

to catch predators mammals feed, on livestock

was employed as a bounty hunter for +
between 1921 and 1941 John worked for the Michigan govt

A renowned "trouble shooter," John

held a game department of the state of Michigan. He trapped

walked in several states for dept, H trapped for + with a brief interlude in Fla from

from Mexico to the Canadian border, and from 1929-34

for their hides.

where he trapped alligs & snakes + his partner Snake Johnson.

Many helped skin + stretch them. In 1937 John began a

with publishing a series of ten ^{trap} correspondence courses for trappers how he

Snake, The Bear Trap Secrets of Trapper John. These were to

John

these

were mailed out + cents + trap supplies until his
John's young daughter Teresa
of family still continues to do so + mail order business died,
+ family still receive requests for his courses.

In 1940 John contracted a spinal in Flambro. He forced
the Rhys moved to Roscoe (Sun Valley), San Cal
he gave up trapping, + in 1941. The family moved to

Realizing + need for housing in + area due to + burgeoning
aircraft industry + started to build rental units. John, Many
for about 15 yrs

& the oldest children worked in backfield to raise money

for

In the 1950's

for the construcr. John began to wear western clothes

to help his trapping + rental business. His daughter Louise
beaded many of the jackets. John grew a goatee beard + pierced his ear.

The motel, which had undergone several name changes, was named Old Trappers Lodge by John's wife, after his previous occupants because it could not be confused with anything else. In 1951 after a visit to Knott's Berry Farm where John saw Claude Eller working on a sculpture of a donkey, John ^{tired} ~~tired~~ + sculptor to build a statue of himself ~~himself~~ after 3 months, John began building Boot Hill Cemetery, work on a series of sculptures that were to become

~~and the Old West Museum~~ in the front yard of his motel. The project was intended as a memorial to his

family, all the heads of the statues ~~were~~ are taken from

life masks of members of his family. The bodies come from old Mormon Biblical history, Pioneers of the Old West, Western Folk songs & comedy

stories that John enjoyed: Mormon Biblical history, the dancy girls are John's daughters Louise & Lawrence Tales of the Old West, Folk songs - Clementine (John's

son Clifford & over inhabitants of cemetery

granddaughter Judith & his son Clifford. No one knows exactly why include dead bear Dan, iron foot Eva, skull Steele, Derby Gee

John's motto was "Waste Not Want Not." At his death he saved enough a legacy of ^{his} frugal life there were 4 or 5 garages filled with

~~The Old West Museum was alongside the~~

John's collection of artifacts went into the Old West Museum.

Artifacts include many of his old trapping tools, implements that

were brought out from his parents property in Gould City in the

Motels. The office is filled with trapping paraphernalia, a collection of bibles from all various religions ~~denominations~~ included, one in Cherokee, furnishings of himself and his wife,

this & when he died in + only people person who call
him John or Johnny was his wife. To everyone else he was
~~John~~ Old Trapper or simply O.T.

on Sept 5, 1897

~~Old Trapper~~ John was born ^(John) John Henry Rhn in

was born in Vizet, a logging camp ~~in~~ near Gould City in
on Sept 15 1897 mother was born in Helsinki,
Mackinaw County Michigan. His father was a hydraulic
Finn, and his father, (a hydraulic machine engineer for the
industry) lumber mills was born in Stockholm Sweden. The family
ran a lumbering operation, farmed and owned a commercial
fishery at Scott's Point Mi. One of 7 children, John dropped
out of school in 7th Grade because of his father's aily health.

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On April 1921, John married Mary Leota Esther Gonyan.
They had 4 children: Clifford Bell was born in 1924; Louise Joy in 1926, Lorraine Ann *
Before for the next 20 yrs John worked as a trapper from Mexico to
the Canadian border. From 1929 - 34 the then family
lived in Florida. With his partner, Snake Johnson, John
trapped & shot ~~at~~ alligators & snakes in & everglades for their
hides. Many helped skin & stretch them.

* in 1930 and Rosemarie in 1937. All were named after family or friends.

Walter ~~days~~ ^{photomontages} of the family property in Michigan, his ~~days~~ & his family travelled in day his happy days. As well as montages of persons unknown, photos left behind in hotel rooms. On one wall is a memory board ^{egg a collage} of items from John's life. ~~The Cemetery was at~~

The tombstone epitaphs were an excuse for John's humor.

John collected & saved everything. 3 headstones were acquired from a sale at a Hollywood prop place.