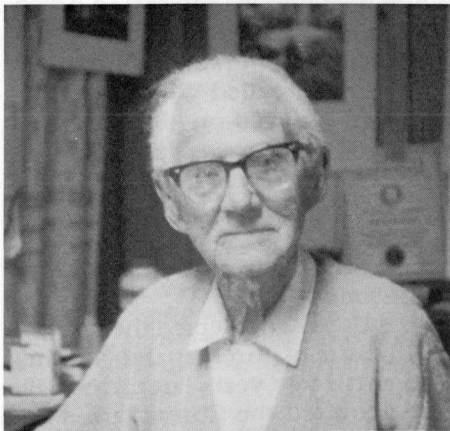


The Avicultural World Suffers Some Heavy Losses!

Professor Carl Albert Naether
(April 27, 1892 - January 28, 1990)

by Josef H. Lindholm, III
(Specialty Writer - History)
Walnut Acres Aviaries, Fallbrook, California

When Carl Naether, professor of English at the University of Southern California, a recognized author of business texts, set out to write a book on pigeons, he was thusly cautioned by an Ohio fancier, "Dear sir, let me forewarn you, there is no market for such a book, so you'd better stop now while you're at at. You'll save yourself a lot of trouble!" When *The Book of the Pigeon and of Wild Foreign Doves* appeared in 1939, it was reviewed on the front page of the *New York Times*. It was subsequently republished in five editions, and remains a standard reference. Even more important to aviculturists working with wild pigeons and doves, is an enormous body of articles, in the *Avicultural Magazine*, *Aviculture*, and *Gazette*, and many other journals, spanning more than fifty years, recording his captive observations of a diverse assortment of species, ranging from Himalayan Snow Pigeons to Marquesa Ground Doves and Squatter Pigeons.



Professor Carl Naether, at his study in Encino, June, 1989. He was an avid photographer.

It may surprise many people to know that Professor Naether was also a prolific pioneering writer on soft-bills, his 1955 book on that subject,



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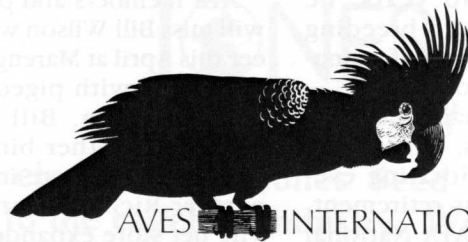
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Heavy Losses . . .

(Continued from page 51)

now hard to find, being one of the first. His many softbill articles discuss such species as the Canyon Wren, the European Bluethroat, the Japanese Bush Warbler, the Clarino and the Daurian Redstart. While he was very successful at breeding pigeons and doves (his pair of Jamaican Mountain Witches being especially famous) the only softbills he bred were Shamas. His softbill aviculture was, instead, geared towards community aviaries, with which he was remarkably successful.

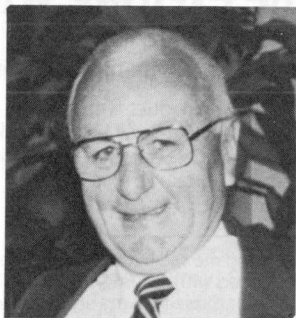
Carl Naether's articles and books, written with enthusiasm and good humor, are all the more remarkable in that English was his second language. Born in Tergau, Saxony, he arrived, at the age of 18, at his brother's parsonage in Iowa, knowing three words of English: "yes", "no", and "telephone". From this, he progressed through a series of teaching positions in Iowa, Utah, South Dakota, Oregon and San Francisco, to his appointment at the University of Southern California, in 1924. He lived the rest of his life in the San Fernando Valley, first in Sherman Oaks, then Encino, where, with the assistance of Dorothy, his wife of more than 50 years, he commenced foreign bird breeding (complimenting a life-long fascination with domestic pigeons).

Professor Naether maintained his aviaries into the 1980s, only giving them up due to deteriorating eyesight. He led a vigorous retirement, speaking at the 1981 AFA National Convention at San Diego, and contributing an article, "Cultivating Wild Foreign Doves and Pigeons" to the Oct/Nov '82 *Watchbird*. At my last visit in July, 1989, he was actively planning to revisit his native Saxony (now in East Germany), intending, as he detested airplanes, to go to New York by train, and Europe by ship! His last published article in English appeared in 1988, in the *Avicultural Magazine's* "Jean Delacour Memorial Issue", a tribute to his closest friend who, as director of Los Angeles County's museums from 1951 to '61, worked across the street from USC at the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park. As far as I know, Carl Naether's last article was published in German, in *Die Gefiederte Welt*. He had, not long ago, clambered up some palm trees in Santa Monica to look at feral pigeon nests and sent his obser-

vations to Germany. He was enormously amused when the editor sent him the Deutschmark equivalent of \$67.00. In 1989, he was quite proud of a brand new electric typewriter, for which he had great plans.

Professor Naether's legacy of books and articles on his beloved aviculture are a worthy monument to his 97 years.

A complete annotated bibliography of Professor Naether's articles, notes and book reviews for the "Avicultural Magazine" and "Aviculture", from 1934 to 1988, more than 100 contributions, compiled by Josef Lindholm, is available through the editors. ●



Bill Wilson

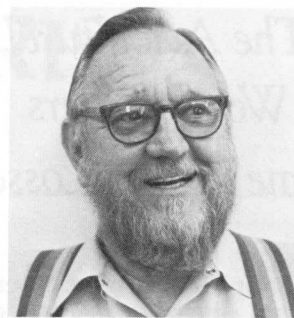
*by Raymond P. Kotz, D.D.S. and
Jacqueline A. Vernot, D.V.M.
Barrington, Illinois*

AFA members and personal friends will miss Bill Wilson who died of cancer this April at Marengo, Illinois.

Starting with pigeons as a boy in South Dakota, Bill advanced his hobby into other birds, eventually opening a pet store in Chicago with partner Richard Clarkson in 1962. The pet store expanded to include a large business in imported birds and a mail-order supply business known to aviculturists as Norshore Pets.

Bill loved all types of birds and, over the years, bred a wide variety of species in the basement of his home in Marengo. His successes included the Rothschild's Mynah, Golden Conure, Red-bellied Parrot, Red-faced Lovebird, Indian Hill Mynah, and Painted Conure. In a letter to Dale Thompson shortly before Bill's death, he expressed his greatest fondness for the Golden Mynah and the Canada Goose.

Bill was an early member of AFA and used to boast that, although he was not the oldest member, he had been an aviculturist the longest. He actively promoted support, participation and membership in AFA and served as mid-eastern regional vice president for many years. ●



Guy Greenwell
(1917 - 1990)

*by Walter Sturgeon
Durham, New Hampshire*

Guy Greenwell, retired Curator of Birds at the National Zoological Park, nationally known ornithologist, and member of the Waterfowl Breeder's Hall of Fame, passed away on January 9, 1990 at the age of 72 in Joplin, Missouri. Guy lost a long and gallant struggle with Parkinson's Disease.

Mr. Greenwell was born on July 20, 1917, at Joplin. He was the youngest person ever elected to the Izaak Walton League at age eight and at ten he was elected to the American Ornithological Union. He started keeping and raising wild birds at age eight. He entered the ornithology program at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1935 and later became an instructor there. From 1944 to 1959, he was employed as a field biologist for the Missouri Conservation Commission where he supervised the construction of the Fountain Grove Wildlife Management Area. From 1949 to 1972, he worked in the construction industry while pursuing his interest in breeding waterfowl. During this period, he was the first person to raise the Southern Red-billed Whistling Duck. He often lectured on birds and conservation and maintained his own wild waterfowl refuge near Reding's Mill Bridge. In 1969, he was named the Wildlife Conservationist of the Year by the Conservation Federation of Missouri.

In 1972, Guy accepted the position of Curator of Birds at the National Zoo and a few years later, when the Zoo acquired the Conservation and Research Center at Front Royal, he moved out there. Through his planning and supervision, the facility was turned into one of the premier facilities in the world for breeding endangered birds. He played a major role in saving the Bali mynah from extinction by collecting available birds from

an estimated 50 specimens in the world and raising hundreds for distribution to zoos and private collections throughout the world. Later efforts, calling attention to the plight of the birds on Guam which were disappearing as a result of an accidentally introduced snake, were just as successful. He set the wheels in motion at Front Royal that ultimately helped save the Guam rail and Micronesian kingfisher. While at the National Zoo, he was honored by AAZPA for first breeding of the brown kiwi and with the Propagator's Award for the Bali mynah. Upon his retirement in 1985, he moved back to Neosho, Missouri, and continued to attend bird conferences and observe wildlife as his health would allow.

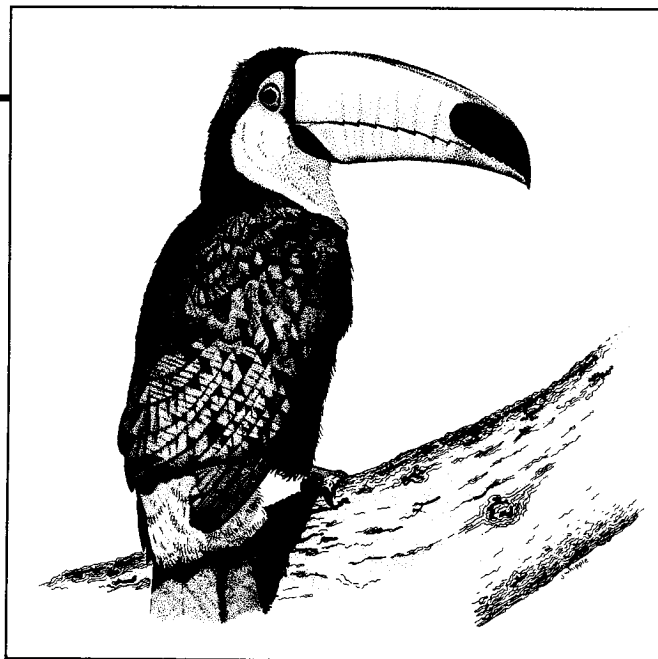
Guy was very active in a number of bird organizations. He was a director and for many years vice-president of the International Wild Waterfowl Association. He compiled and published the *First Breedings of Wild Waterfowl in North America* based on Jean Delacour's classification. He wrote numerous newsletter articles, a book on plantings for gamebird aviaries, and contributed chapters to several books. In 1985, Guy's contributions to aviculture were recognized when he was awarded the IWWA Jean Delacour Award and, again, in 1987 when he was elected a charter member of the Waterfowl Breeder's Hall of Fame.

Guy spent his life proving that one person could make a difference in protecting the natural world. While we will all miss him, he will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace in some special place in Heaven reserved for just such a kind and gentle man.

Editors' Note: The American Federation of Aviculture was honored to have Mr. Greenwell as a speaker at their third annual convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, in 1977. He attended other AFA conventions since then and conducted a private tour through the Front Royal, Virginia, endangered species breeding facilities for AFA members attending the mini-convention held in Alexandria, Virginia, April 7th and 8th, 1979. Mr. Greenwell was also the recipient of a prestigious, once-in-a-lifetime AFA Silver Avy Award for his outstanding contributions to aviculture through the years. ●

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