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Henry Cochran Kendall (1922-2007)

— by John R. Swift

Henry C. Kendall was born on June 8th, 1922 in St. Louis, Missouri where he would spend his entire life. Henry always had a love for birds and animals. He was always exploring the wooded areas around his home. He would eventually raise over 50 species of birds taken from local nests as young birds. This early skill would later serve him well in rearing young Prairie Falcons in 1967. Several other area youth shared the same interests as Henry and together formed a local falconry club when they were all in their teens. The club members who attended John Burroughs and Country Day School and were all invited to hear falconer/author Capt. Charles Knight, who brought his Golden eagle, Mr. Ramshaw, speak on falconry. That served to spur them on with their love of hawks and falconry. Red-tailed hawks and Coopers Hawks were the primary hawks utilized when they were hunting rabbits and quail. Henry would also develop into an avid falconry book collector, which began in 1940 with the William F. Russell's *Falconry* and John and Frank Craighead's *Hawks in the Hand*.

Henry initially attended Bowden College for two years but like so many students he was drawn into WW II. He attended flight school and upon graduation chose the Marine Air Corps. He flew his Corsair during the invasion of Okinawa and was the first pilot to land there after the airfield was secured. The war ended shortly thereafter and Henry returned home and attended Harvard on the GI bill. He had originally wanted to become a doctor but wanted to get out and start his life so he graduated with a degree in psychology.

While at home in St. Louis he attended a party at some family friends, the Conants, where he met their daughter Betty with whom he immediately fell in love. They were married 6 months later.



many future falcon breeders also become successful. It was one of the high points in Henry's falconry experiences but unfortunately would just precede his greatest tragedy. On a spring vacation, without Henry, the family car struck a bridge abutment and Henry's wife Betty was killed. The Kendall family would never be the same. Henry's falconry career declined the next several years, the house was eventually sold and the breeding falcons given back to the owners.

However, Henry never completely left falconry and kept one or two birds when he was able to construct a small mew. One of Henry's more famous hawks was Whitey, an albinistic red-tailed hawk, he obtained in the late 60's. Originally obtained from the St. Louis Zoo where she was brought in as a rescued chicken. Henry became the only falconer to ever fly a white red-tailed hawk in falconry. She lived for 36 years and is now at the Archives of Falconry in Boise, Idaho.

Henry married again in the late 70's and with his wife Anita raised three more daughters. During Henry's later life he kept a Gyrfalcon and would often go hawking with the falconers in the St. Louis area always enjoying the hunting and fellowship. Henry passed away at his home in Chesterfield, Missouri on December 5th, 2007. His contributions to falconry were significant and he made many friends during his 85-year journey that will remember him for many years.

(Author's personal note): I met Henry and Betty in 1968 when I moved to St. Louis after college and they were great hosts and friends while I was learning falconry. I enjoyed several dinners with the entire family. Betty's death in April 1969 was devastating to everyone and many changes were made. I spent that summer at Henry's house often staying for late visits and wine on the large back porch. I was even with Henry during the Apollo moon landing that summer. I met my future wife Vicki in the fall of 1969 and we also had some enjoyable evenings at the Kendall's house. Our lives would occasionally crisscross over the next 30 years and we would pick up with our lives again. He was a good friend to me throughout the years and I always enjoyed the times we were able to spend time together.

Henry and Betty set out on their life together and would have six children, which would cause them to seek larger houses eventually purchasing the large house in Ladue where so many falconry gatherings would take place.

During Henry's active falconry career he would make several successful visits to the Queen Charlottes to secure Peale's falcons, capture numerous Tundra falcons on the beaches in Alabama and Padre Island, Texas. He explored the Horton River in the Northwest Territories with his son Jud in July 1967 to take Gyrfalcons and Peregrines. He was always present at the early NAFA meets in the 60's and was as active as any falconer of that period.

Henry had never given up on his desire to breed large falcons in captivity. He obtained a tiercel named *Tim* from falconer Frank Serra and a falcon named *Taka* from Ed Fitch. The pair was compatible and soon laid eggs and one young chick was hatched in 1967 but died shortly thereafter. The next year would prove to be the success Henry was hoping for and several chicks were raised and Henry became the first to ever raise Prairie Falcons in captivity. His success and captive breeding experiences, especially at feeding whole six week old chicks, would help



Henry Cochran Kendall

Kendall, Henry Cochran 85, died peacefully at his home in Chesterfield, MO on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, surrounded by his loving wife, Anita and children. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Elizabeth Conant Kendall and daughter Faith. He is survived by children Elizabeth, Judson, Harry, Mardi, Sam, Jessica, Jennifer Jaimee; and grandchildren Luke, Judson, Gwynnedd, Alexandra, Sara, Benjamin. Because of his longstanding dedication to animals during his lifetime, the family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to: The Animal Protective Association of Missouri, 1705 S. Hanley, St. Louis, MO 63144, or The Archives of Falconry, World Center for Birds of Prey, 5668 W. Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, ID 83709.

Services will be private. Condolences can be shared at: www.stlouiscremation.com.

St. Louis Post Dispatch





Top L-R: Gary and Giselle Meyers, Sally and Mike Melvill, Heidi and Erich Awender;
Bottom L-R: Henry and Betty Kendall, Frank Serra (at the Kendall's home, ca. 1967)



Newly hatched captive-bred Prairie Falcon, April 1967



Don Hunter, Frank Beebe, Henry Kendall

BREEDING PRAIRIE FALCONS IN CAPTIVITY

by Henry Kendall, St. Louis, Missouri

on this past summer of
s station in a small town
With me was my eyass
ed in 1967. He was quite

icide problems or anything else that might pro-
hibit the taking of these birds from the wild.
It is not at all hard to speculate that within
five years most of the longwings flown at a



Frank Serra with European Goshawk and Henry Kendall with 'Whitey', an albinistic Red-tailed Hawk at a NAFA Field Meet in South Dakota.



'Whitey'

