



Edward S. Freienmuth 1923-1993

It is with great sorrow that I report the passing of Edward S. Freienmuth, who served NAFA well since 1967 in various offices including Legal Representative in the State of Colorado, *Hawk Chalk* Editor, Treasurer and Director. Edward turned the job of Editor over to me in 1971 because his local printer was unable to meet his publication schedule. In the years since, he proved to be both a wonderful friend and a tower of strength with his support and counsel. Both Edward and his wife, Charlotte, spent untold amounts of time on NAFA projects.

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Charlotte Freienmuth (1932-1997)

—by Editor Will Shor

Charlotte Freienmuth, former NAFA Treasurer and widow of falconer Edward Freienmuth who served in many NAFA posts, died of severe burns on February 15 a week after her new house in Durango, Colorado, suffered a natural gas explosion while she and her young grandson Henry were standing in the doorway. Henry, also burned severely, is expected to recover.

Charlotte was born and brought up in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. After attending Central Business College in Denver, she worked in Edward Freienmuth's Pagosa Springs law office, and they were married in 1954, moving to Durango in 1956. She assisted her husband in putting out *Hawk Chalk* in the years 1967-1971 when he was its Editor. She became NAFA Treasurer in 1984 and continued in that position through mid-1992. During those years, she ran the registration at NAFA Meets, becoming a friend of a large portion of the NAFA members who attended those Meets.

Charlotte was well-loved by NAFA members and was heard to say that she considered all of them her children. The Editors of *Hawk Chalk* are grateful to Charlotte and her husband Edward for the strong support and wise counsel they provided us in editing *Hawk Chalk* over the years since we succeeded them in that job, and remember them as special friends.

Edward was one of the founders in 1969 and served until his death as a Director of the North American Peregrine Foundation, a charitable adjunct to NAFA intended to provide a tax-deductible conduit for contributions by NAFA members to benefit the peregrine. Before captive-bred longwings became generally available, he bred prairie falcons and distributed them as well as others from The Peregrine Fund free of charge to NAFA members who supported the Foundation.

In honor of his service to NAFA, Freienmuth's photograph is the cover picture for this issue of *Hawk Chalk*. There is a much more complete obituary, prepared by his long-time friend Roger Thacker, in the 1993 *NAFA Journal*.

—Williston Shor *Hawk Chalk* Editor

Dedication of the 1994 NAFA Journal

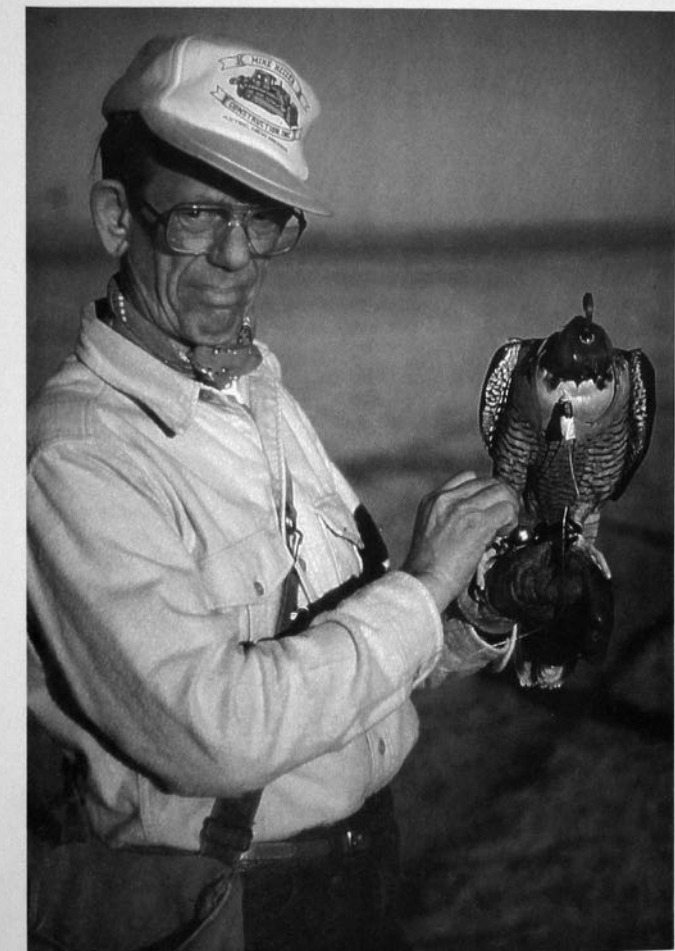


Charlotte Freienmuth

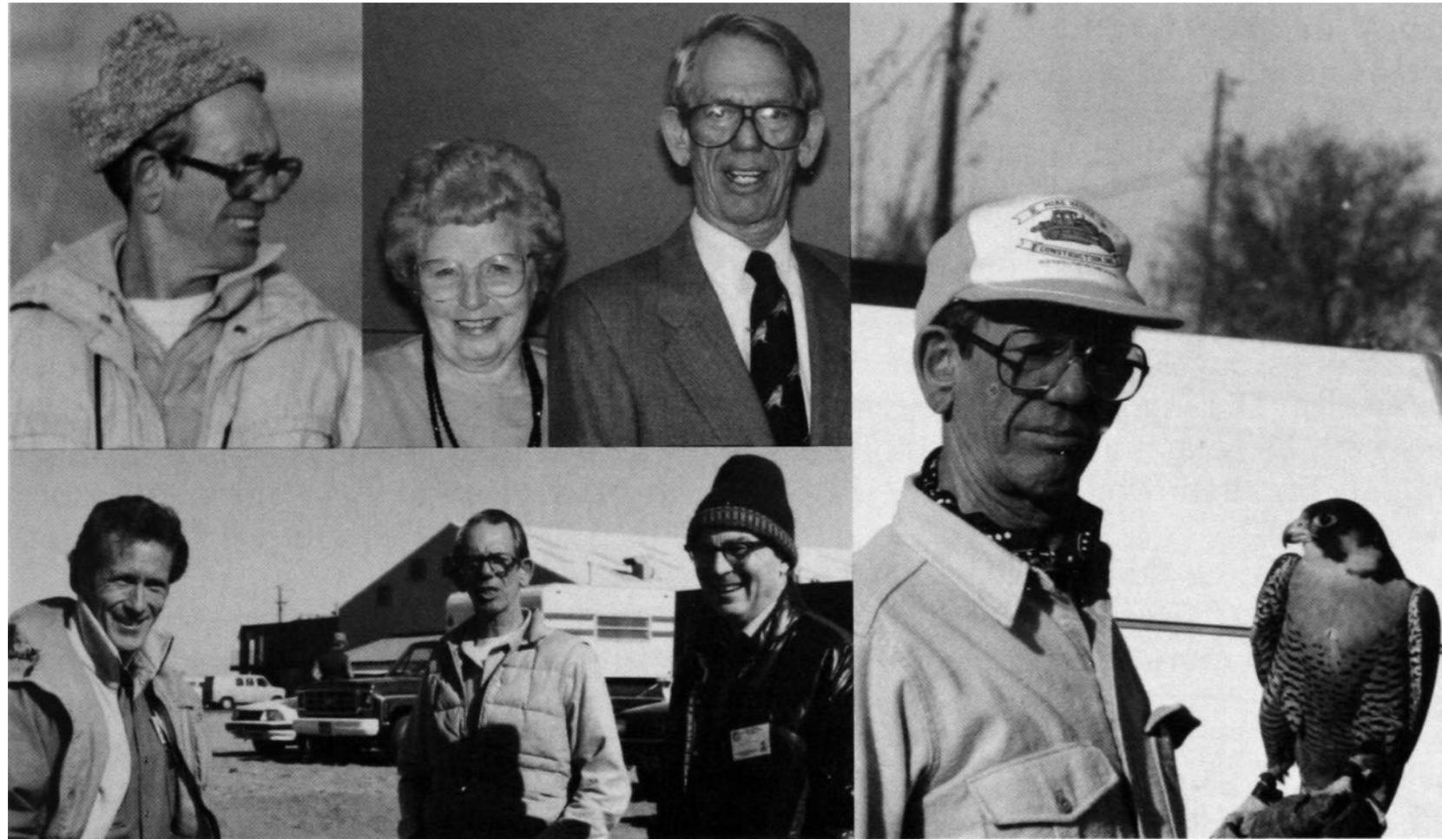
Charlotte Freienmuth, in association with her late husband, Edward, spent many years serving the NAFA organization. Edward has been recognized as an important figure in NAFAs initial development and continued growth until his death. While Charlotte functioned in the official capacity of Treasurer of NAFA for many years, it is important to note that the many, many years of service and untold hours which Edward put into NAFA would not have been possible without the continued support of Charlotte. Charlotte not only "put up with" Edward's passion for raptors and NAFA, but got right in there and participated, in a caring and meaningful way, in the NAFA organization; I'd like to think it was because of us, but I know it was only because of the kind of relationship which she shared with Edward, we were simply the beneficiaries. For many years members of the NAFA organization have benefitted from Charlotte's hardwork year round and cheerful attitude at NAFA Meets, always seeming to be there for anyone who needed to register anytime during the week of the Meet. Because of the years of dedication which Charlotte has put into the NAFA organization in spite of the fact that Charlotte herself is not and never was a falconer, the NAFA Board voted to dedicate the 1994 NAFA Journal to Charlotte Freienmuth; I was delighted to agree. In recognition of the your many years of dedicated and cheerful service to NAFA as a non-falconer, to you Charlotte, we dedicate the 1994 NAFA Journal.



Hawk Chalk



December, 1993



Lower Left L to R: Jim Weaver, Ed, Will Shor

Photos by Stan Marcus

1993 NAFA *Journal*

Edward S. Freienmuth

July 1, 1923 - September 18, 1993

—by Roger Thacker

It is with a mixture of sorrow and gratitude that I pen this tribute. Sorrow because I will miss such a close friend and colleague, and gratitude because I knew and was able to share some of his time with him. Obviously his input into U.S. falconry was huge, but in this tribute I hope I can provide a much larger picture - the “essence” of the man.

Edward was born in Lawrence, Kansas. He graduated from Alamosa High School, Colorado, then attended Iowa State University; he then obtained his Law Degree from the University of Colorado in 1949. In between all this he served in the U.S. Army.

In 1949, he opened a law practice in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Office help at that time was tough to find. The only available secretary in town who could take shorthand had a baby – so a crib was set up in the reception room. During this period, Edward married Charlotte Lewis (Freienmuth); the union of which produced their sons Karl and David. A strong family advocate; his family was his greatest achievement and pride.

In 1964, Edward was accredited as a Certified Public Accountant and in 1969 began teaching accounting and business law at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. From 1973-78 he was appointed Director of the School of Business and in 1986 was appointed Vice President of Student Affairs. He retired from the school twice (being called back each time), finally leaving in 1989.

I asked several friends how they remembered Edward. Allow me to quote two.

Will Shor — “Meticulous, dedicated. I couldn’t ask for a better friend.”

Stan Marcus — “Absolutely dependable, dedicated and efficient. He was a ‘confidant’. My only disappointment in our friendship was distance prevented a closer relationship and interaction.”

Edward was one of my closest friends and I know the feeling was mutual. How many times we talked over the years (26) often every night, never less than weekly, about NAFA, family, and our birds. I remember clearly when he called to tell me Jenny, his peregrine, had taken her first quarry. Excitement crackled over the phone! He was honest, upfront, dedicated, warm (under a crusty exterior) and highly ethical. He had four interests as he told me – “my god, my family, my work, and falconry”. As others have stated, he was absolutely dedicated to anything he started, follow thru was a necessity.

Interestingly, Mike Persons got him started in falconry. In 1957, Mike kept his Prairies on blocks in his yard when he lived in Durango and Ed saw them. In 1959, he caught a female Kestrel and trained it; meanwhile, following Mike into the field.

In 1963, he flew “Ceaser” an eyas red-tailed hawk and from 1968-74 his goshawk “Dubois” whom he obtained from Butch Olendorff. “Dubois” attended many NAFA meets including the early Yankton, South Dakota programs. How successful was he? His son Karl states – “mother sure learned how to cook a lot of rabbit meat, and we sure learned how to eat a lot”.

Following this, Ed flew longwings. Two birds come to mind. “5G” his Prairie, and of course, the pride of his falconry – “Jenny”, his peregrine. He flew “Jenny” up to the time that field activity became difficult, and today she is with Ralph Rogers in a breeding project. Earlier, I mentioned a phone call Ed made when Jenny took her first quarry. His sons Karl and David were with him and say, “We have never seen him so ecstatic. He was like “Rocky” with both fists clenched in the air and screaming ‘Yes, yes!’.” Flying his bird was life to Ed, he was always patient with them and worried about them; he was an excellent falconer in his own right.

While this was ongoing, he was also very active in the NAFA organization. As Editor of the Hawk Chalk (68-71); Treasurer (71-76); Mountain Director (79-80); and Director at Large (83-88). Many younger members are not aware of the political activity the NAFA had to go thru in the sixties and seventies to get where we are today. Ed was up to his neck in this – always strongly pushing our position.

In 1969, the North American Peregrine Foundation was formed, an organization he was involved with as an officer from conception to his death. In 1972, he started a captive breeding project in cooperation with the NAPF and birds bred in the

project (Prairies) became the first ever distributed to American falconers under early special permit regulations. The NAPF continues to be deeply involved with the falconry field. At the state level, he was involved with his state falconry organization in earlier years; he was a member of the Colorado Non-game Advisory Committee, and several wildlife conservation groups.

In all of these endeavors, strong support came from his family and particularly his beloved wife, Charlotte, who has also been deeply involved with NAFA over the years. For this support and sacrifice of time while Edward was working for us, I say thank you!

A strong Episcopalian with unswerving faith in his God, a Memorial Service was held on September 25, 1993 at St. Marks Episcopal Church in Durango, Colorado. A large congregation attended and it became clear how many lives Ed touched. He really did make an impact.

Now comes the difficult part of this tribute - the end. Gentleman, husband, father, scholar, and falconer - Edward S. Freienmuth was all of these and more! Above all, he was a real individual. It was a privilege to have shared him for a time, and I shall miss him dearly.

