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*An icon and a much
revered member in the
Pennsylvania
Falconry Community, Bill
will be greatly missed.*



I met Bill nearly fifty years ago when I was at the University of Pennsylvania.

Back then, Bill was already considered to be one of the great “Old Timers” along with Jim Rice and Corny McFadden. Although Jim and Corny started much earlier than he (Bill started in falconry sometime in the 50s.), Bill was already revered by the rest of the falconry community here in PA. He was always ready, willing and able to help any of us who needed it and he wasn’t shy about

IN MEMORY OF “*Billy Blizzard*”

by Ken Felix

giving advice. One could accurately state that before there was “Google”, there was Bill!

Bill always preached and practiced the highest standards of falconry. His birds, be they falcon, accipiter, or buteo, were impeccably mannered, perfectly feathered, and as deadly as they were beautiful.

Bill believed that to be a real falconer one had to trap his own bird, train it himself, and make all/most of his own equipment. The only pieces of equipment that I am aware that Bill ever bought were swivels and bells.

He was affectionately known as “Billy Blizzard” to those who knew him well. He acquired that name because of the many treacherous drives he made through miles of white-out conditions attending falconry meets. Bill joined NAFA in 1965. He was a staunch supporter and advocate for both NAFA and the PFHT (Pennsylvania Falconry and Hawk Trust). He served as the founding vice president of the PFHT and held that position for over 20 years. I challenge anyone to name another individual who attended more NAFA meets than Bill. I’m pretty sure that he attended every NAFA

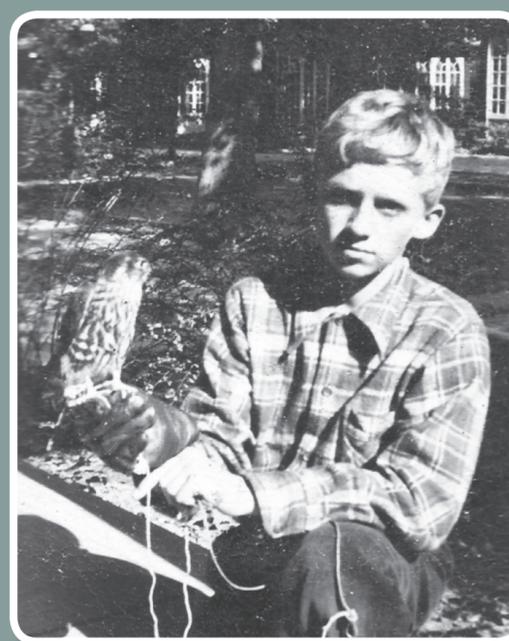
meet since the late 60’s.

Last November 2017, although he was physically too weak to trap, train, and hunt a bird, he drove by himself from his home in Southeastern Pennsylvania to Kearney, Nebraska with an oxygen generator sitting on the passenger seat and a hose connected to his nose just so he could see old friends and participate in the meet.

Bill could tell stories about hawking and life in general all day long. We all listened eagerly. During his long life he had many fantastic experiences, some hilarious, some tragic.

Bill was preceded in death by the love of his life, his wonderful wife “Puddy”. Not long after she passed away Bill was affected by a severe respiratory ailment which tragically took his life.

Bill is an icon here in PA and through most of the country. Falconry has lost a noble ambassador and so many of us have lost a caring, honest, delightful and dependable friend. We miss you Bill, we always will.



FROM LEFT-RIGHT:

Bill the snake charmer

PFA Meet in 1969

Young Bill with Kestrel



NAFA in 1998



Bill in 1982



© Steve Chindgren

Bill always preached and practiced the highest standards of falconry.



Bill ridge trapping in 1984