



Promises Fulfilled

Convention Gossip
by Rona Parrot
Seattle, Washington

Darlings! Let's not be shy! Let me be the first to say I told you so! Yes, Birdhearts, you got everything Rona promised you, right down to that tacky Pink Flamingo lounging all over the banquet tables. *Tres chic*, Birdhearts!

Fresh air, darlings! We promised you a breath of fresh air in Seattle, and you got it every which way. After weeks of 100 degree heat over most of the nation, the Wing-Watchers of the world nearly got frost bite for one wonderful week on Puget Sound. More than that, the "breath" turned into a hurricane of new, up-beat attitudes and a determination to make AFA sing again! Nearly *everybody* was there, Birdhearts, *everybody*. All the past presidents but one roamed the convention — and they were smiling, darlings, actually smiling! Even one of AFA's brightest and earliest stars appeared, FRANK KOZELUH, AFA's first treasurer and one of the strong personalities that founded and gave shape to this organization over the years. Rona was awed.

The Northwest Exotic Bird Society put on a nearly *flawless* affair, darlings. JERI WRIGHT was truly spinning but never went over the edge, not even once! MIKE WONG gets the Rona Parrot "Mr. Cool, Calm, and Collected" Award for keeping it all together like the sticks in a Quaker's nest. Especially enchanting, Rona felt, was the yellow buoy about a half hour's distance from the shore that the Seattle aviary addicts put out in the water for the boat trip to that Indian village. There on the buoy were trained sea lions to welcome the Birdhearts to the Great Northwest! And on

top of the buoy was a performing bird act! Really, darlings, these Seattle people can get carried away. Rona shortly realized what a low budget production it really was, however, when the same five Indians took the tickets, cooked the salmon, served the food, and performed the dances after dinner! Rona's spys also report that the captain of the boat was the same guy dressed up as the Indian chief for that dance with the Giant Toucans. What a circus, darlings! Rona got back to the hotel, bedazzled as usual.

Rona knew it was going to be "one of those conventions" when, on the morning of the opening day, NANCY REED tiptoed into her bathroom with the telephone, called all her friends in the hotel, and welcomed them to the 13th Annual AFA Convention with the Royal Flush! And out they came, darlings. Hundreds of Birdhearts swarming through the hotel. Rona, of course, made a few notes. Just in case you might have missed something.

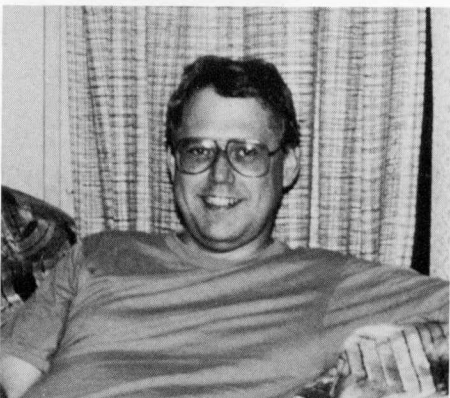
First of all, those pens, darlings. Everytime you needed to write something, there they were. Animal Exchange pens at the raffle table, at the registration desk, in the exhibit hall, in the restaurants, at the top of the Space Needle. Really, that RUTH HANESSIAN doesn't miss a trick. And Bears, Birdhearts, Bears! You would have thought this was a Bear convention! Rona didn't think they ate mealworms, but CONNIE SOSA bought seven of them anyway. She was buried under them for three days. No wonder she forgot which day her plane went back to California! And then there were those thousands of sheets of what looked like toilet paper (really, Birdhearts, what else looks like that?) scattered all over the hotel with some rubber stamp on each one. Rona was aghast. It said, Rona was astonished, it said, "Recommended by LINDA RUBIN"!

Yes, *all* the Luminaries were there, darlings. GAIL WORTH was looking like a million dollars as usual. Rona wondered why they kept her in that big round cage in the exhibit hall the whole time and only let her out to do her lectures. There was one person in the place who did *not* know AL DECOTEAU, but Rona missed the name. RANIER ERHARDT started a three day lecture on peach faced genetics which had to be continued. The last session will be held at the convention in 1996. NANCY VIGRAN is going to release a new videotape called, "The Nancy Vigran Workout." All you need is a dimmer light switch and a chair placed 50 yards away.

Photos by Chris Christman



Jeri Wright, convention co-chairman



Globe trotter, Anders Hansson, AFA member, bird breeder and photographer from Stockholm, Sweden

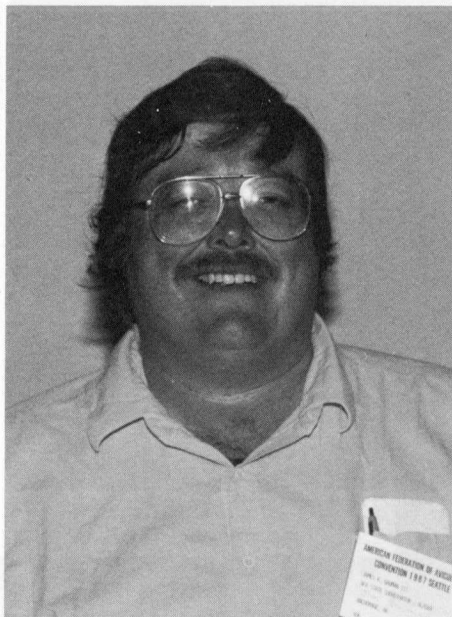
Photo file



Frank Kozeluh, La Mesa, CA, AFA's first financial officer



Chuck Saffell, newly appointed northern Florida state coordinator



James R. Bauman, newly appointed Alaska state coordinator



Commercial display by Medical Diagnostic Inc. demonstrates very worthy products worth our attention. See their ad on p. 23.

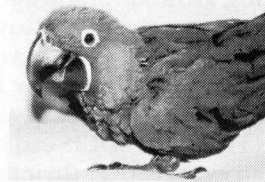


Perico, Inc. created a lot of interest with their lively, colorful display. See their ad on p. 27.



Don Cavender at podium stirred up humor and a few bucks with his lunch-time auction.

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And what was it that ALETTA LONG said in the restaurant that made everyone turn and look? Rona blushed. And that cute MARK SARGENT was still wandering around looking for some elusive sub-species of yellow nape. Watch for him at the Great American and the National. Check the bulletin boards, Mark. Maybe those two lovely WOMEN FROM ST. LOUIS can help him if they can ever get over their argument about whether the Arch is taller than the Space Needle. PHYLLIS MARTIN wanted to help but she was up to her waist in raffle tickets, rose breasted cockatoos, and Subarus and couldn't shake loose.

In the "Emperor's New Clothes" category, Rona wondered why no one asked PATRICK TAY where the 150 Virginia cardinals came from in that picture from the Singapore market. Really, darlings, I thought bird smuggling was a one way street *into* the U.S. Of course, DALLAS JOHNSON was the most popular person at the convention after everyone read his ad in the convention program. It looks like Dallas is giving away free birds! DICK DICKINSON is taking used car sales classes this fall so he'll be prepared for next year's annual raffle of the annual car where the annual winner annually lives on the opposite coast and wants the money instead. He thought he had this year's car sold to DON CAVENDER until, very shrewdly, Don mumbled something about how it had to be "smogged" and disappeared into the elevator.

JANICE PRITCHARD was present to win, darlings, at the last 2,743 bird raffles held in the United States. When her ticket was finally pulled as the door prize on the last day, Janice was flying to El Cajon. Mike Wong immediately radioed the plane to turn around but the pilot, bless his insensitive little heart, thought *Pionus senilis* was a disease, and you know PSA Airlines, Birdhearts, they won't take diseases or birds. Rona suggested the birds be given to YEVONNE MCGEE and CHARLIE CONTESSA since they probably were going to have lunch in San Diego the next day, but they were schmoozing with the Birdhearts of Vancouver instead, so JEAN HESSLER got the job. It added to her Chinese Firedrill of getting birds, books, bears, and boxes back to Costa Mesa.

And why was that TABLE OF CANADIANS laughing so hysterically through the entire banquet? At first Rona thought it was because someone accused LARRY BRYANT of being, of all things, Birdhearts, Rona Parrot! Now *that's* funny! Or maybe it was the way



Photo by Linda Sun, Riverside, CA

President Tom Marshall (left) with his two v.p.'s: (center) Davis Koffron, Phoenix, AZ; 2nd v.p. Phyllis Martin, Tampa, FL.



Photo by Anders Hansson, Stockholm, Sweden

A convention highlight was the Friday evening boat trip to Blake Island, Indian village of Tillicum, for a traditional baked salmon dinner and Indian dances.



Photo by Chris Christman, Garden Grove, CA



The Northwest Exotic Bird Society (host club) had a beautiful, well-manned booth. Club members shown here, L to R, Bert Jones and Moreen Hope.

Amy Worell, DVM, chairman of the veterinarian seminars, seated with AFA's past president Jerry Jennings.



Photo by Linda Sun, Riverside, CA



Head table banquet line-up L to R: President Tom Marshall and wife Karen; Vicki Fletcher, executive secretary; Mike Wong, convention co-chairman; Dick Dickinson, raffle chairman.



Dickinson's fund raising bears popped up everywhere and went to new homes in many a suitcase! (P.S. — some still available. Contact Dick Dickinson!)

KEN GUNBY and EDIE GUIDICE were trying to eat their salad while wearing those rubber parrot noses. Or the rumor that TOM MARSHALL might sing again. Or that BOB BERRY was going to be nailed with one of those 8:00 a.m. lectures where all the projectors and other equipment are booby-trapped. Or that TIM DELANEY from Maryland was going to have to pay \$90 shipping for the blue peach faced lovebirds he won from Agapornis Acres in San Diego. Or maybe. . . just maybe they heard some of the *real* gossip that Rona promised herself she wouldn't print. Yes, darlings, there are a couple of Birdhearts out there who are really sweating that Rona's watchful eye may have picked up some "information" about them that could find its way into this column. It is with utmost restraint that Rona is only going to mention their initials: J.M., B.P., R.A., and V. Yes, you little darlings, you owe me one.

Good News, Birdhearts! On the medical front, Rona is happy to report that CAROLE WHEELER will be making all her usual appearances this fall and certainly at next year's Convention!

More good news! In one of his last and certainly most brilliant moves, past-president JERRY JENNINGS created the Joe De Aguiar Memorial Award for Vision. JOE DE AGUIAR was a first class Birdheart that Rona and anyone who ever knew him will always remember as one of the most important forces in AFA. It is only fitting that the first recipient be another first class Birdheart, JEAN HESSLER. Thank you Jerry, Rona is very pleased.

Birdhearts, please join Rona in congratulating TOM MARSHALL for his election to the AFA presidency! And even if KAREN MARSHALL did end up with one of those bears for a dinner partner at the banquet, Rona promises it won't always be that way. By next year, DICK DICKINSON will find some stuffed Lions or Tigers or something for fund raisers. My sympathies to Karen. Hang in there!

And, darlings, as a final indication of just how good this convention was, Rona noticed that after ten years and three days into this convention, that fearful, or should I say "cautious" man, SHELDON DINGLE, editor of this very same publication, actually put on his *name tag*! And that says it *all* about the current atmosphere in the organization!

Well, Birdhearts, Rona is about to pack a bag and head out for a peek, just a *peek*, darlings, at next year's convention site: TAMPA! Do you think they have birds in Florida? Watch this space. ●

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AMAZON BABIES: Tucuman, red lored, double yellow & magnas. All domestic handfed, banded & hatch certificates. Ph. (619) 726-1305. California.

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WANTED: MACAW AND PARROT FEATHERS — cash for feathers dropped by your birds when they molt. Macaw tail feathers 25¢ to \$10 ea. We are prepared to buy in any quantity. More information and detailed price list on request. Kevin Schneider, 14292 Jennings Vista Way, Lakeside, CA 92040. Phone (619) 561-6303.

BLACKSTONE AVIARIES: hand-fed hyacinths, scarlets, greenwings, blue & golds, and red fronted macaws. Also chaco blue fronts, yellow heads & lilac crowned Amazons. All close banded. J & C Hollingshead. (818) 343-7620, California.

MOLUCCAN COCKATOO BABIES: handfed from day one. Affectionate with superb color. The ultimate pet! Limited supply available. Jeffries Aviaires. Ph. (417) 781-9230, PO. Box 61, Saginaw, Missouri 64864.

HANDFED BABIES, MACAWS: blue & golds, scarlets, militaries, greenwings, harlequins, Catalinas, miligolds. COCKATOOS: tritons, citrons, Elenoras, Moluccans, umbrellas. AMAZONS: yellow napes, red lords, double yellows, blue fronts. CONGO GREYS. BREEDERS: scarlets, eclectus, yellow napes, double yellows, blue & golds, greenwings, militaries, ringnecks, rosellas, lessers, mediums. Nancy, MD, (301) 678-6401.

THE NATIONAL COCKATIEL SOCIETY. The most beautiful and educational publication available in the U.S.A. Includes a bi-monthly bulletin, handbook for exhibitors, membership card and roster, show cage specifications, cockatiel leg bands and much more. For more information write to: Lorene Clubb, Rt. 1, Box 412, Equality, AL 36026.

HAND-FED domestic raised MACAWS: blue and gold, military, greenwing, scarlet, Catalina, Noble's; COCKATOOS: medium sulfur crested, Goffin's, citron; Congo greys and yellow napes; Also: WATERFOWL, LLAMAS and AKC ROTTWEILER PUPPIES, show and pet quality. Call or write for prices: Goode Bluff Aviary, Rt. 3, Box 226-B, Selma, AL 36701. Call (205) 875-8917.

ROUDYBUSH HANDFEEDING DIET, pellets, crumbles. Complete balanced diets based on research. Distributors: Gower's Aviary, 500 Woodland Road, Raleigh, NC 27603. Write for price list or call (919) 779-6076.

BEAUTIFUL BABY MACAWS: Lovingly hatched and handfed at our breeding farm. Baby greenwings, scarlets, blue & golds, hyacinths, militaries, Buffon's and redfronts seasonally available. All birds closed banded and vet checked. WILL SHIP RAINTREE MACAWS, Joanne Abramson, ph. (707) 964-4380, California.

