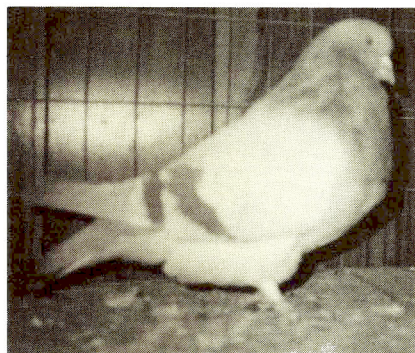


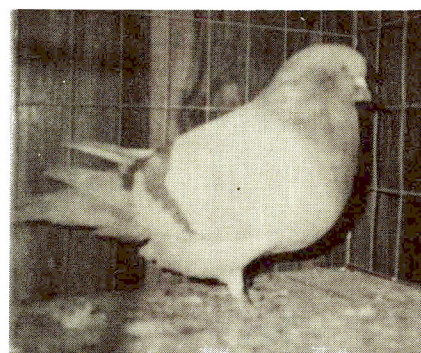
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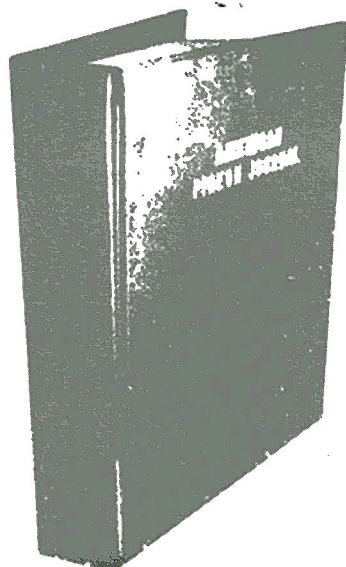
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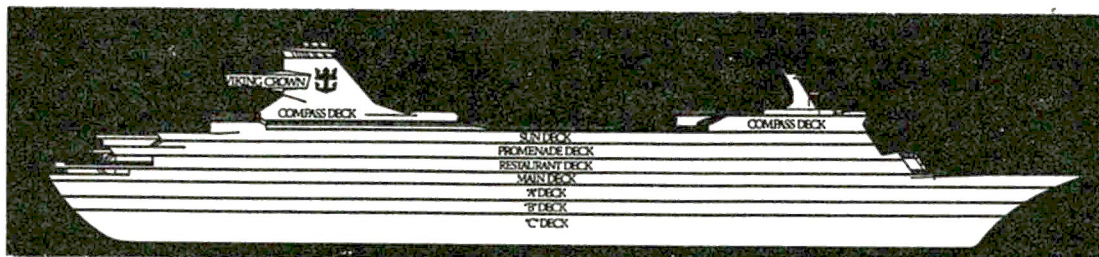
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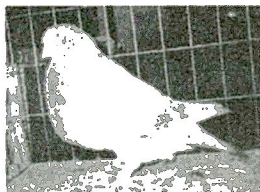
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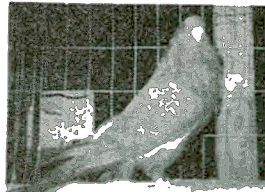
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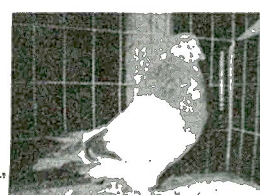
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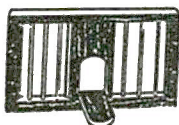


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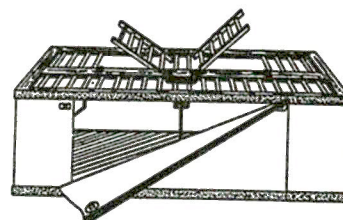
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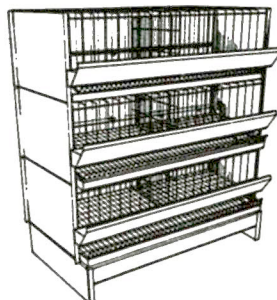
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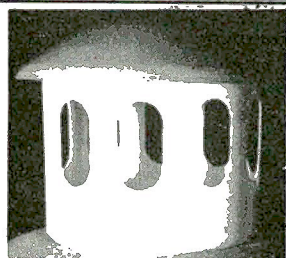
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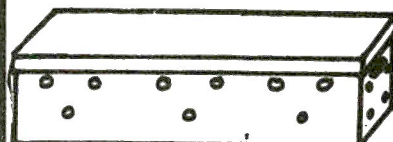
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Upcoming Special Issues

The following specials are scheduled for 1986:

May 1986 — Jacobins. Tom Flamino, Coordinator, Rt. 2, Box 454-A, Staunton, Va. 24401. Deadline: March 1, 1986.

August 1986 — Helmets. Toni Patti, Coordinator, RFD 6, River Rd., Preston, Conn. 06360. Deadline: June 1, 1986.

November 1986 — Pouters and Croppers. Frank Barrachina, Coordinator, 12376 Bryant St., Yucaipa, Calif. 92399. Deadline: September 1, 1986.

March Special Issue Cancelled

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we will not have the Show Racing Homer Special as previously announced. We would like to apologize to all those that supported this project. We appreciate your efforts and the efforts of Coordinator Ray Gajewski. Maybe in the future, another Show Racing Homer Special may come about. The March issue will be a regular issue. Thank you.

Group Rate On Subscriptions

Don't forget we have a group rate on groups of ten or more. The rate is 25% off the regular yearly rate which would make a one year subscription rate of \$9.00, a \$3.00 savings per year. There are two requirements that must be met in order to receive the group rate. They are: 1. There has to be 10 more subscriptions sent in at one time. 2. This rate can be had for one year ONLY. It does not apply to the two and three year subscription rate.

Requirements For A Special Issue

Quite often we are asked the question, what are the requirements for a Special Issue on a certain breed of pigeons. We are glad to answer this question so that the breeders of the many varieties of pigeons will fully understand what is needed to get a Special issue for their favorite breed.

Here are the requirements: Ten pages or more of advertising must be guaranteed. The cost of a full page is \$184.95. After this amount has been pledged then we will set the date for this Special Issue and issue a promotional folder to be mailed to the members of the clubs sponsoring the breed in question. This folder will solicit articles, pictures and advertising.

At present time, no special issues have been scheduled for 1987. If you would like to see a Special Issue on your favorite breed in 1987 or the future, let us know as soon as possible. In each case, we would like someone to serve as Coordinator who will help secure the necessary material for the Special issue.

This is briefly the procedure in getting a Special Issue, and we assure our readers that we will be glad to cooperate with any group of fanciers who are anxious to promote their breed with this extra worldwide publicity and added prestige.

If anyone needs further information or has any questions, call Mike Worley, editor, at 314-456-2122.

Moments With "Mike"

CORRECTION: Under the Central Fantail Club News, page 39, column 3, second paragraph, January '86 APJ, it states, "I met Bob Kenchenger and bought..." The name should have been Bob Kingkinger. Tom Dietrich of West Lawn, Pa., brought the error to our attention as he wanted to be sure that Mr. Kingkinger was given the proper credit for helping him. We regret the error.

David R. Adler, Ferndale, Mich.: "I am renewing my one year subscription with the joy that I have gained in knowledge of the Pigeon Journal. I like the articles on genetics and also wish some more people would write more articles on Chinese Owls and Russian Tumblers. These are my favorite breeds but I still love them all. You can learn a lot from the APJ just by sitting down and reading it, also makes you relax, maybe live just a little longer. Keep up the good work and the good material."

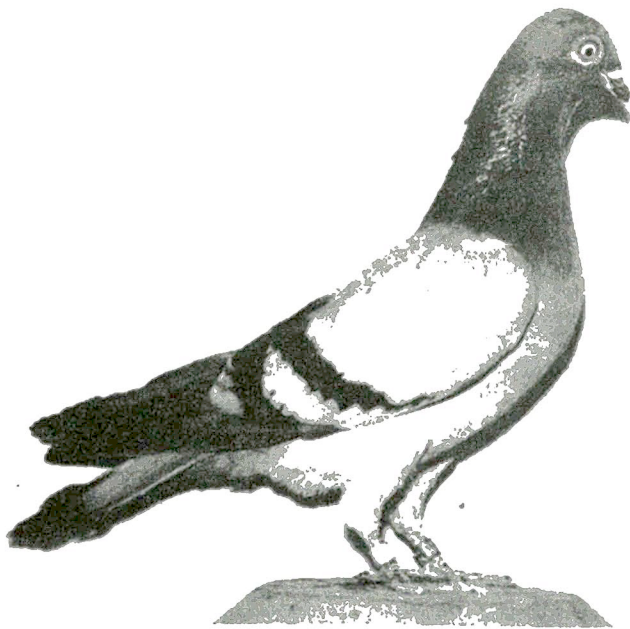
Raymond Ostrander, Sandwich, Mass.: "The Fantail Special. What a masterpiece! The APJ, John Moppin and the entire Fantail fancy deserve the highest commendation. The contents of the articles, the illustrations and the organization make this an encyclopedia and reference guide for Fantail fanciers for years to come. Nothing equal to this Fantail Special has ever been produced before."

Larry E. Shaffer, Staunton, Ind.: "Enclosed is a money order for another 12 month subscription to the Journal. I enjoy it very much. Keep up the good work. Enjoy all the Specials, even though I don't have most of the different breeds. I have Show Racers and Rollers. The Roller Special is my Bible of the Roller. Read it over and over almost daily. Thank you."

Ninof A. Ovro, San Pedro, Calif.: "I enjoy the APJ very much. We raise high flying birds and are very interested to read about them. Would like to see some good articles on Tipplers and Hungarians. Enclosed is my check for renewal of my subscription to APJ."

Jim Armstrong, Watkinsville, Ga.: "Please find enclosed my check for 3 more years of the APJ. This will mark my 20th year with the Journal and I still remember the first one almost like yesterday. It was the Dec. 66 issue with a Bokhara bred by Clair Hetland on the cover. I still have every issue and enjoy reminiscing. The Fantail special was terrific. The Fantail fancy is fortunate to have a supportive following and I'm proud to be a part of it. Keep up the good work."

Matt Matuska, Livermore, Calif.: "I would like to thank and congratulate you for a very informative and interesting magazine. As a relative newcomer to the fancy with my West of Englands, I appreciate this very much. I especially like to see pictures of people's lofts and would also like to see more information about West of Englands. Enclosed you will find the subscription rate for another great year of the APJ."



SLOVAK FLYER

A female Slovak Flyer. — Photo by S. Krajcovic. Furnished by Dr. P. Krajci, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

The Slovak Flyer

by DR. PAVEL KRAJCI, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia

[Editor's Note: Submitted and translated for publication for Dr. Krajci by: Milan Kobulsky, Medina, Ohio].

Man's relationship with pigeons has progressed from wild birds into various domesticated birds that man uses from sport to pleasure.

In the past, there were many different breeds; however, through different methods of breeding some of the species are known for their body stature. Others are known for their feather ornamentation. And, of course, there are those that are primarily raised for consumption.

I would like to write about the sport pigeon flyers. On the outside, they look very simple; and from their predecessors, inherited good flying abilities. They can fly at tremendous heights for many hours and often cannot be seen with the naked eye. In the article, I would like to introduce American Pigeon Journal readers to one breed known for its flying ability.

Czechoslovakia is the ancestral home of the Slovak Flyers. For this breed, credit goes to Slovak breeders (eastern part of Slovakia), where selecting the right pigeons created excellent flying pigeons.

The Slovak Flyer is a pigeon with a simple style body and breeders who like high flying pigeons will not be disappointed with them because they are first-class flyers.

Slovak Flyers originated after

World War II. Their descendants are the Egry Blue, which is a beautiful pigeon but not a very good flyer. They fly from two to three hours at medium heights. Slovak breeders tried to upgrade their flying ability, so they crossed them with Budapest High Flyers. This is an excellent high-flying pigeon and in Hungary is most popular. Cross-breeding was very successful, and many offsprings obtained beautiful bodies from the Egry Blue and the flying ability from another ancestor. To improve their

exterior, they also use Vienna Blue long-faced tumblers, which also helped in characterizing their flying style. Vienna Blues are known for flying in tight spiral patterns. The Slovak Flyer is a pigeon small to medium-sized with good body structure made for high flying, excellent muscular body and tight, hard feathers. Figure, or shape, of the pigeon is elegant, slightly on angle with expression of readiness. Head is smaller and skinny with forehead on angle. Forehead should form an almost straight line with the beak. Beak is black medium-sized. The wattle is small and smooth. The eyes are pearl. The eye ceres are dark, smooth and narrow. The neck is thinner, medium-sized and slightly vaulted. Wings are strong, tight and held against its body and carried on tail with crossing. Tail has 12 feathers and is in line with the back. Legs are of medium length and feet are clean. Claws are black. Slovak Flyers come only in blue colors. Some hens can have a darker shade. At the end of the wings are two black bars.

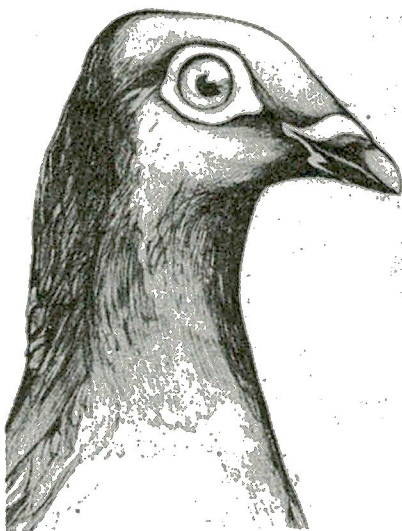
Serious faults: Big body, round head, high forehead, different eyes from pearl, red ceres, too long of a beak, excessive dip between forehead and beak, short and stuffy neck, too long and crossed wings. Slovak Flyers can fly very well in large groups (from 12 to 24), but some breeders are flying even larger flocks. They fly very well in tight formations. What is very important if we want to have real pleasure from their performance? Speed of the flight is very high, turns from left to right one after another in a spiral where in a short time they appear as

(Continued On Next Page)



GROUP OF SLOVAK FLYERS

Group of Slovak Flyers at All Slovak Show in Kosice, Czechoslovakia, 1984. — Photo by Dr. P. Krajci, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.



SLOVAK FLYER

Sketch of Ideal Head of Slovak Flyer. — Sketch furnished by Dr. Pavel Krajci, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

small dots. Later even those dots disappear.

Well-trained pigeons will reach this height in 10 to 20 minutes. It is a fault if it takes them longer than one hour to do this. Blue color of these pigeons is a handicap as opposed to light colored pigeons. They have to fly at higher altitudes in order not to be seen. The ideal height for these pigeons is 1500 to 4800 feet, which every good group must reach. It is interesting that these pigeons will fly in very bad weather. Length of the flight is good. Good pigeons will fly without any problem from 5 to 8 hours.

Through many years of experience, it is known that all the good qualities with cross-breeding these pigeons with others prove the good flying characteristics disappear. The Slovak Flyer is not pretentious, but needs good common sense from the breeders. It is difficult to condition them to new surroundings. But to one who knows how to take care of the pigeons, they will reward him with many hours of pleasure in watching them in flight high in the sky above. □

English Trumpeters In New York

by **GENE KORNACKI**,
Lancaster, N.Y.

I am writing this article to help promote English Trumpeters in New York State and the surrounding areas. One way we are trying to promote English Trumpeters in our area is by holding district meets of the National English Trumpeter Club. We have been doing this for four years now. This year's meet was held Nov. 10, in Rochester, New York, in conjunction with the Rochester Fancy Pigeon Club's annual all breed winter show. Those English Trumpeter breeders who are interested in participating should contact Bill Hart, 51 Brad St., Rochester, New York. New fanciers who are interested in getting started in the breed will find this show an excellent place to pick up some good breeding stock. This has been a good breeding year and there are indications that there will be plenty of good birds available. I would be willing to help new fanciers get started. My address is 71 Brandel Ave., Lancaster, New York 14086.

Perhaps it would be appropriate to mention the names of some of our breeders in the New York and Penn., area. At the head of the list is Stan Woods. He has probably raised English Trumpeters longer than anyone else in the east. He attends the National Young Bird Show each year in Kentucky and gives a good account of himself. He also is a competent judge. Over in Penn., we have Larry Sarmo from Dunmore, Penn. Larry has had English Trumpeters for a number of years. He had to start over after getting wiped out by a varmit last year. He assures me his new loft is varmit proof. He has purchased some good new stock and he should be up at the top very soon. He is a successful businessman who rents formals among other clothing items.

Dan Enders and Lee Ginthantal are from Ithaca, New York. They are a couple of our better known breeders. They were a tremendous help at the previous NETC district meets and I hope they will be as much help in 1985. There is also a Mr. Johnson who showed at our district meet, but I didn't really get a chance to visit with him.

I suppose it would be appropriate to mention a few things about myself. I have bred English Trumpeters for around 5 years. I have promoted district meets in

1985 "Show Of The Year" — NYBS In Kentucky

by **WILLIE ENGLISH**, Jacksonville, Texas

October has come and gone for the year 1985. Once again the fine pigeon fanciers in Kentucky have put on an excellent pigeon show with 5,000 plus young birds at this show and fanciers from as far away as Canada and California attending.

Myself, Dean Thrasher, my wife, Helen, and daughter Kelly, arrived on Friday. When we arrived at the show early Friday morning all coops were set-up and almost at once they began to fill up with birds.

Several meets were held at this fine show as usual.

One thing was missing that use to be of interest to me in years past. The Specialty Clubs use to decorate their areas and vie for prizes.

Another thing that this show needs is breed signs on top of the cages! This would make it easier for us fanciers that show to get our birds in the coops quicker. Didn't use to bother me, but now at the age of 50 I'm not as agile as I once was and it takes me longer to get my birds caged. Luckily I only showed 6 and soon got them cooped and then it was visit, visit, visit!

I know that several people make this show go and all of them are a credit to the fancy. The two that are constantly under the spotlight from start to finish are Rita Courtney and

Al Knauer.

Thanks Louisville Club members and Al and Rita for another enjoyable weekend. Sure did appreciate the wonderful, sunny, warm weather and Southern hospitality at its best.

It was indeed a pleasure to visit with Joan Worley and Mike Worley of A.P.J. Mike's wife helped "man" the APJ booth. What would we do if it were not for the Hollmanns and now the Worley's to give us month after month such a fine journal for our hobby?

Did you see the For Sale Section? It held more birds than a lot of shows have. This year I went to sell a few, but as usual something always catches my eye! This year I picked up 6 birds for a friend here in Texas - Charles Hanna and ended up getting four for myself. Now the Vienna Highflyers are in Texas thanks to Willy Hubbard of W. Va.

Different sales booths were there with their displays. This makes it nice to be able to purchase pigeon supplies and books while attending a show.

The '85 N.Y.B.S. is now history and I'm coming down with another case of the fever - N.Y.B.S. fever. The good Lord willing, I'll see all you nice people in October 1986! □

Buffalo, twice in Syracuse and this year's E.T. open in Rochester. Rochester, of course, is the home of the famous Kodak camera and film company. I belong to both the English Trumpeter Club of America and the National English Trumpeter Club. I hold membership as well in the Buffalo Fancy Pigeon Club and the National Modena Club.

In order to get prize money for our

show, we will be having a raffle. I am going to donate a quality pair or two of English Trumpeters and give all the money raised to the prize fund. Hopefully this will be enough to make for some nice awards for Champion, Reserve Champion and best of color. So in closing I want to once again urge every English Trumpeter breeder in the area to participate in this show. Bring 'em and show 'em. □

Where Are The Bars?

by ORIN DuCHIE, Monticello, Minn.

Do you need a challenge to keep your interest going? Well, I've got a challenge for you. Have you ever thought about breeding the barred English Trumpeter? They come in several outstanding colors: Blue, Silver, Dun, Smokey, Cream and Mealy.

There will be no quick championships, people won't be beating your door down wanting to buy birds and you might not always have much competition in your color classes but the rewards will be great if you are sincere.

There have only been a handful of breeders seriously working on the bars in years past, but there seems to be some revived interest, the last few years as quality improves. Don't let someone else's failures or negative attitudes defeat you. These colors do need a lot of work, but some of the other color classes were in the same position in the past. With more of us working seriously with them, results will come quicker.

I bred the barred colors in

Jacobins. I had a lot of help and encouragement from Tom Flaminio and after a couple of years was getting the knack of improving the barred Jac's. We tried the same type of program with the trumps and fell flat on our faces, we thought. But after three generations I think the plan is working. My bars have been crossed back onto the best reds, yellows and blacks I could afford. Improvements popped out the first year but the colors are slow to come. I have raised more checkers, duns and smokey bars than blues, but they were greatly improved over some of the original blue stock. Sometimes the color is disappointing but the good dun bar or smokey bar is just as attractive as a good blue. And these are the birds that will eventually turn that improvement into a beautiful blue or silver.

It is not easy, and success will not be overnight. But if you have more time than money and want a big challenge -- try the bars!! □

Pairing Up Show Rollers

by BARRY TALAGA, Bay City, Mich.

One of the most difficult problems in any breeding plan is, no doubt, the actual decision on how your birds should be paired up for the new breeding season. Many birds, in some cases, will have to be culled; while others will remain borderline stock material. Eventually they will have to be paired up or eliminated. How should we tackle this problem? My system may be similar to many breeders, but I know it will be different with others.

First of all, we need to fully understand the roller standard as close as possible. We need to know the cold hard facts about the kind of birds that are winning in our larger shows. The judges cannot be sentimental toward "pretty colors" or uniform color patterns if the bulk of the standard emphasizes type, feather and structural quality, station, and appeal, etc. Many baldhead breeders will sacrifice good structural quality and type, if necessary, to stress color and markings. I definitely understand that it must be done to a certain extent, however, as the type diminishes, competition against other pensoms becomes more difficult where color and markings are of a much lesser concern. I think it would be better if the classical or "orthodox" baldheads did not compete against the show rollers that are not bred for color and markings. We are dealing with two entirely different paths of breeding goals. I strongly agree that the baldhead should follow the standard of the United Roller Club as closely as possible, but with the added difficulty of striving for color and markings, I don't think it is fair to show against other pensoms where these aspects of the standard are not part of the print system.

Roller fanciers should become aware of some of the basic concepts in pigeon genetics. Such terms like: dominant, recessive, partial dominance, simple recessive, compound recessive, recombination, sex linkage, autosomes, genes, and gene modifiers, should be a part of our vocabulary. Ultimately, what we are trying to do is eliminate as much guess work and experimenting as possible. In other words, by understanding a little bit of pigeon heredity we can actually reduce the number of culls, and actually increase our ratios of champions.

Very few fanciers want to crowd

(Continued On Next Page)

Standardization Of Color Mutations In Diamond Doves

by JOHN PIRE, Doves Of Texas, Texas City, Texas

The 'Doves of Texas' would like to ask all persons who raise or keep Diamond Doves along with their other birds to help in setting the standards and define the genetics of the color mutations which are now appearing in these small doves. I believe that there is as many color mutations in the Diamond Doves as there is in the ringneck dove species, with more being developed in the future. So far the only mutations that have a standardization are the Normal Blue and the Silver. The standardization for these two colors are over ten years old. I strongly believe that the other color mutations also need to be better standardized along with the genetics of each

mutation.

I have had good response from the members of the 'Doves of Texas'; 'Canadian Dove Association' and the 'American Dove Association'. I hope that there is good response to this project, because the better the response the better the standardization of each mutation will become.

Written descriptions of the colors or genetics; pictures or drawings can be sent to me at the address that follows. After the colors and genetics are classified, the list will be sent to the various magazines for publication. — John Pire, "Doves of Texas", 3013 Tarpey Ave., Texas City, Texas 77590. □

their coops with unnecessary birds, riding on the philosophy that they will raise more champions simply by the law of averages. One could have a coop full of "junk" and not really be aware of it. If everyone that raised show rollers knew what they were doing, we wouldn't have the junk that's floating around today. Then, maybe the high prices of good stock material would drop to affordable prices. Competition would force these prices down, just like it does in retail sales. Our goal should be to keep a small number of breeders, but at the same time, be able to produce the greatest number of champions. The best way this can be achieved is through a strain of rollers where uniformity of specific genes is achieved. How is a quality strain of this type produced? Initially through some sort of inbreeding, and it is maintained by staying within the strain. If you cross outside a strain,

you should cross into another strain that has already been established through some inbreeding or line breeding of its own. Once a strain has been developed, many of the unwanted traits have been eliminated, thus we have less variation, and more uniformity.

There are many champion quality rollers at large shows and some at smaller ones as well, and just because only a handful win, it doesn't mean that they are better than everything else. Sometimes there are such small differences in quality, that decisions can be very difficult. No bird is 100% perfect, and just knowing that, can ease our worries a little.

Show rollers have come a long way from their original ancestor, the rock pigeon, as far as their refinement and development is concerned. In order to maintain this development, it is crucial to stay within the best

quality roller strains we have. Work on one type at a time. Don't be afraid to inbreed if you have the right birds. The more we know about the genes that go into the show roller, the greater will be our success, the fewer our expenses, and the fewer birds we'll actually need to breed from.

Stock birds are those that are capable of producing champion material, despite the fact that they themselves are usually lacking in standard. They may be excellent in many ways but may not meet a critical section of the standard. A show bird however, may be used as a stock bird. Contrary to what some may think, a good stock bird may produce better youngsters than a show bird.

It is wise I feel, to breed "best" to "best," but sometimes we have to compromise. Comments welcome, write: 249 N. Jefferson, Bay City, Michigan 48708. □

Donek — A Cry For Help

by ARTHUR A. CdeBACA, Phoenix, Ariz.

I am new to the Doneks. I purchased my Doneks in Jan. 85. All were 84 birds, one mated pair and four unmated young birds. I ended up with four cocks and two hens.

After three rounds of infertile eggs, they started hatching. I am having fertility problems. I get only one fertile egg out of each round from each pair. Trimming the vents has not helped. I tried cross mating the two hens to the two other cocks. After two and one half months, one pair has not laid one egg. The other pair has given me three rounds of infertile eggs. I have mated the hens back to the original cocks. I can take breeding one young at a time but I sure cannot live with breeding none at all.

I have lost over half of the Doneks I have raised to either them dropping on wild pigeons or flyaways. All birds have been from 45 days to 90 days old when lost. All have been lost when the birds were first starting to drop to the dropper or right after they were trained and dropping good.

When I first started training my Doneks to drop I was using a lavender Lahore. This did not work so I purchased some white Indian Fantails. I have had no problems training the Doneks to drop on the fantails.

I have used two different methods to train the Doneks to drop. The first method I used was to fly them individually with one roller. This method seemed to work. I have had

several problems with it. After the birds were learning to drop I started flying them solo. I have lost birds to flyaways when flying them with the roller and when flying them solo. The other problem is that when I fly them solo they drop on wild pigeons and I never see them again.

The second method I used was to fly all the Doneks together and sometimes with one roller. There is between three and seven birds in the air at one time. I have trap trained this group just like you would a roller. Again they seem to be doing great until they are drop trained. Then the losses to flyaways and dropping on the wild pigeons occur.

I live in a high density housing area with a large shopping mall one half mile away. Behind and to one side of the mall is open farm land. I have not had problems homing my rollers during the last seven years. There are a lot of wild pigeons as Phoenix is full of palm trees and each one has wild pigeons in it. The pigeons in my area eat the dry dog and cat food in the people's back yards. They also drink out of their water dishes. The reason I mention this is that getting rid of the wild birds is impossible.

I can live with breeding one Donek at a time, but I cannot live with losing all my Doneks. If anyone can help me, please drop me a line at Arthur A. C De Baca, 7940 W. Cheery Lynn, Phoenix, AZ 85033, phone 602-849-4096. □

My First Pair Of English Trumpeters

by RICKY ARNOLD,
Culver City, Calif.

I have raised pigeons on and off for the past four years. I have had just about every type that exists. It was not until the summer of 1983 that I saw my first pair of English Trumpeters in a pet shop by my home. After looking at the birds and admiring their large muffs I knew I had to buy them. I took them home with great hopes of breeding some fine young English Trumpeters out of them. As I soon found out however, the pair wasn't any good, so I sold them to a friend in Marina Del Rey. I was not out of English Trumpeters very long. In fact about a week later I made a new friend Eric Milton and we got to talking about pigeons. Before long we decided to start raising English Trumpeters together.

We have purchased 10 English Trumpeters from Bob Nolan, since we are new breeders we have a lot to learn. The first show we attended was the 1984 Pageant of Pigeons. After the show we mated our birds up but didn't have much luck raising anything. We purchased some more birds from Bob Nolan and this time we have had good luck. So far in 1985 we have raised 8 youngsters, and are just now completing a new English Trumpeter loft. I would like to thank Mr. Nolan for his help and introducing me to the world of English Trumpeters. □

Swallow Special Long Overdue, Back To Square One?

by DAVE HARRIS, Niangua, Mo.

From the response I received after the March Swallow Special, I realize how overdue it really was. I feel it was a great success made possible by the Swallow fanciers across the U.S., Canada and Australia. My sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the endeavor.

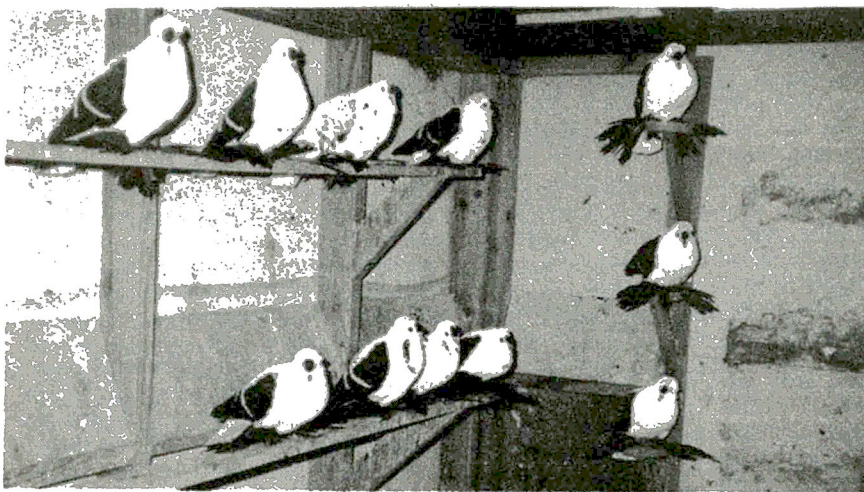
Due to the time of year the special came out, it was very difficult to answer most letters, saying I'm sorry but I have no stock available until fall. Most breeders have already selected their breeding stock for the season and therefore have very limited birds for sale. I believe I could have sold every bird I have, would I wanted to sell my 1985 breeding stock. Most of the fellows that ran advertisements had the same response and problems I had, about selling birds early in the spring. Hope it hasn't discouraged any of you folks, and changed your minds about raising Swallow pigeons.

Guess my only disappointment about the whole thing is there hasn't been one article on Swallows since the Special came out. I laid back and waited to see if there would be a few, but, not as yet. I know for a fact, that the United States has a very limited number of breeders who keep Swallows in any numbers. Compared to Modenas, English Trumpeters, Rollers, etc., we are

almost obsolete. I can only think of so many things to write about. So, come on fellows and gals, let's hear some news.

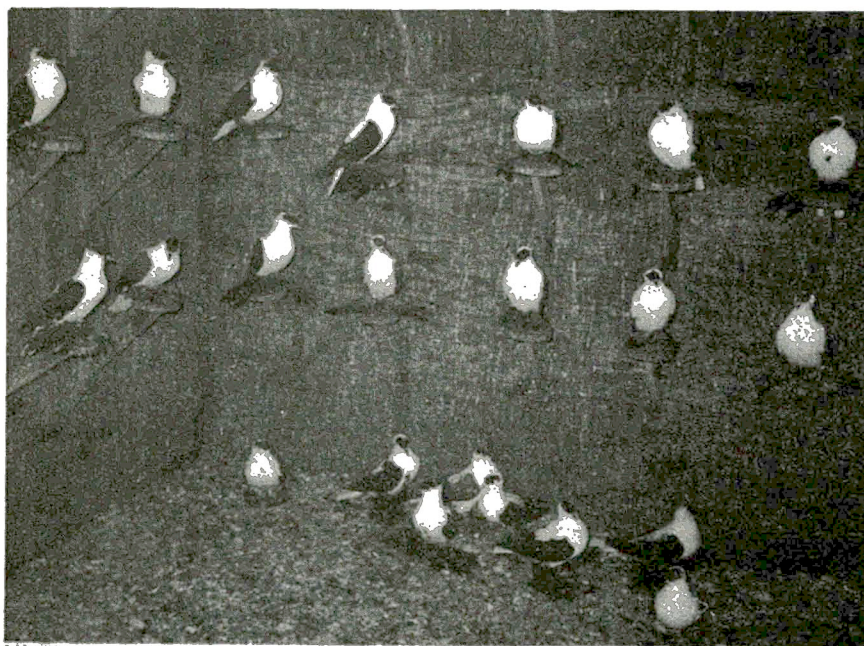
Breeding season here at Rocky Point was off to a slow and late start. I have been really busy with many other projects including my job with the State. The numbers are down a bit from previous years, but have high hopes for a number of young fullheads and black w/b fairys.

Especially happy with the young blue check fullheads. Well everyone, this is enough for now, hope everyone has had a good season and hope to be meeting and exhibiting with you this season at the shows. Remember, write about your Swallows, even if it's a problem you are having with your birds. Let someone know and help is on the way. Let's not go back to square one. □



SAXON FAIRY SWALLOWS

A group of Black White Bar Saxon Fairy Swallows at the Rocky Point Swallow Lofts, Niangua, Mo. — Bred and owned by Dave Harris, Niangua, Mo.



SAXON FULLHEADS

Black Barless, Blue Black Bar and Red Barless Saxon Fullhead Swallows at their home, Rocky Point Swallow Lofts, Niangua, Missouri. — Bred and owned by Dave Harris, Niangua, Missouri.

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And... They're Off!

by STANLEY STAVEKIS, Schenectady, N.Y.

That's what the Pigmy Pouter breeders were saying in September with the opening of the Utah State Fair. 1985 marked the first show season with the American Pigmy Pouter Club's Master Breeder Award system in place and exhibitors were anxious to get out of the gates. Never mind that the early show date would catch some show teams in some stage of the moult or prevent old champions from attending because of responsibilities to late hatches. The entries were strong both in numbers and quality and all those attending had come to compete. Champion Pigmy was awarded to Jerry McCalmon's old red hen, a real trooper who showed well and kept her poise throughout the day. Jerry also took best Opposite Sex on a young mealy cock bird who shows a great deal of promise with maturity. Breaking up a clean sweep of the top awards, Kent Wright sneaked in with his old yellow hen to take Reserve Champion.

The young bird show in Louisville, Kentucky, was again the site of upsets. Should the trend continue, this show may soon become the Pigmy's version of the "graveyard of Champions". While some of the established breeders had come to conquer, Alan Graham had other ideas. Martin Bayer judged as Alan's charges moved to the head of the field and never looked back. It was Champion Pigmy on a young red hen and Opposite Sex on a young red cock bird for the Graham entry.

Moving back out Utah way, the Pigmy fraternity left the moult behind them and brought out the '85 models. The Mountain West Pouter Club's Fall Show saw a couple familiar faces in the winners circle. Kent Wright took top honors with an old yellow hen while Jack Spann took the Best Opposite Sex title on an old blue cock bird. With two shows down for the folks in this area, all eyes will be turned to the final jewel of this Pigmy "triple crown" when breeders meet at the Utah Pigeon Fanciers show in December.

If the Paramyx virus did not affect you directly, it still may have knocked the wind out of the sails of many of the shows you had planned to attend this year. Such was the case in New York State, where a number of shows were cancelled for fear of spreading the disease. The Rochester Pigeon Fanciers meet however was held and seven Pigmy exhibitors turned out to vie for the blue. Indeed, blue was the color of

the day when a young blue check cock bird of Stan Staveckis took Champion and Fred Schoeck's young blue bar hen went Best Opposite Sex.

A bit further east, the Rhode Island Pigeon Fanciers were host to another of the American Pigmy Pouter Club's sanctioned shows. Seventy Pigmies lined up for consideration by judge John Harrison.

Let's Renew Interest In The Marked Muff Tumbler

by LEE GINENTHAL, Ithaca, N.Y.

As a newcomer to pigeon breeding I heard much about the marked breeds of years ago - saddle marked tumblers, bellneck rollers ... they were described wistfully. Why? Why did I see so few, if any, at the shows?

Well, several years went by. Finally I was offered a chance by one of the "old time breeders," Henry Galek of Sodus, N.Y., to get started in marked muff tumblers with a few pair of saddles. Was I excited. I read whatever I could get my hands on about the breed (not much out there) and spoke to whoever I could find who had raised them or had seen them in years gone by. Before I knew it I was the secretary of the Marked Muff Tumbler Association and was corresponding with breeders across the U.S., Canada, England, Scotland, New Zealand and South Africa.

I am writing to stimulate more interest in Marked Muff Tumblers and to try and coordinate the efforts of those of us breeding the various markings. There are too few of us spread too far apart.

Sure we are not at the competitive level of the clean legged LF Tumblers but several of the muffed marked birds are fast approaching that level (especially the bald marks and the bellnecks). Many of the markings are becoming so rare that within the next 20 years they may disappear from the earth. These markings were developed in England over 80 years ago and were very popular then. Markings include mottle, rosewing, whiteside, badge, saddle, bellneck, baldhead, and beards. Colors run the full gamut. There is such a variety in color and markings that there should be something to interest some of you out there.

The challenge today is to maintain

Mike Cocchia repeated his Champion win of a year ago with a young mealy cock bird but this year coupled it with the Best Opposite Sex title as well on an old cream bar hen.

With the show season just underway, the early winners will no doubt be looking over their shoulders and hoping to stay ahead of the pack, while the runners-up and as yet untested make their bids to topple the winners. You can wager win, place or show, when the gates open for the next Pigmy meet, the World's Greatest Show bird, will be ready! □

good markings and color while improving the heads, bodies, and muffs, shortening and thickening beaks. It's not easy. Sometimes only 1 or 2 out of 20-30 young start to approach what one is looking for. But if one can get the stock, it is possible to be fairly competitive in a short period of time. If anyone out there as MMT breeding stock available let me know. I'd like to coordinate contacts with folks looking to get started.

By the way - club dues are only \$3 a year. We put out 4-6 very interesting newsletters a year and sponsor shows wherever there is interest, including the NYBS at Louisville. My name and address is Lee Ginenthal, 310 Dey Street, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850, tel. 607-273-8610. Join us in a fun and challenging project and help preserve a beautiful piece of pigeon history. □

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Fantails In The South

by BILL HENDERSON, Hixson, Tenn.

In recent years, the Fantail has become one of the more popular and competitive breeds exhibited throughout the Southeast. To say the least, the overall quality of Fantails, in all colors, has improved tremendously within the area in the last decade. I can remember as a boy going to large all breed shows in Greenville, S.C., and the only Fantails were simply on display and they were dyed Pink, Green, Blue, etc.

I first became interested in Fans in early 1977, so most of this article will pertain to events since that time. Prior to 1977, there were some very nice Fans being exhibited by the Ervins, the Bowmans, the Williams, Cope Goodwin and Lamar Musick all in the Georgia and Alabama area. All of these folks went to top Mid-Western breeders to acquire their breeding stock and were starting to compete at the NYBS in Louisville. Long time Fantail fancier, Ron Spencer, was also active at this time and acquired a number of birds from all over the country.

1977 saw new fanciers emerge, namely the Halls, Hoyt Shields and myself. Hoyt and I formed a partnership and showed together as a team by the name of Triangle Lofts. At various times, we had a third partner in Cecil Noel, Joe Mosley and Doc Lynch, but it was just impossible to get everyone going in one direction, so basically it was just Hoyt and I. This remained the case until last year when business and personal reasons forced me to more or less drop out of Fantails.

Probably the largest boost for Fantails came with the formation of the Dixie Fantail Club. The Dixie went to great effort to bring in qualified judges, thus making their annual show attractive to exhibitors from other areas. By this time, more new fanciers were picking up in the area. Art Dahlke and Bob Garrison became interested and Ron Costa moved into Atlanta. Shortly, afterward, the Central Fantail Club asked me to be the Second District Director and the Atlanta show each fall became the host club for the Second District Meet, also bringing in top judges. This area has been fortunate to have had judges such as Little, Noel, Ury, Schabert, Diemer, Pritchett, Hagan, McKee and Costa. The annual shows of both the Dixie and CFC Second have attracted fanciers from as far away as Canada.

Initially, the area produced the most competition in the barred colors but after a few years the Whites,

Blacks, Tailmarks and others became stronger. The Hawkins became very active in the Dixie, thus bringing their multi-colored and quality stud into the area each year. They helped stimulate interest in a number of colors that were lacking in popularity for this area. Good birds were given away or sold at very low prices to help one another out and a number of breeders were continuously bringing in good stock from outside areas. The competition became evenly spread and the winnings were not confined to one loft, which made for a good competitive atmosphere.

Tail Care For The Fantail

by JOHN MOPPIN, Kansas City, Kansas

The tail on a Fantail is its trademark. If the tail isn't at its best, a good Fantail will be faulted in the show pen. So it's very important that the tail is cared for. A Fantail breeder should watch the tail of his young birds each day. A young Fantail that is permitted to hang its wings in the shoeing feathers of the tail can do permanent damage. In the next few paragraphs I'll outline some of the methods that have worked for me.

Let's take a Fantail from the beginning. There's not a lot you can do for the youngster's tail until the feathers are completely finished. By finished I mean when the feather has no more blood in it. One can do no more than straighten each feather so they are in order to where they are growing. If you try and lace the tail you will damage the base of the feather and cause it to spiral. If this happens, it will take three times longer to prepare that bird's tail for the show pen. Believe me this isn't something you learn overnight. I know of only a few breeders that have mastered this art. So do yourself a favor and give the tail feathers time to finish.

So now your Fantail has its full baby tail in. You should take time to sit and work with its tail. Straighten and lace each bird. If you have a bird or two where the tail is awry (leaning to one side), you lace the tail, then use half inch masking tape and put your tape on the backside of the feathers so the tail will stay laced. Then put a small nut on the side that is carried high so that the tail will set level. What has happened to this Fantail is it was allowed to carry its wing in the tail, making it hang to

one side. Sometimes the baby will be awry from the egg. But in any event you have to help the tail muscles to work equally on both sides. I would leave the tail like this for at least a week, then take the tape off for a day to see how it looks. You should at least see an improvement. If it still hangs to one side, do it all again for another week.

Another problem you may come across is when a bird loses a feather or two in the center of the tail. Lace the tail and with your masking tape close the open area with a strip of tape. Don't try to pull the feathers together to close the gap or you'll awry the tail. Just put the tape in such a way that the head won't push through the tail.

Now after you've done all this for the whole summer and fall, it comes time to pick those Fantails that will be shown. Once this has been done you may have one or two birds that are soiled. I breed whites and a little pigeon dropping in the right places can spoil the appearance of your Fantail. You can wash this bird's tail with outstanding results. But, there are a few things you need to know. I like to use a regular type shampoo; one that has no oil added to it. Take the bird and with running warm water wet the tail. Then add your shampoo and work it in from the base of the feather to the end. I've found that if you straighten the tail first, (like if you were going to lace it) this helps to make the job much easier. After the soap has been worked in, then rinse the tail making sure all the soap is out. Take a towel and pat dry as much of the water out

(Continued On Next Page)

of the feathers as possible. Then straighten the tail feathers again and with a good hair dryer blow the tail from one side then the other until it has completely dried. After this has been done you can lace the tail. You'll notice that your Fantail's tail feathers are fuller and pretty much like new feathers. This also helps pull the webbing together on the feathers.

One thing you should remember - use only shampoo. The feathers can be washed but **never** use anything with oil in it or cream rinse.

If you wash the whole bird you must give it at least a week to let the pigeon dust bring the feathers back to normal. The bird will be fluffy and it should be as tight as possible.

Also another thing that I've seen used on a white pigeon is bleach. One bleach washing will totally ruin

the feathers. I've seen this done by a couple of white pigeon breeders. And as fate has it these were top show birds. Bleach will make the feathers a muddy yellow and the webbing separates much like a silky. I guess these breeders thought if it makes their clothes whiter then it has to make their pigeons white. "Wrong!" Our birds don't wear cotton so they shouldn't be treated like they do. Once bleach has been put on the feathers it will stay that way until new feathers are grown in. So use only shampoo and I suggest you try my cleaning method on a breeder first, then when you have it down to where you know how to do it, then try it on one of your better Fantails.

This all works very well for me and I think you'll have no problems using shampoo on your birds. Just take your time and don't hurry it. □

The Central Fantail Club Eugene Altpeter Classic

by TOM PRITCHETT, Farmington, Minn.

The largest fantail meet of the decade: The Gene Altpeter Classic, is now history, but oh, what memories it leaves. Not since the infamous Ray D. LaFleur Classic some ten years hence, has such a gathering of fanciers from across the nation been assembled. The contingent of Canadian Fanciers added very much to the quality of fantails exhibited and the fellowship enjoyed.

Every fantail meet I attend is a learning process; this time I found that being the President of the host organization and one-half of the judging staff of the second largest fantail meet ever held is a little bit like being one of two scout masters at a Boy Scout Jamboree. I was almost as busy as the O'Dells and the ladies at the recording table. It's amazing that something this big with so much happening in such a short span of time, can run so smoothly, still meet the objectives and get as many people involved as were involved. Congratulations are in order to all the officers and members of the Central Fantail Club for a job well done.

Two of the highlights of the show were the Judging Seminar, featuring Central Fantail Club Master Breeders, hosted by John Moppin, and the Lacing Seminar presented by Brian Pogue, Dominic Zarlenga, and Paul Polly. I think everyone learned something from each of these; if good things like this continue it can only benefit the fancy.

Another show highlight was the Spotlight Sale that featured top

quality Fantails in several colors from the lofts of the greats in fantail breeding. The sale was conducted to defray some of the costs involved in staging the Classic, and thanks to the generosity of both buyers and sellers, the sale netted some \$1,300.00.

A real pleasure for me was watching Brian Pogue place his classes; to say the least, I was impressed. Without a doubt, Brian is one of the finest fantail judges I have ever had the opportunity to watch; he is both efficient and thorough in his placings and evaluations. Brian had some extremely tough classes both in numbers and depth of quality; he went through them with true professionalism and found some really top fantails.

Permit me to briefly recap some of the outstanding birds that I had the privilege to judge during the Classic. As space dictates, I will be brief and still mention the top group of fantails.

Cream and Mealy - definitely some real improvement is being made by some serious fantail breeders. The most outstanding bird being a young mealy cock with excellent balance and action. The Reserve, a small round old hen with a really good pocket.

Saddles - the real standouts were a young hen and an old hen, both extremely clean fantails with good action. I would have liked to see a bit more substance on each, however.

Powdered Blues - In this class I found several unfinished birds of

good quality that would have been real contenders in later months. The greatest depth of quality was in the old cock class; the top five cocks were all useful fantails. The Champion powdered blue was in this class; being quite well balanced with good action at all times. The Champion Young was a small fantail with a nice tail, a refined head and good pocket. Here, too, I would have liked to have seen more body ahead of the wings.

Blues - The quality of the blues was outstanding. As a judge it is a real pleasure to place a class of extremely good fantails such as these were. The depth of quality in the young bird classes was extremely deep; the champion blue was the young cock. This was an extremely exciting fantail possessing some of the most sought after points, and still had his act together and in action at all times. The bird possessed a huge tail with excellent shoeing, a really round body, with an extremely refined wing line, and legs that were out of this world. Seldom do you see a fantail with the really out in front legs that this bird possessed.

The Reserve Champion Blue was also an excellent small round fantail with an extremely huge tail; she was also in action and moved well at all times.

Silvers - The silver classes consisted of some well balanced fantails with the old hen being an easy winner. An extremely consistent fantail with great length of feather, consistent action and show ready at all times.

Bodemarks - while bodemarks were few in numbers; I saw several useful young birds that will certainly be stepping stones in years to come.

Checkers - the Checkers were an extremely impressive group of fantails with some real eye catchers in the group. I was most impressed with the small round bodied hens carrying great length of feather and wonderfully refined skulls and depth of pocket. The young hen was an easy winner and certainly a step ahead when breeding for the ever elusive ideal.

Almond - the almonds found several really nice fantails with the old cock class holding some real depth of quality. The champion was an extremely consistent fantail with really wonderful color; certainly an excellent representative of the color. The Reserve a really small bodied fantail that had a bit of trouble staying in action. The Best Young certainly a useful fantail, but needed better legs.

Indigo - while small in number the depth of quality was excellent. The

Champion was an excellent Fantail, small in size with excellent feather length, a good pocket and lots of style.

Mismark - this class was chock full of fantails that could certainly be of use to about anyone's breeding program. The Champion was an ex-

tremely well balanced fantail with loads of action, great refinement, deep head pocket, and good feather length.

The Gene Altpeter Classic will be remembered as one of the finest fantail meets ever held; I am deeply honored to have been a part of it. □

An Old Homemade Cage

by BILL O'DELL, Ottumwa, Iowa

We have an old homemade walking pen that could tell quite a story. Most likely if it could reason just a little it would have all the answers. You see the O'Dell's have been using this cage for some 23 years. We must have known very little about pigeons, let alone Fantails when we first placed a bird in it. Oh, yes, I had gathered pigeons of all sorts every since the age of seven years. Before the construction of this cage built to make a closer inspection of pigeons, I merely admired them from whatever distance the birds would tolerate.

Since the cage's construction every Fantail has had its destiny decided while standing in this cage.

Recently I have made a discovery. When you place a bird in this cage he must take nothing in with him, no band number, no heritage. Most of all no other person's opinion of him. He must be in prime health and feather. He must be show prepared to the best of your ability. This is all he takes with him if his destiny is to be decided. If the cage is to serve its purpose nothing else can enter. We must learn to see what is in the cage.

What I discovered was how clouded and complicated all these other factors made my vision. There is a time to consider heritage. There is a time to blend individuals into pairs but first you must be able to see the individuals for what they simply are. Simply what is present in the birds appearance and what isn't. Not what we wish was present.

I realize it takes some time to be able to recognize the traits good and bad. Once you can recognize the traits you must see the bird with open eyes while your mind is trying to comprehend its value.

My first hint of this dilemma came when I realized not all who viewed birds with me seen the same things I had. Upon this discovery I began to re-check the birds when I found this difference, slowly and alone, no clutter. First I found what the other person hadn't seen. Then to my humbling astonishment I found case after case where I hadn't seen what was before me. Then I found it isn't

unusual, we all do it. Not seeing is easier, human nature.

We all look at our birds a great deal. Usually about as much as our minds can stand. Some more, some less. Apparently we search for that pleasure a part of our brain hungers for, beauty. While searching for the beauty we go blind to all else. If you throw a real good fantail in the walking pen everyone will see it and obviously derive pleasure from it, even the competition. They love to see the good one. We all do. We have searched for it and tried to produce it for so long we truly do love to see everything in its proper place on a good balanced Fantail. Now the better our appreciation becomes for quality, the better the good one must be to catch our eye and give us pleasure.

What happens when we drop back

Saddle Fantails

by ROD LYSNE, Ferryville, Wisc.

For too long the lovely Saddle Fantail has been thought of as the proverbial "weak sister" of the fancy. For all practical purposes it is axiomatic that it takes a lot more skill and patience to breed a high quality Saddle than it does to breed a winning White, Black, Blue, etc. The reason is that one is dealing with a marked bird. Beyond this, there are some other reasons that one finds so few really good Saddles, among these are: 1. Saddle marking tends to be recessive in nature and very seldom expresses itself in a first generation outcross to a solid Fantail; 2. Too few fanciers are working seriously with Saddles; 3. Too few Saddle fanciers seem willing to risk making necessary outcrosses to solid Fantails in order to expand and improve the genetic pool; 4. Too many saddle fanciers place more emphasis on marking and color than on type.

As a whole, saddles seem to suffer from some basic problems such as poor leg setting, being too tall, lack of frontal, too high head setting. Needless to say these are major

to the not so perfect, like our breeders, the ones required to make a champion? We get very little pleasure out of the incomplete Fantail. We go blind.

I am not sure this is not the reason one breeder can't seem to stay on top forever. He simply loses interest in the necessary. He goes blind. He can't see keeping the kind it takes to continue. Then reaches a dead end in his breeding.

I think it is important to concentrate and see what is before you in the walking pen. I believe that a partner with a less trained eye may become the master breeder's salvation in some cases. This is especially true if both voice what they see in the walking pen. This causes questions when they don't see the same thing. Then causes answers when their minds open to the point that they both do truly see the same thing. We find it a good idea to first state out loud what we see then decide what value exists, also aloud. Kindergarten tactics but effective.

A little tip. There is 10,000 books in the hobby of photography all on the subject of seeing. Seeing is a photographers only value. It is really the same ball game. Seeing what is before you.

Thanks for listening. □

problems, and when so many Saddles suffer from these problems, is it any wonder that only the very brave or the very foolish wish to work with them.

This is not to say that there are not some very nice Saddles around, nor that many Saddles do not have some strong points not so often seen in other Fantails. From my own experiences, I can say that present-day Saddles tend to be smaller than the average White. Furthermore, there are many Saddles which actually possess more refinement than the solid colors.

There are those Saddles in some lofts which possess very strong structural points; the problem is to put all these strong points together consistently. At every Fantail Club meet, of any size, one will usually find a few Saddles which are excellent birds overall and possess fine marking and color as well. However, the strength and depth in Saddle classes just is not there.

When one does find a very fine

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Saddle or a loft which seems to possess more than the average number of quality Saddles, one can usually be sure of something more than the owner is a good Fantail fancier -- that can be taken for granted. This "something more" is that the fancier has had the foresight to make bold and judicious outcrosses to high quality Whites, Splashes and Solids.

Yes, making such outcrosses do usually put marking aside for a couple of generations in 95% of the times, but in the long run, such outcrosses are the only way to improve today's Saddles. And yes, 90% of the young produced from such matings will be good for nothing more than culling, as the poorer type on Saddles often tends to dominate and some real "turkeys" are produced. However, by and by, some outstanding young are produced which will greatly benefit your Saddle breeding program.

A couple of matters must be strictly adhered to if one is to have success in making such outcrosses. First, use only the very best Saddles you have -- ones which are best in leg setting, relatively low to the ground and having the best bodies. Next, use only the very best quality solids and splashes you can find, and make sure that they come from birds which are strong or prepotent in those traits which Saddles need. True, you will not be breeding any well marked young from your best Saddles and you may have to use your very best solid colored birds or fork out the money to buy something really nice, but this is the only way to go. Even then, you are not guaranteed that you will raise what you are looking for, so you have to keep trying.

I have personally had the best results mating my best Saddles to Whites or Splashes which were quite low set and round in body, with good legs to boot. Most often the splashes I have used come from White matings. I have used Blacks and Blues in my outcrosses, but they are just not up to the type of good Whites and usually lack real underbelly by comparison. From such matings I have raised some surprisingly well-marked and good-typed young and these in turn have benefitted my Saddles as a whole. If you know what your White is masking color and marking-wise, you will be all the further ahead. It is of more benefit to mate a good Blue Saddle to a White which masks Blue Bar for instance, and it is much better to mate a Black Saddle to a White which carries Black spread. The only way you know what they carry, though, is by some judicious

test matings.

I have heard several times of some Saddle fancier who thought to make a good outcrossing on his Yellow Saddle and used a fairly good solid Yellow for this purpose. This is a serious mistake. I have never heard of anyone who has had anything near satisfactory results from such matings. For one thing even a good Yellow will not be nearly as good as a good White. Another matter is that the solid Yellow is not the same color as a Yellow Saddle. The former is recessive yellow spread (masking lot of unknown factors), the latter is a closed pattern ash yellow check. They do not mix!

If you resort to a good Blue or Black; you will often be able to find one from a good line of birds and having good type, but with a few small white feathers. Nothing could be better. Likely the breeder of such a bird will not want to use it back in his own birds and you won't have to talk too hard to buy the bird. The white tends to spread when such a bird is mated to a Saddle.

Nothing could be better for Saddle outcrosses than a fine quality Splash, especially if it has a good deal of white in the tail and solid marked shields. Often from such a mating one can raise well-marked Saddles in the first generation. If the splash happens to be a checker splash, you might try using it on your Red/Yellow Saddle family as it will compliment the red/yellow pattern nicely. A fine Black splash would do nicely on your Black Saddles.

I have often wondered if it wouldn't be worth the effort all the way around to make an occasional mating of a Solid to a White (both good quality birds). The resulting young are often splashed or dark



BEST SPLASH

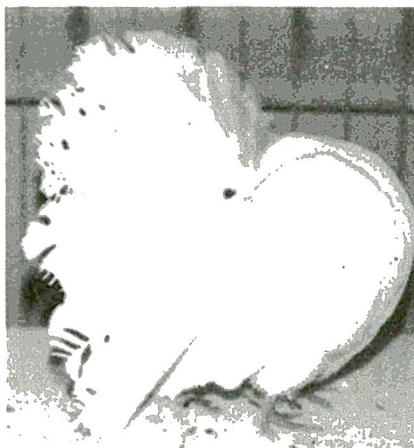
This Powdered Blue Splash Fantail, OH #716, was Best Splash four times at MAFC, CFC, BFC. Bred from Tailmark x White outcross. Mother of TM #84-277. — Bred and owned by Rod Lysne, Ferryville, Wisc.

birds with just a tad of white on their bodies and of very pleasing type. Almost like a hybrid you might say. These young could be used not only for Saddle matings, but to go back on your solid colored family as well.

To sum up the matter of outcrossing, then use only the best birds in Saddles and Solids for such matings and look for young which have type, not marking. If they have two or three colored tail feathers and no shield marking, but are of the right type, use them. Do not concern yourself with the marking at all. It will come back quickly enough.

For some reason Saddles as well as other colors of birds often go through periods of slump and renewal. We saw a peak period about 1975-77. During that time both Mid-America and Central had Saddles entered of up to 102 birds and some real beauties included among them. In the last few years, however, we have come to a slump in Saddle breeding activity. We have lost at least three outstanding Saddle fanciers from our already low numbers just here in the Mid-west. Two or three others which have done very well with them in the past keep only a pair or two now. This hurts. I can honestly say that at this time there are only two or three Saddle breeders that I would go to if I had to start all over in them again. If one of these quit, we will be hard pressed to see much advancement in this marking.

How I often wish that two or three more really established Fantail fanciers who have strong studs of Whites would take an interest in working with Saddles. It wouldn't take long before we would start to see the difference. Maybe we should resort to blackmail, hush money or if



WHITE FANTAIL

This White Fantail, OC #202, is a good prospect for the 1985 show season. It has been unshown. — Bred and owned by Rod Lysne, Ferryville, Wisc.

all else fails, downright bribery.

As to the matter of Saddle colors which we see in shows and lofts at the present time, I guess it is safe to say that there are more Blacks being shown currently in larger classes than any other color. The current Blacks often win the Saddle classes quite easily. At MAFC last year we saw some really fine Black entries.

One problem with many Blacks is that they have a checkery, reddish coloration, rather than the nice spread Black color. This poor coloration simply means that these birds are checkers rather than spread factor Blacks. In order to improve the color, one simply reintroduces the spread factor. This can be done by an outcross to solid Black which is pure for spread or to a Black splash of good color, or a White which carries Black spread. Also one can use an Ash Red Spread Saddle to reintroduce good color. This goes against the old tale about never mating a Black to a Red Saddle as the young will all come out reddish Blacks.

True, most of these matings will produce poorly colored birds; this is the result of the introduction of checker from the Red Saddle. If the Red Saddle happens to be Ash Red Spread, one can breed beautifully colored spread Black.

Reds and Yellows together should be considered as one color family as Yellow is just the dilute of Red. Some years back when I first started showing Saddles, the Reds were winning consistently as many of our larger meets. There were still some very fine birds in this color family. I have found that my Yellows have in particular done well for me and that I can count on them being the most consistent in type and have done the best for me at the shows. These two colors are very striking and beautiful. They should have deep, rich coloration, without any tendency toward barring or lacing effect. Some people get the mistaken idea that one will enrich the color of Yellows by breeding them to Reds and that in like fashion the Red color will suffer from being mated to a Yellow. This is more fable than fact. Since these two colors are of the same family, such matings have nothing to do with enriching or weakening color. Reds and Yellows can and should be freely mated together. In so doing, one can develop one consistent family of birds, but still have two colors.

During the past several years there has not been any really consistent quality among Blue Saddles. A few good birds are bred, but the birds shown in Blue classes at our shows

reflect that fact that the quality does not run deep. Too often the Blues shown have been narrow with long flights, thick wing butts and a tendency toward scoopy tails. Perhaps this is due in part to too much inbreeding. I have found that one can use Whites quite successfully for outcrosses with Blue Saddles. For some reason, the Blue color tends to show more resistance to being masked by White than Red or Yellow for instance. If one can use a good White which carries the barred factor, the better. One must beware of Blues which show a rusty bar, as this is undesirable and is perhaps due in part to crosses with Red or Yellow Saddles. This detracts from the overall beauty of the bird.

While Black, Red, Yellow and Blue are the major Saddle colors one sees at the show, there are a few more colors which we do see in some lofts and shows. One of these is the beautiful Powdered Blue Saddle. This soft, glowing color is raised by a few fanciers and one does see an occasional good bird of this color at some shows. They often mistakenly call them "silvers" but this is a misnomer. Placed next to the solid Powdered Blue, one can quickly ascertain its similarity. A pink or bronzy bar is something which one finds in many of today's Powdered Blues. This is a fault and should be avoided as much as possible. Blues and Powdered Blues may easily be bred together as one family if one wishes. I have done so for a few matings and the young of both colors have not suffered from any color problems. Obviously, a mating to improve Powdered Blue Saddles would be to outcross to a solid Powdered Blue of good type.

The Dun Saddle is occasionally seen, but is quite rare. It is really quite easy to breed Dun Saddles in the course of just one season. The mating which will most easily produce Duns is the sex-linked mating of a Yellow cock and a Black hen. More often than not, Duns have been produced from just such matings and are produced in further generations from the resulting Reds or Yellows which mask Black and/or dilution. The most common color fault in Dun Saddles is that they are checkered rather than spread and that they often have a yellowish tint coming from the Red/Yellow in their background. This fault can be overcome by mating your Duns to spread factor Blacks. The Dun color is a very soft and beautiful color.

Besides the Ash Red closed pattern check which we commonly call "red saddles" there are a couple of other beautiful variations of the

ash red family which one occasionally finds in Saddles. The most common of these is the Ash Red Bar. It is the same color as is described in the Standard for Ash Red Bar (mealy) solid. The most common color fault with these birds is that they are often marred by sooty factor which produced a checker-like effect on the shields. Ash Red Spread is another variety, and is best described in its more classic form as a "red lace". In its extreme expression, however, the Ash Red Spread may be seen as merely an ashen pastel without any tendency toward lacing. Males of this color will usually carry some black flecking on their shields; some fanciers mistakenly refer to these as "almond" saddles, which they are not. The laced variety of this spread factor may also be expressed in its dilute, Ash Yellow Spread.

I have never seen more than a handful and bred only a couple of them but the Ash Yellow Bar Saddle is a soft, beautiful color. In the same fashion the true dilute Silver Bar is also a most beautiful Saddle color which is very scarce. Other colors which are quite rare are the true dilute Powdered Silver Saddle and the Andalusian and Indigo Saddle. The last two mentioned are only recently developed and the Andalusian is especially striking. The Indigo Saddle, however, can easily be mistaken for a poorly colored Black Saddle as it has an unappealing checkery coloration. Since the Andalusian Saddle is a spread factor, it can be used to restore good color to Black Saddles.

I do hope that we will see more interest shown in developing the lovely Saddle Fantail in the near future. What is needed is serious fanciers, patience, bold outcrosses and people who will back Saddles at the shows with trophies, cash awards and publicity.

I have heard a couple of times in the last few years when a Saddle was placed Reserve Champion of a small Fantail meet. There is no reason that this cannot happen again. We would all do well to remember when we get discouraged about working with Saddle Fantails that Ray LaFleur's Silver Saddle of years ago placed Champion Fantail at Madison Square Garden. It can be done again. [Reprinted from the *Modern Fantail*]. □

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The Standard As A Tool

by RICHARD DROUGHT, Baltimore, Md.

As Fantail fanciers we all have in mind various goals, which we would like to attain. Some of these goals might be developing new colors, making new friends or perhaps holding an elected club office, but for most of us the underlying goal is to breed a Fantail which most closely complies with the standard and then to win with that Fantail in major competition. Hopefully, for all of us, our pleasure is in the day-to-day association with our birds and with our fellow fanciers as we work toward our goal.

Let us consider what the Fantail standard does for us. Primarily the standard enables each of us to develop a mental image of what the perfect Fantail should look like. To do this the standard fixes and defines "type" as well as the characteristics of what constitutes perfection. As one reads the standard, specific characteristics are described. For example the standard tells us the body should be "small and round like a ball..." or the tail is to be "slightly concave and circular, filled with long, broad, evenly set feathers." Using precise detail the standard establishes the ideal attributes of various physical characteristics.

The standard defines "type" by establishing the relationship of the various physical part of the ideal Fantail. Relationship is created by allocating points and stressing the concept of balance. For instance, in referring to legs the standard states in part, "Moderately short, not stilty, set well apart and forward so as to conform with the body line..." This is a description of relationships of physical characteristics rather than a description of an actual physical part as the other two earlier references are. So the standard through physical description and establishing type using physical relationships helps us to develop our individual mental image of the ideal Fantail.

As the standard helps to develop the ideal Fantail image it is also helping us to establish our breeding program. Nobody has yet bred the perfect Fantail, but all of us own birds which exhibit one or two physical traits which we feel conforms to a similar trait found in the ideal Fantail of our own mental image. As breeders we hope to develop a program which will combine those good characteristics we see in our breeding stock. Of course, how we bred is beyond the scope of

the standard.

Finally, the standard provides a basis for judging. The judge looks at the birds before him and while he is comparing the birds to each other he is also utilizing his own image of the perfect bird. So we see the standard helping us to create a mental image and then using the image in both breeding and judging.

However, if you think about this, the mental image is a very subjective creation. No one can go into our minds and tell us if the image is right or wrong. Therefore, the image we have conceived with the aid of the standard should not remain static. If we are to be successful in reaching our goal this image must be refined and made more precise. This can be done in several ways. Re-reading and actually studying the standard will help refine our image. Talking with our fellow fanciers and gaining insight as to what they perceive as the ideal Fantail will help us to improve our own conception. Of course, observing judging is another valuable way of improving our own perception of the ideal Fantail.

We began by speaking of goals. The standard will help to reach the goal of success in the judging pen, but each of us must keep in mind the effect gained by good type is easily lost when a bird is out of condition. The successful show bird does not begin when his parents are mated.

Rather success begins with the mating of various ancestors and is

carried through to how well the breeder enhances his bird for the judging pen. Various steps of show preparations, tail lacing and loft management are beyond the scope of this article. Just let it be noted that what is produced by the study of genetics, heredity and knowledge of the standard must be enhanced by further study of the standard, the individual bird itself and good competent loft management.

This article will conclude on a note about sportsmanship. At a show it should be the goal of each of us to help the best bird win. Put another way the best bird should not lose because the tail is incorrectly laced or otherwise set down improperly. If a fellow fancier obviously does not have the knack, offer to lend a hand. For a trophy to mean something it must be won as a result of the best bird winning. If we win a trophy because another bird was not set down properly, it is an empty win. We should all take pride on the best bird winning. If we don't help the best bird to win or if we take advantage of another fancier's inexperience we are no longer breeders we are merely collectors of trophies.

We have a fine hobby. We must all work toward maintaining the quality of this hobby. With work and dedication we should not only be able to reach our individual goals, we should be able to enjoy the fancy and improve it for those who follow. □

Coming Back

by ED KARNISH, Omaha, Nebr.

Like so many after the Lincoln National, I experienced a Salmonella outbreak in March of 1983. After having a good show season, I was quite optimistic about breeding some nice Fantails for the next show season.

It was in March that the building seemed to collapse around me! At this time in the breeding program, I had 20 young birds banded. Within three days all were dead! And within seven days five hens were dead. This left me with three pairs to breed with. Immediately, I had the young birds posted. The results were Salmonella!! Knowing that my whole Clark line, after breeding it for five years, was gone left me in quite a shock. I wanted to quit with the birds. I can remember coming in the house and calling my good friend in Kansas City, John Moppin. I told

John that I wouldn't be breeding next year. Well, of course he talked me out of it, but I knew it would be a long road to hoe if I wanted to rebuild the good line I had. But I did manage to raise 25 youngsters. Most of my good cock birds were left, and never affected by the disease. I had already been in touch with Earl Clark and he said he would help. John Moppin and Vladimir Jansa were a big help also.

Thanks to all these fine gentlemen I am now on the right track. After the last show season I feel I can compete with the big boys again.

I would like to say that good loft management and isolation after a show will help curb diseases that we could come in contact with at the shows. Also the article Tim Burke wrote in the 1981 Central Fantail Club Yearbook is very helpful. □



James Roper of Workington, Cumbria, England, with two of his Fantails.

How & Why I Became A Follower Of The Queen Of The Fancy

by JAMES ROPER, Workington, Cumbria, United Kingdom

As a youngster, who is now 76 years young, I can always remember being enthralled by the sight of pigeons, especially the rare varieties such as the Exhibition Fantail, so in 1919, I purchased locally my first Fantail, which was quite a decent little Black hen for which I gave six pence.

However, I could never get a cock bird to go with this little hen, since no one locally kept Fantails, so I eventually let a friend of mine have her, and I well remember to this day, cycling the eight miles there and back to deliver my prize gift.

My next experience was a few months later when I noticed an advertisement by a Scottish firm advertising the sale of White exhibition Fantails, and since my longing for some more feathered friends had reached a fever point again, I decided to write and ask the price.

To my surprise, without prior notice, I received from them a pair of white Fantails together with a note stating the price was fifteen shillings and that I could pay for them at half a crown a week. As you can appreciate in those difficult times it put me in quite a fix since I was still at school and only ten years old and to find the half a crown a week in those days was well nigh impossible.

However, I did manage to scrap the money up each week so that I could keep my prize possessions, but sadly a cat killed the hen, so again I was left with a spare bird, the cock. Even worse still I had quite a bit to pay off my purchases.

After this I had various pigeons of

different colours around the farm, but they never seemed to last long due to the cats, tractors and other farmyard perils, so when I finally retired as a dairyman, I fulfilled my lifelong ambition to be a fulltime follower of the Queen of the Fancy.

In 1973, I decided to purchase, what I think is very important in our hobby, and that is a good pigeon loft, which is quite spacious, watertight, functional and comfortable for both men and beast.

The loft I finally chose was of a modern design, eighteen feet long which is subdivided into three six foot compartments which have six individual breeding pens, each 3 feet, x 2 feet x 2 feet in the back. It also has a 3 foot wide corridor which runs along the front of the compartments so that visitors to the loft can view the birds without disturbing them. Finally I fitted heater bulbs in each compartment to both assist in successful rearing of the young and for my own personal comfort during the winter months.

The total cost of my loft was in the realm of about 600 pounds but I am quite sure it is possible for any handyman to build himself a similar loft for a modest amount, but whatever you pay for a good suitable loft can only be a sound investment of your money for the pleasure given.

Once I had my loft erected, and I had decided that Fantails were the birds for me, due to their overall beauty and carriage, I then traced an exhibitor who lived locally in the person of Martin W. Adain and paid him a visit and purchased my

first pair, which was a Black chequer white flight cock and coloured hen. Then since I had always fancied saddles, I purchased a number of pairs from those two very experienced Fantail men, Mr. Conrad Birch and Mr. Billy Cook, who I am pleased to say are now both good friends of mine. From these birds and from odd birds purchased from John Lowe and Arnold Nelson I established my own strains of Red and Black saddles.

My one disappointment with Saddles up to the present time is that I have not won the Trophy for Best Saddle at the Doncaster Show which is one of my ambitions but I did come close since I did breed the Winner of the Trophy at this year's show, the bird now owned by N & T Wytcherley.

The most important additions to my loft since I started were when Martin Adair, John Bragg and myself invested in importing birds from Rod Lysne, Ray LaFleur and Bill O'Dell in the U.S.A. in 1980, and the young birds bred from the imported birds have been very successful for myself and other fanciers, particularly the 'T' Pattern chequer grizzles.

In 1983, I won 61 tickets including 25 firsts, 3 cups, silver spoons and numerous rosettes and my most satisfactory results were gained with a dark chequer 'T' Pattern grizzle cock which I bred, which was judged to be Best Fantail in Show at the Lancashire Show and Best A.O.C. and young bird at the Doncaster Show.

I am now concentrating on breeding from Tailmarks, Grizzles, Indigo, Andalusians and Saddles in Red, Black and Yellow, with the Grizzles and the Saddles being my favourite variety of Fantail because of the contrasting colours in their make-up.

Over the past years I feel that Fantails have got much smaller and shorter in leg and have also gained in top tail, but there are still some Fantails being exhibited which are lacking in good leg setting.

I personally would never breed from a Fantail that either lacks good leg setting, has a wry tail or even umbrellas its tail since from experience nothing has been gained by the utilization of such birds and they could ruin a seasons breeding.

I have found that you must exhibit your birds to gain full satisfaction from your hobby and it is very difficult to explain the comradeship and friendships you can make when you visit all the regional shows. You get the satisfaction firstly of seeing

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your birds penned and looking decent, seeing how they compare with other fanciers' birds, then seeing your birds in the walking pen and how they perform. Next you may find that you have won a minor ticket, then you start and look for the finer points of the Exhibition Fantail in your breeding programme and show preparation and if you are lucky enough and produce a good bird you then find you have won a first prize and possibly a trophy.

The satisfaction from such a win is truly fantastic but quite honestly to have been there is most important, and to have met all the fellow fanciers and to have examined other people's pride and joys is where the enjoyment is gained, not the fact that you have won, that is by the way.

I would like to advise people think-

ing of joining the Fantail fraternity to firstly build a good loft, buy quality birds rather than quantity, to visit a number of reputable breeders and exhibitors who will only be too pleased to help with both suitable birds and sound advice and definitely join a Specialist Fantail Club where again sound advice is given together with periodical bulletins and the right to compete at the Fantail Branch Shows for special trophies and awards.

Finally, I wish to say that you cannot spend too much time with the Queen of the Fancy because you never tire of watching and observing the proud little creature showing off its changing characteristics of life and its truly magnificent carriage and style. □

Down Memory Lane With Gerald Champ

by EARL CLARK, Summerfield, Fla.

My first contact with Gerald was in 1957 while I was on one of the Navy's famous westpac cruises. I was in the twilight of my Navy career and having recently bought a home in Chula Vista, California, I was ready to resume my boyhood hobby of raising pigeons.

Having had racing homers in Illinois during my boyhood, I had the itch to get back into the birds, but did not want racing homers.

After subscribing to the American Pigeon Journal, I wanted to decide what breed I would wish to raise. I, like a lot of newcomers, fell in love with the Fantails.

Now the problem was, where do I go from there? After making my decision, lo and behold a fellow in San Diego ran an ad.

Off went my letter to this Gerald Champ. As we moved from port to port, I awaited his reply. Finally, one day at mail call I received his letter. Little did I know at that time what an impact this man was to have on my life from there on. He wrote a very nice letter quoting the prices of his birds and suggesting that I buy three pair of whites. They would cost only one hundred dollars and he would be glad to hold them for me until my return to San Diego.

Well, my reaction to the letter I held in my hand was, who does this nut think he's dealing with? One hundred dollars for three lousy pair of birds, does he think sailors are crazy, and just throw their money around?

My ship returned to San Diego. After my homecoming reunion with my family, I bought two pair of Black

Fantails and two pair of White Fantails from a fellow getting out of Fantails in San Diego. They were of good quality.

The first person I became acquainted with was Del Heffelfinger and through him I got to meet this nut who tried to stick me for a hundred dollars for three pair of his Fantails. I fixed him, I never bought a Fantail from him.

Gerald and I have had many a chuckle over that letter. I still have it among my things.

For some strange reason we hit it off from the very beginning. He invited me to his home to see his birds, that was his first mistake, because I became a regular visitor.

As I was fortunate enough to get the entire stud of Walter Richardson's blacks, I started with about eight pair of good stock birds. Gerald in turn visited my loft.

I was the pupil, Champ and Heffelfinger the teachers.

I learned that as a young boy in his teens that Champ was playing ball next to Heffelfinger's home in San Diego and noticed his cages. After the game, he investigated and discovered the Fantails. He and his mother moved back to St. Joseph, Missouri, and this is when he decided to start raising Fantails.

Having lived in the San Diego area, he couldn't wait to return. Gerald married and lived for many years in Chula Vista, where he had his beloved Fantails, then he moved to a lovely home on Pt. Loma where I first met him in 1958.

After a few visits to his home and thinking maybe I was being a pest,

asking him all sorts of questions, I found out that he really enjoyed it. Champ would rather talk Fantail than eat. Anyone who ever came in contact with him through his life learned something from him.

I could, and did, listen to his stories by the hour. He knew all the past greats of Fantails. The Sugar Kings of the United States who were the Havemeyer Brothers of New York, both Fantail breeders, but one more so than the other. Can you imagine someone footing the bill to rent Madison Square Gardens for a show today? Not once but several times!! If a serious Fantail breeder couldn't afford to take the trip, Havemeyer made sure that it was taken care of.

Elisha Hanson, a famous lawyer of Washington, D.C., was a true Fantail breeder, along with frills, chickens, cows, and dogs. Nothing but top quality show stock in each and everything he bred. His wife would go to Europe and buy breeding stock, and in those days England had the finest of Fantails. Price was no object. They were bought and shipped to the USA by boat.

Champ bought his first birds very carefully, as money was very scarce in those days. But yet, he paid twenty-five dollars each for them. That was a lot of money in those days.

His Fantail expertise was a great influence on our standard today. When Champ talked Fantails, people listened. He was the expert. The many letters he wrote to other Fantail breeders helped shape the Fantail of today.

Over the years he developed his stud of white Fantails. He paid great attention to proper leg setting, which was number one with him. All the finer points were worth his careful attention, but legs were drilled into my head. I won't fool with a bird unless it has good legs, regardless of what else it has. It's a waste of time.

Champ shipped a lot of birds to some of the top breeders in the country. The last outside bird that was put into the stud was a white cock that he got from Altpeter Sr. He swapped a white hen for it. I remember the bird very well, he was a large cock, but he had a huge tail. I used one of the daughters from that cock for many years.

During the last few years he had birds, I had about one half of the birds at my house breeding for him. We shared that arrangement until the time came that he wanted me to come get all the birds and bring them to my house because he felt he couldn't take care of them anymore.

When I'm looking over the young

ones after a breeding season, I can almost feel him there with me, looking at the good ones. Just like old times, sitting in my judging room just Champ and I with the Fantails.

Over the years Champ and I went to many shows together. I feel I learned something every time.

It was really something to watch him judge. He could spot a fault even the owner didn't realize and he didn't fool around judging. He had a

great eye for the birds and could not stand for a judge to grandstand, wearing the birds out.

Gerald Champ ... Fantail Breeder ... Gentleman ..., and my great friend. To say I miss him is an understatement of what I like to think, somehow he is watching me, and approving of what I have done with his white Fantails. After all, they are still the famous Champ Birds, I'm just the keeper. □

Fantail Pigeons And Me

by J.J. KITCHENS, Decatur, Ill.

This article is going to be about my experience in raising and showing one of the greatest pigeons in the world, "The Fantail."

At the age of 13, which was 30 years ago for me, we lived on a farm. We had a large barn, that had an extra large hay loft and when it was empty of straw, it was full of pigeons. Most of these pigeons we had then were found, traded for or stolen.

Back then there were my two brothers, myself and five others that raised these pigeons in our barn. You can imagine the fights we had between ourselves, but always made up. We are all still the best of friends today. Then, we all ranged from 10 up to 15 years old. Now, when you get eight boys together at those ages and all having the pigeon bug, anything could happen and it did.

We lived a short distance from town and in town lived a man that raised white Kings. They were then top show birds and this man had not sold or gave a bird to anyone that we knew of. He was one of them that would say, he would eat them first.

To us these white Kings were like diamonds are to weddings and we needed a pair.

So, one night we went after a pair. We had it all planned out, who was going to be watch-outs and who was going to actually put the birds in the sacks.

Well we snuck up to the backside of this man's property. Now this guy had nine sheds, because he raised rabbits, ducks, white guineas, chickens, pheasants, white kings and you name it, he had it.

Now, one of us just lived two blocks down the street and he knew just where the white kings were or I should say he knew where they were in the day time. You see all nine buildings were alike and all painted white. There were fly pens and chicken fences all over the place.

At his back fence we were all so scared, all we could do is laugh and

that's what we did for the better part of an hour. We finally got up the nerve and we moved on. This night there was six of us, three to watch out and three to get the birds.

We were at the lofts door, we had no light and didn't want one. I had one sack and a friend had another. The third guy was to pick up the birds and bring them to the door and into our sacks.

The last thing I could remember is Tom saying, "There in here, get ready." This is when everything broke loose. They weren't white kings, they were white guineas and Tom had a hold of one. I don't know how many there were, but it sounded like 10,000 guineas and they all were trying to get to the door at the same time.

All six of us was running all over the place screaming our heads off in fright and trying to find a way out. It

wasn't hard for this man to hear all of this going on, as did his neighborhood. Now when this man turned on his lights in the back yard, he turned on lights. His backyard lit up like a used car lot.

Some said, he yelled a lot at us, but I couldn't hear a thing, except my heart and when all those lights came on, I was in orbit. None of us stopped till we were back in the hay loft of our barn. Not laughing now, but breathing like elephants and as white as those guineas.

We were not at all in good shape, we had cuts and bruises all over us, two of us wore imprints of one inch chicken wire on our faces, another had one half inch rabbit wire imprints and still another ran into a wire clothes line. He had this red welp across his forehead for several months. We lost three combat boots, holes in our shirts and jeans, two feed sacks that mom would have used for dish towels or curtains. By the way, they were missed.

We never went back to that man's house in the day or night. Also we never stole or tried to steal another pigeon. We really learned our lesson that time.

I was 17 years old when I saw my first Fantail and I knew right then this is the main pigeon for me.

Pigeons have been my life. I lived, talked and thought pigeons. I have had one or two pairs of almost every breed of pigeons. I studied them all and their standards. I had at one

(Continued On Next Page)



INTERIOR VIEW
Interior view of the J.J. Kitchen loft.

time over 120 pigeon standards. I had the bug for liking and wanting to know all breeds of pigeons.

All breeds of pigeons has something to offer all of us and it's great they do, because if they didn't we all would have the same breed.

My first good Fantails came from Eldon Berg. They were whites and Eldon had some good ones. I got a few pairs from Dr. Ragland and several pairs from Harry Little over the years. I got an excellent start in Blacks from Jim Argall and a few from Eugene Altpeter, that I crossed with Argalls, with great results. We got some saddles from Bob Kinginger back in the 60's that in my opinion were as good as the whites we have today. I'm not kidding, Bob had this type of Saddles. I have gotten blues from Bill Warner, they were great looking birds. I have had several whites from Bob Givens, there were three white hens I raised from Bob's birds, that were the best Fantails I have owned.

In my 26 years with Fantails I have bred from 535 pairs and my records show I have banded 2358 Fantails. I look at this figure now and wonder where has all this time gone. I have built and rebuilt 18 lofts. I've tried every kind of waterers and feeders, I've used every kind of feed and sold the best for years. I've used all types of litter and have used every kind of loft arrangements I could think of. I've built and have used every kind of nest boxes and bowls I could. All this with mostly the same results, but I've enjoyed it all.

I have only shown 4 or 5 times in a Fantail Club Meet. I have always only shown white and tailmarks at the Fantail meets. Might be mistaken, but I don't know of any of these shows where my birds placed under seventh place, but never a champion at a Fantail meet.

I judged the first lawn shown of the St. Louis Gate Way Fantail Club meet back in the mid 60's. It was held at the home of Harry Little. The bird that won at this show went on to win at the Central that winter. Harry is one fine Fantail man and as a person they don't come any better. Harry taught me how to lace and set a Fantail down. This is an art and to be a contender at any show you must master this art. You can do it. I have spent hundreds of hours lacing and sitting down thousands of Fantails. I can honestly say I don't think there is another Fantail breeder that can do it any better, but I have seen some do it as good. You can do it too, so practice and practice.

I've shown my Fantails in over 130 all breed shows and meets. I have won 42 champion of the show and 18

reserve champion of the show.

I have won 94 champion Fantail, with 180 trophies and several hundred rosettes and ribbons. I have been awarded the outstanding service award by the NPA for several years.

I learned to judge pigeons under Jake Keifer and Carl Otto, to me they were tops as judges. I can remember both of these men saying to me, "Jerry read the standards and have a pair or two of each breed and as you study it, study them." This sounded great to me, because I loved all pigeons. I did as they said, and sometimes I got the title of being a pigeon dealer, but I didn't care, because the ones who said that didn't know why I was buying these other breeds of pigeons and as it ended up some of these people later hired me as a judge for their clubs show. I also learned a lot about judging by watching Eugene Springer. To me Eugene is one of today's best all breed judges.

I have judged 38 all breed shows and loved every minute of it. I've never charged, but every club has more than paid my expenses.

I've sat and talked with most of the greats that everyone now is talking about. But, I can say this, you younger and new breeders of any breed are great too, because you are the ones that are going to carry on and improve our pigeon world.

I can remember my first Central Fantail meet, it was back in the 60's and held in St. Louis, Mo. I knew a lot of the top breeders would be there, so I didn't show any birds. It was from fear of maybe being laughed at or that my birds may be laughed at or that my pride would have been hurt.

Well, they were all there, Gerald Champ, Cy Harper, Eugene Altpeter, Dr. Ragland, Harry Little, Chet Bailey, Dwight Crewdson and Bob Kinginger and many more. Plus wall to wall Fantails, I still can remember thinking man oh man.

I met and talked to almost everyone there and I sure wished a thousand times I would have shown some of my Fantails. They would not of won, but I can assure anyone, that these Fantail men would not of laughed or made fun of anyone's Fantails. They were Fantail men that would help anyone. I learned at this show a true Fantail man cannot really put a price on a bird, but the real reward or payment is in the heart, when you can sell a good bird to a man, for a price you know you would give and a price that would make him happy and also knowing that you were able to get someone started in a good hobby with good

birds.

I have gave more birds away than I have sold. To the best of my knowledge I have never sold a Fantail for more than \$10. The first place white hen at the NYBS in a class of 30 or 40, I sold for \$8.00 and I was offered \$200 for her at the show. The reserve champion of the show at the Great Lakes winter meet a few years ago I sold for \$6.00. I know there are a few that think that this would be dumb. I can only say this to them, there are billions of people that think raising dirty old pigeons is dumb. So I think it is best to do unto others as you would want them to do unto you. It sure has worked for me.

Our hobby is getting smaller in number and there are some that want to blame inflation, and some to blame shipping fees - what do you think?

I have almost come to hate a pigeon standard for what it is doing to us. If we raise a Fantail that doesn't come close to the standard or has too few of tail feathers or an off shade of color, we call it a cull and here we go - kill, kill and more kill.

The more we kill our pigeons, the fewer pigeons and fewer breeders we will have.

Look at your loft as a Fantail show when you start to cull. If at a show you took first, second and third place in a class of 30, would you then kill all the others? I have killed as my culls better birds than what was shown from 15th place down. On the other hand the person at the show that had that 15th placed bird was not about to kill it as one of his culls.

I now look at a cull as being a bird that is deformed and not just being because of this or that. I found I was killing better Fantails than the ones that were being sold at the local trade and swap sales. I finally got my head on right and realized I was really destroying the true up grading of my Fantail hobby. So I started giving away and selling my Fantails at a price a man could afford. So you could say I sold my culls, but my culls were ten times better than the birds these people had at home. You know what happened, they destroyed the birds they had at home and kept mine. So was my culls truly culls?

In the last 15 years I know I have helped raise the quality of the Fantails in our area, because I've seen it improve and the shows then started to make me sweat, but that's what it's all about.

Please don't get me wrong, I needed the money as bad as anyone and more so than most. I just thought my Fantails to me were priceless and if I could just get my feed cost out of them I was satisfied. My

loft, the work and the care for my Fantails came from my need for my Fantails.

I say do everything you can to improve your birds and others, because that's the enjoyment of raising Fantails. Winning is great, great and rewarding, also seeing someone else win is just as rewarding.

I had to sell all my Fantails over two years ago, because of a back injury and I truly miss my Fantails, the shows and your fellowship. I plan on some day of getting a few pairs just for my own pleasure here at home. I've been disqualified from work by the doctors, because of my back. I can sure tell you that being on a disabled pension you can hardly pay your everyday bills and not able to drive very far it's hard to buy fairly good Fantails at a price one can afford and ship in.

But, you can put this in your pipes and smoke it, "I shall return, by the grace of God." You men that are Christians and believe in prayer, I would appreciate it if you would remember me.

I have made many friends in the pigeon world and I miss you all greatly. I have gotten a couple of pairs of Indian Fantails, "yes, Indians," from Garry Glessmeyers. They are red and black saddles and they are of very good quality. They have raised some very good show birds. I sure thank Garry and I can highly recommend him and his birds. I can sure say thanks Garry and God Bless you for your thoughtfulness in my time of need. I'm looking forward to meeting you in person.

I have also gotten two pairs of Modenas from Willi Richert. Willi must have some outstanding Modenas, because he sent me some of the best powerful looking Modenas I have ever seen. Modenas are my next favorite breed of pigeon and they don't have to have a spotless clean floor as do our Fantails. I really enjoy the Modenas and the Indian Fantails, but they just don't fill the gap as the Fantails did. So that's why I just have to have a few good pairs of Fantails and I'm looking forward in getting them this fall.

The damp cold weather kills my back so I'm hoping to heat my loft this winter, so I can spend some time out there instead of sitting around in the house.

There is just one subject I am wanting to mention and that is support your local all breed clubs and show at their shows. These all breed clubs are the back bone of any special breed show. There are many one breed fanciers that will only show at their special breed meets and this is no good. If I've heard it

once I've heard it a hundred times, one breed fanciers say I don't show at an all breed show, because most of the time the judge doesn't know the finer points of my breed.

I can truly say, you guys that say that are only out for a name and the win. Most of these guys, I have learned are poor losers even when they do show at the special breed meets. I've heard it a hundred times from these guys, well the judge missed the best birds. As far as I'm concerned these types of pigeon breeders are poor winners and poor losers.

We are losing the all breed shows, because of this and if you can see a little deeper into this subject, you will see that our special breed meets are going to be a thing of the past or confined to certain location where there are all breed clubs. Did you know that we have lost 34 all breed clubs in the last 15 years?

The simple fact to this is, that the all breed clubs have the coops and the workers to set up a show. Then most of us just drive up and show our birds. I strongly feel if a person raises and shows pigeons and there is an all breed pigeon club in their area, and you are not a member and don't take an active part, by showing your birds at these shows, then you are only hurting your own breed and being a free loader. I sure hate to say all of this, but the pigeon world

is getting to learn more and more to this way of thinking and it's not good. So join, support and show with your local all breed shows. If you don't have one in your area, then start one up. If this decline continues, we will lose our District meets first, then our annual meet will be next. It's already getting hard to find different locations for the special meets.

Also your all breed shows need to do more advertising in the APJ. You don't have to just report on your shows, have a member of the month article. You all breed clubs have to do your part, by putting your club in the lime-lights and this will stimulate other clubs and will even help start up new clubs.

Well I hope this article helped some of you to know me and my love for pigeons and the number one - the Fantail. I have not intended to do any bragging and I would like to read more articles about you and how you have done with your birds. So there are a lot of you Fantail men that can sure write some exciting articles for the APJ if you just do it. If your articles sound like you're bragging then so be it, because it is better to brag than to put down, but tell it like it is.

Correspondence welcome and I have stamps and envelopes. Jerald Kitchens, 1290 Moffet Lane, Decatur, Ill. 62522. □

A Few Tips On Exporting Birds

by ROD LYSNE, Ferryville, Wisc.

The time was that American fanciers used to import Fantails from abroad, especially England and Scotland, to upgrade their own birds. With the upgrading and popularity of Fantails in the United States, however, the tables have been turned. Many foreign Fantail breeders have been turning to American lofts to upgrade their birds as American Fantails are the dominant force in the worldwide Fantail fancy.

In the past five years or so I have arranged for nearly a dozen exportations outside US borders: to countries as close as Canada and as far-flung as Denmark, England, South Africa and the Philippines. Each exportation requires its own set of arrangements and has its own peculiarities, but they all tend to follow some general guidelines. A brief overview of the matter of exporting birds, along with a few "do's" and "don'ts" might help save both time and money, along with a good deal of frustration in regard to this matter for other fanciers.

Naturally, it is easiest when one makes a shipment of birds abroad to send only one's own birds. As is often the case though shipments abroad often contain birds from more than one fancier and the person arranging for the actual export must make arrangements with his fellow fanciers to collect the birds to be exported and process them for the actual shipment. One word of advice here: If you are handling export of birds for other fanciers you will have far fewer headaches if their birds are delivered to your loft in person. If they are sent to your loft by air, make sure that they are sent to you prepaid. Also have an understanding with your fellow fanciers that you are not responsible for death or injury to their birds while in your loft waiting to be shipped. Further, make them aware that if you incur additional costs in shipping, transportation, vet bills, etc., they are responsible to pay their fair share.

The agriculture ministries of most foreign governments require that shipments coming into their borders

have two very important documents:

1. An Import Permit issued by their government to the importer and 2. An American Federal (USDA) Health Certificate. The importer of the birds must supply you with the required Import Permit as well as any other documents which his government might require. Here various ministries require differing documents, varying from one country to another. For instance, English authorities require a red aviary import label attached to the box. You should be certain that the importer does have all the required documents or the shipment will be refused -- I know!

Next you should contact your local veterinarian about obtaining a USDA Federal health certificate. Band numbers must be given on this document. Usually your local veterinarian will supply you with this document or you can obtain it on the state level from the USDA. The local vet must certify that the birds are healthy and then send it in to the nearest USDA office to receive federal certification. This health certificate is good for 30 days from date of issuance, unless otherwise noted. When it comes to some foreign import requirements there are those countries which require that a USDA vet visit your loft in person and certify that all birds are well. In other cases your own state may require that a shipment of a large dollar value have a loft inspection from a USDA vet. In a state such as Wisconsin which does a great deal of cattle exportation abroad, our vets are accustomed to the export procedure and are most helpful. If you develop your sources such as your local vet and are courteous about the matter a loft inspection from a USDA vet you will encounter no problems. Luckily in Wisconsin there is no charge for a USDA loft inspection when one is requested on occasion.

Be sure to contact your local vet long before your intended export shipment and make all arrangements with him. Most are very helpful, but also most ignorant when it comes to pigeons. My vet also takes care of my cattle and is extremely cooperative on the matter of health certificates.

The next step is to contact your local airport's air express department. Here again, cultivate some sources here and let them know in advance of your desire to export birds. The express agent is a very valuable person. He can and must check out the routing and any special matters of which you should be aware in the shipment of live animals. From him you will learn if the

air carrier enforces an embargo during winter months, whether flight transfers will meet with time enough for proper transfer, whether foreign air carriers take live animals on all flights or just on certain days. Luckily for me the agent with whom I have dealt is a very knowledgeable man with experience and patience. I value him and always attempt to cultivate his good will.

Once you have received all required documents from the importer, have the health papers in hand and have made arrangements with your air express agent at the airport you have to ready your shipping crates. The easiest for me are the sturdy, but light cardboard boxes (waxed) which many grocery stores receive frying chickens in. Be absolutely certain that you have allowed ventilation holes on the top, sides and ends of the shipping crate. Just on the top isn't good enough for another crate may be stacked on top of your and there go your birds.

The matter of the shipping crate is another item which must be investigated with great care by the importer and by you the exporter. The Philippines, for instance, require that no vegetable matter be used for bedding. So one resorts to cat litter or shredded paper. South Africa insists that all crates be insect-proof. Therefore small pieces of screen must be taped over all ventilation holes. You must check these matters.

When you think all is ready be prepared for the worst and go over every detail one more time. Are the band numbers of your birds the ones on the USDA health certificate? They better be! Check the dates on all your papers. Are the dates on the import permit, health certificate and other documents still in effect? Most import permits are good for 2 to 6 months; health certificates for one month. I have, however, received and been forced to work with an import permit which was good for only 10 days from issuance until import date at port of receipt. I aged considerably working with that one as 7 days had already lapsed upon its arrival in my mailbox.

When you address the shipping crates, be certain to give your full return address with telephone number and give the importer's full address with telephone number. Also state the name of the airport, city and health inspector if this is supplied by the importer.

It is wise to ask your express agent to contact the airline carrier that will be flying the birds overseas. He should inform them of the fact that your shipment is coming and to check carefully for it on the pre-arranged

flight.

By all means, keep a copy of your documents. Sometimes such things get lost, especially if a careless foreign carrier inspects shipments before accepting them. If this happens, the information and duplicates with document numbers can be wired ahead to proper authorities.

Once you have delivered the shipment of birds to the airport you should call the importer and let him know that the birds are on their way. Give him the routing, flight numbers and time of arrival. Then, hope for the best.

Yes, it is possible that there might yet be sand thrown in the gears. A good fancier friend of mine handled a shipment a couple years ago to England. The importer failed to mention which air terminal to send the birds to. You guessed it, the airlines sent them to the terminal which did not accept live animals. Back came the shipment. Malox, anyone? In another case, US export regulations had changed and a shipment of mine came back to me from Denmark because it did not include a value declaration. I had never heard of it before, but I sure know all about it now!

Don't let me discourage you from exporting good birds abroad. But do be aware that it does require foresight, planning and a bit of experience. One has to follow the rules and still be ready for quirks. The regulations change from year to year and from country to country, as well as from state to state and airline to airline. You just have to do a bit of research and usually all will go well. □



How & Why I Became A Follower Of The Queen Of The Fancy

by GRAHAM TAYLOR, England

As a youngster of nine years old, I first started to keep Racing Pigeons which I then kept for a number of years until I was about fifteen and then I happened to pay a visit to the lofts of Mr. Walley Lowther and there I saw for the first time his stud of Exhibition Fantails and of course, I immediately fell for the beauty of these proud little birds.

Later the following year I decided the time was right for me to change breeds and so I purchased my original exhibition Fantails, which were two pairs of Whites from Mr. A.A. Saunders of Leighton Buzzard.

With these birds and their offspring I have now been breeding for about 16 years and I am now pleased to say that they have done their fair share of winning at the various shows.

The most significant purchases to strengthen my stud have been the Silver Fantails purchased from Mr. Arthur Carr of Whitley Bay and the Blues purchased from Martin Adair, again the offspring of these birds have been quite successful.

At the present time I am mainly breeding and exhibiting the Silver, Blue, A.O.C. and Lace classes but quite frankly I don't have a favorite color, even though I do think that a nicely marked powder Silver is always a pleasurable sight.

My great love of Fantails stems from the pleasure it gives me to watch them performing and exhibiting their marvelous balance, carriage, alertness and true style at the shows, together with their tameness and friendliness which they usually exhibit only in their lofts, so demonstrating the two changing sides of an Exhibition Fantail.

I first started exhibiting my Fantails after visiting our local agricultural show in Teeside, and now I do try to exhibit them as much as possible because it is the only true way to compare your own strain of birds with a fellow fancier since they are all shown and viewed in the same walking pen by a pre-selected judge under the same conditions, hence you can observe if you closely examine the judging, the difference of your birds to the eventual winners, so judging your own birds by comparison to the other breeders birds.

Although I have had minor success in general in the Fantail Club Branch shows, I have no doubt in stating that the most satisfying and signifi-

cant moment I have experienced with my Fantails was when I won Best Fantail in show at Doncaster in 1977 with a Blue Splash. The experience was truly fantastic and totally gratifying.

I would encourage all Fantail breeders both young and old to exhibit your birds and see how they perform under show conditions, to listen to the experienced fanciers tips, to ask them for their true opinion of your birds by faulting them and then looking at other fanciers' birds that excel in the factor that your birds fail and then trying to improve your birds by exchanging birds with other fanciers, but most of all at the show you will meet people from all walks of life and you will find that you all have one factor in common on which a friendship starts, the true love of the Queen of the Fancy.

Over the last ten years I have seen a number of improvements in the structure of our exhibition Fantails but I would say the main factors have

been the vast improvement of depth and width of the body together with the increased top tail, together with the fact that people are spending more time on preparing their birds for show as in the case of the master of preparation for exhibition Martin Adair. Well done, Martin!

If I had to give advice to anyone just starting with the Queen of the Fancy, it would be to build a secure, watertight, roomy loft or shed, buy quality rather than quantity of one colour or variety of Fantail, definitely join a specialist Fantail Club, breed only from birds whose qualities compliment each others finer points such as a good tailed bird to a bird that excels in body and leg setting, etc., and never breed from a soft feathered bird, or a bird that umbrellas its tail or exhibits any other major faults, and go to your local show and just watch the judging.

Finally I would like to stress that to gain true satisfaction and relaxation from your chosen hobby you must be prepared to put a lot of work and preparation into your beloved feathered friends who will give you in return many pleasurable hours and make you many friends within our splendid hobby. □

The Torments, Dissillusionment And Final Satisfaction Encountered By A True Saddle Breeder

by JOHN BRAGG, Sandwith, Near Whitehaven, United Kingdom

Can you take disappointment without flinching?

Can you have your high hopes dashed and still carry on with your chosen hobby?

Are you prepared to experiment with different outcrosses and still end up with no youngsters worth keeping?

Are you prepared to devote a lot of time to your chosen hobby and be patient for years before you finally breed the one well marked, deep bodied Fantail which is set on good wide medium short well set legs, and has the head resting correctly in the pocket and exhibiting good top tail?

If the answer to all the above questions is in the affirmative, then the Saddle Fantail is the variety of Exhibition Fantail for you.

These are indeed, amongst the most interesting and fascinating of the Fantail varieties. The would be breeder of tip-top Saddles has not only to get shape, carriage, tail, action and colour, but on top of all he has to get markings, and that these take some getting few will deny, who have ever tried their hand at Saddle breeding.

The Fantail Club recognizes the difficulty breeders of these birds labour under, and instructs its judges that ten extra points are to be given to Saddles for marking, and five for colour when compared with the whites. What is there more handsome than a correctly marked, good coloured, typical shaped sound tailed, stylish Saddle Fantail? Very few birds can be compared to such a paragon of beauty. A beauty which in the eyes of the practical breeder, is still further enhanced by the great difficulty in obtaining it and the satisfaction so gained when such a specimen is produced.

The breeders who are known as successful breeders and exhibitors of Saddles are very few, indeed one could count them on one's fingers. As with the breeders, so with the birds - good ones are few and far between, and it is only in recent years that decent specimens have been exhibited at our shows. Now, however, there are some almost, if not quite, as good in general Fantail properties as are the Whites and self

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colours.

Difficulties and disappointments meet the breeders at every turn, enough to daunt even the most determined and resourceful of breeders. How often is it the experience of the Saddle breeder, when he has succeeded in getting a youngster grand in Fantail properties, sound coloured on shoulders, almost clean on breast and under body, to find it shows a couple or perhaps more coloured feathers right in the centre of the tail, which, in all cases, should be pure white. Again he gets them with clean necks and bodies as well as tails, good, in fact, excellent in all-round Fantail properties, yet has the mortification of seeing them come out of the nest badly bishoped on one or both shoulders, or worse yet, a couple of coloured feathers in the wing primaries. Then maybe he gets a specimen as near perfectly marked as possible in the nest raising his hopes to the seventh heaven by making him think he has bred a champion of champions, only to find it next day dead in the nest, or even worse still, see this marvellous squab mature into a complete waster as far as true Exhibition Fantail properties are concerned, and therefore totally unfit to grace the planned show pen with any chance of winning, not withstanding all its superb markings.

The difficulties in the breeding of Exhibition Saddle Fantails are only a few that beset the breeders of this variety, who if astute in their matings year by year, use their judgement and knowledge to the best advantage in mating for both correct markings and other Fantail properties, yet how often do they get fooled in the marking of the progeny and this after a long experience at the hobby. I have come to the conclusion that there is a considerable amount of what some would call luck or haphazard chance work in the breeding of Saddles, although I also believe that patient continuance in well doing gets its reward.

I have known many very well marked Saddles that have been bred from indifferently marked parents, and about as perfectly a marked Saddle I ever saw was produced from a badly mismarked Saddle cock that I obtained from Mr. James Roper of Cumbria, England.

If I was to advise future Saddle breeders I would say to them chose only good birds that have good type and excel in body and leg setting, do not bother so much at the start of establishing your own strain as to either the colour or markings of your Saddles. Always put type first and do

not hesitate to introduce good quality outcrosses of splashes into your Saddles, even though the Saddle marking tends to be recessive in nature and does very seldom express itself in a first generation outcross to a solid Fantail or even a splash.

Once you have utilized the splashes and possibly disposed of about 99% of the young, you will be in a position to hopefully breed some decent Saddles, but never be contented, always try to improve and create a family which consistently breeds birds of good type, etc., and lack the usual faults that are normally exhibited in the Saddle classes which are birds that have bad leg setting, lack depth and width of frontal, have too high a head setting and are normally too tall.

Once you are quietly content with the building of your "house", you can commence painting and always follow the genetic do's and do not's, and remember that you are able to

breed almost any colour of Saddle Fantail by outcrossing the correct bird carrying the colour you require, though not always a simply task, and remember when exhibiting you are allowed thankfully to trim your birds and always take advantage of this fact and put the birds down to the best of your ability.

Finally, I would like to say that if you have a great depth of patience and enjoy a totally new challenge, then the very uncertainty of breeding and exhibiting Saddle Fantails only lends zest to the breeding season year after year and when one succeeds in getting a real tip-topper, one can afford to feel proud of ones achievement and crow a little about it because it is the performance of a lifetime. There is simply no comparison as far as interest goes, in the breeding of White Fantails compared to Saddles. The ultimate challenge to the Queen of the Fancy and its breeders. □

How & Why I Became A Follower Of The Queen Of The Fancy

by J.D. MULLINS, England

As a complete newcomer to the Exhibition Fantail fraternity and a new member of the Fantail Club, I am looking forward to meeting fellow Fantail fanciers and making new friends within our chosen hobby during the forthcoming years.

At the present time I am finding it rather difficult to obtain information and meet fellow breeders on the south coast, but I am pleased to say that hopefully by joining the Fantail Club and visiting future shows and meeting fellow fanciers I will be advised of any useful tips on the management, breeding and exhibition of our beautiful feathered friends.

Briefly, I would like to describe how I started with the Queen of the Fancy.

Prior to me seeing a True Exhibition Fantail I had kept garden doves for several years and it was not until I visited Poole Park Zoo in Dorset last year, that I became interested in Exhibition Fantails.

There I saw the Fantails in many colours that were good in carriage and beautiful to the eye, these were being kept by the proprietor, Mr. David Flower, to whom I immediately introduced myself and from whom I purchased and later borrowed some fine exhibition Fantails.

At the present time I am breeding from these birds which are in Blue, White, Powder Silver and A.O.C.

together with some Blacks which I purchased from that helpful, fine exhibitor and breeder, Harry Zamur. I have also retained some of my previous garden Fantails that make excellent feeders and parents, which to me is one of the most important things when choosing your breeding pairs. In exhibition Fantails when breeding, I go mainly for type, good legs and without any visible faults, and both parents must be busy good feeders who do not leave the nest and neglect their young.

I am also interested in obtaining some Yellows, Creams and Red exhibition Fantails which are my favourite colours.

Finally, I am sincerely looking forward to the 1986 breeding and show season, when I am planning to take advantage of being a Fantail Club member by seeing how my own birds compete with some of the top exhibitors' birds, and hopefully obtain more useful information both verbally and in writing from the many Club members. □



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The National Fantail Club Of Canada Proposes A New Show

by BOB POMMER, Collingwood, Ontario, Canada

Greetings:

In a year that has seen the "Fantail Special" issue of the American Pigeon Journal and the "Altpeter Classic", we in North America have been presented with the extraordinary media exposure.

Now is not the time to rest on these accomplishments. We should be examining ways of building on the foundation that has been laid.

We in the *National Fantail Club of Canada*, would like to make a proposal to this end.

For many years fanciers on both sides of the 49th parallel have shown a desire to show with one another. People such as Burke, Lysne, Altpeter, Gray, McKee, Dannenburg, Diemer and McMahon, have made trips north to Canada while Martin, Racho, Pogue, Pommer, Zarlenga, Polly and Chambers have gone south to the United States. Wouldn't it be spectacular if we could create an opportunity for all of these people, plus the many dozens of others in each country, to show together at the same showhall? We know that, in theory, every show allows that possibility. The difference is that this show would be dedicated to this purpose.

The suggested name is *The Can-Am Challenge*. This name was chosen to reflect both the international scope as well as the challenge such an undertaking would be for all concerned.

This letter has been sent to every fantail organization on the continent. We hope that the club secretaries will make sure that it reaches their club rank and file via their respective club bulletins. To reach unaffiliated fanciers, ads will be placed in the major pigeon publications in both countries.

We are suggesting a late November or an early December 1987 date. This date was chosen for many reasons. By looking ahead 2 years we are hoping to leave plenty of time for proper organization. As well, it gives the hobby a break between major events. Of course we cannot overlook the time necessary to make sure that the Paramyxovirus won't dampen the enthusiasm.

The late fall time frame allows the birds to be in the best possible condition while still ensuring that the weather will cooperate for those who may have a long distance to travel.

To ensure that there is continuity, the *National Fantail Club of Canada* is

offerine to host the show. It will be our club's Annual Meet.

This does not preclude involvement by any other interested clubs. In fact, we encourage it. The more involvement that we have on a club level, the better the show will be. The location would reflect the geography of the clubs involved. Most towns are within 2 hours of the border.

Such items as: motels, restaurants, border crossing procedures, judges, awards, air transportation, etc., will all be published at least 6 months in advance. We are making this proposal this far in advance to allow for

discussion at this years shows.

What we in the N.F.C. need now is your club's official support in principle. It is obvious that you cannot determine participation levels at this early date, but you can tell us what you think of the concept and whether you are willing to support us. (Please note attached questionnaire).

Would you please return the questionnaire to:

The National Fantail Club of Canada, c/o Fred Koops, President, 242 Fairridge Road, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8K 5M4.

Our plans do not look beyond this one show so a second opportunity may not arise. Help us make it a reality by giving us your support.

We hope to have your initial reply by February 1, 1986.

Yours in the fancy,
Bob Pommer, Pub. Dir., N.F.C.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1) Do you feel that the concept of this show is a good one? YES NO
Why? _____

2) Would your club be interested in helping to promote the show? YES NO
If yes, what form of promotion could you provide? _____

3) Would you be interested in making it your club's Annual Meet?
YES NO

4) As a rough estimate, if the show did go, how many of your members do you think would be likely to:

ATTEND, BUT NOT SHOW _____

ATTEND AND EXHIBIT _____

EXHIBIT, BUT NOT ATTEND _____

5) Do you have any suggestions that would make the show a more viable possibility? _____

6) Do you have any general comments? _____

Starting In Fantails

by NIGEL & TOM WYCHERLEY, Halesowen, West Midlands, England

I started keeping pigeons in 1970 when I was nine years old. I was given a pair of farmhouse Fantails by a friend of my grandfathers who kept them as droppers for his racing pigeons. This pair was housed in an old rabbit hutch in the back garden. I had now caught the so-called "Pigeon Bug" and every advert that appeared in the local newspaper I wanted to answer.

My father who kept Tipplers and Tumblers in his youth converted our garden shed to house the increasing number of farmhouse Fantails I had bred or purchased off other pigeon fanciers in the Halesowen area.

I kept farmhouse Fantails until 1975 when on reading the local newspaper I saw the headline "Yul Brynner Buys Pigeons From Kidderminster" it went on to say that Yul Brynner had purchased some Fantails off Conrad Birch. Dad gave Conrad a ring the following week to inquire if he had any birds for sale. Luckily he had and we visited his loft shortly afterwards and came away with our first pair of exhibition saddle Fantails. In December 1975, we visited the Birmingham Poultry and Pigeon Show and for the first time saw the many different classes and colours which there were for Fantails. After this visit we joined the National Pigeon Association and the Fantail Club.

We decided to dispose of all our farmyard Fantails and concentrate on breeding saddle exhibition Fantails. In January 1976, we purchased a cock bird off Neville Ward and another hen off Conrad, and we were ready to start our first breeding season with two pairs of birds. During the three years we bred lots of birds, but we did not show any of them as we did not think them good enough, but we did visit as many of the major shows as we could picking up information everywhere we visited. We found everyone we asked was only too pleased to help and advise us on the care and management of our Fantails.

We entered our first show at Bolton in 1979 where we showed two young yellow saddles, as expected we were not in the cards but we were not disappointed only envious of the fanciers who could lace the tails of their birds. We have found this to be the most difficult part of preparing a Fantail for the showbench.

Over the years we have made important additions to our saddle stud from the lofts of: Conrad Birch, John Lowe, Jim Roper and Harry Zamur,

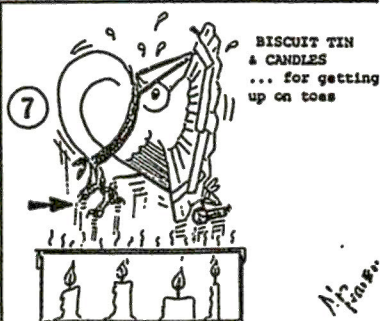
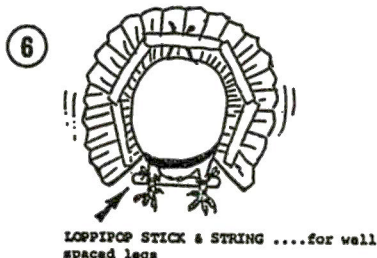
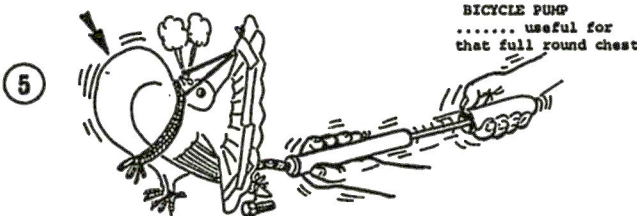
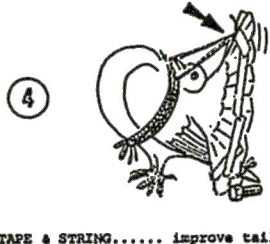
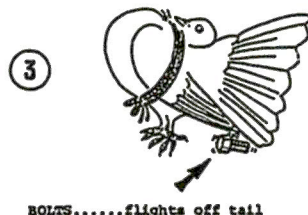
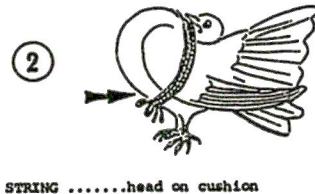
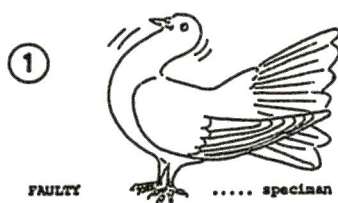
but our big breakthrough came at the start of the 1980 breeding season. After purchasing birds off Conrad and John we bred two smashing birds - a red saddle and a black saddle, these were entered for the 'Lancashire' show at Bolton and much to our surprise were awarded first and second prize in the young bird class. Since then we have achieved a fair amount of success with the highlight being the 1984 Club Show where we were fortunate enough to win the William Stevenson Memorial Cup for the Best Adult Saddle Fantail.

We bred from eight to ten pairs of birds a year, pairing up in late January and breeding through the

end of July. We always pair best cock to best hen regardless of colour as we feel it is more important to breed good type birds rather than birds with good colour. Breeding show quality saddles is not an easy matter and most of the birds we breed are not good enough for showing, but once in a while we manage to breed an above average bird which does well for us on the showbench. At the end of the breeding season we pull the tails of our show birds so that they will be ready for the forthcoming shows.

The main advice we can offer to people just starting in Fantails is to have patience, miracles do not happen overnight. Try and visit as many shows as possible and don't be afraid to ask people for advice. — Nigel and Tom Wycherley, 55 Windsor Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, England. □

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR FANTAILS..... By: Martin Pearson..England





American Pigeon Fanciers' Council

BOB PHILLIPS,
Publicity Chairman
Box 218
Lithopolis,
Ohio 43136

APFC Veterinary Group

Dr. David Marx, chairman of the Veterinary Group was pleased to learn the A.U. has granted his group the necessary money to bring a world renowned European Veterinarian to St. Louis this year. The veterinarian will be English speaking and pigeon diseases are his specialty. Dr. Marx will have more for us on this subject when plans have been firmed up.

APFC WRITERS GROUPS

by Jan Parrott-Holden

THE GEORGE ABBE SERVICE AWARD:

If you have read George Abbe's short book, *The Pigeon Lover*, you were probably impressed with the depth of the author's love for ferals. And, hopefully you were impressed too with the things that can be accomplished when the love is great enough.

The Writers' Group has the greatest chance for serving the hobby of any other organization I can think of. And with this thought in mind, I would like to announce that there will be an annual award presented for service to the pigeon hobby.

The award will be named for Mr. Abbe and the APFC will be seeking nominations from all hobbyists in the weeks to come. Service doesn't need to be limited to literary contributions, but certainly such contributions will be considered.

The important thing to remember is that this award is going to be given to a person who has worked to improve the pigeon's image. It doesn't mean that the recipient will necessarily be a winner at the show bench or in the air.

Suggestions, ideas, nominations??

GOOD NEIGHBORS

by Amicus Pigeoni

A family that moved into our block last year recently started a petition to get me to quit pigeons. Apparently these folks saw my Homers circling in exercise flights and got scared that some terrible diseases or a drop in their real-estate values would result. They got about a dozen signatures, and then the guy came to

our door to show me. We invited him in to talk, and the first thing he said was, "This is an ultimatum."

Well, I had heard about the petition from a non-signing friend, so I wasn't too surprised. I asked him what he had against me. "Nothing personal, just about those filthy birds you keep," he said.

"Have they soiled your place?" I asked.

"I don't say they did but they could," he replied.

"Well, I've seen you walking a big dog. Couldn't it soil my place?" I asked. "I realized that you are careful to keep it on a leash, but dogs carry hydrophobia and worms. Besides, they bark and bite."

"Don't be ridiculous," he said, rising to his full 6 feet 2. "My dog is healthy and under control. And he is a watch dog."

"Just the same, how would you like an ultimatum?"

"Don't try to change the subject, friend," he snarled, "this is about your nasty birds."

"Well, I'm glad you said friend, ol buddy. But my birds are not nasty. They don't bite or wake up the neighborhood or frighten kids. They don't have fleas or ticks. They don't tear up flower beds and they don't water trees and fire hydrants. They don't normally release droppings except where they roost or walk, and compared with dog droppings they are odorless. My pigeons' ancestors and relatives were message-carriers and war-heroes. They do not have any diseases or parasites that can harm humans. They are home-loving and gentle, and fascinating to observe, if you ever get the time. So please, chum, watch out how you call them nasty."

"I can see you are one of those people that hates dogs. Well, some people can't see reason. If you refuse to get rid of those pigeons, we will get an ordinance passed. Then ---"

"Whoa, pal," I interrupted. "Did I hear you say we? It just happens that I'm a lawyer, and am in good standing with the council."

"You'll be sorry about this," he growled, and stalked out. Well,

that's been weeks ago, and so far I'm not sorry. In fact, I've heard that their place is up for sale (at 10% more than they paid for it).

HIGH SIGHT

by W.F. Hollander

The American Pigeon Fanciers Council is a teenager yet. I have a great hope that it will survive to maturity without losing its innocence. But right now, the average American pigeon fancier not only doesn't identify with the APFC, he (she, it) doesn't recognize those letters. He (she, it) may have registered the atrocious logo as something maybe out of Washington D.C. In any case, I think we cannot assume that APFC represents a grass roots movement, and our PR has a long way to go in the Fancy yet. We gotta lift ourselves by our shoestrings, and I do mean we have little leverage.

Well, the obvious and simple solution is become a cult with a lofty message and more especially have a cult figure, a messiah, leader, podium pounder and sight raiser. It can't be Joe Quinn because he doesn't have the necessary ego and silver tongue for the job, and besides he is already wore out. In such a time of need a savior will surely arise. Ahoy, savior, up and at it!

The big thing for our savior to promote is not clean lofts or purty pitchers for the papers or squab dinners or a pigeon postage stamp or a vaccine against Newcastle or even legal aid for embattled victims of ordinances. No! All them efforts are worthy and I support them, but they don't really fire up the emotions much. So the big thing for our savior to promote is Progress (with a capital P). He's gotta give the fancier the vision of a grand central organization with modern computers that will file and index everything pigeon related. That will give instant access to membership lists around the world, information on feedstuffs, banding supplies, scientific reports, data of infinite variety. The central headquarters must have a magnificent building which will house a Hall of Fame, a Museum, and a Library including National Archives. And next to the building will be a permanent pigeon pageant -- at least a hundred living breeds and varieties for visitors to drool over.

Naturally the location of such a grand headquarters should be near the center of the country and not far from centers of learning. We must identify with brains, not bumpkins. That's where the pecuniary power

(Continued On Next Page)

derives from. So our savior will naturally point to St. Louis and use the Arch as His symbol (with pigeons flying around it).

Our savior will be a master of demagoguery if not Robert's Rules, and will have potent friends to get time on TV. He will distribute VCR's to where they will get the most action. His phiz will be familiar to all fanciers, and his nickname may be Noah. His wife's name may be Venus (she had doves).

Cults have chants. Ours could be "P is for Progress!"

GRIZZLY BEARS AND PIGEONS

by Fred ter Haar

Now you say what in the world do Grizzly bears and pigeons have in common? Aren't we all concerned with the slow decline of our hobby in some areas? Aren't we concerned that some cities restrict us as pigeon fanciers? How about restrictions by the Post Office and Airlines?

We keep chastising ourselves, saying that we are not doing enough. That may be a partial answer, but I feel it's just like what's happening to "ol' Grizz". It is a loss of habitat. The slow encroachment of suburbia. It is frozen chicken dinners and housing developments.

City Councils don't need our pigeons. They need a tax base, more land for houses and shopping centers.

Thirty years ago a lot of us lived on the outskirts of a town or on side streets. Or our loft was on the vacant lot next door, or on the back of our 200 foot lot. But, times have changed, most of us have moved. Our lots are now 75' by 100' with neighbors on three sides, some so close that you can spit in their windows. Isn't that loss of habitat? Aren't we being crowded out or legislated out of existence as pigeon fanciers? And the mass media sure isn't helping us either.

We can do nothing and get shot down one at a time or like "Ol' Grizz" retreat to the inaccessible areas and just get by. Or we can

fight back.....

Fight back, how?

Support the American Pigeon Fanciers Council is one way.

Run for City Council, change the restrictions. Influence everyone you can in our favor. Keep a clean, attractive loft. Don't let your pigeons roost all over your neighbors house. Take some of your birds to Scout meetings and give a talk. Push and sell our way of life, pigeons. Don't be bashful, heck, Washington, D.C. is full of lobbyists selling their viewpoints, so sell yours

Bring in young fanciers, help them, we need them. Ask your local pet shop why they don't sell pigeons. Push pigeons, the devil with rabbits and hamsters. Pigeons are what we're interested in, so do something for yourself.

MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

APFC Chairman Joseph W. Quinn was presented with this award by the A.U. at its most recent convention. We are indeed proud to have the recipient of this award as our leader. He may not meet Dr. Willard Hol-

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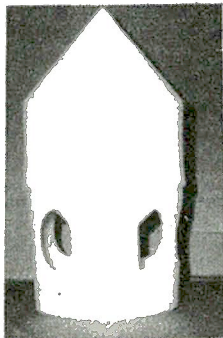
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lander's tongue-in-cheek requirements and oh yes, to be sure we have worn him out on many occasions however, he has great resiliency. □

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Our club wants to support the goals of the Council to sponsor improved education, research and public information on pigeons and the hobby.

Club Name _____

Sec.'s Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

We have _____

members and enclosed for enrollment _____

Pigeon Science Corner

by WILLARD F. HOLLANDER

Ames, Iowa

Eye, Eye, Sir

A Racing Homer squab, blind as a bat, and the owner asks me what is the cause. He is especially afraid that it might be hereditary, because the mating that produced it was between cousins. Of course they were outstanding as racers, but inbreeding maybe that caused a mutation?

Well, I do not know of any scientific study showing that inbreeding causes mutations. However, if a hidden (heterozygous) mutation exists already in the family, inbreeding may expose it (homozygous). If the same mating is kept going for another year or so, repeated production of the same abnormality would be very good evidence that such a hereditary basis is responsible. If the

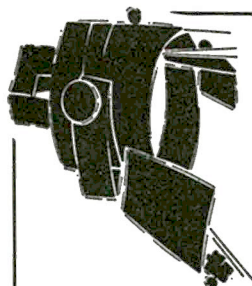
same abnormality never showed up again, then heredity would seem to be unlikely; the original case might have been a "developmental accident" as a result of some unfavorable condition or infection in the egg. An example of this sort was reported by Wendell Levi in THE PIGEON (Paragraph 576.)

Blindness is a very interesting subject for genetic analysis, but few fanciers have patience enough to baby such birds. Moreover, blind males are only breedable by artificial insemination, and that is difficult. Males with a variety of "poor vision" abnormalities may be able to breed naturally, however, if in individual coops. One of the most interesting and mysterious kinds of poor vision is somehow connected

with the barless pattern factor. I call it "foggy" vision. In addition to being quite varied, the condition may largely clear up with maturity. Any experience and observations from fanciers breeding barless will be most welcome. (How about it, Dan Konen and those barless Homers, APJ July page 24????). Anyway, a review of genetic studies of eye abnormalities to date has been published (1981, Iowa State Journal of Research 55:323). It is fascinating to cross a male having one type of abnormality to a female having another and see 100% of their squabs come perfectly normal. Can you explain that?

Racing Homer folks talk a lot about "eyesight" -- some sort of feature that they profess to see and which indicates something about racing ability. The language is more like that of a circus barker than of a student, and I have seen no scientific reports backing up the claims. Caveat emptor, and keep your eyes peeled for fraud! I'll be waiting (a long time, probably) for the Cornell crowd to make a statement about all that. (Let sleeping dogs lie, see?)

Did you know that the eye of the pigeon embryo is already formed by the third day of incubation? What could go haywire in 3 days? Eye wonder. □



Spotlight On Youth



American
Pigeon
Fanciers'
Council

by JAN PARROTT-HOLDEN,
Youth Chairman & Media Consultant,
Vancouver, Wash.

"Youth is full of sport,
age's breath is short,
Youth is nimble, age is lame;
Youth is hot and bold,
age is weak and cold;
Youth is wild, and age is tame."

Wait a minute. Those aren't my words. They happen to belong to that literary sage, William Shakespeare. And, as I grow older, I must admit I do wonder if there isn't a bit of truth to them. Then, I meet a pigeon fancier who is fast approaching what we call the Autumn of his/her life, still excited, still full of enthusiasm and faith is born anew.

It's been several months since I requested that young pigeon hobbyists write me. And, because we are a reward-oriented society, I offered a years free subscription to the APJ for each outstanding contribution. Three letters arrived. I waited. But still, there were only three young pigeon fanciers interested in my proposal.

I'd be depressed, except for the fact that the three who did reply were so enthusiastic. Fact is, they

were all the things Mr. Shakespeare spoke of in his poem. I'd probably change my column to "Spotlight on the Old-timers" if it weren't for those three power-charged letters.

In the very near future I will be featuring one of those fanciers. His name is Dave Thomas and he lives in Frackville, Pa.

I hope that Dave's interest will spark an enthusiasm in others. He has a lot of spirit; and it's that spirit that will promote our hobby in the years to come. My thanks to the young people who cared enough to tell me about their love for pigeons. If there are others of you out there, consider supporting this column. Mr. Worley considers it important. It is important to the readership, and probably most of all, **it is important to the future of our hobby.**

Send any response to: Jan Parrott-Holden, 2617 S.E. 138th Loop, Vancouver, Wash. 98684.

*Pictures to accompany your write-up are always appreciated and add interest for the APJ readers. □

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Organizations



Central Oriental Frill Club News

by DALE A. JETT, Pub. Dir., Litchfield, Ill.

LOUISVILLE! The premier young bird show in the U.S.A. The great fall kick off show. And for some, it's a show of anticipation. All summer long everyone is striving for that certain pigeon, that potential champion. Baby Frills are checked daily, matings are re-evaluated and sometimes changed in mid-season. A close eye is kept on the feeders, as an occasional handfeeding is in order. The frill loft and the feeder pens are a bustle of activity. Then slowly like beautiful flowers, emerging, changing, developing before your very eyes, those baby frills have changed into "presto" beautiful show specimens.

That day has arrived and we are on our way. For me and my wife, Peggy, it is just a short 265 mile trip eastward on Route 164. I can always feel that exhilaration build as we drop over into the Ohio river bottom, as, for a brief moment, we have a panoramic view of Louisville, and we all know what awaits us. Old friends, new friends, good times, and enjoyment for all. And of course, the very best young birds from a fruitful summer.

This year in Louisville was just short of phenomenal. With no advance advertisements or hoopla, there were still 125 Oriental Frills of outstanding quality. This certainly says something for the C.O.F.C. and its members.

That knowledge man from the "Sunshine State", Bill Ross, had the honor of judging the show. As usual, Bill performed a fine job for all.

There was extraordinary beauty and power in the Satinette Class this year, but the Blondinettes were not to be denied either, as their grace and charm became very evident in the final judging.

"Champion Frill", "Best Blondinette", and "Best Blondinette Cock" were all won by a powerhouse of a pigeon, a red Blondinette cock, #84, owned by the "Good Doctor", Frank Serra. Frank then went on to make it a clean sweep: Best Satinette #30, which also captured "Best

Satinette Hen," Best Satinette Cock #195, and finally, "Best Blondinette Hen", with a honey of a Silver White-Barred hen. Frank certainly seems to know what he is doing with these "Gems of the Orient", as he is well on his way to Master Breeder status. As expected, Frank was unanimously elected Judge for the Young Bird Show next year.

Saw something at the Louisville show that was a treat for the eyes. I, like many other frill breeders, have a special fondness for the dilute colors. Tom Berich, "Mr. Frill", from Pennsylvania, exhibited a Lavender Cock, #97, that was something to behold. I tried to talk Tom out of this pigeon as did several others, I am sure, but the "white knuckle grip" told me Tom knew he had something he should keep. We'll all look forward to seeing more dilutes from Tom.

African Owls At Louisville

by TIM STAJKOWSKI, Bay City, Mich.

The Central African Owl Club held its annual young bird show with the Louisville Young Bird Show. We had a good turnout with 79 African Owls on display. Karl Teser did the judging and did a very good job.

The winners of the color classes are: Best Blue Young Hen, Wayne Diviney; Best Blue Young Cock, Wayne Diviney; Best Young White Hen, Wayne Diviney; Best Young White Cock, T.E.Z. Loft; Best Young Black Hen, Jerry Asper; Best Young Black Cock, Wayne Diviney; Best Young Dun Hen, Jerry Asper; Best Young Dun Cock, Gerald Novak; Best Young Red Hen, Tim Stajkowski; Best Young Red Cock, Tim Stajkowski; Best Young Yellow Hen, Tim Stajkowski; Best Young Yellow Cock, Tim Stajkowski; Best Young Pied Hen, Mike Nowojczyk; Best Young Pied Cock, Wayne Diviney; Best Young A.O.C. Hen, Wayne Diviney; Best Young A.O.C. Cock, Wayne Diviney. The Champion was #26 a

Missed Cal and Jackie Ashton at the show this year. Also missed those powerful blue Sats of Cal's. This man has done more for the Blue Satinette in the Midwest than any other person for many years, and I'm sure those blues have spread out to help build many other lofts. We'll have to get Cal's personal story on this sometime. I understand Cal and Jackie will be with us next year for sure, as they have finally moved into their new home in the suburbs, and can now concentrate on those Frills.

One of the greatest things about showing with the Central Oriental Frill Club is the fellowship and friendship that develops out of these meets. Once in a while, discord and unharmonious little things rear their ugly heads. But gentlemen, we are all adults and have the ability to overcome such things.

The competition in the C.O.F.C. is very keen and all members have a certain show-consciousness about them. Without it, we wouldn't be frill breeders. But also remember, we have a common bond. After all, we are a "band of brothers and sisters" in pursuit of the beautiful frill pigeon.

Which brings me to my closing words for this month. Gentlemen, it is time for another Oriental Frill special. Our last one was November 1975. So spread the word! Interested persons can contact me or Henry Schmahl. Let's all be a "Frill Special Booster". — Dale A. Jett, RR 3, Box 167-A, Litchfield, Ill., 62056. □

Young Dun Hen bred by Jerry Asper, Best Opposite Sex was a Blue Young Cock bred by Wayne Diviney. Congratulations to both Jerry and Wayne on their splendid wins!

The exhibitors were: Urban Billmeier, Chicago, Ill.; A.J. Stratton, Fort Worth, Texas; Wayne Diviney, Crestview, Fla.; Jerry Asper, Omaha, Nebr.; Mike Nowojczyk, Spring, Texas; T.E.Z. Loft, Carlisle, Pa.; Dave Forsberg, Menominee, Mi.; Gerald Novak, Vulcan, Mi.; Dan Vincent, Wilson, Mi.; Dan Brown, Stephenson, Mi.; Al Knauer, Jeffersonville, Ind.; Tim Stajkowski, Bay City, Mi.; and Bob Pierson.

If interested in joining the Central African Owl Club just send \$5.00 to: Tim Stajkowski, 1413 S. Raymond, Bay City, Mich., 48706. We will start a quarterly bulletin in January and offer a standard, so if you raise African Owls why not join the fun and join the Central African Owl Club. □



(R)★

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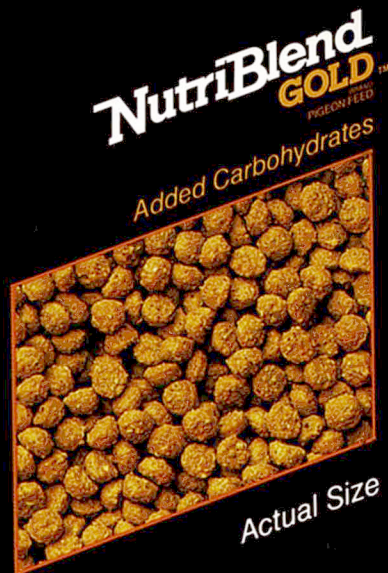
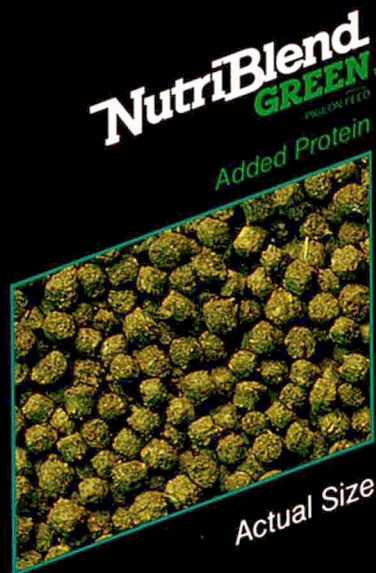
NutriBlend Green is a high protein (and lower energy) diet, while NutriBlend Gold is a high energy (and lower protein) diet.

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Check your Yellow Pages under "Feed Dealers" or call 314/982-2348 for a location near you. If your nearby dealer is out-of-stock, an order request requires two to four weeks.



Feeding Directions

Feed to pigeons as much as will be consumed in 20-30 minutes twice daily. NutriBlend Green and NutriBlend Gold are designed to be blended as needed to achieve suggested feeding programs depending upon type of bird (racing/show), age of bird, season and situation. Supply fresh, clean water at all times.

Blending Recommendations

The chart below gives general recommendations on how to blend NutriBlend Green and NutriBlend Gold to achieve optimum performance depending on the type of bird (racing or show), age of bird, season and situation.

Suggested Use*	Blend Green/Gold	% GREEN					Protein %	Available Energy Cal/Oz	Available Carbohydrates %
		100%	75%	50%	25%	0%			
Breeding (Feed 1 mo. prior & during)	100/0	●●●●●					18	80	55
Feeding Squabs Training Race Birds	75/25		●●●●●				17	83	56
Feeding Young Birds (over 6 weeks) Summer Maintenance Molting	50/50			●●●●●			16	86	57.5
Spring/Fall Maintenance Post Race (1 day)	25/75				●●●●●		15	89	59
Winter Maintenance Pre-Race (1 day) Pre-Show	0/100					●●●●●	14	92	60
*The following are suggested only as guidelines. Adjust to suit your own birds as required.		0% 25% 50% 75% 100% % GOLD							

Important Notes

- 1 Do not feed extra trace mineral supplements (i.e., health grit) since this will produce excessively loose droppings. Plain grit and oyster shell may be fed, but are not necessary.
- 2 Feeding extra grain will dilute NutriBlend's scientifically balanced nutrition, so grain supplementation is not recommended.
- 3 The natural ingredients in NutriBlend products may cause some variation in dropping color.



Metro Pigeon Club News

by ELMER F.T. UHRICH, National City, Calif.

The Metro Pigeon Club completed another very successful year in the Pigeon Fancy. The Club increased in membership after several years of going down hill. Metro Pigeon Club progresses by signing up 62 members in 1985. In 1978 through 1980 only 30 some members each year. 1982 through 1984 we only had 40 some members. I think this is a worthy note to mention. This naturally has brought on more pigeons for show, also helps the raffle. The Metro Pigeon Club's best year was 1973 with 81 members. 1974 had 82 members. 1975 had 76 members. From then on things went down.

The Metro Pigeon Club lost one of our very best fanciers, Arthur Kubo at the age of 59 years old. He passed away with kidney failure on Sunday, November 17, 1985. Art Kubo was an inspiration to the Metro Pigeon Club, always figuring on ways to help the club. He donated many potted plants in the raffle, putting West of Englands for people to win and get a start. Art's favorite and only breed was the High Flying West of Englands. He would do anything to get one started in Wests forever making deals to get them interested and help them get started.

I held a meeting suggesting three different choices to raise money for the Cancer Fund to the club members. Ramona Colesanti thought the best one was to give the money from the raffle and double it with money from the Club's Treasury fund. Everyone voted on it at once. Don Klatt collected \$31.00 so that night I wrote a check for \$62.00 to the San Diego Cancer Fund Society. The next morning I made a telephone call to make sure it went to the right place. They were thrilled with the idea. Asked for Mrs. Kubos address to send her a card for it. We had one of our smaller crowds today, due to all the rains we been having lately. Several people complains of their birds getting all dirty, etc.

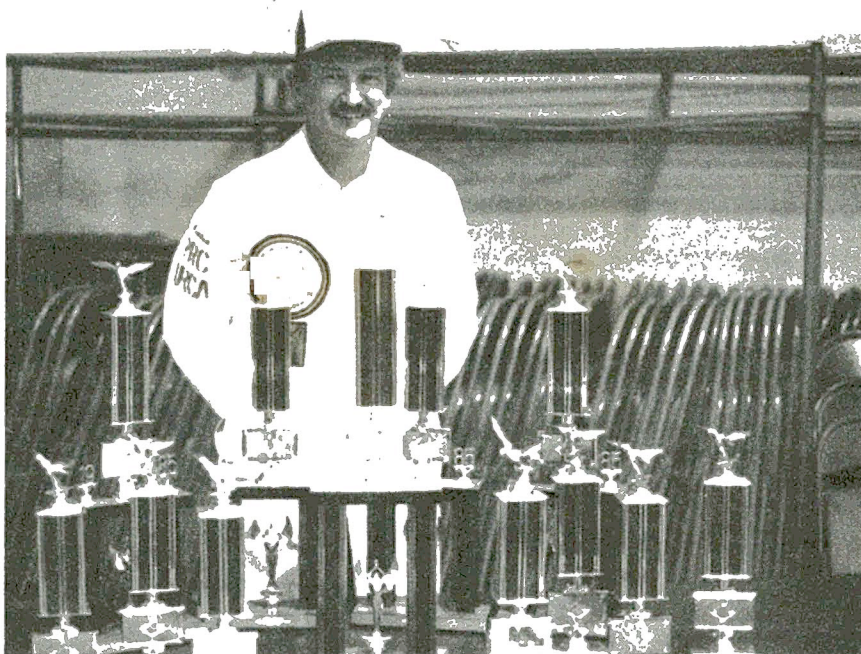
Art Kubo was also in with the best West of England in Los Angeles, Ca., monthly lawn shows held regularly for years with them. He rated up at the top with the Best of West of England breeders. I must say Art Kubo was a good sport, always jolly, joking and laughing. Never complaining about his dreaded disease of cancer of the bones. Art Kubo definitely was a very likeable man and is really missed by all of us that knew him so well. No words can explain how much he meant to all of us.

This show was held on December

1, 1985, at its regular place and regular time with a total of 88 birds entered in the show. Don Klatt held the raffle and lo and behold the very first ticket drawn was mine for a bag of pigeon feed. I could not believe it. The other three bags went to Ramona Colesanti, Paul Platz and

Stanley Gentz. Joe Colesanti donated a pair of Chinese Owls. R. Smith donated a pair of Homers and a plant all won by Joe Rizzo. Ramona won two potted plants. Ed smith two plants.

Had a very nice gathering of pigeon fanciers having a good time chatting with one another. Very beautiful weather and enjoyable day was had by all. □



U.R.C. YOUNG BIRD NATIONAL WINNER

"Ed" Emerson, winner of champion and all reserves at the 1985 United Roller Club Young Bird National. — Photo by Dennis Kaven, Des Moines, Iowa.

United Roller Club News

by DENNIS KAVEN, Des Moines, Iowa

The New Year is upon us and already the members are talking with anticipation about the breeding season. This aspect of the hobby is what every fancier values more than anything else, hope springs eternal.

The U.R.C. hosted two national shows during 1985 and as many of you might have heard Merl "Ed" Emerson from Muskogee, Oklahoma, was again the big winner. The first show was the Young Bird National held in Des Moines, Iowa. "Ed" totally dominated this show by winning Champion and all the reserves. The photograph submitted with this article shows "Ed" with some of the hardware from the Des Moines show.

The Midwest Roller Club hosted the U.R.C./P.R.C. combined national in Hammond, Indiana. This December National saw the show ring being again dominated by Mr. Emerson. "Ed" went Champion through all the reserves and 19 out

of 20 in the age and sex categories. Only the 5th Reserve Young Cock was taken by a quality bird by Bobby Everston of Topeka, Kansas. I would like to say a few words about the Emerson Champion at the National. My good friend Eldon Boone made an interesting analogy when he said that the champion old cock that won stood out from the rest of the entries in the same way a Fantail would have, had it been exhibited against all the Rollers. This dark tortoise marked cock was so outstanding that no bird in the show even came close.

Even though the weather was cold, the friendship and hospitality at the National was warm. The fancy owes a thank you to the hosting club and continuing success on future exhibitions.

Let us all make plans right now to meet in Oklahoma City this year for the 1986 National. Put those birds together and raise yourself a winner. Good Luck. □

National Birmingham Roller Club News



Dedicated to the preservation and further development of the Birmingham Roller in the air.

by **W. CARL HARDESTY**,
Public Relations Director
Rt. 2, Box 606, Lewisport, Ky. 42351
1-502-264-1690



As you will see with what follows in this article we have some very interesting things going on in the NBRC. The NBRC is a club for the flying roller fancier and I believe it is the best going today! We have six bulletins per year with several pages of interesting reading for the club members with articles written by some of the best roller fanciers in the hobby today, bands available for members in colored and plain, flying contests, certified spinner program, pedigree forms, patches and other items for the flying roller fancier. If you would like to become a member of the NBRC family then just send \$7.00 to George Valiska, 7985 Cross Creek Dr., Glen Burnie, MD 21061.

Sometime around the first of the year 1985, I had an idea for an article that I thought would be of interest to the roller fancy at large. While most of us have read articles on the same topic by several different fanciers I couldn't remember being able to compare their ideas all at the same time. So I put together a form letter with 11 questions and sent it out to different fanciers I thought that we all would like to know their answers. The following is that form letter.

Dear

I have worked up a list of fanciers who I felt it would be good to have their views on various subjects. I have mailed this form letter to you because I felt you were one of these people. If you would please answer the following questions, all or part and mail back to me it would be greatly appreciated. After I have

enough of these back in my hands, I plan to have them published in the NBRC and possibly the APJ. I realize there are so many articles written covering these same subjects I thought it would be interesting to have several fanciers views on each subject at once. Any help you can give would be appreciated. Please do not make a long answer to these questions, but do explain in brief, the idea is to get your views.

1. Who got you started in performance rollers?

2. Who would you single out as having a large impact on you in the roller sport?

3. What family of rollers did you start with and how would you describe your family now?

4. Do you feel that line breeding is the only way to produce quality rollers and must we in-breed?

5. Besides the performance in the air what other qualities do you look for in rollers?

6. To what extent do you think a fancier can color breed, if at all?

7. How important is the hole from the side view of a spinning roller, if at all and how often have you seen it?

8. Describe what you feel is a perfect roll.

9. What is a good number to have in a kit of rollers?

10. What do you think is the best scoring system and how many birds in the kit?

11. What do you think is the best advice you could give to a fancier new as well as old?

Yours in the Sport

Buffalo Fancy Pigeon Club News

by **GENE KORNACKI**, Pub. Dir., Lancaster, N.Y.

I have no news on our annual winter show due to the fact that it was cancelled due to the PMV scare.

As you recall in my last report I mentioned Al Grace as our only master breeder. Well this month I would like to honor Leonard Kisiel of Depew, N.Y. He was the one who re-organized and saved the Buffalo Club from extinction. Due to the fact that it was disbanded for one reason or another, Mr. Kisiel not only re-started the club but served as pre-

sident and helped make it a strong organization. Leonard has been raising pigeons as far back as I can remember and raises muffed tumblers and racing homers. Without him there would be no Buffalo Fancy Pigeon Club. Also, Mrs. Kisiel was a driving force behind the revival of the club. So what can I say, but hats off to Mr. and Mrs. Kisiel who made the Buffalo Fancy Pigeon Club the success it is today. □

W. Carl Hardesty
Rt. 2, Box 606
Lewisport, KY 42351
1-502-264-1690

P.S. Please help me make this work, just a little of your time.

The following is a list of the fanciers I have received an answer from: Roger Baker of Rose Bud, Ark., Tony Dasaro of Sellersburg, Ind., Joe Stayer of Olean, N.Y., Larry Hubbard of Lewisport, Ky., Paul Bradford of Salt Lake City, Ut., Terry Rhodes of Paragould, Ark., Rick Schoening, Crain, Mt., Leo Armstrong, Ortonville, Mi., Tony Roberts, Piedmont, S.C., Ron Kumro, Lancaster, N.Y., Herb Sparks, Longmont, Colo., Don Simpson, Anderson, S.C., Tim Payne, Knottsville, Ky., John Castro, Anderson, S.C. and yours truly W. Carl Hardesty, Lewisport, Ky.

I think that is a really fine collection of noted roller fanciers from around these United States, don't you!!

Now for the first question and their answers. Who got you started in performing rollers? John Castro ... I started flying rollers when I was 11 years old. As for quality performance rollers, I would have to say, having a flying club, really got me going good. Since 1980 the interest in flying and having flying contest often with good competition made me want to excell and improve to be #1. Herb Sparks ... Bill Pensom. Don Simpson ... my friend, John Bailey got me started in performance rollers about 1945 while I was in early grade school. Bailey had worked with racing homers while in the military. After being discharged he moved into our neighborhood and I moved into his back yard where the pigeon loft was. Bailey decided that maybe I would stay at home if he gave me his kit of rollers. Thus he did and I did. Ron Kumro ... I sort of always had an interest in tipplers and rollers and flew tipplers for many years as a teenager. I first saw some pensoms in Buffalo that a fellow had purchased direct from Bill and got three pair. Have had Birminghams ever since (about 20 years). Tony Roberts ... Don Simpson. Leo Armstrong ... I was given birds by an old German imigrate which I realized later were birds not to his standard. This by the way was back in 1930. Rick Schoening ... My father used to have performing rollers as a boy. He brought home a couple of pairs when I was 4 years old. Terry Rhodes ... I got my first performing rollers from a Mr. Reid Molm in 1965, a top racing homer man. I got out of rollers in 1970 for Uncle Sam and I got started again in 1978 when I had the time again. Paul Bradford

... My grandfather was a naturalist and loved wild life, namely birds and flowers. When the Merediths moved into his apartment and their son had pigeons it was OK with him. My first pair of rollers were from Reid Meredith. Larry Hubbard ... I raised rollers as a kid off and on. In 1973 Jerry Boehman got me started again. Jerry got me performance orientated. Joe Stayer ... Nobody got me started, I found two birds at the University of St. Bana's in their barns and I started asking questions and seem Shine Lone gave me my first APJ and I ordered my real rollers from Allen Daniels and later 2 pair from Russ Harter. I since found other as good or better than these. Tony Dasaro ... I started with rollers in 1980, but my real start with per-

forming rollers came when I met Carl Hardesty, Jerry Boehmann and Larry Hubbard. These men had the birds I really wanted, and all were willing to share birds and ideas. Roger Baker ... Russ Harter. Carl Hardesty ... my mother seems to believe I started with rollers at about the age of eight, I really don't know - it seems like I have always had the birds. I used to have pictures of me in the back yard with birds all over me eating out of my hands and I was little. A pigeon jock by the name of Mr. Blinco got several of us young fellows started at an early age and I believe the birds were out of the Russ Harter and Chapman families, we called them the \$5.00 birds (that is what they cost and that was a long time ago). Tim Payne Carl Hardesty. □

in part because the proposed color standard is ready for a vote while the updated by-Laws are not and also because the issues are distinctly different and as such should be voted separately. Also in the minutes Dale Jett is the latest to suggest we have another APJ Special and has volunteered to take on the project. Will discuss each issue in Baltimore. Dave goes on to say in his letter he had a very poor early season but salvaged it too late to do much at the shows. Plans to work on a program of developing Visors.

Just as I was about to close, had a Christmas card and note from Brick. Tells me we had only about four or five fanciers showing at each of the Rocky Mountain, Pageant and Phoenix shows. Highlights one of the programs with Regional meets unless we make a concerted effort to build up our membership and the need for minimum requirements to qualify for MB points. Winners at these meets were Kenn Phipps, Tally Mezzanatto and Brick Eldredge respectively. Kenn had written he was still in the clouds after flying back to Oregon with his Champion Frill, Best Young Frill and Best Old Cock. That's enough to put anyone on Cloud 9, but when it's a first time win of this magnitude it's really something special. Congratulations Kenn and all the winners.

Hope the New Year got off on the right foot for you. Now how about keeping those good resolutions like:

1. Getting your dues in - right now.
2. Getting at least one new member into the APFC this year - like now.
3. Being a Champion Frill Booster - always. □

American Oriental Frill Club News

by J.G. LISKA, New Canaan, Conn.

Family doing last minute Christmas shopping, Bing Crosby records on the stereo, and new fallen snow outdoors makes you feel rather mellow. Sort of difficult coming up with much of a pigeon column, but here goes.

Hard to realize the AOFC meet in Baltimore is just around the corner and once that is behind us there is a whole new breeding season ahead. I seem to always be a little behind the times. I had a conversation with Dave Workman and he advised he was moving to New Mexico and giving up his Frills for a year or so. Was planning to announce the welcome news at our meeting that Hubie Rieth had agreed to take over the responsibility again as our Sec.-Treas. This will be an interim appointment until our next election. But alas to my surprise I see Hubie's name and address appearing in our APJ monthly ad as the Sec.-Treas. I'm sure you all join in welcoming Hubie back and appreciate his willingness to take on this responsible position once again. Thanks, Hubie.

Had a very pleasant surprise a little while ago when Chuck McAlpin called. Haven't heard much from the Central Region gang for a long time and would like to cover more of their activities. Chuck called to report they had 120 Frills at their Chicago Regional Meet. Then had a nice letter from David Forsberg about the show and advising a number of members couldn't make the show because of a heavy snowstorm. We certainly have been having very wide spread adverse weather conditions early this year. Jay McGehee won Champion in Chicago with a black Blond old cock. Dave indicated he

believes this gives Jay sufficient points for Master Breeder and he wishes to submit his name in nomination. Jay certainly has made a great comeback after his devastating flood losses. Dave also sent along a copy of the minutes of their meeting conducted by V.P. McGehee, and asked that they be read at the Baltimore meeting. They are requesting a follow through on the Master Breeder jackets proposed several meetings ago and suggesting a silk screened, J.C. Penney Co., coat, which was shown at the meeting. Personally, I feel achieving this distinction justifies a little better quality recognition. Also asked that new by-Laws and color standard be acted upon. Plan to handle these as two separate items

The National English Trumpeter Club's 4th Annual New York Meet

by GENE KORNACKI, Lancaster, N.Y.

The NETC held their annual district meet in Rochester, N.Y., the home of Kodak Camera. The number of entries were down this year due to the PMV scare, but we were still able to put another nice show together. Stan Woods, for the second year in a row, won the top spot with a nice black self hen. Gene Kornacki took reserve with a red self cock. The judge for this show was Bill Athey from Damascus, Maryland, who did a very fine job.

I would like to thank Bill Hart and the rest of the Rochester Fancy pigeon club for hosting our show. Rochester put on one of their best shows in a while with around 600

birds. Modenas lead the way with 100. Kornacki took best Schiatti and Dion of Canada best Gazzis.

I also would like to mention that Stan Woods of Ithaca, N.Y., who has been breeding English Trumpeters for 34 years, has made tremendous strides in the last year. His show record in Kentucky at the NYBS show proves it. Stan really knows his English Trumpeters. Look out for Stan in the future.

Also anyone who is interested in getting started in English Trumpeters can contact me at 684-1606 for information. Anyone in the western, N.Y. area, and Northern, PA., that is is. □



RESERVE CHAMPION

Pat Alston (right) and Steve Chichester (left, A & C Squabs of Seattle, Wash., is shown with their Giant Homer that won Reserve Champion and Best Utility at the King Co. Pigeon Fanciers 9th Annual Show. — Photo from Guy Bevens, Algona, Wash.

King County Pigeon Fanciers

by GUY BEVENS, Pub. Dir., Algona, Wash.

King County Pigeon Fanciers held their 9th Annual Show November 9-10, 1985, in Renton, Washington, at the Musicians Hall. The following is a list of the winners at this show:

Champion of Shows: Kenneth Phipps, West Linn, Oregon, Oriental Frill (Blondinette).

Reserve Champion: A & C Squabs, Seattle, Washington, Pat Alston and Steve Chichester, Giant Homer.

Best Utility: A & C Squabs, Seattle, Washington, Pat Alston and Steve Chichester, Giant Homer.

Best Rare: Algona's Feather Haven, The Bevens', Algona, Washington, Damascene.

Best Sporting: Larry Baginski, Seattle, Washington, Birmingham Roller.

Best Fancy: Kenneth Phipps, West Linn, Oregon, Oriental Frill (Blondinette).

nette).

Best Junior: Mitchell Lofts, Edmonds, Washington, Voorburg Shield Cropper.

K.C.P.F. would like to thank the following individuals who judged at this year's show: All Cooley, Surrey, Canada; Dave Holloway, Hillsboro, Oregon; Larry Baginski, Seattle, Washington; Harry Hudgins, Seattle, Washington; Orrie Moore, Longbranch, Washington and Lou Fournier, Puyallup, Washington. Also thanks to all the exhibitors who displayed their beautiful pigeons, and to Tradewinds, Inc., of Tacoma, Washington and Lande Feeds of Renton, Washington, who once again supported us through the raffle and feeding of the show.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this one of our best shows yet. Come join us next year for our 10th Annual Show, November 8-9, 1986. □



CHAMPION OF SHOW

Kenneth Phipps, West Linn, Oregon, is shown with his Oriental Frill (Blondinette) that won Champion of Show and Best Fancy at the King Co. Pigeon Fanciers 9th Annual Show. — Photo from Guy Bevens, Algona, Wash.



BEST JUNIOR EXHIBIT

Mitchell Lofts, Edmonds, Wash., won Best Junior Exhibit with a Voorburg Shield Cropper at the 9th Annual Show of the King Co. Pigeon Fanciers. — Photo from Guy Bevens, Algona, Wash.

Central African Owl Club News

by TIM STAJKOWSKI, Bay City, Mich.

The Central African Owl Club held its 29th Annual Show, November 23, with the Chicago Pigeon Club. There were 88 African Owls entered. Jim Reynolds did the judging and did a very good job. Champion was an old A.O.C. hen shown by Dave Forsberg, Best Opposite Sex was a Dun Old Cock shown by Dave Forsberg, Best Young cock was a Black shown by Tim Stajkowski and Best Young Hen and Best Young was a Pied shown by Fred Endres. Other awards were: Best Young Black, Tim Stajkowski; Best Young Blue, Urban Billmeier; Best Young Dun, Tim Stajkowski; Best Young Yellow, Tim Stajkowski; Best Young Red, Tim Stajkowski; Best Young White, Dan Brown; Best Young Grizzle, Urban Billmeier; Best Young Pied, Fred Endres; Best Young Silver, Fred Endres; Best Young A.O.C., Fred Endres; Best Old Black, Urban Billmeier; Best Old Blue, Fred Endres; Best Old Dun, Dave Forsberg; Best Old Yellow, Glen Bedell; Best Old Red, Fred Endres; Best Old White, Dan Brown; Best Old Grizzle, Urban Billmeier; Best Old Pied, Dave Forsberg; Best Old A.O.C., Dave Forsberg.

Exhibitors - Urban Billmeier, Chicago, Ill.; Frank Vonesh, Chicago, Ill.; Ray and Becky Reszke, Chicago, Ill.; Fred Endres, Stoughton, Wisc.; Dave Forsberg, Menominee, Mich.; Dan Brown, Stephenson, Mich.; Glen Bedell, Grayling, Mich.; Tim Stajkowski, Bay City, Mich. The two following fanciers had birds entered but couldn't make the show because of the bad weather, Dan Vincent, Wilson, Mich. and Gerald Novak, Vulcan, Mich.

Although, we were down in entry this year we will had a nice show with good quality throughout the color classes. I would like to welcome new member Fred Endres from Stoughton, Wisc. Fred has some real nice Africans and did very well showing with us this year and should keep it up with the stock he has. I would like to invite anyone raising African Owls to join the Central African Owl Club, we are up to 25 members now and still have room to grow, so send me \$5.00 and join the Central African Owl Club. The club will have quarterly bulletins and offer a standard drawing with points systems, we have two shows a year - one in Louisville with the N.Y.B.S. and our old bird show is in Chicago every year, so send me your dues and join now! □

Great Lakes Fantail Club News

by BOB McKEE, Vanderbilt, Pa.

It is well into November, and we are having a very wet and rainy Fall. While, elsewhere there has been snow and much colder. Excepting maybe down Dixie way! I hear Henderson and Costa will be breeding some Fantails this Spring. Add Armstrong and you have a nice group of Southern Fanciers. Hoyt Shields is still down there with Ervins, but I am not sure about Spencers, the Bowmans who have always had the Fantail mania. Oh, Hall and Winkles are down there some place.

I haven't heard from anybody except friend Bronson and he will be our guest writer this month. I do have that list of article donors I collected at Louisville. I am hoping after some of the major shows are out of the way you will find time to write.

Denny Stapp and I will write as much as we have time and information for as we discussed since the NYBS. I think the separate angles of article writing will add much to the enjoyment and promotion of the Fantail and the GLFC.

I have heard from Paul McColeman, a Canuck from Cameron, Ontario. He has some very fine and promising Blacks. Paul is the gentleman who took a breed dominant opal cock from here five years ago and made their show type with great dom. opal lacing. Paul's philosophies are not exactly the same as many others but Paul's goals are the same! To breed Show Fantails. He does not completely profess the NOW attitude of breeding them, however, and I base this on his principal of mating them for some improvement each year. He seems to put out of his mind where others may be in their programs. If not, he says, you can forget the methods of producing a solid genetic foundation in a family, resulting in some early wins, but a shallow genome not capable of maintaining the quality year after year. Very sound advice, from Mr. McColeman.

This brings me to my own thoughts: I have selected the best birds each year and even mated the best to the best - forget the rest idealism! If you can properly select the best with another best - then fine, they will likely breed you the very best. But, since this is not always the case - what then? Could this be the reason we cannot maintain them year after year? Is this why some have ridden high for a while and then dropped off: Who

was it said, If we could just continue our good work with these top ones - why the quality would come up so fast! But, it does not! So, when we see this guy Gordy Larson in the **lime light** for almost ten years, with his Fantails - is he just lucky? If you ask him, he would say so - but he might want to tell us in an article next month - exactly what he thinks has brought him success beyond - just luck.

I would like to reference Mike McAtee's article in the APJ Fantail Special on page 61. "Blues will sometimes make the birds **flour belly**." The oldtimers and some of their students, were of the opinion that blues bred from PB and Blue bar, would produce flour bellies - and they did (and do). This likely resulted with Hanson's use of white to improve the type. John Bolton also used a splash from Hanson's white cross. I don't believe the flour belly is a result of white genome itself, but the presence of the **cruddies** found in the whites. This combination of the Cruddies (sooty, dirty, dusky, etc.) when mixed with the clean, clear, PB's brought in from England (with frosted hackle and chest and dark, distinctive barring) gives the phenotype - **flour belly**! This flour belly is a hetero condition produced by the -then- **clean, clear, white bodied** (all flour colored body's on the proper PB's from England as I had seen down East in my early days and substantiation by a letter written by Robinson.) and **frosted hackled/chast** powder blues first introduced to the Hanson Lofts from England. I am sure many of us have judged this condition in a direction which is opposite to the reproduction of the original PB coloration. We have thrown them out of Show Pens as freaks, even when good typed. This action on the Fancy's part provides ammunition for two of my theories on proper breeding technique; as well as, support for my beliefs on the downfall of many early high riders at the shows. And maybe even, the judge's incorrect use of five or ten color points to cut out an otherwise balanced fantail. We have seen **no** color allowance to the benefit of type, and also its improper usage to remove a bird before its time in a class of fantails.

A small summation is simply that **flour bellies** carry the very light, clean factors - including the green sheen, and the platinum frost that seems to follow - **plus** those of the **cruddies** (cruddies defined here as

any darkening factor to blue and coarse spread areas of the birds phenotype-Reference Quinn's notebook) from the Hanson white infusion - among others. When we eliminate the flour bellies, we are preventing any future chance at restoring the original frosted milky white coloration. Bill Warner and Rod Hatcher did not practice this incorrect culling of flour bellies!

This example of improper culling procedure for correct color acquisition definitely carries over to a Fancier's quest for Ideal Type! I have heard **many** fanciers telling stories of how they destroyed **everything** produced from their best pairing, even a whole year's youngsters because they were not what they wanted. Certainly I realize, that the very best breed your best young; but when they **do not**, do we cull everything and start over with different birds, or different matings, or let our friends be the **judge**? It would be great to see only the few top ones breed what you want year after year, but they are not always this consistent. Not because they are not capable of it with a proper mate, but because so many of us do not know how to identify the pieces, which when blended properly, will produce a single desirable trait. Take front legs, or proper legs: the **now** breeder's thoughts are simple - He will mate two good legged birds together (assume all else properly blended). The young from this mating breeds front walkers - even umbrellas - and several down shodders! This "now" breeder will cull them all. I say stupidity! The birds are not any good? Maybe we better remate them! Maybe he hasn't destroyed all the useful stockers that ain't good enough to stay around in his loft of toppers? Maybe he doesn't really understand the present Standard? Maybe he can't relate the phenotypes of his birds to the standard, unless he sees the exacting requirement on both? Maybe he doesn't really understand the words **selection** and **blending** of mates. That this useful trait (not identifiable as a current Standard Requirement) and this other thing over here together will produce what he wants - recreate it from those he always culls out - so darn fast - it makes me crazy! Again the same **stupidity**. The Best to the Best and forget the rest is right, as long as they do it for you! But if it were that easy, why do those new high-riders soon fall flat on their faces? It takes something more than just the best to maintain a loft of

(Continued On Next Page)

winner., year after year! I have seen **Gordy Larson** on top for almost ten years - in all the shows in this country. It is this man who must be our next **guest writer**. His Fantails are so far ahead of the rest that I almost don't believe it - but then, I have seen them with my own eyes for almost a decade.

How about the **inbreeding** controversy? It is good? It is Bad? Think about that - intelligent Fanciers are saying either! It means, to inbreed, to mate anyway, without **proper selection** and blend of genome (ancestry in mind) is destructive. Inbreeding is a tool, that when properly associated with Prepotency, Selection, Point blend and a knowledge of ones own birds does produce results. We should be concerned with too much of anything, or not enough. I would not inbreed because two mates are related. Still, I would if a pt needed set and relatives such as sibs were available. It can also be accomplished with less related mates and can be preferable when you finally set what you wanted; and, they are not so related that they cannot tolerate some stress, or diseases without pampering - not to forget they will stop producing if too closely inbred. Pros and Cons - yes and no - this boy talks in riddles! No Sirs, I do not! Champ said to me years ago - Don't mate them too closely, boy - but, if you do, get away the next year! All those **rules of thumb** are truthful, but must be used as guides, and as individual tools (like a carpenter uses a hammer, rule, level, etc.) What if he only used his hammer? What if we only use inbreeding? What if we only cull one-sided? What if we never inbred? What if we inbred without **selection**? What if we forget ancestral genome? What if we cull all those ugly pieces of phenotype that can, and will, when placed together, produce the **Show Fantail**? Why are we **now breeders**? Why can't we identify these pieces of the Standard's **requirements** on stock birds and label them - **necessary and useful**? Why aren't we lucky like Gordon Larson? If he don't write and tell us how he has done it all these years, we'll have to assume he is **just lucky!!!**

Everybody I get letters from concerning Almond Fantails and classical coloration are frustrated. But the same lesson can be learned here. At this point in time, we, the almond breeders, would like only to have a good typed kite or red to make them almonds. Alas, they say they don't exist. So the almonds are mostly mealie (term only usage - not ash-red) or almond splashes without the proper **golden yellow** ground. Would

you believe, that if these guys got a hold of the proper red or kite, that they would soon have the classical almonds so dark in ground as to be almost black kite ground. Go, Go, Go - for that illusive golden yellow ground! They simply would be forgetting a proper blend of color, the same as they did with the type! The very same problem of identifying the useful birds with some part of the structure necessary in producing the proper **type**. Now, with these almonds, they see all these ugly sub-varieties (colors of some produced from almond/kite/red matings). Cull, Cull, all them mealies, them red splashes, them washy (well spangled) almond splashes, etc. Then watch them start crying how their once beautiful golden classical almonds just faded away! The fools and their one track minds! They keep just their toppers! They keep no trash! Well, somebody once said, "one man's trash is another man's treasure!" I guess Larson must keep some **trash** - I know I do! Warner never tells the truth, but he still has them dark breeding pens I'll bet? A word to them Sixers - **stop!!!**

BODY TYPES IN FANTAILS OR WHAT IS ROUND?

by GARY BRONSON, Delta, Ohio

I've just returned from a show where I had the opportunity to observe close to 300 fantails in various colors, sizes and shapes and I was trying to put together in my mind exactly what it takes to constitute a champion in relationship to body size and shape, tail size, shape and setting, and of course, leg length and placement on the bird. After some thought and a visit to my breeder loft to see if somewhere, somehow, sometime I would be able to incorporate all of these various facets on one bird, I continually came back to my mind picture of the ideal body, on the ideal legs, with the ideal tail, moving in the ideal fashion from one end of the show pen to the other. I have some birds with what I see as ideal bodies but a little weak in the leg department, some with the tail

I'm looking for and even a few with the out front legs. Now the trick comes in combining them.

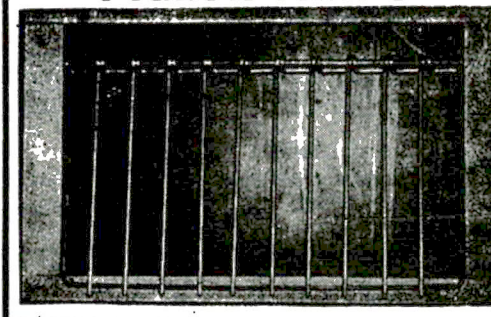
Sometimes I think many people hold a misconception as to what constitutes a circle. A circle is not shaped like a banana or a pear, neither is it shaped like an egg. To understand what a round or circular body looks like from all sides, I direct your attention to the printed words in this article. Anytime you find the letter "O", that's what is meant by round. "As tall as it is broad, as it is deep" is how one writer puts it. This doesn't mean that a six inch tall fantail would have to be six inches wide. Get that notion completely out of your thinking. We're talking body size and shape, not body and leg size.

If a body is developed on the bird which consists of a nice deep keel that extends well out past the wings when viewed from the side and maintains that same keel down deep into the underbelly (that part that extends down between the legs and away from the wings). Then with a four to a four and one half inch width from the outside of the wings across the chest measurement we will be seeing a round body bird. The wide set legs (actually placed on the sides of the body of approximately two inch length) placed up front on the bird will then complete the picture and give us the desired body roundness.

With a bird with a body this small and round, a medium sized tail with a height of nine inches and a width of twelve inches will appear quite large. (Actually, I prefer a tail of ten inches by twelve inches which gives us the high center that is so desirable in a high class bird).

The wings on the Fantail can either compliment the bird's appearance or detract greatly from it. Thick, coarse wings have no place on a show fantail. What we need are wings that just melt into the body and that are almost completely unseen from any angle that we happen to look from. □

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Cairo Variety Pigeon Club Show

by JOHN T. RAO, So. Westerlo, N.Y.

The Cairo Variety pigeon club of upstate New York held its 13th annual Fall Classic on Saturday, October 19, 1985. This show was held at the St. Johns Recreation Hall in the town of Greenville, New York, in the county of Greene. It is with much pride to state that this show was a total success once more due to the dedication and hard work of our membership and staff of our member's wives who unselfishly gave us their time for which we are very grateful. We extend our sincere thanks to all the people who were willing to work hard without reward to present a well run and smoothly operated pigeon show.

As show secretary I must say that I do enjoy the luxury of having a great team of workers plus a team of judges second to none. We wish to personally thank Bob Neske, Larry Losee, Jim Cromidas, Frank Garcia, Joe Moskaluk and yours truly. We wish to thank all the people who stewarded the many pigeons that had to be judged. We wish to thank Jim Cunningham and Frank Tedesco for doing such a fine job as recording secretaries, keeping track of all the winners of each class of each breed of pigeons. Last but not least we wish to thank our very capable kitchen staff Ed Magee, Tracy Hummel and Tony Leanzo for a job well done in preparing and serving of the fine foods at the show. I wish to thank all the people who donated both their time and money to insure that this Fall Classic was a complete success. I am happy to report to all our members throughout the state of New York that this year our entries came to a total of 556 pigeons were shown and judged. This is an increase of 100 pigeons over last year's entries which is a nice improvement which I believe this is due to the fact that more exhibitors are vaccinating their pigeons, which minimizes the risk of contracting disease.

We enjoyed this show with its increase in the number of pigeons exhibited so let us give a heart warming thanks to the many exhibitors who came from near and far to exhibit their pigeons at our show.

The following are the winners of each class of pigeons.

Racing Homers

Young Hen, Joe Hanzich, Saugerties, N.Y. Young Cock, Beverly Brezinski, Utica, N.Y. Old Hen, Charles Miller, Oneonta, N.Y. Old Cock, Beverly Brezinski, Utica, N.Y.

Best Racing Homer, Charles Miller.

Unflown Racing Homers

Young Hens, 1st Jim Cromidas, Franklin Square, N.Y. Young Hens, 2nd, Frank Tedesco, Middleburg, N.Y. Young Hens, 3rd, Jim Cromidas, Franklin Square, N.Y.

Unflown Racing Homers

Young Cocks, 1st, Patrick McCaffrey, Bellmore, N.Y. Young Cocks, 2nd, John Digaspari, Chittenango, N.Y. Young Cocks, 3rd, Frank Tedesco, Middleburg, N.Y.

Old Hens, 1st, Joe Denisi, Norwood, Mass. Old Hens, 2nd, Art Hoffmann, Uniondale, N.Y. Old Hens, 3rd, Bill Tobin, Freehold, N.Y. Old Cocks, 1st, Joe Denisi, Norwood, Mass. Old Cocks, 2nd, John Digaspari, Chittenango, N.Y.

Best Unflown Racing Homer, Jim Cromidas.

Show Racers

Champion, John Digaspari, Chittenango, N.Y. Reserve Champion, G & L Losee, Levittown, N.Y.

Flying Tippers

Champion, Bill Tobin, Freehold, N.Y. Reserve Champion, David Miller, Harriman, N.Y.

Best Chinese Owl

Orchard Loft Florence, Mass.

Best English Carrier

Jay Curtis, Syracuse, N.Y.

Best Helmet

Michael Della Chiesa, Saugerties, N.Y.

Best Fantail

Winner of the Seymour Lasher Award, Dick Barlett, Ossining, N.Y.

Best Indian Fantail

Leroy Woodworth, Cazenovia, N.Y.

Best Damascene

Ed Magee, Catskill, N.Y.

Best Jacobin

Neal Ahearn, Florance, Mass.

Best Bronze Tippler

Jay Curtis, Syracuse, N.Y.

Best Mottle Bronze Tippler

Rudy Nisi, Monroe, N.Y.

Best Nun

Robert Phillips, Highland, N.Y.

Best Flying Flight

Champion, Frank Garcia, Kerhonkson, N.Y. Reserve Champion, David Miller, Harriman, N.Y.

Best Danzig High Flyer

Fritz Keyser, Hannacroix, N.Y.

Best Dutch Capuchine

Jay Curtis, Syracuse, N.Y.

This is the end of my report but before I close the book on this 1985 Pigeon Show, I would like to extend to all our members and friends new and old and to all the exhibitors the very best in the New Year and may God Bless you one and all. See you all again at the shows in 1986. □

The National Fantail Club Of Canada News & Views

by BOB POMMER, Collingwood, Ontario, Canada

For most of us, the breeding season of 1985 is now a distant memory and the show season is nearing completion. It is during the next few months that the most important work of the year **should** take place. I emphasize the word "Should", because I am not sure that many fantail people place the emphasis on this time of year that it deserves.

It is understandable I guess, for most of us, the weather certainly is not conducive to spending a great deal of time standing around in the loft. Even if we did, the birds find it just as cold as we do and, they are not in any mood to display their true potential.

The discomfort factor aside, we are now into the time of year that **should** have the greatest attention. It is in these next couple of months that the decisions on next year's breeding stock and next year's matings take place. How can we reasonably expect to show any kind of improvement in the quality of our stud if we don't

take the time to insure that we have made the best possible breeding choices.

Unless you are depending on simple luck you are very unlikely to raise good youngsters without planning - but it isn't impossible. We have all heard of super youngsters being raised out of "accidental" matings. I have had this happen myself. The difference lies in the word probability. Let me explain.

If you take two culls as a mated pair, you can appreciate that the probability of raising quality youngsters is very low. We want to raise the most top quality birds that we can, i.e., we want the highest probability that we can have. If our stud of birds come from a good breeding line, and we mate them with little planning, the probability of raising good youngsters is greater than we had with the culls but far lower than is possible. We should not be satisfied with this.

(Continued On Next Page)

O.K., I have told you what **not** to be satisfied with, but I haven't told you what you can do to maximize your probability.

The first thing that you must do is make sure that you have the best possible breeding stock available. I won't stress this any further, other than to remind you that it has taken the better breeders many, many years to build their studs to their present level. If you expect to get cheap birds and build a quality stud, you had better think again.

Now that you have your birds, how do you choose the matings? As I see it, there are two factors to consider. A. Do you know the breeding potential of your birds? Some birds are pre-disposed to produce youngsters of particular characteristics. For example, you may have a red hen that almost always produces strong legs in her young. This information is invaluable when deciding whether to use her and who to use her with. (Needless to say, this requires good records from previous years, but this is another topic for a future article).

Remember your most valuable birds are those whose probability of producing expected characteristics is highest. Regardless of what they may look like themselves. I can think of several birds in friends' lofts that appear to be of questionable quality that are priceless to their owners because of what they produce.

It may be wise to point something out in this regard. If what I say is true, it is logical to suggest that we should **not** go overboard in keeping youngsters of superior type over their parents because these youngsters are unknown quantities.

The second factor to consider: B. What characteristics are visible on our breeders? As we choose our matings, we should make sure that we are balancing points. Unless something in A above comes into play, we should never mate birds with the same fault together. If you mate two birds with bad legs, for example, your probability of getting good legs is very low. Try to blend points.

Don't be afraid to cross color boundaries. If you have a super black hen, but only a mediocre cock in that color, why not use the best available cock of another color. The youngsters may be mismarked, but at least they will be of top quality and usable in the next generation.

The science of genetics, as pertaining to the anatomy of a pigeon, is an imperfect science at best. There are far too many unknown factors to consider. This is why we refer to the "breeders art" so frequently. Art is creating beauty with only rough

guidelines to follow. In this article I have tried to give you some of the rough guidelines that you might need to practice your art. Good Luck.

P.S. Remember to support your

Queensland Pigeon Fanciers Society Host A.N.P.A. National For 1985

by PHIL CLEGHORN, Show Sec., Greenbank, Queensland, Australia

It was good to see 125 Exhibitors from all parts of Australia bench 1,701 birds at our recent National Show hosted in Brisbane by the Qld. P.F.S. Exhibitors from as far away as Perth, some 5,000 Klm. away came to show with one fancier from W.A. coming just to have a look and attend a National. Twenty judges from all over Australia and New Zealand officiated giving the show an international touch. Bob Morrison, the oldest pigeon fancier in Australia at 90 years, officially opened our show at 9.30 a.m. on the Saturday morning with judging commencing at 10 a.m.

The blue and bronze Modena Schietti classes were the largest of the show, being closely followed by the White Fantails, White Kings and Black C.L.L.F. Tumblers. Most breeds were well supported with the Magpies being the breed that surprised most with an excellent entry. Exhibitors watched with keen interest as the Judges performed their duties. Most judging was completed by mid-afternoon with the exception of the Modena Schietti and some of the walking pen breeds, such as Fantails and Pouters. The judging results are enclosed with this report. Thirty-three National Awards were competed for with the same in the young bird awards. Our Young Bird Awards were sponsored by McDonalds Restaurants. Many

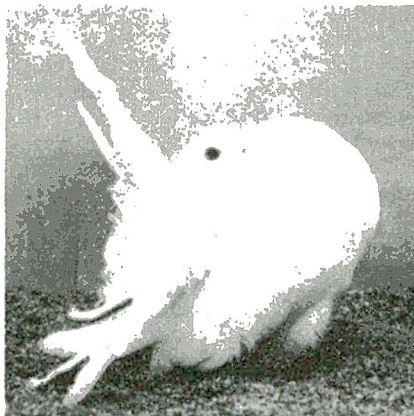


NATIONAL AWARD WINNER

This Gazzi Modena was Best of Breed National Award Winner at the Australian National Pigeon Assn. 1985 Annual Show. This Modena was bred and owned by B. Buckley, Oakey, Queensland, Australia.

specialist clubs also sponsored their various breeds with trophies and prize cards. Exhibitors from all States shared the National Awards.

On the Saturday night of the show the Club hosted an official function at the Scottish Caladonian Club. Without doubt the main topic of conversation was the day's activities in the show ring. The following morning A.N.P.A. held its Annual and General meeting with the new President and Secretary for next two years taking over the control of A.N.P.A. at the conclusion of the meeting. At the meeting it was announced that Perth's Pigeon Breeders Exhibitors Association would host the 1986 National. The A.N.P.A. President Frank Hayes and Qld P.F.S. Patron Mr. David Littman welcomed and thanked exhibitors for attending the show. Frank Hayes and Club President Greame Jubb presented the National Awards to the winners and David Littman presented all young birds Awards. At about 3 p.m. on the Sunday after presentations, exhibitors began unpenning their birds thus bringing to a close our 1985 National. In hosting a Show of this size a lot of work is done by few and before I close this report I would like to thank the shows steering committee for their efforts. A special note of appreciation to Mrs. L. Pope for her work in writing of the prize cards and also Greame Jubb for the National Award Trophies and the



NATIONAL AWARD WINNER

This White Fantail, bred and owned by Graeme Jubb, Queensland, Australia, was the Best of Breed, National Award Winner at the Australian National Pigeon Assn. 1985 Annual Show.



NATIONAL AWARD WINNER

This Show Pen Homer, bred and owned by O. Halter, Beendaberg, Queensland, Australia, was the Best of Breed, National Award Winner at the Australian National Pigeon Assn. 1985 Annual Show.



NATIONAL AWARD WINNER

This Turbit, bred and owned by P. Cleghorn, Greenbank, Queensland, Australia, was the Best of Breed, National Award Winner at the Australian National Pigeon Assn. 1985 Annual Show.



NATIONAL AWARD WINNER

This Blondinette, bred by Graeme Jubb and owned by Phil Cleghorn, was Best of Breed, National Award Winner at the 1985 Annual Show of the Australian National Pigeon Assn. This Blondinette is the only pigeon in Australia to win its Best of Breed in three out of three Nationals. It was exhibited by G. Jubb in two Nationals and was exhibited by Cleghorn in the 1985 National.

February 1986

making of the pigeon carrying boxes we raffled. To Roy Gurdler who arranged the printing of the catalogue, thanks and a job well done. Last but not least West Evers, without whom the Show would not have been the success it was. When I needed help he always made himself available with some nights going well after midnights. In closing I finish my term as the Qld P.F.S. National Show Secretary and wish my successor in Perth all the best for the 1986 National and urge as many Fanciers as possible to attend and make it the success Brisbane's National was.

National Award Winners

The following are the National Award winners listed as such: Breed, Best of Breed and Best of Breed Y.B.:

African Owl, F. Tronc, F. Tronc; Australian Saddleback, P. Smith, I. Muirhead; Satinette, J. Hansen, J. Hansen; Blondinette, P. Cleghorn, P. Cleghorn; Carrier, R. McCoombes, N.A.; Fantail, Littman and Jubb, Littman and Jubb; Helmet, C. Campbell, C. Campbell; Gimple, B. Shepherd, C. Fordham; Ice, I. Muirhead, R. Wilton;

Jacobin, D. Cook, D. Cook; King, J. Lau, W. Brown; Modena Schietti, K. Cross, B. Buckley; Modena Gazzi, B. Buckley, B. Buckley; Norwich



NATIONAL AWARD WINNER

This Pigmy Pouter, bred and owned by John Wiseman Ipswich, Queensland, Australia, was Best of Breed National Award Winner at the Australian National Pigeon Assn. 1985 Annual Show.

Cropper, R. and B. Kellner, B. Rowland; Nun, K. Cross, B. Rowland; Pigmy Pouter, J. Wiseman, J. Wiseman; Roller, D. Williams, D. Williams;

Show Pen Homer, O. Halter, R. Gurdler; Swallow, D. Williams, P. Smith; Tippler, N. Buckley, A. Scorgie; Long Face Tumbler, Littman and Maudsley, Littman and Maudsley; Short Face Tumbler, C. Seymour, C. Seymour; Performing Tumbler, P. Crane, P. Crane; Turbit, P. Cleghorn, P. Cleghorn; Magpie, R. Wilton, R. Wilton. □

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Performing Rollers Steal The Show

by DAN OUELLETTE, Grants Pass, Ore.

On October 26, 1985, the Performing Roller Association held a meet at the Great Western Pigeon Show at Watsonville, California. Don Ouellette was the breed coordinator, and the judge was Chandler Grover. There were approximately 100 entries and ten exhibitors.

The Champion award went to a Black Self hen, bred and owned by Rubin Solorio. Reserve Champion went to a Red Self hen, bred and owned by Dan Ouellette. Best Opposite Sex went to a Red Self cock also bred and owned by Dan Ouellette. The Performing Roller Association offered two special awards - Best Type, which was won by the Champion Black Self hen owned by Rubin Solorio, and Best Expression, which was won by a Lavender W.W. bred and owned by Frank Martin. Doug Ouellette won the most classes and exhibited a fine display. Doug was also responsible for video taping the whole event.

Don Ouellette deserves special praise for taking the initiative and devoting his time to coordinating this fine meet. The objective for this event was to bring fanciers together and promote the flying type Birmingham.

The participants not only enjoyed themselves at the show, but saw some good performing rollers in the air. Don Ouellette flew a nice kit with some outstanding individuals. Robert Krenze flew a great kit that was frequent, with good velocity and good style. I was impressed at how clean they were in the roll. Walter Henryson flew a mixed kit with some good individuals. Unfortunately,

there was not enough time to see Frank Martin, Ron Garcia or Rubin Solorio's kits fly.

The Performing Roller Association is planning to have another meet next year. With more efficient coordination of time, hopefully all the kits can be viewed in the air.

Other people in attendance who added to the success of this meet were: Tim Kovatch, Norm McMurray, Tony Kelly, Rex Clark, Dalton Davis, Jay Sparrow, Ray Sanchez, Bill Matthews, Gordon Jackson, and Joe Kiser.

Again, thanks to those individuals who made this meet possible, the Performing Roller Association, and especially Chandler Grover for his fine judging and making this event so special. □



BEST OPPOSITE SEX AND RESERVE CHAMPION

On the left is a Red Self Cock, DJO-121-84, which was Best Opposite Sex at the Great Western Pigeon Show. On the right is a Red Self Hen, DJO-328-85, which was Reserve Champion Performing Roller at the Great Western Pigeon Show. Both birds bred and owned by Dan Ouellette and judged by Chan Grover.

Eastern African Owl Club News

by TONY LOMUTO, Pub. Dir., Brooklyn, N.Y.

I have some results from the Central African Owl Club.

Best Hens

1st, #26 Dun, Jerry Asper; 2nd, #901 White, Wayne Diviney; 3rd, #257 Pied, Mike Nawojczyk; Best Blue, Wayne Diviney; Best Black, Jerry Asper; Best Dun, Jerry Asper; Best White, T.E.Z. Loft.

Best Cocks

1st, #999 Blue, Wayne Diviney; 2nd, #800 White, T.E.Z. Loft; 3rd, #0 Dun, Gerald Novak; Best Red, Tim Stajkowski; Best Yellow, Tim Stajkowski; Best Pied, Wayne Diviney; Best A.O.C., Wayne Diviney.

Champion African Dun Hen, #26, Jerry Asper. Best Opposite Sex, Blue Cock, #999, Wayne Diviney.

Congratulations to all. It was a good turnout with 79 Africans. Exhibitors were Urban Billmeier, A.J. Stratton, Wayne Diviney, Jerry Asper, Mike Nawojczyk, T.E.Z. Loft, Dave Forsberg, Gerald Novak, Dan Vincent, Dan Brown, Al Knauer, Tim Stajkowski, and Bob Pierson.

I understand Charles Eslinger lost a young white hen, #794 at the show, come on fanciers, let's everyone look hard and I'm sure it will turn up. And please contact Charles at (717) 243-7543. A mistake can happen to anyone.

Well with show season over we should already have plans for the next breeding season. So let's get rid of all our fair birds and keep just the very best even if it means just a few pair. I still haven't heard from the American Owl Club. Come on Bill

Meyer tell me what is going on with the club.

I have a new mailing address: 1095 Sheepshead Bay Road, Brooklyn, New York 11229. Come on Bill do I have to beg for you to write? How is the club doing? Did you show anywhere this year? Please send me some results, I know you're a top breeder, please share some owl news with all of us.

One more question, Bill, whatever

happened to the yearbook? How is Si Berger doing? Well enough of that.

I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday and looking forward to a prosperous New Year.

I haven't heard from any of the European clubs. How are things fanciers? Well, it is funny I try to write a monthly article with news from all over the world concerning African Owls but no one gives me news except Wayne Diviney. Does everyone have writers cramp? Or is everyone shy? How can I promote the beautiful breed of Africans with no help or support from anyone. Boy am I surprised. I know we have quite a few breeders in Europe but no one writes me. I can't understand why. The E.A.O.C. is still going strong and signing up new members all the time. Anyone interested please send \$5.00 to Howard Kogan, 17 Anchor Court, Huntington, N.Y. 11746.

Well I have no other news for this month but hope to have some from other clubs for my next monthly column. Until then, best wishes to all. □



WINNERS

On the left is Rubin Solorio holding his Black Self hen which won Champion and Best Type at the Great Western Pigeon Show. On the right is Frank Martin holding his Lavender WW Hen who won Best Expression at the Great Western Pigeon Show. Both birds judged by Chan Grover.



Central Fantail Club News

by JOHN MOPPIN, Kansas City, Kansas

Vice President & Publicity Director

The Central Fantail Club's 60th Annual Meet is now history. The CFC honored Gene Altpeter Jr., and the late Gene Altpeter Sr., in this outstanding Fantail Show. For those who didn't participate in this great show, I'll try to give some of the highlights of what you missed.

Thursday morning in Des Moines was cold, but not unbearable. All roads leading to Des Moines seemed to be passable and everyone made the trip safely. The Fantail seminar was the first activity that we'd have and our panel of experts were as follows: Joe Schabert, Gordon Larson, Bill Diemer and Tom Pritchett. These four gentlemen left all in attendance with a better knowledge of what the perfect Fantail should look like.

After the seminar the next event to be held was the Fantail spotlight sale. The spotlight sale was a great success with \$1,300.00 going to the CFC. On behalf of the Central, I'd like to thank all those who donated Fantails and those who bought these outstanding Fantails. The following are those who donated Fantails, in alphabetical order:

Gary Bronson donated: 1 pr. powder blue, bought by: Bob Roberts. Bill Diemer donated: 1 pr. blacks, bought by: Joe Schabert. Vickie Hixon donated: 1 pr. whites, bought by: Bob Roberts. Gordon Larson donated: 1 pr. blues, bought by: Bob Dannenburg. Dr. Wm. Lynch donated: 1 pr. grizzles, bought by: Matt Marciniak. Bob Evans donated: 1 pr. silvers, bought by: Bob Dannenburg. Bill and Marge O'Dell donated: 1 pr. whites, bought by: Bob Dannenburg. Tom Pritchett donated: 1 pr. whites, bought by: Dennis Soares.

Friday morning our judges, Tom Pritchett and Brian Pogue, began the long task of choosing the color class champions. Judging stopped at noon for lunch and all members in attendance converged to a local hotel/restaurant banquet room. After lunch came our annual CFC meeting. The club business was taken care of and then the election process for new club officers began. The following will be the officers for the next two years of the Central Fantail Club.

President: Dr. Wm. Lynch; Vice President: John Moppin; 2nd Vice President: Tom Pritchett; Secretary/

Treasurer: Bill and Marge O'Dell and Publicity Director: John Moppin.

A brief explanation on how I came up with two offices might be of interest to our readers. I thought it was time I moved up the ladder to Vice President. This meant giving up the Publicity Director's job which I thought would be the best for the club. This also meant that my monthly articles in the APJ would cease. My only hope was that the new Publicity Director would try and pick up where I left off. As I had hoped, I did indeed get nominated and elected as Vice President. Now I could rest assured that most of my hopes had been fulfilled. Granted, I was going to miss my articles to the APJ, but what had to be, had to be. The election process continued and then we came to Publicity Director. The question was brought up on why couldn't one person hold two offices? Our acting President, Tom Pritchett, referred to the club by-laws and said there didn't seem to be anything saying one person couldn't hold two offices. So at that moment Bill O'Dell nominated me for Publicity Director. The members voted to stop nominations for P.D. and was then seconded. The President then said, "all in favor" and the members replied with "I". He then said "all



Bob Kinginger at the CFC Altpeter Classic 1985. — Photo by John Moppin.

opposed" and not a sound was heard. The feeling I felt at that moment was undescrivable.

I do plan to have an article in the APJ each month, and I also have a few new twists that I hope you'll enjoy. As in the articles in the past two years, you'll see informative articles about some of our top Fantail Breeders. Before I go on, I'd like to thank those members of the CFC for your support, and I'll do my best with both offices.

After the meeting we went back to the show hall and the judging continued until about 7:00 p.m.

(Continued On Next Page)



AWARDS
Award table for the Central Fantail Club's Altpeter Classic.

Saturday morning judging started at 8:00 a.m. This morning started with one of the smaller color classes and then came the whites. Over 200 whites were shown, and one of the most impressive sites I've ever seen at a Fantail meet were the young white classes. Brian Pogue certainly had his work cut out for himself.

By 2:30 p.m. that day all the color class Champions had been determined by our judges, Tom Pritchett and Brian Pogue. A call for all color class Champions rang out by Earl Biedermann Sr. (who, by the way, was in charge of seeing that the birds were promptly set down) and what a site this was.

The following are the color Champions Tom and Brian chose from the over 700 Fantails on display:

Best White, #2 O.H., Gordon Larson. Res. White, #35 Y.H., Steve O'Dell.

Best Black, #791 O.H., Bill Diemer. Res. Black, #58 yrlg.c., Bill Diemer.

Best Blue #222 y.h., Gordon Larson. Res. Blue #294 y.h., Gordon Larson.

Best Powdered Blue #347 o.c., Mike McAtee. Res. Powdered Blue #18 y.h., Joe Schabert.

Best Silver #10 o.h., Gordon Larson. Res. Silver #423 y.h., Bill Diemer.

Best Tailmark #806 o.h., Gary Summers. Res. Tailmark #53 y.c., Jim McMahon.

Best Grizzle #280 y.h., Gordon Larson. Res. Grizzle #489 y.c., Paul Polly.

Best Saddle #53 o.c. (Yellow), Bob Kinginger. Res. Saddle #553 y.c. (black), Bill Warner.

Best Ash Red/Ash Yellow #287 y.h., Tim Burke. Res. Ash Red/Ash

Yellow #752 o.h., Stan Racho.

Best Cream/Mealy #492 y.c., Bill Diemer. Res. Cream/Mealy #105 o.h., Tim Burke.

Best Red #511 y.c., Tim Kvidera. Res. Red #147 o.h., Jim Schneider.

Best Yellow #2286 o.h., Clint Robertson. Res. Yellow #603 y.h., Lavern DeVries.

Best Andalusian #798 o.h., Bill Diemer. Res. Andalusian #460 y.c., Jim McMahon.

Best Bodymark #438 y.h., Jim McMahon. Res. Bodymark #2338 y.c., Tom Miller.

Best Almond #331 o.c., Tim Kvidera. Res. Almond #496 o.h., Dennis Soares.

Best Checker #234 y.h., Tim Burke. Res. Checker #631 o.h., Tim Burke.

Best Dun #510 y.h., Gary Summers.

Best Indigo #504 y.h., Dr. Wm. Lynch.

Best NCC #849 o.h., Tim Burke.

Best Mismark #960 o.h., Bill Diemer.

Best AOC/Splash #135 o.h., Bob Phillip.

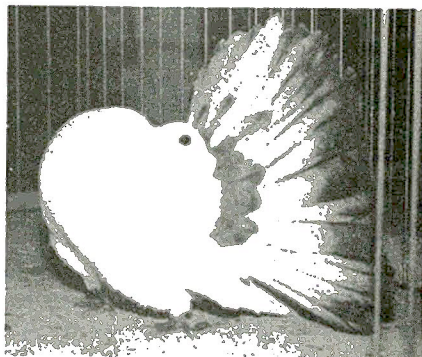
Best Powdered Silver #825 o.h., Ron Simpson.

Brian Pogue had the task of choosing the Grand Champion with Tom Pritchett doing the turning. Brian first took a moment to explain how he determined the Grand Champion. He then went on to explain that he'd pick the best Fantails and put those birds in one pen. Brian then began to eliminate those Fantails that didn't meet the qualities of becoming the best Fantail of the Altpeter Classic. This process went on for about 30 minutes until he had three birds in one walking pen. These three birds were as



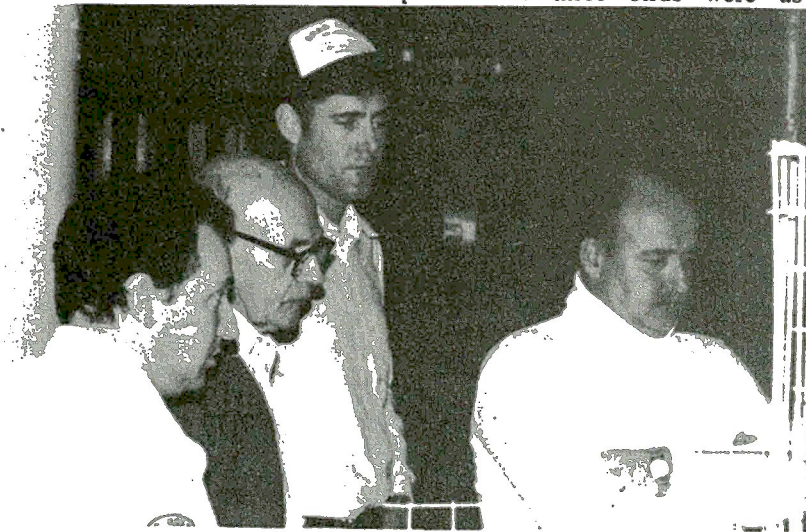
GRAND CHAMPION FANTAIL

This Young Blue Cock, #222, was Grand Champion of the Central Fantail Club's Altpeter Classic. Bred and owned by Gordon Larson, El Paso, Texas. — Photo by John Moppin, Kansas City, Kansas.



RESERVE CHAMPION

This Old Tailmark Hen, #806, was Reserve Champion of the Central Fantail Club's Altpeter Classic. Bred and owned by Gary Summers, Okmulgee, Okla. — Photo by John Moppin, Kansas City, Kansas.



ATTENDING SEMINAR

Pictured left to right are Joe Schabert, Gordon Larson, Tom Pritchett and William Diemer. They are at the Central Fantail Club Seminar held at the Altpeter Classic. — Photo by Bill O'Dell.



Mike Soda at the CFC Altpeter Classic 1985. — Photo by John Moppin.

follows: the white hen of Gordon Larson, the tailmark of Gary Summers and the blue of Gordon Larson. Brian sat and looked at these three Fantails for about 10 minutes, then stood up, wrote something on a piece of paper, took this paper to Marge O'Dell (who was sitting at the records table) and said "Let's have a little fun before I tell you my pick for Grand Champion. On the paper I just gave Marge the color of the Grand Champion. Now I'd like to see with a show of hands who thinks the Champion is the white." At this point a few hands were raised. "Who thinks the tailmark is champion?" With this, about half raised their hands. "Now who thinks the blue is champion?" This got the other half to show their hands. A voice in the background then said, "I hope you didn't pick the white." Brian smiled and then said, "The Grand Champion is the Blue."

The following is how the placing went and who owned those Champions:

Grand Champion #222 y.c. (Blue) Gordon Larson; Reserve Champion #806 o.h. (Tailmark) Gary Summers; 2nd Res. Champion #2 o.h. (White) Gordon Larson; 3rd Res. Champion #294 y.h. (Blue) Gordon Larson.

The CFC - Gene Altpeter Jr. and Sr. Banquet was all that was left of this great show. The banquet was held at Babes Restaurant at 7:00 that night. The banquet started with a nice dinner, shared by over 80 participants, which included Fantail breeders and their families.

After dinner our M.C., Dr. Wm. Lynch, started the program by welcoming all in attendance and then introducing our first speaker, Mr. Gene Altpeter Jr. Mr. Altpeter Jr. gave a well prepared speech entitled, "The Central Fantail Club -- The First 60 Years." The Altpeters have been involved with the CFC from the

first day of its existence in 1926. In his speech Gene told of how the club started and then brought to light some of the club's highlights.

The next speaker we heard from was Bill Diemer. Bill gave an uplifting speech on "The Future of the Central Fantail Club." Bill gave some good points on, how in the future, you'll probably see more top Fantail Breeders merging together to form partnerships. He also touched on how he thought our Annual Meets would center around a vacation type atmosphere, in some of the major hotels, making our meets more of a family outing. Bill has a number of good points, and he is the type of person that will initiate just this type of show, with the family in mind. I personally look forward to what is in store for us in the Fantail fancy. It's dedicated people like Gene Altpeter, Bill Diemer and many others who will keep our hobby one to be proud to be a part of.

The remainder of the banquet centered around awarding the impressive array of awards donated by our members. It's at this time I'd like to mention just a few of those people who worked long and hard to make this great show a success.

First of all, I'd like to thank Gene Altpeter and his father for their 60 years of service and dedication to the Central Fantail Club.

The following people did so much in organizing this great show, that I couldn't possibly mention everything they did. In alphabetical order, Earl Biedermann Sr., Dwight Crewdson, Wm. I. Diemer, Gordon Larson, Dr. Wm. Lynch, Tom Pritchett, Bill O'Dell, Marge O'Dell and Dick Ury.

I'd also like to thank the Fantail Breeders who brought their Fantails to Des Moines for the CFC - Altpeter Classic. The following is a list of exhibitors accordingly:

James Martin, John Moppin, Clint

Robertson, Dwight Wyatt, Gary Bronson, Jim Ellebracht, John Heitmann, Roger Hogg, Bob and Vi Given, Dick Ury, Clay Williams, William I. Diemer;

Paul Polly, Tim Kvidera, Bob Cook, Rod Lysne, Michael McAtee, Tim Burke, Bob Phillip, Jeff Thurmond, Jim and Shaliah Armstrong, Lavern DeVries, David Savage, Brent Vaughn, Don Vaughn, Stan Racho;

Bob Vincent, Ron Simpson, Earl Helmer, Rich Sparkman, Chad Sparkman, William Warner, Vickie Hixon;

Gene Altpeter, Gordon Larson, Bob Kinginger, Michael Soda, Ray LaFleur, Jim Emerson, Jim McMahon, Jim Schneider, Joe and Donna Schabert, Dan Simpson, Dr. Jack Gray, Jim Cooper, Jeff Clark, Vladimir Jansa, Helen Jansa, Robert Riddler, Arthur Propp, Lee Pilgran, Dr. Wm. Lynch, Lynn Lee, Wayne and Diane Tourville;

Dwight Crewdson, Gary Summers, Matt Marciniak, Bob Roberts, Donald Fletcher, Dennis Soares, Tom Miller, Lance Christensen, Steven O'Dell, Bill and Marge O'Dell, Jim Corkery, Ray Smith, Ed Karnish, Ramey and Zamora, and Jim Lake.

Before I close, if you'd like a copy of Gene Altpeters speech, "The Central Fantail Club -- The First 60 Years," send me \$1.00 for postage and handling and I'll see that you get a copy of this great speech.

Also, the Canadian Fantail Club is hosting their 50th Annual Meet this coming December. Next month I'll have more information on this show. It promises to be one of the great shows for 1986. So plan to attend the Canadian Fantail Club's 50th Annual Meet.

For those of you who aren't members of the Central Fantail Club and would like to be a part of the largest Fantail Club in the world, you can join by sending your dues to: Bill and Marge O'Dell, 138 S. Webster, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501. Dues are as follows: \$10.00 for adults, \$15.00 for husband and wife, and \$3.00 for junior members under 18 years. The Central Fantail Club prints a bulletin every quarter, with articles and news about many useful subjects. The bulletin alone is worth the amount of the dues.

This will close this month's CFC news article. If there's anything I can do to help you with your Fantails or to help you find a Fantail breeder in your area, call or write anytime. Also, like always, calls, letters and visitors are always welcome. — John Moppin, 7907 Ella, Kansas City, Kansas 66112, phone (913) 788-3273. □



LACING SEMINAR

Seminar lacing experts, Paul Polly and Domenic Zarlenga giving their advice on lacing at the CFC Lacing Seminar. — Photo by Bill O'Dell.

Chinese Owl Chatter

by JOHN COE
Turlock, Calif.

Who finances a pigeon club, and why -- and how? Obviously there are no clear cut answers to such questions, but there may be some things to think about.

Many years ago a fellow member of the National Chinese Owl Club offered a trophy for members only. This evolved into considerable discussion amongst the membership. Wouldn't open competition trophies help others to understand the fun and fellowship of a good club and so join the club for these benefits? Was this member afraid to compete with outsiders? Is there any real advantage in joining the club? These and other questions began to be asked.

Let's start out by asking why the non-member wanted to compete to begin with. My bet is that he wanted to win the trophy. Does he want to help pay for it by helping to sponsor the club that furnishes so many trophies and awards? Did he want the fellowship and friendship of the members of the club? Is he seen or heard from again before the next show?

My observation through the years is that these sideline exhibitors do not pick off very many of the trophies. They do not add much to the show or the club either. In fact, they often don't even show up at the pigeon shows. But back to the question in point. Should trophies be offered to members only? I see nothing wrong with this. The sidelines should get with it, join the clubs and help pay their way at the shows. It wouldn't hurt them to read the bulletin once in a while either. In so doing, they would find out where there are more shows and more good fellowship opportunities and club activities -- find out where the action is.

Clubs cannot function without money. A recent mailer from the National Chinese Owl Club carried 90 cents worth of postage stamps on its back. Add to this the cost of materials and printing inside and the cost of the envelope and we are probably up to about \$2.50. There are many mailers coming from the club each year. There are also trophies and awards that must come from the club funds in order to keep district interest in high gear. The lion's share of this expense must come from club dues. Should awards

be offered to members only? Perhaps. Would we lose any potential members by doing it that way? We would undoubtedly lose one occasionally.

What about giving birds away to spur interest? In the good old days when shipping was not prohibitive, I often sent birds to a show with instructions to give them to interested fanciers when the show was over. I don't think this ever resulted in building the club, nor did these birds come back to future shows. I even found a case where the birds had been sold. I suppose the gentleman needed the money. Many is the bird that I have given away to young folks in order to stimulate interest. This does reap some results. However, many of these birds find their way into the 25 cent pile at the local feed store. In most cases, I would have liked to buy the birds back myself, but they are never offered to me.

My present attitude is such that I will give my birds out as freely as I can spare, if and only if, the donee will join the National Chinese Owl Club and the area club. This will cost him about \$12.00. He will get the club bulletins and perhaps grow into club activity. Otherwise he can go elsewhere for his fancy pigeons. This method does result in some members who stick to the National Club. His membership helps pay his way in the club and he gains some pride in doing so.

I don't think the give-away program accomplishes much even for pigeon clubs. If you go to the movies, you pay for the ticket. If you raise a speciality breed of pigeons, that will cost a little bit, too. Everyone should be willing to pay for his share of the load. Give the speciality clubs a little help by paying club dues.

The Color Definitions Committee has allowed me to see some of the proposed color definitions which they are compiling. They are not concocting definitions. They are researching and using the best information available. This is an excellent approach to the task. The wording is in simple, understandable language. They are doing a good job. It is not my privilege to state more than this at this time. If the committee wishes to use this column at any time, they would be most welcome to do so.

The only request which I have had is in reference to color-pattern development projects in my coops. I would like to be able to mention the many breeders who are pursuing such projects, but to a great degree I don't even know who they are. About 130 miles to the north is Dean Lipps

who has the bug. I think his main present project is improvement of the saddles and playing with the auto-sexing (faded) factor. About 300 miles to the south, Ray and Rose Kirkland are pursuing some of the bronzes. Of course, there is Gene Hocklin who is a worse nut than I am. He is pursuing almost every known color modifying factor in its various patterns. There are undoubtedly many others. Why don't you come forward and let us in on your well guarded secrets. We'd like to know what is happening.

Rock pigeons and types developed from them seem to have a rather high incidence of nonproductive hens. I am sure Gene H. has experienced this as I shipped him some from Bob Clark of Livermore. I got four rock hens from Bob and shipped two of them on to Gene. The other two laid their typical tiny yolkless eggs, so they went to the local feral population. This might help in keeping the feral expansion under control.

My barless project after last season's culling consisted of one good cock and one good hen, both homozygotes. I outmated both of them. The hen sat the nest all summer and never laid an egg. She is now feral. The cock raised only cocks -- not a single hen. Thus the barless project went back to square one for the coming season. I have given stock to several other breeders and now I'll be back begging for help. This points out the value of making sure that a genetic type is not totally contained in one loft. If it is totally contained in one loft, it could easily be lost entirely. Keep your projects spread out.

At this time I do not have a single gazzi pattern homozygote in my loft, but I do have over a dozen possible and a few known heterozygotes. After culling and breeding, I should get some fairly good ones this year. They show some strong potential.

I disposed of my satinette types and went back to the blondinettes with my oriental frill bronzes this year. I got some fairly good lacing with fair frilling. I am now ready to put the heteros back together with hopes of returning again to the satinette pattern. I do have some heteros for the pattern white. The white tail bar is easy to control as it is a simple autosomal recessive. It should go well with reds, yellows, and black white-bars. My saddle outcrosses should make some progress this year, but as far as I can tell I only raised one hen for the season. I have no saddle hen homos at present. I do have indigo, dilute,

and recessive red in the cocks. I think I can con Dean Lipps out of a hen or two -- possibly heteros.

The black white-bars are progressing slowly this year with only hens so far in the young birds. One of my strictly for fun projects is to raise a line of pink pigeons. This got started when a fellow had been reading Gerald Durrell's episode of pink pigeons. In a letter to me, I was asked if there were really pink pigeons. Of course, I responded that I would raise him a pink pigeon. I am using the homozygous milky, homozygous recessive red, dilute approach. At this stage, I am now working three pairs of Chinese which carry milky and recessive red in each bird. I have one yellow offspring which may carry milky. I hope! All of these birds carry dilute and two of the cocks are yellow carrying milky. The other cock is black and all three hens are dun, so my chances are pretty good. Such is my life.

Reduced is now everywhere, and should be available to all lofts. I am hanging onto my albino project -- not much frill, but fair progress. This gene should not be allowed to get out of control in the loft. It could cause trouble for years to come. I know one racing loft that is having this problem.

The brander bronzes are starting to frill up fairly well. There are various other projects tucked into spare corners.

And last but not least, my red and yellow love birds are doing well and the cockatiels whistle tunes and wolf calls back and forth up and down the hallway. They are kept right in with the pigeons.

Doug Hall held a Chinese Owl Lawn Show at his home recently. Mike Betts came from Nevada, Dean Lipps from about 130 miles to the north, and Kim Elzy came from about 200 miles to the south-west. The Owls are alive and doing well.

What are your projects and what is your area doing? We would like to hear from more of you.

Remember, Chinese Owls are America's No. One Breed. □

King Trivia

BY JUNE TRONE,
AKC 2nd Dist. Dir.,
Meredosia, Ill.

Next week will be another year already, the time just seems to fly.

Lloyd and I are looking forward to going to the Houston National in just a few more weeks. We do hope the weather will be extra nice for the trip.

I want to thank everyone for all the nice cards, letters, phone calls and gifts. It's so nice to be remembered, that's the best part of being in the great pigeon hobby. We have friends all over the world and it's really great to hear from them.

This must be the coming year of new King breeders as I've gotten more calls than usual this past week, it's just fantastic. I ship our Kings all over the World and the Airlines said they wouldn't take any until Spring and a man called me the other night and said he just got some from another airline. I have decided it is who we talk to at the time as I was put on hold for 20 minutes and it is a long distance call.

On December 9, Eileen Blanchette called me, they had just won Grand Champion King at an All Breed Show at Hammond, Ind., with 110 Kings. They are new breeders so it made it that much more special for them.

On Dec. 12, Howard Ferguson called, he and Mike Giacometti went to the Hammond Show too and enjoyed themselves.

On Dec. 14, we were delighted to get a package of assorted cheeses in the mail from Wisconsin, a gift from Frank and Cory Kircher, they are so sweet and sincere and devoted to taking care of their various animals, better care than a lot of children.

On Dec. 16, we got a package along with a nice long letter from Jack and LuCinda Butler, it was a pretty glass bird prism sun catcher from Norway that they got on one of their trips. It's so nice that they remember us like that. Right now they are on a trip to India and at Thanksgiving time they went to Hawaii. We love to hear about all of their travels. LuCinda wanted to ride an elephant while there so I'm sure she is doing that. I never liked to ride a dirty horse. I like the kind of animals that take a bath like the Kings.

On Dec. 18, Fred Labati called and said he just got home from the airport, he and Doc Horn judged Kings at Denmark, he said Doc and Peggy were taking some side trips and would be home a few days later, it's so nice that they can take time to do that now. It doesn't seem possible that they have retired already.

On Dec. 20, we got the cute Christmas card of the flying Kings pulling a sleigh with George and Ella riding it and George sent along the paper with all of their entertainment for the year, no wonder they don't get to many shows anymore, they are busy at the club.

On Dec. 23, we got a letter from Av. Spais saying I was in error about

the WKC Show. It was Gene Maciejewski, not D.C. Warner who won the Grand Champion King there, so sorry Gene. Av said he is trying to persuade Gene to take his bird to Houston.

At our 1st Dist. ACK Show, Mark Mayberry won with a White King and Roy Duckmanton was the judge. Roy called the other day and said it was really great and the people gave him a standing ovation. At the 2nd Dist. Show, K and L Miller won with a yearling White, it came in 2nd at the 1st Dist., it got a little tired before the judging was over. We had Harv Felbinger as the judge. At the 3rd Dist. Maurice Richards, our Pres., won with Joe Abreu as the judge, at the 4th Jim Torrao won with John Schroeder as the judge. I don't know who won at the 5th and 6th Dist. At the 7th, Joyce Haferman won with a White with Fred Labati doing the judging. Joyce had a bird go 1st at Highland, probably the same bird, these judges do find the same birds at the end, no matter how many they have to go through to get there. We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful judges in our great King hobby and the birds are getting better each year too.

I'm already getting lots of requests for the Highland Show to be held Nov. 15 and 16, 1986, so watch out for a bigger show than what we had this year with 863 Kings. Rip Schroeder told me that it was the largest King Show in the U.S. History - that sure made me feel good to hear that. We are centrally located so everyone just comes to meet in the middle, it seems. We do love to go to other shows too. I'm beginning to wonder if we should rent out the basement for the Black King Club. I think they will let us decide when the time comes. The Fair Board there at Highland are some extra nice people, they have the hall reserved for every weekend all year long, it is a busy place. If it wasn't for all the great people helping at the shows, there is no way that we could even put on such a big show without all of their help.

I was so pleased to hear from our old Illinois friends who are now in Palm Springs, Ca., retired and enjoying life, Ed and Louis Killam, he raised Kings and still enjoys going to Pamona Pageant of Pigeons there and visiting with the pigeon people.

It was so good to hear from Charles Schmidt who lives in Ind., and is retired and raising horses and is visiting a son in Palm Springs, Ca. I need to get Charles and Ed together, they could have a ball talking

(Continued On Next Page)

about the Kings.

We are pleased to have Bill and Margie Welsh back into the King hobby again, he just retired and needs to be busy, so it's back to the King hobby again. They came in a motorhome and stayed in it at the Show, that is my lifelong dream, to get a motorhome and just travel and visit all the pigeon friends along the way the rest of our lives.

I was so pleased to hear from Bill Doebing, he hasn't been to Highland lately but he goes to the Great Lakes Show to visit with the pigeon people. Wilma is still in the nursing home and has a cheerful outlook on life, which is really great, she is such a sweet person.

We got a nice long letter from Bob and Ethel Adams from Pa., they are mating their birds and are getting ready for the shows for 1986.

At the National Young Bird Show at Louisville, Ky., Maurice Durkee won the Grand Champion King, I don't know who the judge was.

Chris Mercure is a new King breeder from Mich., and this fall he entered his Kings in an All Breed Show and won the Grand Champion King.

I called Charles Bacon the other night to see how the 3rd District Show turned out and to see who all was there and etc. Charles said that Charles Adams had been in the hospital earlier so he didn't feel up to coming to the show, he is doing real well, I'm happy to say.

Charles said that Skeeter Neal was the navigator for the whole King procession into Atlanta, it seems as though the men were afraid of making a mistake. Charles said that Skeeter does all the navigating on the big boats they had and they never went awry. More families need a Skeeter in them.

Mike Messick from Co., is a new King breeder who is anxious to go to

some of the shows to meet some of the people, why not come to Highland and make a vacation out of it, a lot of them do anymore, you will meet a lot of King breeders there.

Howard Kingsley, a pigeon breeder from Pa., writes he is anxious to go to Houston with his son, he was the man who was in a movie last year, in fact, Jack and LuCinda went to see that movie just to see Howard with the pigeons.

We will be looking forward to meeting Joe Calloura at Houston, he has written to us for several years so it will be great to meet him in person.

We are also looking forward to meeting the James family as they seem like such a nice family from Texas.

Matt, Don and Aaron Munds have been King breeders for a couple of years now and seem to be enjoying their birds, just wish they would get to some of the shows, then they will enjoy them more.

Al and Denese Thompson went to WKC and had Best Black there, always so glad to hear when you do good. I sure do like my calendar, Al, thanks. Be sure to circle Nov. 15 and 16 for Highland, 1986, too. □

Tips In The Sport Of Flying Rollers

by MICHAEL CURTIS,
Redlands, Calif.

The subject of birds of prey and Birmingham Rollers is to some of us an experience we wish we did not know. You would think if you lived in the middle of the city that your chances of hawk attack would be lessened. This is not always the case, however. To make matters worse, there are private and government

organizations funding experiments to populate large cities with peregrin Falcons, hoping to control the common pigeon population.

The Peregrine and Prairie Falcons are the Birmingham Rollers most deadly enemy. The falcon likes to take its prey as high over the land as it can. He will scare them up very high once he gets the routine down. In a city setting, the falcon becomes totally dependent on the pigeons he sees from his vantage point. He can kill 100 birds in six weeks. Now, our country cousins have the Coopers Hawk. The Coopers Hawk is responsible for taking more performing pigeons in North America than any other bird of prey. The Coopers Hawk likes to ambush your birds as they are leaving the kit box or returning after their exercise.

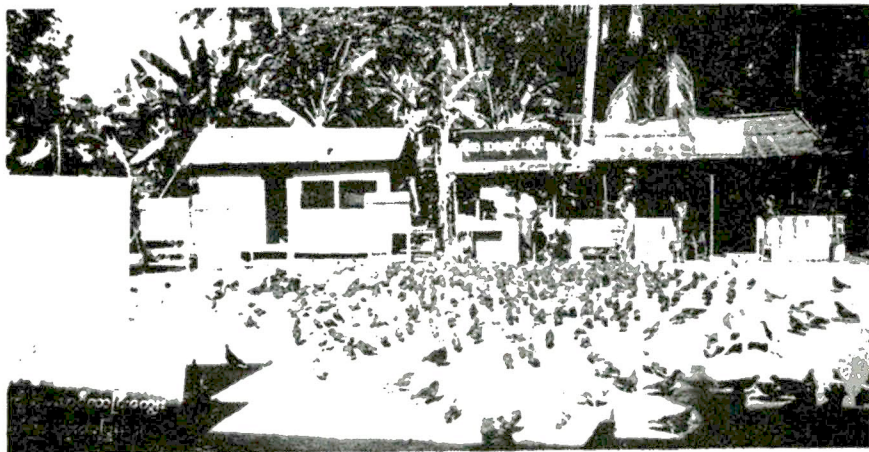
The first attack we run around like our birds, confused, but we have to set up our strategy. There are different techniques we can use. It can be quite a mind game trying to outwit the hawk.

If the attack is in the middle of the day, you should change your flying time to sunrise or very late in the afternoon. If your birds are over six months old you are better off flying them in the morning. If you fly in the early morning you have less chance of hawk attacks. Only the hawks that live in your immediate vicinity will bother you. If you fly your pigeons later in the day, the hawks that didn't scare breakfast will open their range up and their menus too. If he is waiting for you in the early morning then he is trying to make a living off of your birds. Of course, you will want to keep your flying time down, so cut back on the feed. This is called keeping your birds sharp.

Now, if you can't get rid of the hawk the old fashioned way, the best way to trap them is with a mist net. It is a fine lined net in 1½ or 2 inch squares, usually black in color. The size 10 by 15 feet. This net may be hard to find. I have made some of these nets in the past, but it is not very easy, so try to find one premade or something you can modify easily.

The way you set this trap is to stretch it across a likely attack path the hawk will take. You need to have the four corners tied so they will let go when the hawk flies into the net. You use pigeons, preferably tethered, as bait. You may want to use two nets positioned to form a right angle with the bait between them.

It may work best for you to hold your birds in for six weeks during the fall migration period if you live on a flight path. The major migration ways are in some field guides for



A tourist snapshot in 1985 of a village marketplace in Burma. The pigeons are all blue bars and checks. The village dogs don't eat the pigeons! — Photo by Axel Sell, Germany. Submitted by W.F. Hollander, Ames, Iowa.

birds, but there are many small migration paths that birds of prey use.

Another hedge against these sky killers is the use of takers. If your family of rollers are primarily dark birds, you can add some light grizzles to your flying kit as takers. About 70% of the time, the hawks will take the light colored birds first. It seems like the hawk or falcon will attack the same color he had success with previously. I once had a falcon take all my red checks before he started on my white flighted birds. They don't always follow this rule, but more so than not. — Michael Curtis, RR 2, Box 670, Redlands, CA 92373, 714-795-6279. □

American Giant Rumbler Facts

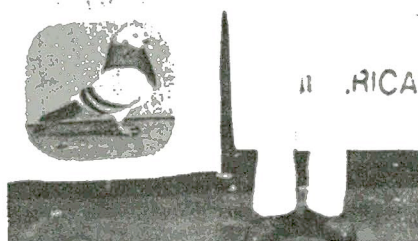
by TONY CABRAL,
London, Ont., Canada

The National Young Bird Show is over for another year. We had a good showing this year with 8 exhibitors: Charles Clegg, Marie Clegg, Tony Cabral, Curtis Richrath, Hubert Bledsoe, Bob Wold, Chad Graham, a junior member, Everett Park and Gordon Gilchrist. John Medeiros, Scott Hamilton, Manuel Sousa also had birds entered but did not show due to a few problems at the border. They left the birds with friends in Leamington, Ontario, and attended the show. A few members present but not showing were Art Kehl, George Estes, Jerry Sweatt, Don Little, Grant Daniels and passing his judgement over the birds was Wesley Conover, Master Breeder and Hall of Famer.

When it was all over Hubert Bledsoe had taken Champion on a A.O.C. hen. This is the fourth year in a row that a different member has taken Champion, which goes to show that there is no one man domination at the Giant Rumbler shows. Charles and Marie Clegg took Reserve Champion on a Rare A.C. Cock, Charles and Marie have some of the best Giant Rumlbers around and are always in the top five at every Giant Rumbler show. Best of color class winners were: Best Blue; White and Rare A.C. won by Charles and Marie Clegg, Best Silver by Tony Cabral, Best Red by Curtis Richrath, Best A.O.C. Hubert Bledsoe. We all owe a big thank-you to Wesley Conover for his fine judging. I know he will be doing a few more shows in the future.

We had our Annual membership

meeting after the judging. The minutes of all Giant Rumbler Clubs meetings are taken and then sent out in the club newsletter, so that all the members know who is passing what motions and how the club is going. I was a member of a club for years and always heard about meetings but never received the minutes of these meetings, as long as I'm Secretary-Treasurer of the Giant Rumbler Club this will not happen. The membership has the right to know how the club is running and what was said and done at the Annual meeting. One motion that was passed at this years meeting was that the columns in the American Pigeon Journal may be written by any member of the club. This column belongs to the



WINNER OF CHAMPION
Hubert Bledsoe won Champion Giant Rumbler at the Louisville National Young Bird Show 1985. He won with an AOC Giant Rumbler Hen. — Photo from Tony Cabral, London, Ont., Canada.



GIANT RUMBLER BREEDERS

Giant Rumbler Breeders at the 1985 National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Ky. They are: back row, l. to r. - Chad Graham, George Estes, Wesley Conover, Everett Park, Curtis Richrath. Front row, l. to r.: Hubert Bledsoe, Charles Clegg, Marie Clegg, John Medeiros. — Photo from Tony Cabral, London, Ontario, Canada.

Giant Rumbler breeders of the world not to me or any other member. So if any of you members wish to be a guest writer let me know. New members this month are Jerry Sweatt, Scott Saltee, George Estes and Don Little. Armando Bernardo, 110 Tinkham St., New Bedford, Mass. U.S.A. 02746, has informed me of the formation of the New England Giant Rumbler Club. They will be holding a couple shows a year. Our 1st District Show was held with the club this past year and plans are that our 1986 show will also be held with the club. The membership dues for the N.E.G.R.C. are \$5.00 a year and you may sent them to Armando. Joe Salema is the President and Joel Teixeira is the Vice President. Their membership list includes John Travossos, Tony Costa, Duarte Costa, Jose Ferreira, John Benevides, Dave Lima, Tony Andarde, Tony Cabral, Wesley Conover, Charles and Marie Clegg. That is all for now and remember keep breeding the "Bird With A Beautiful Face" the Giant Rumbler. — Tony Cabral, 411 Hudson Drive, London, Ont., Canada NSV 1E7. □

What You Should Know About Pigeon Breeder's Lung Disease

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Dragoon Doings

by **ROBERT W. TAUSCHER, Jr.**
Palisades Park, N.J.

There has been a shortage of articles written about one of the most noble of birds. This injustice cannot continue! The American Dragoon Club to the rescue! "Appoint a member to help with publicity," was the suggestion because our publicity director has his hands pretty full with editing and publishing the A.D.C. Bulletin every quarter. "Let's see, where can we find a good pigeon, oops, I mean volunteer to help write articles for the American Pigeon Journal?"

In case you haven't figured it out, I'm the new Assistant Publicity Director for the A.D.C. I'll be bringing you news and nonsense about my favorite pigeon breed in these pages. This just goes to show what happens when you ask a few questions about how something might be done better. A "volunteer" will be "found" who is interested in the project. Well, here's to Dragons and I'll let you know the latest.

The A.D.C. held the annual young bird meet, as usual, with the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Kentucky, October 26. This was the first major show I had attended and it was fantastic. I've only been raising pigeons for a little over a year, but the friendly help that I found among A.D.C. members in Ohio proved to be just the tip of the iceberg. The guys I met in Louisville quickly became genuine friends. Helpful tips were received from several people which will aid me in the years to come.

Back to the birds. The A.D.C. isn't a very large club with only about 30 members. In the 13 color classes, the birds which won Best of Color were entered by seven different exhibitors. Champion Dragoon was won by a fine Blue Bar cock entered by Harold Groll, Holgate, Ohio. Best Opposite Sex was won by a Blue Bar hen, also entered by Harold Groll. The Dragoon judge was Orman Forcht, who not only did a fine job, but after the judging took a few minutes to answer questions for me on some of the finer points of judging. As a newcomer I was glad for his pointers and advice. Next year I hope to have some birds good enough to enter in this fine show.

The A.D.C. held its annual meeting at Louisville. In elections all the past officers were re-elected. The officers of the A.D.C. are: Clair

Wright - President, York, Pennsylvania; Tom Barnhart - Vice-president, Lima, Ohio; William J. Schmidt - Secretary/Treasurer, Baltimore, Maryland; and Paul Steiden - Publicity Director, Louisville, Kentucky.

It was decided to set up a A.D.C. Master Breeders Award, and the four officers will act as a committee to select qualified recipients.

The A.D.C. will hold the Annual Meet January 3-4, 1986, at the Baltimore Pigeon Show in Odenton, Maryland. A new award will be initiated at the Annual meet. The Rocky Ault Award plaque will be given for the best show team of Dragons exhibited. Each show team will be comprised of four birds; Young Cock, Young Hen, Old Cock, and Old hen of any color.

Well, that's all the news for now. When you're in the shows look for our Dragons and you'll not only find great birds but fine people too. If you have some loft space and you're thinking of adding a breed with a future, pick up some Dragons and you won't be disappointed. If you would like to join the American Dragoon Club, dues are only \$5.00 per year. For your \$5.00 you will receive the quarterly Bulletin which will keep you abreast of Dragoon news from around the country and tips on breeding a good one. Make your checks payable to Wm. J. Schmidt and send them to him at 3606 Hamilton, Baltimore, MD 21214.

Your thoughts and contributions for Dragoon Doings would be greatly appreciated. Please write - Bob Tauscher, 9 E. Homestead Ave., Palisades Park, N.J. 07650. □

Karneau Keepers

by **STEVE COOK**
St. James, Mo.

Carneau keepers in a few more weeks you will be going to the national in Houston, Texas. I sure hope the weather is right and you have a very good show.

In checking over our bulletin I would like to report the results of some of the shows of 1985.

First the young bird show, the top birds in each color. W.E. Jackson and Charles Jackson took the best in the young red cock #200 and the best young red hen #207.

In the yellow class, Victor Stoll had best cock #62, best hen #305.

In the black class Curtis Richrath had best cock #585 and Victor Stoll had best hen #310.

Also in the White Class, Victor Stoll had best white cock #60.

Curtis Richrath has some good reds and could give you all a race in the red class.

He sure has a way of mating up his birds to get the best from them. Good luck Curtis.

In the First District show C.A. Smith had champion with a yearling black cock, reserve champion, owner H.P. Bowser, old red cock #111 and champion young owned by A.A. Sheffer.

There were three entries with 38 birds, and each won a class.

The judging was by Marvin Angle of first district, I understand he did an outstanding job.

And the third district show, they had the largest entry in several years. C.L. Maserang took champion, best opposite sex, and champion young.

They had 112 Carneau and there were, C.L. Maserang, Don Scalf, Doug Connally, Earl Ruthledge, George Vinson, and Jerry Hoffpauir, everyone was well pleased with Archie Kelly's judging. It is good to see Archie taking part in the shows.

The fifth district show was taken by Jean Millet. He had champion, best opp. sex, and young Champion.

It is too bad that there were only two entires, Mr. Snyder took second place in a number of classes. I understand there were 33 birds and the judge was Jeff Tracht, as usual he did an outstanding job.

This is the time of the year when I start my preventive medicine treatment, which I guess most of us do have such a program.

I worm the birds, and treat them a week, with each of the medicines, like for canker, then by this time I have went through the program, it is time to put the birds together about the first of March to start a new year of breeding to hope to see some improvement in the young.

Please send me some pictures of your birds, and a few words about your loft and program. — Steve Cook, Rt. 3, Box 141, St. James, Mo. 65559. □



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Tumbler Tails & Tales

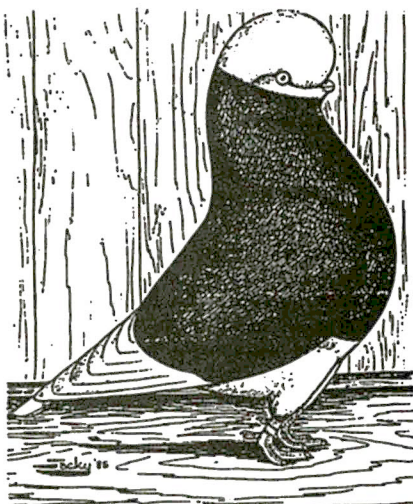
by DENNIS ROBERTS

Geneseo, Ill.



I've delayed writing of this month's column, hoping for arrival of the show report from Louisville, but must post this item without the run-down on show results, perhaps next month. Nevertheless I must mention how proud and grateful I am and I join with Bob Fragoman in thanking Russ Schoen and the Western Tumbler Club. This "Thanks" is for the fine engraved plates that Bob and I received for our promotion of the Muff Tumbler and the CL Tumblers. This is an annual Award by the Western Tumbler club President made at the Louisville show for progress in the breed and usually for breeding efforts. I'm very happy to receive this as I know Bob is for our love - the Tumbler.

Received a nice letter from Fred Drumm a while back and Fred sent along some copies of the top, frontal and a marked addition to the Tumbler profile being worked upon by the National Championship Tumbler Show committee. Fred writes, "Am sending you copies of the Top and



Front views that were accepted at Des Moines. Also a profile of a Baldhead by Dianne Jacky that I promised Russ Schoen and Jim Wilson. She (Dianne) used the accepted Self profile, but in a Baldhead."

Fred notes that it would be a shame if other clubs do not go along with the accepted drawing and fill in their preferred marking's, etc., but we must realize that the Clubs who make up the National Championship Tumbler Show committee are not bound to do so. Fred closes with the words, "I am sure lots of changes will be made in the coming years." Yes, I do believe this also and hopefully down the road some years from now, we will see a one standard and one set of color standard wording also. Patience and Progress will

surely give the Tumbler fancy this reward and another firm step to the future for all Tumbler Breeders.

Note: These are for your observation and comments, respectfully. □

Giant Homers Today



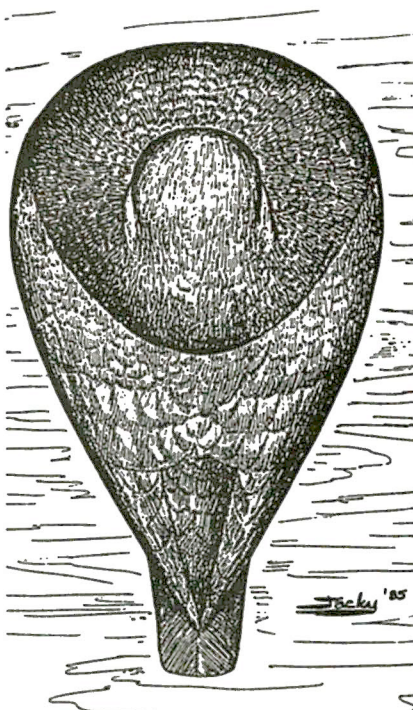
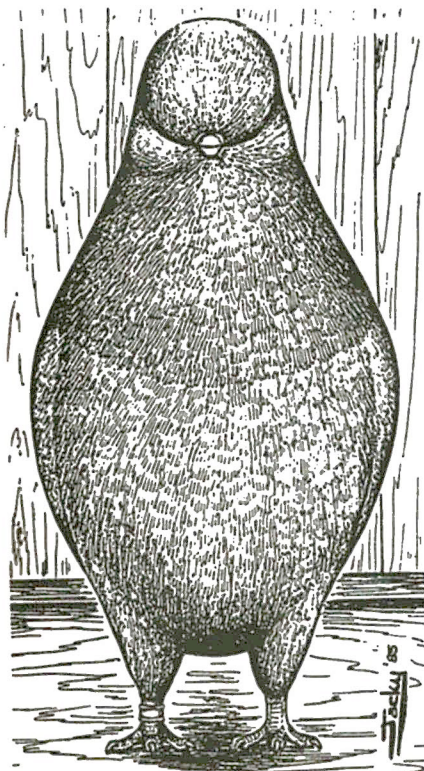
by SAM PEAVEY,
Louisville, Ky.

Among Giant Homer fanciers, as in most other breeds, the greatest challenge and excitement come with the annual showdown at the national young bird shows when the fanciers proudly and hopefully bring forth the best youngsters they have been able to produce for the year. The American Giant Homer Association (AGHA) now has two official national young bird shows. The fall young bird show is held in October with the Louisville National Young Bird Show which annually attracts over 5000 entries in all breeds. The winter young bird show is known as the American Giant Homer Young Bird Futurity. The Futurity originated in Oklahoma and is usually held in that area. This combination of fall and winter shows provides respectively for a dazzling debut and a grand finale for the finest young Giant Homers of the year. Those two shows for 1985 are now a matter of history.

The 1985 Louisville National Young Bird Show drew 300 young Giants which can be considered a fine achievement for an October show. The surprise of this show was the fine showing of novice Dick Bunkoske with a strong show team. The top winners were Champion Hen - Dick Bunkoske; Reserve Champion Hen - Sam Peavey; Champion Cock - Maurice Durkee; Reserve Champion Cock - Dick Bunkoske; Best Display - Sam Peavey.

The 1985 Young Bird Futurity held in El Reno, Oklahoma, boasted a beautiful showing of 500 young Giants in all of the attractive colors now recognized in the standard. The big winners at El Reno were: Champion Cock - A & B Lofts; Reserve Champion Cock - Maurice Durkee; Champion Hen - Dave Harrett; Reserve Champion Hen - Maurice Durkee. The 500 Futurity entries

(Continued On Next Page)



competed for a total purse of \$3,150.00. A \$100 award went to the Champion Cock; \$100 to the Champion hen; \$50 to each Reserve Champion; \$30 to each Second Reserve; \$25 to each Third Reserve; \$100 for Best Display; \$50 for Second Best Display; and \$200 for a bird winning Champion at both El Reno and Louisville. Maurice Durkee missed that latter award by a whisker.

For those fanciers in other specialty breed clubs who would like to develop a rousing finale for their annual meet we recommend giving attention to the memorable new format for a breathtaking, heart-throbbing auction now employed by the Futurity as a climax for the show. At the end of the show when all birds have been judged, the first five birds in each color class are offered at auction. The intensity of the action is hard to describe to anyone who has not been there. A 10% commission on each sale goes into the funding of the next Futurity. Of course, an exhibitor can bid in his own bird by paying the 10% commission, that is, \$5 on a \$50 bid, etc. Needless to say this auction of the finest birds in the show creates a lot of excitement and a lot of funding for the next Futurity. It is all in a good cause. We challenge you to try it at your next show if you need more money in your show budget! The top bid at the El Reno show was \$430 for the Champion Cock. It was a bit interesting to see the first place bird in one class go for a bid of \$70 while the fourth place bird went for \$260!

The foregoing should make it clear that American Giant Homer fanciers are a very special breed of people who enjoy a challenge and are ready and willing to sacrifice to support their breed, their shows, and the pigeon fancy. These are exciting times for the breeders of Giants. The American Giant Homer Association cordially invites inquiries from those who are looking for a pigeon with power and refinement that is a true delight to own, to raise, to handle and to show. See the AGHA ad in the classified section of this APJ. □

Runt Rumblings

by CHARLIE BROWN
Newton, Kansas

Well, the Des Moines show was a pretty good show. The weather was not too bad and Vets auditorium is as good a show hall as you could ever want. I would like to see another National go to Des Moines. They had

three of them in the fifties.

Congratulations goes to John Dellahoussaye for Champion and Reserve Champion with Silvers (both young). Doctor Pennington was the judge. Our secretary Jack Osterman will have a complete show report in the bulletin. We had a good group of breeders there. Present were Charland Homod, and his wife, John Delahoussaye, Charlie Brown, Jim Kearns, Leslie Weaver, Jack Osterman, George Ester, Bob Pennington, Dave Cooke, Mike Albert, and Garth-Gary Edwardson. There were a couple of other breeders entered, but I can't remember their names.

Jerry Hymer, a Fantail breeder, and I went to the show in his Olds. This limited me to six birds. I would of shown more, but the clutch on my faithful truck went out. It was good to see Howard Hart again. He is a good show secretary.

Mail Call

A call from Roger Noftsker of Baker, Mont. He has been trimming down his birds and looking forward to the '86 breeding season.

A letter from John Delahoussaye of Cleveland, Miss. He is looking forward to the Grand National. I also like the National. It is a great show and is the finals of the show season. John has had a good year with his silvers.

A letter from Ike Orsak of Texas. He also is looking forward to the Houston National. Ike really takes his Runts serious. Definitely a credit to the Giant Runt fancy.

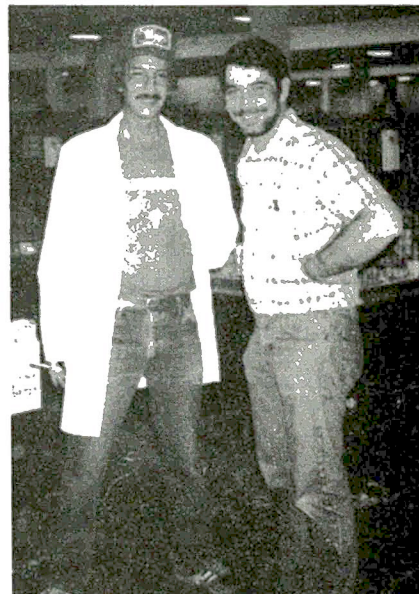
A call from Don Scalf of Texas. He said the NPA is enforcing the 10:00 o'clock Thursday rule so we will have to be there by then. I wish the NPA would enforce this every year. It would be a lot more fair to all.

A letter from Matt Koob of Minn. He is all fired up for the '86 season. I think in time this junior breeder will do a lot for the fancy in the north.



WALLACE SCALF

Wallace Scalf of Texas at the Wallace Scalf Classic 1985 in Dallas, Texas. — Photo from Charlie Brown, Newton, Kansas.



GIANT RUNT BREEDERS

Don Scalf, left, and Roger Harlin, right, two of the Giant Runt Breeders at the Dallas 4th District Show, October 1985. — Photo from Charlie Brown, Newton, Kansas.



GIANT RUNT BREEDERS

Giant Runt Breeders at the Wallace Scalf Classic held in October 1985 at Dallas, Texas. — Photo from Charlie Brown, Newton, Kansas.

A call from Jim Hoyer of Indiana. He is breeding from a few pairs of Runts and would like to see the GRCA take in the Louisville show. Well, maybe Jim, we may do that in the future.

I received a call stating that Walt Sutton of New Jersey passed away. This is very sad news as Walt was one of the Veterans of the Giant Runt. I loved to talk to Walt about his days with H. Eric Buri. Walt sat at our table last year at Portland. The Giant Runt fancy has lost a good man. Our sympathy to his family.

Business

The 1986 bands will be out soon or will be out by now. Let's get our dues for '86 all paid. Let's all sign up a new member. We have a lot of good things in store for 1986.

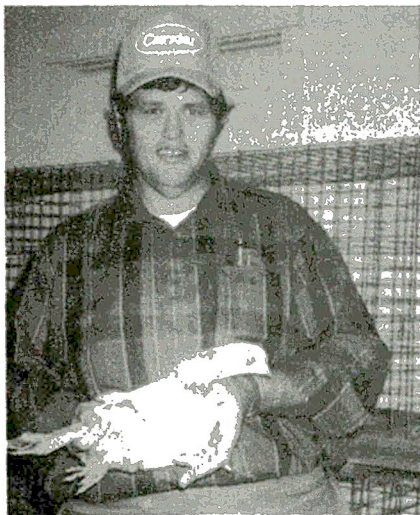
Helpful Hints

I sometimes take chicken egg shells and let them dry and crush them up and put them in the pens and let the birds eat them. This helps the soft egg problem. I learned this from Carl Ewert.

History

The last Giant Runt special was in 1980. Let's think about another one.

For a breed with a Future, Breed the Runt. □



CHARLAND HOMOD

Charland Homod of Beljoni, Miss., at the Dallas 4th District Show, 1985.
— Photo from Charlie Brown, Newton Kansas.



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Tinton Falls, N.J. 07724

Shortface Gleanings

by **WARREN MAURER**

Franklin Square, N.Y.

Had a phone call from John Sabotka who has some of the best Moorheads and Magpie Ancients in the United States and the conversation soon was about importing birds from Europe. We spoke quite a while about the many facets of importing, pro and con, and both agreed that while expensive the birds were well worth it. The next day I happened to mention to my wife that I would like to fly over to Germany to look the short face over there, her answer was "Why don't you?" I immediately wrote my friend Hans Rosenbecker of Frankfurt if he and some of the home fanciers would be available to take me around to see the German short face of the locals. Then the next step was to start the process of my passport at my post office. Now I am waiting for the passport and while that is forthcoming, hope to hear a favorable answer from my good friend in Germany stating not to worry that everything will be taken care that people will be at my service to escort me to all the local fanciers. For if not, it would be foolish for me to go, rest assured if I do go and I see birds of fine quality, Reinaugens, Ancients, Moorheads, Short Beakers, Helmets, Budapests, etc., I intend to try to buy them and have them sent over here. Yes, I know it's expensive but if they are worth buying, they are worth the additional costs. If the trip is consummated, it will be my pleasure to inform you of the various birds, quality, and quantity of each breed.

When the short face men out there read this, I feel the time has come for us to start putting our birds together for breeding season. Let us make sure our birds are in good perfect shape and wormed. Our loft clean and not crowded, nest boxes enough so that no unnecessary fighting occurs that can take the birds thoughts off what they are supposed to do, lay eggs! Of course we haven't forgotten to put a drop of iodine in the water to help the youngster out of the shell. Now one has to hope everything will work out as planned with the results being far above expectations. Good Luck!

I think it is about time that some of you fellows who have not seemed to find the time to write before get off the schneid and drop me, Warren Maurer, 966 Oaks Drive, Franklin

Square, N.Y. 11010, a line or two about what you raise, a health hint, or an unusual incident that might have happened. How about surprising both of us? □

Frillback Frillies

by **DARRELL D. MARTIN,**
NFC President

Yamhill, Ore.

Hello, APJ readers:

It's nice to have you all reading the APJ and in particular the Frillback Frillies column.

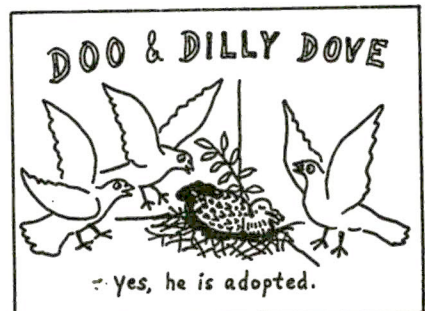
I would like to start by making an apology for not being correct when I stated in the past column that Tom McCaig wrote the color descriptions for the new proposed standard. The author was Gary Young and he also was on the standard committee, so sorry, Gary, and thanks Tom.

Tom McCaig and I have been corresponding back and forth, so I took the opportunity to ask him about the effect on feather condition, or if he felt there was any. I felt his response should be shared with all of you, so here it is.

"Moisture sure does affect feather curl on all Frillbacks. If you breed and show the breed you had better have a good loft. If you have bath water for your Frillbacks present in the loft all the time, your birds' feather curl won't be affected. In contrast, if you give your birds bath water once per month the birds stay in the water longer and the feather curl gets totally wet. (Wipes out the curl). In high moisture the feather curl straightens out just like a woman's hair does.

"Some of you out there might want to try a blow dryer and see if it lowers moisture content. You had better watch out because you might get it too hot and burn off the curl on that Champion. Also be reminded that hair spray and any other such stuff is faking and/or cheating. So remember, just select them for quality, the way fanciers have for the

(Continued On Next Page)



past 500 years."

Thanks, Tom, for that bit of information. I'm sure we should all put that in our memory bank. Something else I was reminded of, and should have, and know, is that the new standard has no class for AOC, only ARC (any rare color), all else should be put in their perspective color classes and take their licks. Thanks again Tom!

As for my friend Belinda and her FB's, the response has been very good and all were waiting on Belinda, as time is a rare commodity in her case.

Gotta Go! Hope to hear from you fellow fanciers out there, don't be afraid to drop me a line. □

Obituaries

IVAN WALKER

Ivan Walker, 92, of Hawarden, Iowa, passed away recently. Mr. Walker was a long time breeder of fine Birmingham Rollers. He started many young people to the hobby of pigeon raising and showing. He was a fancier of many years. — Submitted by Lance Walker, Hawarden, Iowa. □

Racing Homers



American Racing Pigeon Union News

by EDNA SCIFRES, Greenville, S. Car.

AU HQS - Buffalo, New York. Convention and Race - October 29 - Nov. 2, 1986. Hosted by the Buffalo Center - Sam Giarratano, Convention Chairman, at the Hilton. Everything great has been promised! A new Auto given away to a lucky registered guest - \$1,000 dollars Bingo prize - live shows, free buffet and refreshments - room rates of \$51.00 - \$45.00 single - free parking for autos! And much more as time goes on.

Clearwater Beach AU Convention 1985

The Greater Tampa Bay Center and Ladies hosted a most enjoyable event on Dec. 4-8 with thanks to Convention Chm., Elmer and Pat Buning, Rick Parino, Committee members and the race handlers. The weather was fair and resulted in the first successful race in several years. Congratulations to J. Christensen who clocked winning bird BBC - SUB - 709 with speed of 1573.506 for the first prize. Preston Shull took second with RCH SAV 746 and 1537.860, and we were all grieved to hear that the owner-breeder, Paul Teague of Savannah, Ga., had passed away from a fatal heart attack four days before the race was flown.

It was business as usual for the AU Officers and Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting was called to

order by the AU outgoing President, Laurie McConnell, and the old business moved right along. The Committee Chairman gave their reports on the programs, most of which have been published in the "Update". Chuck Weaver demonstrated the new Computer Program Project, which was of much interest to the officers, and at later showings for the public, many inquiries and enthusiasm.

At the conclusion of the "Old Business", Directors Ed Schmidt of Elgin, Ill., and Gordon Still of Salt Lake City, retired from the Board. Their years of exceptional service to the AU will be long remembered and greatly appreciated.

Incoming AU President Jerry McIntosh opened the meeting for "New Business" at which time new officers - Rick Mardis, 1st V.P.; Joe Bishop, Second V.P.; Directors Laurie McConnell, Pres. Ex-Officio, Harold Durkin, Bob Neeley, and Ken Pakulski were seated. Appointments and programs proposed by Pres. Jerry McIntosh were presented to the Board for approval.

Listed below are positions approved: 3rd V.P., Jim McCabe, Lakewood, Co.; 4th V.P., Chick Brooks, Fresno, Ca.; 5th V.P., Larry Christenson, Sandy, Ut.; 6th V.P. Rick Parino, Tampa, Fla. AU Sec./Treas., Charley Herin was re-

appointed to the office of Sec./Treas. for 1986. Elwin Anderson was appointed as Corporate Secretary for a three year term.

Programs dealing with diplomas, loft designs, the AU Newsletter and others were discussed, band prices, approval for the Arizona Center, appropriations and contributions, budget review and setting, and other subjects relating to the functions of the ARP Union. Over a period of time, full reports will appear in the "Update" and the published AU Minutes, as well as in the AU column.

The meetings continued through Thursday, and Saturday morning with the general membership attending. A highlight was the presentation of the 1985 AU Hall of Fame 'B' Award to Edwin C. Schmidt of Elgin, Ill. In making the decision for this award, HOF "B" Chairman Jimmy Ruzek spoke of the many years of service on the Board, as a past President and to many of the AU affiliates which Ed Schmidt had willingly contributed. Certainly a most popular and worthy selection by the Committee, and we congratulate Ed Schmidt with best wishes and thanks.

The Man of the Year Award was also a good choice as it went to Joe Quinn of the APFC, whose dedication to the Paramyxo Vaccination program brought such positive results. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to some fine recipients, all of whom will be recognized as the lists are received.

The Hall of Fame "A" winners and the American Champion and Presidents Cup winners were announced and congratulated, the details will all be published shortly.

On the social side, the fine Sheraton Sand Key Hotel with the beautiful beach and pool area brought pleasure and recreation to convention guests. Many enjoyed the good restaurants in surrounding areas, and the Welcome Reception, Country-Western Jamboree, AU 75th Anniversary Celebration, Banquet and entertainment. For the ladies, there were a variety of tours, luncheons and activities. The men enjoyed loft visits, Seminars and race events. We know there will be interesting reports on all of these in the months ahead, and many thanks to the hosts of the Greater Tampa Bay Center who gave us all such an enjoyable Convention.

It is a pleasure to serve another term as your Publicity Director - (at this time, under the weather with the 'flu) but sustained by memories of the happy times and wonderful people who got together in Clearwater Beach. For those who could

not attend, our thoughts were with you, and hope we will all meet again at the 1986 AU Convention in Buffalo, N.Y. on October 29 - November 2. Stay well and happy!

CHARLES HERIN DIES

Mr. Charles Herin, AU Secretary - Treasurer passed away at his home in Maineville, Ohio, on December 15, 1985. We mourn the loss of a friend

and dedicated AU officer, and extend deepest sympathy to his dear wife, Marcia Herin, and family.

President Jerry McIntosh and the Board of Directors have appointed Mr. Fred Ames, P.O. Box 26, Maineville, Ohio 45039, as temporary Secretary - Treasurer until further notice. □

Darrel Rutter of the Penn State Lofts, The Man And His Philosophy

by O.R.C. Publicity

[Note: This article is reprinted from the American Racing Pigeon News, May, 1983.]

To any Penn Stater, fall means just one thing - Nittany Lion football! and Nittany Lion football conjures up thoughts of Joe Paterno, tailgating, the Nittany Lion mascot, football players, Blue Band, and national championship and much more. To Darrel Rutter a former Nittany Lion who played defensive half back, fall means this and something else. It means racing pigeons and this adds up to more than just an interesting weekend. Racing pigeons makes fall something special, something Darrel loves to be part of.

He operates and manages the Penn State Lofts where an atmosphere of academics and activities thrive. He researches his own theories and writes his own copy. For him the time spent in the loft with the birds is time to explore ideas and to be challenged by learning about the birds and ourselves.

Throughout the year, the 36 year old Vietnam, Air Force Vet teaches school, works with the youth in the city, and spends countless hours on research about his hobby - racing pigeons.

Rutter holds a B.S. degree from Penn State where he graduated in 1972. He is married to the former Debbie Smith.

A well known figure around Central, Pa., Rutter has spent 20 years playing football, a term which included a high school, college and pro career. During this time, he almost always maintained a loft, and continued his research.

His research has grown out of his search for answers to various questions that confront the sport. He applies the scientific theories to age old principles in hopes of finding these solutions.

Many research projects are being carried out presently and the results will be published when completed or when progress warrants publication.

Being an educator, Rutter believes in facts not fiction. Opinions and theories are just that. You need knowledge - proven facts. "Without this knowledge, the sport cannot advance." He also added, "You can give the fancy the knowledge and they might accept it, but then fail to apply it. You are going to get better or worse, both as a pigeon flyer and a person. You come in contact with other flyers who influence you and you either become better or worse. 'You have to keep hustling, something good will happen.'"

A flyer has to think of himself as a teacher and coach. He must have a 'calling' for racing pigeons. He should set high goals for himself. Aim high, think big. He must reach up. As Browning wrote, 'A man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?' A flyer should never underestimate his abilities or himself. He should take chances when opportunity presents itself. Never look back and ask, what for? Don't be afraid to spend a few extra dollars on a very good pair.

A flyer should not copy someone else. He has got to be himself. Make up your own program. Stick with it and only change when you are sure something doesn't work. As long as improvement is being made never change. The key is consistency.

Also plan ahead and plan for everything. Pay attention to those small details. There aren't any gimmicks in pigeon racing. Nothing will help you win except the best pigeon in the race; handled properly and good management. "The cream always rises to the top."

It's management, training and handling; and if you do them in the order that I give them to you, it will all work out. You've got to be a technician. You can't let things escape you. You have to analyze your birds and race results then react to them and make the necessary adjustments. You always have to be thinking and have an instinct for

picking the right bird for the right race.

The flyer who makes the fewest mistakes will usually win if his bird is equal to the task.

I think flying pigeons is fun and that's as it should be, but a lot of the fun is in the winning. If winning isn't fun then you're in the wrong sport. I really don't know what my priorities are, but winning is right up there. Part of the fun is in how you approach the game of flying pigeons, the excitement of being different, of taking chances. You need to know how much work your birds need to win, and prepare them just enough so they are ready to fly the day of the race. They don't win till they win.

It's a unique thing in this sport. You set goals, work hard to realize these and when you achieve them, go out and try to repeat them. What's done then is done. It's time to move on. Getting there is all the fun and that's what I see as the victory. It's reward for the virtue of competing itself.

Although I've had racing pigeons for a long time I've only really raced for four years, including the past two years. I was fortunate to win average speed in Y.B.'s, both in 1981 and 1982, but I'm reluctant to dwell on the past and what the Penn State Lofts has accomplished. You reach plateaus, but you want more to go higher and higher.

However, what you accomplish can help you later down the road. The horizons are unlimited when you apply yourself and use good solid methods and handle the birds correctly.

You must not lose your concentration or take your eye off the mark. To appreciate flying pigeons you have to be totally involved. You have to become part pigeon. When your birds are tame and 'home' to you - then success can't be far behind.

To win my second Y.B. average speed in two years was great. It was tough keeping the birds ready for the races. Although it's a lot easier than old birds. The constant work, training flights, cleaning, keeping records, medicating and so on. It's tough to maintain an emotional edge through the racing season. You have to remember what you did that got you there, and the price you paid and then be willing to do it again."

Darrel's lofts consist of Sions, Janssens, Workman, Fabry, Bastins.

He flies with the Altoona Racing Pigeon Club and belongs to the Central Counties Pigeon Club, being a member of the IF and AU

(Continued On Next Page)

respectively.

He said he'll do anything to enhance the sport. He talks to schools, community clubs and groups. Writes articles for newspapers to educate the public. Recruits new members especially in the youth sector. He is a Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor. His birds have been used in the Junior Olympics, Community Chest of the United Way and released at football games.

"Pigeon racing is a great hobby," Rutter insists, "and I'm very happy to be associated with it. I'm not afraid to have my name associated with it. If I thought it wasn't good, I'd look for another hobby. There's so much to get out of it that makes life richer and more meaningful. Society needs distractions - creative hobbies and sports to relieve the tensions of our ultra-fast life style."

Asked if pigeon racing is relevant to society, he replied, "That's up to society to decide. When society says we don't need pigeon racing, then the sport will die, but only when it's no longer wanted or needed."

Anthracite Concourse Pigeon Show

by DAVE THOMAS, ACA Pub., Frackville, Pa.

The Anthracite Concourse held its annual pigeon show on Sunday, December 8, 1985, at Groody's Hall, Ashland, PA. Much to our surprise, the turnout by show people was poor, but on the other hand, the racing pigeon flyers showed many birds. Thanks goes out to the members of the Ashland Pigeon Club for setting up the show and taking it down. Also the ACA thanks John Knecht, Danny Knecht, and Harry Cook for their help. 25 fanciers and 162 pigeons participated in the show. Over 100 people were in attendance.

Listed below are the classes and their respective winners.

100 M.O.C. - R. Hand - #1165;
Diploma O.C. - D. Thomas - #1456.
100 M.O.H. - R. Hand - #1163;
Diploma O.H. - D. Thomas - #2389.
200 M.O.C. - R. Hand - #1749;
Racing Pigeon O.C. - J. Balsavage - #608. 200 M.O.H. - R. Hand - #1151;
Racing Pigeon O.H. - C. Rasor - #835. 300 M.O.C. - L. Hand - #1180;
ACA O.C. - M. Malay - #241. 300 M.O.H. - R. Hand - #2577; ACA O.H. - M. Secoges - #122. 400 M.O.C. - R. Hand - #1153; ACA Diploma O.C. - A. Malay - #600. 400 M.O.H. - R. Hand - #500; ACA Diploma O.H. - D. Thomas - #442. 500 M.O.C. - L. Hand - #1732; Best O.H. - R. Hand - #1151. 500 M.O.H. - R. Hand - #1183; Best O.C. - R. Hand - #1153. 100 M.Y.H. - J.

His philosophy is that since pigeon racing is important not only to our hobby but to the National Security and research, that each of us plays an important role within the community and to our country. He believes that we flyers should learn the essentials of the sport and receive a firm foundation in these principles. Also he feels we must develop the power of observation through a carefully directed study of the phenomena pertinent to pigeon racing and management.

He knows he must use the scientific method in solving problems and foster confidence in the knowledge he gains by the use of the scientific approach and method, so that it will influence his daily conduct and help foster the proper techniques and help form good habits in dealing with his birds.

He has written a course of study for the youth in his club and started to write a book on racing pigeons.

If men such as Darrel Rutter are the future of our sport then our future looks bright. □

Devine - #4801; Racing Pigeon Y.H. - J. Balsavage - #17. 100 M.Y.C. - R. Hand - #405; Racing Pigeon Y.C. - J. Malay - #778. 200 M.Y.H. - L. Hand - #14; ACA Y.H. - T. Cerrito - #395. 200 M.Y.C. - R. Hand - #415; ACA Y.C. - J. Balsavage - #51. 300 M.Y.H. - J. Devine - #4807; Diploma ACA Y.H. - M. Malay - #511. 300 M.Y.C. - J. Devine - #4804; Diploma ACA Y.C. - J. Balsavage - #22. Diploma Y.H. - D. Thomas - #1564; Best Y.H. - J. Devine - #4801. Diploma Y.C. - D. Thomas - #1588; Best Y.C. - R. Hand - #405.

Best ACA Cock - M. Malay - #241; Best ACA - M. Malay - #241; Best ACA Hen - T. Cerrito - #395.

Best Hen - R. Hand - #1151; Best of Show - R. Hand - #1151; Best Cock - R. Hand - #1153.

We hope next year brings us a better turnout for this show which we have held for over 35 years. Anyone interested can show their birds. There are classes for racing pigeons and show homers. This years judges were Paul Anderson, Cliff Schwartz, Hain Wolfe, and Joe Salvatore. We thank them for doing such a fine job.

A small auction was also held to help costs. Birds were donated by and purchased by:

Donated by: M. Malay, purchased by: A. Malay, Sr.; M. Malay, Tony Balsavage; H. Cook, Clem Utarus; H. Evans, Kurt Waskow; D. Thomas,

Duane Semmel; (pair tipplers) J. Devine, Jack Burns.

Thanks to those who donated and those who bought these fine racing pigeons. Next years show will be announced in the Racing Pigeon Bulletin and the American Pigeon Journal. Until then, happy flying and showing. □

ACA Pigeon Banquet

by DAVE THOMAS,
Frackville, Pa.

Anthracite Concourse Racing Pigeon Association held their annual banquet at Lobitz's Hall in Hazleton, Pa., on Saturday, November 23, 1985. Over 200 people were in attendance for this marvelous affair. Special credit must go out to Jim Lobitz and his staff for having us. Jim is a novice flyer who is flying quite well for a one and a half year period. He even got his brother interested (Junior), and he plans to fly young birds in 1986, weather permitting.

The affair starts with table full of snacks - meatballs, sausage, shrimp, spreads, crackers and much more. Note: this is before the meal. Beer and soda are open at the bar, mixed drinks are very reasonable. Main meal is served. Delicious! Trophies are awarded for the year. Drinking, dancing and good socializing continues till 2:00 a.m. During the one break the band took, we had a magician do a few tricks with doves. Congratulations to all the trophy winners and to all those who came.

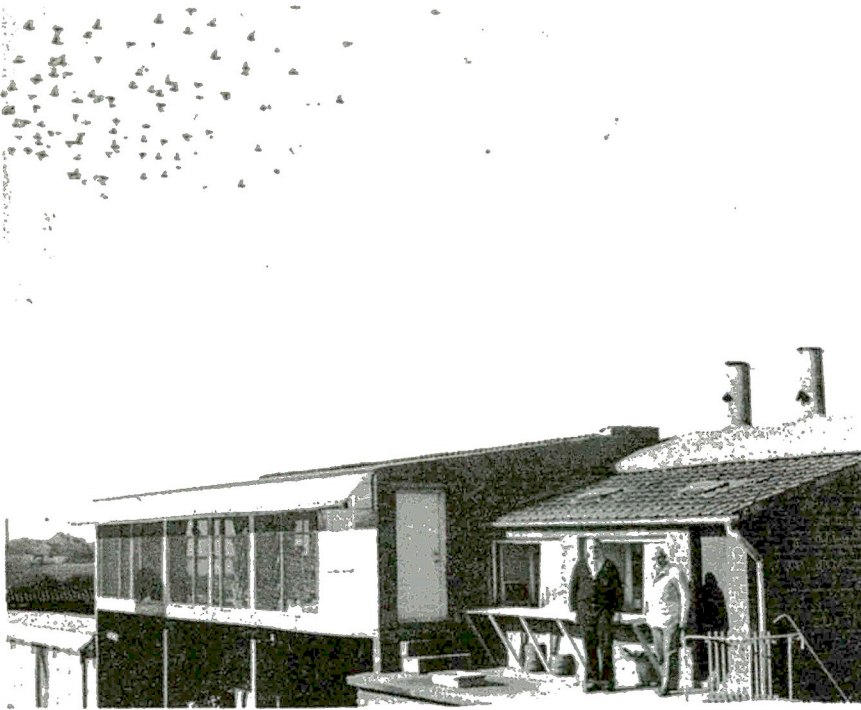
Special thanks to Mike Lennick (Still Creek Farms) for the trophy he donated for overall average speed. Also special thanks to Circle K Pet Feeds for the superb door prizes. An extended thanks to Bay-Mor Pet Feeds for their trophy for Overall Average Speed, for their door prizes and for the raffle they had on the STB Timer they donated. These feed stores do a lot for our sport, and with their efforts and ours, someday we may need two halls to hold a banquet in. God Bless! □

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VANHEE RACING LOFT

Gerard and Michel Vanhee standing in front of the yearling racing loft where they clocked 1st, 2nd, 3rd National Bordeaux Yearlings. On the left is the breeding loft. Note birds exercising. In 1985 they were 1st National Super Prestige Champions of Belgium and 1st National Long Distance Champion Entente Belgium. — Photo from Tom Smith, Yaphank N.Y.

“Sports Talk”

From Around The Racing Pigeon World

by TOM SMITH, Yaphank, N.Y.

Belgian National Super Prestige Championship 1985 - 1st G & M Vanhee, 2nd Claude Hetru!

Readers of this column know the above names well. Over the years the names of Vanhee and Hetru had become synonymous with national championships in Belgium and France respectively.

Today Claude Hetru flies in Kain, Belgium, challenging the world's best. He has lost a few Nationals and an International by only seconds and now he is 2nd National Super Prestige Champion of Belgium! And whom is 1st - none other than the winningest National loft in Belgium - Gerard and Michel Vanhee of Wervik.

This past July, along with my wife Gie and friend Eric Arnold, I visited both Claude and Michel and interviewed them extensively.

Claude Hetru has a magnificent loft in Kain not far from the one and only Raoul VanSpitael. The ground floor in brick and the 2nd floor wood. It faces south. The back wall of the ground floor is made of clear corrugated fiberglass sheets so that in

the afternoon when the bricks begin to cool off, sun warms the interior. The 2nd floor has many glass windows and a clear fiberglass overhang to allow ample sunlight in. Each section has lowered vents, front at floor level and ceiling vents which can be closed at night.

Father Gilbert Hetru keeps the lofts scrupulously clean.

The Hetru old birds are exercised every morning and evening. Their feed is measured - a small capfull per bird in the morning and a large capfull in the evening. The cocks are locked in their boxes when not at exercise. They are also individually watered in their boxes and given a capfull of grit. Vitamins are given to the racers every week in their water.

I stood in a doorway with my video camera as Claude called in his 30 odd old cocks. What a magnificent sight. Every cock dropped through the sputnik trap and darted into its box within a few moments. They were locked in and then we viewed the magnificent team.

Claude and Gilbert buy the best and fly them. Over the years the best

long distance winners have been from the extraordinary Gorin strain, the well known Diane-Burris Vanderweghe strain and of course the Ijzeren Stichelbauts. Several years ago I went with Claude to meet the great Albert Gorin who was once considered the best long distance flier in Europe. Albert could no longer fly from his loft because a utility company strung rows of high tension electrical wires over it. Many birds were crippled so Albert retired from flying and sold out. But like all great fliers he could not part with every bird, thus kept a few of his best such as De Marseille and DeBarcelona and bred a new colony. He became friendly with Claude and asked him to take all the remaining Gorins. Albert could see Hetru's bird flying from his window and felt great solace in being able to see his Gorins flying again in a champion loft. We took all the Gorins to Kain that day and it was only a few months later Albert Gorin died. In 1985 a Gorin cock almost won the Barcelona International for Claude.

When handling the Hetru pigeons we marvelled at their body and feather. I was surprised to see 10 pairs of direct Janssens of Arendonk pigeons. I forecast their value to Claude and Michel Vanhee several years back. Today both lofts house some of the best Janssens in existence. They are vitesse and half-fond pigeons, although Vanhee has used them as a very successful cross for long distance too. Claude said buying the best Janssens was a problem because he did not want youngsters 30 days of age. If he was going to pay \$1000-\$2000 each he wanted old birds he could handle to know their value. Claude had to wait a year but the wait was well worth the trouble. I

(Continued On Next Page)



RACING PIGEON FANCIERS

Tom Smith, the author, flanked by Gerard and Michel Vanhee of Wervik, 1st National Super Prestige Champion of Belgium, 1985. — Photo from Tom Smith, Yaphank, N.Y.

also liked the Mencke - Haelterman (Eole) pigeons, the Desmet-Matthys Debaere (Kapoel) pigeons, the Roosens - Mersche - VanSpitael pigeons, and the new Germain Imbrechts (Naessens, Espoir, FOU) reds and silvers. Great pigeons. The old "Diane" 1st International St. Vincent blood and Bostyn - Vereecke - Iron Stichelbauts (Ware Ijzeren, Klein Ijzeren, Zwarte Ijzeren) are as nice as always. Quite a collection!

Claude uses a few young bird races for training. Yearlings go 200-300 miles usually, then two year old go all the way - 650 miles if they are ready.

Hens have always done well for Claude. He entered six at Cahors winning 6th National Hens; entered eight at Montauban winning 10th National Hens; and at Barcelona clocked his 2nd bird, a Diane-Burrus hen, early to be in the first 10 National Hens 650 miles. Claude says the hens fly best when sitting 13 or 14 days on eggs. He sets them up for certain races, then lets them raise on youngsters, and sets them up again. While the hen is exercising Gilbert hand feeds the youngsters with water-soaked grains so the hen won't overwork herself. "Winning is hard work!"

The Hetrus have flown very consistently in 1985 and Claude has clocked his nominated bird first most of the time. Some of his results: 1st Marseille, the only day bird; 2, 19, 22, 23, 28, 39 Chateauroux 450 km, 025 mpm; 3, 10, 17 Limoges 556 km 940 mpm; 1, 2, 6 Barcelona Tournai 1029 km; etc.

Claude and Gilbert Hetru has one of the finest lofts of racing pigeons it has been my pleasure to visit.

The overall winner of the National Super Prestige Championship is once again Gerard and Michel Vanhee of Wervik. They have won every major championship in Belgium over the years and 17 first Nationals too! They have won more national races and national championships than any loft flying in Belgium today. As of Sept. 17th they are still in 1st place in the DBD-LCB National fond championships also.

Today Michel Vanhee is the manager as father Gerard is retired. Michel is a superior pigeon man. His main interest is winning money and to win money you must have the best pigeons. His other interest is to sell pigeons and to sell them one must be on the top in a country of 100,000 fliers. G and M Vanhee have the most National prizes in the first 20 over the past ten years!

Michel adds new blood to his loft each year. Last year he exchanged birds with the well known Roger

Desmet-Matthys. The year before that it was Julien Matthys, the Barcelona specialist. But over the years the greatest Vanhee pigeons have come from the lines of Motta (VanderEsptision), Stichelbaut (Remi and Ijzeren), Janssen Bros., and Debou (Hector Debou's San Sebastian). Other crossings have also produced extraordinary racers. What is surprising is that this cross-bred family of birds has reproduced many winners around the world including many 1st Combine winners for myself!

Gerard and Michel possess an outstanding loft of super racers. They

have many pigeons but among them many good pigeons - and some really great ones. When Ralph Forbes of Canada visited Vanhee he was disappointed with the old lofts and late young birds for sale - but then he was taken to the racing young birds loft where the gems were. Magnificent specimens! And Ralph even talked Michel into parting with a few.

I handled the St. Vincent National winner and the Lourdes International winner. Like the Marbonne International winner they possess bodies second to none - medium deep, strong, round, muscular, with ex-

Internationale
Nationale
Wereldsuccessen

DE "DOWEN"
219142-71
1st National Aargenon 1972
1st Nat. 1972

DE "ZWARTE IJZEREN"
3101773-71
1st Nat. 1972

DE "RODE MOTTA"
3103094-73
2nd Nat. 1973

DE "IJZEREN"
3101773-71
2nd National Aargenon 1972

DE "VANNEE"
3103094-73
1st Nat. 1972

DE "KLEINEN"
3048071-66
1st National Aargenon 1972

DE "MONSIEUR"
3103094-73
1st National Aargenon 1972

DE "JONGE MONSIEUR"
3103094-73
1st National Aargenon 1972

DE "BONDAUSTE"
3103094-73
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DE "GHEEZE"
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1st National Aargenon 1972

GERARD & MICHEL HETRU
Gerard and Michel Vanhee, 1st National Super Prestige Champions of Belgium, 1985, with some of their champion racing birds.

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Le Petit Fer
Belg. 3244768-68

DE "ZWARTE IJZEREN"
La Noire Fer
Belg. 3240337-67

DE "ZWARTE IJZEREN"
Le Noir Fer
Belg. 3450250-66

DE "KLEINE IJZEREN"
Le Petit Fer
Belg. 3244768-68

DE "ZWARTE IJZEREN"
La Noire Fer
Belg. 3240337-67

DE "ZWARTE IJZEREN"
Le Noir Fer
Belg. 3450250-66

Direct son of WARE IJZEREN 57
 Fils direct du vrai Fer 3064724

Direct son of WARE IJZEREN 57
 Fils direct du vrai Fer 3064724

Direct son of WARE IJZEREN 57
 Fils direct du vrai Fer 3064724

photo by ANTHONY BOLLON

HETRU'S FAMOUS IJZEREN BREEDERS
Some of Claude Hetru's famous Ijzeren (Iron) Stichelbaut foundation pigeons.

cellent feather and eyes. Real powerful pigeons that win at 500+ miles.

Eric Arnold was so impressed he came away with a double grandson of Vanhee's International winners.

Other names come and go, but the name of Vanhee lives on as one of the perpetual champions of Belgium. I have just been informed they have also won 1st long distance Champion and 1st Critarium of Aces Entente Berge 1985!

Andre Brouekaert, also of Wervik, is a former National Long Distance Champion of Belgium and won 1st National 1st International Lourdes in 1984.

Andre is a retired butcher, a very likeable, down to earth fellow with magnificent pigeons and lofts. His greatest pigeon is "De Goliath" winner of the Lourdes International

885 km, 3057 birds.

The Brouekaerts descend from the Vanhees, Vereeckes, and Descamp - Van Hasten Stichelbauds. They are good, strong medium sized birds, mainly blues.

Andre has a beautiful home and racing loft about it. In the backyard is a large wooden breeding loft and aviary.

1985 was a good year for Andre - winning 4th National Super Prestige Championship among others. I do not have his '85 results but I do have his 1984 results of races over 400 miles!

Andre Brouekaert is another of those top Belgian fliers whose name you see at or near the top year after year.

Most important results 1984 on races of more than 600 km.

35 km, Brives National, 7345 pig.,

52, 396, 1057; 35 km, Brives Provincial, 1418 pig., 29, 189, 388; 35 km Brives Region, 143 pig., 4, 21, 38.

08 km, Angoulie, 1692 pig., 138, 321, 358, 370; 08 km Angoulize, 287 pig., 8, 29, 35, 38, 61.

506 km, Poitiers, 383 pig., 13, 37, 58, 61, 87, 94, 103, 108, 110, 128.

715 km, Cahors National, 5007 pig., 380, 518, 753, 773, 926.

872 km, Pou International, 3529 pig., 528, 714.

765 km Montauban National, 2864 pig., 140, 196; 765 km Montauban E.B., 2137 pig., 124, 174.

1045 km, Barcelona Inter., 13,033 pig., 70, 119; 1045 km, Barcelona Nat., 7066 pig., 52, 85; 1045 Km, Barcelona Prov., 1905 pig., 29, 42; 1045 Km, Barcelona Reg., 571 pig., 9, 13.

565 Km, Limoges Nat., 9565 pig., 2, 30, 545, 593, 681, 1666; 565 Km, Limoges Nat., 5998 pig., 2, 19, 353, 389, 447, 1038; 565 Km, Limoges Reg., 237 pig., 1, 2, 17, 19, 22, 30.

885 Km, Lourdes Inter., 3056 pig., 1, 6, 428, 670; 885 Km, Lourdes Nat., 2541 pig., 1, 6, 379, 586; 885 Km Lourdes Prov., 1207 pig., 1, 4, 208, 312, 308; 885 Km, Lourdes Reg., 180 pig., 1, 2, 36, 52, 57.

850 Km, Marseilles Inter., 4864 pig., 219, 737; 850 Km, Marseilles, 1954 pig., 81, 347; 850 Km, Marseilles Nat., 845 pig., 47, 162.

40 Km, Peugueux Nat., 4245 pig., 60, 102, 115, 185, 278, 404, 529, 615, 745; 40 Km, Peugueux Nat., 2023 pig., 33, 54, 59, 87, 140, 185, 243, 274, 337; 40 Km, Peugueux Reg., 169 pig., 6, 8, 9, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24.

857 Km, St. Vincent Nat., 3922 pig., 92, 219, 355, 602; 857 Km, St. Vincent E.B., 2231 pig., 84, 212, 342, 547; 857 Km, St. Vincent Reg., 158 pig., 10, 28, 43, 53.

900 Km, Perpignan Nat., 1926 pig., 315, 480; 900 Km, Perpignan Prov., 664 pig., 115, 186.

In 1983, the "Goliath", was only 18 months old. He was prepared to fly long distance the year after in 1984. Some of his results:

30 Km, Orlans, 250 p., 69.
50 Km, Cheiteaous Prov., 4012 p., 1154; 50 Km, Cheiteaous Reg., 499 p., 126.

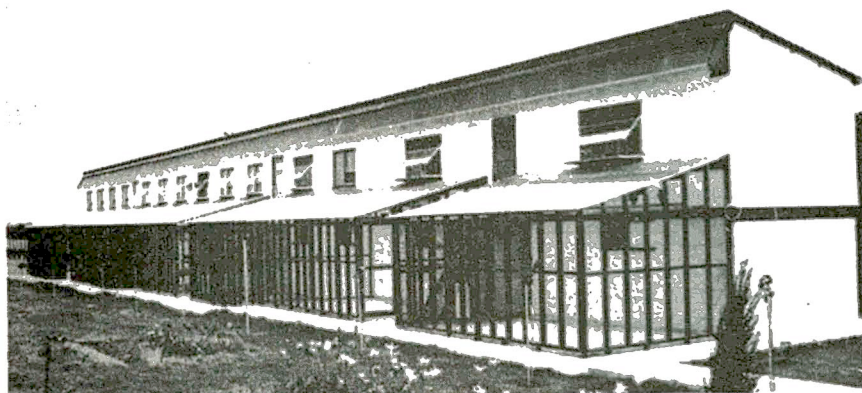
106 Km, Poitiers, 3377 p., 919; 106 Km, Poitiers, 568 p., 164.

715 Km, Cahors Nat., 5007 p., 380; 715 Km, Cahors Prov., 944 p., 160; 715 Km, Cahors Reg., 142 p., 26.

885 Km, Lourdes Inter., 3056 p., 1; 885 Km, Lourdes Nat., 2549 p., 1; 885 Km, Lourdes Prov., 1207 p., 1; 885 Km, Lourdes Reg., 180 p., 1

From now on, he will be kept as a stock bird. □

CLAUDE HÉTRU'S NEW LOFTS IN KAIN-TOURNAI BELGIUM LES NOUVEAUX COLOMBIERS DE CLAUDE HÉTRU À KAIN-TOURNAI BELGIQUE



HETRU RACING LOFT

The magnificent Hetru Loft in Kain, Belgium. 2nd National Super Prestige Champions 1985. — Photo from Tom Smith, Yaphank, N. Y.



BELGIUM RACING LOFT

Andre Brouckaert's great racing loft above his home in Wervik, Belgium. — Photo by Tom Smith, Yaphank, N. Y.

How To Keep The Dove Fancy Progressive And Productive

by CARL NAETHER, Encino, Calif.

The American Dove Fancy has made a substantial and very promising start within a few years' time. Clear evidence of this encouraging fact is found in the steadily growing number of domestic-pigeon fanciers taking up lovely doves to enrich and to broaden their hobby. Moreover, many bird fanciers find it interesting, even at times exciting and fascinating, to keep Diamond and other small doves with their finches or other seed-eating birds. And why not? Doves are easy to maintain in good health and breeding condition if given the right kinds of seeds and kept in suitable cages or aviaries. And many varieties produce several sets of young each season to enlarge and enrich their owner's flock.

To maintain a continuing and healthy growth of the Dove Fancy various methods are available. I just finished reading a fascinating account of an avicultural club celebrating its 25th anniversary. At the festive dinner, many members took pride and satisfaction in explaining in some detail how and why they had been successful in breeding given species of birds and doves. To insure getting really helpful hints applicable by any enthusiastic and intelligent breeder, these talks were assigned months in advance of the dinner-meeting, thus insuring talks really worth listening to, stressing successful, individual methods of feeding, housing and breeding with all their numerous details. Almost all the speakers relied on years of fruitful breeding certain species of foreign doves and pigeons to afford their listeners not a superficial, but a quite thorough and practical insight into the daily operations of their respective hobbies. They held no so-called secrets back, answering after their talks questions freely and clearly. Some of the talks were meaningfully illustrated by means of colored slides, thus letting the audience enjoy the colorful clothes many of our foreign doves and pigeons wear the year around.

In all probability your foreign dove club could stage a similar dinner or other meeting, preferably monthly to keep in fairly close contact with the members exchanging views on methods of feeding and breeding. There is so much to learn about the behavior of each kind of foreign dove and pigeon, vital information which greatly affects its living and breeding tendencies in captivity. Friendly talks

and exchanges of relevant information at club and other meetings are one of the most helpful and desirable features of our hobby; hence should be encouraged and practiced freely and regularly.

Dove fanciers in each state might well make it their pleasure and "business" to get in touch with other fanciers living in the same state. There should be a list of fanciers' names and addresses, with names of varieties kept, for each state, similar to the one kept by the American Dove Association. Let each state's dove breeders communicate with one another by letter, telephone, and personal visit, as the occasion might dictate. Such friendly cooperation often results in new friends being made in neighborly

invitations to come and look over each others dove-keeping facilities and its occupants. It is a delightful learning process, usually readily accessible and manageable in this day of ultra-convenient auto transport. An oft-repeated get-together of the fanciers of a given state, or of several adjoining states, has been known to serve as the foundation for many a thriving dove or pigeon club.

So, make it your continuing aim as a progressive dove lover to find out who else is enjoying the dove hobby in your particular state. Surprise him or her with a tactful inquiry as to his or her doings in the dove fancy, or a neighborly phone call, offering, if need be, suggestions to a novice or congratulations to an "old hand." Further in this desirable personal manner the best interests of our lovely dove hobby. It will greatly benefit from your intelligent personal efforts! It's the individual, the personal touch that counts! □

Pigeon Nutrition: Fads, Facts, Fallacies

by LEONARD MINTZ

Twenty years ago I switched from Homing Pigeons to what I now breed, the Domestic Show Flight. Since then I have tried to buy the best feed that I could get which was a commercial feed or grain from a reputable company. After many years I have noticed a change in the grain. So I changed my feed because I did not like the effect it was having on my birds. I began asking different breeders what they fed their birds. No two people fed their birds the same way. Everyone was an expert on his birds' nutrition. I was amazed how little breeders and pet owners know about the foods they are feeding their birds and pets, and how to evaluate their food, and what factors influence their birds' nutritional requirements. I have read articles written by doctors of veterinary medicine where condemned parts and animals that are rejected for human consumption are commonly used in commercial pet foods.

So-called "4Ds" meaning, dead, dying, diseased or disabled animals are also used for pet foods. One veterinary toxicologist at the Food and Drug Administration expressed concern about the potential health hazard for the consuming birds and pets: there are many things that are going in pet foods that are questionable in nature, and among them are the toxic agricultural chemicals - the pesticides and herbicides that are killing numbers of livestock every

day. These animals are processed for pet food for livestock, poultry and pigeon feed. Also artificial ingredients, dyes and other substances in foods may cause allergic reactions. Such as birds itching and losing feathers about the neck, body and head.

Nutrition at the Cellular Level

To appreciate the effects of proper nutrition, it is helpful to understand how the body works on a cellular level. At conception the fertilized egg develops from one cell into a multicellular organism. The original cell contains genetic information called chromosomes. These come in pairs and one chromosome is inherited from each parent. This genetic code is the blueprint and is passed along as the original cell divides and reproduces. On each chromosome are genes. Each gene directs the formation of a unique protein. Genes are very specific. If one amino acid is out of proportion, too many or too few a different protein results. Everything from color to body to eyes and legs is determined by the combination of genes and the proteins they direct.

Disease/Illness

Nutritional needs change with disease and illness and may require special diets. Parasites like lice, mites, worms or a protozoan disease like Coccidiosis can deplete the body of adequate nutrition leading to serious malfunction and even death in

severe cases. Some parasites are difficult to test for and viral infections of the intestinal tract can be hard to diagnose and treat. The best treatment is prevention. Dirty coops, lice, mites, and worms are accepted by many pigeon owners as a fact of life, and are responsible for many of the health problems their birds encounter. Proper feeding, care, and cleanliness can prevent many of these hard-to-get-rid-of problems. Today we have a virus called P.M.V. which has affected most of the pigeon fanciers throughout the country. In fact some pigeon shows had to be cancelled due to this virus because nobody wants to bring this

deadly virus home and kill his birds that he has taken many years to produce. I agree with Mr. Alex Rawson and many other pigeon men that 50 percent of the birds that were killed was due to food poisoning by toxic farm chemicals all over this country of ours. Pretty soon it will start killing the human race and then it will be too late. I think it only fair to the consumer of this feed to know what he or she is buying and all animal feeds should have to be labeled whether the grain has been sprayed with toxic chemicals so that we can keep our hobby alive and healthy. Thank you for reading my article. □

Bio-Vet Health Program

by RAOUL CHARBONNEAU, Biologist, St. Hyacinthe, Que., Canada

Do you think you have a pathogen-free loft? You would be surprised if you did the appropriate laboratory test with samples coming from your loft. In fact, each loft in the world contains numerous kinds of pathogens. Not necessarily all kinds of pathogens affecting pigeons will be found in one loft, but certainly many are. How can we have healthy birds if they are surrounded by pathogens? How do we keep them healthy? Can we have a disease-free loft if it is not pathogen-free? What is a healthy pigeon?

Health concepts are difficult to define, but we can give an approximation in telling that a healthy pigeon is a pigeon having enough energy reserve to struggle against "energy-eating" ecological factors. Before going ahead, let us make a comparison: A budget is healthy if we have more income to put in than expense going out, but as soon as we have too much expense, that makes our budget sick. The same way with pigeons. They have a better chance to be healthy if we invest in some management practices which give them energy factors for their energy replenishment and reduce "energy-eating" factors. As our pigeons live in a relatively closed environment, our responsibility is really great because we control many ecological factors. The same ecological factor can be "energy-replenishing" or "energy-eating", depending of its quality. For example: A good grain mix is "energy-replenishing", but moldy food is "energy-eating".

A health program must keep in mind that pigeons are surrounded by pathogens. They need to replenish their energy reserves and we have to reduce "energy-eating" factors to a minimum.

Often, associated with a disease,

we can find some bad management practices which can be disease-triggering factors. Diseases are frequently triggered by humidity, soiled water or food, overcrowding, through lack of quarantine, or preventive program, and bad therapy explains some endless diseases.

Many pathogens need humidity for completing their life cycles. Dryness will not necessarily kill them but will at least stop their development and reduce the possibility of their being transmitted or becoming infectious. Look at your birds' feet. If they carry a mud ball it is because your loft is too damp. Also if your loft has droppings that do not dry easily. Give more aeration. Perhaps you will have to raise your loft for another foot from the ground. Often disease strikes when the weather is wet. Some heat can help to kill the humidity. The drier your loft, the happier your birds will be and the pathogens will have more difficulty.

The best investment you can make for your birds is not some effective drug, but a good drinking vessel. So many diseases are transmitted by soiled drinking water. So have a drinking trough protected from birds' droppings or feet by a cone guard and grill, so only the head will go in the water. Place it on a platform at least ten inches high so that litter or dried dropping particles will not fall in water when birds are flying around. It is time and money wasted to give medicines and vitamins if we do not have always clean drinking water. Give fresh water at least twice a day in summer. A weekly disinfection of the drinking vessel help for eliminating algae growth.

Often a disease is triggered by a bird coming from another loft or from a show without being quarantined before introducing him

in the main loft. It is a good idea to give to quarantined birds a preventive program. A two weeks quarantine is a minimum as some diseases have an incubation period of about 15 days before showing symptoms.

A good preventive program will help to keep birds healthy. Its goal is to reduce some endemic pathogens population to a minimum and to help birds to replenish their energy reserves. Endemic pathogens are the one which the probability of their being in a loft is very high. In most lofts we will find as endemic pathogens: Eimeria (Coccidiosis), Trichomonas (Trichomoniasis or Canker), intestinal worms (Ascaris, Capillaria, Heterakis), external parasites (Lice and Mite) and Salmonella (Salmonellosis or Paratyphoid).

Except for external parasites which can be seen by the naked eye, others do not normally show their presence. Their respective populations are usually kept low, just under the disease limit. So birds do not show any symptoms, but have to spend a lot of energy just struggling against them. With Racing Homers, for example, we can have relatively nice looking birds, but they will not have good flying performance. Youngsters are particularly sensitive to these pathogens and often some valuable birds are lost in training or in a race because they have too much to spend for these pathogens and their energy reserve is too low to be top fliers. A preventive program must be given at strategic time, just before birds will be susceptible to being sick because of heavy stressing period, like breeding, racing, moulting. For lice and mite control, we will check regularly their presence and give an insecticide when needed. Use insecticide especially formulated for birds and follow directions. Bio-Vet's preventive program will help you to control many endemic problems like intestinal worms, coccidiosis, trichomoniasis (canker), salmonellosis, but to be honest with you, it will be time and money wasted if your loft is too damp and your drinking water contains droppings. And to be really honest with you, our Bio-Vet's preventive program counts for only 25%, and the remaining 75% belongs to you and your good management in following other Bio-Vet's advice. For convenience, our program will be described day by day.

Day 1: Remove drinking water in the afternoon to make the birds thirsty tomorrow morning.

Day 2: A worming treatment with Levamisole Chlorhydrate. Sold under various brand names such as Trami-

(Continued On Next Page)

sol, Levasol, Ripercol, this product gets all worms except tape worms when used at the right dosage for pigeons, which is 1.6 grams of pure Levamisol Chlohydrate in each gallon of drinking water. You will find that dosage in each pre-weighed Bio-Vets Tramisol sachet or in about nine 184 mgm sheep tablets. Dissolve one Bio-Vet's sachet or nine sheep tablets in each gallon of drinking water and give this medicated water as the only source of drinking water for 24 hours.

Day 3: Clean and disinfect the loft with a good germicide like Bio-Vet's Sterysol which contains a mixture of synthetic phenolic compounds. Give plain fresh water as drinking water.

Day 4: Beginning of Triple-Sulfa + Multivitamins treatment for *Coccidiosis*, *Enteritis*, and *Salmonellosis*. This is a wonderful medicine. Each sulfamid in this product has its own intestinal absorption rate and therapeutic blood level duration, so with the use of Triple-Sulfa + Multivitamins, a bird has therapeutic doses in its intestines and in its bloodstream all day with intaking one or two drinks of medicated water. As this product goes into the bloodstream, it is able to struggle against a pathogen when in septic form, a thing that Nitrofurazon and its derivatives cannot do. To make medicated water: dissolve one level teaspoon of Triple-Sulfa + Multivitamins. This represents about 3.8 grams total of sulfamid and 0.7 gram of multivitamins concentrate in each gallon of drinking water.

Day 5 to day 8: Prepare a fresh medicated solution daily and give it as the only source of drinking water. Total treatment duration is five days.

Day 9: Give fresh plain water as drinking water in the early morning only, remove it in the afternoon.

Day 10: Give another worming treatment, same as Day 2. This worming treatment gets newly developed larvae, coming from already swallowed eggs just before or during Day 2, before they will become adult and begin to reproduce.

Day 11: Clean and disinfect the loft. Give plain fresh water as drinking water.

Day 12: Begin a Dimetridazol (active product in Emtryl powder) treatment for *Trichomoniasis* (Canker). Dissolve one level teaspoon of Bio-Vet's Demetridazol soluble powder in each gallon of drinking water. You can add one level teaspoon of Bio-Vet's Multivitamins to each gallon of medicated water. Give medicated water as the only source of drinking water. Avoid rusted drinking vessel with this product.

Day 13 to 16: Prepare a fresh

medicated water daily and give it as the only source of drinking water. Total treatment duration is five days.

Day 17: Clean and disinfect loft. Your program is now completed.

Your birds are now ready to go through a heavy stressing period like breeding, weaning and growth, racing, moulting. Because they have less to spend for pathogens and they have higher energy reserve, coming greatly from multivitamins, they will be able to invest energy in more profitable activities. We can give this preventive program up to four times a year. Usually, we will use it at pairing before breeding, at weaning time, when first youngsters are about one month old and another when they are about three months old, at fall during moulting time.

When a pigeon breeder calls us for help, we ask him much information about his birds, loft, management, symptoms observed, etc. If he has an empty package or a label from drugs he has used, we ask him to send it with information about how the drug has been administered and the result obtained. Often an unsatisfactory therapy can be explained easily. The majority comes from misinformation! And, we are sorry to say, we have quite a lot of misinformation in our hobby about health and drug using. It is not always the pigeon breeder's fault but many times a drug retailer's fault. If we look back in our files we can find many kinds of misinformation: breeder has used ineffective product for a specific disease, directives were wrong or incomplete.

About ineffective products, we find it with the use of Piperazine for worming because this is only effective with large round worms (*Ascaris*), but ineffective against *Capillaria* and *Heterakis*. We find it also with Nitrofurazon and its derivatives for a *Salmonellosis* treatment because as these products are not well absorbed by intestinal walls, they cannot cure a sick bird when the pathogen is in the bloodstream. The same is true with Lincomycin-Spectomycin (LS-50) also for *Salmonellosis*. Lincomycin is well absorbed but only effective against some pathogens causing a respiratory disease. It is ineffective against *Salmonella*, and Spectomycin is not absorbed, so this product must be injected with the proper solution, to be effective against *Salmonellosis*. However, you can kill a bird having a serious *Salmonellosis* if you release too much *Salmonella* endotoxin at once.

Many times unsatisfactory therapy comes from wrong directions. A breeder may use a good product, but directions ask for a too low dosage

for pigeons. We find this with Tramisol and with Tetracyclin. For Tramisol, some drug retailers send sheep tablets containing each only 184 milligrams of Levamisol and they ask for two tablets dissolved in each gallon of drinking water, but the dosage for pigeons is 1.6 grams of Levamisol in each gallon. With Tetracyclin which is sold under various brand names: Aureomycin, Terramycin, Chlortetracyclin, we have the same low dosage with many powders. If you look at your Tetracyclin package for real antibiotic concentration you can find for example: "This product contains 25 grams of tetracyclin for each pound of powder." That means you will need about ten level teaspoons of this product to have the right dosage for pigeon (2.5 grams per gallon). But some directions ask for only one level teaspoon!

If your Tetracyclin powder is more concentrate, you need less than 10 teaspoons in each gallon of drinking water to make the right medicated water. Many other products are sold with directions giving a too low dosage for pigeons but we cannot here give a description of all of them. If you wish to know if a product has good directions, please, feel free to send us an empty package or a label with some explanations and we will be happy to help you.

Another example of an unsatisfactory Tetracyclin treatment is a lack in directions for removal of grit and other products having high level of calcium. Tetracyclin and calcium together make a non-therapeutic complex which is not absorbable by the intestines. We are now working in our research program on a new Tetracyclin formula which we hope will be less sensitive to calcium.

We hope this article will help you to have healthy birds and will remind you that the "Professional Team" for pigeon health is at your service. Any questions or comments are welcome and can be sent to the following address: Bio-Vet, a/s Raoul Charbonneau, 3425 Des Cedres, St-Hyacinthe, Que., Canada, J2T 4E8. □

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How To Turn Peacocks Into Pigeons

by BRIAN FANSHER, Ramona, Calif.

The pigeon hobby started for me in late 1981.

The past few years before that I had been raising exotic chickens, and decided to raise some pheasants and chukars, and pigeons never crossed my mind.

A little later a lone peahen dropped by. I caught it and shortly after, contacted a guy not far away who had peacocks. He said he was missing a hen. I took it to him, he said thanks and offered me some pigeons, I said nah.

Weeks later, this time a peacock flew by and I wanted to keep it but dad said no. I contacted the same guy, and the bird was his. I brought it to him and again he offered me pigeons, I refused. However, I told him I would build a pen for pheasants, and chukars and that I'd consider pigeons.

Weeks later I built a 6'x24'x6' shelter and nesting house against my chicken house. I immediately got some chukars and Golden Pheasants. Shortly after I visited the pigeon pusher. The offer was still good and he found me five West of England Tumblers all baldheads, three reds, and two blue bars.

He (Tony Reyes) told me about

another guy (a squab rancher) who also had show birds. I contacted him (Richard Gentz) and bought some more pigeons. He in turn told me about another squab rancher who also had show birds. I bought some from him also. From then on all have been very supportive. Through them

"Red Warrior", The Most Expensive E.T. Sold To Date

by WES SHORES, Clinton, Okla.

"Red Warrior" was hatched in 1979 and bred by Shores Loft. He was produced out of the son of Sinbad and Black Magic, bred by John Heppner and a hen bred by Shores Loft. He is very large and carries a lot of power throughout his body. His neck, head and crest are his largest and most powerful parts. He is medium to long in length and has a lot of width across his shoulders. His flights lay well on his tail.

Red Warrior's color is deep red except he carries sooty coloring on his tail and hocks and on into his muffs.

He is a full brother to Fire Princess. She was a great show bird in

and through pigeon shows I've met a lot of other fanciers.

I built a couple more lofts, had over 100 pigeons, 17 breeds, got a subscription to the APJ, joined two local pigeon clubs, participated in a couple local shows and sold all my other birds.

Over the last couple years, I've culled out breeds, and now have only Wests. However, all breeds are great and I support the hobby 100% □

her time. Both of these birds carry tremendous strength and power over all.

I would not show Red Warrior because he was my best English Trumpeter and I could not afford to lose him during transit.

Red Warrior was sold to my friend Eddie Lujan for the sum of \$750.00 which is the highest price ever paid for an English Trumpeter.

Thanks to Eddie Lujan's generosity Red Warrior's blood flows throughout several English Trumpeter lofts in the Midwest and Eastern United States. Eddie let many breeders have sons and daughters out of this great bird. Eddie kept Red Warrior until he was 5 years old. At that time, in 1984, he gave him back to me. I bred out of Red Warrior in 1985 but did not get any fertile eggs.

Another one of my friends, Bill Baker, wanted to use Red Warrior in his breeding program. So Red Warrior's home for 1986 will be in Marysville, Ohio. Bill hopes that he will have the right hen to mate with him and get that click that everyone always hopes for. Bill is determined that before this old cock passes on, that he will get another generation just as powerful as his Red Warrior.

This article is a tribute to a great and powerful English Trumpeter called Red Warrior, the most expensive English Trumpeter sold to date. □

Congratulations

by PAUL BRILLIANT, Petaluma, Calif.

If you have picked up a copy of the American Pigeon Journal in the last several months you can't help but notice all kinds of articles and advertisements about this disease called Paramyxovirus, type 1.

Well if you can think back to when you first heard of this disease and when you heard that the National Avian Disease Task Force for Pigeons and Doves had started to go about finding a cure you'd have to admit it has come a long way. In a matter of mere months the task force has a fully developed vaccine and it is already on the market and available to the fancier. Not only that but seminars are being held to show fanciers how to vaccinate. Literature is constantly being published and circulated. Group discussions are being held and encouraged by the task force and local clubs. Speakers are giving lectures and answering questions at conventions. Vaccination is encouraged.

The hard work of few has benefited the entire hobby. If we look back through the history of pigeons

and look at previous pigeon diseases never before has such a successful vaccine and cure for such a deadly disease been discovered and distributed so quickly. Many have participated and helped to bring this about and perhaps it is time a little appreciation is showed to all of those concerned. People such as Joseph Quinn, Jerry Fussell, Rick Mardis, Laurimore McConnell and Nick Schiavone, who form the task force Executive Committee. Also others at the Marine Biological Laboratories. Countless people made this a success. All who helped in even the slightest way deserve congratulations. Indeed it seems as if the hard work of many has benefited many more. I no doubt have not mentioned some of the key figures that have made this endeavor successful and maybe someone that knows more than I do should be writing this article, but I would just like to say thank you from all of those who have benefited to all of those who have made it possible. □



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The American Crests

by STEVE ROTH, Westerville, Ohio

It has been several years since there has been an article written about the American Crests. American Crests have been bred in the giant size which is a bird the size of a French Mondain and the miniature is a bird the size of a Modena.

Both these breeds were the brain-child of H. Eric Buri and a small group of fanciers on the East coast. For those of you who were not fortunate enough to have met Herman, let me tell you that he was one of a kind. Entrepreneur, Master Breeder in several breeds and artist. Truly ahead of his time.

I am not exactly sure of the origin of the Giant Crests, but it is in very simple terms a full crested French Mondain. A utility size breed. And the miniature crest was conceived using the identical standard but in a bird the size of a Modena. For those fanciers with limited loft space or a small back yard.

Both these breeds were conceived some time prior to 1940. Although these birds were bred almost ex-

clusively in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, there have been several hotbeds for these birds in California and Michigan.

Most recently there was a group of fanciers in California breeding a strain of Pear Crested Modenas and calling them Mini-Crests. These birds were not bred to the American Standard.

The Giant Crests are bred in common colors of the King and French Mondain. Red, yellow, black, almond, silver (brown bar), blue bar, white and A.O.C. The miniatures on the other hand were bred in Modena colors, bronze, black, almond, red, yellow, cream, A.O.C., white and gazzi markings in each of these colors.

I am presently breeding miniatures in brown, russet, russet-tri, sandy almond, (Tumbler) almond, brown almond, white, black, bronze, red, blue gazzi, tri-color, and A.O.C. I have bred these birds since the age of 10

years and really enjoy them. Since I grew up on the East coast and was a member of the first 4-H Club to be dedicated to pigeons, you guessed it! H. Eric Buri was our advisor. I have bred these birds for the last 10 years with very little competition, but have really enjoyed exhibiting in the National shows and perpetuating a breed that was near extinction.

I do not know of anyone in the U.S. who has original stock birds from Herman Buri, beside myself. I have let several of our club members have some stock birds and we plan on re-organizing the American Crest Club. I know of many breeders of the Giant American Crests on the East coast. I would like to invite all fanciers of the American Crests to join us in the enjoyment of breeding these birds and encourage all fanciers who may be interested, to join us.

Those fanciers who already have the American Crest or think they may be interested, please write to me at: 4420 Central College Rd., Westerville, Ohio 43081 or call me at 614-890-2059. □

Pigeon Show Calendar

Jan. 10-11 — Bay City Pigeon Fanciers All Bird Show, Bay City Community Center, Tim Stajkowski, Show Sec., 1413 S. Raymond, Bay City, Mich. 48706.

Jan. 23-26 — National English Trumpeter Club Meet at the Grand National, Houston, Texas. The judge will be Virgil Hinsley. Information: Larry Rose, 13114 Woodington St., Houston, Texas 77038.

Jan. 25 — Worcester County Pigeon Assn. All Breed Show, Show Sec., Chester Shliapa, 11 Camp Hill Dr., Oxford, Mass. 01540.

Feb. 9 — Macomb County Pigeon Fanciers Winter Show, Eastside Member's Club, 29808 Little Mach., Roseville, Mich. Show Sec., Richard German, 2333 Dallas, Royal Oak, Mich. 48067. 313-398-0022.

April 5 & 6 — Virginia Pigeon and Dove Assn. All Age Show, Virginia State Fairgrounds, Richmond, Va. For info: Pigeons - Jo Ryan, 3028 Bowling Green Drive, Virginia Beach, Va. 23452. 1-804-340-0162. Doves - Ed Brooks, 1609 Adams Dr. West, Suffolk, Va. 1-804-238-2931.

April 20 — Lincoln Hill Pigeon Club Swap and Trade Day, Dane G. Dougan, Sec., RR 2, Huntingburg, Ind. 47542.

May 18 — High Point Pigeon Club Annual All Breed, All Age Spring Pigeon and Dove Show, Oak View Recreation Center, High Point, N. Car. Thurmond Michael, Sec., 813 Mark St., High Point, N. Car. 27260. Ph. 919-882-3273.

June 22 — Lincoln Hill Pigeon Club Summer Show, Dane G. Dougan, Sec., RR 2, Huntingburg, Ind. 47542.

Oct. 4 — Lincoln Hill Pigeon Club Fall Show, Dane G. Dougan, Sec., RR 2, Huntingburg, Ind. 47542.

Nov. 16 — High Point Pigeon Club Annual All Breed, All Age Fall Pigeon and Dove Show, Oak View Recreation Center, High Point, N. Car. Write: Thurmond Michael, 813 Mark St., High Point, N. Car. 27260. Ph. 919-882-3273.

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