2009: Bill with a Prairie Falcon he recaptured after banding several years earlier.

ment Grant in 1953-54 and spent that academic year at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. The following year he went to Reykjavik to attend the University of Iceland on a Reynolds Scholarship from Dartmouth. There he worked on fishing vessels, studied Icelandic language, and gathered material for his Master’s degree.

In 1956 as a language specialist with the U.S. Army (Military Intelligence), he was stationed in Stuttgart, Germany, where he met Joan, who worked for the U.S. Department of State.

They were married in 1957, after which they completed their respective tours, bought a used VW bus, and drove from Germany through the Middle East, Pakistan, India (including Kashmir), and eventually reached Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). In Lahore they met Mohammed Din from whom they bought hawking bells. To escape civil turmoil in Sri Lanka, they traded their VW for two plane tickets to Hong Kong. After a delayed freighter departure, they sailed to Joan’s hometown of Seattle, visited family in the West, drove east to Bill’s home town of Philadelphia, and then on to graduate school.

Bill attended McGill University (Montreal, Canada), eventually earning his Master’s and Ph.D. degrees, specializing in the fishing industries of Iceland and West Greenland. After attending McGill for two years, Bill was appointed assistant professor and director of McGill’s Subarctic Research Laboratory in Schefferville, Que., where he and Joan spent the next four years at that subarctic iron-mining town in the middle of the Labrador Peninsula.

In 1964 Bill was named a Fellow of the Institute of Current World Affairs, under whose support he moved to Denmark where he studied northern economic development (Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, USSR, Spits-

[continued next page...]

What Is An Archives Associate?

Associates of the Archives of Falconry are those volunteers who wish to promote the mission of preserving the physical history of falconry. They help in any way possible from doing research at libraries and institutions, participating in strategic planning, providing financial support, collecting and evaluating materials, cataloguing acquisitions, preserving historical documents, arranging exhibits, planning social activities, and representing the Archives at international events and festivals. Our Associates represent many nations where falconry was or is currently practiced. 🦅



Archives Curator John Swift with Bill Mattox at the Annual Rendezvous (March 2009).

bergen, northern Scandinavia). He submitted his Ph.D. dissertation to McGill, a study of the native fishing industry of Greenland, later published in the Danish arctic series "Meddelelser om Grønland."

More recently, and until his retirement in 1992, he worked for the State of Ohio, Department of Natural Resources, where he supervised water programs such as coastal management, flood plains, river corridor studies, wetlands, ground water, water supply, and lake, reservoir, and stream management.

In 1972 he founded (with falconer Dick Graham) and directed a study of nesting Peregrine Falcons in West Greenland (later known as the Greenland Peregrine Falcon Survey), which monitored the status of this sensitive bioindicator species. Until transferring the project to The Peregrine Fund in 1998, he led 25 annual field trips to coordinate this study involving over 90 field researchers. The project included yearly population surveys, banding nestlings and adults, using band recovery data to determine facts of migration and wintering areas,

studying eggshell thickness and pollutant loading, and describing natal dispersal and recruitment of the young. This study, funded by the U.S. Army Edgewood Research, Development, and Engineering Center, developed one of the longest uninterrupted data sets for this species.

Bill wrote about trapping and banding gyrfalcons in Greenland in several articles in the *NAFA Journal* (1968). He first trapped peregrines on Assateague Island with Bob Widmeier in 1955. Later, he banded migrating tundra peregrines in the Dry Tortugas, FL, supported by his Greenland funders, Drs. Scott Ward and Bill Seegar. He was on Assateague trapping peregrines with them, Lou Woyce and Mike Yates, when they held the big 50th anniversary celebration for Al Nye in October 1989.

Bill and Joan formed an environmental consulting company, "Greenfalk," and between 1990 and 1996 he directed a long-term study of the effects of military activities on birds of prey in Idaho (Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area) in cooperation with the Idaho Army National Guard and U.S.

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. In 1994, to continue other environmental studies, Bill and Joan formed the non-profit "Conservation Research Foundation" (CRF).

Bill moved permanently to Boise from Ohio in 1998, after which he began a study for CRF of wintering raptors in the Marsing/Homedale area of SW Idaho. With his field partner, falconer/wildlife researcher James McKinley, he has conducted weekly roadside surveys on wintering raptors for the past 11 seasons. Also with McKinley, he studied nesting Swainson's Hawks and Barn Owls. Together they have banded more than 2,000 Swainson's Hawks and Barn Owls, in addition to numerous Prairie Falcons and Red-tailed Hawks. They recently submitted for publication a paper on winter philopatry (site fidelity) of migratory raptors, especially Harlan's Hawks, in SW Idaho.

Bill assisted Kent Carnie in publishing the first volume in the TAF Heritage Publications Series (Meredith). He spent the past year editing John Swift's long-anticipated *Bibliotheca Accipitraria II*.

He lives with Joan in Boise, not far from TAF and The Peregrine Fund. They have three sons, who live with their families in Ohio, Texas, and California. Nine grandchildren keep them all busy! 🐾



Archival Storage

In the News

Morley Nelson Area Designation

Recently, President Obama signed into law legislation renaming southern Idaho's Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in honor of Morley Nelson. Through films, technical reports, formal talks and individual advocacy since the 1950s, Nelson brought the world's attention to this precious area and worked tirelessly to promote its conservation.

The area, comprised of 600,000 acres is home to one of the largest concentrations of birds of prey in the world. The area hosts 16 nesting and 8 migratory species, which either winter or use the area during migration.

The renaming of the conservation area is a fitting tribute to Morley Nelson for all he did. In conjunction with this act, the Archives of Falconry has created a special exhibit on Morley's contributions to conservation 🦅



Morley Nelson Tribute Exhibit at The Archives of Falconry



NPR Interview with John Moran

National Public Radio reporter Jyl Hoyt was here during our Rendezvous in March, interviewing Idaho artist and hoodmaker John Moran, Steve Duffy, Ken Hooke and other attendees for the John Moran Hoods Exhibit.

This interview from her radio series *Off The Trail* is now available online at radio.boisestate.edu. Just do a keyword search on her name and locate "Falcon Hoods on *Off The Trail*." There are other interesting interviews by her on that site also relating to falconry. 🦅

Previous issues of Heritage newsletters are available online: www.peregrinefund.org/american_falconry.asp#heritage



Norm Nelson with John Sullivan, BLM Manager — photo by Rich Howard, Biosage



High School Graduate

Guess Who? (6th in a series...)

Can you identify this falconer?

For answer, see below:

Famous Illinois/Idaho Falconer and breeder, Jack Oar



Photo by Jonathan Wilde



The Wall of Remembrance — Lou Woyce Fund

Falconer Lou Woyce passed away recently. Lou was one of the early falconers who got to trap peregrines on Assateague Island. He is also known for his falconry equipment and hoods which he often donated to individuals and clubs for their auctions and raffles.

A fund has been started for Lou to add his name to the Wall of Remembrance. If you knew Lou and want to participate in this effort, please send a donation in any amount to the Archives and your name will be added to the list of friends and supporters. 🦅

Recent Acquisitions

Bill Mallon recently donated a beautiful bronze sculpture by Pat Kennedy, #5/39, 1985. According to the artist, another copy was looted by Iraqis who raided the Emir of Kuwait's palace and then Saddam Hussein got it. After the war, the Kuwaiti ambassador bought two more copies, one for the Emir and one for himself. For more information on the artist, including biography and gallery of works, go to www.patkennedysculpture.com. 🦅



We Need Help!

Message from **John Swift, Curator**

It is not often we ask for help more than once a year, but this year is an exception due to the current economic situation. Most of the operational funds for the Archives come from an endowment fund in which the principal is left untouched and only the interest is used. This year as with many people's investments, the principal balance lost about 25% of its value. Archives expense adjustments have been made and administrator David Wells voluntarily reduced his salary and employment benefits by 25%.

Our book auction did reasonably well and we would ordinarily just make it through the rest of the fiscal year (ending Sept. 30th). There is, however, an insurance premium of \$7,500 due in July to insure the contents of our collections and the physical facility. Revenue from anticipated donations was down this year due to hardship faced by regular donors who are also struggling with the current economy. I am asking each of you, our friends and supporters in the past, as individuals and as officials of state falconry clubs to help us out. Since those closest to the Archives

should step forward first, this year I will match every dollar raised up to \$5,000 in order to help — so each personal gift will be automatically doubled.

We have until September 30th to accomplish this, so there is time for you to help. If you belong to a state club and are having a summer picnic and raffle, would you request that \$100 or more be allocated to the Archives? As we have done in the past, we will be happy to furnish raffle and auction items whose total value exceeds \$100 for those clubs willing to help. Just let us know and we'll provide the raffle items to you right away.

Please remember: the Archives of Falconry exists to preserve *all* of our falconry materials and we need your continued financial support to preserve our history. You are receiving this urgent request because you have previously indicated your interest in the Archives. Please be one of those who steps forward now when we need your help the most. You may reach me by phone at 520-591-2174 or you may call David Wells at 208-362-8256. We accept donations by check or by credit card.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the Archives of Falconry. 🦅