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**Bob Collins, Mike & Karen Yates**



**Erich Awender**

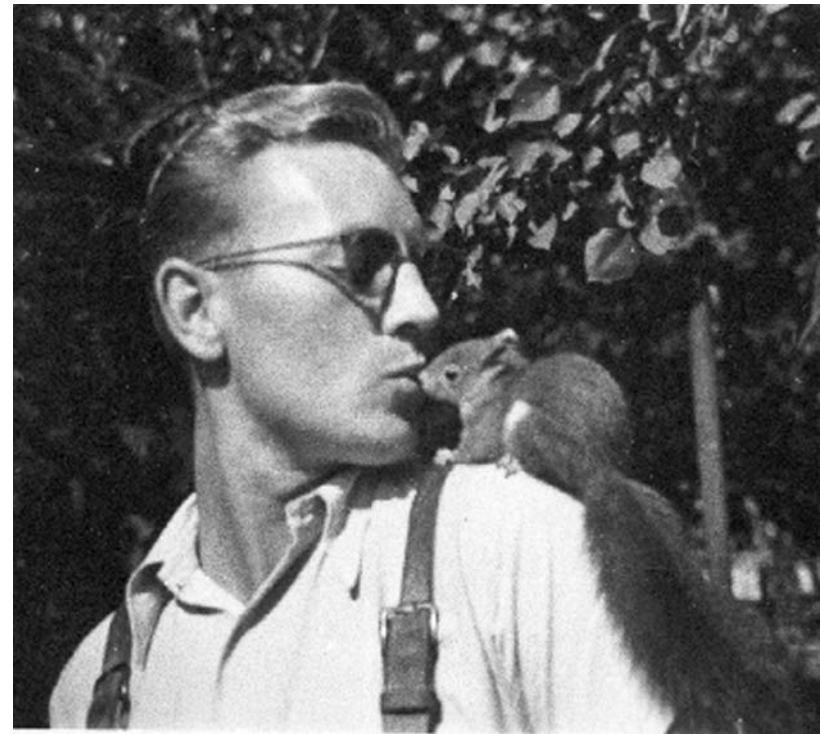
Devoted Husband and Father, Medical Doctor, Lifelong Falconer, and True Gentleman

Erich Awender, M.D., and his lovely wife Heidi immigrated to the United States from Austria in the early 1950's. Prior to Erich's arrival in the US, Erich's father wrote to Corny McFadden and asked him to help Erich become established with his falconry in the US. A fascinating friendship and correspondence ensued (the details of which can be found at the Archives of Falconry). Erich and Heidi loved wildlife. They settled in Freeport, Illinois where Erich had a successful medical practice. They built a beautiful home complete with breeding chambers and a brick hawk house. Their home was landscaped with trees imported from Austria. Their yard was the perfect playground for their beloved English Setters. Heidi always had a Drathair as a house/field dog. They brought their setters with them from Europe and kept that strain of setters going all their lives. All were beautiful, award winning dogs.

Erich and Heidi bought a farm outside of Freeport as a base camp for his falconry. They loved wildlife and the farm was groomed to maximize wildlife habitat. They had "pet" whitetail doe which they protected with a blaze orange vest during hunting season. Erich commissioned a local artist to create a flag for the farm which was flown only when a visiting peregrine was being flown on the property.

Erich was a lifelong falconer who was most generous to his fellow falconers. He was a strong supporter of the Great Lakes Falconer's Association and NAFA. He and Heidi attended almost all the NAFA meets. Erich's hawking hat, with falconry pins from all over the world, was of interest to all falconers, young and old. Erich and his good friends Dan Cover, Tom Ennenga, and Bob Widmeier pioneered hawking on the great plains of the western US and Canada. Their annual hawking trips out west were pure falconry.

Heidi and Erich had one child, Ralph, who tragically died of a heart attack shortly after Erich's death. Ralph was devoted to his father and took Erich's death especially hard. Losing both Erich and their only child within days, Heidi's world turned upside down. Later, Heidi would tell friends and family that "Life is so short, your loved ones are so precious, one must treasure every moment."



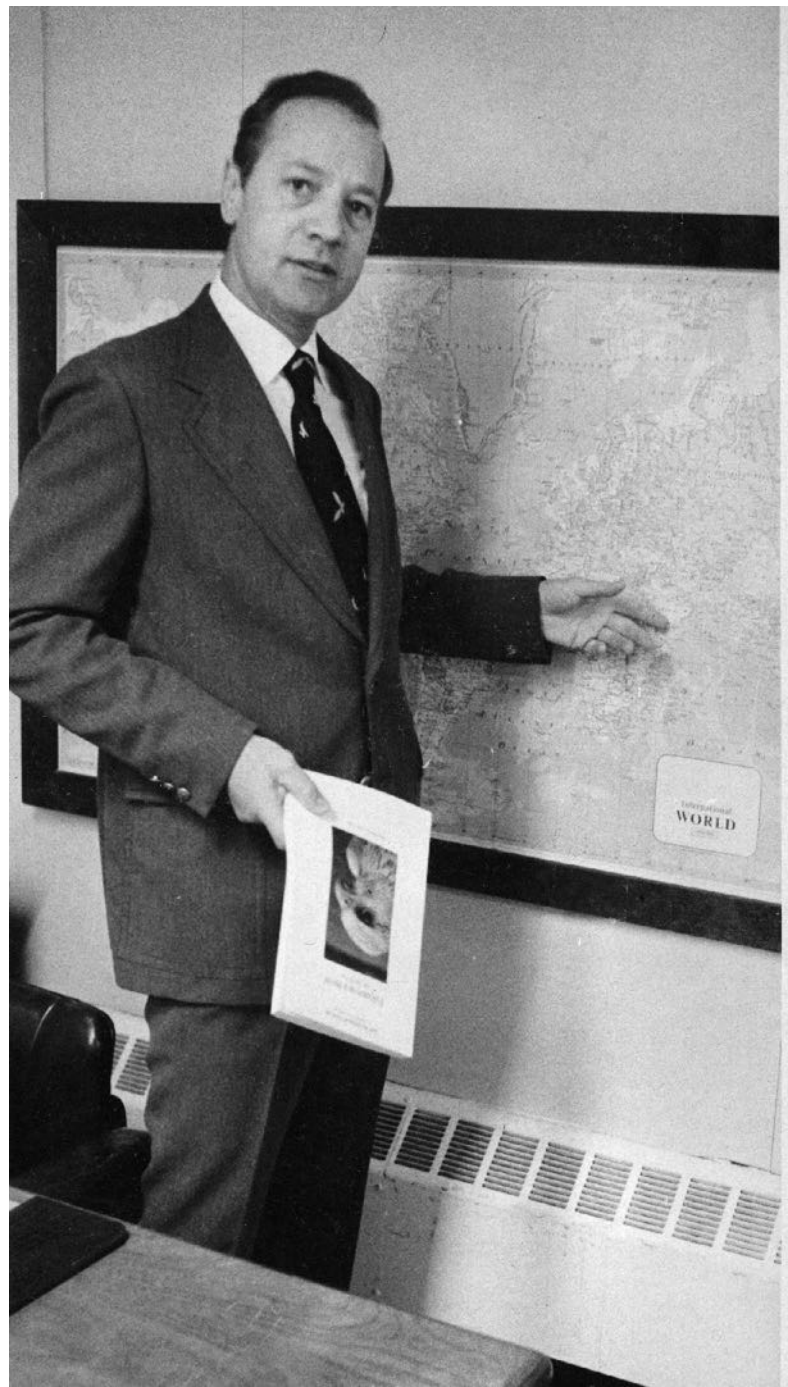
During the days of the Peregrine as an endangered species, Erich commissioned a flag to fly on his farm whenever a Peregrine was flown.



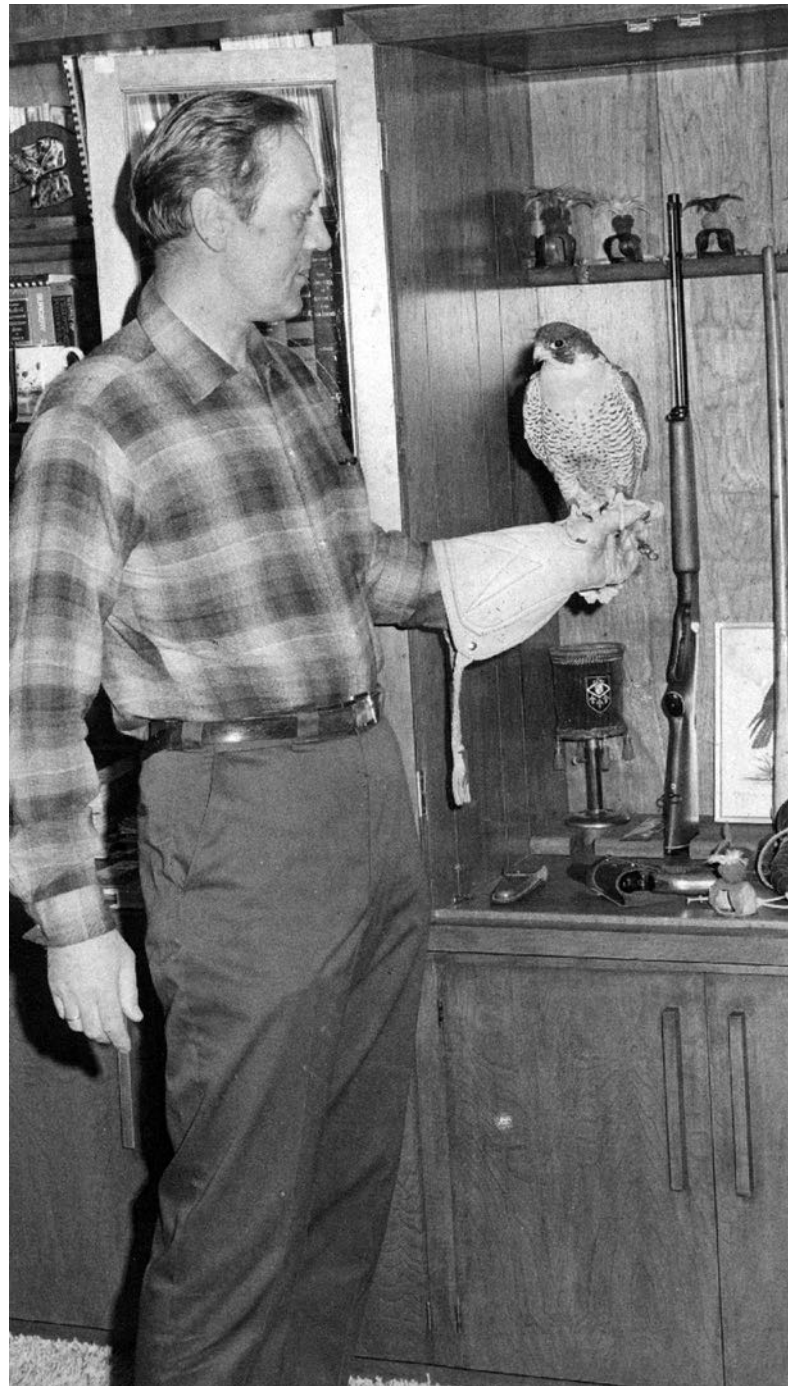
The Awenders: Erich, Heidi and son Ralph. Freeport, Illinois 1965



Feb. 27, 1975



Erich Awender – Renz Waller – Dick Glasow, 1976



Good friend and life-long hawking partner, Dan Cover, with Erich and Heidi

