


NEWMARKET CARPET BLAST



Sculptured Designs
plush, durable, variety of colours

\$1399

carpet only sq. yd.

Triumph Carpets

Peregrine - a wonder to watch

ART BRIGGS-JUDE
Outdoors

One of the added bonuses of sitting in a goose blind on the tidal flats of Hudson Bay was the chance to watch a peregrine falcon at work. Here in its homeland wilderness, this now endangered bird of prey was doing what it was noted for, pursuing moderately-sized birds with all the grace, speed, and agility of a feathered missile.

This particular falcon had a liking for the flocks of sandpipers and other shore birds that wheeled in unison over the sand dunes or ran along the swirls of the moving tide. In this tundra land of stunted growth, it had to settle for the protruding snag of an old tree stump.

How it decided which individual in a formation of 50 flighty birds was to be the victim, I could only guess. Possibly they are in this regard similar to African Cheetahs that concentrate solely on one antelope giving rise to the old adage "there's safety numbers" which holds true, as long as your number is not selected.

The killing forays of this our fastest falcon reminded me of the morning a few years ago when a peregrine paid us a visit at our farm near Westport.

Among the small flock of feral pigeons that hung about the barns was a pure white one, the remaining bird of a trio a neighbor had persuaded us to provide a home for. That morning my coffee break was interrupted by the blur of a hawk speeding past the picture window. Turning towards the barn in the direction the raptor was headed, I saw half a dozen pigeons rise to avoid the danger. The white one was among them, but unlike its dull-colored counterparts, which escaped under the overhanging roof, the startled white pigeon kept going and flew across the valley.

With all the finesse of a fighter plane engaging an enemy, the falcon, now identified as a peregrine, made a half-rolling flight correction and dove to the attack. In an instant it closed on its slower moving adversary, raking it with its razor-sharp claws and sending up a small puff of snowy feathers. Because the peregrine was a young inexperienced hunter, the pigeon escaped this initial onslaught and dove low over the streamside shrubbery. The falcon, recovering from its steep dive, quickly climbed above the pigeon once more, then attacked again. By this time both birds were over the pond and as the peregrine hit the pigeon a second time it knocked it sideways and very nearly into the water. Again all the fast-moving falcon had to show for its

persistence was a scattering of white feathers now floating on the pond surface.

The falcon continued its pursuit, finally catching the pigeon as it tried to dive into a grove of medium-sized white pine. Into this mass of evergreen boughs both birds disappeared and when I went to check out the scene a half and hour later, there was no sign of either the victim or its attacker.

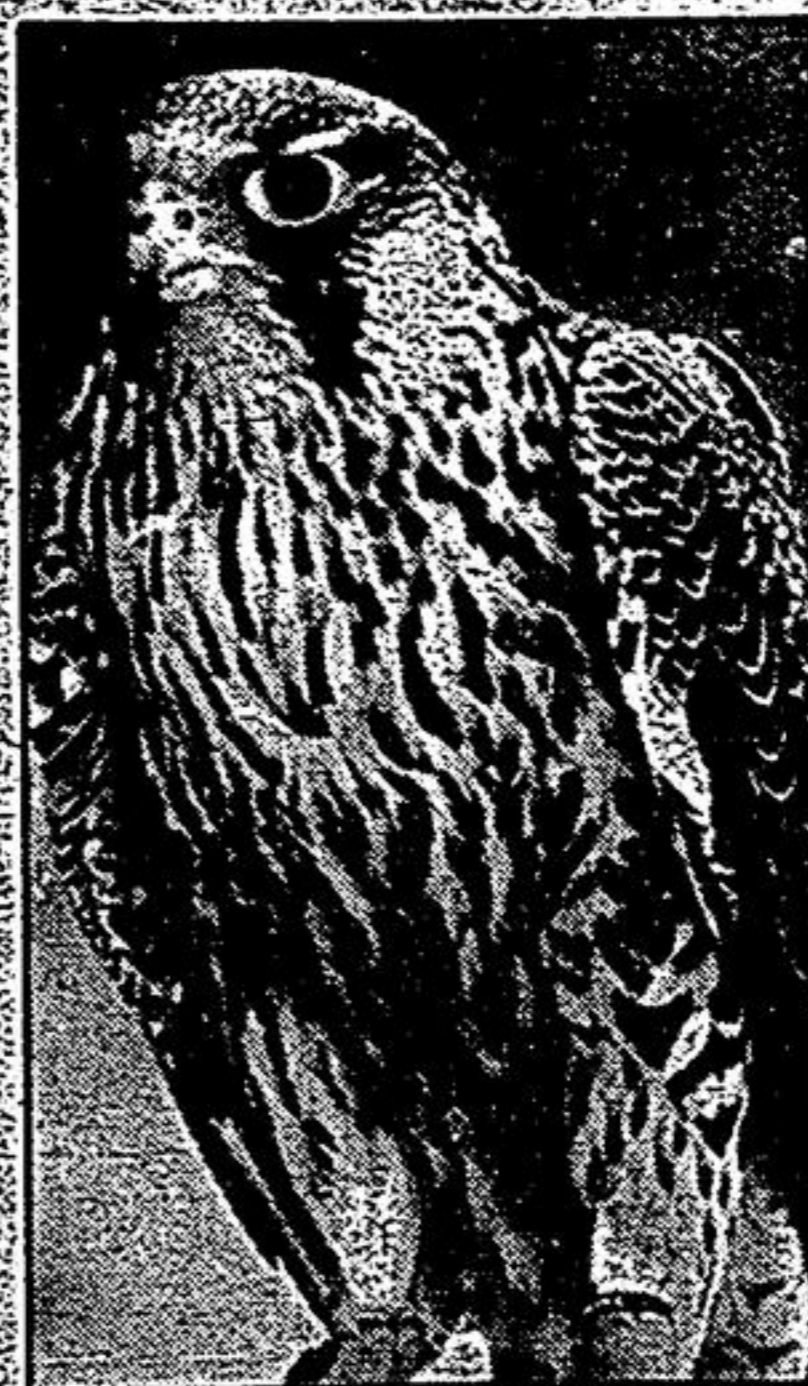
The remarkable result of this spirited conflict was the fact that somehow the pigeon survived. A few hours later it returned to the safety of the barn looking for all intents and purposes like it had suddenly been sucked into the intake of a jet engine.

While the inexperience of the young peregrine no doubt saved the pigeon from joining its passenger pigeon relatives, it also points up the vulnerability peregrine falcons face in the first year or so of their lives. Studies have shown that over 60 per cent of fledged falcons die before the next spring.

Add to this the fact that our North American peregrines migrate to Mexico and South America where pesticides containing harmful residues are still widely used. With these falcons at the top of the food chain it's little wonder that many of our songbirds are fewer in number and many of those species that are captured by peregrines add to the hard pressed falcon's woes. It is also a sad lament that peregrine falcons like other birds of prey are not included in the Migratory Birds Convention Act, an international agreement that protects other migratory bird species. So while they are fully protected in Canada and some U.S. states, in others, and in Central and South America, they are not.

Still the hope of saving the peregrine has been greatly enhanced by the rearing and releasing of falcons bred at the Canadian Wildlife Service Raptor Facility at Wainwright, Alberta since the mid-1970's.

Each year an average of 100 fledglings from this center are returned to wild cliffs or city ledges all across the country. The results, though slow, are already paying dividends. Calgary and Edmonton now boast of breeding pairs in those cities while a peregrine, one of 19 released in the St. Catharines area in 1987, was found nesting on a motel ledge in Toledo, Ohio a year later. Among other places, Toronto, Aurora, Hull, Montreal, Winnipeg, and Algonquin Park have also been recipients of young peregrine falcons for release.

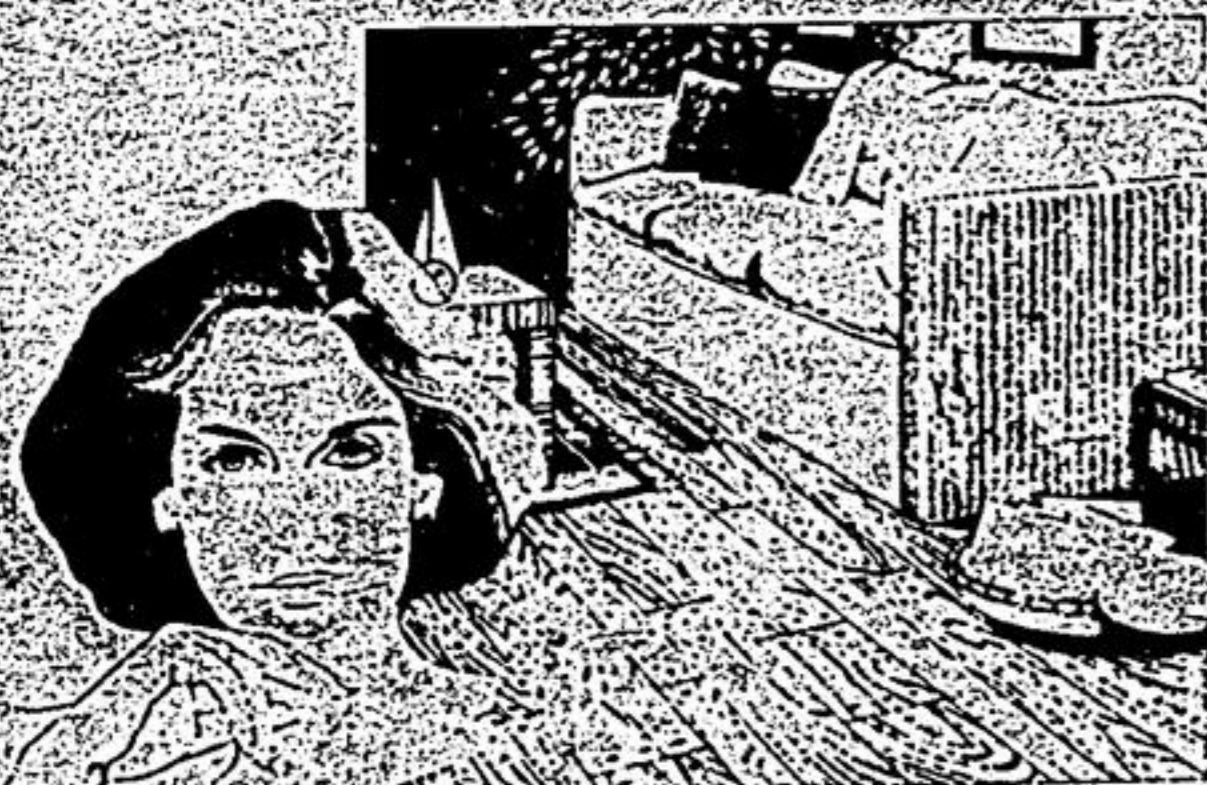


PEREGRINE FALCON

THE STORE

DOORS. SASHES. MOULDINGS. HARDWARE. ETC.

Remodeling or Redecorating?



Then consider the natural beauty of a Bruce hardwood floor!

You Choose Your Savings!

Bruce® hardwood floors
A division of Triangle Pacific Corp.



19th Ave. Between Kennedy & Warden



POST & BEAM

HELD OVER BY POPULAR DEMAND! Fall Flooring Sale Continues

3/4 x 2- 1/4 Pre-finished
CB921 Reg. 4.69

\$4.19 sq. ft.

3/4 x 3-1/4 Unfinished
Reg. 3.99

\$3.49 sq. ft.

SAVE 10% on all other Bruce Products!

OPTION #1
Do It Yourself

We supply nails & power nailer free
SAVE an extra

.40¢/sq. ft.

OPTION #2

Installation by Christmas
We'll arrange installation by Christmas - Save the GST

Installed \$1.50/sq. ft.

Compare at \$2.00 and up (min. 150 sq. ft.)

Christmas Shopping?

Sundials • Path signs • Bells • Blankets
• Brass Accessories • In Stock Now!

- Stain & accessories
- Custom windows & doors
- Trim, mouldings, flooring
- Hardware & security products

887-9672

Weekdays 8-5
Saturdays 8-4