

Excerpt from Chapter 10: Falconry of Glorious Times: Adventures of the Craighead Naturalists

Soon after starting college, Frank and John made front page news in the November 12, 1935 *Penn State Collegian* article "Twin Brothers Revive Ancient Sport of Falconry on Campus." Apparently Ulysses caught a budding reporter's attention when the twins released him from his perch in the back-yard of their apartment. The tiercel was the only bird they brought with them; they had given away or released all the others. The article also mentioned they previously had articles published in *American Forests*, *Nature Magazine*, science bulletins, and newspapers before starting college. Anyone on campus who didn't know who they were before certainly knew after this.

Just before Christmas break, they took Ulysses out to the Penn State golf course for some exercise, but he gave two unlucky golfers exercise they hadn't expected when he dive-bombed them. Frank and John gave occasional lectures about falconry on campus because the sport was virtually unknown to American college students and faculty at that time.

After graduating in 1939 with A.B.s in Science, John and Frank had much to do before heading to Ann Arbor for graduate school. Houghton Mifflin had agreed to publish *Hawks in the Hand: Adventures in Photography and Falconry*, but much work was needed to get their manuscript and 57 photos ready for publication. Penn State Professors Edward Nichols and Gerald Stout gave them support, moral and otherwise, preparing their manuscript for publication.

The book put to press, Frank Jr., John, Ulysses, and Nancy (a recently acquired prairie falcon) headed west and then north to start graduate work at the University of Michigan. With financial aid from scholarships, the twins breezed through their master's program in Ecology and Wildlife Management in a year without neglecting their raptor research. They also wrote their second *National Geographic* article, "In Quest of the Golden Eagle," for the May 1940 issue. However, Frank and John had something even more exciting coming up that summer, a trip to India to visit Bapa. Before they left for India, they released all of their birds except Ulysses.