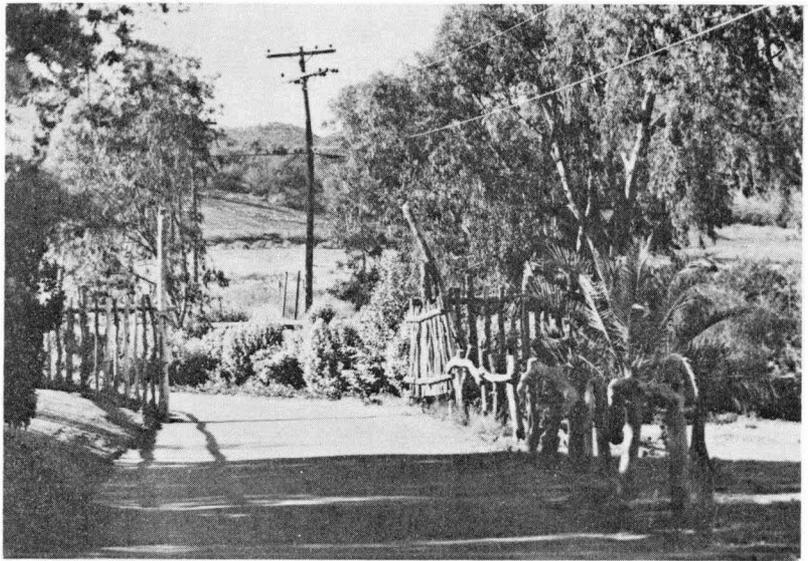


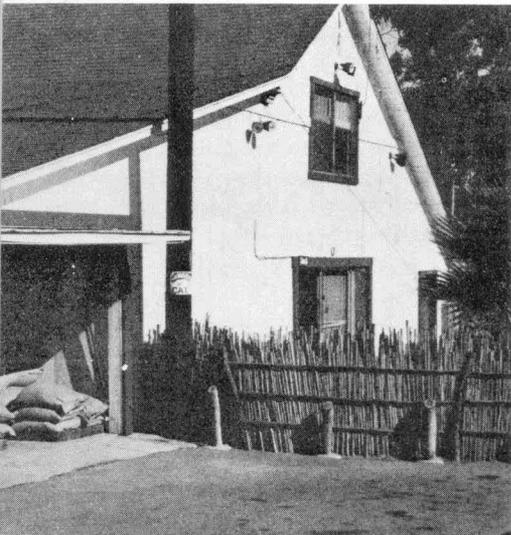
# A.F.A. Visits A Member's Aviaries

AFA VISITS GENE HALL

by Sharon Clause  
Pictures by Steve Clause



Entrance to Fortune Glen, nestled among rolling hills of San Marcos, Ca.



Remodeled seventy year old barn.

A nine-acre bird ranch nestled among orchards and rolling hills just west of the Vista/San Marcos area — bears the name Fortune Glen Aviaries. It's hallmark — the remodeled seventy year old barn now serving as an office and display area — is visible from most parts of the glen. Aviculturists living in San Diego's North County speak of its reputation for fine birds and its owner — Gene Hall.

AFA visited Gene Hall at his beloved Fortune Glen last Thanksgiving weekend in an attempt to know him as an aviculturist. His accomplishments since settling in San Diego County in 1972 are many. He served as president of the Avicultural Society of America in 1974 and 1975. He was awarded the AVY Award by the AFA in 1977 for his breeding success with Rosellas.

As we talked in his office located in the loft of the old barn, Gene reflected on the events which led him to Fortune Glen. Born and raised in Anaheim, California, Gene can't remember a time without birds since his mother always kept at least one pet. He recalled the experience which sparked his own interest in birds: seeing a Walt Disney movie, *Bill 'n' Coo*, in 1947. The film included a cast of thousands — of parakeets and peach-faced lovebirds — and starred a pair of black masked lovebirds. Gene left the theatre, and found the object of his search, perhaps the most ancient pair of black-masks Anaheim had to offer. His interest continued through his entire eighteen years in the industrial laundry business.

By the time he had raised birds on his residential lot as a backyard hobbyist for eight years, he and his wife, Claudette, recognized that he would only be happy turning his avocation into his vocation. Gene went to Frank Miser of Magnolia Bird Farm, and in effect became an apprentice to the commercial side of aviculture. Finally ready, he and Claudette located their present home, a former chicken breeding farm.

Gene believes that he and Claudette founded Glen Fortune together — their teamwork made the realization of their dream possible. For the next eighteen months, Claudette managed the aviaries alone five days a week while Gene worked at the San Diego Wild Animal Park as a gorilla keeper. Meanwhile, five Hall children grew up on the property, with the two youngest, Amy (18) and Andy (14) perhaps being most involved with the business. Now free to pursue her avocation — classical guitar — Claudette accompanies Gene to conventions and speaking engagements.



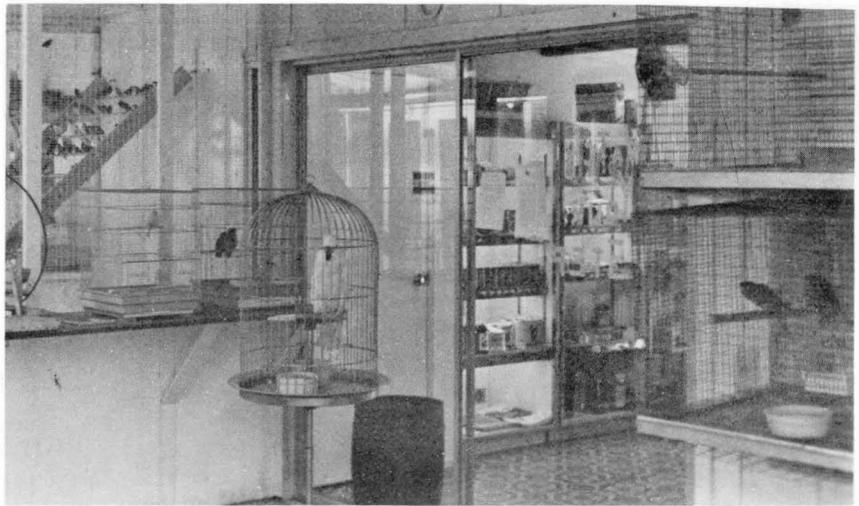
Gene Hall, left, received a Silver Avy Award for his work with Rosellas. Steve Clause, right, was on hand for the presentation.

Originally intended as a chicken breeding farm, Glen Fortune Aviaries has many structures which Gene has adapted to his own needs. His breeding pens have floors of decomposed granite which are periodically renewed, all flooring materials being trucked in. Gene swears the pens are getting shorter as the floors are re-layered with fresh gravel!

The sky-lighted display pens are cement floored, scrubbed and disinfected daily. Automatic drip systems insure a supply of fresh water to each pen. Metal feeding shelves are removed for cleaning, and screened doors at opposite ends of the display area insure an exchange of fresh air. Because of the diversity of birds housed — from finches to Amazons — Gene feeds approximately a dozen different diets daily. Feeding requires 8 man hours per day!

Gene's birds are blessed with good health, perhaps due to his philosophy of caring for birds, not coddling them. He keeps the living quarters spotless, feeds a wholesome diet, provides lots of fresh air and sunlight, vitamins and minerals — and Eucalyptus leaves — especially of the Blue Gum Eucalyptus.

Gene discovered the medicinal properties of Eucalyptus leaves when his



Cleanest of the clean — display show rooms and breeding aviaries are immaculate.

family first moved to Fortune Glen. He noticed that the young in nests falling out of Eucalyptus trees were not lice or vermin ridden. He began comparing the condition of those birds with those nesting in other trees, and found that the oils of Eucalyptus leaves must have medicinal properties. He now has a grove of Eucalyptus trees and includes a few leaves in each nest box to discourage mites and lice, with positive results.

One sees evidence of his accomplish-

ments in just five years: a flourishing bird business that's an aviculturist's dream. Gene, however, is not just a good businessman. He is an aviculturist in the true spirit of the word. He is generous with his time and helps people who want to learn about birds. He speaks at various bird club meetings and has donated valuable time to being president of the Avicultural Society for two years. Why? Because he sees this as not only an obligation, but an opportunity, to put back

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For an average 1 pound bird, this package (250 grams) contains 250 days' supply.

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	per 250 Gram container	per one teaspoonful (approx. 5 Grams)
Vitamin A	870,000 USP	17,400 USP
Vitamin D	46,900 USP	938 USP
Vitamin B-1	440 mg	8.8 mg
Vitamin B-2	330 mg	6.6 mg
Vitamin B-6	330 mg	6.6 mg
Vitamin B-12	3,580 mcg	71.6 mcg
Vitamin E	2,885 IU	57.7 IU
Vitamin K	13 mg	0.26 mg
Niacin	2,200 mg	44.0 mg
d-pantothenic acid	220 mg	4.4 mg
Folic acid	10 mg	0.2 mg
Rutin	10 mg	0.2 mg
Biotin	240 mcg	4.8 mcg
Calcium	8,000 mg	160.0 mg
Phosphorous	6,000 mg	120.0 mg
Iodine	0.0088%	40 mg
Iron	0.79 %	1,980 mg
Zinc	0.08 %	190 mg
Copper	0.028 %	70 mg
Manganese	0.07 %	176 mg
Magnesium		50 mg
Sulfur		8,750 mg
Capsicum		2,500 mg
Alanine		4,500 mg
Arginine		4,750 mg
Aspartic acid		10,350 mg
Cystine		500 mg
Glycine		2,600 mg
Glutamic acid		22,600 mg



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Histidine	4,000 mg	80.0 mg
Isoleucine	9,300 mg	186.0 mg
Leucine	13,300 mg	266.0 mg
Lysine	10,100 mg	202.0 mg
Methionine	4,400 mg	88.0 mg
Phenylalanine	6,800 mg	136.0 mg
Proline	13,550 mg	271.0 mg
Serine	8,000 mg	160.0 mg
Threonine	6,750 mg	135.0 mg
Tryptophane	7,700 mg	154.0 mg
Tyrosine	8,100 mg	162.0 mg
Valine	2,950 mg	59.0 mg

**DIRECTIONS:** One-tenth of bird's daily food intake. For example, for a bird weighing 1 lb., place ¼ teaspoonful (approx. 1½ grams) in the bird's feed. Smaller or larger birds, use proportionately. Beautiful results will be noticed in 30 days!

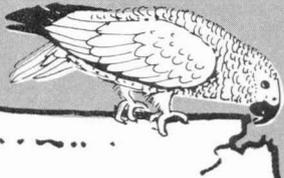
**INGREDIENTS:** Vitamin A acetate, vitamin D-3, thiamine, riboflavin, pyridoxine, vitamin B12, vitamin E, vitamin K, niacin, choline, inositol, calcium pantothenate, calcium lactate, folic acid, rutin, biotin, calcium phosphate, ferrous sulfate, potassium chloride, magnesium oxide, zinc gluconate, copper oxide, manganese gluconate, sodium chloride, desiccated liver, hesperidin complex, yeast, glutamic acid, apple extract, dates, date seed kernals, yucca, alfalfa, chia, comfrey, dandelion, rolled oats, whole egg solids, milk solids, soya beans, kelp. Product stable for at least two years if kept in dark, dry, cool place. No refrigeration required.

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# THE FEED BAG

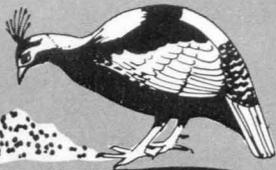


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*Holding aviaries adjacent to sales room.*

into aviculture that which he has received.

His ultimate dream further reflects this philosophy. He hopes to turn the remaining 5 acres of Fortune Glen into a bird park modeled after those in England. A bird park is dedicated to the idea of people coming to enjoy a family outing and learn about aviculture and animal conservation. It would be a park where children could learn to care for and care about birds. Gene Hall — aviculturist — wants to help make this a world where his grandchildren will be able to live with wildlife and nature. Gene considers

founding such a park one way to pay his dues to the world of aviculture.

When asked what he likes best about his life, Gene Hall said that on Thanksgiving eve, he and Claudette had reflected on what they had to give thanks for. He concluded that he is happiest and most thankful when he can walk his land and work with his birds, a luxury these busy days. He considers himself a caretaker rather than a breeder. The measure of how well he cares for his birds is reflected in the success of Gene Hall's Fortune Glen Aviaries. ■

### *Black Swans —*

*some of the many beauties that have successfully bred at Fortune Glen.*

