



The first president of the California Hawking Club and
The California Hawking Club's First Honorary Lifetime Member

DONORS:

Dan and Bev Fenske, Dennis and Rosalina Grisco, Marshall and Kathleen Rodelli, Ronald S. Kearney, Lawrence and Anne Clark, Jeffrey and Diana Sipple, Robert and Mary Armbruster, Ronald Brown, Will O'Dear Jr., Thomas and Jeannette La Velle, Charles Kaiser and Pamela Hessey, Gary L. Nolff, Steve and Rosan Johnson

On the death of my friend and mentor, Jack Hagan

By Tim Gallagher

I just heard that my old friend Jack Hagan passed away on Monday, August 19, 2013. I first met Jack at a meeting of a newly formed club, the Santa Ana Valley Falconers' Association, when I was in my early teens, and he became a great mentor to me in falconry as well as in wildlife photography. The club met weekly at Jack's home in Santa Anna, California, and later at Jeff Sipple's house in Cypress. Jack was a professional photographer and also a collector of various reptiles and amphibians. I remember he kept live rattlesnakes in aquariums in his garage and rare turtles in his bathtub. His house was often sweltering inside, to accommodate the tropical turtles.



Jack took some amazing photographs in the late 1940s of a peregrine falcon nest in Laguna Canyon. When he came back from the Korean War though, the nest was empty, and peregrines never nested there again. This was but one of the peregrine eyries he knew of that had been abandoned during the DDT era.

Jack was in his mid-thirties when the California Hawking Club formed. With thinning dark brown hair, and a pipe he puffed on constantly, he had the most calm, unflappable nature of anyone I had ever met. The younger guys in the club called him "The Old Man," which always made him smile. He had certain catch phrases he would use in conversation. If you asked him a complex question, he would puff thoughtfully on his pipe and say "This I do not know," but would then go on to expound in great detail his theory on the topic at hand. He drove a classic Mercedes 300SL sports car with gull-wing doors.

Jack usually flew goshawks. He had an extensive collection of old falconry books, as well as some beautifully framed falconry prints on the walls of his house. He told me I was always welcome to come over and read his books, which I often did.

Jack would later become the first president of the California Hawking Club, which in some ways, sprang from the ashes of the Santa Ana group, using the same logo which his friend and artist Jeff Sipple designed.



Jack and Prarie Falcon in 1950's.

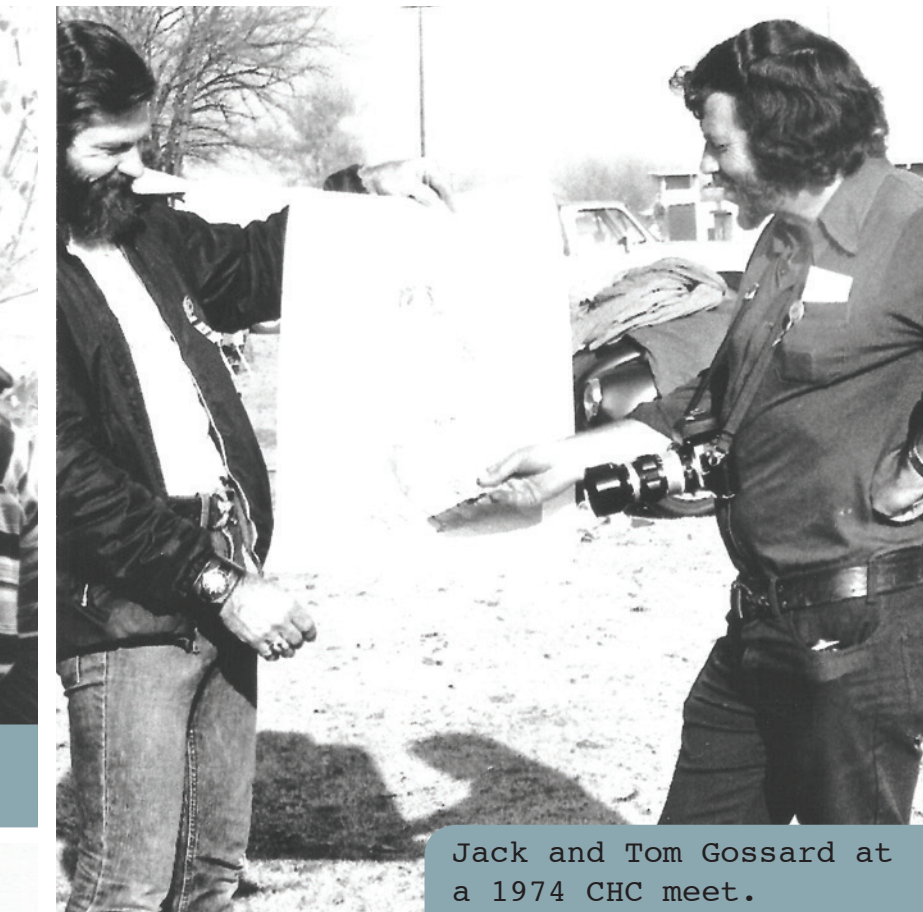
The last time I saw Jack was at the 25th anniversary field meet of the California Hawking Club. We – and several other charter members of the club, such as Mike Arnold, Jeff Sipple, and Bob Winslow – had come to celebrate the club as it reached the quarter century mark. It was great to see Jack. He hadn't changed much. His hair had gone gray, and somewhere along the way, he had given up the pipe, but he was the same affable, good-natured Jack. I will truly miss him.



Jack and European Goshawk in 1970.



Jack and CHC directors meeting.



Jack and Tom Gossard at a 1974 CHC meet.



Jack and Bonelli's eagle in 1966.

Jack was a professional photographer, a collector of various reptiles and amphibians, founding member of the California Hawking Club and he loved falconry.



Photo from the newspaper about Jack's accident in 1964.

SHEAR LUCK—Jack Walter Hagan, 34, of 1429 S. Flower St., Santa Ana, sits in the cockpit of front half of sports car he was driving early Saturday morning when the car was sheared in two in a spectacular collision in South Santa Ana. Lady Luck must have been Hagan's invisible passenger. He apparently escaped serious injury.



Jack and Sam in 1990.

Do Not Copy Without Permission