

# Memorials

## Joseph Roderick Baker III

by *Margrethe Warden*

Joe Baker was born on Sept. 26, 1947 to Joseph Jr. and Lois Patricia (Pat) Baker in Middletown, Ohio. He held a BS in Math from Rensselaer Poly Tech 1969. After graduation, he served four years in the Navy, achieving the rank of Lieutenant. He worked as a systems representative for Burroughs Corp. in Honolulu, HI, until 1980. He then became Date Processing Manager for Kenault, Inc. in Honolulu. He also held management positions with Software Solutions Inc. and DataPhase Corp.

In 1987, Joe started Birds of Paradise Aviaries in Kurtistown, Hawaii, and became a well-known name in aviculture. He was a member of the American Federation of Aviculture and for many years served as the State Coordinator for Hawaii. He was also a member of the National Cockatoo Society, Amazona Society, Pionus Breeders Association, Eclectus Society and several others. Joe kept and bred many bird species. His collection included Moluccan, Umbrella, Goffins and Sulfur-crested Cockatoos; African Grey Parrots; Mitred and Finsch's Conures; Scarlet, Blue and Gold, Hahn's and Severe Macaws; numerous species of Amazons; Senegals; pionus parrots and Hawk-headed Parrots. The Hawk-headed parrots were among his favorites although he had a great desire to work with Blue-eyed Cockatoos. When it came to birds and aviculture, he was a fountain of knowledge that he generously shared with others.

When Joe wasn't working with his birds or helping aviculturists with their questions online, he enjoyed playing Bridge. He was a member of the American Contract Bridge League and ran a Bridge group locally every Sunday. He was also a die-hard Moody Blues and Beach Boys fanatic and maintained a large collection of their music and memorabilia. During the last few years, Joe was proud to be a substitute teacher at Keauau High School and Pahoa High School.

Joe passed away unexpectedly on February 18, 2009. He is survived by his mother, Pat Baker, an uncle, two aunts, some cousins and his dog, Max. Private services were held in Ohio and his ashes will be scattered in Hawaii at a later date. He was a devoted son and good friend to many and will be missed.

## Diana Holloway

by *Wanda Elder*

Diana Holloway, a Life Member of AFA, passed away recently. She lived in Bryan, Ohio, and occupied a three-story Victorian home filled with antiques. The third floor was dedicated to her breeder birds. People think of her as an Amazon person and she truly was but had also raised Macaws and Great-billed Parrots. Orange-winged Amazons were her bird of choice.

Diana was a retired clinical psychologist but remained active on a family and child advocacy agency. One of her pet projects was a home for battered women. She was extremely proud of the fact that she was a councilwoman on the Bryan, Ohio, City Council for eight years. She would laugh and joke about the "men" who ran

against her and lost.

She attended her first AFA Convention in 1995 and later served as Regional Director for AFA. Upon the death of James Murphy, she took over the Amazona Society and not only served as President but also made sure the quarterly was produced. She served on the board of the Tanygnathus Society. She was a much sought after speaker on the topic of Amazons or Tanygnathus.

She is survived by her husband Bill, and avid golfer and three sons: John, Jacob and Robert. Her first grandchild was born during the 2000 AFA Convention. Both events took place in Los Angeles. She was thrilled to be present for the birth.

## Aletta Long

by *Dick Schroeder*

I was quite saddened to learn of the passing of Aletta on March 7, 2009. She was in failing health, and the last time I saw her, actually had lunch with her, at the ASA installation banquet earlier this year, I doubt she recognized with whom she was talking, Alzheimer's having taken control. She was born in south Los Angeles in 1923.

Aletta was a great friend to me and to aviculture. We first met in the mid 70s at the AFA convention in San Francisco. I can recall the fun, being led by ex-AFA President Lee Horton, as a group of us wandered the streets of San Francisco looking for a great dinner.

Aletta got me to join the Long Beach Bird Breeders, a meeting place 45 minutes from my home in L.A., instead of the 15-minute drive to the South Bay Bird Club. In short order she even had me give a talk on lovebirds to the club, scared to death, the first time I'd spoken to a large group. Before long, I was a board member, eventually becoming president as well as editor. She had a way of convincing people they could do what they did not think they could.

Aletta was a great cook and loved to entertain. Long Beach Bird Breeder board meetings at her home were almost a party. The work did get done, but we all ate and drank well.

She served many years as AFA Regional Vice President in Southern California, hitting the road to attend as many bird club meetings as she could, touting the benefits of becoming an AFA member, both as a club and as an individual. When she finally retired from AFA, she became President of ASA and remained active with the Long Beach club as well.

Aletta was a regular at every L.A./Pomona Bird Mart, either working a booth for AFA, and later, for ASA. Her broad smile was as much a part of the place as were the birds. Sel, her husband of 45 years, three children, several grandchildren as well as a number of great grandchildren survive her. Aletta will be missed by the Southern California bird community as well as by all of her friends at "The River," Lake Havasu, AZ, where they had a second home.

## Bernard Teunissen

by *James C. Hawley, Jr.*

Bernie was born in Prinsburg, Minnesota, on November 4, 1920. He helped his family start Teunissen Dairy and was there for

37 years. In that time he had a hobby of raising game birds. During WWII he also raised guinea pigs for labs.

Bernie attended Magnolia Presbyterian Church and eventually became an elder. He was instrumental in starting the Riverside Christian High School, serving on the first Board, and was a founding member.

In 1965 Bernie and a friend bought five acres in Woodcrest, the friend taking one acre and Bernie taking the rest. This became the Backache Ranch Bird Park, where Bernie raised and sold exotic birds. He became involved with bird clubs, becoming President of the Avicultural Society of American, the Valley of Paradise Bird Club and was involved in other club affiliations. Health and age forced him to quit such activities, limiting him to the Ranch. A second hobby in his later years was collecting cacti and related plants.

In his early years Bernie enjoyed car racing. He still enjoyed it via TV. He enjoyed most sports as a spectator. He also had stamp and coin collections. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Helen. They had three daughters: Shirley, Linda and Diane. His brothers Bill and Don and their families also survive him. Bernie died of diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

## Dale Thompson

by Margrethe Warden

In March 2009, aviculture lost one of its greatest icons and long-time AFA member. Dale Thompson was an aviculturist without peer. He was the first to breed many bird species in the United States including three species of Ramphastids. In 1981, Dale became the chairman for the Avy Awards Committee for the American Federation of Aviculture Inc., which helps identify and authenticate first breedings. In 1992, he helped establish a cooperative breeding program for the Hoffman's Conure, *Pyrrhura hoffmanni*. Thanks in large part to his efforts, this bird has become established in American aviculture.

In 1977, Dale became Director of the Aviculture Institute, a private breeding facility in California that housed one of the largest private bird collections in the United States. He worked there for eleven years. While there, he was instrumental in developing the first soft diet for parrots. This diet contained beans, grains, rice and corn and became known as Soak & Cook.

Dale was known for his vast knowledge of the aviculture industry and the generosity with which he shared his knowledge. He authored a monthly column, Nest Box, for *Bird Talk* magazine and provided numerous feature articles for the *AFA Watchbird*, *Bird Talk* and *Bird Breeder* magazines. In the late 80s, he teamed up with Jack Eitner as co-editor of the *Watchbird* and their first issue was March/April 1989. He continued as editor for many years.

There was always a big demand for Dale as a speaker and lecturer and he appeared at numerous conferences in the United States, Australia, the Canary Islands, Central American and Europe. He was a popular speaker at AFA conventions and the papers published in the conventions proceedings added to the huge body of knowledge he willingly shared with all who were interested. In the early years, he taught the first college level class on aviculture through UCLA.

He later taught in the Avian Sciences department at UC Davis. He also traveled extensively to the tropics, observing wildlife and birds. He was an avid photographer and his films appeared as part

of many documentaries. His still photographs contained spectacular images that are recognized throughout the world.

Dale was known not only for his contributions to private aviculture but also for his work in the zoological community. His past employment included the Los Angeles Zoo in the 70s where he started as an animal keeper and most recently as General Curator at the Chaffee Zoo in Fresno, California. While at the L.A. Zoo, he helped develop techniques that allowed for the successful breeding of several toucan species.

Dale suffered for decades with Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammatory disease of the intestines. He was in a medical book because others in his similar condition were bedridden and unable to function through life, but Dale was not going to let the disease slow him down even though it took a lot of energy from him daily.

Several weeks prior to his death, Dale had been hospitalized and he was unable to fight off infection. His condition became septic and he died on March 17, 2009, with his family at his side. He asked that no funeral services be held, preferring that the family hold a celebration of his life several months later, allowing time for family and friends to work through the grieving process.

Thanks to Sheldon Dingle, Yvonne Patterson and upatsix.com

## Paul Thorpe

by Jean Thorpe

Paul was born March 24, 1918, in Miami, Fla., At an early age he moved north and started working as a carpenter and eventually owned a small nursery garden center. Paul and his wife Jean retired in 1983 and moved back to Florida.

During their careers, Jean and Paul took many winter vacations to the Caribbean. Each time they visited, they found tame macaws on display and Jean said, "When we retire, I want one of these." Paul never said no to Jean, but in this case he said, "No way." Once retired in Florida, Jean and Paul purchased a cockatiel. This led to the local bird club and then to the purchase of many more birds, gradually getting larger each time. Jean and Paul met Rick Jordan during this time and that eventually led to breeding many species of parrots. Thank you, Rick. This also led to joining of the American Federation of Aviculture, which led to becoming active delegates for many years. At the 2004 AFA Convention in San Francisco, Paul was recognized as one of the oldest members.

At the age of 87, handling and maintaining cages, and feeding babies became a little too much for Paul, so they gave it all up and moved to Georgia, taking only two of our birds with us. One of them is a macaw. Jean would tell Paul, "See, if you let me have a macaw in the first place, we never would have gotten into all of this." Both Jean and Paul missed their birds, especially the African Greys, but have to be realistic and know it was time to quit.

For about 12 years, Jean and Paul worked for the Red Cross, going out on disaster calls all over the country. It was rewarding work but they had to be gone for at least three weeks at a time and that became difficult, so they continued working on a local basis for a couple more years. Paul was a Mason for two years and was president of two Shrine Clubs and worked on the hospital committee helping with children admissions to the Shrine's hospital. Until recent years, Jean and Paul had a boat and spent vacations and weekends on the water.

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