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LESTER WARREN HIGBY



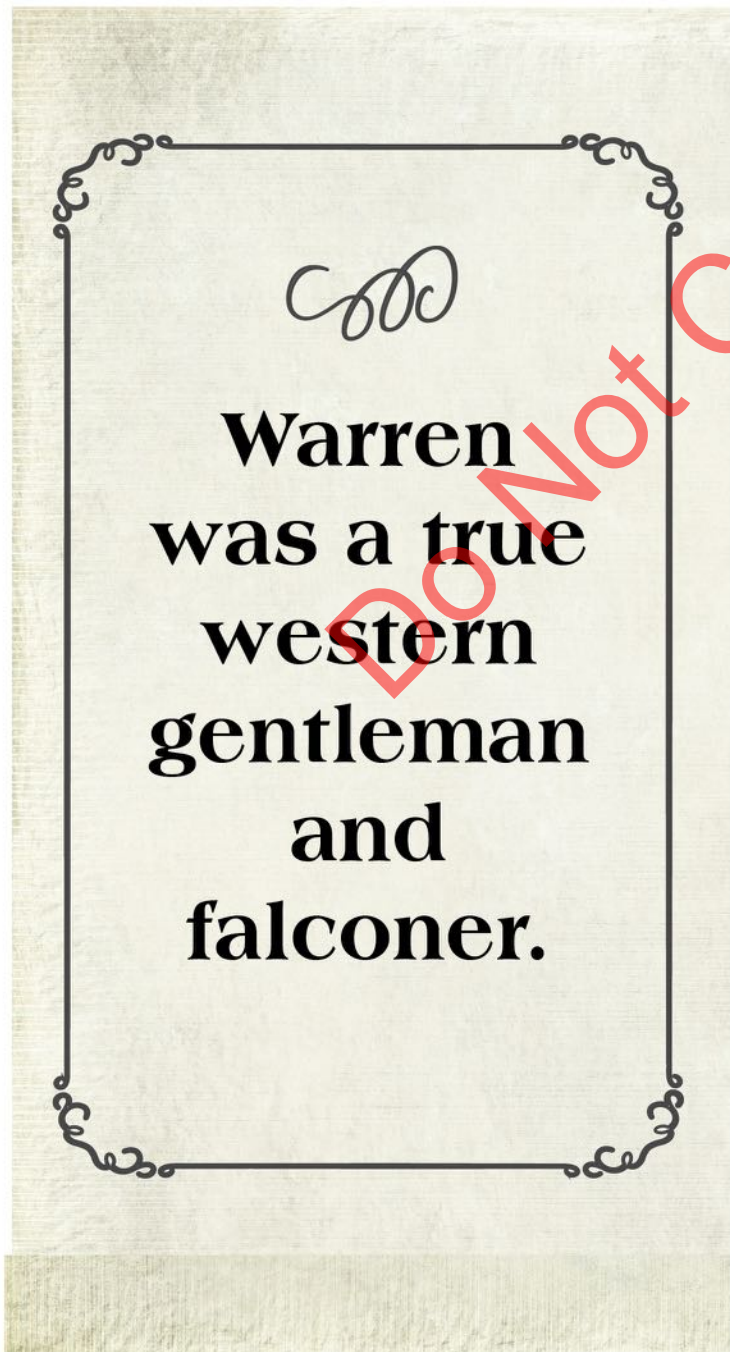
He was born on Oct. 24, 1920, and was the eldest son of Nina Higby (nee Harris) and Lester Wright Higby. He grew up on the family ranch at Encampment, where he attended Encampment Elementary School and High School. After graduation he was accepted at the University of Wyoming. He was enrolled in the University's Engineering Department for two years, seeking a chemical engineering degree. He died at the age of 86 on Dec. 12, 2006 at the Bonnie Blue Jacket Nursing Home in Basin, where he had been a patient since October 2005.

World affairs then touched Warren's life, as they did for thousands of young men of his generation. Warren chose to serve his country during WWII as an officer in the United States Air Force for over four years. Upon his return he returned to the university where he changed his major and graduated with a degree in biology.

Two days after his graduation he accepted an offer from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, beginning his career of 31 years with the department. He met his future wife, Mary Niblock, in Encampment where they were married in December of 1946. In 1960 the family settled in Lander on a ranch located along the North Fork of the Popo Agie River.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department tapped into his expertise when he participated in writing most of Wyoming's updated laws concerning the use of the state's birds of prey in the sport. All these activities and his families' love joined to give Warren a full and happy life.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, daughter, Carol (Richard) Lechner, and son Kenneth, four grandchildren, extended family members and many nephews, nieces and cousins.



Grateful thoughts of Warren

by Mike and Jocelyn Barker

Before there was a Wyoming Falconers' Association, there was Warren Higby. Falconers in Wyoming and in neighboring Rocky Mountain States owe much gratitude to Warren Higby. As a game bird biologist and falconer working for Wyoming Game and Fish, Warren's land ethic, hard work, and love for the birds won the respect of his peers and many others throughout the West. He was the pioneer falconer in Wyoming who played a key role in establishing Wyoming's first falconry regulations.

Through his strong character and reputation, he built the sturdy and true foundation which still serves as the basis for the strong relationship we have with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and for the common sense falconry regulations we enjoy today. Warren Higby unselfishly and tirelessly gave his time, knowledge, and sweat to those who sought his help for many decades. Every time a falconer traps a gyrfalcon, takes an eyass goshawk, hunts sage grouse with his dog and falcon, or any of a number of other experiences in Wyoming, they can tip their flask and say thanks to L. Warren Higby.

Of course, it would be remiss to not mention his wonderful wife and partner, Mary Higby. They were inseparable and enjoyed all these things together. Whenever and wherever Warren was doing something, Mary was with him, her sleeves rolled up and pitching in. Over the years, she prepared innumerable meals and opened her house to all Wyoming falconers and many others. Mary Higby is a grand lady, and her partner, Warren, was a true western gentleman and falconer.

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