



## Donors

**Robert and Karen Reuter**

### **JACK YOUNG — A REMEMBRANCE**

— By S. Kent Carnie

When I learned of Hei Heiberg's passing, my first thought was that Jack Young must write the memorial. The closest of friends for decades, they had in common both their Air Force careers and their long-standing interests in falconry. It was not to be. A week and a day after we lost Hei, Jack also was gone from us.

Jack's name may be unfamiliar to many of our younger generation, yet despite his never having held any official NAFA position, all of us with any involvement in NAFA (or in the sport generally) owe this man a considerable debt. Jack was an Air Force lawyer. An assignment at the Air Force Academy early in its involvement with falcons revived memories of a goshawk possessed in his youth. Heiberg was working on the Academy falcon program at the time, resulting in a friendship that was to last the rest of their lives. Early on, Luff Meredith had called on Jack's legal expertise to produce a constitution for the old Falconry Club of America. Together, Jack and Hei produced that 1958 constitution. Jack later contributed his professional experience in a second collaboration with Heiberg in revision of the early NAFA constitution, resulting in the basis of that which has come down to us today. It was Hei's disappointment that no mention was made of Jack in the dedication printed on the most recently published edition of that document.

Without going into the details of Jack's life, I would share one recollection which particularly exemplified him in my memory. In the mid-1960s, discussions were underway between local falconers and Maryland's game department to legalize falconry there. Maryland was especially important because it included Assateague Island, then a major source of passage peregrines for American falconers. With a considerable history of trapping, not altogether well understood by its officialdom, legalization was strongly opposed by the state's head of law enforcement.

A group of us from the Washington, DC area, including Jack, went up to Annapolis as "expert" witnesses to testify before the Game Commission in the legalization hearings. We all were prepared for a considerable battle. Pressures of the military required Jack to be back at The Pentagon as soon as possible. Explaining this to the Commission chairman, Jack was allowed to speak first. Jack's "courtroom presence" that day would have done the greatest of his profession proud. Quiet, unassuming, Jack introduced falconry and our desires to a Commission that obviously didn't know one chicken hawk from another. He didn't lecture to them but just talked about the sport in ordinary terms the Commission could readily understand and appreciate — all in his soft, Texas "good ole boy" accent. Within a few minutes Jack clearly had the entire Commission in the palm of his hand. Any of us could have recounted those basic facts that Jack described. But none of us had that presence, that finesse, that ability built on years of courtroom experience that let Jack read his audience so accurately and perfectly tailor his presentation to it.

Finishing his introduction, Jack started to turn the podium over to the others of us who were to describe the technical side of our position. Before we could start, the Chairman, with nods from his fellow Commissioners, indicated that he felt they now understood our situation and, looking straight at his Chief of Law Enforcement, asked if there were any to speak in opposition. Whatever his objections to the sport, the Chief Warden had not achieved his position without developing an ability to judge a situation — and the way the wind was blowing that afternoon was clear to him! He disclaimed any opposition — and falconry was legal in Maryland.

Jack did other things with his hawking — his writings on progesterone effects on the molt are still with us — but even had he done no more after Maryland's legalization, he'd won his place! He showed us all a real professional in action that afternoon in Annapolis.

Doubtless, Jack and Hei are flying 'em down up there today. Thanks, Jack; we won't forget! Rest in Peace.

*Hawk Chalk* Vol. XXX, No. 1 April 1991

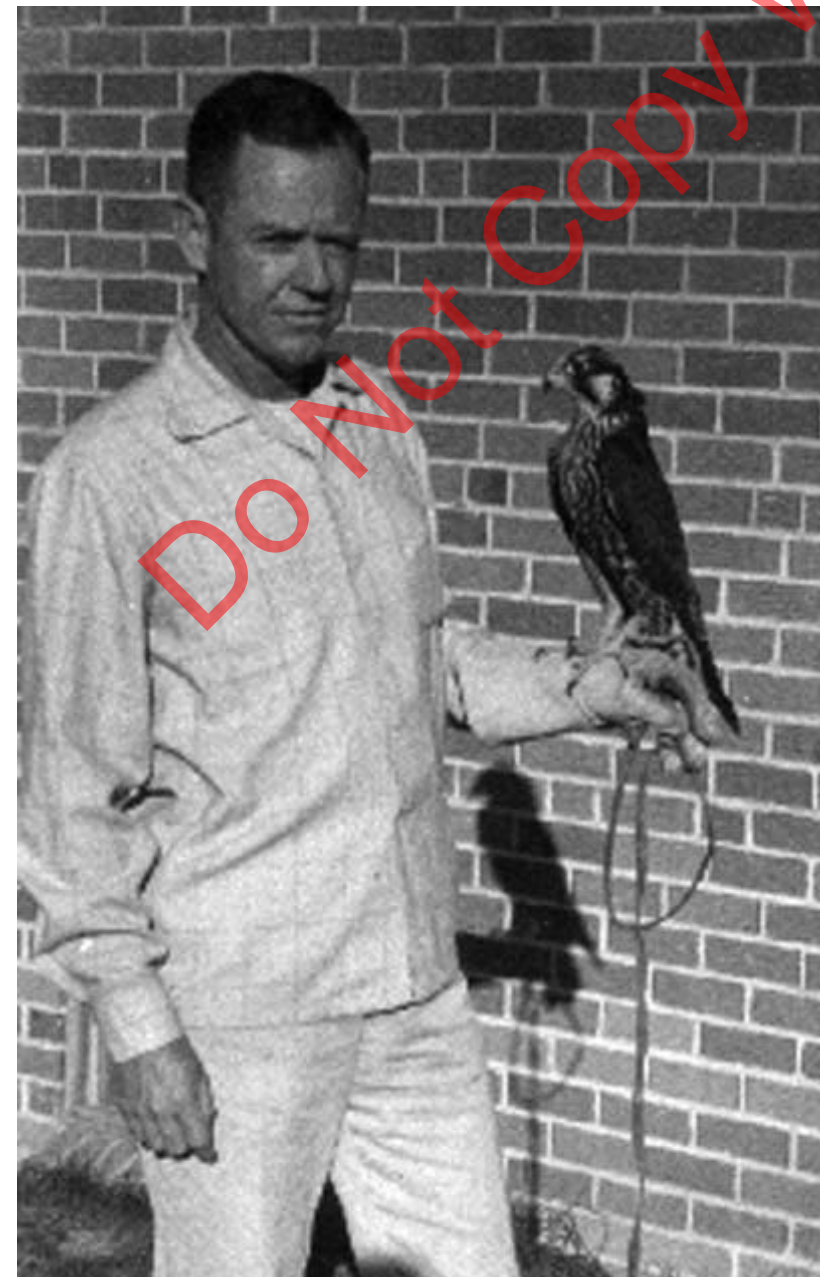


**While stationed at Elmendorf AFB, Jack assisted local falconers in presenting falconry's case before Alaska's wildlife officials.**

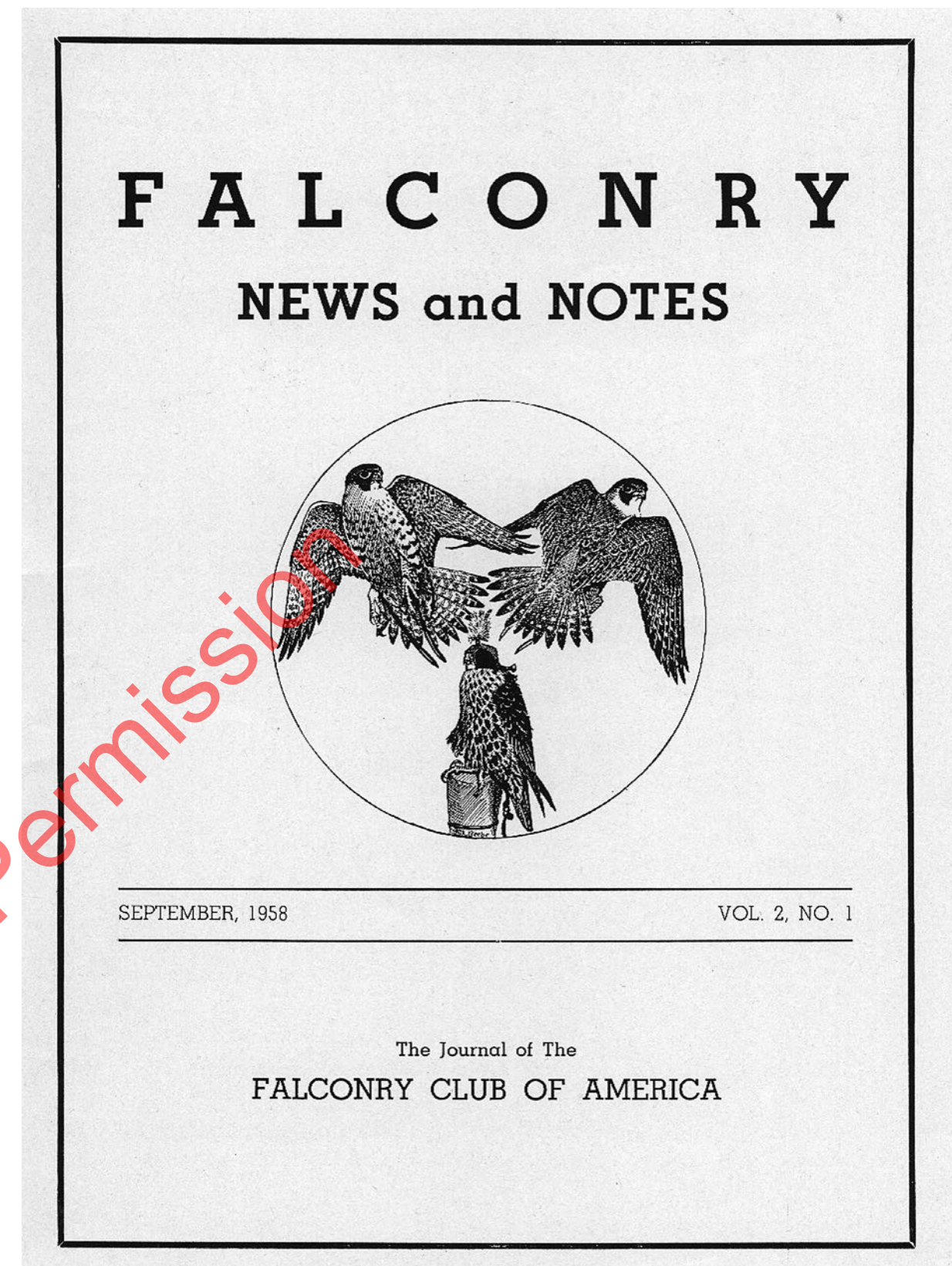




Jack's famous "Lady Helen" was the model for his line of pendants, cufflinks, and earrings.



"Lady Helen" — a passage female Peregrine trapped Nov. 1956



### The Effect of Progesterone on the Molt Of A Peregrine Falcon

by Jack C. Young

For the interest of those falconers who may wish to utilize progesterone to speed the molt the following account of the 1957 molt of my peregrine falcon, Lady Helen, is offered.

Helen was trapped as a passager in the fall of 1956. The molt described was thus her first and normally quite late. She flew free during the winter of 1956 and the spring of 1957, flying to both lure and pigeon. Flying weight was 28 ½ ounces to 29 ounces...

Excerpt from *Falconry News and Notes*, the Journal of the Falconry Club of America's Sept. 1958, Vol 2, No. 1