



**DONORS:**

Betty Bradshaw, Alvin Benesh, Mary Smith, Debra Guerra, Bruce Buchanan, Fred Blackwell

**ON MARCH 4, 1992, THE FALCONRY COMMUNITY LOST A DEAR FRIEND WITH THE PASSING OF TOM BUCHANAN, 45, OF ABILENE, TEXAS.**

Tom had been an avid falconer for over 30 years and excelled as a longwinger, flying peregrines for the previous 20 years. He got an early start with wildlife. When he was 4 years old, he helped nurse an injured screech owl back to health. This led to a lifelong interest in preserving and re-introducing endangered species.

Born in Oklahoma, Tom grew up in Fort Worth, received both his B.S. in Wildlife Management, and M.S. in Animal Behavior Psychology from Texas A&M University. He moved to Abilene in 1972 and began his career at the Abilene Zoo as General Curator and Zoo Supervisor. He became Zoo Director in 1987. During his tenure, an education building, clinic and commissary facilities were remolded. Giraffe exhibits, polar bear dens and pools, and a herpetarium center were improved and initiated. He established an Avian Research Center through the 1970s and 1980s. This research resulted in noteworthy accomplishments: the first captive breeding of secretary birds, trumpeter hornbills, March's palm vipers, Angolan colobus monkeys, and thick-billed parrots. Tom was proud that he was one of the first three projects to successfully produce captive bred Golden Eagles – the progeny going to falconers!

In the mid-1980s, Tom began a project which became his career achievement: The zoo's impressive, much-acclaimed, award winning "Discovery Center." He worked day and night on this visionary building and its purpose to educate the public on the importance of habitat conservation "from one's backyard to throughout the world." He went so far as to create an important habitat or rest area for migrating Monarch Butterflies!

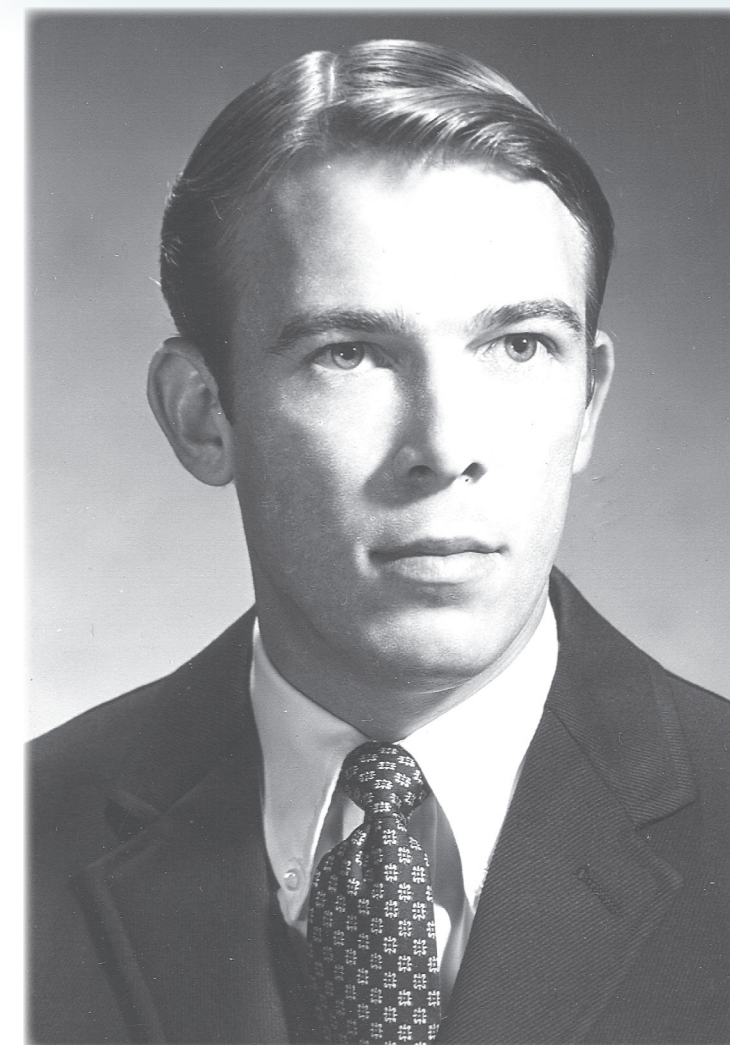
Tom was an exceptionally creative and sensitive man. His love and understanding of all living things was enormous. He was an accomplished herpetologist and a Bonsai enthusiast. His world, however, revolved around falcons. He was the first to breed peregrines in the State of Texas in the early 1980's and was consulted by Texas Parks and Wildlife on many wildlife issues, including falconry. Tom frequently attended NAFA meets and was a staunch supporter of the Peregrine Fund and its restoration efforts.

A loving son to his gracious mother, Betty Bradshaw, Tom was devoted to and is survived by his lovely wife, Mary, who opened their home and entertained many falconers over the years.

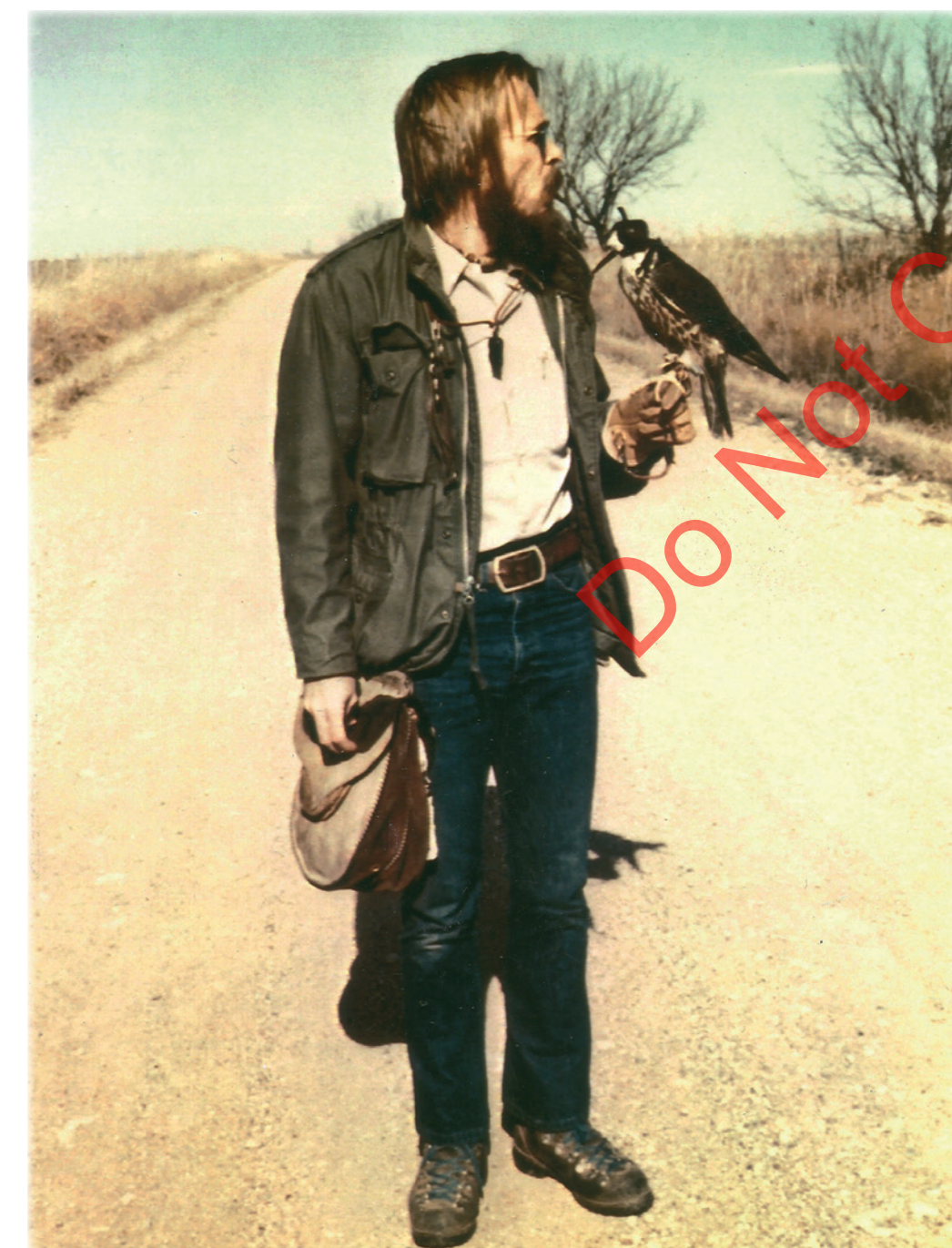
**Words cannot express the void he leaves and how Tom will be missed by his many friends.**

*(Jim Ince)*

**Tom had a lifelong interest in preserving and re-introducing endangered species.**



Tom graduated from Texas A&M with a Master's degree in Animal Behavior Psychology



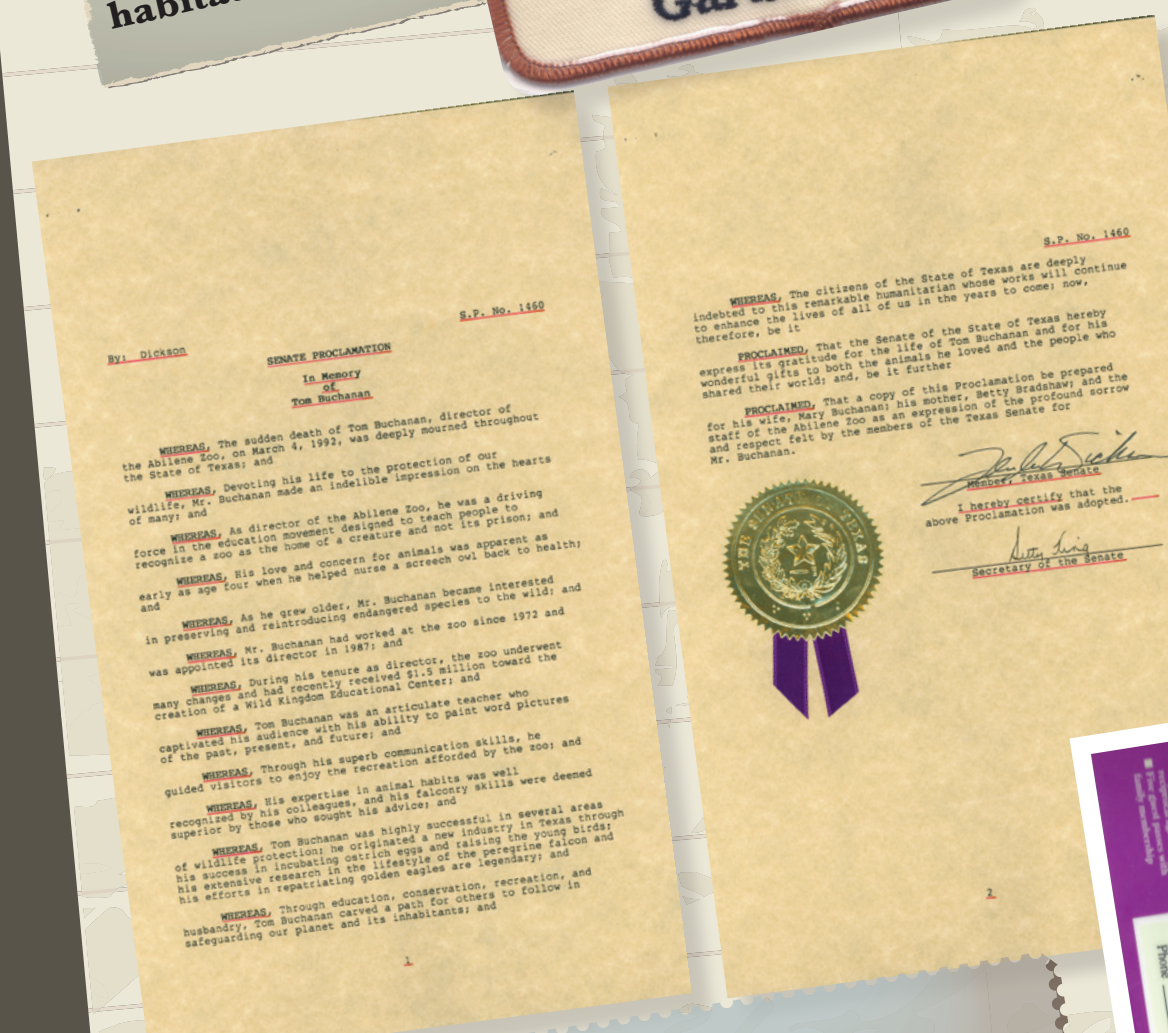
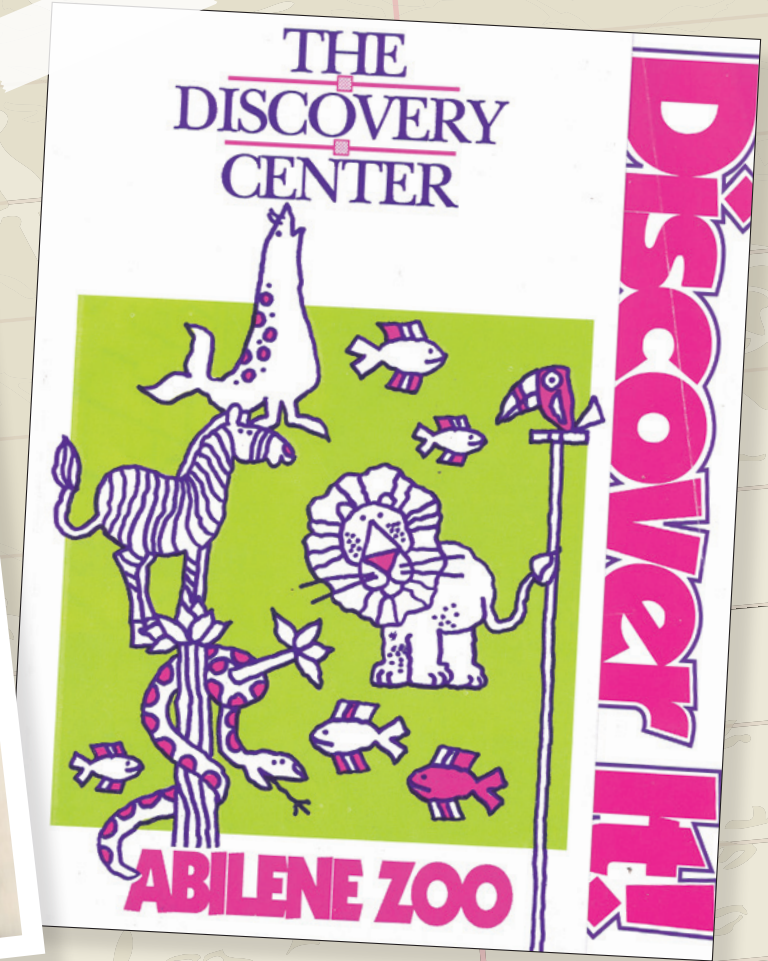
**Tom's career at the Abilene Zoo as Director included remodeling facilities, initiating exhibits, establishing an Avian Research Center, and the highlight: the Discovery Center project.**

More than a zoo, Tom created a habitat of gardens



**Buchanan's zoo career came early**

By PATRICK SHAUGHNESSY Staff Writer  
For Tom Buchanan, the new director of the Abilene Zoo, fascination with animals began at an early age. When Buchanan was 4 years old, a screech owl took up residence in the chimney of his family's home. One day, injured by the smoke from a fire, the owl became confused and flew down into the house. "It was sitting there — all sooty — and blinking at me," Buchanan said. His family nursed the bird back to health. During its four-month recovery, Buchanan developed an interest in birds of prey. He decided to pursue a career working with zoos — first at the Houston Zoo and later at West of Animals wild animal park in Mesquite. Earlier this week after the



**The Legislature honored Tom for creating one of the best little zoos in Texas.**

