

Most of you don't realize that Seattle-King County was voted America's number 1 recreational city in 1985 — for the fourth year in a row. Seattle has grown into a major metropolis offering all the delights of the Pacific Northwest. It is a city old enough to have confidence and charm, new enough to be full of surprises!

AFA 1987 Seattle Convention



The Rona In Winter

Convention Gossip
by Rona Parrot
Seattle, Washington

Ok, Birdhearts, it's time to shake off those winter doldrums and start planning for the good times. Line up your bird sitters, take those garden catalogs out of your mail boxes, and open up those maps. In the upper left hand corner you'll notice something labeled, "Vacationland." That's right, darlings, it's America's other Washing-

ton, the State! And that's where all the feather fanatics of this country are going to be in August.

After that Delacour Symposium, Rona feels like she just got out of an inside tour of a Piping Guan's dressing room. Just remember, darlings, the AFA Convention is different! Amid the swirl of Latin names you can mix some merriment with your motmots, some can-can with your Canindes, even ping-pong with your penguins. And yes, Birdhearts, you'll even get to hear about finches, love birds, cockatiels, Amazons, macaws, conures, and other things you find around the house! If you get bored with the bananaquits, you can step outside and be awed by Mt. Rainier standing there at 14,410 feet. Or go salt water fishing or white water rafting. Of course Rona might twirl through a tour of Underground Seattle, quaint little burned-out basements left over from the Great Fire of 1889. You might get a little sooty, but at least you'll stay dry! And for you closet ichthyologists in the crowd, there's the Seattle Aquarium where, Rona hears, they have bizarre things like the fish ladder, an underwater dome, and a tide pool for those of you who want to handle those slimy little sea creatures! Rona only hopes they don't catch RON FILIP stuffing some of those weird wonders in his

pocket to take home to Chicago. For some people, birds just aren't enough.

FLASH, Birdhearts, FLASH! The first speakers have popped up on the computer screen! So much excitement among those bits and bytes! But here it is, as promised! First we have a long-time friend of AFA, DIDY GRAHME. Now this is a class act, darlings. There could be no more perfect way for most of you Birdhearts to get your introduction to pheasants. Rona promises that even the canary breeders out there will be charmed into trying a trio of Satyr tragopans after seeing the films of Ms. Grahme and listening to her talk. Really very special.

Next we have something special for you finch fanciers. I imagine that the National Finch Society will be chartering a jumbo jet for Seattle when they find out that A.J. MOBBS will be speaking! That's right. Just when you had your fill of casowaries, NANCY VIGRAN signed up A.J. Mobbs for a presentation on finches.

And now, Wing-Watchers, the blockbuster that has the entire *world* buzzing, the person who wrote the book on lories, the person who wrote the book on parrots, the person who wrote the book on birds, (Rona cannot help herself!), the Elizabeth Taylor of aviculture, ROSEMARY LOW! Yes, Bird-

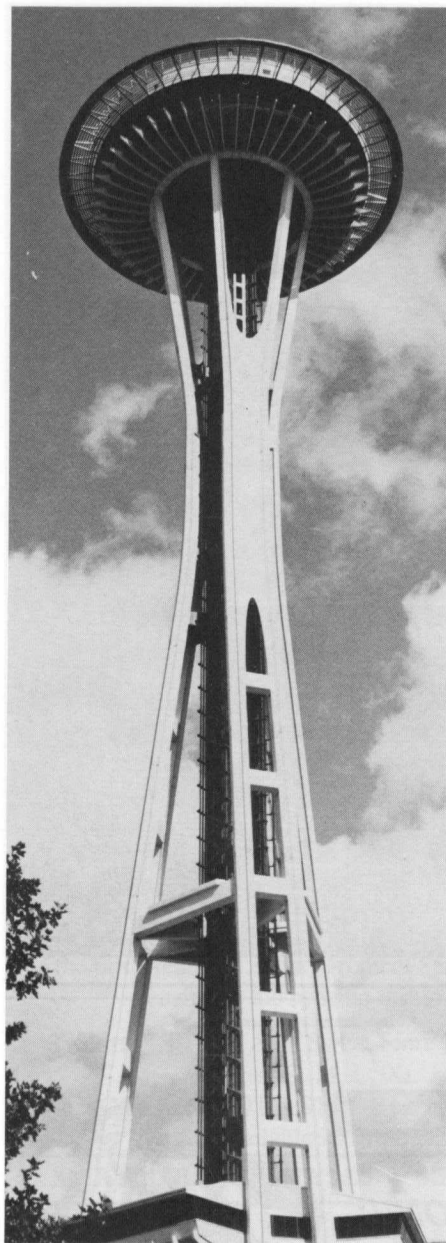
hearts, it's true! That avicultural legend herself, Rosemary Low will be in Seattle to speak at the AFA Convention. She has so many friends among us here in the U.S.! If you are not one of them, this is your chance. We await with warm excitement and anticipation the report on current events in the U.K. Rona, especially.

And that's just the tip, darlings, the very tip of the iceberg. Next time we'll have more luminaries to reveal, you can be sure. Speakers aren't the only reason Rona goes to the AFA Convention, however. You all know that. It's to mingle with the other Birdhearts. Rona has been keeping her ear out as usual, and is looking forward to some of the more "informal" sessions. Rona hopes, for example, that the other DECOTEAU — the good looking one, DARREN — holds a private seminar on judging bird shows, that KING AVIARY in Florida does a presentation on melting down show trophies for recycling, that TOM MARSHALL shows us all how to conduct successful direct-mail campaigns for non-profit organizations, that BOB BERRY speaks to us on what to do with excess frequent flyer mileage coupons, that BIRD TALK does a session on Beginning Bambiology, that LORENE CLUBB teaches us all how to put leg bands on a string without dropping them all over the floor, and that JERI WRIGHT shows us how to get AFA Raffle prizes delivered in Boston to the winner's house from Seattle at no cost to the winner.

There *is* one thing, however, that bothers Rona about Seattle, darlings. It's Dungeness crab. What is it? Something you eat or something you get? There's a lot of it going around out there in the Emerald City. Oh, well. Keep those cards and letters coming in, Birdhearts, and remember: What's a gossip column without a little gossip? Watch this space. ●

AFA Veterinary Seminar Plans Announced

Plans for the 1987 veterinary seminar are taking shape. Topics for this year's seminar were chosen by polling several bird clubs to discover what aviculturists would like to hear more about. Thus, the evolution of this year's program. The program, titled *A Potpourri of Avian Medicine for Aviculturists and Veterinarians*, will be primarily oriented towards the aviculturist who is interested in learning more about avian medicine. Talks will be aimed, though,



The unparalleled 360-degree view from the world famous Space Needle is one of the most magnificent panoramas in the world. You'll see Puget Sound, the Olympic Mountains, the downtown skyline, Lake Washington, the Cascade Mountains, and beautiful Mount Rainier.

at a level that should be interesting to both veterinarians and aviculturists.

The all-day event will be held August 16, 1987, in conjunction with the annual conference in Seattle. Topics covered will include discussions on nutrition, bacterial and viral infections, psittacosis, respiratory diseases and pediatrics. Program speakers at this time are Doctors Toodie Connors, David Graham, Jim Harris, and Amy Worell.

Hope to see you there. ●

1987 CALENDAR of Domestic Hand-Fed Babies by AVES INTERNATIONAL



Adorable baby birds in beautiful color! Helpful bird care and health information with each month.

\$5.95 ea. includes postage. CA residents add 33¢ sales tax.



2808 Oregon Court, Unit L-8
Torrance, CA 90503 • (213) 541-1180

Bird Pet and Supplies Retailers —

did you know that one
of the most prestigious
bird publications,
The Watchbird
is available for
resale in your store?

Call or write for information:
American Federation of Aviculture
P.O. Box 1568
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
(213) 372-2988

The Avicultural Society of America, Inc.,

Welcomes new members.



We publish a monthly bulletin on all aspects of aviculture. Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact: Helen Hanson, (213) 542-3633, A.S.A., Inc., P.O. Box 2796, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. Yearly dues \$15.00. Overseas members, please add \$5.00 to cover postage.