

# MEMBER LIBRARY

## GENE ATKINS HILL - Writer, Sportsman, Dog Lover



Theodore J. Holsten  
EMERITUS MEMBER  
Boone and Crockett Club

*The thing that cements the love of a man for his carpet of leaves and his ceiling of stars is the knowledge that just being involved is enough. ...a grown man walking in the rain with a sodden bird dog at his heel who*

*can smile at you and say with the kind of conviction that brings the warmth out in the open, "I'd rather be here, doing this right now, than anything else in the world," is the man who has discovered that the wealth of the world is not something that is merely bought and sold. ... a shaft of sunlight through a golden oak, a cock pheasant so full of life he's bragging at the world, a preening mallard hen parading a string of ducklings as if they were diamonds, the sift of snow that suddenly quiets the universe—*anxious for the light to be done. This is the wealth of the world. And we are rich.

*"Gene Hill's writing blends a country boy's deep, almost religious feeling for the out-of-doors with a city man's wit and sophistication. This isn't surprising because he's both - and the result is one of the best outdoor books in several coons' ages."*

Review of *A Hunter's Fireside Book*, by Ed Zern, *Field and Stream*

This selection is from Gene Hill's *A Hunter's Fireside Book*. It clearly expresses his love of the outdoors and why he was so beloved by his readers. In his writings, his deep involvement with nature, his guns and his dogs transported you from your armchair to the flavor and spirit of the outdoors and what is really important in the sportsman's way of life.

Gene Hill was born in New Jersey in 1927. He served in Okinawa in World War II, graduated from Harvard, and worked as an advertising copywriter for several Madison Avenue agencies. A passionate sportsman with a special affection for dogs, bird hunting and fly fishing, he moonlighted for magazines including *Guns & Ammo* and *Sports Afield*. Finally, in 1977, he left his day job to become a full-time columnist and associate editor of *Field & Stream*. Much of the material from his monthly column, "Hill Country," was included in the many books he authored.

Gene Hill was a Professional Member of the Boone and Crockett Club for 20 years. In 1996 he resigned,

### A SELECTION OF BOOKS BY GENE HILL

- A Hunter's Fireside Book* (1972)
- Mostly Tail Feathers* (1975)
- Hill Country* (1978)
- Tears & Laughter* (1981)
- A Listening Walk* (1985)
- Sunlight & Shadows* (1990)
- Passing a Good Time* (1996)

indicating in a handwritten letter that he wasn't able to participate or contribute any longer. What the letter didn't say was that he was dying from cancer that finally claimed his life in May 1997. Interestingly, his last published writing, the same month that he passed away, was the foreword to *A Bibliography of American Sporting Books* by M.L. Biscotti, one of the few books approved by the Boone and Crockett Club. ■

