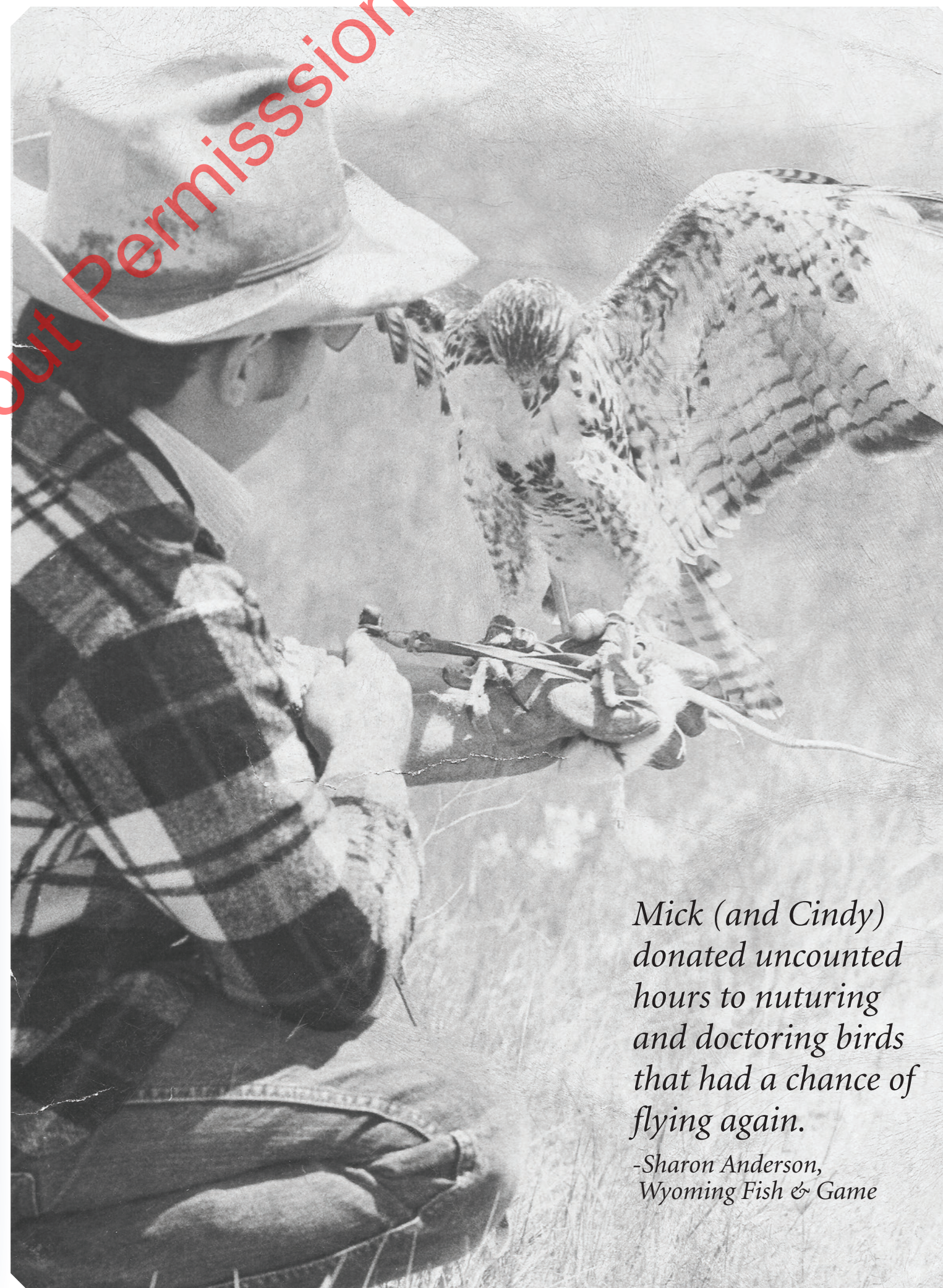




MICK WAS AN ACCOMPLISHED FALCONER AND REHABILITATED RAPTORS FOR THE WYOMING FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT.

**DONORS:**

Cindy Marchitelli, Paul Pheneger, Peggy Smith



Ronald "Mick" Marchitelli was born June 5, 1943 in Niagara Falls, New York, the son of Hercule and Marian Marchitelli. He worked as a mechanic in New York, Connecticut, and later in Wyoming, where he spent the majority of his life. He owned Mobile Mechanic in Laramie and enjoyed working at the University of Wyoming during the last ten years of his life. He had numerous hobbies and interests. He was an amateur radio operator for more than 40 years. He was an accomplished falconer and rehabilitated raptors for the Wyoming Fish and Game Department. He was an award winning pigeon racer, show breeder of a variety of rabbits, a little league coach, a licensed private pilot and plane owner and an avid history buff. He read Louie L'Amour books and wanted to live among the cowboys. He had wanted to move to England but his dog would have to have been quarantined. He thought

about Alaska but didn't have the money to get there. So, he built a trailer that said "Wyoming or bust" and headed west with Cindy, two children and a dog. After a stop in Cheyenne, they loved Laramie. He met some folks doing raptor rehabilitation at the university and his ongoing interest in birds took off. He became a rehabilitator, took his falconry exam and began his love affair in earnest. He took no money. For over 30 years, he was an active raptor enthusiast, quick to comment on regulatory changes which affected falconry and conservation of birds of prey. His outstanding service in raptor rescue and rehabilitation was recognized by Wyoming Fish and Game. Mick was survived by his loving wife, Cynthia (Cindy), and two children, Michael and Rita, their spouses and eight grandchildren.

*Mick (and Cindy) donated uncounted hours to nuturing and doctoring birds that had a chance of flying again.*

*-Sharon Anderson,  
Wyoming Fish & Game*



### WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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One of the many important people connected with the Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. was introduced to me early in my career. **Ronald "Mick" Marchitelli** was "the guy" who came in and asked for road-kill rabbits to help feed the many raptors he rescued and rehabilitated in the southeast corner of Wyoming.

Mick was dependable, and we knew when we left a message that an owl had been hit by a car, or an eagle had been brought in because it couldn't fly, that he would respond, take the car, and assess the situation. During the many years of our working relationship, I learned many things from Mick and Cindy (his equally knowledgeable wife and partner in bird rehabilitation). I learned that a simple, small cardboard box would help calm a frantic, injured bird. I learned there is no use setting water dishes in front of the bird - they get their liquids from the prey they consume. I learned that hamburger is bad, and chicken necks are good. I learned that sometimes eagles can't fly because they "pigged out" and can't get off the ground. I also learned that raptor and car collisions are usually fatal to the raptor.

Mick (and Cindy) donated uncounted hours to nurturing and doctoring birds that had a chance of flying again. He would feed them (no small chore with their voracious appetites) and gently exercise their wings and then provide flying opportunities to rebuild their strength, and finally release them close to the site where they were found, to enable them to find home and what was familiar.

As a master falconer, Mick was highly sought after to be a mentor to new falconers. Mick's donation of time, knowledge and resources in helping the Game and Fish Department was acknowledged with an award for outstanding service and presented by the regional supervisor at our annual Christmas Party.

On one of our "over-the-counter chats", Mick shared the devastation of watching his prized Peregrine in flight and having an eagle swoop down and catch him in the air and fly away, never to be seen again. Mick searched and flew over the location many times with his plane, but it was truly gone. And now that Mick has been swooped up and taken where we can't see him, we accept that he is flying high with his proud and wonderful raptors and that we will meet again in the heavens some day.

Respectfully Submitted  
Sharon Anderson, Admin. Assistant  
Laramie Regional Office



**MICK HAD NUMEROUS HOBBIES AND INTERESTS THAT INCLUDED FLYING PLANES, COACHING LITTLE LEAGUE, RACING PIGEONS, AND READING HISTORY, TO NAME A FEW.**

