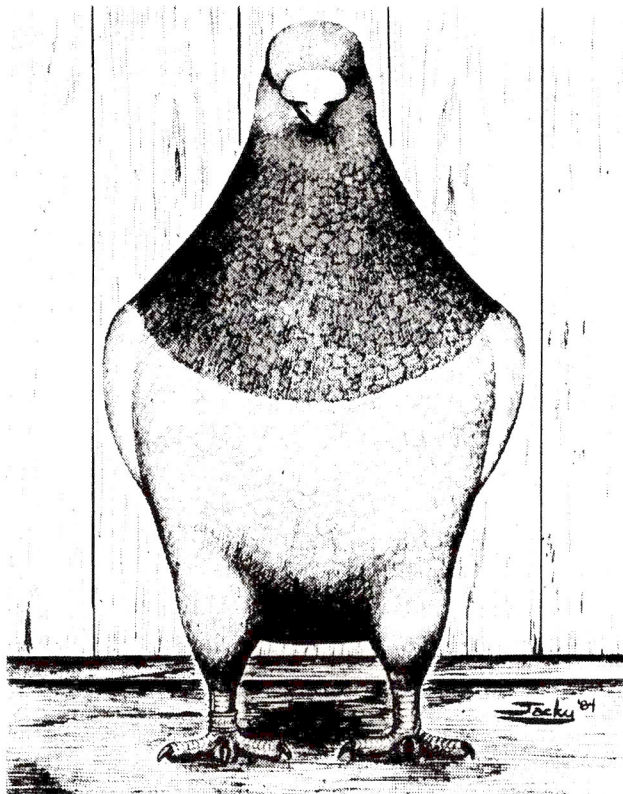


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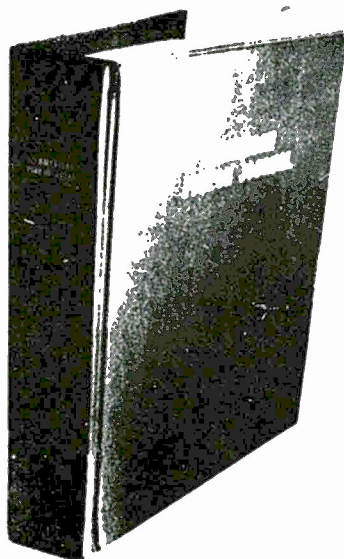
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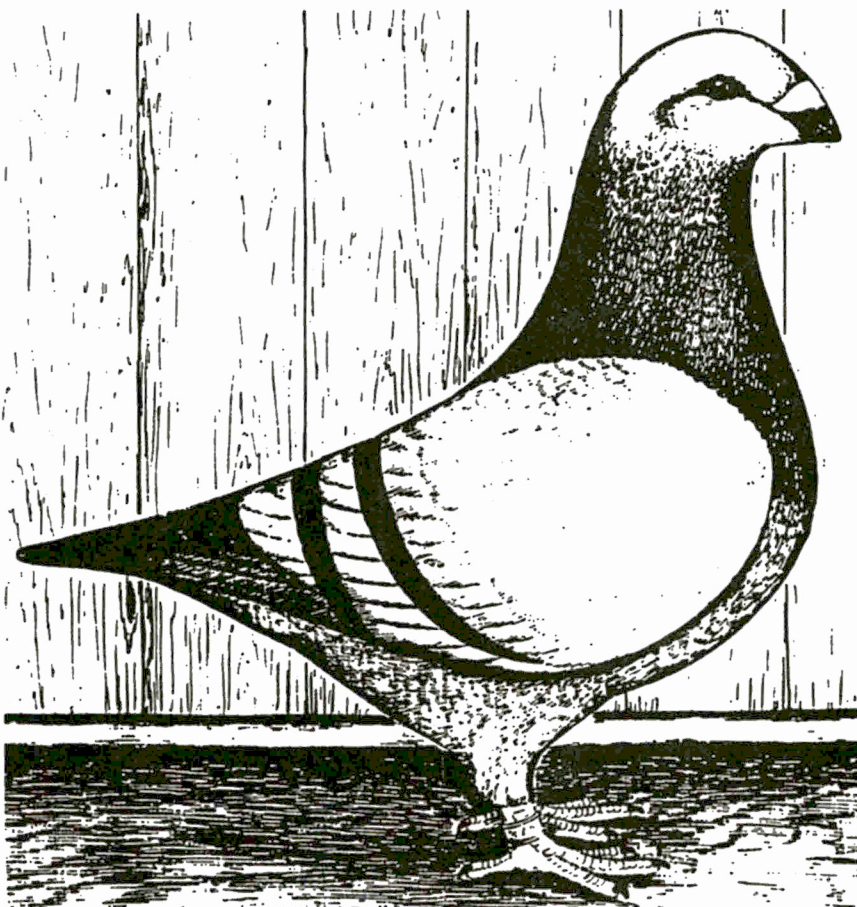
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American Pigeon Journal

16TH ANNUAL
**AMERICAN GIANT HOMER
FUTURITY & AUCTION
DEC. 1, 2 & 3
EL RENO, OKLAHOMA**

LIST OF EVENTS

DEC. 1

1:00 - 10:00 JUDGING OF BIRDS

DEC. 2

8:00 - 12:00 JUDGING OF BIRDS

12:00 - 1:00 BENEFIT AUCTION

1:00 - 5:00 FINAL JUDGING

5:30 - 6:30 COCKTAIL PARTY

6:30 - 8:00 BANQUET

8:30 - 10:00 AUCTION OF BIRDS

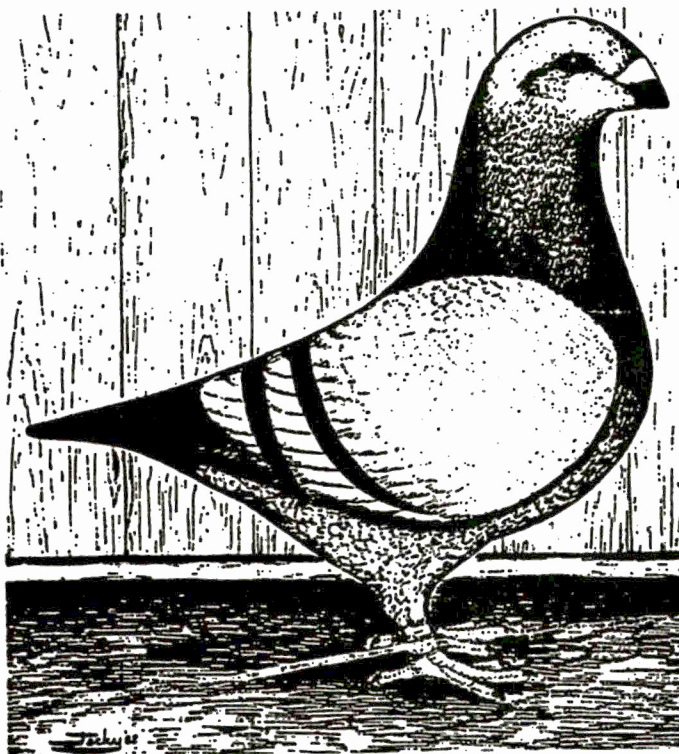
DEC. 3

9:00 - 11:30 AUCTION OF BIRDS

JUDGES:

HENS: BOB ENGLISH - OKLAHOMA

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EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE FUTURITY.
THE FUTURITY IS THE SHOW TO SEE THE BEST YOUNG AMERICAN GIANT HOMERS IN THE WORLD.
THE AUCTION ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY IS THE BEST PLACE TO PURCHASE BIRDS.
PAST CHAMPIONS AND BREEDING STOCK WILL BE SOLD IN THE BENEFIT AUCTION SATURDAY AT NOON.

FUTURITY COORDINATOR

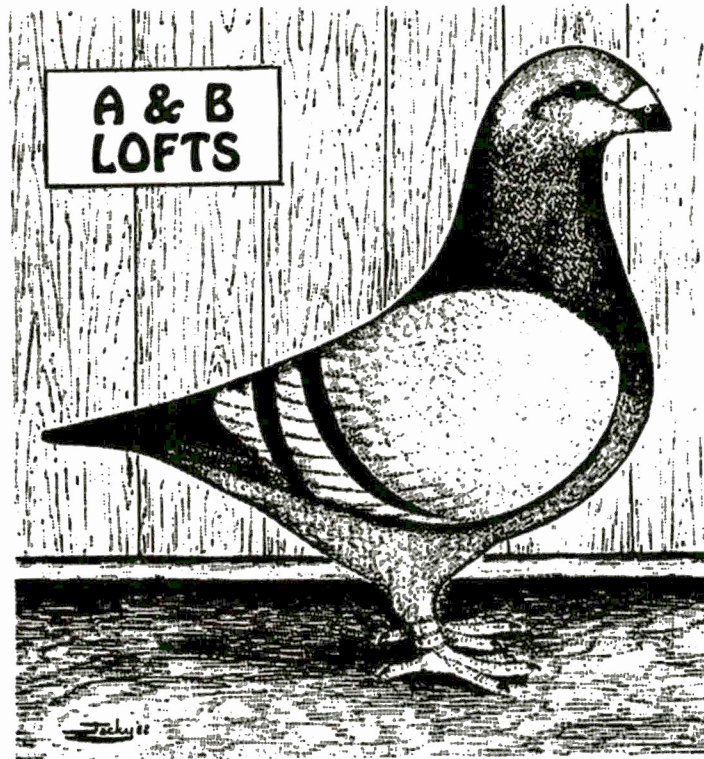
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The year 1989 marks the 17th anniversary of the founding of A & B Lofts. For the first 15 years Hap and I were both actively engaged in the breeding, raising and showing of American Giant Homers. In 1987 Hap made the decision to disperse his Giant stud, but he still serves in an advisory capacity and remains a very valued friend. Thanks to his expertise, experience and advice I have fared well in the wonderful world of American Giant Homers.

During our 17 year association we really enjoyed our Giants and have had our share of success in the shows. Three birds that we bred have been crowned National Champions. In addition, we have won every class in the A.G.H.A. Young Bird Futurity at least twice, have had a total of 9 Futurity Champions, been awarded the 1st place display award at 12 of the Futurities and have both received our Master Breeder awards. Far more important, we have made lasting friendships with many, many very nice people.

We are both proud to be members of the A.G.H.A., a club that offers a wonderful opportunity to both the novice and serious fancier. Our youth and novice programs provide an excellent opportunity for new and young exhibitors to compete at their own levels. Our biggest asset is our breed of pigeon, the American Giant Homer. This big, beautiful and friendly bird comes in a multitude of colors that will please the most discriminating breeder. They are highly productive and a genuine pleasure to own.

Many top shows are held each year including our 9 District Shows, the Louisville Young Bird Show and the "show of all shows", the A.G.H.A. Young Bird Futurity. Hap and I were the founders of the Young Bird Futurity and consider it as our greatest accomplishment during the past 17 years.

In closing I would like to congratulate Hap Beattie and Denby Williamson on being the first two inductees into the A.G.H.A. Hall of Fame. It simply couldn't have happened to two finer gentlemen or two more dedicated Giant enthusiasts.

Jack Anderson

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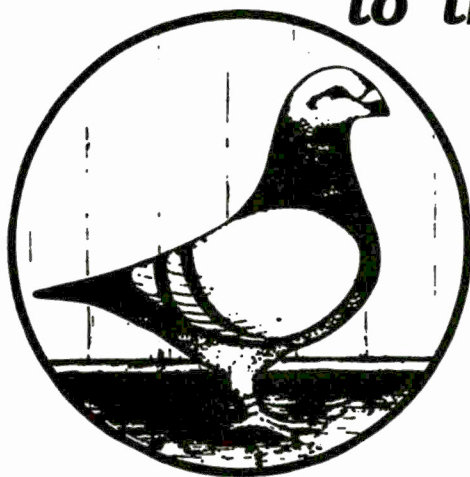
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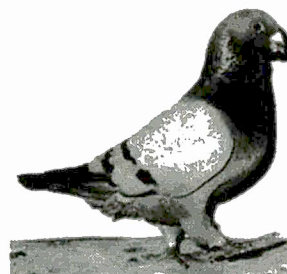


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A6164 145th, Holland, MI 49423

Laverne Meyer
P.O. Box 681, Roscommon, MI 48653

David Robbins
A727 W. 48th St., Holland, MI 49423

Norbert Wozniak
1901 18th St., Bay City, MI 48706

Charles Stapish
18500 Cavanaugh Lake Rd., Chelsea, MI 48118

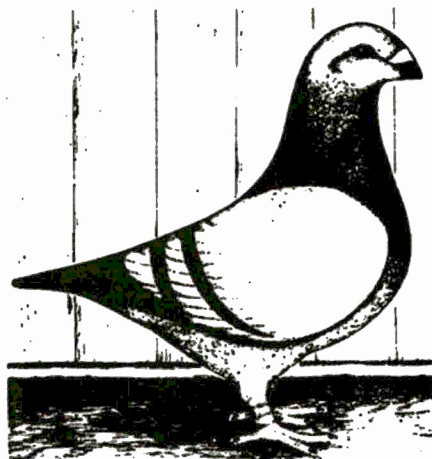
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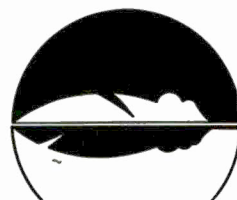
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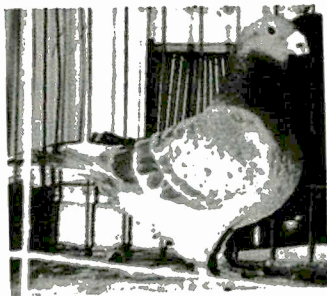
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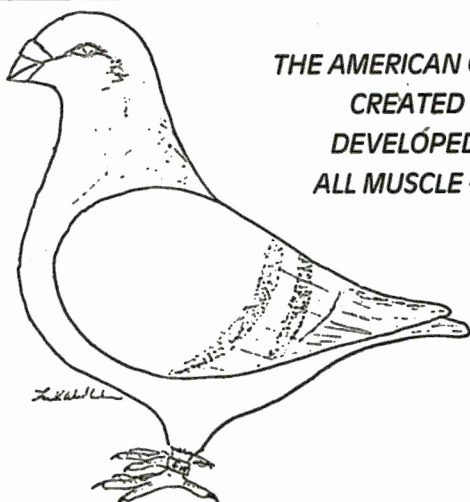
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who have graciously shared part of their lives. God bless all of you.

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Moyonce 'Red' Guillary

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Nerry Comeuax

**Giants
3rd District**

Lafayette, La. 70501

For the breeding and showing of pigeons to be a fulfilling hobby, there must be two ingredients present. Full satisfaction with the breed or kind selected is one, and interaction and association with other people who like the same breed is the other. Giant Homers and joining the AGHA can fulfill both needs. For 40 years, it has for me.

Grover C. Scott
Rt. 10, Box 268
Pine Bluff, Ark. 71602

Felton Romero

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Our Giant Homer Special

This month, the American Giant Homer is featured in this special issue. Giant Homer breeders are to be congratulated for the articles and pictures in this issue. They are also to be commended for their generous advertising support. George Guinn of Irving, Ill., ably served as the Article Coordinator and Jack Anderson of Tulsa, Okla., and Jim Orton of Oologah, Okla., did a fine job as Advertising Coordinators.

Be sure to order your copies of this excellent special issue as it is sure to become a collector's item as have the past Giant Homer specials.

New Pigeon Health Column

Beginning in this issue, there will be a new column on pigeon health. "Pigeon Problems" will be authored by Dr. David Marx, well known pigeon veterinary and president of the Association of Pigeon Veterinarians. The column will have a question and answer format. Questions can be directed to Dr. David Marx, 1809 Logan Drive, Norman, Okla. 73069 or they can be sent to the APJ, P.O. Box 278, Warren, Mo. 63383.

This new feature, along with our longtime column, "Questions and Answers" by Clair Hetland of Foy's Pigeon Supplies, should enhance your pigeon's health and well being.

Cash Specials To Be Awarded At The Grand National

\$1,000 in cash specials will be awarded at the 1989 NPA Grand National Show to be held Jan. 11-13, 1990, in Salt Lake City, Utah. "\$75 will be awarded to each National Champion in the 15 breeders with the largest entry," according to Mike Spencer of the Utah Pigeon Club, sponsors of this year's Grand National. See the full page ad in this issue for details concerning lodging, air fares and show personnel.

Christmas Is Almost Here!

There is still time to remember your favorite pigeon person at Christmas time. A subscription or renewal to the APJ would make a perfect stocking stuffer. For under the Christmas tree, one of our beautiful pigeon books or a magazine binder for their APJs.

Subscription rates are: one year \$16.00, 2 years \$28.00 and 3 years \$42.00.

Binders are \$11.00 postpaid. There are designed to hold 12 APJs.

For the descriptions and prices of our books, see our two book ads in this issue.

A gift card will be sent announcing your gift if desired.

Order today to insure arrival for Christmas.

Thank You

A.G.H.A. Members,

As the coordinator of the APJ Giant Homer Special, I would like to extend my thanks to all members that participated in our special. I know there were many letters sent with articles that I didn't respond to. Hopefully, I will see these members involved at the upcoming shows and will be able to respond in person. There were times when I was afraid that the special wasn't going to get the participation that we had hoped for, but I believe all in all, it has turned out to be something the club can be proud of.

I would also like to extend a very special Thank You to Jack Anderson, Frank Wiedlocher and George Lechner for their extended support in helping me put the Special together.

Sincerely,

GEORGE A. GUINN
1989 Special Coordinator

Profile On Pouters, Volume 1

Just in time for Christmas, we have obtained a few more copies of "Profile On Pouters, Volume 1" by Frank Barrachina, well known Pouter and Cropper breeder. Volume 1 deals with English, Pigmy, French, Norwich and Brunner. It covers their histories and standards. With 114 pages and 135 illustrations including 2 color plates, the cost is \$23.50 plus postage and handling.

See our book ad in this issue to order your copy. Order early, as the supply is limited.

Komorner Tumbler Special Changed

Previously scheduled for April 1990, the Komorner Tumbler Special has been changed to April 1991. American Komorner Tumbler Club President Charlie Brown of Hendersonville, Tenn., has appointed Allen B. Zitting to coordinate the special. His address is P.O. Box 766, Centennial Park, Ariz. 86021. Anyone who raises Komorners, who have raised Komorners or who have been in any way associated with the Komorner fancy is encouraged to participate.

1990 Special Issues

With the above announcement, there will be only two special issues published in 1990. They are:

May 1990 — Rollers. Gerald Russell, 22 Ithaca Rd., Route 1, Candor, N.Y. 13743, will be the coordinator. Deadline for the issue will be March 1, 1990.

July 1990 — Domestic Flights. The New York Domestic Flight Combine is the sponsor and deadline is May 1, 1990.

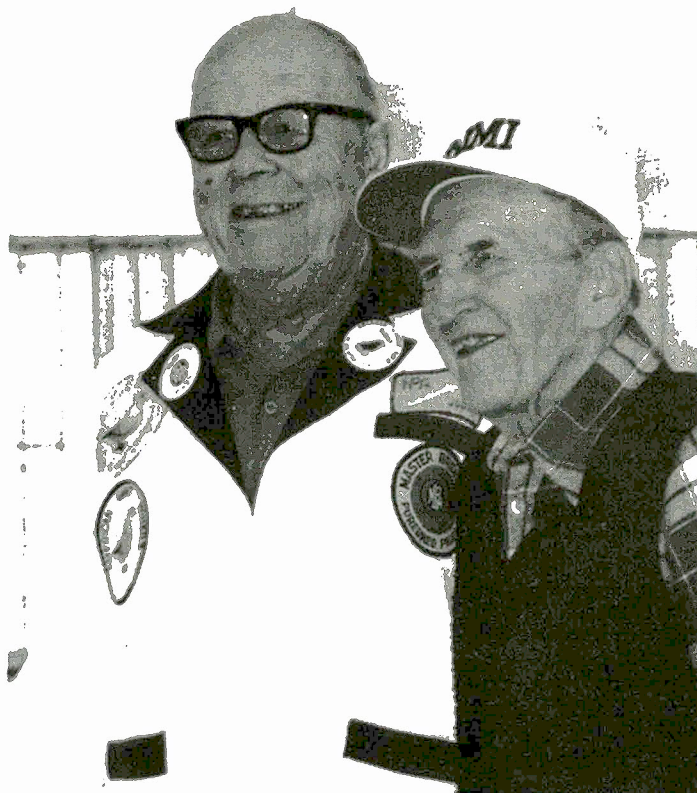
Two Giants Among Giants

by CARROLL COOPER,
Tyler, Texas

With the development and approval of the **Hall of Fame Award** for the AGHA, the accompanying photograph reflects the first two recipients to receive this Award in 1988. Pictured are R.L. "Hap" Beattie of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Denby Williamson of Casper, Wyoming. These two men are and have been mainstays within the AGHA.

I had the pleasure to first meet both of these men in 1957 or 58 while attending the American Giant Homer 5th District meet in Dallas, Texas. Both, over the years, have achieved and been awarded numerous awards. Yet they have never been too busy to assist a new person interested in raising American Giant Homers. Most present day lofts can trace their beginning back to their lofts.

With more members like these two gentlemen there would be no stopping the AGHA. I know each and everyone knowing these men feel as I do. Proud to know both and call them **FRIENDS**. □



TWO GIANTS AMONG GIANTS
Denby Williamson (left) and R.L. "Hap" Beattie (right), first living recipients of the AGHA's Hall of Fame Award.

American Giant Homer Association — 1989

by CARROLL COOPER, President AGHA, Tyler, Texas

With this special issue of the American Pigeon Journal, the American Giant Homer Association can once again share with others this wonderful and exciting dual-purpose utility breed, known as the American Giant Homer. We, the officers and members, are grateful to the Editor and Staff of the APJ for their support and cooperation in making this special issue possible. Additionally this special would not have been possible without those that have contributed articles of information and those that have purchased advertising. The last special issue dedicated to the American Giant Homer was March 1984, and many changes have occurred since that time.

We all owe a Special "Thanks" to the following who gathered, edited and sold the necessary amount of advertising for this special to become a reality. Those responsible are as follows: George Guinn, picture and article coordinator; Jack Anderson and Jim Orton, advertising coordinators. Without these individuals' efforts, this special could not have

happened.

The purpose of this special issue is to present to the pigeon world the changes and progress of the American Giant Homer and its Association. This being the fourth American Giant Homer breeder and booster should order several extra copies for future reference and also have these extra copies available for new and future breeders.

The AGHA, over the last few years, has initiated many new programs for members. The first of these is the **AGHA Master Breeder Program**. This program has, for the most part, been quite successful and the AGHA has recognized a number of its members with the presentation of this Award.

In order to recognize other achievements and accomplishments of the membership, the AGHA has approved and revised the Assn.'s By-Laws to establish the following.

1. Member of the Year Recognition.
2. Breeder of the Year.
3. Jr. Member of the Year.

4. AGHA Hall of Fame Award.

All of these awards are available to the entire membership, officers included, and the first of these awards were presented in 1988. The AGHA feels that proper recognition be given to those deserving members by their individual Breed Club as well as the National Pigeon Association. The AGHA will again recognize those deserving in 1989, and I, as President, will certainly be proud to present the awards.

Other changes for the association include the printing and distributing of a club brochure, which summarizes the AGHA, the breed, and general information about the American Giant Homer and a brief historical summary.

The AGHA "News and Views", the bi-monthly bulletin, continues to serve the membership all across the country. It also keeps the membership informed of all association activities. This publication has continued to keep the lines of communications open for the association. It is informative only when the input re-

ceived is printed and sent to the membership.

Finally, with the color Standard revisions by the addition of two color classes beginning in 1988, the AGHA is continuing to grow and move forward. In 1988, the membership voted and approved the adding of a separate color class for Almond and Faded. These colors have increased so in number that a separate class will be provided for them in all District and National Shows.

We, in the American Giant Homer Association, have not been sitting still. Changes, updates and revisions were needed, more are still needed before this Association can say all are complete. All of this will not take place during my administration, however, it can and will be done. If you wish to become a part of this association and help with this updating and revising, then contact the Secretary of the American Giant Homer Association. □

American Giant Homer — Cover Girl

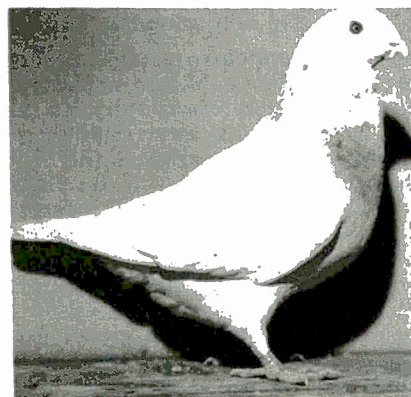
by ED BLAINE, Sacramento, Calif.

Back in 1967, a certain Giant Homer appeared on the Jan.-Feb., cover of the *Journal of Heredity*, a distinctive science periodical of global circulation. It was a young hen.

The hen was far from ordinary.

What made her so patently different? Why, her color. And what was responsible for her beautiful plumage? Simply the collective effects of three mutants - dilute, dominant opal, and T-pattern (on wild type background, blue).

Inside the same issue, there also appeared an article entitled "A Galaxy of Pigeons" written by Dr. F.B. Hutt, renown poultry geneticist. His article reviewed Dr. Levi's bulky book called "Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds" ('65), and both book and



GIANT HOMER

A rare young cock, winner at the AGHA Futurity, bred by Gerry Thies, St. Louis, Mo. — Photo by George Lechner, Palatine, Ill.

review are worth having, or, at the very least, making their acquaintance in public libraries.

For the magnitude of his book, Dr. Levi collected more than 800 pictures of pigeons from around the world. And when asked to select the most beautiful bird to adorn the cover of the *Journal*, he chose the young "dun laced" American Giant Homer hen, a pigeon artfully sculptured by Joe Frazier of California.

The incomparable color of that feathered goddess was to radiate throughout the world.

Now, who in our progressive AGHA is unfamiliar with dilute, dominant opal, and T-pattern? Anyone? These particular mutants, I'll wager, are found in nearly every Giant Homer loft in the country, maybe outside it, too.

Fanciers identify these mutants without hesitation, as they might Canada peas in the feed. (Harken the hearty hint here!)

So far, a rather weak color tag symbolizes the stunning effect of these assembled genes. Since Cover Girl is more romantic, I'll use it for now. (Really, is "dun-laced" adequate?)

Best of all, though, there are more Cover Girl types to make. For within the glamorous Giant Homer breed, other mutant maidens quietly wait to comele and ultimately expose their composite beauty to the world. And it isn't nice to keep them waiting. □



GIANT HOMER

A young bird futurity winner, Any Other Check, bred by Carroll Cooper, Tyler, Texas. — Photo by George Lechner, Palatine, Ill.

Classical Almonds—Do They Exist In Giants?

by GEORGE GUINN, Irving, Ill.

As we all know, any time you attempt to introduce a new color gene into a breed of pigeon it doesn't happen overnight. The American Giant Homer offers a variety of colors second to none in utility pigeons, but in my four short years as a member of the A.G.H.A., I have never seen a "Classical Almond." The color Almond has always been represented at every major show that I have ever attended, but a true "Classical Almond" I have yet to see.

Two years ago I asked myself the question. Why? After some thought I decided to make an attempt to pro-

duce the proper color and pattern myself. As all you genetic buffs know, this isn't a simple single dominate or recessive gene. The gene for Almond, in its many colors and patterns, is alive and well in Giant Homers, but the combination of genes required to produce "Classical Almond" is yet to be mastered in Giants. The big problem with producing this striking color is that if you have a cock and a hen with all the proper combinations of genes, there is no guarantee you will tackle this color. I first bought a book written by Joseph W. Quinn. The book is called "An Introduction to Pigeon Science." If you are interested in color breeding this book will be a tremendous help in whatever color suits your fancy. I

guess that the major reason that the true "Classical Almond" has yet to be produced in Giant Homers is due to the lack of another very essential color — "Kite". I have several Almonds in my loft, but no Kites. I guess, after all this rambling on, what I am trying to say is, if you color breeders want a "real" challenge try to produce a "Classical Almond". It may be the last thing you ever do!

CLASSICAL ALMONDS = S t//+
C t//C t e//+ G//+K//K.□



GIANT HOMER

Nice black opal cock owned by George Guinn, Irving, Ill.

Hand Feeding — Getting Ahead Of The Game

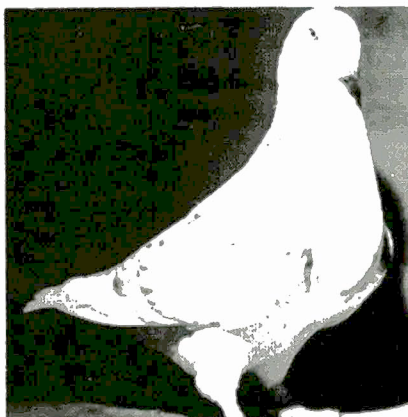
by GEORGE A. GUINN, Irving, Ill.

There are many advantages to hand feeding your squabs if you want to take the time and trouble to do it. You don't need one of those high priced feeders you see advertised. Just go to the grocery store, and buy an infant feeder, cut the tip off the nipple, and you are in business.

I use Purina Lay Chow pellets, because they are 23% protein. When the squabs are about seven to ten days old (after their parents are done feeding pigeon milk), take the squabs away and start hand feeding.

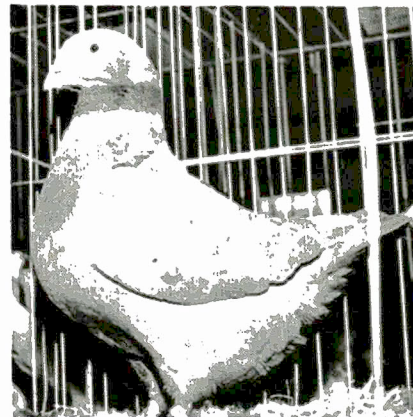
This does two things: it gets the parents back on eggs two or three weeks sooner, and helps get the squab used to being handled by humans, which makes them much more docile in the show pen. If you have that super pair of birds that you want to get as many squabs as possible out of, this is a way to do it without having to have some foster parents. It doesn't really take that long to feed ten or twelve squabs. It

takes about 20 minutes each morning and night. Believe me, if you have the time, hand feeding can put you ahead of the game.□



GIANT HOMER

A powerful looking AOC Giant Homer cock bred by Fred Langridge, Dallas, Texas. — Photo by George Lechner, Palatine, Ill.



GIANT HOMER

A Recessive Red Giant Homer cock, a winner at the Giant Homer Futurity, bred and photographed by George Lechner, Palatine, Ill.

Judge's Thoughts

by FRED LANGRIDGE, Dallas, Texas

In the last bulletin of the American Giant Homer, I read with interest the comments by Mr. Wallace and with real interest the information Ed Blaine was passing on to breeders about asking questions of our birds. As Mr. Wallace stated he is willing to learn, and I know without a doubt that it is hard to get judges. It is hard for a judge to travel to some shows, but I have always felt a good judge was worth all the appreciation I've won. I told my good friend Nerry Comeaux years ago to get the best judge possible, and show your birds, lots of breeders say I don't like showing found or birds I've bought, but the faults we have in the show room may be from the birds in the loft. Show your birds you bought then ask the judge to show or tell you the faults, like Ed Blaine said in his article, "We want to hear only the good things or let the rest pass." I know Ed would like to help breeders. Many of the birds I bred in the past came from his loft. These birds helped me to become a better breeder and kept up my love of Giant Homers. As the breed Director and the 5th District Director, over the years I always tried to get the best judge possible. This helps your show and breeder feel like his birds have been placed according to the Standard. Before I move on to judging I would like to say one thing about advice, don't ask the judge unless you're willing to listen and learn. When I was at the El Paso National Show, Joe Frazier was judging Show Racers, I placed second young cock and second young Blue Bar hen (hen behind Hodson

birds). I asked Joe to come over and see my birds as I had several and to select a mate for this cock, which I got from James McKenzie and I raised the hen. He told me to put this pair together. I fed and raised seven nice young and the last young hen won the OK-KA Show under Earl Deal judging. This cock and his daughter raised me many good Show Racers. He saw what I didn't.

On to judging, when we show our birds we must look at the Standard. It covers 100 points, and we must not set on any part of the bird to breed. Some breeders like good eye color on good head and neck while others go for short birds covering over the back, and many other parts of the bird. A judge must take the bird by points and judge accordingly. Many times a good class of birds can only be a few points between first and eighth place, but many breeders go home saying I only had an eighth place bird, never knowing that that bird one week later could win the class. Ask the judge. That's why he should have been selected. He's there to help you, because we love our birds and sometimes we can't see their faults.

Over the years, in attending lots of shows, these thoughts really hurt me: when I recall a judge saying that bird is champ, because it's pretty, or because I like it best. I pick a bird because it comes as close to the standard, which each breed has approved by the club. Many times when I have judged at El Reno, and looked over a class of 20-30 birds, seeing many birds that look a lot like the Standard but sometimes these birds lack age to be show winners today. With care these birds can become tomorrow's champions.

The one thing I find is many breeders expect 4-5 month old birds to look like 2-3 year old birds, this just doesn't happen. I try to tell



WINNING GIANT HOMER

This Giant Homer was 1st young AO Bar, Oct. 1984, Rapid City; 1st Young AO Bar, Dec. 84, Futurity; and 2nd Reserve Champion Hen. — Bred and owned by Carroll Cooper, Tyler, Texas.

breeders, "Here at my home these birds are like my kids. Give them time to grow. If they have what the standard calls for, a little extra time and feed might make you a happy person."

I feel when a judge finishes a class, any breeder should have the right to ask about his bird at that time, while the class is still in show coops and they can be discussed according to placing. It doesn't matter if it's first or twenty-eighth that breeder spent money to buy or raise that bird, and he should have the right to be satisfied with the placing of his or her bird. I feel if a breeder is willing to breed our Giant Homers, spend money on breeders, raise the young and drive many miles to a show, to be part of the club, his bird should be judged the same as anyone. If it's 28th, tell the breeder what is wrong, or why it was placed down. Go back later to offer any help you can give. Everyone likes to be a winner, and with help, who knows it may be you in the winner's circle. □

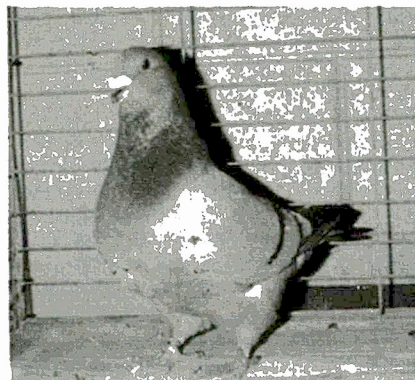
A Big Win At The National

by ROY LINDERT,
Oconomowoc, Wisc.

I have been asked to write a small article for the Giant Homer Special about the Young Blue Bar Hen 6187 which was Best Young Bird in the 1989 National in Peoria, Illinois.

This hen is a descendant of some of Maurice Durkee's stock. I bought a Blue Bar cock #77 from Maurice three years ago, and in 1987 I got a nice type Blue Bar hen from Dick Bonkoske. I mated the pair around the first of June, 1987, and managed to raise three birds from that pair.

I kept two hens and one cock, one of the hens (#4196) I mated to a real nice Red Bar cock (#1157) which I had raised out of a Red Bar cock and Brown Bar hen the year before. This pair raised six birds, four of these I am breeding off of right now. Two Red Bar cocks (#6152 and #6151) and one Blue Bar cock (#6186), plus Blue Bar hen (#6187).



BEST YOUNG HEN

This Blue Bar Giant Homer Hen #6187, was Best Young Hen and 2nd Reserve at the 1988 NPA Grand National Show, Peoria, Ill. — Bred and owned by Roy Lindert, Oconomowoc, Wisc.

The Red Bar (#6152) took first place in the any other bar class at the 1988 Louisville Young Bird Show. Out of these four birds they did real well in the show room.

I was very happy that the Blue Bar hen was the best young bird at the National. When she was about three months old, I already had decided what I would mate to her if she were a hen in 1989. She always seemed to station well and had a very gentle nature to tolerate being handled by people.

I hope she will raise some nice young birds just like her this year and hopefully they will be competitive in the show room. □



Fred Langridge judging Giant Homers at the 1989 AGHA Futurity Show.



Busy getting the contestants ready for the American Giant Homer Assn.'s Young Bird Futurity Show held in El Reno, Okla. — Photo by George Lechner, Palatine, Ill.

The A.G.H.A. Young Bird Futurity

by JACK ANDERSON, Tulsa, Okla.

In late June of 1973, Hap Beattie and I were enjoying lunch and discussing our favorite breed of pigeons, the American Giant Homer. Our discussion turned to shows and the possibility of holding a Super Show for young Giants. Having been involved in the Quarter Horse industry for most of my adult life and being directly associated with many of their promotional activities I felt that we could pattern a pigeon show much like the A.Q.H.A. horse shows. Certainly, one of the A.Q.H.A.'s most popular events are their Futurity programs. I simply substituted pigeons for horses and the Young Bird Futurity became a very viable possibility. We wrote out the rules and regulations governing a Young Bird Futurity and Hap took it to the National Giant Meet the following January. Much to our surprise and dismay, the A.G.H.A. members present at that meeting turned down our proposal so we were back to square one. After a lot more soul searching and discussion we made the decision to hold a Young Bird Futurity on our own. We needed some "up front" financing and since the A.G.H.A. was not supportive I simply agreed to finance the first three Futurities on my own. Our first Futurity was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the first weekend in December, 1974. It proved to be an overwhelming success and the rest is history.

At our third Futurity held December 1976 in Tulsa, a benefit auction was held to secure the necessary funds for the 1977 Futurity. No problem - many of the owners of previous Futurity class winners donated these birds to this auction and when the dust cleared

we had the necessary funds for the fourth Futurity.

In 1977, we again held our benefit auction and for the first time offered a Young Bird Auction held in conjunction with the Futurity. Another tremendous success and with the monies generated from the 10% commissions charged on all birds sold, the financial success of future Futurities were guaranteed. We continue to hold both our benefit auction and our young bird auction each year at our Futurities. Our wives have taken over the benefit auction and it is now known as the Women's Benefit Auction.

Following the 1978 Futurity, by a unanimous vote, the A.G.H.A. sanctioned the Young Bird Futurity. All subsequent Futurities have been

known as the A.G.H.A. Young Bird Futurity.

We have held a total of 15 Futurities and our sixteenth is planned for the first weekend in December, 1989. All but two of our Futurities have been held in Oklahoma. In 1981 Cedar Rapids, Iowa, hosted the Futurity and in 1982 the Futurity was moved to Dallas, Texas. The past five Futurities have been held in El Reno, Oklahoma and the 1989 Futurity will also be held in El Reno.

Much of the success of our Young Bird Futurity is due to the fairness of the event. No changes are made without the consent of the exhibitors - judges for each Futurity are nominated and elected by the exhibitors - premiums are paid in cash at our Awards Banquet following the show. The site of the Futurity can be changed by a simple majority vote of the exhibitors.

In 1988, the decision was made to hold our annual A.G.H.A. business meeting at the Futurity. We had a total of 71 voting members present at this meeting. Attendance at our Awards Banquet was even higher.

Each year we try to add a new innovation to our shows. In 1987 classes were offered for both Youth and Novice exhibitors and they proved to be quite popular. This allows an exhibitor to compete at his or her own level of competition. Needless to say, these classes will be continued at future Futurities.

At our 1989 Futurity, plans include an "on hands" Judging Clinic and Seminar. We have lots of young people that have indicated a strong desire to become better acquainted with our judging procedures and we feel that a well conducted Clinic and Seminar will be both educational and

Giant Homers In Louisiana

by AUBREY MIRE, Ville Platte, La.

Although the American Giant Homer is not a new breed in Louisiana's "Cajun Country", there is renewed interest in this breed currently.

The first American Giant Homers to come to Louisiana were brought in by Nerry Comeaux of Lafayette in 1938. He had gotten some of his first giants from Hap Beattie, Denby Williamson and several of the old timers. Then came an opportunity to purchase the entire loft of excellent breeding stock from Hap Beattie in Tulsa after World War II (probably in 1946). From this foundation and progressive and selective breeding throughout the following years came some of the finest Giant Homers that have ever graced any loft in the

"deep south". It was from the selective breeding of these excellent Giants which earned Nerry Comeaux the Master Breeder Award in 1982.

Many novice breeders, such as myself, have benefitted from some of these good bloodlines as Nerry has always tried to give beginners his very best birds.

It was in 1982 that I became interested in Giant Homers. It was the generosity of Nerry Comeaux and Dr. Charles Dupre that really got me started with Giants.

Current day breeders of Giant Homers in Louisiana are concentrated in the Lafayette and Ville Platte areas when there is a very vital interest in this breed. □

enjoyable.

Without a doubt our Young Bird Auctions held each year in conjunction with our Futurities have added greatly to the popularity of this event. An exhibitor can simply indicate on his Futurity entry blank those birds that he would like to consign to the auction. In addition, the top five placing birds in each class are required to be consigned. A commission of 10% is charged on all birds sold and an exhibitor is allowed to buy his birds back, but he still pays the 10% commission. In 1986, 1987 and 1988 we sold a total of 975 young Giants for a total of \$61,600.00 for an average price of \$63.25. Prices range from \$5.00 to \$500.00. There is simply no better place to buy or sell young Giants than at the Young Bird Futurity auction.

A complete breakdown of our Futurities showing Year, Location, Judges, Number Shown, Champions and Display accompanies this article. **Please note:** from 1974 through 1979 we selected a Champion and Best Opposite. Beginning in 1980 the decision was made to crown both a Champion Cock and Champion Hen. This has proven to be a very popular decision among our membership. □

Year	Location	Judges	No. Shown	Champion	Best Opposite	Display
1974	Tulsa, OK	J. McKenzie	209	M. Durkee	W. Klann	A & B
1975	Tulsa, OK	E. Deal	449	H. Fischer	A & B	A & B
1976	Tulsa, OK	T. Barnhart F. Langridge J. Frazier	634	M. Durkee	D. Williamson	A & B
1977	Norman, OK	D. Williamson F. Langridge	457	T. Frye	A & B	A & B
1978	Tulsa, OK	J. McKenzie E. Deal	506	M. Pohren	E. Keller	A & B
1979	Tulsa, OK	F. Langridge J. McKenzie	577	A & B	T. Frye	A & B
1980	Tulsa, OK	M. Durkee J. Frazier	591	D. Harrett E. Keller		A & B
1981	Cedar Rapids, IA	C. Cooper D. Jansen	614	D. Williamson A & B		A & B
1982	Dallas, TX	J. McKenzie F. Langridge	360	A & B A & B		A & B
1983	Stillwater OK	R. Arnold E. Keller F. Langridge	486	D. Harrett M. Durkee		A & B
1984	El Reno, OK	P. Steiden B. English	397	D. Harrett D. Harrett		D. Harrett
1985	El Reno, OK	M. Pohren F. Langridge	505	A & B D. Harrett		A & B
1986	El Reno, OK	D. Crotty B. English	560	J. Orton D. Harrett		M. Durkee
1987	El Reno, OK	M. Durkee R. Arnold	739	A & B M. Durkee		A & B
1988	El Reno, OK	F. Langridge J. Thies	701	A & B D. Bunkoske		M. Durkee
1989	El Reno, OK					

Reflections—Past To Present

by FRANK KERMASHEK, C.F.C., Girard, Kans.

In 1983 my interest in the American Giant Homer had begun to stir. I made several inquiries about the breed and all avenues seemed to lead to Hap Beattie. I gave Hap a call and was greatly impressed by his knowledge and willingness to help a beginner.

Following Hap's suggestion, I waited until the futurity later that year and obtained my first Giants. I felt fortunate to acquire such outstanding birds at a more than a fair price. One bird in particular, an AOC cock (#468) purchased from A & B Lofts, will forever hold a special place in my memories. To this day, I still believe it to be one of the "Prettiest Giants" ever bred.

As the new year rolled around, I found myself in need of a new loft. I am fortunate to have a twin brother who is a carpenter, so that part was easy. The hard part seemed to be formulating exactly what I needed in a loft that would accommodate my new breed. I wanted the loft to be perfect for Giant Homers — a project that, when completed, I could stand

back from, admire and proudly say, "If I had it all to do over again, I wouldn't change a thing."

It was during this time of mind scanning and thought formulation that I leaned on Hap Beattie a great deal. A hole was not cut nor a nesting compartment structured without first receiving his blessing. I called Hap a lot in those early days, so much in fact that I thought I would someday get a hint that I was being too bothersome. That day never came. Hap provided supreme guidance, my brother the expert craftsmanship and slowly but surely the pieces fell into place.

I enjoy owning a top quality loft. It is convenient during the breeding season and has triple sections which aid in conditioning my young bird show team each year. My Giants have enjoyed a disease free period since being introduced into their new environment. A lot of this I attribute to proper ventilation. Besides having aluminum sliding windows on three sides, there is a 4" x 16" vent plate between each rafter front and back. The ¾" sub floor is 25 inches above ground level, so rodents are never a problem.

A proper loft and sound sanitation habits will insure your Giants the environment they need to perform at their best. If at all possible, they at least deserve that much. With proper care, they are more than capable of doing the rest.

I have enjoyed raising the American Giant Homer over the past years. They are extremely gentle, are available in a broad spectrum of colors and are very prolific.

I probably enjoy the people who make up the AGHA as much as the breed itself. They comprise a fine lot indeed. The shows each year provide an excellent place to meet old friends, make new ones, and enjoy a fellowship that is truly special.

My greatest moment to date has been seeing my daughter Vanessa's Blue Check Cock named Champion of the youth class at the 15th American Giant Homer Futurity last year. A proud little girl she was and rightfully so.

I owe a great deal of thanks to a lot of people who have helped me along my way. A special thank you to Jack Anderson and Hap Beattie. Your help and guidance have been priceless.

I treasure my memories of the AGHA and encourage anyone who has considered our breed to join an organization with a positive direction. The rewards are endless. □

Official Standard Of Perfection

PREFACE. This standard is a guide for evaluating the specific features as well as the total, composite quality of the Giant Homer. A given fancier may well concentrate his attention on a single feature such as neck creases, back cover or head when judging an individual bird's value for his breeding program. A show judge, however, must give his attention to the total bird — the effective composite of all the features of each individual bird. Still further, the show judge must then rank a class of birds by a careful comparison to their differing composites of quality. This standard assigns point values to specific features to aid the judge in estimating the importance of individual strengths and weaknesses in comparing and ranking a class of birds. A proper application of those point values eliminates any real need for a listing of outright disqualifications.

It is strongly recommended that every show judge keep this written standard as well as a copy of the three-view standard sketch before him as a reference and guide in judging. He should leave no doubt in the minds of exhibitors that he is doing his best to understand and apply the official standard in making his decisions.

TYPE. The term "type" commonly refers to the combination of the bird's conformation, station and profile. It is clearly illustrated in the three-view sketch of the ideal. In terms of show points, type is recognized and rewarded within the specific structural features of the standard. One should refer to the three-view sketch of the ideal as it relates to all of the items in the written standard.

SIZE. Successful show birds will commonly show moderate variations in size with a range from 10" to 11" in height, from 9½" to 10½" in length, and from 5" to 6" across the wing butts. Concern for excellence in type should take preference over concern for size alone. However, excessively large or excessively small birds are quite undesirable.

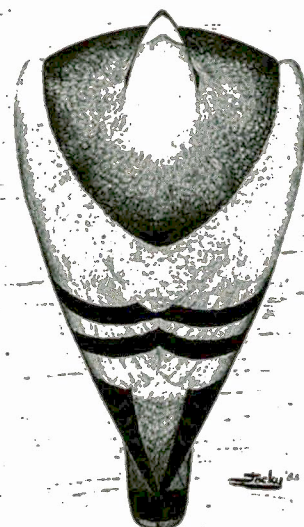
WEIGHT. Although an ideal weight is not specified, a top quality bird in good show condition will have a distinctly solid and heavy feel in the hand. Such a bird will usually weigh in the neighborhood of 30 ounces. Looseness and fatness are undesirable qualities and will be penalized under the point allotments that follow.

HEAD. (15 points) Head profile rising gradually and smoothly from the top of the beak to above the eye, then descending in an unbroken line to the neck. Top skull showing no flatness. Top view showing good width between eyes, narrowing smoothing toward the wattle. No sign of gullet or of pinching above the wattle. No show of angularity in outline. The whole head should express strength with no show of weakness or thinness.

EYES. (5 points) Sharp and clear expressing alertness. Bright red or orange in color. Gravel, pale or cracked eyes a serious fault. A bull or solid black eye is admissible in whites or white splashes. Both eyes same color. False pearl eye acceptable in browns.

EYE CERES. (2 points) Medium size, neat, smooth and even. May vary from dark or plum color in colored birds to flesh color and pink in whites and white splashes.

BEAK. (5 points) Medium length, stout and straight. Both mandibles of nearly equal strength and substance. Set smoothly into



IDEAL AMERICAN GIANT HOMER, TOP VIEW

BODY. (16 points) Short, broad, deep and strongly built. The body as a whole presents a smoothly tapered, wedge-shaped appearance that is clearly felt in the hand. The rump is well filled and tapered and without the wideness and flatness that causes wide tails.

BACK. (5 points) Flat and straight with broad shoulders tapering to a well filled rump. Forms a line with the tail carried at about a twelve degree angle below the horizontal.

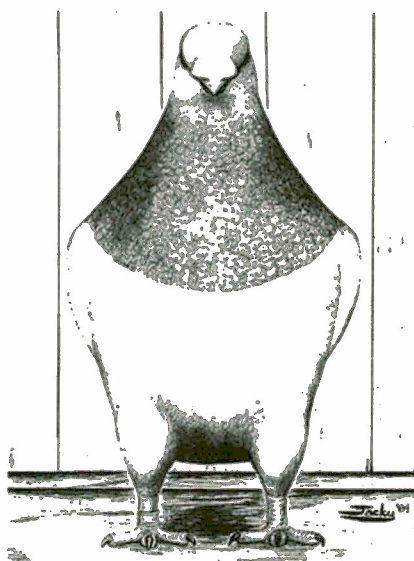
BREAST. (10 points) Prominent, broad (5" to 6" across the wing butts). Deep and well rounded. Showing well beyond and below the wing butts.

KEEL. (5 points) Deep, straight and extended well into the rump. Rocker shaped in side view, curving slightly toward vent but maintaining good depth at rear to assure a well filled rump. Well covered with solid, muscular flesh.

WINGS. (10 points) In proper proportion to length of body. Prominent and powerful through shoulders to butts, fitting closely to the body in front view. Flights resting on the tail with two wing tips touching or nearly so. Wing coverts should cover the rump smoothly and well. Primaries strong in web and quill. Entire shield for wing fitted with smooth, tight, closely overlapped feathering. No tendency for wing tips to fall below the tail or to cross over the rump. Primaries and secondaries firmly overlapped and clinging. No tendency to sideboards.

TAIL. (5 points) Twelve firmly set feathers with strong web and quill. Spreads to a full fan with feathers firmly overlapped and clinging to each other, with no sign of split tail. Carried well closed with feathers overlapped to give the appearance of little more than one feather in width. Short, must not be extended over one inch beyond the tips of flights. Carried at about a twelve-degree angle below horizontal and in a straight line with the back. Fits smoothly into a firm rump cushion above and below.

LEGS AND FEET. (5 points) Legs medium length and set well apart in a slight bent stance. Strong in appearance of denoting strength of bone. Thighs full and muscular. Shanks and feet free of feathers. Toes strong and straight with no improper webbing. Toe-



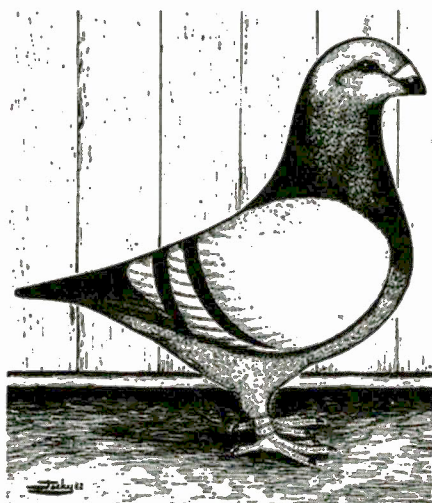
IDEAL AMERICAN GIANT HOMER, FRONT VIEW

face with no broken outline. No sign of gaping or crossed mandibles. May vary in color from dark in colored birds, to amber in red checks, to flesh colored preferred in whites and permissible in white splashes.

WATTLE. (2 points) Medium size, smooth in texture and free of coarseness. Should fit smoothly between head and beak. Free of excessive warty growths at base of lower mandibles.

NECK. (5 points) Stout, medium length. Tapering gradually and smoothly from head to shoulders. No signs of neck creases or gullet.

BODY STRUCTURES. A total of 36 points is allotted to the closely related body components including body, breast, back and keel. This retains a strong emphasis on the utility nature of the breed. At the same time, substantial point allotment to refinement in eye, beak, legs, head, color and pattern affirm the increasing status of Giant Homers as an exhibition breed with a pleasing balance of power and beauty.



IDEAL AMERICAN GIANT HOMER, SIDE VIEW

nails uniform in color corresponding to that of beak.

SHOW CONDITION. (10 points) Sound, healthy and alert with smooth and finished feathering throughout. No dirty feather, feet or toenails. Calm and poised in show cage. Handles and holds station without wildness. Not overly fat or thin. Birds with deformities should be cut in accord with the foregoing standard. Diseased birds must be removed from competition and from contact with other birds.

COLOR AND PATTERN. All colored birds are regarded as carrying ten (10) floating points which shall be cut at the discretion of the judge for faulty color or pattern within a given color class. These ten floating points are in addition to the 100 basic points established in the standard. Quality of color and pattern is disregarded in judging specials beyond best of color. See standard color classifications. Mismarked and miscolored birds should be classified and judged as such under the specifications set forth for CLASS XI, AOC in this standard.

AGHA STANDARD COLOR CLASSIFICATION

At all AGHA-sanctioned shows, Giant Homers shall be judged according to the following color classifications, subject to possible modification noted at the end of this listing.

CLASS I. BLUE OR SILVER BAR — a clear even shade of blue (intense) or silver (dilute) on the wing shield, with two clean, distinct black bars. As is the case of blue pigeons in general, the head and neck to be somewhat darker than the wing shield. No white or off-color feathers anywhere including rump and shanks. No partial third bar or sootiness in wing shield. (Whitish "albescence" strips on edge of outer tail feathers are normal for blue pigeons and should not be interpreted as white feathers.)

CLASS II. OTHER BARS — ash red, brown, indigo and their corresponding dilutes. Clear even shading on wing shields; two clean, distinct and even bars. Bars may be wide or narrow as long as they are uniform. No white or off-color feathers anywhere. Brown and khaki will show a dark band across the tail; ash red and cream will show a lighter tail band or no such band at all. Indigo and its dilute may show either light or dark tail bar. (Note: Ash red cocks may show black flecking in the tail and wing flights. Any flecking in hens must be brown and not black. When flecking becomes extensive, covering other areas as well, bird must be entered in AOC class.)

CLASS III. BLUE OR SILVER CHECK — includes open checks, T-pattern checks and saturated T-patterns or "velvets". Whatever the type of checkering, it is to be even throughout the wing shield. No white or off-color feathers anywhere. Checkering may or may not be visible on the breast and hocks. Silver checks may exhibit a copper colored or gold sheen on the crop area, but this is undesirable.

CLASS IV. OTHER CHECKS — all other checks, open T-pattern or saturated except blue, silver, opal or faded. Even checkering throughout wing shield. No white or off-color feather anywhere. Tail bars and flecking as in Other Bars above.

CLASS V. WHITE — white throughout, with white toenails and clear white (flesh colored) beak.

CLASS VI. RECESSIVE RED OR YELLOW — clear even shade of red or yellow throughout.

Ideal red coloration to approach that of the Carneau or Saxon Whitetail. Yellow likewise. No white or off-color feathers anywhere; no white lacing to be apparent. No smuttiness or plum color in tail or elsewhere.

CLASS VII. OTHER SOLIDS — black, dun, brown, khaki, spread ash (intense or dilute), andalusian (intense or dilute). No white or off-color feathers anywhere. Patterns should not be visible, except in andalusian and spread ash, both of which may show a uniform lacing throughout. Reddish tint in bar area of andalusian is undesirable. Flights and tail of spread ash will be slightly lighter than rest of bird.

CLASS VIII. DOMINANT OPAL — all dominant opals regardless of pattern or primary color. Most opals are based on blue, but brown opals and ash red opals do occur, both in intense and dilute phases. No stray white feathers although some opals may have white bars.

CLASS IX. GRIZZLE — all grizzles regardless of color or pattern. Spread (black) grizzle shows much variability, but the ideal should approach a "tigered" effect similar to that of the evenly splashed English Trumpeter. Ideal barred grizzle should be that of the Dragon.

CLASS X. RARE — all reduced, almond, -faded regardless of color or pattern. All barless regardless of color. All foregoing to be free of stray white feathers. Other rare colors and patterns admissible to this class as they occur. These may include, but are not limited to, recessive opal, ice blue, milky, whiteside, turbit-marked (saddle), pale, toy stencil and bronze. District director or his representative to determine admissibility to this class.

CLASS XI. AOC — literal translation is "any other color". This class is intended to include anything that does not fit into any of the ten classes previously listed. Includes, but is not limited to, splashes or peds that do not fit into either grizzle or rare classes; colored birds showing one or more white feathers; smutty recessive reds and yellows; bars and checks not showing proper patterns; whites with dark beaks or toenails, etc.

MODIFICATION IN CLASSIFICATION: In shows with small entries, classes may be combined to create competition by member in charge. However, AOC (mismarks) should not be combined with any of the ten standard classes.

GIANTS

"A Challenge in both Quality and Color"

GEORGE LECHNER

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The Faded Giant Homer

by MAURICE DURKEE, Winnebago, Minn.

The gentle temperament of the Giant Homer is one of the things that draws me to the breed. Other criteria are the hard bodies and slick feather on the well conditioned bird with some colors having generally harder feathers than others. Intense colors such as opal, faded and blue bar are apt to be harder of body and feather for instance. The great range or variation of colors is also a strong point in the breed. I have been breeding Giant Homers for 20 years working with several colors and patterns within colors, but mainly blue bars which are the roots of my breeding program.

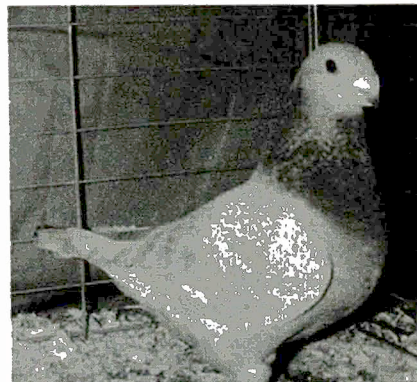
I believe the color that I like best and find most striking and interesting of all is faded. This is a very strongly dominant color factor and works extremely well crossing with blue bar, ash red and opal. At first I crossed them only to blue bars producing faded blue bars which sometimes appear to be blue and sometimes silver in color.

During the last several years I have crossed them with first ash red then cream and silver bars. The progeny often have a lite or frosted head more especially in ash red and is quite beautiful. A puzzling phenomenon to me is that faded silvers coming from faded ash red cocks carrying dilution look like faded brown or faded creams and are identified by dark tail bands as well as dark bands on the back of the wing flights. They also can have brownish bars, brownish backing on the breast and white beaks. Their basic color is or can be a lite cream or off white but genetically they are actually faded silver bars.

I have been working on what I

think is a new color which I find particularly striking. This is faded opal in which a barred opal hen is mated to a faded blue bar cock. This mating will or can produce some progeny with white bars, white tail band and a mixture of bronze, purple, opal, etc., coloring on the breast and neck. Very Beautiful! At first I wondered if this was a terminal or could it be passed on to the next generation. My answer came quickly as upon further breeding research I have determined that it does transmit. In fact it is difficult to know for sure whether the offspring are basically faded or opal.

In 1987 I mated a faded cock derived from the mating of a faded blue bar male which was mated to an opal bar female (this cock having the white wing bars, tail bars, bronzing on breast, purple on neck with frosted head) to a silver bar hen. From this mating I produced a beautiful faded opal colored hen with striking opalish markings and extremely hard feather, #1304. Banded Aug. 23, 1987, she became my youngest Champion ever when picked by Ray Arnold as Futurity Champion at El Reno, OK, held the first weekend in December. She was shown twice more and was Res., and B.O.S., both at Rapid City Short Grass Show and the N.P.A. National in 1988. I feel she is both the best typed hen I have raised and most beautiful. I doubt that I can improve



1ST YOUNG

This nice young Giant Homer cock was 1st young faded cock at the 1988 NPA Grand National Show, Peoria, Ill. — Bred and owned by Maurice Durkee, Winnebago, Minn.

her in her color in the near future! She produced my two best faded cocks in 1988, one resembling her color wise and the other becoming champion over her at Rapid City. I have another good one like her this year, a young cock of the same color, and produced by her.

In 1990 I intend to pursue a project urged by Master Breeder Berall Hobbs; that of producing auto-sexed birds. This is done by mating two faded together. Cocks pure for faded will be white with flecking and are Auto-Sexed. These Auto-Sexed cocks can have some interesting aspects in a breeding program, and I understand they can be quite attractive. □

Brighten Up Your GH Day With Grizzle

by E.M. BLAINE, Sacramento, Calif.

Tired of seeing the same boring colors - blue, ash-red, brown, indigo - in your loft? It can happen, ya know. But don't blame the birds. What to do about it?

Well, for one thing, you can add a dash of Grizzle.

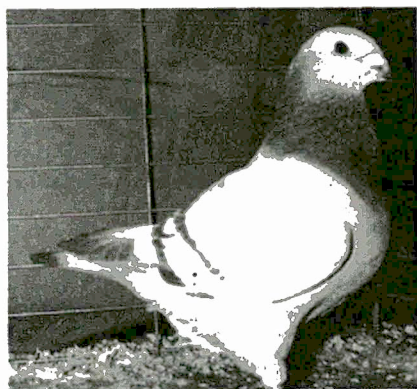
Grizzle is but one of several dominant genes capable of making a difference in already boring colors. I pick this gene because it isn't shy about expressing itself, and it also shows that you needn't be steeped in genetic gibberish to alter the plumage in some of your birds.

Grizzle has appeal. In bars, it simply announces where it is and where it isn't. If you don't see it, it ain't there. It won't make a grizzly fool of you. To those who don't

know, Grizzle acts as a lightening source to pigment, leaving a whitish effect in the head, neck and part of the wing shield. A kind of salt-and-pepper result that's anything but boring, especially in blue bars.

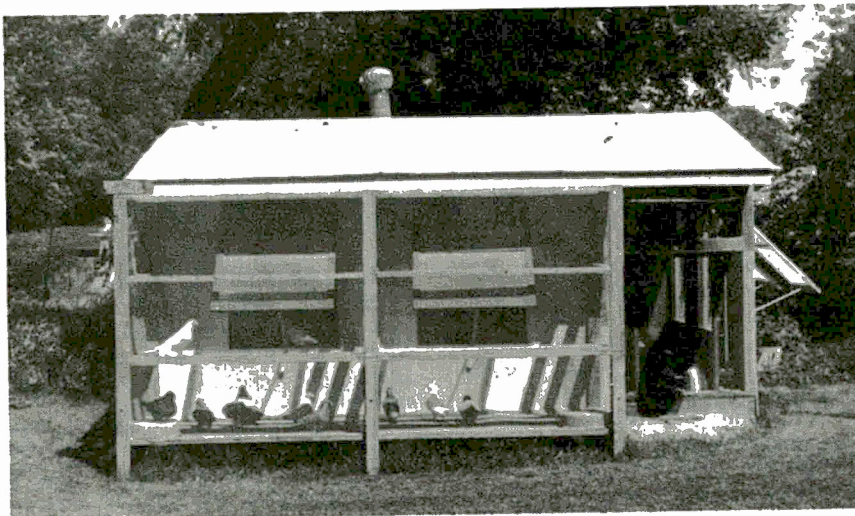
Giant Homers showing a double dash of Grizzling are nearly white. But when ya mate two Grizzles together, what do ya expect? Some fanciers feel less lust for this "stork" consequence, compared to what a single dash of Grizzle offers. (I'm of the latter group.)

At any rate, should you feel bored by the ordinary GH colors before your daily eyes, make a change. Again, don't blame the birds. Try Grizzle. It's as though it were designed just to brighten your day. □



RESERVE CHAMPION GIANT

This Giant Homer was Best Old Hen and Reserve Champion at the 1988 NPA Grand National Show, Peoria, Ill. — Bred and owned by Maurice Durkee, Winnebago, Minn.



Giant Homer loft of George Lechner, Palatine, Ill. — Photo by George Lechner.

Giants From Coast To Coast

by **GEORGE LECHNER, Palatine, Ill.**

Just like a pebble in the water when it hits, the rings start to spread out even further, the Giants have done just that. In some areas they may not be as actively bred and shown as in other areas but they are there. Case in point — photo of Howard Frizzell and his loft in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Howard joined the AGHA under the Beattie Plan and received his pair of birds from George along with a few additional birds to get started. That was at the end of 1987 or beginning of 1988. Howard started breeding and talking to some of the other breeders in the area. When time came for the area show (Richmond), the compliment of Giants was larger than in many years past and the competition was keen.

Howard enjoyed the Giants — breeding and competition — so much that in 1989 he sent for a few more in different colors, and I am sure he can't wait until the big show this year.

Now on to the West Coast and Howard Kerrigan of Hayward, California. He had some Giants but wanted other colors, so he set out to get some Recessive Reds and did. Some of us that have spent years trying to conquer the elusive Brick (Carneaux) Red knew what Howard was in for. Howard is still in the chase and although he has had some set backs beyond his control, he has had some success. Other colors that fancy Howard's eye are Cream, Yellow and Silver.

In the "bread basket" of the U.S. (Illinois), where Giants may not be so plentiful, are those that breed them just as avidly as any fancier anywhere. Some 15 years ago when I

decided to get out of Racing Homers, I started shopping through the APJ and came up with the June, 1970 special on Giant Homers. There was the bird for me — homing pigeon, utility pigeon and all the colors of the rainbow. The first thing I found out after I received my first breeders was that you can't use the same nest boxes for the Giants, second when you mate up you must be patient — Giants will get down to housekeeping but not with the speed of the Racing Homers. After a few years in the old Racing Homer loft, it was time to build a new one designed for the Giants (see photo). This loft is 16' x 10', has two breeding sections

6' x 10' and a weaning pen 4' x 10', with flight cage (all wire) 4' x 16' x 10'. Each breeding loft has nine (9) nests, a treading board on the blank wall, a small window 18" x 24 on the back wall and a large window 2' x 4' on the flight cage wall. On the roof is a large turban vent to take out air which helps keep the loft dry. The exterior walls are all insulated and covered with chip board.

Those of us who live in the Great Lakes area do not have the luxury of starting our breeding programs in December as those in Virginia or California. But I have found that putting the pairs together around February 14, and with a little help from "mother nature", I can raise enough youngsters from which to choose a show team. At that point they may not be as finished as those warm climate birds, but they can be competitive.

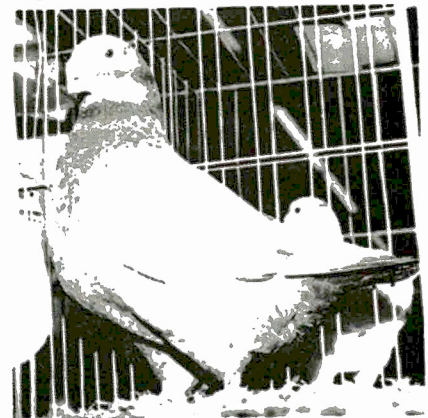
Another thing I learned from day one was that if you are going to raise show pigeons, you show them. If you want to improve the quality, then you must see first-hand what is winning. That is not to say that each and every judge sees them the same, but when the same birds are winning wherever they are shown and under whatever judge, they must have something. Another advantage to attending several shows is that this is a good time to get to know the breeders and maybe pick up something needed to better your quality or add colors to your loft.

If any of the above has peaked your interest in Giant Homers, do as I and so many others have done — look through this issue, pick out a couple breeders to get stock from and attend one of the shows where Giants are shown — National Young Bird Show, Louisville, Kentucky; Young Bird Futurity, El Reno, Oklahoma; District Shows or the National Pigeon Show. □



WINNING GIANT HOMER

This Check Cock was 1st Check Cock at the 1988 National. — Bred and owned by George Lechner.



GIANT HOMER

Powerful young Andalusian cock bred and owned by Carroll Cooper, Tyler, Texas.

A Beginner's Guide To Success In Giant Homers

by GERALD E. HOBBS, Madison, Iowa

How can I raise that bird that will be first in his class or wonder of wonders, the champion of the show? That is the question asked by many beginners and pondered by some of us who have been at it a few years. Well, the answers are a little knowledge, money, labor and luck. Take away any of the first three and you probably won't have much of the last, so let's dwell on them.

The first thing to learn is the American Giant Homer Standard. Not just the words and point allotments, but the image, feel and even skeleton of it. Know in your mind's eye what that bird of balance and beauty look like. I went through a lot of apparently wasted effort a couple of years ago in drawing the three views of the standard. They were not adopted, but the time wasn't wasted either. I learned more trying to put that down on paper than I will from reading and looking at the Standard a hundred times. There are other ways of learning the Standard too, such as listening to the judge and handling the birds as someone explains the feel of the body. Try to judge a small show, often a painful but quick way to learn. Try making a wood carving or clay model of the Standard sketch. Visit the lofts of well known breeders in your area and ask a lot of questions. Their knowledge isn't necessarily yours, but if you put it to work and it gives you results, it is yours. See what they mean by long keel and deep body and get that hard, satin, well muscled feel in your hand and imprinted indelibly upon your mind. See those big handsome heads from all angles and feel the bone in the head and jaw. Make a gauge out of your hand for measuring girth, depths and lengths.

Another area of knowledge that will give you a tremendous advantage is genetics. The book by Wendell Levi, "The Pigeon" has a good chapter that is passed over by a lot of breeders as being hogwash or a bunch of complicated theories. A knowledge of genetics will help you breed the colors you want, determine the sex of squabs, eliminate undesirable characteristics, know the odds of raising specific colors from a pair of birds and open up a whole new field of interest in raising pigeons.

We have many knowledgeable people on genetics in Giant Homers able and willing to share the facts of inheritance with others. It is essential to know that several of the serious faults in Giants are purely recessive

such as pearl eyes, feathered feet, and crests and when two such parents show the same recessive characteristics you can expect all of their young to show it. When one parent shows it and the other carries it hidden, one half of the young will show it and the other half will continue to carry it hidden. When both parents carrying the recessive trait hidden produce young, one quarter will show it, one half will carry it hidden, and one quarter will be genetically free of the trait. So we can see why it is detrimental to use birds showing these recessive faults. Of course if you want to perpetuate a recessive trait that is desirable, these same percentages work to your advantage.

Money is not as important as the other two factors, but it is vital as to where, when and how to invest it. A beginner should not buy a whole loft of high priced birds and immediately expect to go out and win it all. First get some moderate priced birds that are of good quality and are prolific. Learn their habits, how to recognize and treat specific diseases, how to mate to correct certain faults and which faults are the hardest to correct. It is a test period also to see that your loft is dry and free of rats and mice and what type nests and pen arrangement works best for you. Many beginners throw good money and birds away by loss to disease, varmints and ignorance of the basics.

After that learning period, you are ready to start your show line. Prices alone don't guarantee quality, but don't expect to get the best ones for what you paid for your first. Con-

sider the breeder's amount of time and energy put into culling, showing, traveling, studying and upgrading the birds for which you are only paying cash. And don't buy your birds from old Joe Blow just because he lives close and sounds like he knows what he is talking about. Avoid also Dealer Dan who has a big spread of advertising but whose name is never seen in the show reports. Of course, you should now join your American Giant Homer Association, if you haven't already, and carefully check the show reports appearing in their bulletins.

Some things to watch in buying your stock birds that are difficult to overcome are tall, rangy birds. These will show a long thin neck, long thin head and long tarsal bone. Shortness is the keynote here. Pick that bone with short height to the hock and plenty of thickness. The hind toes on some short birds are often unusually short, a subtle thing to be sure but a good indicator. Feel the bone behind the wattle, and if it dips between the eye and wattle in width or height, it isn't the head it appears to be and may not reproduce good heads.

Get the bird with a good frame, i.e., a long, deep keel, funnel shaped rump, no hinge in the tail and good width in the breast. Avoid the thin, sharp-keeled birds. A lot is written on condition, but if you notice, some full bodies are almost always found in the same loft with the bony ones. Pigeons and people are a lot alike in that some have a natural tendency to be thin, some athletic and some obese. It runs in the family. Diet and work make some difference but not as much as it could if they have the desired genetic make-up. Be careful of the bird whose throat goes back as far as the center of the eye.



PEORIA GRAND NATIONAL 1988

Some of the Giant Homer fanciers who won at the 1988 NPA Grand National Show, Peoria, Ill., receiving congratulations from fellow fanciers: (l.-r.) Jerry Thies, St. Louis; Dick Bunkowski, Horkan, Wisc.; Ted Grulke (judge), Oconomowoc, Wisc.; Joe Haas, Milwaukee, Wisc.; Roy Lindert, Oconomowoc, Wisc.; and Bill Gronow, Crystal Lake, Ill.

Assuming they have no common faults mate your two best old birds together. Research shows that two old birds will average about nine young a season. An old bird mated to a young bird of either sex will average seven young. Whereas, two young birds mated produce only an average of three young. Consider these as simply production prediction ratios and adjust to the length of the season and prolificness of your strain.

Invest in the best feed, grit and medicine available, but don't over medicate. Usually individual isolation and treatment will do better and often less harm than flock treatment if you are observant to catch ailments in time. Keep your loft clean but wear a mask when cleaning it. The dust may be bad for your lungs and can cause an allergy. Don't go overboard in cleaning out the nests. Let the droppings accumulate into a bowl shape, and, when they get too full, pick out just the center and put in fresh straw. This will prevent a lot of crooked keels.

Get a good record book to list the pairs, ancestors, when eggs were laid, squabs hatched and general description of the old birds and young. As times goes on you will learn the value of records and will want to make them more detailed but will wish you had done so from the start. Don't try to keep the records in your head or they will get lost especially in the years to come. Records can be reviewed to check the production of a pair, allowing for age as mentioned previously, and the quality of the young to see if they measure up. Don't leave your pairs mated together too long. Three or four clutches are enough.

But, you say, you don't want to break them up because they really "nick". How many more than six or seven from the same pair can you use in your next year's matings? Besides, after the first part of the year, the late hatched young would be too young to show, and this period gives you an opportunity to test each individual parent as to its own strengths and weaknesses. Who knows, one of them may produce even stronger young with a different mate, indicating the cornerstone of your breeding program. These types of matings will give you closely related young to work together, if youngsters out of the three matings appear right for one another.

Re-mating seems to renew the ardor and drive of pairs to make them more prolific, and you also learn much more about the hidden factors of the individual birds by frequent re-matings. I had one out-

standing cock mated on five different hens last year and produced handsome young with each hen. Imagine the potential of a bird used in this switching, and this old Casanova proved he truly is a champion.

Work also at showing your birds as to selecting and preparing them for the show. Pick those feathers off their toes and shanks, bathe them (add a little Lux soap flakes), train them for the show pen, build adequate shipping crates and get the birds in condition.

Don't be stingy. Spread your hobby and your Giant Homers around a little. Get anyone you can, young or old, interested. Invite them to your loft, visit theirs, help them with their matings, even provide the birds if necessary. The hours of companionship and the competition are worth the effort. Yes, competition, because competition is your great asset. It will keep you on your toes, cause you to extend yourself and force you to improve your stock. You will find the effort worthwhile. □

In A.G.H.A., Recognition Is The Name Of The Game

by JACK ANDERSON, Tulsa, Okla.

Realizing the importance of properly recognizing our outstanding breeders and members, we instituted a program in 1986 under President Alan Gorby whereby our Club offers recognition in the following categories: 1. A.G.H.A. Hall of Fame; 2. Outstanding Breeder of the Year; 3. Outstanding Member of the Year; 4. Outstanding Junior Member of the Year. Of course, for many years we have recognized our Master Breeders, but felt we needed an expanded program of recognition.

In 1987, Dr. Sam Peavey of Louisville, Kentucky, was named our first Member of the Year and in 1988, George Lechner of Palatine, Illinois, received the same honor. Both of these fine gentlemen had worked tirelessly for our Club.

In 1988, we inducted our first inductees into the A.G.H.A. Hall of Fame. The first to be inducted were six deceased former members that had all contributed to our breed and Club, namely: 1. J.J. Keifer; 2. Carl

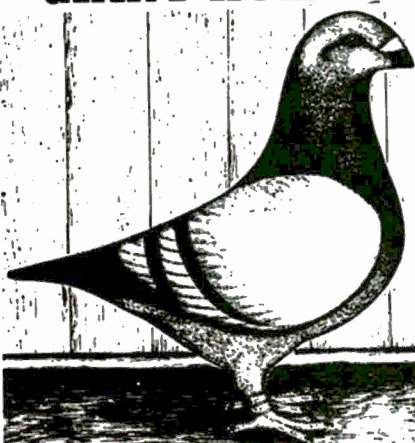
F. Grafe; 3. Gerhard Hasz; 4. Irving Goss; 5. William P. Gray; 6. H.F. Fowler and our first two living members: 1. R.L. "Hap" Beattie and 2. Denby Williamson. Certainly, these eight individuals are greatly responsible for the advancement of the American Giant Homer.

To date, we have not recognized a Breeder of the Year or an Outstanding Junior Member of the Year, but it is my understanding that we have candidates nominated in both of these categories for 1989.

At present we are working on an awards program for outstanding American Giant Homers. Through a series of points earned at our various shows it will be possible for an American Giant Homer to earn one or both of the following awards: 1. A.G.H.A. Champion or 2. A.G.H.A. Supreme Champion.

In the A.G.H.A. we strongly believe that outstanding members and Giants should be properly recognized. □

THE AMERICAN GIANT HOMER



**PROUD OF
JUNIOR MEMBERS**

The American Giant Homer Association takes a great pride in its junior membership (those under 18). Most fanciers remember fondly an intense attraction to pigeons in their youth. AGHA members enjoy the opportunity to welcome and assist juniors with a serious interest in Giants. Parents know their children are in good company with Giant fanciers. Dues for juniors are only \$5. Adults are \$10 and foreign members are \$15.

AGHA offers a congenial fellowship to all of its members, both juniors and adults, a regular bulletin, special bands and a nationwide show series. Giants are standing tall as a popular All-American utility pigeon. Ask for a free, beautifully illustrated brochure.

Write to: J. Aubrey Mire, Sec.-Treas., 314 Jean Vidrine Blvd., Ville Platte, La. 70586.

A Treatise On The American Giant Homer

by R.L. "HAP" BEATTIE, Tulsa, Okla.

It is not often that one has the opportunity to write on the subject of American Giant Homers. Writing any sort of an article for a special issue of the American Pigeon Journal may be an easy task for some fanciers. For myself the task is very hard, because I know that I cannot come close in giving our organization and breed justice. After all, the American Giant Homer has been in the making for over four decades. So many outstanding individuals and events are responsible for the growth and development of the A.G.H.A. We are indebted to so many past and present members for their tireless efforts, their unselfish devotion and leadership. They have come from all walks of life, banded together in friendship to promote and sponsor a breed of pigeon they truly love.

All of us have been bitten by the Giant Homer bug or exposed to it in one manner or other. Some of us were more severely bitten, and no type of cure has ever been effective. Let us go back a few decades now and see how these "bites" have affected this individual.

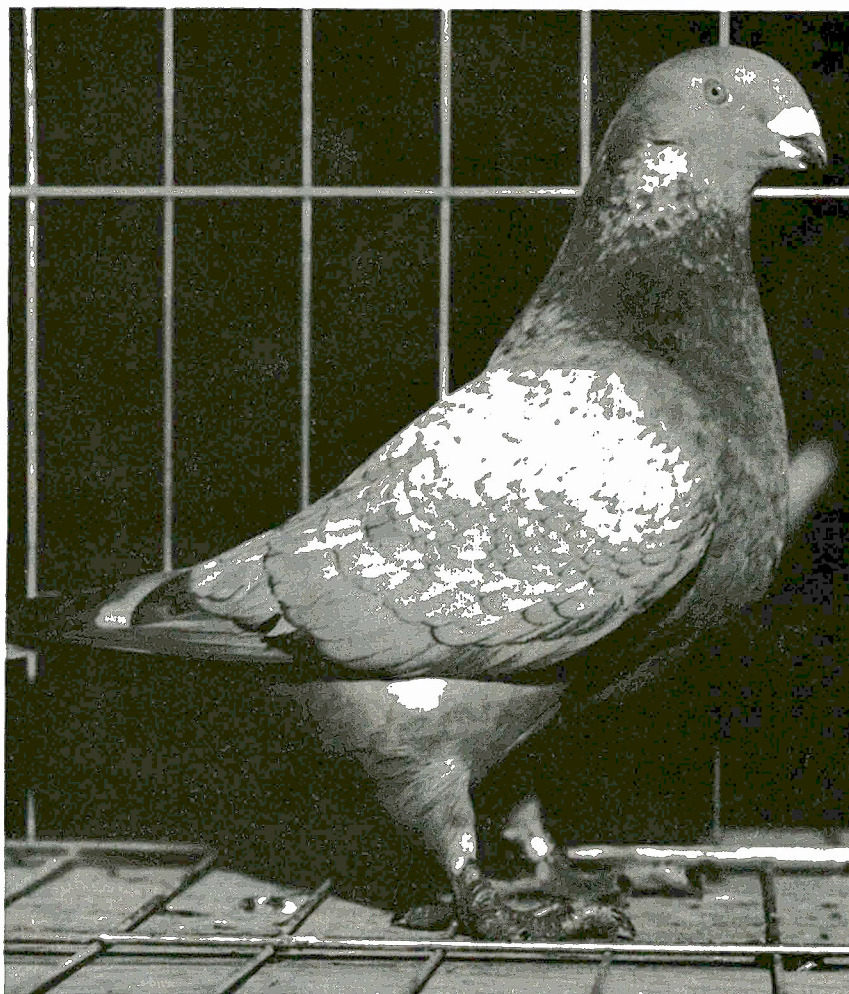
In the early 30's I had a few large type squabbing Homers. The man I got them from called them Belgian Homers. They were a bit darker in color than our present Duns and had very heavy wattles and eye ceres. Through our local pigeon club I learned the name of a Giant Homer breeder in O'Bannon, Kentucky. He was Dr. R.W. Keene.

During the early Fall of 1934 I was a member of a professional football team. Dr. Keene was President of the Giant Homer Ass'n., at that time, which by the way was the only name for it for many years. We scheduled a game with the Louisville Bourbons to be played on Sunday. We arrived in Louisville on Friday evening. Early Saturday morning I rented a car and with one of my team-mates for company drove out to O'Bannon to see Dr. Keene. I was astounded and fascinated at the layout he had for pigeon breeding. This meeting was and has always been a very memorable occasion. In fact upon my arrival back in Louisville at the practice field to review our plays for the Sunday game, I was nearly two hours late. The coach promptly fined me \$25 plus the same for the other player I had with me. This however did not dampen my spirits as Dr. Keene had selected three pairs of breeders for me, one pair being pure white, which at that time was some sort of a rarity in itself.

The Giant Homer Association at that time held Squab Breeding Contests amongst its own members. Great emphasis was always put on production of squabs, both by numbers produced per pair and total yearly weight. In 1933 Giant Homers won the New Jersey State Squab Breeding Contest with 30 pens competing with 10 other breeds. This was won with the highest production ever attained in any squab raising contest. The same pen finished high in 1934 also. Results for each month were always published in Frank Hollmann's American Squab Journal. Membership dues to the Giant Homer Ass'n were a whopping one dollar (\$1.00) per year. There were eight new members listed in the 1934 pamphlet showing the Giant Homer Standard. In all there were approximately 25 members including the four charter members which were Wm. P. Gray, C.F. Hober, R. W.

Keene and Norman Jones. My correspondence with most of these members concerned various ways and means of raising better squabs and greater quantity. The various buyers of squabs would quote prices on squabs weighing from 10 to 15 lbs. per dozen. Ninety percent of the inquiries that I would receive from individuals wanting stock birds were more concerned with the number of squabs they would produce a year and whether or not they would be dark or light colored.

From the above one can readily see that even back nearly four decades ago the Giant Homer was holding its own and was destined to become one of America's most popular breeds both from a Utility and a Show standpoint. Wendell M. Levi commended the Giant Homer very highly after judging Giant Homers in Charlotte, N.C., when he made the following statement: "I am very sincere in my comment that I was very much amazed and gratified at the improvement in the general average of the Giant Homers. The



GIANT HOMER

Opal Check Giant Homer hen bred by A & B Lofts, Tulsa, Okla. — Photo by George Lechner, Palatine, Ill.

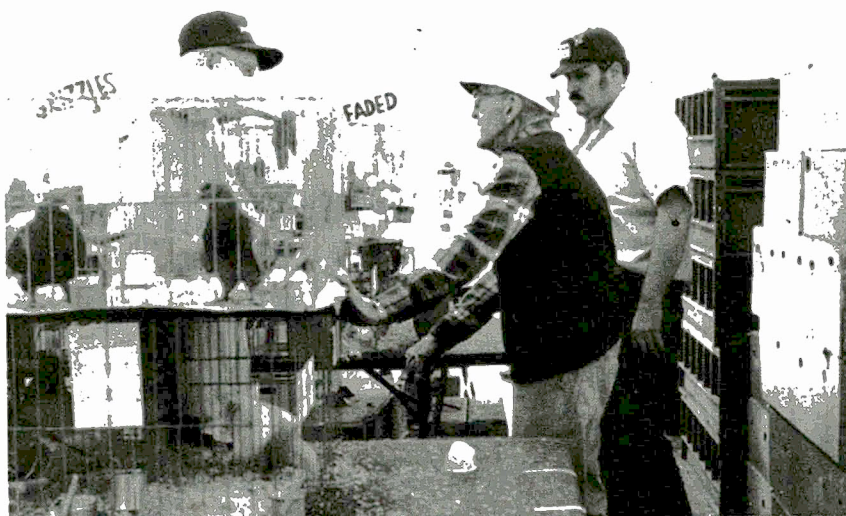
Giant Homer breeders are certainly on the road to produce a Utility bird, which for general utility purposes is going to be hard to beat."

Perhaps Mr. Levi at the time he made foregone statement didn't realize how much truth his casual statement had in it. The "spark" grew into a raging fire in the next few short years. The members began to realize their preference for Giant Homers was well founded and justified. Through careful and selective breeding programs to improve the Giant Homer image, great strides began to make themselves apparent. Shorter, broader, and deeper keeled Giants in compact packages began to appear. More and more Giant Homers began to appear in pigeon shows throughout the country.

In my opinion, J.J. Keifer, a staunch friend of R.W. Keene in the early 30's and in later years the good friend of practically all Giant breeders was the guiding force in the development of our present day American Giant Homer. He was always in demand to judge wherever Giants were shown. His masterful handling of the birds and placing them in their proper positions was uncanny. He left no stone unturned in explaining why one bird failed to compete with another. One had only to be present to understand what I mean.

From the late 30's and all through the 40's the real "hot-bed" for Giants was in and around the city of Louisville, Ky. One has only to glance over the records of the National Pigeon Show Champions coming out of this region during these years. My good friend Irvin T. Goss took Champion Giant in 1939, 1941 and 1948. No Nationals were held in 1943 and 1944 due to the War. It is not hard to see why Irvin was selected for a Master Breeder's Certificate. He became very interested in the development of the Auto-Sexed Giants, and was very successful in it. Also along these same lines he was instrumental in developing many of our more "exotic" colors that we have today. A better breeder of Giants would be hard to find during this period.

During the next decade the balance of power shifted to the northern region of the country. The almost unbeatable Robert Fisher from Wisconsin came into prominence winning back to back Championships in 1952, 1953 and 1955 and 1956 — twice as many champs as any other breeder in the 50's. He was presented with a Master Breeder's Certificate which was well deserved. Bob was a perfectionist at conditioning. His birds



Hap Beattie, "Mr. Giant Homer", discussing AG Homers with Grover Scott and Robert Kosek at the 1988 Futurity Show. — Photo by Eloise Reynolds, Norman, Okla.

were finished specimens and read to do the job in every respect that they were sent to the shows to do. Another of my good friends, Joe Frazier of El Monte, California, also came to the front in the 50's. He won back to back championships in 1958 and 1959 — he being the only other fancier to win more than one championship in this decade.

Time and space will not permit the mention of all the wonderful individuals that put their time and efforts into the development of this great American Giant Homer Ass'n. It is unfortunate that more of the membership down through the years did not take a more active part in showing their birds at the various local, district and National Shows. I am sure that there are many of them who, if they had done so, would have been big winners too.

We have been very fortunate during the past four decades. Our Standard for Giants has been changed only three times. We first had the one drawn by James McNinch in 1934. Later came the one by H.M. Fowler. The present Standard, drawn by Earl Deal, should hold forth for many years to come. If the majority of our fanciers can breed Giants fairly close to the present standard we now have, we will have something we can all be proud of.

Breeding Giant Homers can be very rewarding. Various acquaintances and friendships are cultivated that are invaluable. These come through correspondence and communication with each other, meeting at the local and district shows, entering into friendly and constructive competition, all for the improvement

and development of the breed.

In the mid-fifties I was fortunate to make an acquaintance, (through correspondence), with an outstanding individual. At that time I was fairly active in the Giant Homer Ass'n and consequently received and wrote many letters. This particular letter was from a true lover of Giant Homers. He had not had any birds for quite a few years and wanted to know what I had along the lines and types that he desired. As always I replied as promptly as possible and tried to describe in a small way what some of my birds were like. I may have even sent him a few photos of some of my birds as well as I can recall. I tried to be fair as to price quoted and honest in my description. This man took me for my written word and sent me a check for six pair, or enough odd cocks and hens to make up six pair. He later wanted a few more which I also shipped. Not long after this I became inactive as a member of the A.G.H.A., but kept on breeding Giants for pleasure the same as always. This most remarkable individual bowed his neck and took off for Giant Homer Heaven. He added other strains to his loft — the wonderful Ed Blaine stock and the best of Paul R. Meissner, as well as birds from Fred Langridge and others. In 1960, just a few short years later he had the Champion Giant Homer at the National in Atlantic City, N.J. This is not to mention the many district shows that he won in and high placings in other Nationals. By now most of our members reading this will know he is none other than Walter Teskey of

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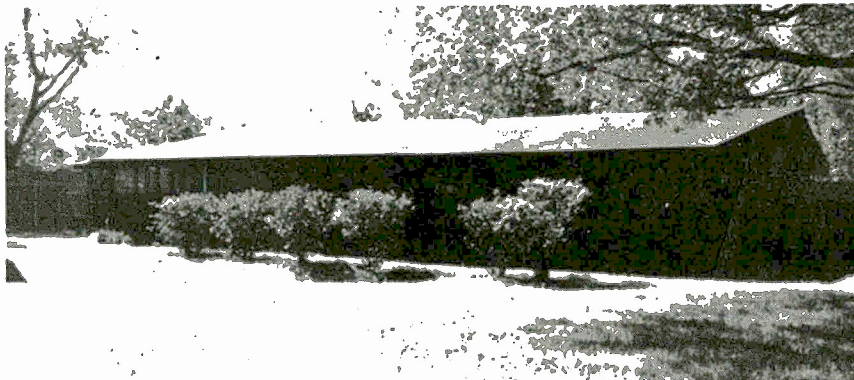
Blue Earth, Minnesota. Due to an allergy condition he is no longer able to breed Giant Homers, but he maintains his membership in order to keep up with all the latest happenings in our organization. For over 15 years Walter and I have corresponded and exchanged ideas.

In late 1968, I received an A.G.H.A. membership card from our Secretary and Treasurer Walter Klann. In his short letter he explained that Walter Teskey had sent him the money for my new membership. For some reason Walter wanted me to be a member again. Soon afterward a letter arrived from Walter telling me that he was reserving six pair of his better birds for me since he was going to have to give them up on account of the allergy condition. He instilled a new life in this old carcass and can never be thanked enough. The birds were beautiful as they consisted of stock from Tom Frye, Paul Meissner, Ed Blaine, and Paul Kretschmar. To me, this is what our organization is all about — breeding Giant Homers in conjunction with each other for friendship and good fellowship, both on a district and national level. This is what has put our Giant Homer where it is today. It will have a direct effect upon what our image as an organization is in the future. We as A.G.H.A. members can go as far and as high as we wish, but we must keep cultivating our friendship and respect for each other as we go forward.

Due to my inactivity in the A.G.H.A. during the late 50's and through the 60's, it is hoped that someone more qualified than myself, will write about these years and their experiences.

Our organization has been blessed with so many outstanding officers and directors down through the years. It would be very hard to mention one without slighting many others, as I mentioned in the beginning — the tireless, unselfish, and unappreciated Publicity Directors, going out of their way to keep the ball rolling, our many great Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers. Where would we as a club have ever found another Bob Kremer to edit our last and most outstanding Yearbook? On top of this he comes right back and agrees to accept the responsibility for our APJ Special. We should all take our hats off to him again.

For myself, I can only say that I deeply cherish all the wonderful friendships raising Giant Homers has afforded me — true friends that stayed with me through thick and thin. □



The loft of Charles Dupre, Ville Platte, La.

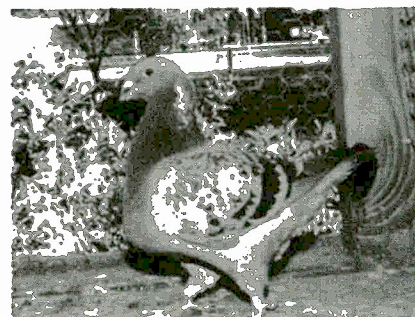
The "Andy Gump" Look

by CHARLES DUPRE, Ville Platte, La.

The beak setting on Giants has been addressed over and over through the years. Over a period of time we have observed what would be described as the "Andy Gump" look. Andy Gump was a comic character of days gone by, with no chin. Have you ever observed giants with a weak lower beak?

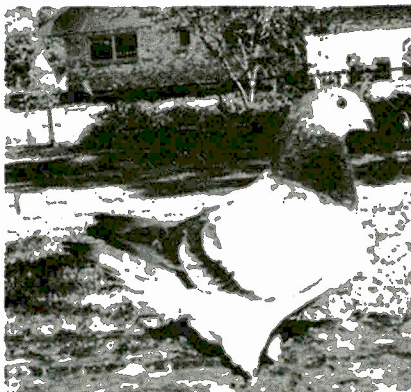
Addressing the strength of the lower half of the beak and its setting into the skull is an interesting feature in the total look of the Giant. Many of us have observed the development of the lower beak on the German Beauty Homer. It's puzzling to see how this beak was developed on this particular type of bird. If this could be done, we also can improve the strength of the beak setting. A Giant Homer with a strong beak with a fine flow to the top of the skull and into the neck is a difficult feat to

accomplish. Many of us have addressed this aspect of the Giant Homer through breeding and articles. It is the Giant Homer head which is the real key to a balanced bird. Being tenacious and sticking with the idea is a fun trip for all pigeon fanciers and gives all of us a great deal of satisfaction in our fun filled hobby. And remember no "Andy Gump" look. □



RECORD BREAKING GIANT

This is the highest selling hen ever at the AGHA's Futurity. Purchased by Charles Dupre, Ville Platte, La.



GIANT HOMER

A nice grizzle hen from the Charles Dupre loft, Ville Platte, La.



GIANT HOMER

A powerful black check cock from the Charles Dupre loft, Ville Platte, La.

The Feel Of A Giant

by MIKE POHREN, Burlington, Iowa

Did you first notice Giants because of their variety of colors, compact and balanced bodies, or was it the powerful streamlined head and neck? I advise interested or relative newcomers to first join the A.G.H.A. and then search out as many Giant breeders as possible. And what better place than a show with a Giant Homer meet. Getting the proper feel of an excellent bird versus an average specimen requires many

handling and some friendly supervision. Here is where attending and participating in shows and visiting established breeders' lofts is a highlight. Most Giant enthusiasts welcome all the bird carriers possible at judging time in shows. The only prerequisites are that one is familiar with obtaining birds from show coops through proper handling techniques. It all sounds pretty easy, but carriers must have a firm grip (no squeezing

please), and a little knowledge of feather straightening and setting a specimen in the judging coops is desirable.

In summation, what I'm attempting to get across is that it's commendable to have a good eye, but having the feel is where it's at with Giants. On many occasions I have had fancy pigeon breeders exclaim, after holding a Giant, that they felt their hands were inadequate. □

Watertown Club Alive And Well At 54

by MIKE MILLER, Oconomowoc, Wisc.

I have raised Giant Homers for only a short time (4-5 years). I got interested in Giants through my father-in-law Walter Klann. Dad has been awarded the honor of Master Breeder so I have some tough footsteps to follow in.

I belong to the Watertown Pigeon Club which has been around for some 53 years. We hold two shows each year, a young bird show in early September and our Winter show/4th District Meet at the end of November. Art Kehl, a well known pigeon fancier, started the Watertown Club and is still a very

active member.

I have sent along a picture from last year's lawn show with some of the top breeders in Wisconsin. Our lawn shows have always been very successful and usually we draw breeders from out of state. Our lawn show is a good way to start off the show season with lots of pigeons, lots of pigeon talk and lots of good food.

Our Winter Show, which this year is also the 4th District Meet, is always the weekend of Thanksgiving. We start judging the birds on Friday followed by a good Wisconsin fish

fry. We finish judging on Saturday followed by our banquet dinner famous for old fashioned breaded pork chops that actually melt in your mouth. If anything can be said about the Watertown Club, it's that we know how to put on good shows and how to treat our fellow fanciers!

If any of you would like information about our club or shows please contact Roy Lindert, President, Watertown Pigeon Club, 36543 Normandale Dr., Oconomowoc, WI 53066, (414) 567-2914. Hope we see some new faces at our shows in coming years! □



ATTENDS WATERTOWN PIGEON ASSN. ANNUAL SHOW

Participating in the Watertown, Wisc., Pigeon Assn.'s Annual Show (1988) were (l.-r.): Mike Miller, Oconomowoc, Wisc., Joe Haas, Milwaukee, Wisc., Roy Lindert, Oconomowoc, Wisc., past president of the Watertown Club, Art Kehl (judge at this year's show), Watertown, founder of the Watertown club and former secretary/treasurer of the National Pigeon Assn., Dick Bunkoske, Horicon, Wisc., and Walter Klann, Georgetown, Fla., former president of the American Giant Homer Assn. The Watertown Club celebrated its 53rd anniversary in 1988 and has more than 50 members. — Photo reprinted from the Watertown Daily Times, Mon., Sept. 12, 1988, edition.

Report From The 1988 Futurity

by ELOISE REYNOLDS, Norman, Okla.

It always amazes me when I walk into the show room at the Futurity that everything is in place and in order. Mostly because for the few weeks before the Futurity, I keep thinking it couldn't possibly happen. But it does. And 1988 at El Reno was no different.

I spent the last days before the show getting the coop card labels run through my computer and it was nice to see that these were in place.

Oh, there were a few little things left to be completed. Like getting the numbers at the end of each row of coops, so it would be easier for the exhibitors to get their birds in the right coop with some speed. And cocks had to be changed to hens, or hens to cocks in the judging books (humans have difficulty sexing the birds). Substitutes needed to be made for those birds that just weren't ready for the show and were left at home. These changes aren't surprise though, because these are the rules of the show. I helped several exhibitors coop their birds with the housing sheets, which were also compiled on the computer.

E.T. Keller and some other club members had done a terrific job in setting up the show room. Each coop had a little metal can for water and a paper cup for feed. (Imagine! saving vienna sausage cans all year so the birds can have water. E.T. said he sure did eat a lot of sausage).

The coffee pot was on.

Later in the morning, Mrs. Keller arrived with food, delicious beans and cornbread, sandwiches, pies and cakes and soft drinks. She was accompanied by children, in-laws, grandchildren and friends to help keep the food moving. Her crew was there during the full three days of the show. E.T. said the grandchildren had an ulterior motive for working so hard at the Futurity lunch counter. They receive the profit of the three day sale of food to spend as they wish and he thought most of it went to Christmas presents. He also thought they were good at eating some of the profits.

By 1 p.m., on Friday the final birds were cooped and the judging began.

Fred Langridge judged the hens and Jerry Thies judged the cocks. Everyone was interested in watching the outcome of the judging and there was a lot of good humored comments circulating in the crowd. I had a lot of time to watch, but I am glad I did not have the responsibility of choosing winners. All of those birds

looked good to me.

I keep pretty busy stuffing prize money in small envelopes during the judging of the smaller classes. But when the larger classes are judged I have some free time to roam through the show room and talk to other people. This year Mrs. John Jones spent some time with me and we talked about a lot of things that didn't have to do with pigeons. (She might like to know that the wedding dress was finished in plenty of time and looked great).

I enjoyed talking with Grover Scott. He had placed 1, 2 and 3 in one of the white classes and we talked about colors. He makes AGH clocks. We bought one.

On Saturday, Hap Beattie made an appearance in the show room. This was the first time he has been able to get to the Futurity for several years and I understand he was reluctant to make the trip. From the number of people who crowded around to visit with him, I'm sure he must have been glad that he made the effort.

All during the show silent bids were being made on many beautiful items in the Women's Auction. This is one way the women participate in the Futurity. Mrs. Horn and Mrs. Crotty did an excellent job in soliciting items for the auction. The exhibitors did a great job of bidding and over \$500 was added to the Futurity proceeds.

The coffee pot was still on.

Strange things happen to me at pigeon shows. Last year there was a stray pup hanging around the show barn. After much discussion amongst everyone, except me, it was decided that that pup would become a

member of the Reynolds group. We named his Roscoe.

I have since decided that Roscoe is a recessive red and that probably explains my entrance into the breeding of recessive red and yellow pigeons.

As a member of the AGH, I was entitled to two free pigeons. So James McKenzie provided me with two very beautiful birds, opal and recessive red hens.

One hen won second place in recessive reds and yellows, and the opal eliminated me from the Novice Class.

So what do you do when you have winning hens?

Well, I talked to several people around the show barn who know colors and they agreed that Jack Anderson was showing a cock that would be an excellent match for my recessive red hen. At the auction I bid on the cock and got to take him home.

So begins my odyssey with recessive reds and yellows.

These birds are now housed in my own little private loft. Next year I hope to enter their offspring in the El Reno show. I have engaged the services of my husband to be my pigeon raiser and trainer. It should be an exciting experience.

To add to my good luck, the cock was entered in the Shawnee Show and won best in recessive reds and yellows. With two winners how can I lose?

Oh, yes. The cock is named Roscoe and the hen is named Roxcan. Maybe I will start a new trend in pigeonbreeding.

Nice things also happen to me at pigeon shows. During the banquet at the Country Club in El Reno, Hugh and I were presented a lovely plaque for our participation in the 1987 show. We were both pleased to



Giant Homer fanciers bidding on the "Exhibitor Donated Birds" at the 1988 AGHA Futurity Auction. — Photo by Eloise Reynolds, Norman, Okla.

receive this honor.

At the banquet at the El Reno Country Club we saw the effects of E.T.'s work as Facilities Superintendent. The banquet room was large and the food plentiful. We owe him a round of applause for his great work in this area.

After the banquet the bird auction took place at the show room. There was a lot of spirited bidding and a good amount of money was added to the budget for next year's show.

My husband and I left about 9 p.m.

The coffee pot was still on.

The auction resumed Sunday morning.

Guess what?

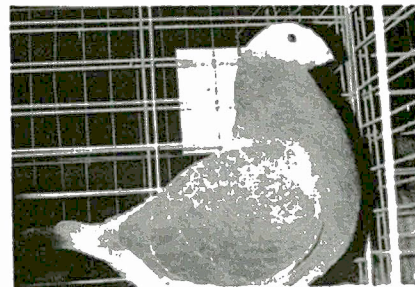
The coffee pot was still on. It stayed on until everyone went home. I hope Mr. Keller remembered to

unplug it.

El Reno was great this year and I hope that everyone will make an effort to come back and bring along some friends to share in our Oklahoma hospitality.

Since the show I have spent some time with the computer to see if the judging sheets and the show report could be produced with the programs I have. I think I've about solved this project. My thinking was to have the show one hundred percent computerized for 1989. Hugh said he thought it would probably work but to forget it as we were turning over the Show Superintendency to someone else for 1989. (Getting too old for this kind of work).

That's all for 1988. See you in 1989. □



GIANT HOMER

Nice black check young hen which won best young hen and 1st reserve at the 1988 Grand National.

Why Do You Raise Pigeons?

by **GEORGE A. GUINN, Irving, III.**

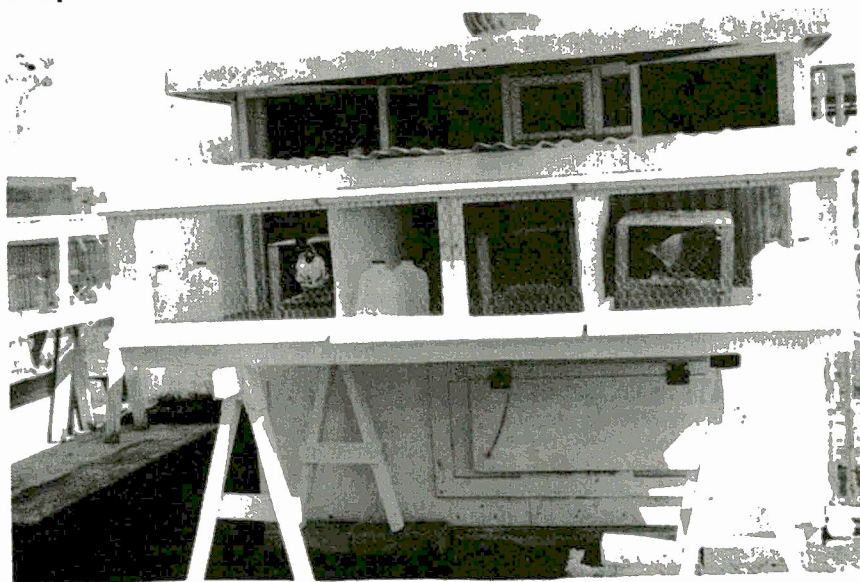
Like many people raising pigeons in their adult life, I raised pigeons as a boy. First one breed and then another, off and on all the way into my adult life. I moved to Florida and met a gentleman that raised pigeons, he also subscribed to the American Pigeon Journal. I wasn't even aware that a publication devoted to pigeons existed, so I subscribed to it. My feeling about the pigeon fancy drastically changed when I got my March 84 issue. It was the American Giant Homer Special. This pigeon really appealed to me, but there wasn't anyone in Florida that raised them. I couldn't afford to have any shipped in so I had to wait for my first Giants until Sept. 84.

I had moved to Missouri, and there were two breeders that lived there. Needless to say, I was very excited about my first pairs of Giants. Until that time I had never really gotten involved enough in raising pigeons that I wanted to show them. This is when I decided to join the American Giant Homer Association.

I attended my first show in '86 at Louisville, KY. I didn't do very well in the show, but met some great people and bought some birds to upgrade my stock.

Up to now I still haven't done that well in the showroom, but I have made some very good friends. The reason I raise only Giant Homers can't be completely credited to the pigeon alone. The people in the Club are just super. The longtime breeders have helped me with advice, "free birds", and have encouraged all of the younger members of the Club to get actively involved.

So, when someone asks me, why do you raise pigeons. I say the American Giant Homer is a great pigeon, and the American Giant Homer Association is full of great people. □



Eloise Reynold's new Giant Homer breeding loft.



Hugh Reynolds' standing by partially constructed loft for his wife's, Eloise's, new Giant Homers.



Miss Richard Ward, Mrs. M.G. Horn, Mrs. Duane Crotty and Karen Crotty overseeing the Ladies Silent Auction at the 1988 AGHA Futurity. — Photo by Eloise Reynolds, Norman, Okla.

The A.G.H.A. Futurity

by ELOISE REYNOLDS, Norman, Okla.

One of the feature events of the American Giant Homer Association is the Annual AGHA Futurity, usually but not necessarily, held each year in Oklahoma and sponsored by the Oklahoma AGH Club. The Oklahoma AGH Club is dedicated to the Futurity and each year tries to make it better and more enjoyable for those in attendance.

The AGH Futurity is a three-day show and believe me it takes three days to complete all the activities that are planned. The show this year will be held on December 1, 2 and 3 in El Reno, Oklahoma. Birds are caged on Friday morning and judging begins at 1 p.m. that afternoon, continuing until 9:30 Friday evening. Judging continues the next morning and is completed sometime in the afternoon, usually about 3 p.m.

During the lunch break on Satur-



Jack Anderson, the 1988 AGHA Futurity Coordinator, taking a much needed rest. — Photo by Eloise Reynolds, Norman, Okla.

day birds donated by the exhibitors are auctioned off to support the AGH Association, the parent organization. Upon completion of the Futurity, two separate classes, one for Novice exhibitors and one for Youth exhibitors, complete the judging of the pigeons. The payback is outstanding. At this point you may think the show is over but not so.

A meeting of all AGH exhibitors is held which includes subjects pertaining to next year's Futurity such as nomination of judges, new ideas, etc., as well as matters pertaining to the AGH Association.

All during the day on Friday and Saturday, items donated by the exhibitors for the Ladies Silent Auction are laid out on tables for bids and at 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon the bidding is closed. Obviously, the highest bidder is the winner of whatever item or items he bid upon. These donated items may be anything from rag dolls to corkscrews.

Following the Silent Auction, members have about an hour to return to the motel and freshen up for the Happy Hour featuring drinks and snacks "on the house" which begins at 6 p.m. and continues until the Banquet.

Following the Banquet all prize monies are dispersed to the winners. Plaques are given for outstanding members of the association. Judges and personnel directly responsible for the Futurity are recognized.

OH Boy! "Time to go to bed and get some rest."

Not yet!

It's back to the show room where the young bird auction begins and is continued until about 9:30. The top five winning birds in all classes must be auctioned off in addition to all

other birds which owners have put in the auction by way of their entry blanks. So, the chance to pick up some excellent birds is a reality.

Now it's time to go to bed, so back to the motel - and be sure to set the alarm clock for the continuation of the young bird auction at 8:30 on Sunday morning. The Futurity is not complete until after all birds are auctioned.

A new project this year is to have a judging class for those who would like to learn how to judge the great American Giant Homer. I'm not sure when this can be sandwiched in, but I'm sure a way will be found to do it.

At many pigeon shows when judging is complete the show is over - not so at the Futurity. One is kept busy all the time.

Unfortunately, by the time this comes out in the APJ in November it will be too late to enter birds this year. However, you can be primed for next year. This is the best show in the U.S.A. to buy Giants for a loft. Some breeders come to the Futurity to buy birds as well as to enjoy the show.

The Futurity coordinator for this year's show is Randy Spahr, Sapulpa, Oklahoma. The auctioneer will be John Jones of Colby, Kansas. Jack Anderson of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma is the man who makes the show go. The Show Superintendents are Hugh and Eloise Reynolds, Norman, Oklahoma and the Superintendents in charge of the Facilities are Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Keller, El Reno, Oklahoma. It must be added here that the Kellers also see that plenty of hot food is available for the three-day show, at the show site. Excellent beans and cornbread!

Come visit us this year, buy some good birds and get some youngsters ready for the 1990 Futurity.

You don't know what you are missing if you don't come. □



Dr. James McKenzie using higher math to figure out the Display Points at the 1988 AGHA Futurity.

American Pigeon Journal

The Pair That Were Culls

by JOSEPH HAAS, Milwaukee, Wisc.

Having the good fortune of having the best young Giant Homer cock at the National 1988 is enough of a reward, now I am asked to write about this bird, A.G.H.A. 3953 1988 Lite Griz Cock, which is the finished product of lots of love, work and help from my fellow fanciers here in Wisconsin and not any great skill I might

have as a breeder of Giants.

Here is how 3953 came to be. I had only been into Giants for one year and did not have many young birds to eat, (I love to eat pigeons), so I went to one of our members and asked to buy some of his culls for eating, (Al Woods). As we were catching some eaters, I noticed a late hatch Griz, it was on the floor and asked Al if this late hatch was for sale. Al said that this Griz looked like a hen and was too late and too small for the shows and was an eater for \$5.00. I have always liked Grizzle, so I bought what we both thought was a small hen. This Grizzle never grew to be a big bird but it did fill out its small body and it turned out to be a cock. This cock has a good head and a thick short neck, strong legs with short toes. He makes up for his small size by being a real aggressive bird and is a good breeder.

In the Fall of 1986, I bought a blue hen at the futurity in Oklahoma, to mate to this cock but I only raised one good Griz hen, not satisfied. The following Fall I bought a Griz hen at the Louisville young bird show. It cost \$18.00.



Joe Haas holding his Best Young Cock winner at the 1988 NPA Grand National Show, Peoria, Ill.



BEST YOUNG COCK

This powerful Grizzle Giant Homer cock was Best Young Cock at the 1988 NPA Grand National Show, Peoria, Ill. — Bred and owned by Joe Haas, Milwaukee, Wisc.

As we were boxing our birds and preparing to leave Louisville, I thought I would show this hen to a fellow member from Wisconsin with whom I was sharing the ride to and from the show. The member's name was Dick Bonkowski. He took one look at this hen and said that if I kill this hen he would sell me a better hen for \$5.00. He also mentioned that the only thing that was wrong, was that she always dropped her wings. I felt with all the good birds Dick had, I couldn't go wrong.

Well this hen was a Griz. She had a good head and a short thick neck, nice body, short legs, and short toes. This pair, 5669 Cock, who was a cull and hen 3824, who would not hold up her wings, were the parents to the Best Homer Cocks (Giant) at the National, A.G.H.A. 88-3953 Lite Griz Cock. The pair cost \$10.00, and also raised three other nice grizzles, two cocks and one hen. This mating was a double Griz and that accounts for the light color.

I would like to add that when 3953 left the nest at three weeks, he already looked like a champ. □

The Beattie Membership Plan

by JACK ANDERSON, Tulsa, Okla.

The A.G.H.A. has a unique form of membership that is offered to all new members that join the Club for two years. Under this plan each new member that pays two years dues, \$20.00 in advance will receive one free pair of Giant Homers. The new member is responsible for any and all shipping charges.

This plan was the brainchild of R.L. "Hap" Beattie of Tulsa, Oklahoma and it has proven to be one of our Club's best promotional programs. The District Director from which the new membership originates is responsible for arranging for the free pair of Giants. In most instances the District Director will put the new member in touch with the member that is furnishing the free pair of Giants and the new member can either personally pick up the birds or have them shipped.

The Club cannot guarantee a choice of colors, but in most instances either the first or second choice will be available. The very best time to obtain Beattie Plan birds is immediately following the breeding season (July through October) and it

may be necessary to wait until that period of time to receive your free pair. I might also add that there is a much better opportunity to get your first choice of colors at this time. The Club cannot guarantee the quality of the birds, but I have yet to hear the first complaint from any new member.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the A.G.H.A. just send your check in the amount of \$20.00 to our Secretary/Treasurer: Aubrey Mire, 314 Jean Vidrine Blvd., Ville Platte, Louisiana 70586, for a two year paid up membership and a free pair of Giants. In a few rare instances we receive a Beattie Plan membership from an area where there are no Giant breeders. In the event that this happens and we cannot arrange for your free pair of Giants, your money will be cheerfully refunded.

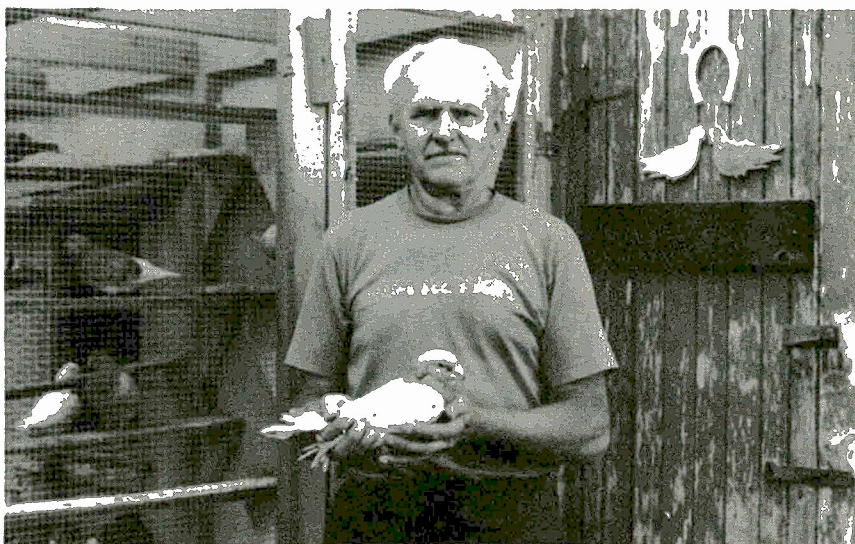
The A.G.H.A. offers a congenial and supportive fellowship, an annual, nationwide series of shows, an excellent bi-monthly bulletin, Official A.G.H.A. bands, an active promotional program and a warm welcome to all newcomers. □

American Giant Homers

Breeder — Exhibitor

Charlie Stapish

18500 Cavanaugh Lake Road
Chelsea, Mich. 48118



Ted Grulke holding an Almond Giant Homer cock in front of his loft.

My Life With Giant Homers

by TED GRULKE, Oconomowoc, Wisc.

How does one start an article like this and put in in proper perspective? Well, what the heck, here goes anyway.

I have been in this hobby a long time, have seen and met some really nice people through it (and some poor ones too). I started with commons when I was 11. I will be 63 when this special comes out in November, got into different breeds until almost through high school. In 1942 I got acquainted with my real good long time friend Elmer 'Tubby' Wenck. What helped was we both lived here in the same city and went to the same church. That is when I fell in love with Giant Homers and have had them ever since, for 47 glorious and rewarding years. I have also had American Show Racers for around 15 years but not nearly as many pair. After I got out of the service in early 1947 I became more involved. I started shipping Giants to shows with Tubby via railway express and later air express and from that time I never missed showing Giants at a national show until after the second Houston National when I ran into some shipping problems. My birds didn't get to Houston until the Saturday of the show and weren't judged. Since then the air rates have been too restrictive and quite prohibitive for me to enter birds where I could not drive myself.

Through the years I have been very involved with pigeons, Giants in particular. I have been fourth district director off and on for many years. I was president of the A.G.H.A. and during that tenure, the first Giant Homer special in the A.P.J. was

instigated.

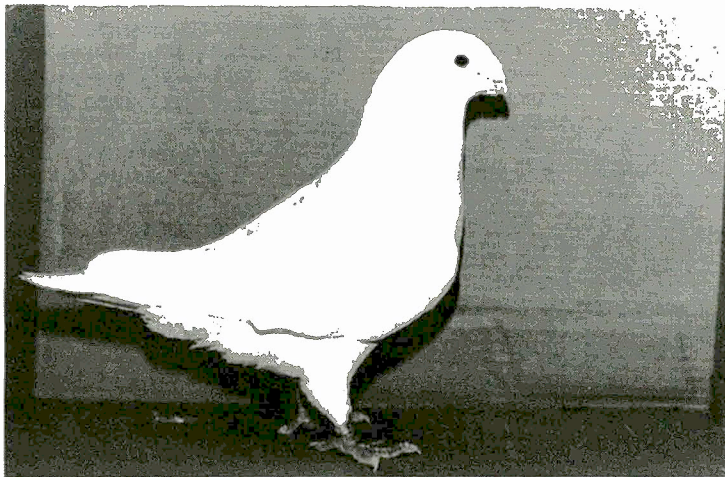
I have been president, recording secretary and director for the Wisconsin State Pigeon Assn., since its inception from the very first national held in Milwaukee, Wisc., to the present time. I have been just about everything in our local Watertown Pigeon Club and I have been district director for the National Pigeon Association. So you see my life has been pretty well centered around pigeons which has been very rewarding. It's had its ups and downs with very exciting and rewarding times with many district and local champions and a national champion, meeting many nice and devoted people.

Another challenging and rewarding experience has been my position as a judge. I have judged Giants for over

21 years, having judged meets in the first, second, fourth and sixth districts, at Louisville several times and to top it off, the Grand National in Peoria, Ill. I am also an all breed judge so my weekends, from early September to the middle of December, are just all wrapped up in pigeon shows, either showing or judging. (Oh yes, I have a family too. We have five lovely children. I had time for that too.) Many beautiful Giants have passed through my hands in those years. It is really something as you look at all these birds, how they are improving each year. We still have our little downfalls with the creases, the long faces and tails, feathers on the feet but by and large the improvement is getting better and better each year. More of the exhibitors are paying a little more attention to their birds as they enter them. Above all we should all try to breed these bad faults out of our birds. I know it's tough but it can be done with very strict culling and selective breeding. If some people can do it, we all can.

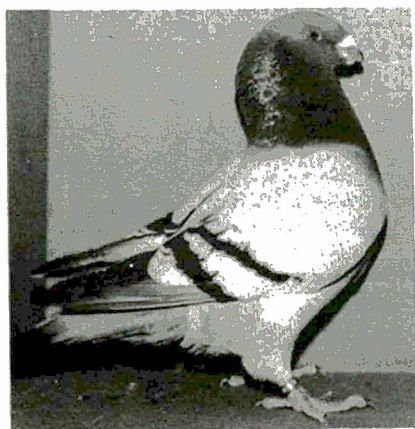
I also am an avid gardener, vegetable and flower, organic mostly. I love roses, having over 70 rose bushes amongst all my other perennials and annuals. I am also a died-in-the-wool fisherman, getting out whenever I can. It beats getting all bit up with mosquitoes at home. I'm out here, winter and summer, weather permitting.

Last, but not least, I have had the fortune and experience of exporting my Giants all over. Through the years I have shipped birds to Italy, Germany, British Honduras, British Guyana, South America and Hungary. My most memorable experience is with the fellas in Hungary. Nine years ago Janos Balogh saw one of my adds in the A.P.J., wrote me and I wrote him



GIANT HOMER

An excellent white cock bred and owned by Ted Grulke, Oconomowoc, Wisc.



GIANT HOMER

Nice Blue Bar Giant Homer cock bred and owned by Ted Grulke, Oconomowoc, Wisc.

in return. He wrote back and said I was the only person from the USA to ever answer any of his letters. through this we have been corresponding whenever we can and I have been fortunate to sell giants to five different Hungarian breeders. I started out that first year by sending Janos three pair. He liked them so much, as over there at the time they had the old style Giant Homer, the long ones with the long heads. Since then I have become involved with the other breeders there and have been sending a lot of my best Giants over there to help them out. It has hurt me in the shows here and my breeding programs but what the heck, I enjoy helping them or anyone else out. I've had my kicks long enough. Janos has sent me pictures of young giants he raised and I am very excited with his results. He has won champion several times at their large international shows. The popularity of the Giant Homer over there is quite evident in his letters to me. A lot of interest is spewing forth from other breeders and exhibitors of other breeds from the neighboring countries of Hungary. You members saw a couple pictures of his young a few years ago in our Giant Homer Bulletin. It takes quite a bit of time to get everything organized to ship the birds over there. I guess it is getting even more burdensome with the requirement of the birds having to be vaccinated. But I guess I will have to continue as two of the fellas are waiting for pictures from me from this year's birds.

I have to conclude by saying that I don't think I would ever want to change with anyone what I have done through the years, especially with my beloved pigeons. All I can say is "try it, you'll like it." Get involved. □

Out-Produce Is Out???

by W.F. HOLLANDER, Ames, Iowa

Remember when AGHA's slogan was "The breed that is fit for the show room and can out-produce any breed on earth"? Produce what? Droppings? No — squabs! The AGH was started as a "Utility" breed by small-time squab breeders, and they got publicity by entering their birds in squab-breeding contests, no shows. And the birds performed very well.

Ah, them were the days. But alas, nary a single "big-time" squab farm deigned even to give this newcomer a trial. Why? Because the big-timers had a lot invested in breeds which they had developed themselves and were already proved reliable in mass production, not just pee-wee contests.

Well, that didn't discourage the AGH promoters. After all, they could always sell to other small-time breeders. George Stearns in North Carolina was the first to develop and sell auto-sexing squabbers (Dual-color AGH). Where are they now?

And of course proud AGH breeders entered their birds in the shows too. The new wonderful dual-purpose breed! These folks were progressive leaders! Not only had they led in producing auto-sexing colors, but also were in the van of producing other new colors such as indigo, dominant opal, and "reduced".

These guys, such as Carl Graefe, Irvin Goss, and Ed Blaine were whiz kids with Genetics. And in such hands the breed was transformed from just being an oversized flying

homer type to a blocky short-feathered really big bird. Ah, the hassles over the standard! Had to undercut the nearest rival, the Show King! (Which also had originated as a Utility breed from squabbing stock).

So now the AGH is strictly for show. Auto-sexing is forgotten, and the rare colors are no less rare. None of the wheels has even a small-time squab farm, and most of them don't know how to dress squabs for the kitchen. In fact, the very idea of eating their beautiful birds is repulsive.

Well, so it goes: Carriers no longer fly messages, Tumblers don't tumble, times change. Ya have to keep up with the fashion and the show judges! And got to keep promoting. Who knows, the old Assoc., may get so big it will split like an amoeba.

Yes, times change. So few people in the U.S. have ever eaten squab, much less cooked same, that this gourmet product may change. Instead of serving a whole huge carcass to the cholesterol-conscious customer, the chefs may cut it in half, or even get down to just fillets.

Could the AGH still get into the act? The old fossilized big-timers may quietly disappear, and new entrepreneurs grab the market, with fancy new advertising. I don't think the AGH could go it alone. But it could be a keystone for production hybrids.

Out-crosses are in for out-producing! □

A Junior's Point Of View

by BRETT KLEIER, Trumbull, Nebr.

I have been a junior member of the A.G.H.A. for the past two years. During this time I have learned a great deal, both about Giants and the people that breed them.

I think one of the most important things that I have learned is, you need to become involved. The more involved you become in the Association, the more there is to learn. Go to some shows in your area. Or try to make it to your next district show. Meet some of the older breeders, talk with them — Listen and Learn. Most of our members are very nice people and more than willing to help anyone if they can.

When I first joined the A.G.H.A. I did not vote. I was afraid I would make the wrong decision. This was the wrong attitude. Voting is a privilege. We all have a right to our own opinions. Whether the issue is band size, a color change, or voting for a judge. Take advantage of your privilege vote, it's an American Heritage.

A lot of grown-ups think kids should be seen and not heard. Sometimes I think we are not heard enough! Take some advice from a kid, become more active, get involved. You will have a lot more fun with your birds. □

Giant Homer Memories

by JAMES MCKENZIE, Norman, Okla.

Giant Homers first came into my loft in about 1954 when my borthor, Coy Harlan McKenzie, left Oklahoma University with his new bride, Ruth (Koenig), to enter the Army at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. He had left me his French Mondains (Recessive Reds), which I was keeping and enjoying very much. He shipped me back some very nice, typy Giant Homers from the late Irvin T. Goss who lived in Jeffersontown, Kentucky, at the time. These could well have been birds from Paul Steiden or Ed Blaine who were there at the time. I don't know the breeding on the birds, but they were nice blue bars and checks, especially one blue check hen with a pretty red eye. We had seen Giant Homers before in a visit to Tulsa with Bill Jordan to see Hap Beattie. Bill's wife, Judy, was from Tulsa, so it was a visit to her folks also. I can't remember which year this was, but Hap and his family lived up on a big hill, "telegraph hill", I believe it was called, and he had a lot of Giant Homers and several big lofts, and a lot of trophies from shows all over the country. I was impressed by all of that.

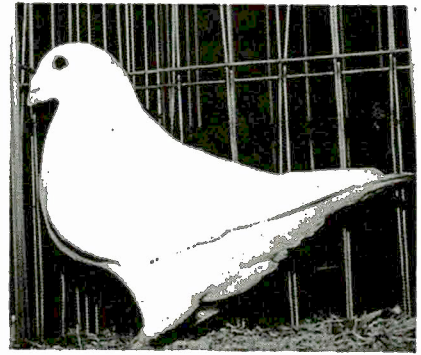
About 1955 or '56, my friend Bill Jordan was going to the OU-Texas football game at Dallas and asked me if I would like to go to the Texas State Fair and see the pigeon show. Jordan also had French Mondains at the time (large "spodded" birds). I had never been to a pigeon show, so was eager to go. We went down there and saw all the different breeds. It was really an impressive first visit to a pigeon show! Of course I spent some time in the Giant Homer section, and there met Fred Langridge, and Peggy, which started a long friendship and association with Giant Homers. It was a hard decision, but I only had a small loft, so I gradually phased out the French Mondains and kept the Giant Homers, although I still like the French and the many wonderful people that keep them, but the classic Homer type and feel won me over. The Giant Homers have been a good breed for me over the years. I have enjoyed the way they produce and take care of their young, and the many beautiful colors that have been developed for this breed. There is a lifetime of study in pigeon genetics. I feel like we have learned a lot about the basics, but there is a lot more to learn and a lot of research needs to be done.

One of the main advantages or benefits of raising pigeons in my

opinion, is the therapeutic value of the hobby. I can come home from work all mad and steamed up about something that happened or might happen; but after a few minutes out in the loft, feeding and watering, banding young, or just being out there, I seem to relax and forget what I was worrying about before. This is worth quite a lot to me, just to have a relaxing hobby.

In recent years, I have continued to make new friends, and enjoy the old ones as well. Several have passed on, such as J.F. Cooper and H.T. Powell and many others. A couple of years ago I had one of the nicest trips to a pigeon show ever, when Art Kehl and Ted Grulke asked me to come to Watertown, Wisconsin, "Pigeontown USA" to judge the Giant Homers and Show Racers at their Winter Show. Of course, I had heard of Watertown all my pigeon career because Art Kehl and Rose were the NPA Secretary when I first got into pigeons, and Elmer Wenck was the Giant Homer Secretary at that time. My wife went with me on that trip and we had a nice visit with all the folks up at Watertown, and a lot of good German food to eat.

In conclusion of my ramblings here, I'd be remiss not to mention the Giant Homer Futurity which we have had going now for 15 years, and some of the best things in the



GIANT HOMER

A white young Giant Homer cock, a winner at the AGHA Futurity Show, bred by James McKenzie, Norman, Okla. — Photo by George Lechner, Palatine, Ill.

club have happened during this time. E.T. Keller, his wife, Rachel, and his whole family including grandchildren have been hosting the Futurity at the Fairgrounds in El Reno, Oklahoma, now for several years. Jack Anderson has been the prime mover of this effort, along with Hap Beattie who helped to get it started. My good friend here in Norman, Hugh Reynolds and his good wife Eloise, have been invaluable friends to me in keeping up interest and having fun with the Giant Homers. All of the guys in the Oklahoma Giant Homer Club have been great for helping me out with shows and making the Giant Homer hobby a pleasure. □



Members and exhibitors at the Black Hills Pigeon Club and Short Grass Giant Homer Show. — Photo by George Lechner.

The Joy Of It All

by COY H. MCKENZIE, Norman, Okla.

Sometime in the distant past I recall having discovered a pearl of wisdom in some obscure psychology text concerning the way in which the mind works. As I recall, the author described the joys in the learning process. The FIRST is the Joy of Discovery. This involved the satisfaction one enjoys when discovering for the first time some fact, concept, feeling, insight, smell, taste, etc., that makes its impression on either the conscious or subconscious mind. The SECOND was the Joy of Recognition. This involved the recognition of these same impressions when they come around a second or subsequent time. As I grow older, become somewhat senile, the joints creak and I spend more and more time reminiscing about the past, I have come to realize that the psychology text, although correct in its analysis, must have been written by a younger

person because I have discovered that there is a THIRD joy and that is the Joy of Remembrance.

Back in 1954, when I went on active duty and was stationed at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, I was fortunate in experiencing the Joy of Discovery as it related to the American Giant Homer. I had kept pigeons since before I had started to grade school and was engaged in a French Mondain project which Mom agreed to watch over while I was on active duty for the expected two years. Younger brother, James, had helped over the years a little with the myriad of building projects and occasionally helped me feed and water the birds, but hadn't expressed any real interest. At that time Irvin Goss and Paul Steiden were pillars of the Giant Homer Fancy in and around Louisville. The second district show was one of the big ones and Ed

Blaine was keeping his birds in a small separate loft out at the Goss acreage. J.J. Keiffer was the judge and the Goss loft was a gathering place for the genetic enthusiasts including Carl Craefe, Gerhard Hasz, Frank Dallas and various other disciples of Dr. Hollander. I had seen Giant Homers at the lofts of John H. Baxter and Jack Gale in Oklahoma City, but nothing to compare with the scene in Kentucky. Richard Gibson was just converting from a massive pig breeding operation to a squabbing operation. Goss had a thriving squab business featuring hickory smoked squabs and his wife, Edna, had pioneered the business of monogramming Giant Homers on the back of coats worn in the shows.

As I look back, I probably was somewhat of a pest, but I was eager to learn, they were patient and the Joy of Discovery was overflowing. While at Ft. Knox I had the opportunity to apply for Flight School as a Army Aviator and, although scared speechless about the prospect of flying, was admitted to the program. This involved the extending of the original two years active duty commitment to five. One of the most vivid memories at Louisville was the 1955 Second District Show. Blaine had been working with his birds daily in preparation for the show. He had separated his silver check hen, 694, and she was sight mated to him. When the judging for Champion and Best Opposite Sex came up it was his blue bar cock, 609, and the silver check hen. I still don't know if it was intentional or not, but right in the heat of the judging Ed was talking to someone near the judging and raised his voice slightly. The hen perked up, her neck started pulsating and she spread her wings and tail in the characteristic mating mannerism. Keiffer placed her champion. Shortly after that, I was out at the Goss loft when Blaine was getting ready to ship 609 and 694 to Langridge in Dallas. He commented that he thought they might help the breeding program in Texas, which ranks as one of the classic understatements of all times.

Since the five year commitment was going to require that I put off my pigeon project, I resisted temptation and only brought a couple of Giants back to Norman on the way to flight school in San Marcos, Texas. Brother James had taken over the care and feeding of my birds and although Mom always maintained an interest in the birds, he was in charge of the loft and had become very knowledgeable in the years I

Go With An Athlete—The Giant Homer

by GROVER C. SCOTT, Pine Bluff, Ark.

If you have a desire or are contemplating breeding and showing pigeons, and if by chance you are just naturally inclined toward athletic characteristics and tendencies, and if you have not selected a breed, then I have a wonderful suggestion for you. Take a look at the American Giant Homer. Obtain a copy of the Official Standard of Perfection and study the specific features as well as the composite quality of this fine breed. Everything about the Giant Homer relates to strength and power. From head to foot this is stressed. The whole head should express strength with no show of weakness. The neck should be stout and of medium length. The body should be distinctly solid and feel heavy in the hand. The breast should be broad, deep and well rounded with solid muscular flesh. The legs should be of medium length and set wide apart with an appearance indicating strength of bone. All of these things indicate that the American Giant Homer is an excellent feeder of the youngsters. He is a very docile bird and is easily trained to the show coop. He comes in diversified colors and patterns.

Every Giant Homer does not measure up to the standard, but this is true with any breed. This is where the fun and competition come in — trying to breed birds that can compete and win in the show room. If every youngster that is hatched turned out perfect, the competition

would all be gone.

Speaking of competition, the members of American Giant Homer Assn., will certainly give you plenty of competition at the District Shows, the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, KY, the Young Bird Futurity in OK, and the National each year. There are some very fine people in the membership of A.G.H.A. and many of them will make it their business to help you get started as a new member.

So join today and get an athlete in pigeons, the American Giant Homer, and have yourself some real fun. Forty years ago, I got my first pair of Giant Homers from Elmer Wenck, and I've always been glad I did. □



GIANT HOMER

An Old Ash Check Stock Hen, #3611, bred by George Lechner, Palatine, Ill.

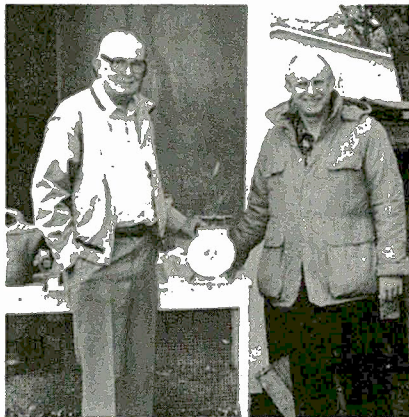
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had been away. Although the years in the service prevented my actually keeping pigeons, it did provide an opportunity to travel around the country, become acquainted with many of the leading breeders of Giant Homers and expand my knowledge of the fancy in general.

By the time I finished my service commitment and returned to Norman to go to law school, James had surpassed anything I had ever envisioned and was on the way to a career that would result in a lifetime devoted to pigeons and master breeding recognition in both Giant Homers and Show Racers.

While in law school I was able to establish a loft of Giants that were competitive, was able to contribute to the hobby by working with the "Bulletin" and judging at various shows. The friendships established during that time have endured over the years.

As a diversion, I had started to dabble in racing homers and started flying with one club in Oklahoma City. Although I never lost the love for the Giants I enjoyed the competition of the racing and the increased activity that it offered. It was sort of a progressive transition from Giants to Racing Homers and then to Race Horses. Finally, in the latter part of 1972, I acquired a horse ranch, got out of birds and for 15 years was active with the horses. Although I didn't have the pigeons for 15 years, I can truthfully say that not one day went by when I didn't think about them and wish I had some. After having been out of pigeons for more than 15 years and Giants specifically for almost 20 years, my interest has rekindled and I have again become involved with the birds. This "re-birth" of interest has returned something to my life that has definitely been missed and I have been experiencing all three joys to a degree that I had not thought pos-



GIANT HOMER FANCIERS
Fred Langridge (left) and James McKenzie (right) New Year's Day 1989.

sible anymore.

At the present time, I am back into Racing Homers and after going to the young bird futurity show in El Reno for a couple of years, I had to have some Giants. Attending that show and visiting with Dr. Peavy, Steiden English, Anderson, Durkee, Keller, Williamson, Langridge and all of the other old and new friends resulted in a feeling of satisfaction that is beyond description.

It was almost unbelievable to walk down the rows of cages and see bird after bird that are so much better than I could have contemplated. I did not think it possible to pack so much bird in the same overall dimensions that have remained basically unchanged over the years. The progression in the quality of the color

variations is dramatic.

One of the most enjoyable experiences occurred during this past New Years when James and I were able to schedule a short trip through Southwestern Oklahoma and Central Texas. One of the highlights was being able to spend New Years Eve at the home of Fred and Peggy Langridge in Dallas. While on this trip I had time to relax and remember many of the experiences with the members and the Giants back when I was active before.

As we drove up to 819 Eli in Dallas I had a most enjoyable feeling as I remembered the many times in the past when I had visited with Fred and Peggy. Especially significant was the first visit when I was finally able to meet Fred after having corresponded for several years while I was still on active duty. At that time he had a large collection of quality Giants and I believe his blue bar cock, 440, was the best of the time.

We were able to have a nice visit, ate one of the delicious breakfast meals for which they are famous, and inspected all of the Giants, feather by feather. We had a good laugh about Fred's new set of scales and even weighed a few birds. I had a good laugh remembering the old days when the mention of scales were fighting words. Fred let me have a few stock birds and hopefully with the ones I got at last year's young bird auction and those from Fred I can be competitive in a couple of years. □

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GIANT HOMER FANCIERS
Coy McKenzie and Fred Langridge (right) at Fred's home New Year's Day 1989.



GIANT HOMERS
1988 young hens bred by John Severson, Black Hawk, S.D.



GIANT HOMER LOFT

Giant Homer loft of Jerry Thies, St. Louis, Mo. The loft is 10'x12' and is divided into two parts.

The Giant Homer Futurity

by JERRY THIES & PAUL STEIDEN

The futurity is the highlight of the Giant Homer Show season for most Giant Homer fanciers. It is all you could want in a one breed, young bird show. Everyone there is on equal footing, with no fear of former champions to go up against. Every fancier there is a Giant Homer breeder. If you don't know him or her, you can easily, as you know you each have similar interest.

This is by far the largest Giant Homer show of the year, with the most birds, the most exhibitors, the most regions represented and the cream of the crop of birds on hand. This is the best time of the year to have this show as it is just before the mating season, so, if you need a bird or two or more, this is the place to get them.

Sponsored by the Oklahoma Giant Homer Club, a fine bunch of men as you will ever find, they are real fine organizers and hosts. No details are overlooked in making your stay enjoyable.

There is always a headquarters motel with special rates for all exhibitors, and a banquet and business meeting afterwards. The awards and paybacks are outstanding, around \$2500.00 each year. Besides the class money, there are special awards and unique awards.

After the judging is finished the auction starts, with the top five birds of each class in it, along with other pre-designated sale birds. A fancier may buy back his own bird by paying 10% of the auctioned price.

Jack Anderson, curator and early financial backer of this show, is its biggest booster and the one around which most activity churns. He is the unofficial greeter, he explains the

rules of the show in a booming voice, he lines up the bird carriers and is the M.C., at the banquet. He is the bird handler and prompter for the auctioneer and still manages to keep a colorful commentary going about the birds and the bidders; pointing out the outstanding features of certain birds and giving nicknames to

bidders. He may up a bid when he feels like it or point out a bargain buy or even tell someone they had to pay dear for a bird.

The ladies also have several tables set up with items that were donated, with silent bids being taken on these items until the time designated for the silent auction to close. These monies are used for the next year's show. The ladies have always worked hard on this, with some of the men and ladies making items all year long.

Paul and I have been to each futurity since 1979. Most of these years we also had Sam Peavey and the late Al Breihan riding with us. Paul and Sam would drive to St. Louis and meet me and Al and we would load up and head for Hwy. 44 and head West; of course we would only drive about one hour and stop at our favorite place for breakfast. Years ago this place was the original "Diamonds", it is now "The Thunderbird Inn", a truck stop, and everyone knows this is where you get the best food.

Last year Paul and I each qualified for a ten year futurity patch to sew on our coats. We suggest you come and join us at El Reno, Oklahoma, the first weekend in December and see this spectacular event for yourself. □

Helping The Novice With Giant Homers

by WALTER KLANN, Georgetown, Fla.

Article II of our By-Laws reads, under object: Assist the novice breeder in the breeding of their birds.

There are many pitfalls for the novice breeder, and sometimes for the experienced breeder too. All stock birds should be mated. No extra cocks or hens in the breeding pen. Birds should get clean drinking water daily, a good health grit and feed consisting of peas, yellow corn, wheat and milo (and some other grains). Some of you might feed pellets.

The first problem with fertility. Don't overcrowd your breeding pen. Figure on 10 square feet of floor space per pair and at least 1/3 of that for fly-pen. Birds should get a chance to take a bath (outside) at least once a week. Take the bath water away after eight hours. Check the birds around the vent, cut the fluffy vent feathers, remove hard droppings from the vent area. See to it that the nest (about 11" by 11") are cup shaped. Help the bird with nesting material. Check the eggs for fertility after nine days. (Hold the egg between thumb and index finger

against a light). If not fertile remove the eggs. Should the second clutch be infertile, replace the eggs with eggs from a pair that seems to have fertile eggs all the time. But those eggs have to be laid within two days (before or after) the infertile eggs had been laid. That is just about all you can do.

After 18 days eggs should hatch. Sometimes, the squab breaks the shell a little bit two days before hatching time, sometimes only a couple hours before. Let nature take its course, I have killed more squabs by "helping" them hatch, leave them alone. You have better results that way. A few drops of iodine in the daily drinking water will help the hatching process. Band the birds when they are 10 to 11 days old. (You might get the band on up to 4 days with the help of a little vase-line). After 14 days or so, the cock will drive the hen again. This is a critical time for the squabs, the cock seems to be more interested with his mate than with feedings. Give the squabs a cod-liver oil capsule about

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once a week from that time on until they are eight weeks old. The cod-liver oil will prevent colds or will help them to recover.

After 15 to 25 days, the hen will lay again. Don't let them lay on the floor, you would invite trouble. Squabs have to be "tamed" when they are 14 days old. When birds are feeding, hold your hand two inches above the squabs. Do this whenever you have a chance. Take the squabs in your hands, against your breast, when they are three weeks old. At this time, put a little can into the individual nestbox with feed. The parents of squabs will find feed all the time and you can keep the other birds lean and trim.

Don't overfeed. Fat hens don't lay or produce fertile eggs. Don't feed too much corn in Spring and Summer and take away the feed after 10 to 15 minutes. Feed the birds in a container, never feed them on the loft floor. Squabs 25 days old or so, will leave their nest and try to sit on something. Avoid sharp corners or boards narrower than six inches. Four weeks old, the squabs will jump to the floor. Most hens will not feed their youngsters anymore, as a matter of fact, some hens quit feeding after they lay again. Don't worry, the cock is the provider. The squabs will have learned to feed by looking at their parents feeding out of the can you had put into the nestbox. Their problem now is to find the drinking water and have a chance to hide against attacking cocks. Take the youngsters and put their beaks into the drinking water, they learn fast. Provide "hiding" places around the loft, 6 to 8 inch boards, 4 to 5 inches off the floor. Six to 7 weeks old put them into the

"weaning" coop for about 2 to 4 weeks. After that time, they are ready for the young bird loft.

Culling is the most important part of your breeding program. This should be done before the birds leave the nest, when they are about 31 days old. At this age, the youngsters look their best. Compare them to the Standard, have a little imagination for full head, don't overkill on account of size, you might wind up with all cocks. You should have a scale in your loft, young birds might gain up to 8 ounces later. Be cruel to yourself. No sense feeding birds 15 to 25 weeks and cull them anyway. A bird that does not impress you at the age of 31 days, never will.

Even in the best lofts, only about 20% of the youngsters will turn out as show birds, and only about 10% will be able to stand competition from other breeders.

Breeding good Giant Homers takes experience and good stock birds. Experience is more important. If you have problems you have no answer to, contact a fellow breeder. Or write to breeders who have experience. Most of them will gladly help.

By the end of July, you should quit breeding. By that time, you should have a few birds you are proud of, and you can find out only in shows how good they really are. And there is always next year. More experience, better stock birds, and a little more luck perhaps. □

Breeding For Khaki

by ROGER KLEIER, Trumbull, Nebr.

I have worked with Khaki for the past three years, and have learned much about this color. By no means, do I claim to be an expert on color genetics. I would like to share with you, some of my experiences with this beautiful color.

Khaki, in its simplest form, is the dilute of Brown. Khaki can be introduced into your stud of birds several ways. The fastest and most easy is to start with a Khaki bird. If you cannot find a Khaki, you can either add the dilute factor to your Browns, or you can add Brown to your dilute birds. To do this you simply need to mate a dilute cock to a Brown hen, or mate a Brown cock to a Brown hen. The young cocks from either of these matings will carry Brown and Dilute (Khaki), and will produce Khaki

hens. To produce a Khaki cock, mate a cock that you know carries Khaki to a Khaki hen. If the cock used happens to be Blue you can produce Blue - Brown - Silver and Khaki young of both sexes.

Any of the color modifying factors such as Opal-Faded or Reduced can be used with Khaki. A Faded Khaki when mature, appears very similar to Faded Brown or Faded Silver. If you do not know for sure, about the only way you can find out their true color is by test mating them.

Keeping accurate records will help greatly when breeding for Khaki. Young Khaki in the nest can be easily distinguished in the nest. They will be short downed, plus for the first couple weeks of their lives they will have pink eyes. Keep records of this eye color because as the bird matures the eye color will change. This is especially useful when working with Faded Khaki.

Dominant Opal Khaki, to me, is a very beautiful color. The Opal Factor seems to enhance the color or make appear more vivid. Dominant Opal Khaki will also have a lacing of darker Khaki and white on their wing and tail bars. This is a most striding contrast.

My experience with Reduced Khaki is very limited. We have two cocks that carry Khaki and Reduced. From one of these we produced what I think was a Reduced Khaki, but we lost it before it moulted in its adult feathers. Maybe next year we will get lucky!

Some of our birds carry Recessive Red-Yellow. From time to time we will raise a Recessive Red or Yellow. If this ever happens, and the yellow birds eyes are pink in the nest. The



GIANT HOMER FANCIERS

Giant Homer Fanciers enjoying an after show meal at the Louisville National Young Bird Show, October 1988. Pictured left to right are Jerry Thies, St. Louis, Mo., Bob English, Kremlin, Okla., Jim Orton, Oologah, Okla., and Jack Anderson, Tulsa, Okla.

Recessive Yellow is actually Khaki being masked by the Recessive Factor. This bird mated to another not carrying Recessive will breed the same as Khaki.

There are a couple things I should have mentioned earlier. Khaki is the least dominant of all colors. A Khaki cock cannot carry any other Basic color hidden. For this reason, a Khaki cock mated to any other color hen can only produce Khaki hens. A Khaki hen mated to any other color (that does not carry Khaki) can never produce Khaki youngsters. All of the young cocks from this hen will carry Khaki and be able to produce more Khaki hens. Two Khakies mated together will only produce Khaki young of both sexes.

I hope this information will be helpful to some. And remember watch for those pink eyes in the nest! □

Feeders For Breeders

by FRANK WIEDLOCHER, Carbondale, Ill.

Having raised Giant Homers for only a few years, I had pondered what kind of article I could write that might be helpful. After all, there are many breeders of the Giant who have raised them for years and probably have forgotten more about them than I have learned so far. Being a beginner, however, it's possible for me to identify with some of the problems that one encounters when just starting out. For a newcomer to the hobby, the cost of cages and pens, medications, feeders, waterers, etc., together with cost of the breeding stock, can be fairly steep. To make the load a little easier, on a limited budget, I made as many of my feeders and waterers as I could. Using milk jugs for feeders and

especially waterers is something with which almost everyone is familiar. Both milk jugs and even rabbit crocks got me by as feeders for a while.

As I got settled into the hobby a bit, I started thinking about making myself one of those rectangular doweled feeders like one sees in the catalogs. Having seen them in other fanciers' lofts, however, made it obvious that, nice as they were, they still had a few problems. When I got ready to make the feeders, I really didn't want to spend all the time necessary to cut, sand, drill, etc., for the dowel rods, not to mention that I didn't have any on hand and didn't want to waste half my Saturday running down to the store getting dowels, glue, etc. What I ended up doing was removing one of the cross wires out of a section of 2x4 welded wire (giving me 2x8 welded wire) for the sides of the feeder. This turned out to have an added benefit of which I will speak later. One can make these feeders in almost any size or shape he wants. I have made them in both round and rectangular models, although, the rectangular models seem to work better.

It is an accepted rule of husbandry that the less dust one has, both in the pigeon loft as a whole, as well as mixed in with the feed, the better. Pigeon feed, whether hand mixed grains, mixed grains from a feed dealer, or pellets all tend to have some dust in them. Even the most well cleaned grains will have a certain amount of dust and fine particles due to the abrasive effect of the kernels on one another when the feed is handled and transported. I sometimes feed pelleted feed to my breeders, especially when they are in full production, to make it easier for them to process the feed in their crop for the squabs. Pelleted feed often has an excessive amount of dust towards the bottom of the bag. It occurred to me that covering the bottom of a feeder with regular screen wire might help solve this problem.

It would be best, at this point, to describe the fabrication of a size that seems to be particularly useful and let anyone interested modify the design to best suit their own needs.

First take a 22" x 48" piece of plywood (mine was a scrap off the end of a sheet cut down to 6'2" for a loft wall). In the center of this plywood cut a hole 5" wide and 43

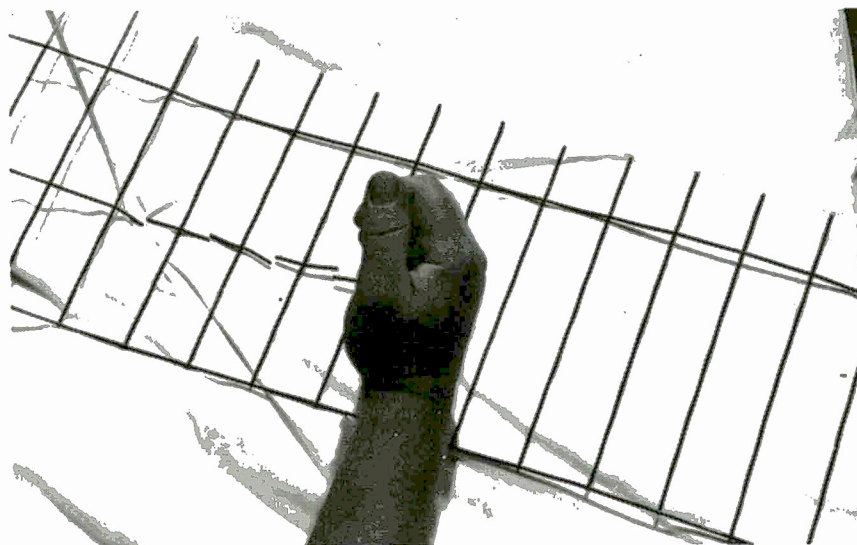


Photo No. 1



Photo No. 2.

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inches long. Lay a piece of window screen over this hole (a piece about 48" x 8" will do) and stretch it tight with a few brads. Take a piece of 2" x 4" welded wire 100 inches long and 2½ sections (about 10 inches high) and remove the middle horizontal wire. This can be done by cutting through the wire at each horizontal section and then twisting each piece in a clockwise, then counter clockwise, fashion a few degrees. (see photo 1). Different wire will require a bit different technique so practice on a scrap piece first. Next, take the wire and bend a corner at the first 6" x 44" wire box. Straighten and square the wire, then center over the hole in the plywood with the finished edge of the wire up. Mark where each vertical wire touches the screened plywood with a pencil. (see photo 2). Remove the wire, drill holes at each mark, and then replace wire pushing 2" extra

ends down through the holes. Turn the plywood over, cut wires off to about ¾-1" then take needle nose pliers and grasp these ends one at a time. While holding firmly with edge of pliers laying on the board, turn pliers over ½ turn which will tighten and "U" the wire back onto bottom of board (see photo 3). Turn plywood back over, put frame on bottom and glue a 2" strip of ¼ inch plywood, paneling, or flakeboard around bottom of wire for sides of feeder bin. Using a hot glue gun, glue sides (at bottom) both inside and out, then finish up by gluing corners. Take a sharp razor knife and cut away excess screen sticking past side panels. (see photo 4). I put legs on mind to hold the whole thing about 6" off the floor. I've used these feeders for over two years now and they do an excellent job of keeping the excess dust out of the feed. Each time a bird pecks a grain it bounces the

screen a bit and causes dust to shake right through.

Earlier I said that there turned out to be an advantage in using the welded wire sides instead of dowels. The commercial feeders had a flat top which seemed to invite pigeons to perch on them. I tried a sheet metal peaked top on mine, but birds would still try to perch on it causing all sorts of commotion as they tried to balance on the peak. By mistake I left the top off one day, found that my giants would neither try to perch on the wire sides nor hop into the middle of the feeder which is too constricting. Rollers or some other small breeds might present a problem. As long as the feeder is not placed under perches, etc., where droppings could fall into it, it works superbly.

In conclusion I want to say to all you breeders out there, give a nice pair of Giant Homers a try for just a season and see if their tight feathering, muscular frames, and powerful heads don't hook you into raising one of the world's finest breeds. □

Beginner's Pitfalls

by BOB FISHER

A novice in the show game will have many trying times. If he cannot overcome these obstacles within a reasonable length of time, he is likely to become discouraged and quit before he is really started. The Pigeon Fancy needs these new fanciers, so I hope I can clear up some of the major problems.

BUILDINGS and EQUIPMENT. A dry, well-ventilated loft, free of drafts, is a strict requirement. A loft on concrete blocks, from 12 to 18 inches off the ground, is very desirable. With such a loft, you can eliminate most rodents and maintain a dry floor during wet seasons. I use a one-roof ventilator for each pen (approx. 10' x 10').

In the mid-west, a loft facing east seems to work out best. Second choice is a southern exposure. Overcrowding in the breeding pen can cause a lot of havoc. I get best producing with 15 to 16 pairs in a pen 10' x 10'. Twenty pairs in the same pen have resulted in reduced production. Show breeding requires a number of pens. At least three are required and four or five are better still.

Some of my pens have removable nest boxes and perches, which I interchange according to the season. Each pair of breeders has one double nest box (no extra nest boxes). No extra or odd, unmated birds in the

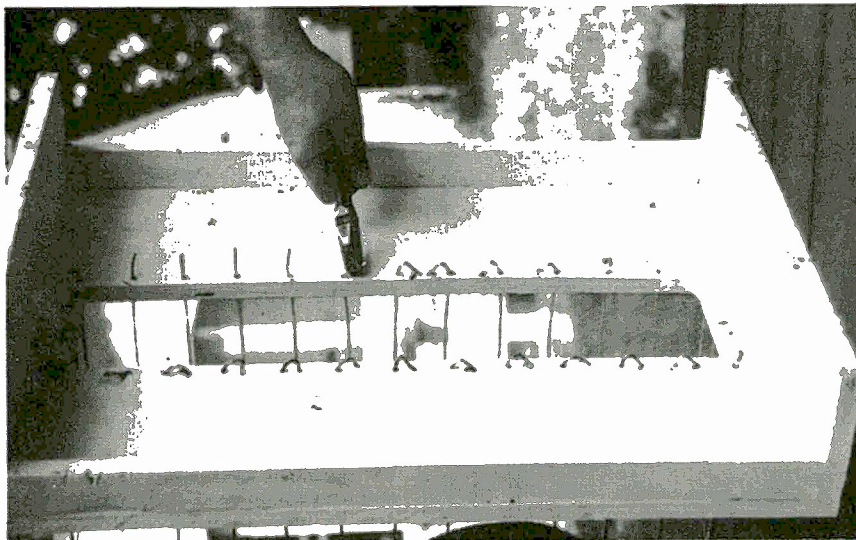


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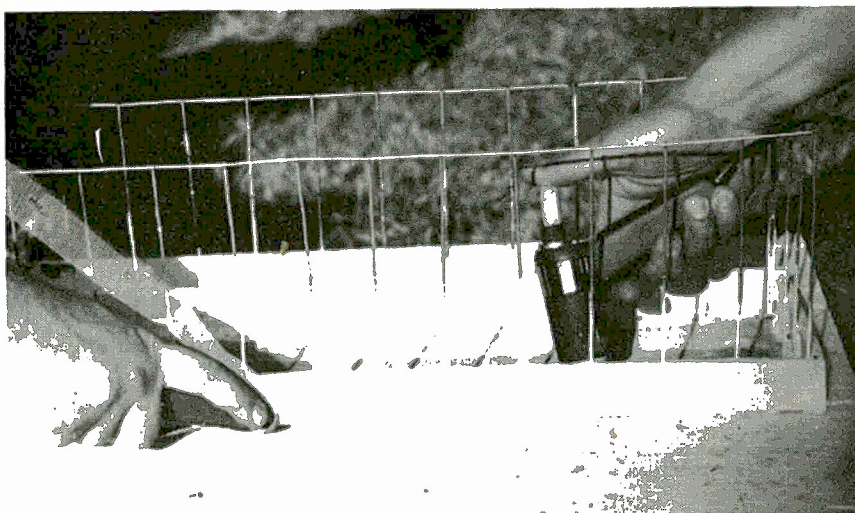


Photo No. 4.

breeding pen. Young birds are removed from the breeding pen when 5 to 7 weeks old. A board 8" or 10" wide and 5" to 6" off the floor is installed along two walls of the pen. Youngsters can crawl under the board and you will have very few scalped youngsters.

Fly pens need not be too large. I would say about half the size of breeding pens. Cover fly pens with 1" mesh wire and floors of fly pen with 1/2" to 1" mesh wire. Loft construction as mentioned above may sound like a lot of work, but it will pay dividends in the future.

BREEDING STOCK. Another big problem for beginners is how to select breeding stock that is most suitable for their experiences. If you are an absolute beginner, I would buy cheap birds and keep them for a year or two, until which time you get a general knowledge of pigeon habits, breeding, etc. On the other hand, if you have several years of experience, go ahead and buy a few pairs of the best stock birds available.

Stock birds that are two or three years old are usually your best bet. Young birds usually do not produce too well the first year. If you have several type youngsters, mate them to older experienced breeders. The combination of youth and vigor in a young bird plus experience in an old bird generally works out very well.

MATINGS. Your ability to plan out matings will measure your success or failure as a breeder. Some men have it and some don't. Proper matings will improve your youngsters every year. If you cannot produce youngsters which are better than their parents, you will lose out in the show game eventually.

To me a mating is comparable to building. In order to build a well organized plan is required. Hence, you must thoroughly understand your Standard and the Ideal bird. In general, I think our Standard covers things quite well. To a novice, the Standard is probably quite confusing. In writing it is hard to say how hard feather should be or how long or deep a keel should be or how wide a bird should be. Old and young birds in both sexes will naturally vary. Advice on points of this nature must be acquired at shows and other breeders' lofts. It is something that takes time, observation and patience to acquire. Breeders will disagree among themselves on certain points, so I would try to get as many opinions as possible and draw a happy medium from them.

Good body conformation carries nearly two-thirds of the points in our Standard. Because of this, I would

strive for a deep-bodied bird with good width and a prominent, well-rounded breast. The more or less smaller points such as short tail, whip tail, head, beak, color, etc., can be worked into the bird later on. Eventually you should have a stud of good-bodied birds and your matings will mainly concern improving the minor points of the Standard.

Improvement of most points will require several generations and may be more. I try to improve many points in a mating, but I'm satisfied if I manage to improve one of them. It isn't too hard, for instance, to put a whip tail on a bird; a short tail however, is another matter. If you raise a short-tailed bird, be sure to save it, if it resembles the Standard at all.

Body conformation in our breed at present is becoming quite uniform; but tails in general are still too long. Another weak point on many birds is the beak. The beaks should be short and stout and in most cases light-colored. Some breeders cross in Show Pen Racers to improve the beak, wattle-head points in general, feather, color and probably stamina and production qualities. Other breeders frown on this practice. With careful selection of the show Pen Racers, you can improve many of the points that are desired. Culls you'll get, too. You must use care in selecting your youngsters from such matings. My experience has shown that it only takes a few generations to regain the size and type you desire from such cross-matings.

It is very hard to define the points of mating in writing. If possible attend the show and club meetings where you can see and handle various birds and get first-hand information from the breeders and exhibitors.

CONDITIONING. Condition of bird plays a very vital part in showing. As I see it, there are several types of conditions, below which are some:

1. Thin birds, caused by sickness, improper feeding, overworked, just too young or not through moulting. On such birds, body flesh is lacking and the keel will almost feel like a knife blade in your hands. Showing birds in this condition is a waste of time and money and may even ruin the bird.

2. Birds which are too fat. Usually hens fall into this category. Such birds may have the weight, but the flesh is soft and spongy feeling, especially around the rump. Of course, these birds may be exhibited, but they will lose points on condition if the competition is close and the judge is on the ball.

3. Old birds may have the weight

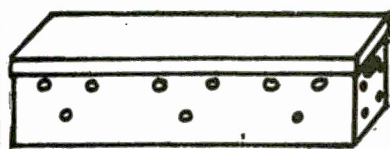
and may not be too thin, or too fat, but the body is not firm and solid. They usually feel rather spongy, too, in the hands. Very few birds over three years old are suitable for showing. Cocks seem to stand up if their wattle, cere, etc., don't get too course.

4. Birds in ideal show condition are firm, solid and hard. Not too many of the birds which are shown are in ideal condition.

Climate and feeding systems affects conditioning. As a rule, the northern breeders have the edge on conditioning with the cold weather in their favor. Cafeteria feeding works well for me with cocks. On the other hand, with hens, hand-feeding works best as the majority of hens get too fat with the cafeteria system.

Separate breeders around the end of July. I don't let any eggs hatch after July 4th. Do not show young birds too often. Two or three shows in the fall are enough for most youngsters. Traveling, cooping and judging take a lot out of most young birds. Lawn shows are for just one day and are not so bad. Skip the State Fairs. Very few young birds are ready at Fair Time. The few dollars prize money gained at Fairs frequently turns out to be quite a loss. In general, don't let your greed get you down. Pushing your breeders, showing birds too often, showing birds too young, buying cheap birds or cheap feed are generally your loss instead of gain. □

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Giant Homers And The Blue Bar

by MAURICE DURKEE, Winnebago, Minn.

Let me introduce myself. I am a grain farmer in South Central Minnesota. My name is Maurice Durkee and my interest in the Pigeon Fancy began when I was a small lad of ten years old. My interest evolved from barn pigeons to various other breeds until I got into Giant Homers. At one time the Giant Homer was considered more or less a utility or squabbing breed. However now and for the purposes of our club I believe it should be considered strictly for show purposes and the utility aspect is incidental.

When I first started breeding Giant Homers I worked with several colors with little preference. After working with the breed two or three years I decided my strain had too much dilution including reduced vigor. I then eliminated all dilution or weak genetic factors in order to strengthen my strain. My blue bars, ash reds, etc., were then genetically pure! In the early 70's I began working with dominant opal and had excellent success with both color and type as well as showing. I liked this strong color factor very much, but drifted away into other colors in the late 70's.

From the beginning, the color I have had the most consistent success with both in showing and breeding has been the blue bar or so called "wild type"! My strains go back 20 years and until recently I have kept them pure with no dilution. Color is another thing that I have worked on in recent years with the theory that I

have the type so why not work on cleaning up and improving the color. With this theory in mind, I have developed a strong line of very light powder blues with narrow or pencil bars which are striking in appearance and greatly admired. Naturally I have the wide bars and more intense blues also. In any case, type must prevail in the shows.

In the development of the light partel blue strain I have found that using silver or dilution definitely helps. In fact, I have noticed that crossing a blue or silver hen bred from a blue cock carrying silver to a silver hen works better than a similar hen bred from a blue cock carrying silver to a silver hen works better than a similar hen bred from a homozygous than a similar hen bred from a homozygous cock x a silver hen. In other words the more dilution or light color in the immediate background the more successful I am in producing powder blue.

In recent years I have introduced dilution into all of my lines and feel it is more interesting, due to the end results, which include varied colors such as silver and cream checks and bars. I believe though that it is important to develop strong strains to start with.

The biggest benefit of a strong blue bar program is the versatility of the color in crossing with other colors. It seems that when in doubt I



Maurice Durkee with his Champion and Reserve Champion Giant Homers at the 1988 Grand National.

use a blue bar on one side or the other a blue works well with most colors. Two colors that I have worked extensively with in recent years and which are very dominant are faded and grizzles. Both factors are strong, colorful and popular in the show coop. I have used blue bars and to some extent ash red in the development of these colors in my system. My success with these colors in the shows should be evident by the show results.

As to the future I intend to continue in the hobby with the objective of improving the stud I now have while working on new colors such as reduced. □

American Giant Homer Memories, Past, Present And Future

by R.L. "HAP" BEATTIE, Tulsa, Okla.

About six decades ago I was fresh out of college and persuaded by fiancée to marry me in the early 1930's. At that time, she didn't know that I was some kind of "Pigeon Nut," or I may have never been so lucky, when she said "Yes". It is hard to believe that all during our nearly 60 years of marriage, we would have Giant Homers.

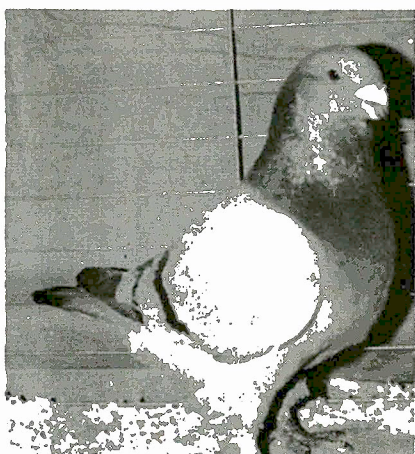
In those early days, a Giant Homer was just about any pigeon that had real large wattles and eye ceres. Usually, they were quite a bit larger in body than Racing Homers, and were bred mostly for good squab production.

The early day breeders were not interested too much in colors. There was no standard of perfection to speak of, and there were hardly any exhibits. There were few classes established for any exhibitors who

might want to display their birds.

Only a handful of breeders finally organized and began to promote the breed. Small local clubs finally became interested, and the breed name was changed to "American Giant Homer," instead of just "Giant Homer." The reason for the change was more varieties were crossed into the Giant Homer to give it a more "stately" appearance. In the early days, a new standard of perfection was drawn up, and Homer Fowler drew a standard for the A.G.H.A. It was a great improvement over the original. Through the years, there have been several changes up to the present time.

In the early days, most all of the shows were held in conjunction with state fairs. The color classes would be for All Checks, All Bars, All Solids other than white, and A.O.C.



BEST GIANT

This tremendous Blue Bar Giant Homer cock has an outstanding record including Best Giant at the 1988 NPA Grand National Show, Peoria, Ill. — Bred and owned by Maurice Durkee, Winnebago, Minn.

This was done to create more competition. The entry fees were only fifty cents a bird, and the premium payback was very small. In those early days, the Giant Homer was just not a very popular breed of pigeon. It was more or less considered the "poor-man's" pigeon. It is really a wonder that the breed finally achieved the status it has now. It would take a book to describe all the events and individuals that have contributed to the high position in the pigeon fraternity the American Giant Homer now commands.

During the course of one's lifetime, we all come in contact with untold numbers of individuals. Certain acquaintances are made who stand out in our memories. In my case, I was never much of a "mixer". I had my wife and wonderful family down through the years, and I was lucky enough to keep a few Giant Homers around. Our five girls and one boy were practically raised on squabs. Now that they are all married and raising families of their own, they have made me very proud. When my wife, Helen, passed away in September, 1987, I decided I no longer had a place in my heart for the birds. When our children were growing up, she and I went to many bird shows together, while our parents took care of the kids.

I cherish all of the wonderful acquaintances that I have made in the past. One in particular is Walter Teskey, in Blue Earth, Minnesota. He is truly a "class" individual, if ever there was one. In all the years that I have known him in our club, I have never heard him say anything derogatory about anyone. He is a firm believer in the old saying "If you can't say something good about a person, just don't say anything." He had some wonderful birds in his day.

When I was president of the A.G.H.A., I was extremely lucky to have a publicity director, such as Sam Peavey, in Louisville, Kentucky. I would write an article for our monthly Bulletin and send it to Sam for publication. I would tell him to edit it and put the right words where they belonged. When he got through it, he would make my writing look like I was a "Scholar of Journalism." Tom Barnhart, in Lima, Ohio, was another one of my favorites. He worked on the Bulletin for two terms.

The Standard picture that we now have for the American Giant Homer has been in effect for quite some time. We were fortunate to have had a member, such as Gerald Hobbs, to draw and produce the Standard picture, as it is today. A few minor

changes were made, but basically, the Hobb's drawing still exists. Gerald, also, had some of the top Giants for many years in our club.

In the early 1970's, a new development in the way of exhibiting our birds came about. Jack Anderson asked me what I thought of holding an American Giant Homer "Futurity" show. After he described all the details, etc., I told him it would be the greatest thing that could ever happen to the Giant Homer, as a bird, or as a specialty club. Our club started growing in membership beyond all expectations. The demand for breeders increased, and even breeders in foreign countries became interested. At the present time, we have nearly 300

members breeding American Giant Homer. The bird is no longer considered the "poor man's" pigeon. One only has to attend one of the annual Futurities to see what can be done with a breed of pigeons. Some of the top placing birds will sell for as much as \$400.00 to \$600.00, when they are auctioned. Breeders come from all over the United States and Canada. Many other "specialty" clubs have inquired about holding Futurity shows for their breeds.

The number of color classes has grown from five to 13, and more are being considered. Many members are becoming more color-aware, and are trying to produce more rare

Breeding Giants In The 80's

by CARROLL COOPER, President AGHA, Tyler, Texas

The American Giant Homer is really a wonderful and gentle breed. Having raised Giants for the second time since 1978, I have had the opportunity to experience almost everything with the birds as well as some other breeders all over the country, however that is another story and this one deals with my favorite breed, American Giant Homers.

Since I have served in almost every capacity with the American Giant Homer Association, I have had the opportunity to receive correspondence and telephone communications from new breeders that are experiencing problems of one nature or the other. This article is being written with those prior conversations in mind.

There are Do's and Don'ts when you are raising any breed. However I will attempt to list a few of both.

The DON'TS are first.

1. Do not overcrowd your breeding pairs.

2. Do not buy birds at trade sales as you will only get what you pay for, and in this case you might get more than you really want.

3. Do not buy one bird from this breeder and another from this one. What will usually happen will be all bad. Try and purchase pairs from a known breeder that has a good reputation and if interested in showing, research the Show results. Young birds can also present problems. They may look great at the show, however how will they look when you get them home and compare them to your better birds. It is better to pay a little more and buy the best that is available. No breeder that wants to stay in the hobby will sell his best, but will sell you birds that are re-

lated and that is part of the challenge.

4. Do not purchase birds that show any sign of sickness. In general conversation you can discover with the owner of birds that are **For Sale** what kind of production he has experienced.

The DO'S are:

1. Provide clean feed and water.

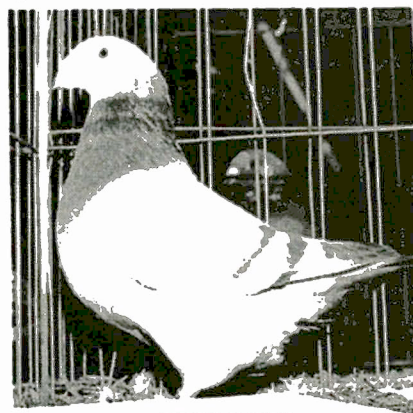
2. Medicate only when it is needed.

3. Ask questions if you do not know.

4. Keep loft clean.

5. Eliminate both internal and external parasites.

These are just a few of the Do's and Don'ts, and there are many more. Discuss your problems with another breeder, he may have at one time or another had a similar experience. □



BEST RARE

This Giant Homer hen was Best Rare, Oct. 1984, Rapid City; 1st Young Rare Hen, Rapid City; and 1st Young Rare Hen, 1984 Futurity. — Bred and owned by Carroll Cooper, Tyler, Texas.

colors. The members of the A.G.H.A. can be thankful that Jack Anderson came along when he did. He gave the club a big shot in the arm and opened up all kinds of avenues to travel on. Where the club goes from here is up to the membership. Certain sacrifices will have to be made by the membership if they want to proceed further. Everyone will have to pitch in and contribute, when the need arises. Being a member is a privilege, and not a burden. Every district director has his work cut out for him. The formation of local clubs can be of great help and having bi-weekly and monthly meetings with each other can greatly benefit the local and main groups.

I am very sorry that I do not have the time and space to acknowledge and greet each one of my many friends in the A.G.H.A. today. There are many who have contributed so much to our club. Since our Futurity has been held in El Reno, Oklahoma these past few years, I have not been able to attend as I would have liked. Ernest Keller has given so much of his time and experience to the setting up and taking down of the show, not to mention the breeding of some of the greatest birds to ever come along. We tend to take our friends and friendships for granted too often, and too often we never tell them how very much they are really appreciated.

In closing, I would like to let Jack Anderson know just how much having him for a friend through these past 16 years has meant to me. He has done all that he could to keep my interest up and my spirits alive. He has been truly a friend one can depend on. Our relationship will be everlasting, and I only want the best for him for now, and the years ahead. And, here are a few "lines" from my scrapbook

SOMETIME

Sometime, when you're feeling important,
Sometime, when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime, when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room;
Sometime, when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow this simple instruction,
And see how it humbles your soul.
Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it, up to the wrist,
Pull it out, and the hole that's remaining

Is a measure of how you'll be missed.
You may splash all you wish when you enter.
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop, and you'll find in a minute
That it looks quite the same as

before.
The moral in this quaint example,
Is do just the best you can,
Be proud of yourself, but remember,
There is no indispensable man.
Author unknown. □

Recipe For Crock Pot Pigeon Stew

Submitted by JAMES MCKENZIE

Reprinted from the Oklahoma Pigeon Assn. Newsletter

- 1 whole dressed pigeon (utility breed: Giant Homer, King, etc.)
- 1 Large Onion Diced
- 1 Potato Diced
- 4 Cloves Of Garlic
- 2 Carrots Sliced
- 2 Stalks Of Celery Diced
- 1 Can of Tomatoes (16 Oz.)
- ½ Teaspoon Salt
- ½ Teaspoon Pepper

Put all in crock pot, add water to 1 ½ inches from top, cover, and cook 8 hours on high temperature setting.

Makes 6 servings of pigeon stew and helps on the feed bill.

Pigeon Gumbo

Submitted by JAMES MCKENZIE

Reprinted from the Oklahoma Pigeon Assn. Newsletter

- 1 Cup Chopped Celery
- 1 Head Garlic (Chopped Very Fine)
- 3 Green Peppers (Chopped)
- 2 Bunches Green Onions (Shallots) (Chopped Fine)
- 1 ½ Cups Cooking Oil
- 1 ½ Cups Flour (Regular)
- 1 Whole Pigeon (Boiled - Tender)
- 1 Pound Smoked Sausage
- Red Cayenne Pepper (30 Shakes)
- Black Pepper As Desired
- 1 Tablespoon Salt
- 12 Cups Cold Water
- Filet, Sprinkle
- 2 Tablespoons Worcestershire Sauce
- 6 Drops Louisiana Hot Sauce

- Boil pigeon until tender (1 ½ to 2 hours)
- Make Roux: Mix oil and flour stirring constantly for approximately 20-25 minutes or until dark brown
- Add garlic first (stir ½ minute)
- Add green onions (stir ½ minute)
- Add green peppers
- Add celery
- Add water/stir/add water
- Add pigeon
- Add sausage
- Add 2 tablespoons Worcestershire Sauce
- Add 6 drops Louisiana Hot Sauce
- Cook for 40 minutes
- Serve over rice, add sprinkle of Filet
- Serve with salad or other foods as desired.

Pigeon Nutrition

by J. AUBREY MIRE, Ville Platte, La.

Most hobbyists feed pigeon pellets of one kind or another which are usually about 15% protein. Yet others feed poultry laying pellets containing 16 or 17 percent protein. Some fanciers also feed grain in addition to pellets and yet there are some who feed grain exclusively. The system which works best for me is that of feeding half 17 percent laying pellets and half grain mixture consisting of about 15% protein.

The feeding of pigeons differs radically from the feeding of other fowl or poultry. They do poorly on mash and green feed is not necessary. They do not produce well on the ordinary low-protein grain mixtures used for chickens since 13.5 to 15 percent protein is required for good growth of young squabs. A high-protein grain, such as Austrian winter peas, cow peas, Canada peas and etc., must be used to get the desired protein level in pigeon grain rations.

A good pigeon feed contains other essential elements besides protein. Sixty to 70 percent should be in carbohydrates, 2 to 5 percent in fat and no more than 5 percent in fiber.

Proteins are used to build and repair tissue and are essential to the production of large squabs. Carbohydrates and fats furnish the energy requirements and supply material to build fat. Pigeons don't utilize fiber to advantage, therefore the fiber content should be kept below 5 percent.

The ingredients used in my home prepared grain ration are corn, grain sorghum (milo), wheat and Austrian winter peas. The reason for using Austrian winter peas is due to its accessibility in the South. Other areas of our Country may have Canada peas, cowpeas or garden peas more readily available.

Corn is one of the best feeds for pigeons and is the basis of all diets for this purpose. Yellow corn is the primary source of Vitamin A in pigeon diets. White corn should be avoided because it is deficient in Vitamin A. Pigeons have the ability to eat large kernels of corn and there is no advantage in paying higher prices for small grained corn.

Milo is a harder grain than corn but similar in composition and is a good feed for pigeons. It however, lacks Vitamin A but is good to feed with corn in a ration.

Wheat is a cereal grain which is higher in protein than corn or milo. There are some who contend that wheat also improves fertility. Wheat will vary in protein, analysis de-

pending on variety and where it is grown. Hard red winter wheat will be higher in protein than soft red winter wheat. West coast grown wheat will be lower in protein than wheat grown in other areas of the country.

Peas are the most essential grain

(1)	Lbs. feed	Ingredients	% Protein	X	% Ingredients	Total Protein
	30	Wheat	13.2	X	.30	= 3.96
	25	Milo	10.9	X	.25	= 2.73
	25	Corn	8.9	X	.25	= 2.23
	20	Peas	23.4	X	.20	= 4.68
	100					13.60

(2)	Lbs. Feed	Ingredients	% Protein	X	% Ingredients	Total Protein
	20	Wheat	13.2	X	.20	= 2.64
	20	Milo	10.9	X	.20	= 2.18
	20	Corn	8.9	X	.20	= 1.78
	40	Peas	23.4	X	.40	= 9.36
	100					15.96

We haven't mentioned minerals, however they are needed for good bone growth, for proper balance of

in pigeon diets as they are high in protein, Vitamins and are excellent for squab development. This ingredient would probably be the highest priced in this ration.

The following two rations should give you an idea of mixing your own pigeon grain. The first ration is approximately 13.5 percent protein and the second ration is approximately 16 percent protein.

the blood and for formation of strong eggshells. Special mineral mixes should be fed free choice. □

Breeding Recessive Reds & Yellows

by GERALD HOBBS

A few experiences with red and yellow might help some of the younger breeders who wish to work on these colors, and they do need a lot of work, even though they are bred in good numbers and are attractive. Probably the reason they are inferior to some of the other colors is that we concentrate too much on color and not enough on type. Also recessive reds and yellows in Show Racers were not available in the formation of Giant Homers of these colors.

The best results are often obtained in a round about way. A red or yellow is mated with a good show specimen of Giant Homer of some other solid color. The best young of this mating is then mated onto red and yellow again. You will probably get no reds or yellows on the first mating and only about a quarter on the second mating, but these reds and yellows mated to red or yellow won't throw any other color.

It is best not be concerned with clear color at first but to get good show type. One of the main problems in these colors is length — too much everywhere! Tails, necks, legs and beaks need to be shortened on most

strains, including mine, before much success can be had in the show rooms. Light eyes seem to be a frequent fault to avoid. Once there, it comes popping out sooner or later.

Once you have gotten type, the most natural desire is to improve color. Even though there are no points on color, few judges can disregard it when placing the reds and yellows.

For good color some will say, "Never use any other color on reds and yellows." I say this is bunk! Others will say, "Don't breed red x red or yellow x yellow over several generations." This is bunk, too!

If you are careful in the first place when you mate to a solid that has a rich sheen, not only on his breast but on the back and coverts, you should get even better-colored reds and yellows eventually. This iridescence may be transmitted from one color to another. It is sometimes accompanied by grease quills along the sides near the tail and under the fluff of a bird. These have an oily, yellow quill in which the feather never fans out. The sheen is found mostly in

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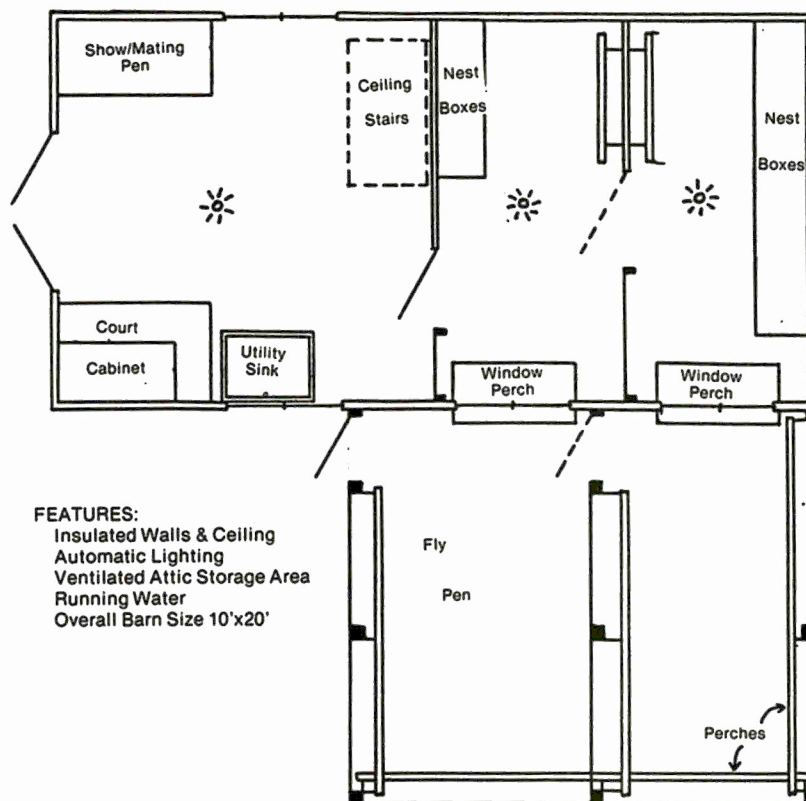
blacks, which have proved the best for me. But you may find it in duns, browns and indigo. We have never had much luck in using bars and checks as patterns give us problems, but this doesn't say it can't be done.

Some of our best colored reds are from reds x reds for several generations. So many that they contain no dilution, and when the cocks are bred to yellow hens they produce only red cocks and hens. This richness of color seems to be a recessive trait, so when two rich reds or yellows are bred together they stay a good color which is a point in your favor. However a yellow x yellow for several generations does seem to have some inherent weakness for livability connected with dilution.

Now a red x yellow mating is not a bad one, in fact it is a good one if the parents are both a good color. Some do not understand what shade of color is desirable, particularly in yellow. The red should be a deep wine color, unblemished anywhere. The yellow should be a deep apricot color not pale. These colors should carry through under the wings and as far down on each feather as possible. They are often accompanied with a very pleasurable slick satin feeling when handling the bird. The blemishes usually are smokey-looking and occur on back and tail and called smut.

If any of you young fellows are looking for a challenge, you will find it in trying to improve recessive reds

and yellows, plus a lot of satisfaction, too. □



The floor plan of the Giant Homer loft of Gary and Brian Clendening, Boulder, Colo.



The Giant Homer loft of Gary and Brian Clendening, Boulder, Colo.

Past Memories Of American Giant Homers

by CARROLL COOPER, Tyler, Texas

In 1953 or 1954, I had my first exposure to pigeons. During a seventh grade shop class, I was needing a project and decided to build a pigeon cage. Once this project was completed, all I needed was some pigeons to place into the cage. A classmate advised that his dad raised pigeons and I should call on him and he would more than likely fix me up with some pigeons. I could hardly wait until that evening when my dad and I could go see about the pigeons. Boy, what a surprise when I arrived at Dick McClung's home. He had pigeons alright. They were American Giant Homers in all colors and I could not decide which color to choose from, so Mr. McClung helped me out. After choosing one pair, he also gave me a second pair. This however presented a new problem. The cage I had built was not large enough, so dad hired two union carpenters and had a large pigeon house built. This building is still standing at my dad's, however it has been converted to other usage as the Giants have long since been gone from my first loft.

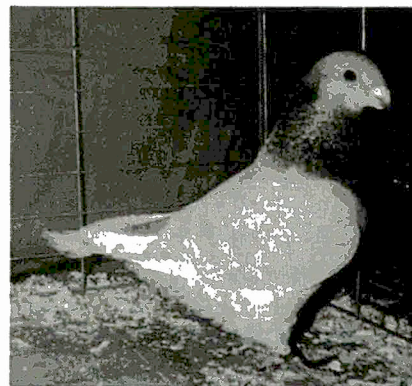
This was just the start of my exposure to American Giant Homers and as I look back on this saga, I well imagine I made a pest of myself on Dick McClung. I was always making the trip to his home and constantly bringing more Giants home, and adding to my ever growing flock of Giants.

I was so interested in Giants that Dick McClung asked my folks if I could take several pigeon trips with him, and once again I saw many more American Giant Homers. Several of these trips are still fresh in my mind, like they just occurred. I recall going to a man's home in Caddo Mills, Texas, do not re-

member his name, however he had many pens full of White American Giant Homers. We left after many hours and several new stock birds left with us.

It was about this time that I learned of another breeder of American Giant Homers in Tyler. This breeder was none other than Grover Scott. Once again I visited with Grover and he also added to my ever growing flock of Giants. Grover had what I consider about the Best loft for Giants that I have ever seen. Even today I would pattern a new loft like the one Grover had then. It was unique in that it was movable and Grover moved it on several occasions. Later on he sold this loft to another Giant breeder, J.F. Cooper, of Dallas, Texas.

I recall meeting J.F. Cooper, his wife and son, Gene Gooper, on another of the trips I was fortunate enough to take with Dick McClung. It was just like I had known them for years, was a member of the family and Giants were all over the backyard in pen after pen. I had a field day going from pen to pen opening and closing doors and seeing more good Giants in each and every pen. When it came time to leave I had all the boxes of Giants that Dick's car would hold and Mr. Cooper said, "No Charge, it makes me feel good to see someone so interested in Giants." On yet another trip to Grand Prairie, Texas, we visited a



GIANT HOMER

A very slick faded Giant Homer cock bred and owned by Maurice Durkee, Winnebago, Minn.

retired professional wrestler, Mr. Millikan and he had a few Giants. Then we went by and met Fred Langridge. At that time Fred had some of the better Giants and he and his wife, Peggy, made us welcome and we looked over pen after pen of Giants.

Well Dick McClung is no longer in Giants. Mr. Cooper has since left us and the hobby he loved, Fred is still breeding Giants and Grover is in Arkansas breeding those whites. I would have never imagined that a shop project in 1953 would have led to the continued Friendship, Fellowship and Enjoyment. I have received from the American Giant Homer. There is more but that is another story and will go into that in a different article. □

Some Summit

by H. VON BULLE, Mittler-Western, U.S.

It was Jim Baker's idea but Barbara applauded it and George said OK let's go for it. By-pass the UN completely, and have a whale of a big tea party for some 50 of the world's most influential heads of state. Where? At the White House, in the great reception hall and in the rose garden if weather would allow. When: Well, quietest period seemed to be September, not too hot and humid, and good lawn.

And so it came to pass, after much dither and preparation. George was adamant that not a word should leak to the media, and any reporters who smelled action were to be told that it was simply a discussion of the trade deficit mess, nothing exciting. Since a majority of the guests understood English, only a few interpreters and aides were included. So by 2 o'clock on a pleasant Saturday the great personages began arriving, not in the

usual limousines but inconspicuously by taxi. They were quickly ushered into the big hall where George greeted them — in T-shirt and slacks. All sorts of snacks from canapes to melon balls were arrayed on long gaily decorated tables, with unlimited iced tea and coffee. Alcoholic drinks verboten!

The atmosphere soon became relaxed, but Jim urged more mixing, so George announced that the rose garden was available and that everybody should introduce him- or herself to somebody else. This set off some merriment as introductions were so informal. Well, the rose garden provided something very different from shop talk, and the guests were soon dispersed here and there.

Suddenly a loud voice was heard above the hum: "Palomas!

(Continued On Next Page)



GIANT HOMER FANCIERS

Jud Appley (left) and Denby Williamson (right) at the Young Bird Futurity.

Palomas!" It was the President of Argentina and he was pointing to a small edifice in the far corner of the garden. Other guests converged to see what the excitement was about, and George was sought for comment. Margaret Thatcher found him and told him that they wanted to know what those palomas were in the long green shed back there.

The secret was soon out. George admitted that he is a pigeon fancier, and that he had had a loft set up soon after the inauguration to house his American Giant Homers. He was persuaded to bring out some of his favorite birds, and the guests crowded around to ooh and ah. Margaret said she was familiar with the Royal Racing Pigeons back at Windsor, but these American birds looked much bigger and broader. Herr Kohl of West Germany, announced that these were also different from his own pigeons, the Schautauben, but that both of the breeds were derived from Racing Pigeons. Mr. Mitterand commented that he too was a fancier, specializing in Lille Pouters. The King of Spain then told about his flock of Marcheneros — "Thief Pouters".

As George brought out one after another of his big pigeons, each different in color and pattern, they were passed from hand to hand and admired. More and more of the guests confessed to being pigeon fanciers, and even Gorbachev said he had white Tumblers — "Peace Doves". Bots of South African commented that he didn't object to black Carriers, but he didn't let them cross with his whites. The Italian Prime Minister said he keeps Sotto Banca pigeons, "Bellissimo" and wonderful to eat.

Well George was besieged with questions about his American Giant Homers. He said they were the most significant breed developed in the USA, and that the breeders know a lot about Genetics. When asked where more information could be got on the breed, he got Jim to run up to the Oval Office and bring down several books. A number of the guests said they were already owners of the books by Wendell Levi but several of the men had never heard of these American works, or of the American Pigeon Journal.

The afternoon waned fast, but pigeon talk continued vivacious. Hors d'oeuvres and ice cream were brought around on trays but barely touched. Finally George got all his birds back in their home, and as dusk settled the guests assembled in the great hall once more. Almost all agreed that it had been a delightful and really different party, and George

was invited to visit pigeon houses in at least 40 countries when he got a chance to go.

Only Jim was a bit let down by developments. Nobody had asked him about his Fantails. □

Some Helpful Guidelines On Color Matings

by TOM BARNHART, Lima, Ohio

The purpose of this article is to inform the breeder what to expect when he mates different colors together. As you read through the following table, keep these points in mind: (1) Bar x Bar yields only Barred offspring. (2) Bar x Check will yield only Checks, unless the Check parent has Barred ancestors. (3) Check x Check will give only Checks, unless both parents have Bars behind them, in which case an occasional Bar may appear. (4)

On extremely rare occasions a pair of Bars or Checks may produce a Red, Yellow or White, but only if these colors are somewhere in the ancestry of both parents. Unlikely.

Anything stated for a Barred color is also true for the corresponding Check. For example, anything true for a Mealy x Cream mating is also true for a Red Check x Yellow Check mating, except offspring will be Checks instead of Bars. □

COCK	HEN	OFFSPRING
Blue Bar	Silver Bar	All Blue if cock has no Silver in him. If cock carries Silver, will get both colors in both sexes.
Silver Bar	Blue Bar	Blue cocks, Silver hens (Sex-linked mating).
Mealy	Blue Bar	All Mealies (Red Bars) if cock carries no Blue. Otherwise both colors in both sexes. Could get Cream or Silver hens if cock carries either of these colors.
Blue Bar	Mealy	Mealy cocks, Blue hens (Mealy hens are sex-linked to all intense cocks). Could get Silver hens if cock carries Silver.
Mealy	Silver Bar	All Mealies if cock carries no Blue or Silver. If the cock carries blue, all Mealies and Blues in both sexes. If cock has Silver or Cream in him, can get Blue, Silver, Mealy or Cream of either sex.
Silver Bar	Mealy	Silver hens, Mealy cocks (Sex-linked mating).
Blue Bar	Cream Bar	If cock carries no Silver, Mealy cocks, Blue hens - no Creams. If cock carries Silver, Mealy or Cream cocks, Blue or Silver hens.
Cream Bar	Blue Bar	If cock carries no Blue or Silver, Cream hens or Mealy cocks. Otherwise, Cream or Silver hens, Blue or Mealy cocks.
Silver Bar	Cream Bar	Cream cocks, Silver hens (Sex-linked mated).
Cream Bar	Silver Bar	If cock carries no Blue or Silver, all Creams. Otherwise, both color sin both sexes.
Rec. Red	Rec. Yellow	All Reds if cock carries no Yellow. Otherwise both sexes in both colors.
Rec. Yellow	Rec. Red	Red cocks, Yellow hens (Sex-linked mating).
Black	Rec. Red, Yellow	Depends on what colors or patterns are masked by Red or Yellow. No Reds or Yellows unless Black carries it.
Rec. Red, Yellow	Black	(Same as above)
Rec. Red, Yellow	Any Bar Check	(Same as above)
Any Bar, Check	Rec. Red, Yellow	(Same as above)
White	Non-White	Depends on background of both birds.
Non-White	White	(Same as above)
Grizzle	Any Bar	Grizzles and Bars, both sexes.

Any Bar	Grizzle	(Same as above)
Grizzle	Any Check	Poorly patterned Grizzles may appear along with Checks. Bars and good Grizzles only if Checks has Bar in background.
Any Check	Grizzle	(Same as above)
Grizzle	Any Solid	Depends on background of both birds
Any Solid	Grizzle	(Same as above)
Brown	Blue	Blue cocks, Brown hens. If cock carries dilution, then Khaki hens also.
Blue	Brown	If cock carries Brown, then Browns in both sexes. If cock carries dilution (but not Brown), then Blue and Silver hens and Blue cocks. If cock carries both dilution and Brown, then Khaki hens as well. Otherwise only Blues in both sexes.
Brown	Silver	Blue cocks, Brown hens. If cock carries dilution, then Khaki hens and Silver cocks also.
Silver	Brown	Blue cocks, Silver hens. Possibility of Khaki hens and Brown cocks if cock carries Khaki.
Brown	Mealy	If cock carries dilution, then Khaki and Brown hens. Otherwise only Brown hens. Cocks Mealy exclusively.
Mealy	Brown	Mealies in both sexes. Possible Blue, Silver, Brown, Khaki and Cream hens and Brown or Blue cocks, if cock carries Brown and/or dilution. Otherwise Mealies exclusively.
Brown	Cream	Brown hens, Mealy cocks. If cock carries dilution, then also Khaki hens and Cream cocks.
Cream	Brown	Mealy cocks, Cream hens. Possible Blue cocks and Silver hens if cock carries Silver. Brown cocks and Brown and Khaki hens if cock carries Khaki.
Khaki	Khaki	Khakis exclusively
Khaki	Brown	Brown cocks, Khaki hens only.
Brown	Khaki	Browns only, unless cock carries dilution. Then Browns and Khakis in both sexes.
Brown	Brown	Browns only. Khaki hens if cock carries dilution.
Khaki	Blue	Blue cocks, Khaki hens.
Blue	Khaki	All Blues, unless cock carries Brown and/or dilution. If cock carries dilution, then Silver hens as well. If cock carries Brown and/or dilution, then Brown and/or Khakis possible in both sexes.
Khaki	Mealy	Mealy cocks, Khaki hens.
Mealy	Khaki	Mealies only, unless cock carries other sex-linked genes. If cock carries Blue, then Blues in both sexes possible. If cock carries dilution, then Silvers in both sexes possible. If cock carries Brown and/or dilution, then Brown and/or Khakis in both sexes are possible.
Khaki	Cream	Cream cocks, Khaki hens.
Cream	Khaki	All Creams, unless cock carries Silver or Khaki. Then Silvers and Khakis in both sexes possible.
Red	Brown/Khaki	Depends on background of cock; many possibilities.
Brown/Khaki	Red	Depends on background of hen. For Khaki cocks, dilute hens and intense cocks. All young hens will be Brown/Khaki if cock doesn't carry Red.
Yellow	Brown/Khaki	Young hens will be dilute colors and young cocks intense if hen is Brown. Only dilute colors (both sexes) if hen is Khaki.

(Continued On Next Page)

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NOTICE

Would the man cruising the N.Y.B.S. in Louisville, Ky., buying pigeons on Friday, October 20, 1989. You were with an elderly man, could have been your father. Last saw you in the Jacobins about 5:30. I'm the blond with the camera. I hope you remember? Please call me, I have the birds you were asking about. See my ad in the classifieds under "Various Breeds", Zip Code 30174.

COCK	HEN	OFFSPRING
Brown/Khaki	Yellow	Depends on background of Yellow.
White	Brown/Khaki	Determined by what color is "masked" by the White. Once this is known, simply follow previous examples.
Black/Dun	Khaki	Black is simply spread Blue, so for Black and/or Dun, simply follow above guidelines for Blue and Silver.
Khaki	Black/Dun	Same as above.

Broiled Squabs With Grapes & Zinfandel Sauce

Submitted by MR. & MRS. CLEOH SMITH

Reprinted from the Oklahoma Pigeon Assn. Newsletter

Two ¼ Pound Squabs
 1 Tablespoon Vegetable Oil
 2 Tablespoons Unsalted Butter
 ½ Cup Chopped Onion
 ¼ Cup Chopped Carrot
 ½ Cup Chopped Red Grapes
 ½ Teaspoon Crumbled Dried Thyme
 ½ Small Bay Leaf
 ½ Cup Zinfandel Or Other Dry, Fruity Red Wine
 ¾ Cup Chicken Stock Or 2 Teaspoons Unflavored Gelatin Combined With ¼ Cup Canned Chicken Broth
 8 Red Grapes, Halved & Seeded
 8 Green Seedless Grapes, Halved
 2 Teaspoons Dijon-styled Mustard
 Small Clusters Of Red & Green Grapes For Garnish

Cut and remove the backbones from the squabs and cut the backbones into several pieces. Flatten the squabs skin side up by breaking the wishbones and pressing down on the breastbones and reserve them, covered and chilled. In large saucepan saute the chopped backbones in the oil over moderately high heat, stirring, until they are browned on all sides, add 1 tablespoon of the butter, the onion, and the carrot, and cook the mixture, stirring, until the vegetables are browned lightly. Add the chopped red grapes, the thyme, the bay leaf, the Zinfandel and the stock, bring the mixture to a boil, skimming it, and simmer it for 45 minutes, or until the liquid is reduced to about ½ cup. Strain the stock through a fine sieve into a sauce pan, pressing hard on the solids, and discard the solids. The stock may be made 1 day in advance, kept covered and chilled and reheated.

Season the reserved squabs with salt and pepper and broil them skin side down on a lightly oiled rack under a preheated broiler about 4 inches from the heat for 4 minutes, turn them and broil them for 6 minutes more for medium-rare meat. Transfer the squabs to a heated plate and let them stand, covered loosely for 5 minutes.

In a skillet cook the halved red and green grapes in the remaining 1 tablespoon butter over moderate heat, stirring for 2 to 3 minutes, or until they are just softened, and stir in the stock and any juices from the squabs that have accumulated on the plate. Bring the mixture to a boil, cook it until the liquid is reduced to about ½ cup, and whisk in the mustard and salt and pepper to taste. Transfer the squabs to a heated platter, garnish them with the red and green grape clusters and serve them with the sauce. Serves 2.

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A Tribute To Earl Clark

by TOM PRITCHETT, Fairmont, Okla.

Today I lost a friend. My friend Earl Clark suffered a massive fatal heart attack. Earl leaves behind his loving wife, Jill, four children and three grandchildren.

Earl and Jill were a wonderful caring couple who enriched the lives of everyone who knew them. Some of my family's fondest memories are of the week we spent as guests of the Clarks. Earl and I spent a lot of time talking Fantails, the kids visited Disney World and Epcot Center, and I judged the annual meet of the Florida Fantail Club. The Clarks were perfect hosts; they saw to our every need and made us a part of their family for a week.

Earl was a simple man with a complex nature and a heart of purest gold. Some of his greatest joys were the simple things that most of us take for granted. Earl was the kind of man that when you shook his hand; you knew here was a man you could respect.

I first met Earl at the Pageant of Pigeons in 1968. I had just recently returned from my first tour of duty in Viet Nam and wanted to see the Pageant of Pigeons that I had read about for so many years. After a long bus ride from San Diego to Pomona I finally arrived at the show hall and made my way to the Fantail section. I was wearing my uniform and the first man to put out his hand to me was Earl Clark. Earl told me that he was retired Navy, and was glad to meet a sailor who liked Fantails. He introduced me to the Dean of Fantail breeders, Gerald Champ, and then to the other breeders present, many of whom have passed on. Names like, Lud Brown, Jess Racey, Bill Quinlan, Cy Harper and Gus Waldusky.

The team of Champ and Clark spent the day talking Fantails with me, and invited me to share their

motel room that night. That evening the entire Fantail colony went to dinner together, and later in the motel room; stayed up until all hours visiting and talking Fantails. What an education!

This was one of my fondest memories and it was all due to the kindness of Earl Clark and Gerald Champ. Little did I know that this meeting was the beginning of a friendship that would span more than 20 years.

Earl and I visited together many times before I left San Diego to return to Viet Nam. When I left the Navy to return to Oklahoma we corresponded regularly and the highlights were the major meets we could attend together. We shared motel rooms together and many meals talking fantails; both of us were dedicated to the continued improvement of the Champ Fantails. While we each bred our own birds; we shared the victories.

Being an especially generous man, Earl shared his stud of top Fantails with the world. Earl probably put more top quality Fantails in the hands of serious Fantail breeders throughout the world than any other Fantail breeder has raised. While some Fantail fanciers won't let good birds go, Earl was always ready to help anyone.

Possessing a wonderful sense of humor, Earl was always willing to share in any form entertainment or diversion to keep things on the humorous side. He always had a funny story, an anecdote or a situation that could be applied to enhance the moment.

I was always in awe of Earl. He was one of those rare individuals who was always successful at everything he undertook. First is Navy career and then as manager of the San Diego Fleet Navy Exchanges. One of my favorite stories was how he got his first managers job with the Navy Exchange. Earl proved to the World that he could handle any situation under any condition.

As a Fantail breeder, he was more than successful; he was a Master.

A devoted husband and family man, Earl loved his family and counted them his greatest blessing. Earl Clark was a man among men, and it gives me a sense of warmth and pride to look back on our friendship. Earl, we miss you. □

Book Notice

by WILLARD F. HOLLANDER, Ames, Iowa

"Doves and Dovecotes", by Peter and Jean Hansell, 1988. Millstream Books, 7 Orange Grove, Bath, England BA1 1LP. ISBN 0948975113. 248 pages, 8"x10"; hard cover. Richly illustrated, much color.

Here is a book pigeon people will be proud and happy to own or have in their club library. The title says "doves" but the birds involved are all pigeons.

We often forget how slowly our pigeon fancy developed. One of the early big steps was the encouragement of accessible wild flocks, for food and fertilizer production. This required especially safety from disturbance by predators. Thus evolved unique architecture — the peristeron of the ancient Greeks, the columbarium of the Romans, the "borgs" of the Egyptians, and similar towers elsewhere. We call them "cotes". Huge flocks thrived in these, and ravaged the fields. Eventually with the decline of feudalism and the changes in agriculture the thousands of cotes were no longer used, but many of these massive structures still stand. The Hansells are in the van of a movement to save and restore them — though not for the original purpose.

The book is the result of extensive research, but the main emphasis is on European cotes. Perhaps a future second volume can do justice to pigeon housing in the rest of the world? Meanwhile, here is a great book. — W.F. Hollander. □

A Heart Of Gold

by BILLIE KEMP, Bricktown, N.J.

I'm promoting the "Clown Around Pigeon Exchange" and the great man who runs it, Ernie Sorrentino.

I went to his setup of pigeons. Consisting of three of these and six of those, he'll feed 200 birds as long as they are healthy when they come in. I called looking for Jacobins. He said he had a trio, two hens and one cock. I went to look at the birds. They were young and in good health. I said, "What do you want for them?" Ernie said, "What did you bring?" I said, "Six old homers." He looked at my old car (like myself, an old man) and said, "We're even."

That's what you call a nice guy. I could not believe the kind of guy Ernie is. We need more pigeon exchanges like the Clown Around. God Bless You, Ernie, you're the greatest. □



GRAND CHAMPION FANTAIL
This White Fantail, YC #563, was Grand Champion at the Central Fantail Club's 5th District Meet, 1988.

Military Pioneers Gather In Milwaukee

by JEROME J. PRATT, Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Hosted by the Greater Milwaukee Center, veterans of the Pigeon Service of the U.S. Army Signal Corps held a reunion in concert with the American Racing Pigeon Union's Convention October 3-8, 1989. A count of the pigeoneers in attendance could not be determined because there was not a separate registration for the reunion participants. However, pigeoneers wore an identification ribbon attached to their name tags and I saw a lot of ribbons. I was told there were 650 conventioners at the Saturday evening banquet, but many more attended for part of the activities without registering.

The 209th and 282nd Signal Pigeon Companies were the best represented units. Former members of the other companies and the Fort Monmouth and Camp Crowder Pigeon Centers made a poor showing. An effort was made, but it was not possible to get the reunion information to all the survivors, considering it has been over 40 years since we took off in different directions. Many of the former pigeoneers have passed away and others no longer read "pigeon" papers. Getting the word out through other media wasn't very successful.

Some of the participants brought along photographs and memorabilia to display in the Taft Room of the Pfister Hotel, the convention headquarters. There was also an excellent military history of pigeons displayed in the main lobby of the convention floor. A period was set aside for pigeoneers to get together and talk with the press. A lot of "war stories" were swapped.

The highlight event took place on Saturday morning at the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center. A portrait and plaque to commemorate the great achievement of "G.I. Joe," a hero pigeon, was presented to the Director of the Center for permanent display. Since G.I. Joe was awarded the Dicken Medal for saving the lives of 1,000 British soldiers in Italy during World War II, the program included a message from Her Majesty, the Queen and Lieutenant Colonel Colin Osman from England was present.

President George Bush sent his greetings to the pigeoneers. The message concluded by saying: "Barbara joins me in offering our best wishes for a most memorable event and for every future success and happiness. God Bless you and God Bless America."

The dedication ceremony was car-

ried out with the highest degree of patriotism. The Cudworth Men's Choir (veterans group) rendered appropriate selections. To post the colors there were Honor Guards from the Collins-Meyer VFW Post 2903; Chapter 1 Viet Nam Veterans; Metropolitan of Non-Commissioned Officers Council; Marine League; and Rugge Bros. American Legion Post 6091. Thirty-seven white homing pigeons representing Wisconsin's 37 MIAs were released followed by a mass of multi-colored birds from the local racing lofts.

The master of ceremonies was a

local television anchorman and Viet Nam Veteran. After an opening prayer by a retired Navy Chaplain, four speakers were allowed five minutes each to cover historical and heroic events of the pigeoneers and their military pigeons. Those who failed to attend this reunion no doubt missed their last chance for reminiscence with comrades who shared an important part of their lives in the service of our country.

In this article I have not mentioned any names because so many were responsible for making this reunion a success. In fact every pigeoneer who travelled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the event made a contribution to this very important episode in America's military history. □



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 16, 1989

I am delighted to extend warm greetings to the former members of the United States Army Pigeon Signal Corps and the American Racing Pigeon Union on the occasion of your 40th reunion.

The freedom we cherish has been won at a great price, and all Americans owe a lasting debt of gratitude to the Army Pigeon Corps for the role it played in the European Theater during World War II. More than 50,000 pigeon messengers carried critical messages for our Armed Forces, ensuring the success of important missions and often saving lives. There are numerous accounts of American patrols -- deep in enemy territory and desperate for supplies and medicine -- that used your messengers and received aid within hours.

I salute you for your outstanding service to our Nation, and I join you in paying tribute to those missing from your ranks. They, like yourselves, will never be forgotten.

Barbara joins me in offering our best wishes for a most memorable event and for every future success and happiness. God bless you, and God bless America.

Wild Type

by FRANK MOSCA, Montclair, Calif.

Let's admit one thing straight off. Wild animals don't make the rules. We do. You don't find earthworms sitting around discussing tail lengths of starnosed moles. You may, however, find people doing that to see whether one population of starnosed moles (say the New England kind) can be separated from another population of moles (say the Florida kind). Why we might want to separate the two is immaterial but say we do. Let's say the Florida type taste better than the New England type because of tastier worms in Florida and we want to separate the two because we can get more money for the first than for the second.

Well, we've done sort of the same thing with the wild ancestor to our pigeons. The wild ancestor, the blue rock pigeon, is an animal with a wide natural range. It lives from Scotland to India, from the Mediterranean climate of Northern Africa to almost sub-arctic Eurasia. The blue rock pigeon is a bird with two black bars across its dove-gray wings. It has a black tail band which stops about a millimeter from the edge of the tail and each outside tail feather has a whitish edge to it. The bird has an iridescent neck feather that flashes green or purple depending on the angle of light reflecting from it. In short, it's what we domestic breeders call the blue bar bird.

In its huge natural range, the blue rock pigeon has different populations that look slightly different. In one area the birds have a white rump color, in another the rump is blue. In part of Africa the wild rock pigeon has the skin around its eyes red, in most of the rest of its range this skin is dark bluish-gray. So how can we tell what is wild type? Easy.

WE DEFINE IT! In biology, we have what we call type specimens. These are normal members of the population by which we define the rest of a population. These specimens are carefully kept in a museum and are available to people who have a need to check other parts of a population against the type specimen. In the case of the blue rock pigeon, the type specimens come from the western European end of the species range. These birds have white rumps, dark blue-gray eye cere skin, and are barred. By **DEFINITION**, these become the standard by which we judge all other blue rock pigeons. We could have chosen birds from the eastern end of the range with a different set of characteristics - say blue rump - and

declared that wild type but we didn't. It's exactly the same thing as driving. In the states, we have by definition said driving on the right side of the road is the correct thing to do; in Australia driving on the left is the correct thing. No matter which one we choose, we do choose and once having chosen we stay within our own rules.

Now, by using these western birds as our sample type we can discuss rationally any changes from this type. If the wild type is cleaned legged, then we can say the bird showing feathers on its feet is not wild type. If the wild type has black bars, then we can say that a bird showing bronze bars is not wild type. Please note, **everything** is referred back to the wild type as the standard.

Geneticists also use wild type as a standard. That way we have a handle to work with. We can then define what is a mutation (or genetic change) from wild type. It's the change we're interested in.

Each of the thousands of genes in a blue rock pigeon is given the same symbol, +. The little plus sign simply stands for wild-type. We don't know what it is perhaps at first but we know it's there, otherwise the bird wouldn't be. Again, it's the change that interests us.

Okay, let's check our wild type standard again, this time for eye color. We find that the wild type bird has a yellow eye partially covered with red blood vessels on the outer edge of the eye. This makes the eye appear orange. We check one of our domestic birds. We find this one has a white eye partially covered on the outer edge with blood vessels. This makes the eye appear pearl. This appearance of pearl is what concerns us. We mate the domestic bird to a wild type bird and see what the young look like. Then we take those young and mate them among themselves and back to their parents and find out what the young from those matings look like. When we've finished we have some data (numbers of those birds with the wild type and those with the pearl colored eye). Most of you already know that we've found the pearl colored eye is inherited in a recessive fashion. Now the guy who did all this stuff first was a Russian named Bessmertnaja. He gave the change, the mutation, the symbol of **tr** (I haven't the faintest idea why except that most likely those letter stand for pearl eye in Russian).

Alright, so what do we have now. We've got wild type eye which we symbolize + and we've got a genetic change from that condition that shows up as pearl eye which we symbolize **tr**. In like manner, **every** other wild type gene condition is symbolized by +. It's only a change from this condition that's given another symbol. Thus wild type foot color is symbolized +. If we find a change from that, perhaps yellow feet we may symbolize it **YF**. Similarly, wild type feather length, wild type feather color, wild type production of enzyme, etc., all have as their symbol +. Again, it's only a change from the wild type condition that gets another symbol.

As we find changes from wild type, we name them and then with luck we find out how they inherit as regards to the wild type condition. If they turn out to be dominant to that wild type condition then we show our symbol for that mutation with a capital letter. If the mutation turns out to be recessive to the wild type condition then we show the symbol for the mutation with a small (lower case) letter. Again note, everything is referred back to wild type as the standard. Any mutation is said to be either dominant or recessive to wild type. Wild type is a standard. It's our ruler by which everything is judged.

So even if you've never had a pearl eyed bird in your loft, by looking at the symbol for it you're able to tell certain things about this mutation. One, it begins with a small letter therefore if I breed one of my birds showing the wild type condition of yellow/red eye to a pearl eyed bird, I could expect all the young to be yellow/red eyed. Also, I know that by pairing those young together or back to their pearl eyed parent that I could raise as many pearl eyed birds as I want.

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Fantail Fantasies

by GARY BRONSON, Delta, Ohio

This time of the year always brings around those bouts of daydreaming of what it would be like to raise that perfect Fantail and see it parade across the show pen to the oohs and ahs of the assembled fanciers. Just a pipe-dream? Well, maybe, but as the saying goes, "What the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve." It then goes without saying, that if you have a fuzzy conception in your mind of what the ideal Fantails should look like, then all you will be producing for the most part are "blurred" replicas of that picture perfect specimen.

Let's try to clear up some of those images in your mind and let's start with the tail. You know that you want a large tail, but large in relationship to what? How about its shape, texture and ability to remain laced and looking good in your loft for more than an hour? The tail is sized in relationship to the size of the body of the bird. Obviously the same size tail on a smaller bodied bird is going to appear larger and more impressive than the same size on the bigger bodied bird. Also the shape of the tail has a great deal to do with turning a mediocre looking bird into a champion. What you need to picture is a dinner plate for correct concaveness. A scoopy tail really distracts from an otherwise good bird and there is only so much twisting and flattening that you can do when you lace a bird up to correct this problem. Then you need to focus your attention on getting the high centered tail. This type of tail from the back looks like the tail is taller than it is wide and this is the style of tail that really brings out that eye-catching top-tail that everyone is always talking about. These large tails are a combination of shape, feather length and rump placement. While a very low rump placement of the tail allows a deep head placement in the pocket, it also detracts from the top-tail and sometimes contributes to the breaking open of the wingline especially in the front view of the bird. Texture of the feather has to deal with feather hardness (the ability of the feather webbing to resist separating and losing its shape) and the actual length and width of the feathers. A tail filled with feathers of the proper hardness, length and width will remain good looking on the bird for weeks at a time. You know what I'm talking about. The type of bird that you lace up one day and then pick it up a week later and only with a minimum

of fussing, you could put the bird in a judging coop and it would look great! Don't you wish all the birds that you raised were like that?

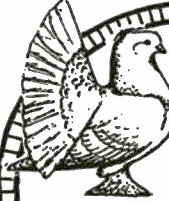
OK then, what's the next thing that catches your eye when you are looking at these birds? You know, general overall type consists of the tail, body shape and size, leg setting and length, wing placement and color. There are just so many points that have to blend together after we get away from the tail and start concentrating on the rest of the bird that it is hard to separate them out and get real clear mind pictures on them. This is where many potential breeders start to fail in their matings, having no clear-cut picture on what they want, other than to raise a "good one."

The ideal body is hard to describe in words because without the proper legs and wing set, an otherwise ideal body is thrown completely out of sync. Of course you want the body to be "small and round like a ball when viewed from any angle" but you also need the wings to be as small as possible and "knife edged" that melt into the body. Great wings are great, not because of what you see, but because of what you can't and don't see. Attached to this body are the legs and to get that classy looking fantail they need to be set well forward on the body and on the short side. Not so short as you have trouble seeing thighs on the bird, but you don't want them stilty either. The shorter legs allows for better looking underbelly but you don't want the legs so short or the underbelly so full as you can't see daylight under the bird when viewing it from the front.

After getting the tail and body components together, you still need to find a place to put the head. The head should "pocket" square in the center of the back without turning and fighting to remain stable and should remain there at all times. How deep should the pocket be? Well, picture the bird from the side. Find the midway point from the top of the chest to the floor. Now, divide the top half in half again and there you will have a very good depth for the head to be sitting.

I won't even attempt to describe what proper carriage and motion looks like, except to say incredible! There are just some things that you need to experience and see at the shows to truly appreciate. Of course, a trip to the shows is the best way to fix any of the features that I have

been trying to describe to you. Fantail fanciers are a friendly bunch and are always looking for new fanciers. In fact, pigeon fanciers on the whole are just darn nice people and any of the other breeds' fanciers are usually just as willing to help out the novice breeder. □



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Squab Producer's Forum

SYED A. BOKHARI
B.V.Sc., M.Sc., M.P.V.M.

The author, a poultry farm advisor with the University of California Cooperative Extension, invites your questions. He may be contacted at 733 County Center 3, Modesto, Calif. 95355. Telephone: 209-525-6654.

Pigeon-House Mortality

Only if you were keeping proper mortality records in your pigeon loft, inspection of those records would be sufficient to convince you that the loss of squabs by death often assume serious proportions. Increasing mortality means reduced profits.

A very natural question is why squab producers do not keep mortality records? A partial explanation may be found in the tendency for some squab producers to develop an indifferent attitude toward the matter of death loss.

To the beginner in squab farming, the loss of splendid squabbing pigeons let alone a squab amounts to a tragedy, but to the squab producers of more experience, the matter of picking up and disposing of dead squab or squabbing pigeon is likely to be looked upon as one of the chores. The magnitude of the loss is realized only when records are kept and summarized, or when an epidemic of some sort results in loss of a large number of squabs or squabbing pigeons within short time.

Another reason is that on many farms a part of mortality loss is avoided, and in a sense covered up, by the practice of culling. An expert squab producer soon learns to identify those squabs or squabbing pigeons in the flock which are out of condition and which, if left in the nest, are likely to swell the mortality figures. Disposing of such birds at an earliest opportunity is a great idea. However, by not including these figures into mortality records may give you a false sense of security in your low mortality figures when the facts are that many of the squabs culled would not have lived to the market age if left in the nest.

Mortality and culling not only cause a direct monetary loss amounting to the value of the squabs or squabbing pigeons which die, but they result in further indirect loss which may be even more costly in spite of being less apparent. Houses, equipment, labor sufficient to care for a flock of 2000 pairs of squabbing pigeons will be used with decreasing efficiency as the number of squabs produced per pair of squabbing

pigeons is reduced.

The best flocks are those which have a low death loss as well as a small number of nestlings or squabbing pigeons which are culled out as poor producers. Identify all flock records on the basis of the number of squabbing pigeons housed at the beginning of the production cycle.

For these reasons and many others, the increase in squab mortality is closely associated with the increased use of intensive methods of squab production, and with concentration of the pigeon population in particular areas. A solution of the problem becomes of vital importance to every squab producer and cannot be left to chance.

Prevention means that you inhibit the entry of a disease or disease-causing agent into your pigeon loft. Control means that you reduce a problem to a level at which it is economically and otherwise tolerable, or the confining of the problem to a designated area.

The best way of preventing a disease is by totally avoiding exposure to disease-causing agent which may not be the most practical or desirable. Squab producers tend to rely on "cleaning" the pigeons by medicating rather than cleaning the environment. Since there are more germs and parasites in the environment than in pigeons, there is little value in removing them from the pigeons without simultaneously combating them in the environment.

How can you prevent diseases in your pigeon loft? Your ability to produce disease-free squabs will require starting the production chain with disease-free primary breeders and thereafter insulating all populations from environmental contamination. Guarding your pigeons against all the diseases they can get calls for a thorough program of prevention. A single outbreak might cost you more in time and money than a sound prevention program. Incorporate the following fundamental factors of disease prevention and health care in your management program:

1. Frequent monitoring at all levels

of production to determine the disease status of the flock.

2. To prevent spread of infections in squabs, basic attention should be paid to the breeding flocks, environmental sanitation, clean feed and water supplies, and strict sanitation and isolation.

3. Keep unauthorized people out of the pigeon lofts.

4. Dead bird disposal by an appropriate way.

5. In disease outbreaks promptly obtain a reliable diagnosis. Then use the best treatment for control of that disease.

6. Avoid overcrowding your pens. Crowding increases fighting, feather picking, hysteria and other stress related problems. Crowding also reduce production and efficiency of the birds.

7. Provide a continuous supply of clean water for birds of all ages. Keep the water cool in summer by protecting it from the sun. Protect it from freezing in winter. Provide an adequate feed all the time.

Elimination of chronic carriers and sanitation of nests are the two most important factors in prevention and control of infections in pigeon loft.

Lofts that experience acute outbreaks of infectious diseases with high losses at a young age or those that are known to carry the chronic infections at any age, their squabs should not be saved for replacement breeding stock. Early disposal of such flocks is usually the most desirable thing to do. For prevention of the infections:

1. Obtain replacement breeding stock from a source known to be paratyphoid-free;

2. Keep your birds at all times in an environment where exposure is kept at minimum.

Cleanliness of the nests and consequently the hatching eggs and the nestlings is another important factor to consider in a sound infections control program.

Reduction in infection rates can be achieved through segregation of known carriers and infected flocks, strict attention to hygiene on farms, placement of clean replacement breeding stocks in clean houses, and close supervision of pelleting and handling of finished feed.

Pigeon loft sanitation is most important to prevention and control

(Continued On Next Page)

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of infections in pigeons. Many organisms survive in pigeon litter for a variable time after removal of the infected flock of birds. The complete depopulation of a squabbling pigeon facility followed by thorough clean-up and adequate disinfection is necessary to prevent disease contamination of the subsequent flocks. Practical procedures used successfully by many poultry breeder operations are outlined here.

1. Only flock believed to be free of infections should be used as sources of replacement breeding stock. If possible, all birds should be sold off after breeding cycle is over thus eliminating carriers. While the loft is

empty, it should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

2. Keep the nests dry and clean all the time. Replace nesting material frequently as needed. Maintain a high standard of sanitation in all operations.

3. Raise new broods of replacement stock in "all-in all-out" system. Add no new birds to the started brood. Do not permit contact with wild birds, mammals, rodents, reptiles. Control insect population.

4. Provide uncontaminated feed supplement. Pelleted feeds are more likely to be free of microbial contamination. □

Pigeon Problems

A veterinarian's advice on your pigeons' health problems.

by DR. DAVID MARX, D.V.M.
1809 Logan Dr., Norman, Okla. 73069

Paramyxovirus Infection of Pigeons

Question — Dear Dr. Marx: I have never vaccinated for PMV-1, but since the number of outbreaks seems to be increasing I think I should. I have a few questions regarding vaccination, perhaps you could help.

Answer — To answer your questions, I am submitting an article produced by the Association of Pigeon Veterinarians. Remember, mortalities associated with vaccination are the result of poor technique - stay **midline** and at the **base** of the neck.

The Disease: Paramyxovirus - Type 1 (called PMV-1) infection is a highly infectious disease of pigeons. During the past five years it has spread from the Northeast to most parts of the United States. It usually causes between 5% and 30% mortality but can kill close to 100% of a flock. On the other hand, many lofts go through the disease with little or no mortality. You birds are most severely infected and all youngsters may die before four weeks of age.

The Virus: PMV-1 virus is the same virus type that causes Newcastle Disease in chickens and turkeys. There are many strains of this virus, such as the B1 strain which is very mild, and used as a live virus vaccine for chickens. Other strains are highly pathogenic, and will cause close to 100% mortality. The mild B1 strain will protect chickens against the "hot" strains. However, for any live virus vaccine to work, the virus must replicate (grow) in the host animal. The chicken vaccine has been used in

pigeons, but does not replicate well enough in the pigeon to provide good protection against the pigeon disease. The immunity that it does provide is short lived, and unreliable, leaving the birds susceptible.

The Spread: PMV-1 was first diagnosed in the New York City area in 1984. It spread throughout the Northeast in 1985. During subsequent years, there have been serious outbreaks in many different areas. However, 1988 was by far the worse year with disease reports from most all areas of the country. In racing pigeons, the number of outbreaks always increases during the racing season. Most of the transmission (spread) takes place from bird to bird contact. When pigeons from many lofts are placed together on transport vehicles for racing, it provides an ideal opportunity for the virus to spread. The infected birds then return to their lofts and infect the other birds in their loft. Pigeon shows and auctions also provide bird to bird contact as well as bird to people to bird contact. The virus is shed in the feces of infected birds. Equipment and people's shoes can become contaminated with the droppings and spread the virus.

Incubation Period: This is the time between when infection takes place and when the first symptoms are seen. The incubation period for PMV-1 is usually between two and three weeks, but may be from one to four weeks. This is bad because infection may be present and spreading in a pigeon loft before the owner is aware of any problem. These birds

with the inapparent infection may be entered into races and cause further spread of the disease. Such birds have also been sold or shipped to other lofts for futurity races, not only infecting the receiving loft, but also starting a new foci of infection in a different area. PMV-1 virus also infects common street pigeons. Large die-offs have been reported. There is always the possibility of spread from street pigeons to domestic pigeons.

Prevention: Complete isolation is the surest way to prevent PMV-1. However, this is not practical in the pigeon fancy. The only alternative is routine vaccination. An inactivated or killed virus vaccine was developed in early 1985. Although this vaccine has proven to be very effective, it has to be individually injected into each bird. At first there were many horror stories about problems with injections, but most of these have proven to be false and most breeders have learned the proper injection technique.

The Vaccine: Avian Paramyxovirus Vaccine, Type 1 - Killed Virus is composed of dead virus suspended in an oil emulsion. It is fashioned after a killed Newcastle Disease Vaccine for chickens that has been successfully used for many years. However, it is produced with the PMV-1 virus that was isolated from pigeons. It is designed specifically for use in pigeons. It will take two to three weeks to obtain maximum immunity from the vaccine. The second dose of vaccine provides higher and longer lasting immunity. It is important to understand that vaccine is used to **prevent** disease, not to **cure** disease. The dead virus produces antibodies in the blood stream to prevent infection when the pigeon is exposed to the field virus.

Vaccination Program: It is important to establish a vaccination program that will immunize the birds before the time of the greatest risk of exposure. If a loft has not been vaccinated, it is recommended that all birds be vaccinated and then re-vaccinated six weeks later. Young birds may be vaccinated at four to six weeks of age, and revaccinated four to six weeks later. However, experience has shown that if young birds are vaccinated at six to ten weeks of age, the second vaccination can be delayed until December or just prior to the breeding season. Only those birds that are being kept through the winter will have to be revaccinated, whatever the program, all old birds should be vaccinated every year, prior to the breeding season.

Emergency Vaccination: If an outbreak of PMV-1 occurs in an unvac-

cinated flock, immediate vaccination has been beneficial in most cases. This depends on the degree of spread of infection. Fortunately, spread is generally quite slow, and if used immediately, the killed virus PMV-1 vaccine has time to develop enough immunity to prevent the serious consequences of the disease in most birds. It is also advisable to give vitamins and electrolytes in the drinking water. Antibiotics may also be helpful to prevent secondary infection, but should only be used for a few days.

The Future: The use of Avian Paramyxovirus Vaccine, Type 1 - Killed Virus in 1988 increased about

50% over 1987. This is a good sign. There will be a lot more vaccinated pigeons going into the old bird races in 1989. This should greatly reduce the spread of the disease. However, it must be understood that the 1989 youngsters in your loft are susceptible to PMV-1 infection. Even if the old birds are immune, when they are exposed to the PMV-1 virus, they can still carry the virus back to their loft and infect susceptible pigeons. The incidence of PMV-1 infection in the future is going to be inversely related to the percentage of vaccinated pigeons. — Submitted by the Association of Pigeon Veterinarians. □

Questions & Answers

by CLAIR HETLAND, Golden Valley, Minn.

Dear Clair:

What do you think of the new Micro Barrier Containers? To me they look like they will smother the pigeons.

Dear Fancier:

The first thing you have to believe is that there is no way you will smother the pigeon in these crates. Put that out of your mind. The purpose of the crates is to provide a micro barrier so that no germs escape, or get in for that matter. They allow all the air six pigeons need. So the last thing anyone needs to do is make holes in the crate. That ruins the whole plan. So don't make any holes. Believe me I have shipped 30 shipments of birds now and none have smothered.

Now in the 30 times I have shipped birds all has not gone 100% well. On one occasion the shipment was lost completely. But thanks to a pigeon fancier in the west coast they were found. The post office never did find out where they went. What happened is the label came off and some postal worker, rather than let the birds starve, tagged them onto a completely different shipment of birds. Thus the birds went to a pigeon fancier who saw the pedigrees and deduced they were my birds. A dozen phone calls and the birds found their destination. To this day the post office does not know what happened to them. They did refund the postage and price of the crate.

On one other occasion the crate was crushed. Birds were killed. This is still being questioned as to the birds value. We have received \$19.15 postage back. So we are still hoping

to get a few cents more for the crushed birds. Now what I am saying here is the mailing of pigeons via the post office is a wonderful convenience. But not foolproof. **Nothing** is. But if you have a \$1000.00 pigeon, or a project you have put your life into, my suggestion is to ship them by the airlines and insure them.

Or if you want to send 12 or 20 birds, don't try crowding them into a small crate to save money. Just pull their heads off if they aren't worth shipping.

And again follow the directions that come with the crate. Also you should put the express mail label on yourself. Use a little extra tape to make sure it stays. And to be safe put the address under the express mail label in case it comes off.

One other thing I have done to prevent the crushing is to replace the cardboard dividers with plywood dividers in the crate I use. I use the cardboard dividers as patterns for this purpose. This is to gain strength and does not violate the micro barrier ability to prevent germs from getting in or out. Either way, always use dividers. They make the crate much stronger and they prevent crowding.

Here's a late note on the one shipment that was smashed: I was pleasantly surprised to receive a full refund for the full value of the birds, the value of the crate and the postage. So when the post office smashes them they do pay. They did say that this would not be the case had I not followed the packaging requirements, i.e., MBC crate properly set up and not overcrowded. — Clair Hetland. □

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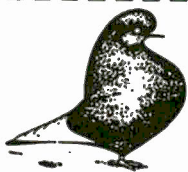
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The Long Island Domestic Flight Club

promoting the Domestic Show Flight

Angelo Cavallo, Secretary
68 Martin Road North
Bethpage, New York 11714



Long Island Domestic Flight Club

by JOHN IZZO
1400 Thompson Drive
Bay Shore, New York 11706

Here it is the end of September and all is well. The breeding season is over and the birds are separated and hopefully going through a good molt. We're all looking toward next month when the shows start. All the bragging and boasting will be put to the test when we enter our birds and they meet head on, face to face, in the show cage. This is where the wheat is separated from the chaff and when it's all over, the best pigeon will prevail. Naturally, we all hope that Champ is ours. We'll all find out soon enough.

We had another good meeting this month, and we are starting to get more and more participation from

our members. This shows we are definitely on the right track. We had our nomination of judges and it went quite well. What we did was to have our members nominate judges at this meeting, and we'll vote them in at our next meeting.

The Long Island Domestic Flight Club has decided to start a Master Breeder Program. This is not a new or unique program, the National Pigeon Association began its Master Breeder Program in 1930 and I would guess the American Pigeon Club probably started theirs around the same time. Today there are many, many clubs boasting a Master Breeder Program. This program is

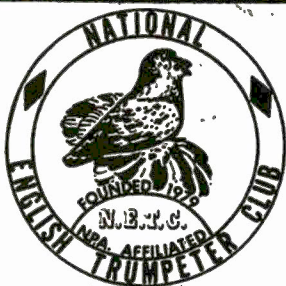
something that any good, solid, strong club should institute. Since we have some of the top breeders in the country in our club, so be it.

Did you hear about the L.I.D.F. sponsoring a Domestic Flight Special in the American Pigeon Journal? Well, it's true, July 1991 is ours. We've been tossing this idea around for several months and now it's a reality. To my surprise and great pleasure, the members were all for this idea. We have almost enough pages of advertisements pledged already and plenty of articles promised. Naturally, we'll be looking for articles and advertisements from any and all flight breeders and their clubs to support our Flight Special. After all, the name of the game is to support your breed.

What, more involvement! This is just great. Bill Cusak has just donated two large plaques which we will have made up for our Baby Show. These plaques are donated in memory of Bill's good friend and our fellow flight breeder, Lou Demeris. Although Louie is no longer with us, his memory will be with many of us forever. Back to involvement, here's Cusak looking to do something for the club and what better than a couple of beautiful plaques. It seems that this involvement, cooperation, input, this all out better attitude from our club members is catching. It's going from one member to the other like measles. Beautiful! I predict after this Baby Show it will spread even more. The "Coupe De Grace" of this Baby Show will be our Best in Show award. We have a personal friend, an artist, who is doing several oil paintings for us. Can you imagine a professionally done oil painting of your breed awarded to you when you win that Best in Show.

We had our barbecue and had a real good evening. The turn out was good, the food plentiful and the atmosphere was calm and pleasant. All the guys were talking pigeons while eating that fine barbecued food cooked by the best chef on Long Island, Steve LaSala. Steve had two barbecue pits going and had everything under control. The bull work for his barbecue was done by Tony Trincellito and Dave Mikes. They did all the running around for the food and drinks and set up the tables for us. Thanks to these three fellows we had a real nice time.

Our auction started up again this month and the turn out was fair; it seems to be a little too early yet. We didn't have too many pigeons, but we had quality. Some good pigeons went up on the auction block and sold for a fair price, and I'm sure



National English Trumpeter Club *Nehus*

by VIRGIL HINESLEY,
Publicity Director
Stratford, Oklahoma

Electrifying! Might best describe the 137 English Trumpeters judged by Wes Shores at the 1989 NYBS. The quality of the birds were up a step from last years young bird crop.

Whitey Parkins took a couple of steps forward in quality and won Reserve Champion and Best Black Splash with young hen #27. Also, he won the yellow splash class with a young hen #38.

John Heppner showed a few nice birds. However, the young red cock #487 had to be light years ahead of everything else in type. The bird was limping so, that is as far as it went.

Norm Geihl did his share of winning. Taking Best Opposite Sex for Norm was yellow young cock #2085. Also, Norm won a number of the color classes. He won Champion Black with young hen #2107, Champion Almond with a nice young cock #2061, Champion AOC Self with young hen #2052, Champion AOC Splash with young hen #2026 and Champion Baldmark with young hen #2029. Also, Norm sold most of the birds he showed. I'm sure the bunch of guys, especially those from

Canada, appreciate the birds.

Bill and Jamie Baker took a couple of color classes. Bill won the yellow color class with young hen #147. This hen was out of last year's yellow color class champion. Jamie won Champion Junior English Trumpeter of the show and Champion Blue Bar with young hen #689.

Stanley Wood won the Dun Splash class with young hen #318. Hopefully, more of these along with the dun selfs will be shown in the future.

Steve Combs had to be the proudest guy around winning Grand Champion and Champion White with young hen #114. Also, Steve won Champion Red Splash with young hen #115.

How about all five of the juniors that showed? It was great to see so many. Also, thanks should go to Jack Logan and Bill Baker for their donations to the raffle.

All in all I could of used another day of looking at the birds. However, it's over and we can look forward to 1990. Let us all pitch in and make 1990 the best ever for the entire pigeon hobby. □

there will be more in the months to follow. Atmosphere, pigeon talk, fellowship, excitement and most important of all, good pigeons for sale.

So don't forget, the last Wednesday of every month is the Long Island Domestic Flight Club's auction night. "Don't Miss It!" □



**NATIONAL BIRMINGHAM ROLLER CLUB
NEWS**

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

by VAUGHN J. SUHLING
Public Relations Director
RR 1, Box 107, Chapin, Ill. 62628
(217) 456-2218



By the time this article is seen in print, another NBRC Louisville Convention will be history. The club is growing by leaps and bounds. I can't help but believe that the three regional conventions will further boost the interest in the NBRC. We have a very strong club and I think its greatest strength is the great bunch of members we have. Nearly 800 people in one roller club is almost unbelievable, but having as many good solid members as we have staggers the mind.

By this time the moult of '89 should be nearly over, if not already a thing of the past. It is now time to turn our attention to the hawks, winter maintenance of the birds, and flying over snow for those of us in the snow belts. In the July-August NBRC bulletin, Mike Vito called for information on flying a kit over snow. After some thought I made a few notes, called a couple of top flyers here in the midwest and got their opinions and then compiled the following.

Anyone who has put very many kits out over snow has probably experienced what we here in central Illinois call a "white overfly". I, like many others, used to believe that these white overflies occurred because the birds could not distinguish their landmarks being that everything would appear white from above. Well, after losing birds with almost half of the snow melted off, and giving it further thought I have changed my thinking. I now believe that it is not so much that the birds can't distinguish their landmarks because of everything being white, but that they can't see anything at all because they are snowblinded. Usually in this part of the country a snow storm will be followed by two or three days of very strong winds. The first day we are able to fly after a significant snow fall is usually a bright, clear sunny day. Like Tony Dasaro commented, "flying over that situation would be like staring into a 30,000 watt light bulb". Needless to say, cloudy days would reduce the

chances of the birds becoming snowblinded. Also, if the birds are kept in a dark kit box the problem is compounded to say the least. Light kit boxes are a definite advantage when flying your birds over snow.

The drastic change in the landscape is sure to affect the birds also. Some birds seem to spook very easily whenever change occurs. Affording the birds with the chance to see the snow fall, and the ground turn white should help alleviate this problem to a certain degree. A window or the use of a sun porch should give the birds a chance to realize things are different outside.

Many fanciers have told me that a few birds just seem to drift away from the kit, never to be seen again. Perhaps they are so snowblinded at first that they can't even see their kit mates. Then too, maybe these birds have weaker vision than the rest and are more adversely affected than the others.

Here are some basic points most of us agree on concerning flying over snow.

1. Fly your birds over as much frost as possible. While not the same as snow, it will give the birds the opportunity to fly over changed terrain. Some heavy frost will turn the ground completely white and should give almost the same effect as snow.

2. Wait until the streets and roof tops are melted off before flying the birds over new snow. While you may get by with turning the birds out with the streets and roofs white a time or two, the kits days are numbered.

3. A brightly colored loft roof is a big help. A blaze orange stripe, cross or circle painted on the roof of your loft may not delight your wife or the neighbors, but it is a pretty good insurance policy for no more than the premium cost.

4. Watch the feed can very closely. Those days the kit doesn't fly leaves them with pent-up energy, if they decide to expend that energy all at once, you may be in for an overfly, snow or not.

5. Keep your eyes on the horizon. While the winter storm blew through and your pigeons were holding out for better weather, so were the songbirds. Ol' Mr. Coopers hawk will be very hungry. Hawks are the most active between sunrise and 10:00 a.m. and then again in mid-afternoon. If you have a hawk problem and a fresh snow, do yourself and the birds a favor and leave them locked up.

6. KEEP GOOD RECORDS on the weather, i.e., barometric pressure, time of release, sunny or cloudy, temperature, etc. If you fly birds hard in the winter, sooner or later the white overfly dragon will raise his ugly head. By keeping good records on the weather you may be able to figure out what went wrong. It's bad enough to loose a kit of birds, but if you learn something from it, Old Man Winter may not bite as hard next time.

7. If at all possible let the birds see the snow falling and turning the ground white. The more you can acclimate the birds to their changed surroundings before you release them, the better chance you have of getting them back.

The Paul Vaughn Invitational Kit Fly was held on August 12 and 13, 1989. This fly was basically a fly between the southern Indiana guys and the Lewisport/Owensboro, Kentucky flyers. Bob Bettis, myself, and our wives arrived in Indianapolis at 7:30 a.m., on Saturday to start the judging. The wives took off for Louisville to go shopping, Joe Marlett put some salt in the corners of Bob and my eyes to help us keep them open, the first kit was released, and the fly was on.

Some of the guys had a little trouble keeping the kits up and most were a little flat, but all things considered, (the heat, the moult, etc.) we saw some pretty good birds on the trip. Bob and I judged for quality spins only and disregarded "turns". While the scores were low, no one had a zero, which goes to show that all had at least a few good spins.

Carl Hardesty had the 1st place kit, with Jody Carden and Tony Dasaro following in the order. Joe Marlett and Greg Hagen were honorable mentions. While I won't detail every kit, I would like to mention one in particular. Larry Hubbard had one very good kit. They showed good style, frequency and flying strength. However, they just didn't have quite the zip they needed. You could tell they had it in them, they just wouldn't cut loose

(Continued On Next Page)

with it. I don't mention this to run down Larry, just the opposite. On any other day I'm sure this kit would have finished in the top three. The point I'm trying to make is: we can do all we can to get the kit ready, but in the end you still need a little luck.

All in all the men that flew in this fly can be proud of themselves and their birds. The overall quality I saw those two days was far above average. Some of the guys were flying young birds and some hold-overs, but I don't believe any of the kits were old birds. If they've got that good of young birds and hold-overs, I'd like to see their old birds fly.

As usual all of these fine fellows (and wives) were pure gentlemen (and ladies). The camaraderie and hospitality that abounds in that area is the best I've ever seen, anywhere!

The 1989 Paul Vaughn Invitational was a prelude to the 1990 Paul Vaughn Invitational, which will be a NBRC sanctioned fly. Plans now call for the 1990 P.V.I. to include a much larger area than this years fly. The 1990 contest is slated for late spring or early summer of 1990. Tony

Dasaro has been appointed as Fly Coordinator for the 1990 P.V.I. He will have further information as it becomes available.

I hope all of you had a good 89 breeding season and are enjoying a first rate kit by now. Good luck to all and remember: a good kit takes a long time to build. □

Metro Pigeon Club

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

The Metro Pigeon Club held its Annual Show Nov. 12, at the home of Mrs. Stanley Gentz. The address is 1112 First St., National City, Calif. This is our largest show of the year. Rose Gentz wants us to move elsewhere and no longer hold our shows there. It was certainly a blessing to have a special home all these years. This was a very nice show place that served the Metro Pigeon Club for 22 years. The Metro Pigeon Club was formed in December 1967. Stanley Gentz relieved Melvin Gross at the show, since Melvin then went to Humboldt College to become a veterinarian. We then commenced in January on third Saturday of each month. At that time there was several clubs in the area. The S.C. King Club met on Thursday nights at Roland's home in El Cajon. The

Racing Homer people met at Mason's feed storage in Lemon Grove, S.D. Co. Pigeon Assn., was moving around until Earl Clark gave us a home the first Sunday of each month. North Co., was holding shows second Sunday of the month in Poway. Several special breeders of West of Englands, Show Rollers, the English Trumpeters, Fantails, Modena and several others were all going at it pretty strong. Now there are very few left.

I am very thankful for all our successful shows during all these years. The many people we have met throughout the pigeon hobby. I have to thank God above for everything.

Calvin Perez, 427 K. Ave., National City, Calif. 92050, is the address where we will hold our December show. Calvin's address is about four blocks away as the crow flies. Naturally things are going to be a bit different. It's just something we have to get use to after all these years. I will do everything to keep the Metro Pigeon Club together. Several other places were suggested. This is the most handy place for me to haul everything like I do to operate the shows. Most of the places are 50 or more miles away. I don't have a truck either. My little Sportabout is not made to haul these kind of loads.

We had another nice show Sunday, October 8, 1989. Had a total of 105 pigeons entered. Flying Rollers are becoming very popular. There were 32 pigeons. Jaime Mendoza cleaned up by winning both the trophy and rosette. Harry Rogers won the trophy of all the miscellaneous breeds with an Oriental Frill. Don Klatt copped rosettes for both Fantails and Voorburg Croppers. Calvin Perez, Rod Davis and Richard Gentz were the judges.

Don Klatt took care of the raffle. There were four bags of feed and four bundles of paperback novels donated by Don. Gene Lund donated five Racing Homers. Carol Maloney donated four Doves. This turned out to be a pretty good raffle with all the proceeds going to the Cancer Fund contribution. The winners are as follows: Rose Gentz, one feed and novel, Antonio Ruiz, one feed and two novels, Carol Maloney, one feed and novel, Don Klatt, one feed. Tom Malone won the Doves. Jaime Men-



The English Trumpeter Club Of America

by DENNIS RUPP, Publicity Director
New London, Minn.

World English Trumpeter Club

This being one of the last articles I will be writing as publicity director of the ETCA, I would like to pen a few words about the National Modena Club and what the ETCA and the three other main Trumpeter clubs could gain from having one National Club versus four independent Trumpeter Clubs.

The National Modena Club did not become a "power" among the pigeon clubs because it was a small splinter group acting on its own or simply ignoring other Modena Clubs. One of the principles of the North Star Modena Club of Minnesota is to support the National Modena Club. The North Star Modena Club exists to support the National Modena Club.

Let us for one moment apply this principle to the English Trumpeter Clubs now in existence. First, we have all the Trumpeter breeders supporting one club. If this club changes the constitution or changes the standard all breeders will be under

the same umbrella. No waiting for the other clubs to pass a change, etc., for those members who join all four clubs for whatever their reasons, dues would be cut one fourth.

The advantages are many more which you as readers are very capable of comprehending without my listing.

Instead I will list several ways this club could be formed.

One, all four clubs could dissolve, so to speak and one new club could be formed.

Two, a new club could be formed. This club could be in addition to the four already existing clubs. This club would be the National Club. A possible name could be the World English Trumpeter Club; thereby encompassing all English Trumpeter breeders. The achievements of this club would only be limited by our lack of imagination.

I offer these ideas as food for thought in the hopes that in the not so distant future these ideas can become a reality. □

doza won two Racers, Rod Davis, one Racer, Steven Sieger, one Racer and Proceso Martinez, one racer. Another

fine show on a very beautiful Sunday afternoon. □

Southern Jacobin Club News

by PAT AVERY, Newalla, Okla.

The 1989 Southern Jacobin Club Annual Meet is to be held in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on December 9, 1989, at the Shawnee Expo. Center. The club members are looking forward to seeing all you Jacobin fanciers.

I would like to say a few words about the molt. In Oklahoma we have already had a few chilly days and it has really started most of the birds in my lofts into a heavy molting period and at this time I am getting ready to show. I have cleaned all my pens, taken out the sand and replaced it with cedar shavings, in good depth, are spread over the floor and old nests have been removed and cleaned and stored for the next breeding season. At this time of year I dip my birds on nice weekends and set them up in pens in the sun to dry. During the week nights I spray the hoods with cold water and put them in carrying cases until the next morning when I return them to their pens. A bird usually gets sprayed at least once during the week. I have

been using sodium fluoride in the dipping water on weekends but it looks like I will need to find a replacement for this treatment because I cannot find it anymore I also add a tablespoon of Ivory liquid to the water. Lice seems to be a problem this year I have been dusting often.

The weekly dipping also allows me to look over all my babies on the floor. I will find a good one I didn't know I had and this trains the birds for the test they will have to go through the show room.

I will close with a quote from the blue book. The Jacobin is a bird of many outstanding qualities and every Jacobin club has always been proud of the quality of the breeder included in its membership, so if you desire good fellowship along with your hobby, there is no breed of pigeons which offers more than the aristocrat of pigeondom. — Pat Avery, Avery Lofts, 18612 S.E. 134th St., Newalla, Oklahoma 74857. □

American Pouter & Cropper Club News

by RON SCHROEDER Sr., Milford, Ill.

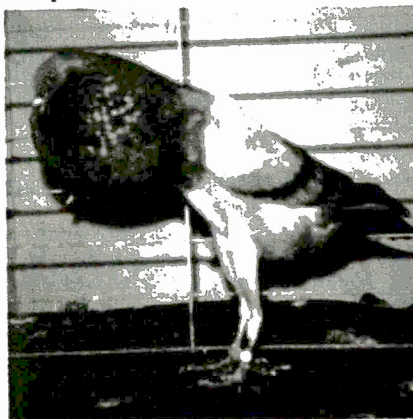
Now that our Milford Young Bird Show is behind us, we want to focus all our attention on our two shows coming up in November. The first show is our annual meet at Hammond, Indiana. This show is always one of the best Pouter shows around the country. This will take place on Saturday, November 18, 1989. It will be held at the Hammond National Guard Armory. The next show will be on Saturday, November 25, 1989. We will have a district meet in Saginaw, Michigan. The last time that the American Pouter and Cropper Club was in Michigan (two years ago), we had a great time. I hope to see all of you showing with us in November.

Don't forget December 10, we are holding another old and young Pouter and Cropper Show in the Milford Grade School gym. The National Trumpeter Club will again be with us in conjunction. We are expecting this to be a very nice show with a lot of good competition in the Pouters and Trumpeters. Hope to see everyone at this meet.

This month's spotlight is Ernie Thomas.

Ernie lives in Stockland, Illinois. He is married and has four sons. His wife is Jan. Their sons are: Joe, who is in the United States Marines,

Steve, Chip and Steven. His favorite breeds of pigeons are: Brunner, Reversewing, Norwich and Voorburg Shield. He has been in the pigeons for approximately ten years. Winning the Grand National in Hershey, Pa., was quite an honor for Ernie. His hobbies include sitting and talking about the pigeons, camping and doing some fishing. Ernie would like to see more Brunner breeders show their birds as he really likes the competition. □



CHAMPION POUTER

This Brunner Pouter was Champion at the Hershey, Pa., Grand National Show. — Bred and owned by Ernie Thomas, Stockland, Illinois.

Mondain Matters

by EARL GOLDING,

Waco, Texas

As this is being written, French Mondain breeders from around the country are wrapping up another breeding season and the stories, as usual, are varied. Some breeders report excellent seasons for numbers. Others report down years.

One common thread in most of the reports is that of promising young birds.

Hope springs eternal, they say, and this certainly includes our pigeon hobby.

From the big-winning major names of the hobby to newcomers, nearly all of us have one or two 1989 youngsters, or a dozen or so 1989 youngsters, which look very promising.

Time, and the upcoming fall shows, will tell.

This is being written at the end of August, and most of our breeders in Texas have broken up their pairs of birds.

There's been quite a bit of visiting during the year, and obviously many breeders have reason to be hopeful. Breeding programs have been strengthened in recent years. And the increased competition throughout the country has resulted in breeders working harder at properly managing their lofts.

There is very little luck involved in producing good show birds, and there's an old saying which certainly applies here. "The more I work at it, the luckier I get."

It has been stated in this space on

(Continued On Next Page)



FRENCH MONDAIN

Old Blue Cock, #NFM 1215, bred and owned by Les Heisserman. — Photo, from Les Heisserman, Mt. Holly, N.J.

other occasions that there's reason to believe health, care, and management can improve anybody's quality by as much as 50 percent. There's a message here, and if it is that to do well in this hobby, as is the case in nearly all endeavors, you have to work at it.

The breeder who takes care of business all year long, as best he can, can expect to be competitive. The breeder who neglects health, care, and management for most of the year can't expect to do well in the shows ... even if he gets excited about it in August or September, and tries to salvage the program the rest of the season.

There's been a lot happening in the Mondain hobby this year, and here are some reports from around the states, plus Canada, Hawaii and South Africa.

Midwest Mondains

I had a call from Bill Koenig, who lives in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and he has had a good year. Bill said his first young hatched on March 27, and he banded 42 for the year. "And only two of those are culls ... or likely will be culls."

He raised from 10 pairs, and 17 of those youngsters came from birds he had purchased from Marvin Koenig prior to the breeding season. The two, by the way, are not related.

"I have some interesting birds," Bill said, appraising his 1989 crop.

He also said, "I'm already working on next year's matings."

Bill Koenig is still a comparative newcomer in French Mondains. He's raised show rollers for quite a while. He says he's noticed some differences. He finds he needs to leave Mondains with their parents a few

days longer than is the case with rollers; and he says he's learned that with Mondains, birds might not develop strong heads until after the second moult.

In other news from the Midwest, Art Kehl, one of the hobby's big names for years, is still raising Mondains. Terry Walls and his son Terry, Jr., who is 11, are now in Mondains. They're from Colon, Michigan. Bob Sexter, of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, is back in Mondains after an absence of several years. He's breeding from birds he obtained from Jack Leach.

Louisiana Mondains

I have had occasion to talk to veteran breeder Nerry Comeaux, Lafayette, Louisiana, twice recently and he's still going strong. Nerry, as most any veteran Mondain breeder knows, has been one of our breed's constants for decades. He has made his mark in breeding, showing, promoting and judging Mondains for many years. He has been breeding French Mondains since 1940. For years, he usually worked with 24 pairs a year but now raises from 12. He and his wife celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary not long ago, and they're still dancing to Dixie land and jazz music. At 78, Nerry isn't even thinking about retiring. He's been working for the same company in Lafayette for 42 years. He shipped the first French Mondains into Canada, sending birds to Gaston Marsan.

He started raising Giant Homers a couple of years before he added Mondains, and he's still active in both breeds. He's been in demand as a judge for both breeds, plus Runts and Texas Pioneers, for many years and is looking forward to judging a major show on the West Coast in November.

He is a long-time member of the Louisiana French Mondain Club, which held its annual young bird show July 2. It drew an entry of 46 birds and Floyd Menard won with Young AOC Hen 3300. L.J. Segura had reserve with black hen 2360. Lewis Hebert had the next four places in the parade of champions.

Mondains in Canada

I also had a phone call from Jonas Kardos, of Alberta, Canada, inquiring about Mondains. Jonas said he has been a flying pigeon man for 25 or 30 years "and I would like to try the big birds. I have two Mondain cock birds now, and I need two hens." He asked if Mondains could be purchased at the Grand National Show, which will be hosted by the Utah Pigeon Club and held in Salt Lake City Jan. 11-13. He plans to attend the show. I told him chances

are he will be able to find what he wants at this show. There's usually quite a bit of buying at any major show. □

Tumbler Talk

by ROBERT H. SMITH,
Manchester, Calif.

Aug. 8 - Phone call to Charlie Piehler — Had a very good year in both Mealy and Cream CL with 25 keepers and he is very happy with his results. Said that Roland Teed, Fred Drumm and Jim Bush also have had good breeding seasons.

The Pac. Tumbler Club's Young Bird Show was held Sunday, Aug. 13 at Pomona, so perhaps we will get a little more information on who is doing well in So. California.

Aug. 5 - Letter from Ron Des Lauriers and after a terrible start, Ron has finished up with a very good season. Over 30 banded and good prospects in Red YC, Yellow YC and his best ever Yellow YHs. Ron also said he had recently visited with Don Zimmerman and saw several YG white selfs, also several Baldheads which looked very good. Ron has been working on breeding Black Selfs for several seasons and feels that he has progressed to the point that several may be showable this year at the Reading, Pa., NCTS.

Aug. 13 - James Kimball and his wife Bonnie stopped by. They live North of Phoenix, AZ., and James breeds various colors of Self and Barred CLs including Brown Self and Bar, Mealy Bar, Black Self and White Self.

Aug. 15 - Visit from Dr. Eldon Zicker who spent half a day with us. Eldon has been breeding Tumblers for many years and has been a friend for all those years. His profession, as a Professor and Dean of the Agriculture Dept., at a California State College, has required extensive worldwide travel over the years, mostly during the height of the breeding season. You can imagine how difficult it would be to breed Tumblers under those circumstances. In any event Eldon is retiring in May of 1990 and plans to spend significantly more time with Tumblers. I'm trying to convince him to take up Mealy Bar CLs, it's good for a person.

Aug. 27 - Visit from Don Zimmerman and his daughter, Sharon. They could only spend one night with us but we enjoyed looking over the birds and just talking. Don said he planned to go to the Louisville YB



Mr. and Mrs. Nerry Comeaux celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in Lafayette, Louisiana, in January. Nerry has been breeding French Mondains since 1940. — Photo from Nerry Comeaux, Lafayette, La.

Show, also the NCTS in Reading, Pa.

Sept. 1 - Call to Roland Teed — Has had a very good year both barred and blacks. A Cream YH plus a Mealy youngster are first class, plus four or five Blacks also very good. The Teeds and the Drums are going to England and Germany the first two weeks in Dec., and both will judge tumblers at Doncaster and the National Show in Germany. Roland said that Fred Drumm has a superior Black YH this year. She was best Tumbler at the recent PTC YB Show.

Sept. 2 - Jim Bush called to discuss proposed standard changes. He has finished breeding and has some good youngsters in Reds and Yellows, also a Black he likes. Said he plans to attend both the ETC YB Show and the Louisville YB Show.

Sept. 1 - Welcome letter from Archie Taylor, Secretary of the Long Faced Clean Legged Tumbler Club, founded 1809 in England. Archie lives in Birmingham, not too far from Les Williams, and breeds Black Self, Red and Yellow Self CLs. He has had a good year in all three colors and is looking forward to their Annual Show in Doncaster early in December. Mr. Taylor, together with Mr. Williams, has been most supportive with our endeavor to make some changes in the Standard of Perfection and I have mailed him the various draft copies to keep their Club informed. Speaking of the Standard revision, your Committee has been working over the Fourth Draft ever since the NCTS in Oklahoma City, and we have just finished with our deliberations. Several changes were made and several new faults were added as a result of collective efforts. Probably the one most important decision made was to retain the line through the beak to pass through the eye cere at the bottom of the eye, rather than to adopt a lower set beak. The Final Draft proposal will be typed soon and will be presented to the Club at the NCTS in Reading, Pa., Jan. 13-14, 1990, hopefully for adoption at the annual meeting.

Sept. 15 - Vancouver Island, B.C., Canada. Spent the day visiting Adrian Walker and looking over his loft full of Red, Yellow and Black Self CLs plus his Mealy/Cream Bar CLs. Adrian and his wife, Debby, live in Sooke, B.C., a small town about 25 miles west of Victoria, the Capital city of B.C. They have a very nice home overlooking the Straits of Juan De Fuca, right across from the Olympic peninsula. He got his birds mostly from Al Cooley about 1985-86, and has some very nice looking birds. I was particularly impressed with his Barred CLs. The

Creams were especially nice, both cocks and hens and there must have been 16-18 pair. Not quite so many Mealies but several very good ones. In the Self CLs he is still working on all the colors and has shown progress the past three years. He hopes to attend and show at the L.A. Pageant in November and we will look forward to seeing him at the show.

Sept. 17 - Seattle, WA. — Spent all afternoon and evening with my longtime friend, Harry Hudgins. Harry has been breeding good Tumblers for as long as I can remember and this time it was no different. He had some excellent Barred CLs, also a few Black Self CLs. One of the Black hens was a very powerful bird. Another outstanding lot were three Mealy or Ash Red Cocks, all with great beaks. Harry insisted that I take home one of the Ash cocks, the Black hen plus a YG Ash Red hen also with a very short, stout beak. He didn't have to twist my arm at all and I'll be happy to be back breeding Blacks again in 1990.

Sept. 16 - Vancouver, B.C. Spent most of the day with Al Cooley and looking over his birds. Al has a beautiful place, about 30 miles out of Vancouver, with plenty of room for his two horses and some 300 plus pigeons. Al had another big year with the C.L. Tumblers, banding over 110 youngsters. This season about 80 percent were Black Selves with the balance being Red, Yellow and White Selves. I looked at so many birds, I got sort of blinded, but saw some excellent birds. If you can imagine, I walked into the Black cock loft and there must have been over 60 birds, young and old. In addition there was the very young bird loft then the almost mature YB loft. Al also breeds Komorners and banded 200 youngsters. He has them in Black, Red, Yellow and Dun and they were a beautiful sight to see. He plans to attend and show at the Pageant again this year and has done very well in his two previous visits. □

Carneau Gleanings

by VICTOR STOLL

Finger, Tenn.

Here we go into the beautiful autumn time. It is the very best time for weather and temperature.

We are busy cooking down sorghum juice into a beautiful texture called molasses. It is of excellent quality this year and a very short supply due to a very wet season.

Last fall we cooked off a record breaking 8314 gallons of the sticky syrup but this fall we estimate only a 3000 gallon crop.

I suppose for the most part the Carneau breeders have closed the door on another breeding season. I still have a few pair raising young and back on eggs, but for you breeders that are going to the shows in the last of Oct., you no doubt are getting your birds in top notch condition at this time.

Received a letter from Margaret Williamson (our Secretary) and also one from Steve Cook. Steve is thinking about selling out all his beautiful Carneau. Somehow I have a feeling when 1990 rolls around, Steve will again be breeding those beautiful Carneau for another year. He wrote that he is thinking about showing at the National in Salt Lake City in January.

I hope the Carneau breeders from the West Coast and Texas as well as other parts of the country all get to the National to display those beautiful birds called Carneau and make this a record turnout.

Several weeks ago we caught skunk #4 after he had made a raid on



RED CARNEAU

This Red Carneau Cock, #133-87, is a great cock and a grandson of National Champion Red Cock #449-76, which was owned by the late W.E. Jackson. — Bred and owned by Victor Stoll, Finger, Tenn.

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a young pen but just killed one Runt pigeon.

A coopers hawk has been coming in and catching Steves (my son) Roller pigeons. We hope to surprise him one of these days as the 12 gauge shot gun is loaded and waiting.

The flock of Rollers are flying loose and nest in the large barn. They increase at a rapid pace so that it becomes necessary to have a pigeon catching night several times a year. Last Saturday night the boys caught 120 of the small roller pigeons.

Our President Don Scalf sent me some photos of the winners at the National last year but I have somehow misplaced them and can't find them at this time.

The two photos of Red Carneau Cock 133-87 are excellent and really portray what the Carneau should look like. Notice the beautiful station and large head and neck.

If you want to join the American Carneau Association, look for display ad elsewhere in this issue. — Victor Stoll, Rt. 1, Box 664, Finger, Tenn. 38334. □

Hungarian Giant House Pigeon Newsletter

by TONY BRANCATO,
Santa Maria, Calif.

Dear Fancier,

In the last couple of newsletters, I discussed in general terms this elegant breed. In this newsletter I will attempt to tell you how to breed this giant pigeon.

Before we go on however, let me state that although, as the name implies (giant) this breed of pigeon is not exactly huge. They look entirely larger than they really are. The standard states weigh between (in English measurement) two and two and a half pounds being average. Although it is entirely possible to have somewhat smaller birds and some larger. The most important thing is not just size but balance. I'll have more on that subject at a later date.

Getting back to breeding. My experience has been this breed likes to nest low, of course there are exceptions, but for the most part, because of their size, floor nesting seems to be preferred.

Our experience has been to provide large dishpans, weighted with half a brick and filled nearly two

thirds with pine needles makes an excellent nest. Muffs must be trimmed and for new parents (pairs under two years old) I use either egg shells (white) or dummy eggs. I place the shells or dummy egg next to the newly hatched chicks.

The parents seem to be very careful when there is a shell or dummy egg next to the newly hatched chicks.

If the shells are removed by the hen I replace them. The birds seem to be more careful with where they place their feet when shells or dummy eggs are in with the newly hatched chicks.

It has been our experience that if the stepping on young babies occurs it happens within the very first three days and usually the first couple of hours after hatching. Once the babies are four days old, I remove the dummy egg or shells. White chicken shells broken into half inch pieces or two works quite well.

Our birds feed their own, seldom do we allow for foster parents and then only one young H.G.H.P. per pair as they are hearty eaters and some breeds just cannot feed them enough.

I sometimes have to supplement what the foster parents are feeding the young H.G.H.P. I use a squeeze bottle, with pigeon pellets, vitamins and water, made into a liquid mush that is easy to squeeze into the crop.

Once the young leave the nest, I voluntarily check each young bird to make sure it is either being fed by its parents or has learned to eat on its own. If its crop is empty, I get the squeeze bottle and fill it again. No young bird should go without food all night.

In our next newsletter, I'll tell you how we prepare our young birds for adulthood.

Best Wishes, Tony, 653 Glen Cairon Dr., Santa Maria, Calif. 93455. □

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King Trivia

by JUNE TRONE,
American King Club
Publicity Director
Meredosia, Ill.

Sept. 30 - This is the time of year when the breeders are fast deciding which birds they want to enter in the Fall Shows. It's rather an exciting time of year to see what your labor has produced.

The Bay Area King Club, Calif., had a Young Bird Show last Sunday with Egon Thiel, Az., being the judge. His wife, Margaret, usually goes to the shows with him, but she fell and injured her teeth and was still hurting pretty bad. We do hope she gets well in a hurry.

Jack Butler, Calif., called me and told me who won at the Bay Area King Club. I can't find my paper right now, but it seems like the DeLillo's won the show plus several other first too. Many THANKS, Jack, for all the information you send my way. Also, THANKS to LuCinda for all of her information too. We are really happy for LuCinda as she had a long seize of problems resulting from the car accident she had in May and in Sept., she was finally able to get her big long leg cast off. Jack said he never saw anyone like her, she was supposed to use a walker and crutches for a while, but she started right off walking on her own, real guts! That must be from having a positive attitude about things. Anyway, they are on a trip from Calif., via Honolulu, Hong Kong, Singapore and then Bangkok with an ocean cruiser, the "Ocean Pearl". It sounds like a fun trip, all but the 11 hours on a plane from Honolulu to Hong Kong. It takes us nine just to go from Chicago or St. Louis to Hawaii, too long!!

We had our Midwest King Club Picnic at our pond on Sept. 10, it was a beautiful day for it too. Many THANKS goes to Eileen Blanchette, Wauneta Marlette and Jeannie Schneider for working so hard, it was all very much appreciated. The only thing, I had 20 lbs. of chicken legs to cook up the next day as some were in a hurry to go to other meetings and didn't think the chicken would get done in time for them to eat and be at the meeting.

Mike Messick, Colo., called me and said that he and Marilee will again be at our AKC 2nd Dist., Show on Nov. 11 and 12 at New Berlin, Ill., they came last year just to visit and buy birds and now this year they will get to show off their results. I do hope they have some winners, as

American Pigeon Journal

that is a long way to travel to a show by car. It is a nice vacation, you get to see other people that you have read about through the years in the Bulletins and APJ.

Bob Dunlap, Ohio, called to say that they wouldn't be at the picnic as they were having one there for the Central Helmet Club, but since he is the 6th Dist. Dir., he would change it next year so they can come here too. Ours has been the same date for many a year, I don't know for sure just how long, but more than 20 years that I know of. Our Nov. show will be the second weekend of Nov., from now on unless we change it to another town, as so many other clubs and etc., are having their annual things at their regular times each year.

We should have the most beautiful judging area in the Kings this year as Bob Gabriel has gone to a lot of work to get it all done. He had the cages shipped to his house so he could organize a work day for everyone near by to come help build the bottoms, but he was so anxious to see what it would look like, that he ended up building and painting them all by his little self and they are beautiful. He got green turf to put in the bottom of the cages and gold material for the backing. The birds should be standing at attention in the new cages.

We got a nice letter from Ethel Adams, Pa., she and Bob are driving to our show on Nov. 11 and 12. He has some good birds as usual, she said that had so much rain this year that the fruit and veggies didn't grow as good as usual. It's too bad that we couldn't trade them for a little rain, maybe one day we will be able to. Ethel broke her ankle and chipped the other one, so she has had a bad year (that happened in April), so I assume she is fine now. I broke my toe next to my little one in July and it is still bothering me, so I do know how things can happen and feel. I wasn't trying to kick Lloyd at the time, either.

I got a nice long letter from Daniel Cunningham, Iowa, he raises colors and sent money for Best Dilute, Best Recessive Red, and Best Recessive Yellow, plus money to help cover some of the cage expenses. That is so very nice of him to do. Unfortunately, I just got his letter yesterday, and had just sent out the show entries before it came, so I will post it at the show hall, I'm sure that will help make a few more people extra happy.

We got a nice letter from Mrs. Richard Kemm, he died in 82, she is still sub-teaching and traveling around the U.S. with her cousin's wife. She seems to be feeling better.

I am lucky to get some extra nice letters from Lenore Spais, Wisc., at least several times a month, with refunding forms. It's fun to exchange things through the mail. It all takes time and most of us have more time than money.

We got a nice letter from Frank Kircher, Ill., they live near New Berlin, so I do hope they will take a few minutes to come over to see what we got. I'm sure they would be pleasantly surprised. They used to go to dog shows.

The Heart of Illinois Pigeon Club had their All Age Breed Show at Peoria, Ill., at the Fairgrounds on Oct. 15. The King judge was Mike Giacometti, Ill.

On Nov. 4, the Jacksonville Area Pigeon Club will have their show at the Nichols Park Pavilion, Jacksonville, Ill. The King judge will be Howard Ferguson, Ill. The All Breed judge will be Jerry Thies, Mo. There will also be a combined Central Roller Club and the Western Ill., Flying Roller Club showing with us and having their own Judge, Paul Vaughn.

I do hope the following people had wonderful Birthdays in Sept. - Frank Kircher, Laverne Richards, Ed Miller, LuCinda Butler, Mary Felsing, Roland Blanchette, Daniel Spencer. On Sept. 24, Joyce Haferman's had their 53rd Wedding Anniversary. On Sept. 25th, Bill and Wilma Doebling would have celebrated their 52nd Wedding Anniversary. She died last year. We hope that Bill will take time to come to our shows again.

Al Thompson called the other day to have me to reserve a room for them at the Blackhawk, they are extra sweet people. He is still busy selling his silos to the farmers and she still works at the grocery store. She loves to keep busy, she helps whenever she can and no complaints.

Wendell Conger, Ill., is an All Breed judge and judges all over, they seem to like his judging at St. Louis a lot as he seems to be booked up there a lot. □

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New York Combine News



by PETER P. FRATANGELO,
300 East 3rd
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218

Man of the Month The Thorntons

In this case this should read Men of the Month because of the partnership of the Thornton's, Father Bob, his son John and John's cousin Tom, all breeding the beautiful Domestic Flight. This all started with Bob when he started flying birds on the rooftops on the West Side of Manhattan, following in the footsteps of his father John and uncles Bill and Tom. He came from a neighborhood where pigeons were a hobby with most of the guys he grew up with. There were 3/4 coops on almost all the city blocks, when flying flights were a way of life. He became interested in the Domestic Show Flights in the early forties. At the time he joined his first club. He already had a good idea of what to look for when purchasing Domestic Flights. He just started showing birds as a member of the Westside Highfliers in the late forties and early fifties. In 1956, Bob moved to New Jersey and soon after joined the Bergen County Flight Association. At that time he had some outstanding Black Plainheads in both teagers and solids during the early sixties. Then in 1969 after building a new coop many of his blacks were wiped out because of a break-out of Paratyphoid. This is when Bob started to breed barred birds, because he lost

(Continued On Next Page)



Bob Thornton



John Thornton



Tom Thornton



WINNING DOMESTIC FLIGHT
This Blue Bar Cap Domestic Flight placed 1st in Class at the New York Combine's 1988 Fall Show. — Bred by the partnership of the Thorntons.

most of the birds. The original bar strain was developed by crossing an Al Berry Silver Dun English Long-face Baldhead, with a Blue Checker Flight down from the Black birds. He worked on his barred birds until they became finished show birds in the mid to late 1970's with the help of Al Rawson and Lenny Mintz birds. After being out of the show scene from 1967 to 1977, he then joined the New York Domestic Flight Combine in 1978.

John started with pigeons at the age of nine years old. He had Homers and Tipleys as a boy. He just caught the Flight bug when a Black Teager Plainhead of Dad's, won Best of Class in a 1963 show. From that time on he has gone from coop cleaner to full partner and in 1984, John joined the New York Domestic Flight Combine. In the early 1980's the original strain ran into low fertility problems so outcrosses were made to Ed Quinn and Pete O'Patovsky birds obtained through Sam Inzano.

The partnership starts to grow in 1986. Tom Thornton, first cousin of Bob, built a coop and started with Domestic Flights given to him from Bob and John. Tom also started with Homers and Tipleys when he was a boy around nine years of age. He joined the New York Domestic Flight Combine and became an official member of the partnership in 1987. Because of Tom having room in his coop they started once again with Black birds. His first year he was lucky enough to raise two Black Plainheads which placed 1st and 2nd in the Baby and Fall Shows of 1988. Also he raised an outstanding Silver Dun Cap which took first in all three shows and Blue Cap (see pictures).

Father Bob and son John have their coop together which is 8'x10'x8' with the screen being 8'x9'x8'. They also have an extra coop for hens only which is 4'x6'x8'. They keep ten pairs of Bar birds and two pairs of Black Caps. They also have a few pairs of pumpers to help with the breeding. Cousin Tom has a coop 12'x30'x7' with three sections in it and each section has a screen. At his coop he keeps 25 pairs, mostly Bar birds with a few pairs of each of Red, Yellow and Black birds. Tom also has ten pair of Rollers for pumpers. They said that their best raised bird to date has been the Blue Cap they raised last year at Cousin Tom's coop.

Let's go back about two years and see some of the achievements the Thorntons accomplished. In 1988 they finished 2nd to Breeder of the Year when they accumulated 35 points and in 1987 they finished 3rd



WINNING DOMESTIC FLIGHT
This Silver Dun Cap Domestic Flight placed 1st in Class at the 1988 Baby Show of the New York Combine. — Bred by the partnership of the Thorntons.

with 33 points. They have placed one or more bar birds in each class of the three yearly shows for both 1988 and 1987 in both caps and plainheads. In 1988 Baby and Futurity Shows with their barred caps, they placed them 1st, 2nd and 3rd in both shows. In 1987 they did the same thing, 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Baby Show and in the Futurity Show they placed 1st through 4th. This partnership is well on their way to becoming Master Breeders in the years ahead.

To become a Master Breeder you need at least one Best in Show as a young bird and total of 100 points or more. They also said that it is almost impossible to do it with a baby bird, that's why they are breeding Red and Yellows hoping that one year in the near future they can win a Best in Show. Their success has led to Tom's brothers John, Chris and Joe to renew their interest in pigeons (former Homer Racers). It looks like the partnership will still grow. □

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AMERICAN RACING PIGEON NEWS
34 E. Franklin St. Bellbrook, Ohio 45305



There have been a number of fanciers who have asked me to write about the Mookee and I'll honor their request but before doing so I should point out that I did write about the breed a few years ago. While I'll try to avoid repeating myself word for word (that would be the easy way out) I would like to review some of the key information.

There are, according to the Mookee standard of perfection, three varieties of Mookees. The marked Mookees have the typical solid body coloration with the head marking being white (the white marking is cut from the mouth passing even with the eye cere to the top of the peak crest; Note: the crest itself isn't white) and the two outer flight feathers should be white. The spot Mookee is identical to the marked variety except that the flight feathers are the same color as body. The third recognized Mookee variety are the selfs which are of course of a solid color. Of the three varieties the marked birds are the most commonly found in America and they offer the greater challenge to Mookee breeders because of the degree of difficulty involved in producing the correct marking features.

Karl Koch of the San Diego Zoological Gardens introduced the breed into America in 1941 and while these birds were not the first Mookees to arrive in this country (Levi 1965) they are most probably the ancestors of the Mookees that can be found here today. These Mookees came from Calcutta, India, where they are thought to have been originated. Historically speaking the Mookee was first recorded in English literature by Willughby in 1667 and he referred to them as Narrow Tail Shaking Pigeons. Willughby along with other early pigeon investigators including both Moore and Brent believed that these Narrow Tail Shaking Pigeons was the result of crossing the Broad Tail Shaking Pigeons (Fantails) with some other type of pigeon. In 1887 the English writer J.C. Lyell who had spent some years in India correctly theorized that the Broad Tail Shaking Pigeons was

descended from the Narrow Tail Shaking Pigeons that he identified as Mookees. Earlier English writers made no mention of the Mookee but it's very possible that they did reside in Great Britain prior to Lyell's writings as he reports that the Mookee had been imported into that country on different occasions. Other writers including Wright (1901) reported that the Mookee had become somewhat fairly established in England, yet in the late 1960's only a small flock of them could be found in Chomeley. The Chomeley birds, assisted by imports from both the United States and South Africa, soon helped the Mookee gain a more established foothold in Great Britain. As for reports from other European countries, it's found that Mookees (called of course Narrow Tail Shaking Pigeons) were known to French fanciers as early as 1883 (DeRoo) and in Germany in 1884 (Prutz).

For those of you wishing to get started in this breed you'll have no trouble in locating decent breeding stock. These pigeons are fairly tame, they have no trouble what so ever in caring for their young and when you couple these assets with their appearance they'll make a welcome addition to your loft.

It's nearly time for many of us to begin our count down to the annual NYBS that is held in Louisville. This year the RBPC meet will be judged by Stephen Ripper and yours truly. Steve will be handling the color pigeon category and I'll be grading all the other entries. In past years the competition has been hot and heavy because most of our exhibitors have come to realize that a "win" at our young bird show in Kentucky be it Best of Breed or the ultimate title of Champion Rare Entry is truly a feather in their caps. □

Shortface Gleanings

by WARREN MAURER
Franklin Square, N.Y.

Had quite a few phone calls this month and will start with Wil Valentine of Pennsylvania who said he pulled out this breeding season smelling like a rose. If you recall from one of the previous articles, Wil suffered quite a loss with many of his birds succumbing to a strange virus. Well, he wound up with 39 youngsters of both Ancients and Reinaugens. Excellent! Then Bill Mackey of California called, he also had a good season with about 36

bred including Ancients, Reinaugens, English SF, Viennas and Gansels. As usual we spoke for a good half hour on birds in general, Bill is in no hurry to hang up. John Matlack of New Hyde Park, N.Y., gave a buzz to tell of 25 Helmets he has raised and is anxiously awaiting the moult to see if there are any gems he missed. My friend John Ferrara was suddenly hospitalized by a severe throat infection and am happy to say it is clearing up. John raises Short Beakers and was able to come up with a few.

John Lister of Flushing, N.Y., had a good season with the Ancients and is ready for the coming show season. Good luck John. Dave Fhagen of Medford, N.Y., called and said he has raised some Viennas, Helmets, and was concentrating on his Buda-pests for the remainder of the breeding season. Michael Seiler of Bloomfield, N.J., has had a tremendous season with his Viennas and Short Beakers, it was just one of those years where everything just went well. Congratulations. Had a few letters this month and the first is from John Van Der Walt of South Africa. He writes he has won three of the four places in the Championship Show held annually in the RSA and gives credit to the bloodlines he obtained from me a few years ago. That is always nice to hear. This year he is going with six pair of English SF and six youngsters from 1988. And a letter from Richard Strain of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, asking about the "Miracle Pigeon Milk" I obtained from one of my friends in Germany. Well, I never got the chance to use it as the occasion never arose and I must admit I'm not very proficient with the syringe, so I couldn't help him. Dick says that for squabs ten days and older, Purina HiPro dog pellets (27% Protein-10% Fat) are far superior to pigeon pellets. Then from the top man in Ancients, Gunter Dahlem of Germany, a lovely letter telling about his three weeks in Greece, Italy and Bavaria. But the best he said was when he returned, his birds were in excellent shape without a loss.

Call or write Warren Maurer, 966 Oaks Drive, Franklin Square, N.Y., 11010 or call 516-352-6230. Thank You. □

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Obituaries

PAUL T. KRUSCHKE

On July 2, 1989, I lost an old and dear friend. Had he lived one more day he would have been 65.

Paul and I first became acquainted in the late 30's. He saw my name in the late Harry Stone's Pigeon Banding Society membership list as a racing pigeon fancier (Harry was one of the founders of the National Pigeon Association). He wrote to see if I had any Sions for sale. I didn't have; but, upon finding we were about the same age (I was the younger by two years) we began corresponding on a regular basis.

Then came WW II and Paul went into the Navy. Before leaving he wrote and asked if I would care for his birds while he was gone. It took a little doing, for jobs for kids were practically non-existent, except for lawnmowing at 10 cents per hour, but at last my folks decided that that would be their contribution to the war effort.

My greetings from the President arrived in late 1944; however, a hearing problem kept me out of the service. I, therefore, had Paul's birds throughout the entire war.

Just prior to his discharge (he had served on the Bullhead until just before its fatal last voyage) he wrote and said "he had been without pigeons so long that he had lost interest and that I could keep them. I immediately fired a letter back telling him "I hadn't taken care of his birds all these years just to hear that and the least he could do was take them home with him and then he could do with them as he

pleased". To make a long story short, pigeon fever hit again and he had pigeons the rest of his life.

Over the years we visited one another many times. I was there to take pictures shortly after his first son was born.

In 1954, I decided that my present family of racers needed to be replaced so I acquired a grand group of Fabrys from Art Rochol of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Dan Picaro of Colonia, New Jersey. My "Picaro's" were mostly imports from Fabry.

In 1955, I sent Paul a team of Fabrys and he often told me they were the best birds he ever had - and they did fly. Many 500 and 600 mile winners came out of these birds and I know he had at least one 700 mile winner!

Paul was always interested in showing and won many firsts in flown and non-flown classes.

In 1961 he was given a silver male, splashed black, by a friend who had just had him kicked out of a show for being too good looking. This male, 60-197, paired to a Fabry hen that I sent him produced many champions on the road and in the pen. I also received several out of him and even had him in my loft in 1963 or 64. My Admiral family came from this line, a line that is represented in our lofts today.

In 1988 Paul and his wife Dorothy spent several days here in Indianapolis. We traveled all over the City and one of our trips took us to Union Station where Paul and I first met. He was stationed at Great Lakes and was able to get down several times before being transferred. At that time, May, 1988, Paul told me that they had found a spot on his colon and they were going to check it again when he got home. Later he wrote to say he had pain in his leg and that the doctors were not sure what was wrong.

We met again at the National Young Bird Show in October, 1988. At that time he was in great pain and was having trouble eating. We spent much time together and as usual traded birds. Paul had disposed of his racers several years before and now had only show type racers. He had fallen in love with my yellow or creams when he was here in May so I gave him a Red Checker cock carrying the yellow factor, and his daughter, a yellow bar. I also gave him instructions on how to pair them to get yellow cocks and explaining what he could expect from other matings. He was quite disgusted to think he couldn't just pair them any which way and get yellows. He must have taken my advice though, for a friend reported that he had at least

one yellow young bird.

The last letter I had from Paul was in May telling me his youngest daughter was getting married. He fell and broke his hip just before the wedding but still made it to the ceremony. Upon returning from my retirement vacation I tried to call Paul and received no answer. That night a friend from Minneapolis called to say that he had taken a turn for the worse. Since I was leaving again, this time to go to Ames, Iowa, and fearing the worse, I left word with a mutual friend as to where I would be staying. My only change from that plan occurred on Sunday, the day he died. We decided to stay at a motel in Galesburg, Illinois, after seeing two bad accidents.

We arrived home about 3:30 p.m. Monday. Paul's wife caught us then. Paul had retired at 62. He had had many operations over the years, and had lost his mother to cancer. He was afraid this might be his fate too. Retiring early allowed him to spend more time with his family, friends and most important with the little people, his grandchildren. He also spent more time with his birds. Paul told me when he was here in May, 1988, that retiring was one of the best decisions he had ever made. I think so too dear friend. — Submitted by Robert G. Essex, Indianapolis, Ind.

EDWIN BERNNIKING

Our good friend and honorary member of the Snohomish County Pigeon Fanciers, Edwin Bernniking, 81, passed away August 22, 1989, in Superior, Montana.

Ed was midway through a second term as Mayor of Superior, Montana and was previously Road Commissioner of Mineral County Montana.

He had National Champion M.F. Helmets and was very well recognized for Rollers and Chinese Owls.

He raised many breeds of pigeon and canaries over the years and judged many pigeon shows.

Due to his health reasons, he sold his pigeons but continued raising and showing canaries and cockatiels. He had some of the best canaries in the Northwest.

Ed enjoyed meeting people, having them visit his home and lofts.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Ruth, family members and friends. — Submitted by Betty Sutherland, Everett, Washington, S.C.P.F.



PAUL T. KRUSCHKE
1924-1989

GARNETT LAMARR PETTERSEN

Better Known As Pigeon Pete

The Pigeon Fancy lost a true friend on May 23, 1989. Pete, as the fancy knew him and Pigeon Pete, as the public knew him, passed away after a long ordeal.

Pete was many things. In his life he had a very successful catering business. Later in life, he became a salesman, collector and pigeon fancier.

Pete was what we refer to as a pigeon jockey. I refer to Pigeon Jockeys as the backbone of the fancy. They, as Pete did, started many new people in the hobby of pigeons. They give help to the new fanciers by providing birds and information on how to care for them. For this work he will be missed by the fancy.

Peter was one of the founders of the Pigeon Fanciers of America (PFA). He was also editor of the Pigeon Gazette magazine. He was the one who introduced the plastic coated bands to the US fanciers back in 1975.

Pigeon Pete was most of all a good family man and strong member of his church.

Peter was a friend of mine and I miss his visits.

Pete is survived by his wife, Florette Jane; sons, Howard and Greg of Elk River, Brian of Ramsey; daughters, Lynn Pettersen of Blaine, Lori Pettersen of Ramsey and Cynthia Pettersen of Coon Rapids; brothers, John of Arora, Oregon, Allen of Mpls., Paul of South Dakota and Lee of Renville, MN; sisters, Gerda Haugen of Alexandria, MN, Marie Lutz of Golden Valley and Ruby Christenson of Mpls.; grandchildren, Suzanne, Brandy, Amanda, Cody, Jonathan, Michael, Brandon, Daniel Petersen and Brian Richard Peterson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Lincoln and Jerome; sisters, Lenora Torerson, Margaret Colberg, Phyllis Hildebrand and great granddaughter, Ashley Pettersen. — Submitted by Clair Hetland, Golden Valley, Minn. □

STANLEY C. GENTZ

Stanley Christopher Gentz Jr., 61, died Sept. 16, at an area hospital. Born Dec. 13, 1927, in Texas, he lived in the County 39 years and was a resident of National City, California.

He retired from the Marine Corps as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Depot, serving from 1945-69. He worked at San Diego Zoo as lead birdkeeper.

He was President of the National

City Metro Pigeon Club for 22 years. He was a member of the National Pigeon Assn., S.C. King Club and other clubs. He was a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church and past President of Holy Name Society for the Church.

Survivors include his wife Rose; sons, Stanley Christopher II of Dickinson, Texas and Richard Louis of Ramona, Calif.; daughter, Donna Mary Wallis of San Diego, Calif., and three grandchildren.

Eastern Jacobin Club News

by DONALD O'Connor, Pub. Dir., Copake Falls, N.Y.

The E.A.O.C. had its Baby Show on October 8 with 35 Africans shown. It was a small entry but bigger than last year. We had five exhibitors: V. Rooney, Ed Steinman, Owen Pabon, Joe Weider, Frank Garcia and myself. The judging was done by Artie (Riggs) Ritigliano, who has judged for the first time. He has had Africans for a long time and developed a good eye for a Champion. It was hard for Artie as most of the young were in a moult and no where finished at all.

He was nervous for a while but calmed down after a few minutes of handling the birds. Artie went over the young very carefully and pointed out faults as he took a bird out. Besides moulting some of the young were not groomed as they should be; like beaks were not filed down enough, also a few no frills, a few had pin holes in their feathers from lice, grain in their nostrils, stains around the beak from medication, etc. Artie pointed out all of these things and proves we are not taking care of our Owls as we should be. I hope to have better groomed birds at the open show November 11 and 12, 1989.

Well, Artie, thank you as you did one hell of a good job. We decided to only judge the young as cocks and hens not by color class as there wasn't enough of any color to be judged separately.

Young Hens

1. #182, Dun Pied, Ed Steinman.
2. #1715, White, Frank Garcia.
3. #1714, Blk Pied, Frank Garcia.

Young Cocks

1. #211, Blk Pied, Ed Steinman.
2. #301, Blk Pied, V. Rooney.
3. #1746, Blk Pied, Frank Garcia.

Best of Show

1. #211, Blk Pied, Ed Steinman.
2. #182, Dun Pied, Ed Steinman.
3. #1715, White, Frank Garcia.

Congratulations to all the winners. Also congratulations to the Nassau Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club for their fine job setting everything up

Contributions may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society.

Mass was held Sept. 20 at 9 a.m. at the church, with burial at Holy Cross Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Berge-Roberts Mortuary.

The U.S. Marine Corps served as pallbearers. A 21 gun salute and taps were given for Mr. Gentz. — Submitted by Elmer F.T. Uhrich, National City, Calif. □

and making it run smooth. Thanks N.S.P.F.C. The N.S.P.F.C. will hold its open show November 11 and 12 and the E.A.O.C. will be there to show with them. Hope to have some big entries in all breeds at that show. I will keep everyone posted on the results of the E.A.O.C. soon after the show.

Looking forward to hearing from some new African breeders in the future.

Feel free to write anytime: Tony Lomuto, 2023 83rd Street, Brooklyn, New York 11214.

Till next month, good luck to all fanciers at show time. □



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Iowa State Pigeon Assn. News

by HOWARD HART

The Iowa State Pigeon Association is on the move! A membership of 120 members indicates a healthy growth over previous years. Much of this is credited to having monthly meetings of which many have been potlucks or at eating establishments which have included family members. Getting the spouses and children involved, not only for fellowship, has been a big asset at our shows too.

On October 8, we staged our first Young Bird Show at Perry, Iowa, with a very nice show of 450 birds which were entered by 65 exhibitors from Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Missouri and Iowa.

Now we are busy planning and executing plans for our BIG ANNUAL SHOW which will be held at the Veterans Auditorium in Des Moines on Saturday, December 2. Friday, December 1, is for set up and receiving birds. Everyone is invited to participate, and we guarantee you'll have lots of friendly com-

petition as we have 16 specialty clubs showing with us. They are:

English Trumpeter Club of America, National English Carrier Club, Western Pouter and Cropper Club, Giant Runt Club of America, Northland Modena Club, National Chinese Owl Club, Rare Breeds Club, Mid-America Fantail Club, American Komorner Club, Des Moines Invitational Flying Homer Club, Iowa Roller Club, Flying Roller Club, Upper Midwest Tumbler Club, American King Club, American Helmet Association, National Oriental Frill, Turbit, and Owl Family.

We also will have awards for open classes.

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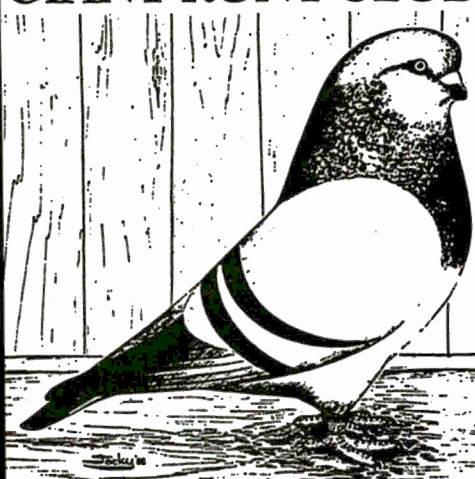
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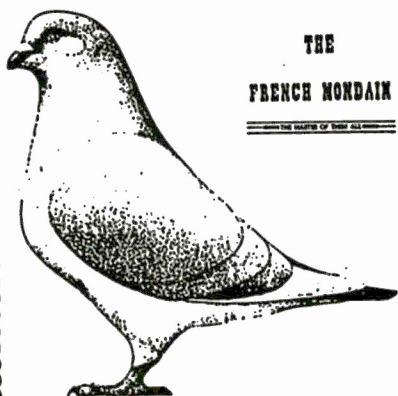
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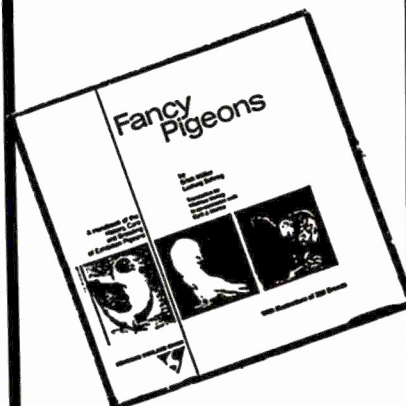
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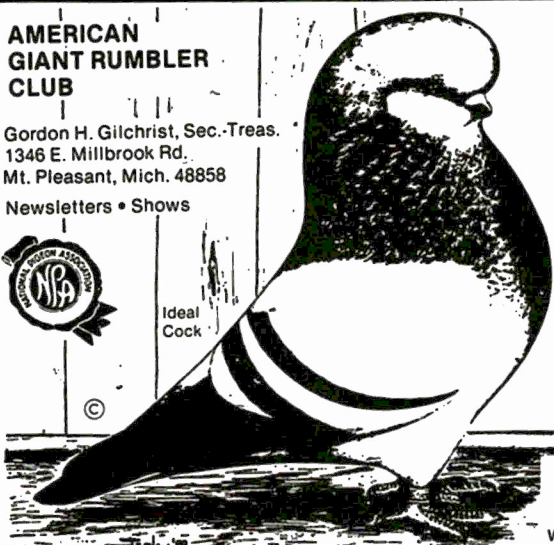
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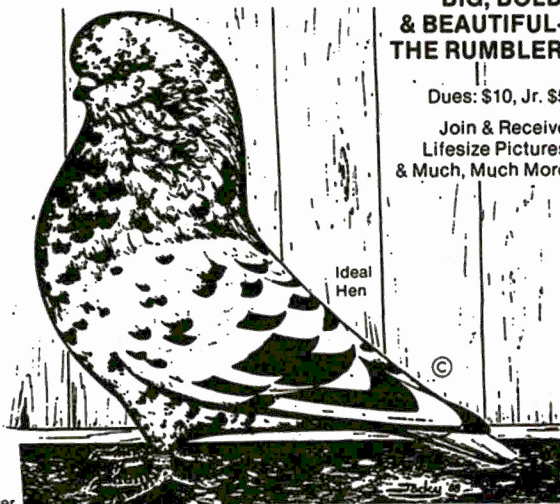
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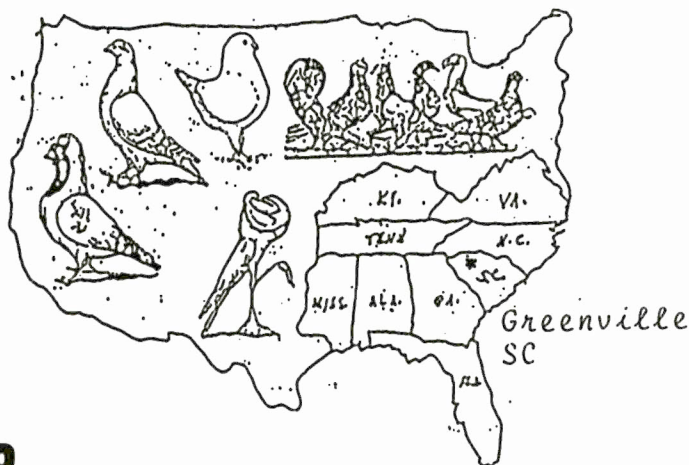
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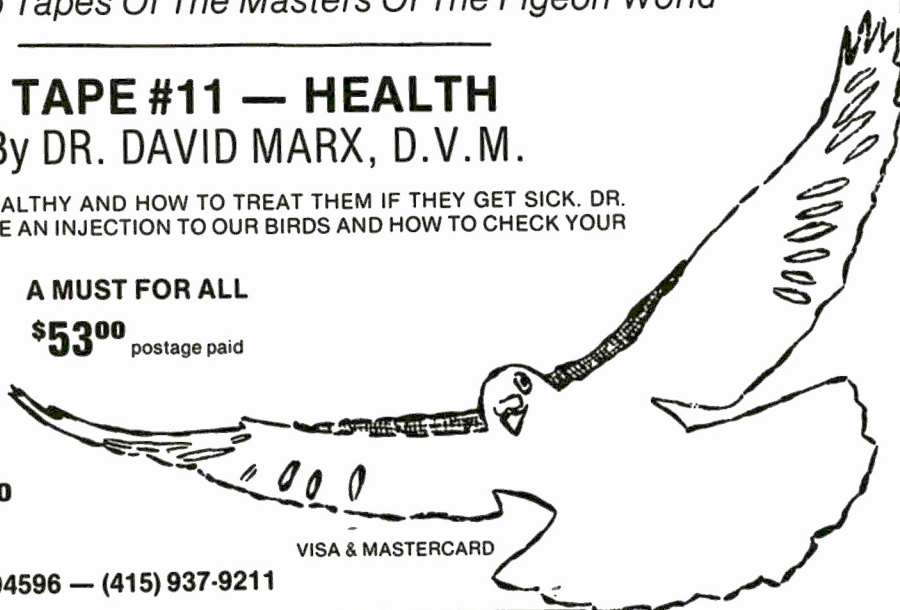
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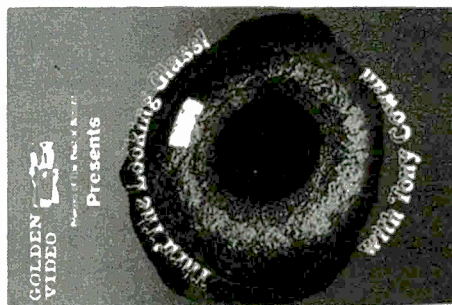
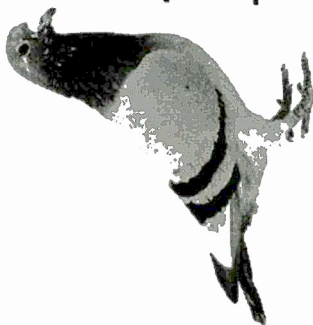
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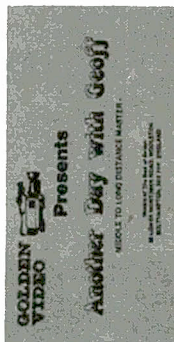
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Pigeon Show Calendar

Dec. 1-2 — English Trumpeter Club of America Annual Show in conjunction with Iowa State Pigeon Assn., Des Moines, Iowa, Veteran's Memorial Auditorium. Contact: Orin DuChien, 1323 W. River St., Monticello, Minn. 55362.

Dec. 1-2 — 7th District Show, American King Club, Judge: Joe Nethercot, Des Moines, Iowa, Vets Auditorium. For more info, contact: Ron Zych, 402-339-1777.

Dec. 1-2 — Iowa State Pigeon Assn., 64th Annual Show Contact: Howard Hart, P.O. Box 38, Lanesboro, Iowa 51451.

Dec. 1-2 — Mid-America Fantail Club Annual Show in conjunction with the Iowa State Pigeon Assn., Annual Show, Des Moines, Iowa, Veteran's Memorial Auditorium. Contact person - Don Vaughn, 1204 33rd St., West Des Moines, Iowa 50265. 515-223-7454.

Dec. 2 — Mid-Michigan Pigeon Fanciers All-Age, All-Breed Winter Show, Demonstration Hall, MSU Campus, Lansing, Michigan. For information write, contact: Don Smith, 1040 Echo Beach, Jackson, Mich. 49203. 517-782-0909.

Dec. 2 — National Oriental Frill, Turbit & Owl Family hosting the Midwest Regional at the Iowa Pigeon Assn., Annual Show. For information, contact: Tom Johnson, 402-879-4339.

Dec. 2 — Midwest District Meet of the Western Pouter and Cropper Club in conjunction with the Iowa State Pigeon Assn., Annual Show, Veterans Auditorium, Des Moines, Iowa. Doug DeNeen, judging. For more information, contact Tim Burke, Rt. 3, Box 111, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. 319-683-2775.

Dec. 2 — St. Louis Metropolitan Pigeon Fanciers Annual Winter Show, Jefferson Barracks, Grants Shelter, St. Louis, Mo. Show Sec. Mary Parrott, 225 Horn, Lemay, Mo. 63125. Birds can be cooped Dec. 1 until 9 p.m.

Dec. 2 — American Helmet Assn., 3rd District in conjunction with Iowa State Pigeon Assn., Veterans Auditorium, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Darrell Sloan, Box 616, Farlin, Iowa 50077.

Dec. 2 — Albuquerque Pigeon Fanciers Fall Classic, Albuquerque, N.M., area. For information, write: Mel Dayringer, 2720 Lucca Rd. SW, Albuquerque, N. Mexico 87105. 505-877-1244.

Dec. 2 — Annual Fall Meet of the National Chinese Owl Club to be held with the Iowa State Pigeon Assn. Contact: Howard Hart, P.O. Box 38, Lanesboro, Iowa 51451.

Dec. 3 — Michigan and Port Huron Pigeon Assn.'s All Age Show, Perch Point Conservation Club. L.K. Ziebert, 53150 Sula Drive, Utica, Mich. 48087.

Dec. 3 — Empire Short Face Open Show (Any Age), Polish National Hall, 61-60 56th Rd., Maspeth, N.Y. 10 a.m. Show Secretary David Rhagen, 154 Oak St., Medford, N.Y. 11763. 516-289-5047.

Dec. 3 — Southwest Pigeon Fanciers Assn. All Age, All Breed Show at YMCA, San Pedro, Calif. 1:00 p.m. Visitors, Jrs. Welcome to show. (213) 830-7388.

Dec. 7-9 — Colorado State Pigeon Assn.'s Annual Winter Show to be held at the Adams Co. Fairgrounds. For information, contact: Jim Hagan 10714 Moore Circle, Broomfield, Colo. 80021. 303-469-6173.

Dec. 9 — Minnesota State Pigeon Assn., Annual All Breed, All Age Show. For entry and location, contact: Bill Zika, 612-224-6489.

Dec. 9 — NETA All Age Meet, Shawnee, Okla. Judge: Mickey Jackson. Contact: Virgil Hinesley, Box 554, Stratford, Okla. 74872.

Dec. 9 — Florida Gulf Coast Pigeon Club All Breed, Any Age "Open Show" at the Heritage Hotel, St. Petersburg, Fla. For information, call Ealine Mingo, Show Secretary, 813-796-5149.

Dec. 9 — Sheboygan Lakeshore Pigeon Club Annual All Age Show, Sheboygan Falls, Wisc. Contact Ron Hass for more details, 549 David Ave., Sheboygan Falls, Wisc. 414-467-2343.

Dec. 9 — Oklahoma Pigeon Assn. Annual All Age, All Breed Pigeon Show held at Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center, Shawnee, Okla. Specialty clubs also showing include: Midwest Regional Modena Meet, American Helmet Assn. Dist. Meet, National English Trumpeter Club Oklahoma Meet, American Mookkee Assn. South-Central Dist. Meet, American Lahore Club Southern Dist. Meet, Giant Runt Club of America 3rd Dist. Meet, Southern Jacobin Club Annual Fall Meet, Oklahoma Show Racer Fall Meet, Oklahoma Giant Homer Annual Fall Meet, National Chinese Owl 5th Dis. Meet, Central Fantail 5th District Meet. Contact: Wayne L. Haws, 16505 SE 44 St., Choctaw, Okla. 73020. 405-391-3678.

Dec. 9 — Northwest Pigeon Fanciers Assn. Annual Show, Oregon National Guard Armory, Portland, Oregon. For entry blanks and info, contact: Paul Clow, 506 SE 121st Ave., #170, Vancouver, Wash. 98624. Phone 206-573-9532.

Dec. 9-10 — New York Combine Domestic Show Flight Club 14th Annual Young and Old Bird Show, Polish National Hall, 64th St. & 56th Rd., Maspeth, N.Y.

Dec. 10 — American Pouter and Cropper Club Young and Old Bird Show, Milford, Ill. Contact: Ron Schroeder Sr., 205 S. Grant St., Milford, Ill. 815-889-4126.

Dec. 10 — American Helmet Assn. District 7 Meet held in conjunction with the Garden State Show, Ridgefield, N.J. Entry forms will be in the A.H.A. bulletins.

Dec. 10 — Eastern Carolina Pigeon Club All Breed, All Age Winter Pigeon and Dove Show, Poultry Building, State Fairgrounds, Columbia, S.C. Write: Carroll Elmore, 129 Laverne St., Sumter, S. C. 29150. Ph. 803-773-6181.

Dec. 10 — Garden State Variety Pigeon Fanciers Assn., Annual Open Show, American Legion Hall, 540 Shaler Blvd., Ridgefield, N.J. Show Secretary: Julius Williams, 59 W. Tryon Ave., Teaneck, N.J. 07666.

Dec. 10 — Mohawk Valley Variety Pigeon Club 1st Annual Fall Show for old and young birds to be held at the Town Hall, Town of Florida (2 miles south of Amsterdam, N.Y.) For entry blanks and information, write to: Tom Metallo, 20 Clinton St., Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010.

Dec. 10 — Florida Gulf Coast Pigeon Club Open All Breed, All Age Show, Knights of Phythys Hall, 2522 30th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Fla. Contact: Thomas Vivinotto, Show Sec., 3275 57th Street North, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33710. 813-343-9750.

Dec. 17 — Greater Baltimore Area Pigeon Club Show, Odenton Fire Hall, Rt. 175, Odenton, Maryland. Show Sec., Bob DeAdder, 308 Constant Ave., Severn, MD 21144. 301-674-2459.

Dec. 17 — Long Island Domestic Flight Club Open Show, 73 Richard Ave., Islip Terrace, N.Y.

1990

Jan. 6 — Central Club Annual Show in conjunction with the Fremont Pigeon Club 46th Annual Winter Show, Sandusky Co., Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Judge to be announced. Jim Feasel, 2373 Co. Rd. 181, Clyde, Ohio 43410. 419-639-2935.

Jan. 6 — Valley Pigeon Club Annual Winter Show, Christ Lutheran Fellowship Hall, 223 W. Parkway Ave., Oshkosh, Wisc. Contact: Mike Dorman, 667 Frederick St., Oshkosh, Wisc. 54901.

Jan. 6 — Midwest International Pigeon Show, Fremont Pigeon Club 46th Annual Winter Show, Sandusky Co. Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Jim Feasel, 2373 Co. Rd. 181, Clyde, Ohio 43410. Ph. 419-639-2935.

Jan. 7 — Northern Illinois Pigeon Assn. Annual Winter Show, Northwest Community Center, Rockford, Illinois. Contact: Cathy Cooper, Show Superintendent, 3806 Prairie Rd., Rockford, Ill. 61102. Ph. 815-965-2899.

Jan. 7 — Anthracite Concourse Annual Winter Show, Lobitz's Hall, Hazleton, Pa. Entries taken 10 a.m. to noon. Show starts at 1 p.m. Classes for Racing Pigeons, Unflowns. More info: Dave Thomas, 26 S. Balliet St., Frackville, Pa. 17931. 717-874-2659.

Jan. 7 — Carolina Pigeon Club Winter Show, Cleveland Park Gym, Greenville, S. Car. Richard Georgina, Sec./Treas., 207 Ripple View Dr., Clemson, S.C. 29631. Ph. 803-654-5341.

Jan. 7 — Empire Short Face Futurity Show, Polish National Hall, 61-60 56th Road, Maspeth, N.Y. 10 a.m.

Jan. 11-13 — 1989 NPA Grand National Show hosted by the Utah Pigeon Club, Salt Lake City, Utah. Show Secretary Kent Wright, 7270 So. 1600 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121. Show Director: Jim Green, 64 W. 7400 So., Salt Lake City, Utah 84115.

Jan. 13 — NETA All Age Meet, Reading, Pa. Judge: TBA. Contact: Janley Wood, 264 W. King Rd., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

Jan. 12-14 — American Helmet Assn. Dist. 7 Meet held in conjunction with the Reading Expo, Reading, Pa. Contact: Jere Price, RD 2, Box 410, Reading, Pa. 19518.

Jan. 12-14 — Eastern Jacobin Assn., Winter Show held in conjunction with Reading Pigeon Assn., Reading Inn, Reading, Pa. Contact: Jere Price, RD 2, Box 410, Reading, Pa. 19518.

Jan. 12-14 — Eastern Fantail Club 93rd Annual Show held at the Inn at Reading, Pa., with the Reading Pigeon Assn. Judge Joe Yancey, Show Sec.: Jere Price, RD 2, Box 410, Reading, Pa. 19518.

Jan. 12-14 — The Reading Pigeon Assn. 101th Annual Winter Show, The Reading Expo, The Inn at Reading, Reading, Pa. Show Secretary Jere Price, RD 2, Box 410, Reading, Pa. 19518.

Jan. 13-14 — Central Fantail Club Annual Show, Ottumwa Coliseum, Ottumwa, Iowa. Contact: Bill and Marge O'Dell, 138 Webster, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501. 515-682-3983.

Jan. 20-21 — Canadian Jacobin Club 75th Anniversary Show, Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada. Judge: Drew Lobenstein. Entry deadline: Dec. 31. Entry fee: \$2.00. Secretary David Haworth, RR 4, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada N5P 3S8.

Jan. 28 — New York Combine's Futurity Show, Polish National Hall, Maspeth, N.Y.

Feb. 10 — Lake City Racing Pigeon Assn., Show. For more information, contact Jerry Hackbart, 508 - 13 St. N.W., Watertown, S.D. 57201. 605-886-6053.

Feb. 11 — Long Island Domestic Flight Club Futurity Show, 73 Richard Ave., Islip Terrace, N.Y.

Feb. 18 — Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club Futurity Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, Carleton Ave., Central Islip, N.Y. Entry blanks and info, may be obtained by writing to: Barbara Beer, 194 Lido Prom West, Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757 (516-226-3534) or Pete Valentine, 8 Andrew Avenue, Islip Terrace N.Y. 11752 (516-277-1087).



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