

From the Editor's Desk

Dr. John L. Skinner of Madison, Wis., writes: "Our trip to Great Britain was a most enjoyable one. John Tucker is a real joy to meet. He has some of the very rare varieties of pigeons and is extremely knowledgeable about pigeon literature. We attended two shows, met several fanciers and spent time with some top flight researchers."

John M. Quinn of Bristol, Wis., writes: "I was very pleased with the results of my ads in the Journal. I am sold out of Nuns and Baldhead Rollers and the only remaining colors left in Jacobins are reds and yellows. I have received letters of satisfaction from all the breeders who received my birds which has made me doubly happy. Keep up the excellent work on the Journal!"

Al Nowakowski of Emmett, Mich., writes: "My son and I have begun working together with pigeons, he as a 4-H project and I because I find it so interesting, relaxing, and fascinating. I will also act as project 4-H leader here in our county. I have been reading articles in the Journal and find I cannot continue unless I, too, have my own copies. So, therefore, I'm enclosing my fees for the coming year's subscription."

Keith Carriker of Litchfield, Ill., writes: "I am interested in pigeon genetics and read everything I can lay my hands on concerning the subject. I'm wondering how many chromosomes pigeons have. I can't seem to find this out. I really enjoy your magazine but I wish less space was given to these people who use your magazine to stab each other in the back. I'm referring in particular to all the informationally useless Roller articles. I believe most people prefer articles that give concrete facts and instructions that have come from research and experience."

Ray Kirchen of Manitowoc, Wis., writes: "I recently ran across some old issues of the American Pigeon Keeper from the early 1920's when E. J. W. Dietz of Chicago was the Editor, later Tom Norton took over, and now its present editor Frank H. Hollmann. I have been reading this most valuable magazine for over 50 years and 1973 will mark my 55th year in the Tumbler Fancy and I enjoyed every minute of it. The highlight for me is the annual Tumbler Classic Shows where the best in the world are shown and hundreds of great friends you meet annually to talk over old times. It can't be beat for keeping a fellow young."

James R. Johnson of Kingman, Ariz., writes: "I have really enjoyed every issue of the APJ. I have obtained a much broader understanding of the care of pigeons. I guess that I have been lucky up until now, I have had no problems of any kind with my birds. And I must thank the APJ for much of this success. Another is, I think, because most of my birds fly free. I let them free because I enjoy watching them fly. They never land anywhere except on my property. But at times they can be a pest. Whenever I'm working outside they follow me everywhere I go. And I have a pair that will slip in the house if the door is left open. No matter, I really enjoy having them around. I just want to let you know I really enjoy the APJ and to say, keep up the good work."

Ted Williams of Manhattan, Kans., writes: "As a Junior majoring in Horticulture at Kansas State University, I've come up with a very peculiar interest. The other night one of my college friends started talking pigeons, and it brought back memories for both of us. While we were talking we came up with a very crazy idea. 'How about producing a bird similar to the Passenger Pigeon?' I have discussed our idea with many professors here on campus and have received interest and encouragement from all. Up to this point we know that it is impossible to reproduce anything of yesteryears. Regression in history and genetics is impossible. But we do know that it is theoretically possible to produce a bird with some similarities of the Passenger Pigeons, through selecting certain colors and qualities out of numerous birds. We also realize the problems that hybridization causes, such as sterility. But we still would like to tackle our little challenge."

Thomas Malone of Ferndale, N.Y., writes: "I have been raising and flying pigeons for the past ten years. In those ten years I thought I knew just about everything there was to know about pigeons. But I guess I was wrong. Because ever since I started receiving the APJ I learned a great deal more about pigeons. Your Journal is a great pleasure to any and all pigeon lovers."

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