

This is the story of how our Wray, Queen of the West End nest on Catalina Island came to be named after:

✿..*~*~*✿☆.★ Wray Ann Wong (Sweezey) ☆.★✿*~*~*..✿



From Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, B.C. Canada



From Carol: “Here is the baby picture of Wray Eagle..right after she was taken from her nest, lowered down the tree in a tote bag, removed from the bag, hooded and lovingly packed out of the bush. That is my deceased husband, Rick Davies, senior wildlife biologist for the region at that time”

I am telling it using excerpts from letters from her friend Carol Davies and then her two brothers so they are telling the story.

From Carol: "We collected "Wray" the morning after, but I think our Wray passed away the same date, and I was very, very sad"

"so when Dave Garcelon came out of the bush with the eagle chick, I said, my girlfriend Wray just died and she was an incredible person could we call the eagle Wray"

"I knew nothing of what was involved in the actual naming at the time"

"as each eagle that was collected for the reintroduction costed well of \$10,000 each."

"Institute for Wildlife Studies is all non profit so every expense for the projects was done through fund raising"

"A lot of the fundraising was sponsoring a collected eagle for \$10,000, and getting to name it"

"Well Dave Garcelon is one heck of a neat guy, so we got to name Wray for free"

"Wray person was also very unique, with a great sense of humour and gorgeous of course"

"Wray and I met after your fire on Stewart Avenue area, and hung out pretty much after that. She was my matron of honour at my first wedding in 1972"

"We trained at the same time at BC tel but I left and she stayed"

"She was independent, a great mother, and a very talented crafter.....and she is still missed"

"She was a class act all the way to her final goodbye in the hospital and even to her 13 year old daughter at the time"

"she passed away due to cancer at I think 36/37"

"We always were friends even though we went different ways"

"I did see her in the hospital to say goodbye and I still tear up about her every time I talk about her"

"Her funeral service was standing room only, as she was very much loved by everyone who knew her"

“My husband Rick Davies was the senior Wildlife Biologist for this region and that's how we became involved with the eagle collections”

“for the re introductions of eagles to Catalina Island, and Ventana Wildlife Reserve in Big Sur”

“the eagles have been wonderful for me”

“My Rick died in a hunting accident in 1996, but I still say "Hi Rick" to the first eagle I see every day”

“which is almost daily.....so Wray Eagle, and Rick Eagle are very much a part of my life”

“Rick and I visited Santa Catalina Island in 1993 so we saw the area Wray Eagle lives in.....Hot, Sunny, beautiful.....the perfect place.”

“It's a pretty darn neat spot to be an eagle.....and I've always been so proud of our Wray the eagle from Nanaimo”

“It has never surprised me that her namesake is doing so well.....obviously like our Wray, not very shy either ,,,,,,but super intelligent”

“I knew Wray eagle was doing great things and have always been proud to know her. I actually have a 12x18" baby photo of Wray Eagle and my husband”

“Wray eagle has done our Wray, Nanaimo, BC, Canada proud.....she's truly a wonderful ambassador”

“Wray lives with island foxes, sideblotched lizzards, rattlesnakes, buffalo, great white sharks, whales, and movie stars.....haha”

“Wray's natal nest is still standing but is being totally encroached by industry”



“The nest is still active, so we know WRAY eagle comes from tenacious parents.”

“Other eaglets were taken from the same nest other years and went to Big Sur”

It was a comment on the acceptance letter from her brother Tom when he joined our forum that started this:

“my sister Wray passed away the day the eagle left Nanaimo and Carol Davies was helping with the eagle so they named Wray after my sister Wray”

“it sounds like the two Wrays have the same dynamic personality's and thank you it does mean a lot to me”

These are excerpts from her brother Patrick’s letters to Carol:

“Hi I am Wray's brother just wanted to thank you for the great tribute to Wray that you did in having the Eagle named after her.”

“I knew nothing of this until you got in touch with Tom. Did he send you the picture I am dong of Wray the Eagle with Wray super imposed on it”



“I have been doing some research on this and Wray is one popular eagle down there.”

From David Garcelon Creator & President of Institute for Wildlife Studies: “The story as told by Carol Davies is accurate as nearly as I can remember.”

“We did name the eagle Wray after Carol's friend that had just passed away”

“Carol and her husband Rick (now since deceased) were a fantastic help in getting the eagles from Vancouver Island, British Columbia that we used in 1986 reintroduction”

“and later for eagles released along California's central coast.”

“We have stayed in contact since then”

“It is extremely exciting to see eagles that I removed from nests as chicks in 1986 still being alive and breeding some 26 years later.”

“Hopefully Wray's lineage will continue as her offspring mature and establish territories of their own”