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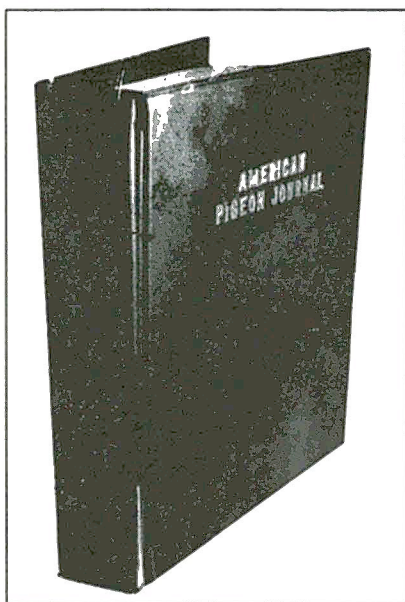
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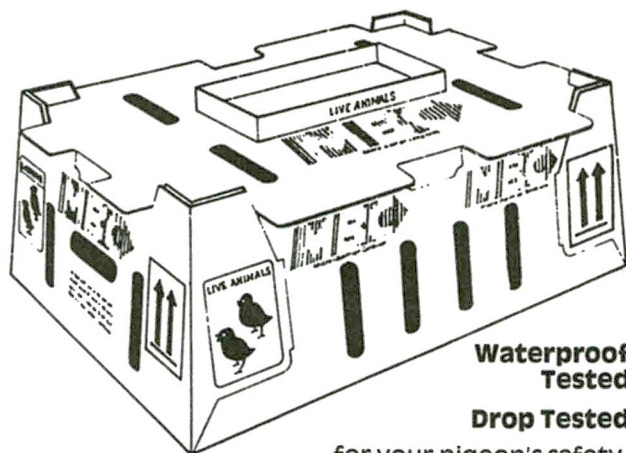
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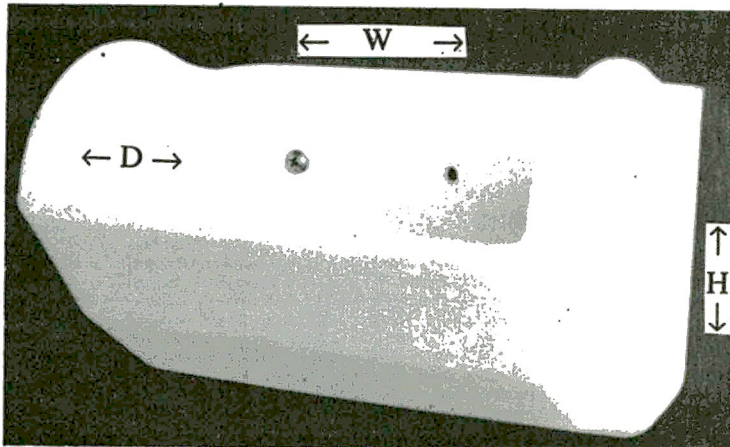
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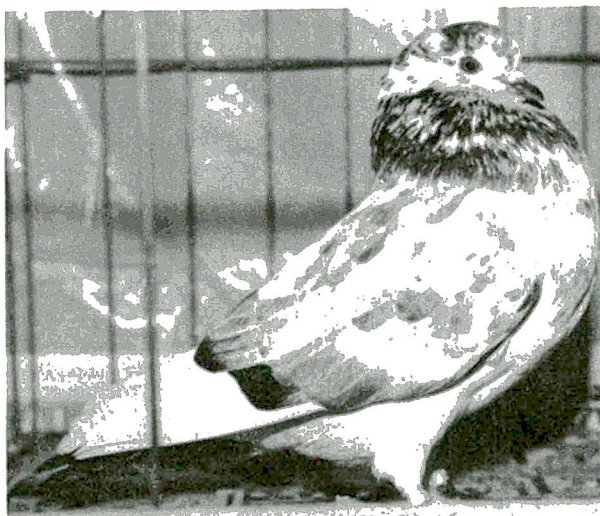
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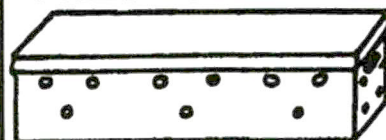
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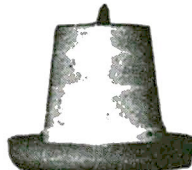
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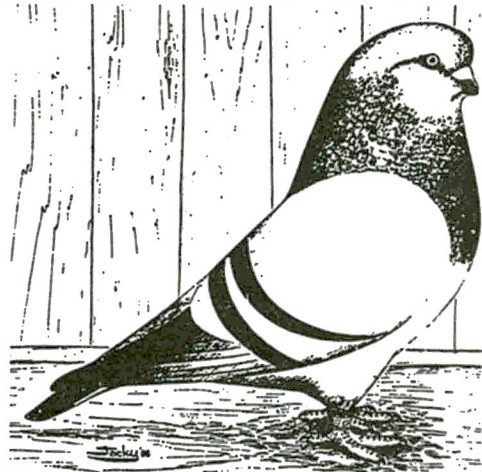
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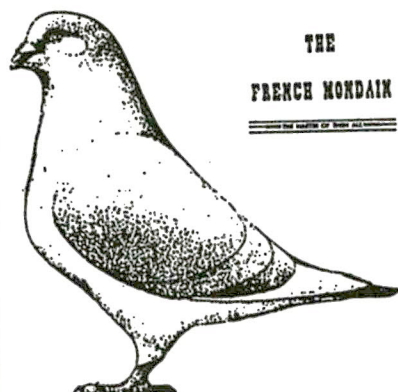
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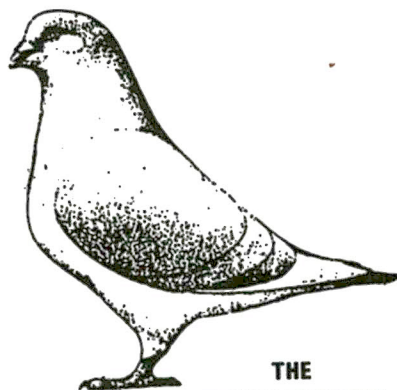
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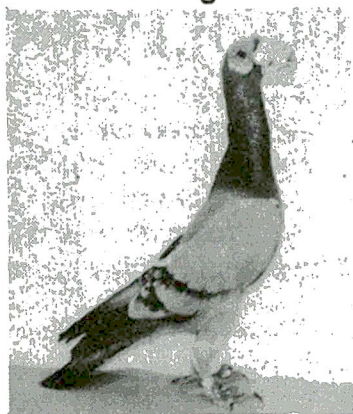
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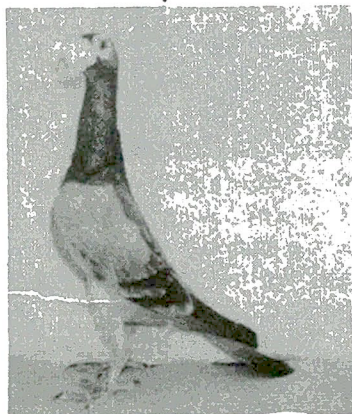
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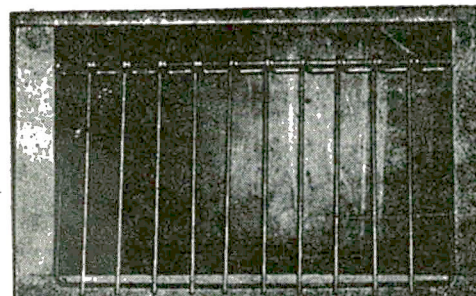
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1993 Specials Announced

These are the specials confirmed for 1993. They are:

February - Shortface. Contact: Bill Mackey, Coordinator, 2310 Cherimoya Dr., Vista, Calif. 92083.

April - Oriental Frills. Contact: Nelson Bowers, Coordinator, 11211 Sandyvale Rd., Bradshaw, Maryland 21021.

December - Flying Roller Special. Contact: Dan Ouellette, Coordinator, 1008 Reddy Ave., Medford, Ore. 97504.

1992 Special Issues

The following is the schedule for the 1992 specials

July - Domestic Flights sponsored by the New York Combine. Deadline will be May 1. Contact Pete Fratangelo, New York Combine, 300 E. 3rd, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218 or any of the NYC's affiliated clubs.

September - Fantails. Coordinator is John Moppin, 7907 Ella, Kansas City, Kansas 66112-2626. Deadline will be July 1, 1992.

December - Rare Breeds. Coordinator is Mike Lerp, Box 221, Manchester, Maryland 21102. Deadline will be Oct. 1, 1992.

Grand National A Success

The 1991 NPA Grand National held in Milwaukee, Wisc., Jan. 16-18, 1992, was a great success! Our congratulations to the Wisconsin State Pigeon Assn. on putting on a fine show.

We would like to thank everyone who came by our table during the show. We are always glad to meet with old customers and friends as well as make new ones at these pigeon events. Thanks to every one.

Next year's Grand National will be held in Lancaster, Pa.

Pigeon Publicity

A positive pigeon publicity article appeared in the March 1992 issue of "Country Living" magazine. The article, titled "Doves For The Country", is featured on page 51 and is a nicely done positive article on the hobby of pigeon keeping. It was written by Cathy Johnson who is from Excelsior Springs, Missouri. This popular magazine has a large circulation and we have received several phone calls as a result.

In the February issue, we will reprint the article featured in "Country Living".

Group Subscription Rates

We are still offering a group subscription rate of 25% off. Just send in 10 or more one year subscriptions at a time and receive \$4.50 off the regular price of \$18.00. The discount rate applies to all clubs and to any group of ten or more subscriptions (not necessarily a club).

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If you are moving or have a change of address, please notify us so we can correct your mailing address, as the Post Office does not forward second class mail.

Moments With "Mike"

E.G. Waddingham, Denver, Colo.: "Many thanks for your hard work and the fine APJ. I enjoy the interesting info and helpful hints on the fancy. My new (small) loft is up and going. I have a nice stud of Satinette Frills. Enclosed is my check to renew my subscription for 2 years. Many thanks and best wishes for the new year and God Bless all of you."

Don Marshall, San Jose, Calif.: "I enjoy your magazine very much and being recently retired, I now have time to read it cover to cover - twice. Keep up the good work! I especially enjoy performing Roller articles and 'simple' genetic information. Thanks for your dedication."

James W. Dicks, Holladay, Tenn.: "Even though I don't have any pigeons now I don't want to miss a single issue of the American Pigeon Journal. Enclosed please find my check for a year's subscription. Keep it going from January on. I was 66 years young (like to say young than old, it sounds better) on January 19, 1992, and have had pigeons most of my life. The American Pigeon Journal is a must to anyone who is interested in pigeons. Keep up the good work. I enjoy each issue and read every page from top to bottom. I am hoping to remodel my pigeon loft. My biggest problem here is the black snake or sometimes called the egg snake. When I build the new fly pen, it will be of 1/2 inch hardware cloth. I am hoping to get at remodeling as soon as the weather breaks. Again keep up the good work. I look forward to each issue."

Lyle Kiff, Oakland, Ore.: "We enjoy the American Pigeon Journal. I was wondering if you or one of your readers could do an article on pigeon floors? How to keep the bird's feet clean? we sure would appreciate it very much."

James E. Friend, Fairmont, W. Va.: "Please renew my subscription to the American Pigeon Journal for two more years. Oct. 1992 made 30 years I have received the Pigeon Journal, will have 30 years of Journals in my book case. Enjoy the Pigeon Journal with the many pigeon fanciers who I have come to know in 30 years of raising Pigeons. Thanks again for a great Pigeon Journal."

James P. Cooper, Carney, Mich.: "Enclosed is my check for two more years of the APJ. I have been getting your magazine since 1968 and have never been disappointed in the contents. I feel you are doing the pigeon fancy a great service."

Jim Cassettari, Coos Bay, Ore.: "Nothing! No, nothing lifts my spirits and rejuvenates my tired body than coming home from a hard and dirty day at work to find my coffee and a brand new APJ waiting for me on the table! Needless to say the Rollers and I are both fed a little later that night, as my wife patiently waits dinner while I give it a thorough 'once over'. Many pleasant hours will be spent reading every word over and over in the following weeks all the while anticipating the next issue. That 'fix' is so good and even though I still have a few issues left on my subscription please renew me now for another year so I can keep enjoying that special moment that only comes once a month! Wish it could be more."

Winter Breeding

by RICHARD BROOKS, Eureka Springs, Ark.

Each year, as the early Fall shows begin, someone or sometimes several fanciers will say "I just can't get them hatched early enough for these shows. It's just too cold." When I retired in 1985 and moved from Southern California to the Midwest, I knew I would have to make some changes in my breeding schedule, as winter temperatures here can hit zero. Kent Wright had shared with me that he had enclosed and heated a small compartment several years ago and had had good luck with early hatch at Salt Lake City. With this information I started out to breed in January and February. For the most part, it was trial and error. Below I am writing about what works for me. There may be other ways, but this is mine.

The loft temperature must be kept above 45 degrees at all times from two weeks before mating up until normal Spring weather arrives. There must be sunlight in the loft plus artificial light so as to have at least 14 hours of light in each day. There must be a 15 minute twilight before the lights go off in the evening. There must be good ventilation but no drafts. Here's how I created these conditions.

My compartments are six feet square and seven feet high. Three sides plus top and bottom are solid and insulated between studs, joists and rafters. The south side is hardware cloth (1/23 in. sq.). The lower half of the south side also has clear corrugated plastic sheeting covering it. The upper half is an extended sun deck. The three exposed sides and the deck are the same hardware cloth. The top is an extended roof. The sun deck is 3 feet by 5 feet and the outside wire wall leans in toward the top and is attached to the extended roof so birds cannot climb the wire but also so they enjoy taking a shower each time it rains. The extended roof prevents water blowing into the loft. A dry loft is an 'absolute' must. My loft floors are covered in dry droppings but I remove under-perch piles of droppings frequently, or break them up and scatter them. At least two weeks before I plan to mate up my breeders, I enclose the sun-decks with the clear plastic used in poultry houses. It has nylon cord on 1/4 inch centers so does not tear easily from wind whip. These stay on until Spring. I cut and fit pieces of roll roofing to fit the sun-deck floors. They can be removed on warm, sunny days and bath water can be put on the sun deck. If there is little or no wind and the sun is shining, I will offer this bath during the warmest part of the day so long as the temperature is above freezing. I also constructed light weight frames (using 1 inch by 2 inch lumber) and covered them with the same poultry house plastic. If the temperature is below freezing, I set these into place thereby creating a solar cell which heats up and helps hold heat in loft. In fact, I find these generate

so much heat on cold but sunny days that often the temperature inside the loft may exceed 70 degrees even when it is below freezing outside, but sunny. My main source of artificial heat is electricity. I use the 1750 watt "Titan" milk house heater. These sell for around \$25, have their own thermostat, and are available just about everywhere. I have used some for four years and so far have not had one burn out. I set the heater on the floor about a foot from one wall and pointed toward the opposite wall, thus providing 5 feet of hot air flow across the floor without obstruction. I have built a small wire cage with a solid top extending about 2 inches on all sides beyond the heater to prevent droppings from getting on heater. These heaters have a solid base and I have never had one tip over. However, if they do tip over they instantly shut off. I do fasten the wire enclosure to the floor. All I want the heater to do is keep the loft above 45 degrees. It will then shut off and not come back on until the temperature drops near 45 again. Nest boxes are all on the wall opposite the sun-deck. This is the north wall so all nest boxes face south. There are 5 tiers of nests each 3 feet wide, 18 inches deep and 16 inches high. Sides, bottom and top are solid plywood. Only nest fronts are ventilated. They are constructed of wooden dowels on pine one by two framing. As I am retired now, the pairs are kept in the nest box except I rotate them (when I'm home) about every hour, so that each pair has open loft at least once each day. I have learned the hard way you cannot depend on parentage when all pairs are loose together. If I am gone for a day or so they all stay locked in but one pair.

Ventilation is very important. You must not be able to smell pigeon, mouse, or anything else in the properly ventilated loft. I find it best to bring fresh air in the front low through an adjustable ventilator and take it out high back over the top nest boxes, but not through them. In short the bottom nest boxes have a four inch space under them where babies falling from nest perches can take shelter and there is another hole high over the nests but above solid wood nest tops where the air can escape. "They have to have fresh air." Lights are easy. For about \$4 each, one can purchase electrical timers from Walmart stores (or other department stores). You'll need two. On one I have a hundred watt standard white light globe. On the other I have a 25 or 40 watt blue light globe. If I activate the white globe at 5 a.m., I have it shut off at 7 p.m. The blue comes on at 5 p.m. and goes off at 7:15 p.m. This creates a 15 minute twilight zone so birds are warned and all get back on nests, perches, or wherever they should be before darkness. If you just go from light to darkness you will catch some birds unaware and lose some eggs or young

through chilling because mom isn't on them.

As at all times during the year, pigeons must have fresh, clean water before them at all times. Eight months each year I use automatic waterers. The other four I use gallon plastic milk jugs with a hole cut in the side. Water is changed just as I feed, both morning and afternoon. I feed about 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. but that can fit your schedule. If you maintain 45 degrees the water will never freeze. Pigeons need lots of water, even in winter and especially when they are driving, laying and feeding. A hint on fertility here. I find pigeons have stronger sexual urges after the evening feeding and before dark. Try it. Fifteen minutes after the evening feed, let a pair out of the nest box into the whole compartment by themselves and without distraction. Most of the time both will leave the nest, the cock will tread the hen a time or two, and they are ready to return to the nest. I can thus release the entire ten pair sometimes having all ten pair tread within half an hour. Needless to say this helps fertility. I have feed and water cups attached to each nest box front. On a cold sunny but windy day I often let each pair separately into the sun deck without removing the roll roofing floor. I have no fast rule on this so long as I can maintain the above 45 degree temperature. They won't stay off eggs or babies very long.

Two words of caution. With this much nest confinement many cocks want to sit on nest with hen all the time. Unless the nest is right this can separate eggs or babies, then when cock does come off, one will chill. Best nests for show racers I've found was developed by Bob English, third district director. Cut the sides of 3 or 5 gallon plastic buckets off with a table saw. Cut three inches from the floor which gives you a nice large nest box about two and a half inches deep. We use cotton seed hulls, alfalfa hay and pine needles mixed which gives a good well knit nest with high sides. After babies are over a week old they may cast their droppings with the side walls for a few days. If it gets wet, remove that portion. "Keep nest dry." You won't have many eggs or small babies dragged out of this nest. You can usually purchase these plastic buckets for around a dollar each.

My other caution has to do with feeding and grit. Don't leave grit before birds. Give them small quantities 3 or 4 times each week, and dump the container each time. They don't like nor will they eat dirty grit. If you are in a remote place and can't purchase good pigeon grit, I suggest you mix very small pebbles (or granite grit intermediate size) with smaller oyster shell and some trace minerals such as are found perhaps in every county in the country. Beware salt blocks containing some trace minerals. Too much salt. If your trace minerals don't contain iodine, buy some from pigeon supply dealers (such as Hetland) and use as instructed or drop a drop of tincture of iodine in water about once per week to a gallon of water. As for feeding, I believe most pigeon fanciers

feed way too high a protein mix. I talked to one fancier this year who was feeding 20% pellets and nothing else. I mix my own feed, buying what I can locally and the rest from a grain dealer. My present mix is equal parts small Indian (or dent corn if Indian not available) (absolutely no pop corn), wheat, milo, Canada peas, 20% pigeon pellets, and one half part safflower, maple peas, small parts of treats like yellow millet, canary seed, rape, etc. When I can get it, I feed ten percent barley spring, summer and fall, and 50 percent to hens from November 1st until week before mating. Keeps yellow gut fat off and firms up bodies. I use Salsbury vitamins and electrolytes in drinking water every other day all year long. Usually all the above provides me about a 50 percent hatch first round and after than from 90% and up for following rounds. Yes, it takes some effort, but so far I haven't found any short-cuts.

One last word of caution. Never, never take babies out of the warm nest box and place them in a cold young bird compartment. Somehow put them where it is warm and sunny. My loft set-up has three of the six foot square compartments in a row with doors in between. I have a heater in each of the end compartments which are the breeding units. Between them is the young bird section. There are hardware cloth doors between the three sections and hardware cloth separates the sun decks. The heat from the two breeding compartments flows laterally into the young bird section so the babies are kept above the freezing temperatures. By the time the later babies need that space the weather is better and I move the older young cocks into another section and the older young hens into still another. With pigeons there is no substitute for plain common sense and individual ingenuity. Good luck.

The Story Of Orange/Tangerine Ringneck Doves In America

by KEVIN L. STALDER, Ames, Iowa

In pigeons, one of the most common domestic colorations is the sex-linked dominant "ash-red" (Levi, 1957). In ringneck doves, a somewhat similar-appearing coloration was first reported in 1974 in a German poultry paper by Alois Münst Jr., of Ravensburg. He had obtained two females of this new color, which he named "orange," in Czechoslovakia. The report intrigued Dr. W.F. Hollander and W.J. Miller of Iowa State University and in 1978 they relayed the news to the American Dove Association, with the suggestion to obtain the new color from Herr Münst.

Richard E. Burger of Newark, Delaware, was most interested, and after much correspondence he arranged to pay for the importation. Herr Münst wanted to obtain ringneck doves of the new "ivory" color, so an exchange was agreed on, the ivory birds to come from Burger and Dr. Miller. Because of the less stringent regulations for importing to Canada than to the U.S.A., Burger arranged with aviculturist Mr. Ken Becker of New Dundee, Ontario, to receive the shipment from Münst and take responsibility while it was in Canadian quarantine. As partial payment for this, Becker also received some ivory doves.

Finally, on May 12, 1981, the shipment from Münst arrived in Canada: 20 birds of several species. Only 5 birds were ringneck doves from the "orange" source. Two were orange females with white neck-rings, and the others according to Becker were "two peach and one rosy." It should be noted that Münst (1974) had imported rosy, peach, and pied ringneck doves from U.S.A. and that he had crossed his original orange with rosy.

Becker and Burger decided to start the birds breeding while they were still in quar-

antine. One orange hen was mated to a peach cock, and the other to a rosy cock. The remaining peach was a hen, and Becker mated her with one of his own rosy cocks. Becker classed all the progeny of these matings as peach and rosy. After quarantine he continued breeding among all these, and a couple of generations later orange reappeared. In addition he got a darker, more reddish shade which he named "tangerine" (sic). Some later orange and tangerine birds had whitening in the wing shield and back which he called "pearled" because of resemblance to the markings in pearled cockatiels.

Eventually Becker turned over the original German doves to Burger, but meanwhile he had been selling descendants at high prices to other fanciers. In the U.S.A., these included notably Abakash Konopiety in New York, Garrie Landry in Louisiana, Ray Sullenthrop in Texas, and O.F. Munsell in Iowa, who have in turn sold the new colors extensively.

Genetic analysis took a back seat in all this development, and there has been confusion because of misclassification and mixing with peach and rosy. Clarification began with an outcross of a tangerine female to an unrelated blond (fawn) male by Eugene Hochlan Jr., of Council Bluffs, Iowa. He reported briefly in 1986-7 that the new gene is dominant but not sex-linked. This conclusion has been confirmed by other breeders, including the author. Therefore homology with the ash-red gene of pigeons is ruled out. Dr. Miller finally got birds for further testing thanks to O.F. Munsell.

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Blue Barless Crested Soultz hen. Highly rated at 1987 National Show in Dortmund, Germany. "V" rating. - Photo by Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, Calif.

The Crested Soultz

by FRANK MOSCA, Montclair, Calif.

A breed fairly new to North America and to the pigeon fancy itself is the Crested Soultz of France. Created in the Soultz sous Forets region of that country, it takes its name from the area of its origin. As you can see from the French N.P.A. standard, which I translated and then had revised and corrected by Ms. Chris Harris, a native French speaker and pigeon breeder, the breed is actually shell crested rather than peak crested as its French name would indicate.

I first saw live Soultz about three years ago when Tally Mezzanatto, a friend from both the WPCC and the LAPC, imported them from Europe. Naturally, I was aware of their existence because of the photo in Levi's Encyclopedia but the picture in there barely hints at the delicate pastel coloration of the living animal.

So far I have only seen barless birds. I understand there are a few other Soultz breeders in the US and Canada and some of them may have barred or checkered. My own opinion, and it's just that - an opinion, is that the barless is the most attractive of the patterns in this breed. The porcelain-like coloration would seem to lend itself to this full pigeon look.

The birds seem to have something for everyone. They are big enough to provide some tasty squab for the home table. Though they're as delicately colored as many color pigeons, they are considered by the French to be form pigeons. To give you some idea of the size of the bird, the standard calls for a "C" size band. This is the same size used in Europe for Lynx and Carriers.

Tally says, and European pen pals have confirmed, that the Soultz are excellent parents and rear their young well. The cocks, at least the ones I've seen, have a suggestion of

a globe - sometimes more an out and out statement rather than a suggestion of one - from their Hessian Cropper ancestry.

Take a look at the photos for a hint of this bird's style. It's a shame that you can't see them in color, or better yet in person, because even good photographs don't seem to capture the elusive color of the living animal. In one way, Soultz are a bit like Archangels. In the Archangel's case, photos tend to show just very dull looking brown and black birds. Seeing a live Archangel in the sun, however,

is a totally different experience. The colors flash with the iridescence. In like manner, Soultz should be seen to be appreciated.

Their color, genetically pale blue with added modifiers, is soft. The neck blend is muted yet the shine of that against the crest and the blue color itself is truly gorgeous. If you get a chance to see one of these birds in a show or at a friend's loft, avail yourself of the opportunity. Enjoy France's latest contribution to North America's pigeon hobby.

HUPPE DE SOULTZ (CRESTED SOULTZ)

A pigeon originating north of the lower Rhine and particularly from Soultz sous Forets and its environs, comprising the neighborhoods of Wissembourg and Haguenau. This is a relatively recent breed undoubtedly obtained by crossing the Priest and the Hessian Cropper.

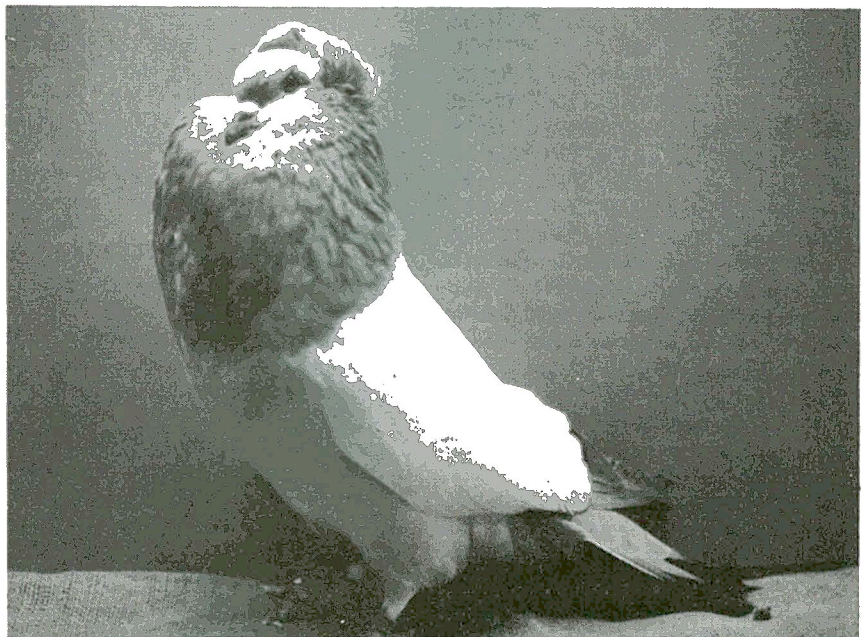
GENERAL ASPECTS:

A medium tall pigeon about 38 cm (2.54 cm/inch) long. The body is robust and well proportioned. It weighs about 550-600g (454 g/lb.). Despite its name (Huppe) which means peak crest in French, the head is not peak crested but rather has a shell crest (coquille).

HEAD: Rather large and long. Seen from above, it must form an acute triangle with its point at the beak and its base is the beginning of the crest. The frontal is fairly high and round.

BEAK: Rather long, between 22-25 mm, black, rather slender in its makeup (somewhat like a field pigeon). The upper mandible is very slightly hooked at the tip. The wattles are small, white and powdery.

CREST: The <<Huppe-peak crest>> is actually a shell crest <<Coquille>> It must be very well formed, well rounded and end in



German import Crested Soultz cock, blue barless, rated Highly Superior, at '91 Pomona Grand National Rare Breeds Meet. Owned by Tally Mezzanatto, Yucaipa, Calif. - Photo by Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, Calif.

rosettes on each side of the head. The centers of the rosettes are located on a prolongation of the line of the nose and eye. The top of the crest MUST only be slightly higher than the head.

EYES: Lively (bright) the iris varies between red-orange and red-brown, the pupil is black. Cock's eye (tri-colored) red on the outside and yellow/orange at the center is tolerated but forms the extreme limit to which eye color may go. Washed out, yellowish, or other eye color must be considered a grave fault. Red pigment must always be present.

EYE CERE: Fine and grey-blue in color.

NECK: Rather powerful at the base. It rests on large shoulders. Males have a tendency to have a slight globe but not the females. The feathers of the nape of the neck coming from the shell form about a 1 cm roll directed toward the base of the neck then becomes sleek and regular.

CHEST: Well developed, broad at least 8 cm.

BACK: Straight. Rather large.

WINGS: Long, meet without crossing flights on the tail. The shield is well developed without being held too tightly to the body and its surface is convex.

TAIL: Tightly closed, carried horizontally, about 2 cm past the flights.

LEGS: Strong legs of medium length. Well set in the body to assure good stance. Legs red and naked (of feather) as are the toes. Toenails the color of the beak.

PLUMAGE: The plumage of the Crested Soultz is to be a very delicate pastel blue and one which tends to call to mind the porcelains of Copenhagen. The neck is a darker light blue than the body and it has greenish sheen. Flight and tail feathers must be dark grey. The rump alone is white and is covered by the wings.

VARIETIES: Four varieties of Crested Soultz exist. 1) Barless; 2) Black Barred with two smooth black bars; 3) Light Checked: The wing shields crossed with two smooth black bars and little dark blue checks on the shield; 4) Dark check: The wings with two smooth black bars and large checks on the shield.

In the last two varieties, the base color must always remain delicate, pastel blue without smudging on the checks.

FAULTS: Weight too light; narrow chest; base color too dark; irregular shell crest; missing rosettes; washed out or clear iris; red highlights on the neck and the chest; bars irregular, too large, or showing bronzing, signs of a third bar; crop too developed in males.

Translated from French NPA (S.N.C.) Standard by Frank Mosca 10/89. Revised by Chris Harris 2/90.

Bird Eviction Order Starts International Flap

(Editor's Note: The following story is one of many that has appeared about Keith Caywood of Hillsboro, Oregon and his fight against the city's nuisance ordinance. He would like to thank all those people who responded to his plea for help which appeared in the Sept. 91 issue of the APJ (page 71). He is now waiting for his case to be decided. This story was written by Connie Potter and appeared in "The Oregonian.")

HILLSBORO—Pigeon lovers from as far away as Russia and Great Britain are rallying to support a Hillsboro man who has been ordered to get rid of his birds.

Keith Caywood, 2570 N.E. Timothy Lane, was cited by police Jan. 9, on an accusation of violating the city's nuisance ordinance, which bans pigeons. It was the second time since August he had been cited.

When a person is cited under the ordinance he has seven days to get rid of the nuisance. If he doesn't, he could be subject to a \$500 fine.

Following the first citation, Caywood wrote an article in the American Pigeon Journal, asking for help in fighting the ordinance. He asked readers to clip an attached coupon, addressed to Mayor Shirley Huffman and former City Manager Eldon Mills, and include a brief message of support for pigeons.

Huffman said Monday she had received dozens of the cards and letters—some polite and some graphically critical of the ordinance.

The correspondence has come from around the country and even a few foreign countries, she said. Several pointed out the value of pigeons during World War II as a backup communication system. Writers also defended pigeons as good family pets and less dangerous than cats and dogs.

One letter, from a director of the Sutter Institute for Medical Research in Sacramento, Calif., said to deny the keeping of such birds "would have denied Noah the flight of his dove, which returned with the olive branch, now our international symbol of peace."

Caywood, who has 40 birds, said he would ask the city council on Jan. 21 to amend the nuisance ordinance to allow pigeons.

Caywood is the second pigeon owner to be cited under the ordinance. Dave Holloway, who lives on Lincoln Avenue, was ordered last fall to get rid of the pigeons he had raised for 11 years.

Holloway spent about \$6,000 fighting the case in municipal court, said Caywood. "He ran out of money and caved in and got rid of all his birds," Caywood said. "I don't intend to go that route."

Holloway could not be reached for comment.

Caywood, who began raising his birds two years ago, said he first was cited in August after a neighbor complained. He ap-

pealed to Mills, who since has resigned as city manager, and said Mills told him the city wouldn't bother him as long as other complaints weren't made.

However, in January, the same neighbor groused again, said Caywood. He said the neighbor lives several houses down the street and is upset about bird droppings on his car.

Caywood contends the droppings are from starlings and other wild birds, not from his pigeons. He said he doesn't release his birds until 22 hours after they have eaten and said they are empty by then. He only releases the birds every other day.

Adjacent neighbors say the pigeons have posed no problems. Yvonne and Allon Stacey, who live next door, wrote a letter on Caywood's behalf last fall, saying they enjoy the pigeons.

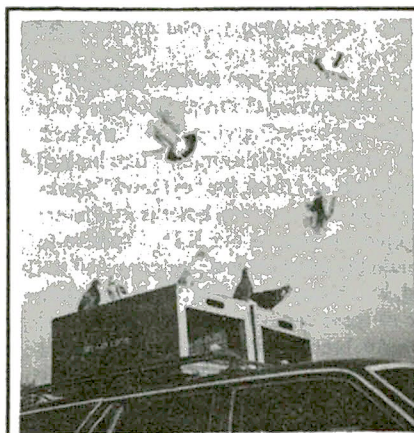
"We would like to see them remain and continue to win competitions," they wrote. Caywood said the pigeons were a variety known as Rollers, and compete in competitions around the Northwest. During the contests, the pigeons are released as a group and in midair start somersaulting to the ground, much like aerobatic airplanes. They pull out of the somersault after several spins and resume flying.

His pigeons placed third among birds in the Northwest Roller Jockeys, a local pigeon club, he said.

Caywood, whose family raised pigeons, described the birds as highly intelligent creatures that can be trained to perform. He said his birds are clean, well-cared for, and don't roost on neighbors' property.

He claims the ordinance, which took effect in May, violates the constitutional rights he fought for while he was in the Marines.

"This has just totally floored me," he said. "I just can't believe it."



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A Few Observations On Structure Of The Komorner Beak, Head, Crest, Rosettes And Mane

by ALLEN B. ZITTING, Centennial Park, Arizona.

When viewing the Komorner Tumbler from the neck up, we find a fairly unique combination of structural qualities and feather ornamentation.

Starting with the beak, we want a rather short, stout beak, but one long enough that the birds can easily be self feeders. A very common fault is lack of substance in the mandibles. We want to keep the beak stout and broad at the base of the skull as well. Birds with excessively short beaks and a somewhat down faced appearance occur from time to time in many KT families. In my opinion, these birds can be useful in the breeding pen to counter the tendency to revert to wild type, long, thin beaks. When being prepared for the show, any hook or excessive growth of the beak should be trimmed off, being careful not to cut or file into the tender part of the beak causing it to bleed.

The AKTC Standard calls for a head as large as possible proportionate to the size of the body. It calls for a full round sweep from the beak to the top of the head, and a broad frontal. Narrow headed birds are still commonly seen in the shows, but improvements in this area are being made by most of the top breeders, even in the soft colors that have traditionally had "pinched faced" or "pick axe" narrow heads.

Occasionally I have run across a bird (usually with nun or domestic flight in its background) which exhibits "eyebrows" or feathering partially obscuring the eye. This is caused by a swirl of feathers (very easily seen when the bird is in the nest in pin feathers) which grow at about a ten o'clock position in front of each eye. These feathers grow in a swirl and then are covered by the feathers growing up from below, creating the illusion of a bulging frontal and broader skull.

In my opinion, we should continue to work on improving the frontals of our birds without "eyebrows" giving the KT the look of the nun or domestic flight. I like both of these breeds and think the "eyebrow" feathering looks fine on them, but it is a different look than we have in our KTs. I believe to maintain the integrity and uniqueness of the breed, we should be careful not to introduce some of these "non-Komorner" traits when we make breed crosses to add colors or improve type.

The AKTC standard is quite clear as to the type of crest and rosette structure we should be working towards. It calls for a shell crest, broad and full, setting high on the crown, even on top and without breaks. Uneven, lopsided, or low crests are undesirable.

The standard specifically states that the rosettes are to be as large as possible and

proportionate, that is of equal size and location on each side of the head. It is also important to note that the standard does not specify rosette location, but does list as a fault "crest riding too low on the neck." With the rosette structure such an integral part of the crest structure, it is generally recognized that the rosettes should be fairly high up on the neck, ideally somewhere just below the eye.

Since the standard specifies size (large) without specifying location, I would place a bird with large low rosettes over a bird with small high rosettes provided they are otherwise equal. A common term used among KT breeders is "silver dollar" rosettes, referring to a large silver dollar sized round rosette. Rosettes should be symmetrical and free from breaks or interruptions.

Occasionally, I will breed a bird with a "sweep" (no rosette) on one or both sides. These birds may be used for breeding if they are exceptional, but I try to avoid it as much as possible.

Over the years, I have also bred several birds with one large and one small rosette. I have used such birds in the breeding pen with some success. They can be a real challenge to a judge, as many judges look at the bird one side at a time. Unless the bird is picked up and both rosettes observed at the same time, this fault will be overlooked.

The feathering between the rosettes is referred to as the mane. Even with large rosettes, we should strive to maintain a wealth of feather in the neck and mane. There is a tendency for birds with large symmetrical rosettes to have a weakness in the mane, while birds with small asymmetrical rosettes often have thick manes. Of course, the challenge is to breed for the large symmetrical rosettes combined with a thick well feathered neck and mane. The best examples I've seen of KTs with this ideal combination of mane power with large rosettes have been in the Benham birds.

Looking at the KT crest from the top, we should see a definite wrap of the shell more or less in a half circle around the head. The crest should be held in a slightly arched

upright position by the backskull or "cushion" feathers (feathers immediately in front of the crest).

This backskull feathering, or "cushion," is a very important feature in the structure and appearance of a proper Komorner crest. A lack of fullness in the backskull feathering leaves the crest without adequate support so it caps or falls forward over the head. Proper backskull feathering cushions and supports the crest in just the right position to best show ideal wrap and crest height, and adds the appearance of power to the back of the head. However, excessive backskull feathering pushes the crest back, laying it down and suppressing the expression of crest height.

Sometimes there may be some "wild" feathers in the front of the crest, often referred to as "horns." These create an uneven appearance when viewed from the front and top. Some fanciers attempt to trim out the backskull or cushion feathers, allowing part of the crest to move forward to line up with the forward portion of the "horn." A little of this kind of trimming goes a long way, and usually results in a bird whose crest moves so far forward the wrap is lost and the crest runs straight across the top of the head. Another, and in my opinion, a better way of dealing with this problem is to pluck or trim out the "horns" themselves. Again, if the problem is severe and too many feathers are removed, the crest will look over trimmed, especially to the trained eye.

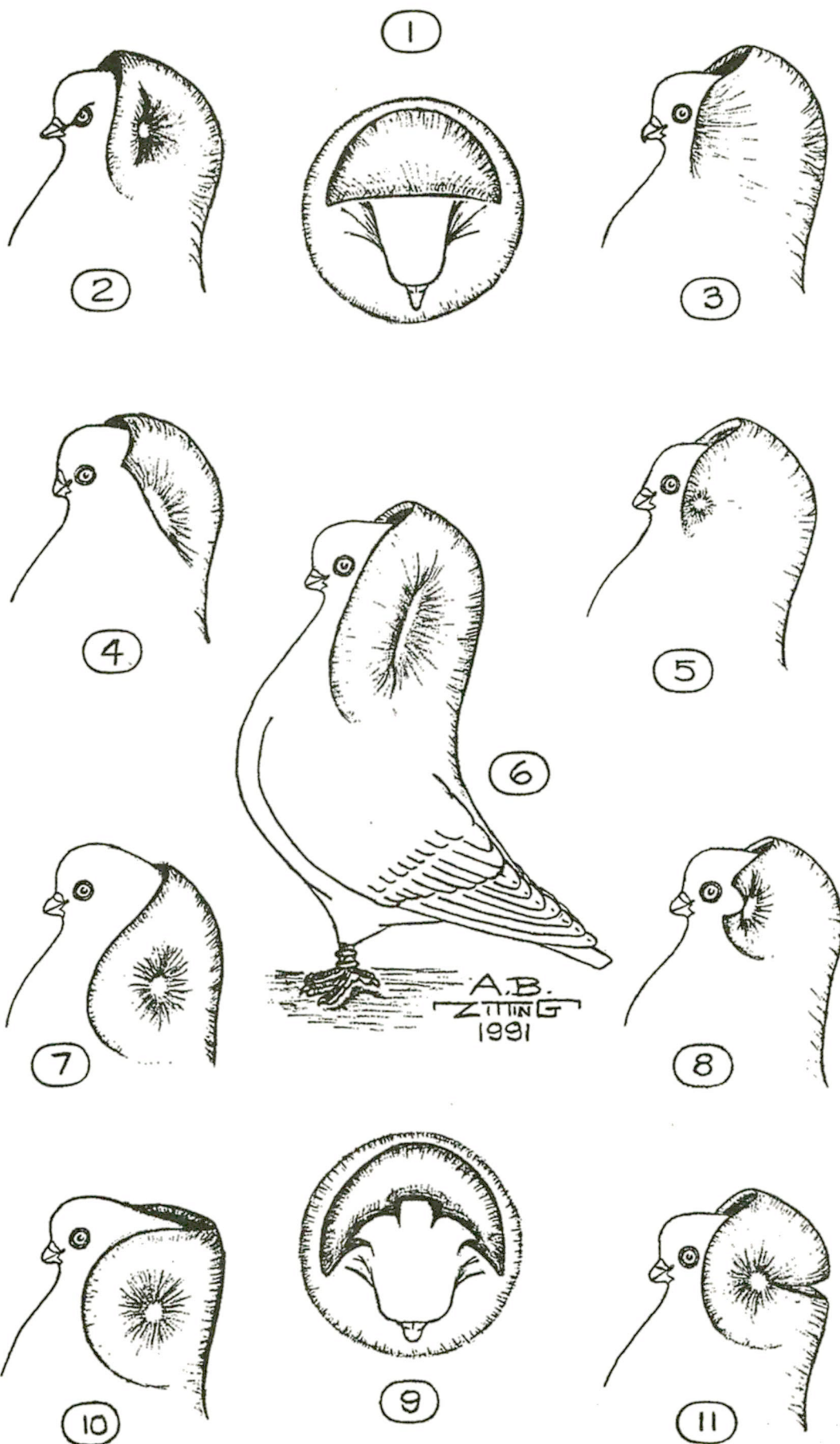
Of course, the best remedy is to strive to breed KTs that don't need any trimming in preparation for a show. I appreciate the importance of showmanship, training, and conditioning; but they should take a back seat in the overall view, to the breeders skill. As I see it, the goal is to breed a bird that is as close as possible to the standard, then present it in its best condition.

Adding up the points in the AKTC standard for beak, head, crest and rosettes, we have 30 points in the magpie marked and 35 points in the selfs, or roughly about one third of the overall total. But, there is still another two thirds of the point block to consider, and

(Continued On Page 20)

SOME KOMORNER TUMBLER FAULTS IN BEAK, HEAD, CREST AND ROSETTES SEE SKETCH PAGE 19

1. "Pinched faced" or "pick axe" head - narrow head and beak, lack of fullness in back skull feathering at base of crest, lack of "wrap" - crest runs straight across head; 2. Beak too long and thin, "eyebrows" - feathers partially obscuring the eye, lack of "wrap" - crest runs straight across head, rosette not symmetrical - too far forward; 3. "Sweep" - no rosette, overgrown hooked beak - needs trimming; 4. "Owl-faced" beak too short and down faced, Crest "caps" - lays down on head, incomplete or irregular rosette; 5. Poor head lacking in frontal, rosette too small and too far forward; 6. "Rosette" not symmetrical and extends too far down neck; 7. Crest and rosette riding too low on neck, crest capping; 8. Rosette small, too far forward and broken in front; 9. Uneven crest feathering - "horns"; 10. Rosette and crest low, crest "tipped" or laying back too far; 11. Small break in mane feathering.



we cannot become blinded by excessive attention to any one area and still breed a balanced Komorner Tumbler.

We must remember that the Komorner should have a short cobby body with a bold upright station. Markings are very important in the magpie marked KT's and are dealt with a separate article.

Color is another extremely important "trademark" feature of the Komorner. I think this is especially worth mentioning as we enter an era in the development of the Komorner where new colors are being introduced and are reaching a state of development where they are appearing in the showrooms. To maintain the integrity of the breed, we must insist on strict color guidelines, striving for the purest and more beautiful expressions of these new colors in our color descriptions.

In closing this article, I will again stress that as we breed for the features mentioned earlier in this article, we must continually keep in mind the whole bird. Even when making "power to power" matings we must remember they are stepping stones to the final product, the balanced Komorner, exceptional in all characteristics presented in the standard.

Thanks Frank X Two

by BOB & SIMONE PILCHAR,
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

I am writing this article to say thanks to a couple of gentlemen. One is Frank Barrachina and the other is Frank Soto. Both of these gentlemen helped my wife and I get a hold of some very fine Self Poms.

It started out when my wife and I were viewing the Pomona Grand National on video tape. When the Poms came on, we both thought - we want them! My wife, Simone, had a pet Dutch Cropper named George, which she hand fed, when we were first married eight and a half years ago. George was quite the pet, he came when she called him and he gave kisses. George has since passed on. We thought about how much more affectionate they are than most breeds and decided to get some.

So, I made a phone call to Mr. Pouter and Cropper, Frank Barrachina, told him what I was looking for and asked him if he could give me a few names to try. About one week later Frank Barrachina called me. He told me that if I wanted some Self Poms, Frank Soto was selling his entire stud. I immediately called Frank Soto and after a few more calls to the states and a lot of red tape on Frank's end (thanks Frank), I now have his stud in one of my lofts. And happy we are! This adds to the other breeds that I raise - Modenas and German Beauty Homers.

So thanks to two Franks and also thanks to Frank Soto's son, Gabriel for getting them to the airport twice! (Don't ask! Airlines, you know!!)

The Komorner "Magpie" Markings

by ALLEN B. ZITTING, Centennial Park, Ariz.

The Komorner Magpie Marking is one of the most eye catching markings in the pigeon fancy, especially when combined with the rich and beautiful colors the Komorner is noted for. There is a balance of colored and white areas on the bird, with sufficient colored areas to allow for a good expression of the birds color. The numerous lines of demarcation provide excellent contrast. The white cap draws attention to the prominent tumbler type head and sets off the crest, the beard (chuck) adds expression to the face, while the white wings and center band break up the color mass of the body. These markings are as impressive in the air as they are in the loft and show pen.

The KT Magpie markings have been bred and selected for over a period of several hundred years, and breed relatively consistently. However, one can still expect to produce a fair percentage of slightly mismarked and badly mismarked birds each year. It is advisable to use as many perfectly marked birds in your breeding program as possible, but slightly mismarked birds can be used for breeding provided the breeder keeps close watch on the youngsters and does not allow specific mismarks to become well established in his life. Badly mismarked birds should not be used for breeding unless the bird in question is otherwise very exceptional.

Many breeders cull for markings in the nest, eliminating mismarked youngsters as soon as a flaw in markings becomes apparent. This can be as early as two weeks of age with some mismarks, others (such as the chuck marking) take much longer to finish out. I personally prefer to keep all but the very worst specimens until after they have completed the adult moult. The markings never improve with the moult, but I have had some mismarked youngsters mature into birds exceptional in other areas, and hence worthy of a trial in the breeding pen.

The Komorner Standard places 20 points on markings, and Komorner judges are (and

should be) very strict when judging markings in the showroom. Many minor mismarks can be trimmed or plucked, but one must remember that the standard states that "excessive trimming will be a disqualification." Excessive trimming being bald spots or cut feathers apparent to the judge without his having to "search" for them.

It may be interesting to note that our standard calls for a bird marked like the wild magpie, when in reality the markings of the wild magpie are very different than our present Komorner "Magpie" Markings, a situation we should rectify.

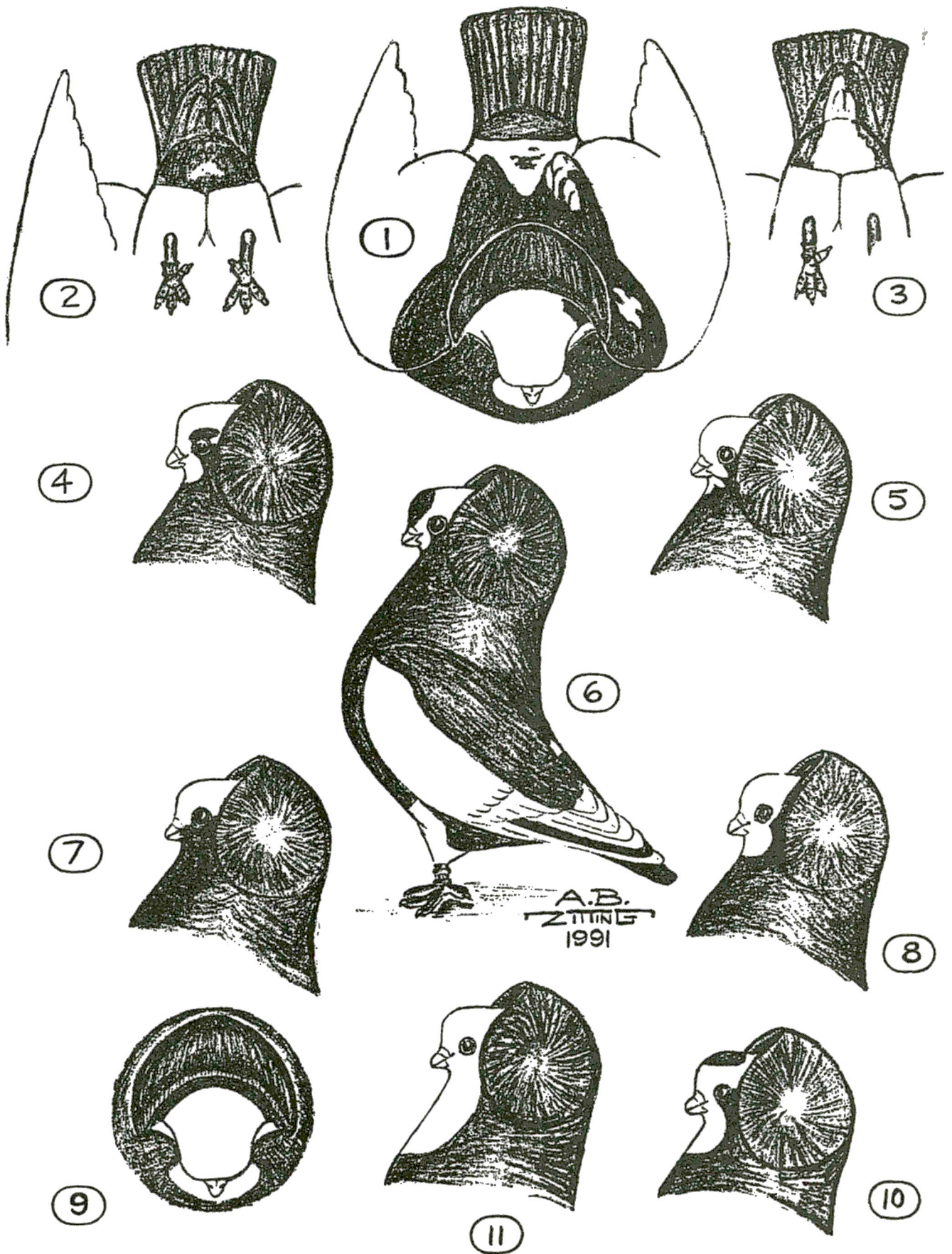
In the diagrams, I have attempted to show a few of the more common mismarks I have encountered over the years. It should be mentioned that in diagrams one, two, and three, the tail and wings are shown spread. Naturally, when the bird is in the show pen, the tail should be folded and end in 1-1/2 to 2 feather widths. Also, in Diagram one, when the wings fold into the body, the white band (rump area) is covered almost completely. With the wings folded, the feathers of the "shoulder" and "back" line up, close across the back slightly lapping over the secondaries and wing shield to form the "heart" marking.

I have found breeding well marked Magpie Komorners to be quite a challenge. Here are a few guidelines I use when breeding Magpie Marked birds. Never mate two birds with the same mismark. If a pair consistently produces mismarked youngsters (especially if it is the same mismark) break up the pair and try them on different mates. Watch for trends in your birds (such as chucks getting larger or smaller) and select your matings accordingly. If forced to use mismarked stock birds, try to raise a lot of young per pair, and be prepared for a much higher percentage of mismarked youngsters. Again, don't use a badly mismarked bird as a breeder unless he is very exceptional in other areas.

(Editor's Note: The above article appeared in last month's APJ but had the wrong illustration with it. So, to avoid confusion, we have reprinted this article with the proper illustration.)

SOME COMMON MISMARKS IN MAGPIE MARKED KOMORNER TUMBLERS SEE SKETCH ON PAGE 21

1. Colored feathers in white band (rump), white feathers in "heart" marking on right back shoulder, colored patch in white area of head; 2. Small white patch in colored area under tail; 3. Large white patch in colored area under tail; 4. Colored patch over eye (often causes cracked eye); 5. Colored "runner" to beak in chuck, uneven or irregular chuck; 6. "Spot" marking on frontal, chuck too small, color down too far on wings, colored flight feather, color in hocks; 7. No chuck "Mookee marked"; 8. Color does not reach the eye properly; 9. "Bumper" or line of colored feathers at base of crest; 10. Chuck too large, colored patch on top of head; 11. "Baldhead" marked.



Flights Around The World Convention

by SAL GIGANTE, NYC President

On December 6, 1991, Domestic Flight history was made. Breeders from all parts of America and the world came together to celebrate the first convention held by the highly successful program of "Flights Around The World," sponsored by the New York Combine, the Southern Domestic, the Western Domestic and the British Domestic Flight Associations. The site for this historic event was the beautiful La Reserve Hotel in White Plains, New York. Guests started arriving in town as early as Tuesday, Dec. 3.

The accommodations were first class all the way. Transportation was provided for all guests to and from airports, hotel and show hall by Capricorn Limousine Service. The weekend started with a bang. On Friday evening at 7 p.m. we began with an open bar and cocktail hour in the conference hall followed immediately with our meeting at which time representatives from all our affiliated clubs stepped to the podium to give a short speech.

The Combine then proceeded to present each affiliate its very own "Flights Around The World" stationary, loose leaf binders, T-shirts and a beautiful 3' x 5' banner. A beautiful plaque for service was presented to President Sal Gigante by the Combine membership. We then proceeded to the beautiful and spacious Penthouse Suite where all of us dined on a sumptuous and elegantly catered dinner prepared to perfection by the 4 Star restaurant "Il Mulino's" situated in the hotel

lobby.

Dec. 6 will certainly be a night to remember as history was made. One of the most important matters discussed was our July 1992 A.P.J. Special sponsored by "Flights Around The World." We would 'strongly' urge 'anyone' who is interested in our beautiful bird to support this "Special" as we are sure it will be a record breaker and collector's edition.

Dec. 7 was no less spectacular as the New York Combine ran its Annual Fall Show. "The Second Jewel" of the "Triple Crown" for Domestic Flights. This show exceeded our wildest dreams. It was the greatest Flight Show ever held, anywhere, anytime. We had guests from other clubs. We even had our good friend Kuti Aharon from Israel who by the way is campaigning hard to be the next affiliate club. Just think, a Flight Club in Israel, Wow! With over 340 of the finest Domestic birds alive on display, this show had to be a success. The officiating was handled by such notables as John Pluchino, John Spahr, Pete Fratangelo and one of our newest and brightest judges, Mike Caltie. The classes were large in number and unparalleled in quality. We took advantage of this opportunity by having some of our out-of-town guests sit behind the judging cages to get a first hand lesson on the art of judging Domestic birds (similar to our Judging Seminars). Jim Bush (Calif.), Kevin Sparks and Jim Mullins (U.K.), found this to be a very unique and construc-



Sal Gigante, president of The New York Combine.

tive format. After all the judging was done the winners were put on display for all to admire. Never has there ever been so many outstanding show specimens under one roof in the history of our breed.

The coup de gras was Sunday, Dec. 8. The morning was casual as coffee and cake was served and members, friends and guests milled about in friendly conversation admiring the fantastic Christmas displays and magnificent array of winners. By early afternoon it was time for yet another banquet. Approx. 85 members and friends sat down to a "feast fit for a king" roasted turkeys, hams, stuffings, yams, salads, etc., beer, soda, coffee and finally a bevy of mouth watering



Those in attendance at the first annual Flights Around The World Convention were: kneeling (l.-r.) - Robert Fisher (Georgia), John Spahr (NYC), Vinnie Montanino (NYC), Don Little (Georgia), Pete Fratangelo (NYC), Bob Spadavechia (NYC), Angelo DiBiase (NYC); seated - R.W.P. Johnston (Kentucky), Jim Bean (New Mexico), Jim Bush (California), John Haber (NYC), Kevin Sparks (England), Rich Massamino (Florida), Frank Braccia (NYC), Nelson Bowers (Maryland); standing - Jerry Paretti (NYC), Ange Mangione (NYC), Sal DeCaro (NYC), Peter Fratangelo Jr. (NYC), Mike Lerp (Maryland), Steve LaSala (NYC), Sal Gigante (NYC), Bill Mackey (California), Jim Mullens (England), Mike Celebre (NYC), John Thornton (NYC); Dave Mikes (NYC), Tony Moddaferi (NYC), Tony Lombardi (NYC). Not shown was Joe Rossi (NYC).

deserts 'all compliments' of the Combine. When everyone finally had their fill, it was time for, "The Ultimate Auction" and it certainly lived up to its name. Out of 146 birds put up, 100 sold for \$10,000 - that's an average of \$100.00 per bird sold.

The bidding was fierce and competitive as some beautiful Flights passed through the auction cage. The highest price paid was for a young Yellow Cap Cock (\$600.00) auctioned off by Sal Gigante and Monteleone and purchased by R.W.P. Johnston of Lexington, KY. This was not the only action as the for sale section also sold a few thousand dollars worth of birds. Between the exhibited birds, the auction and for sale birds, there were approximately 600 Domestic Show Flights at Polish National Hall that day. You can just imagine the "Flight Frenzie." We then proceeded to raffle off a 27" stereo color T.V. and a huge basket of cheer. Following the raffle, we gave out our beautiful unique trophies. First place was our trademark, a ceramic life sized painted statue representing our breed and the Combine.

Second and third were beautiful wood with marble base trophies with a gold disc with the "Flights Around The World" logo on it. There were also special awards donated by our brothers from across the Pond (U.K.) for best PH and Caps. The Show reluctantly ended about 8 p.m. Sunday evening with the total cooperation of all our members and friends.

Special mention must go to our hard working Show Super for a super job, well done as usual, Kudos to Ange Mangino. Also in the same category are men such as John Pluchino for another outstanding job of decorating our Show Hall, Pete Fratangelo for his dedication and hard work, Vinnie Montanino for his hard work and expertise. Mike Christiano for being picture perfect. And to men like Mike Celebre, John Spahr, Sal De Caro, Jerry Paretti, Bill Cusack, Bob Scavone, Jake Muscanerra, John Marshall, Tony Modafferri (our hard working Sgt.-at-Arms), Pete Fratangelo Jr., Frank Braccia, John Grasso, The Thorntons and a host of other members for their dedication, cooperation and hard work enabling us to put on the "Greatest Flight Show" ever held and last but not least special thanks to our stewards, Dave Mikes, Steve LaSala, Nelson Bowers, Pete Fratangelo Jr., Pete Garcia, Bob Simeone, Jim Bush and Tony Lombardi.

This job is one of the toughest as you never get to sit back and watch the judging. We thank you gentlemen one and all. As great as it sounds, this Show and Convention was even greater. You had to be there to experience the ultimate in what a Domestic Flight Show or any show for that matter should be. We have received nothing but raves and accolades from everyone who attended and believe me we are not done yet. Our unique and lucrative Golden Futurity with its innovative two divisions was held Sunday, January 19, 1992 - the third and last leg of the one and only Triple Crown for Domestic Flights. With our splendid and regal gold and blue decorations and our hot smorgasbord and the richest Futurity in all of

the Flight history with the finest Flights that 1991 has to offer, how could we miss?

This our final extravaganza for the 91-92 show year. How can we top this? Stay tuned for 92-93.



Hard working NYC Vice President Vinnie Montanino.



Pete Fratangelo, publicity director for the New York Combine and Flights Around The World.



Pictured left to right representatives of New York Combine and its affiliates Mike Lerp, president of The Southern Domestic Flight Assn., Bill Mackey, president of The Western Domestic Flight Assn.; Sal Gignate, president of The New York Combine; and Jim Mullens, secretary of The British Domestic Flight Assn.



John Pluchino (right) instructing Jim Bush (Calif.) on judging.

An All Pro Tumbler Fancier

by BRET RICE, Yuma, Ariz.

If you are not yet a Pro show pigeon fancier you might want to read this. If you are a seasoned fancier you might get a kick out of it anyway.

First, I'd like to take a moment to thank more than 60 fellow Tumbler fanciers who attended our National Championship Tumbler Show sponsored by the United English Tumbler Club and Pacific Tumbler Club in December. Our hosts were the best all breed club in America, the L.A.P.C., at the Pageant of Pigeons in the fantastic facility, Orange Show, in San Bernadino.

Many friends journeyed long distances from the East Coast and Midwest to help make this a memorable event. Thank you Tony Olszewski, who won Best Bald, for bringing your cheerful heart you are a joy. Thank you Jim Stehr, and my buddy Jim Wilson, and (new to me) gentleman and fancier Emil Piergiorgio who exhibited beautiful Barred Tumblers, and Mike Skaggs, the eloquent Englishman. These fellows, and dozens more, all spent time, money and effort to help us make it a swell show.

Years ago as a youngster, I was lucky enough to have a mentor who patiently helped me learn basics about raising Tumblers. I was just one of a half dozen Arizona youths so blessed in the 60's. At the time, I didn't

appreciate other lessons I was learning from Mr. McSweeney... but give me a break, I was only a boy. Now I have been twice blessed because a fancier who is "All Pro" has been quietly increasing my awareness of other things it takes to be a real Tumbler fancier.

I think these are our golden days. I was able to attend a U.E.T.C./N.C.T.S. primarily because this man has worked toward a goal for more than 20 years... develop a united club and National show equally representing all Tumbler special interest clubs.

This same fancier has won his share of major awards. I have seen him accept awards graciously while freely giving credit to fellow fanciers who have helped him somehow in years past. He realizes that a win is more than one man's triumph but rather reflects the groups achievement toward our standard. I have also seen this man lose at major shows; I mean very close... but no cigar. He doesn't sulk, he doesn't moan. This Tumbler man congratulates his fellow fancier and wishes him well. I really need to learn this lesson. Why am I always too wrapped up in the winning and losing to see a bigger picture?

This man speaks his mind; he shares his opinion. He also values and listens to the opinion of the others, many of whom (like

me) weren't even born when this man already was breeding national Champions. Case in point, he worked to improve the written standard of his breed. Not one to shirk responsibility, this man helped develop a contemporary standard with input from "every" Tumbler person in the country. Today it's done, you can get a copy from the U.E.T.C. Secretary.

As a side note, I was invited to judge a fine little show a few years ago. I'd just been back into Tumblers for a couple of seasons and I was plenty nervous. You know I wanted to choose some good birds that day. At my side, recording the results, he could have mentioned that he had been an exhibitor at that show since before the war... (not Vietnam, the other big war). This Tumbler man didn't. He recorded my choices and added nothing but occasional honest sincere encouragement. I've since come to appreciate that day. How many senior fanciers (or we whiz kid know it alls for that matter) could have shown such restraint? Or... is it possible... did I choose all winners and exactly the same Tumblers he would have chosen that day?

The Tumblers come first for this fancier, but not before a query about how my family is doing; but not before he does more than his fair share stewarding at any show; but not before he donates his fair share in case for any Club cause. Finally, the Tumblers come first, but not before he serves as our first President of the United English Tumbler Club. He has listened to us all and was the first to congratulate the Club on its accomplishments.

Thanks you "All Pro" Robert H. Smith of Manchester, California, for many jobs well done, for many efforts well conceived and completed, for many times our example and mentor. Today, we live in a Golden Age for the Tumbler fancy.

Hurrah For The Science Nest!

by GARY YOUNG, Roy, Utah

I'm certain you have noticed the full page advertisement for "Science Nests" in the APJ? Maybe you were interested but not enough to act on it, or perhaps you think it's just another sales gimmick. Well, I'm here to tell you, you're missing out on a quality investment. These nests will prove themselves over and over again in your loft. I don't care what your past experience or prejudice tells you. Just order a couple and try them out.

I am the biology teacher with an MS that ran the experiment leading to the original design (American Pigeon Journal, March 1979, page 145) but I'm not making a dime for writing this article or for any sales of the nests. I freely gave my permission to Gene Hochlan to use the results of my nest experiments in his enterprise. If you think that's stupid, you're probably right, but most scientists get their jollies out of experimentation not from entrepreneurship.

For years, I have been amazed at how well all breeds of pigeons and doves use the V-shaped wooden prototypes, but then Mr. Hochlan was kind enough to send me a couple of his high tech plastic models to try out. I was immediately impressed with their durability. These nests could last a 100 years or more and be used over and over again. In addition, the plastic construction allows for

washing or sterilizing, which the wooden ones do not lend themselves very well to. Of course there are no nails to come loose or rust out, and when a fancier decides to get out of birds, Science Nests can be sold without any depreciation.

To be honest with you however, I didn't really think the birds would like them as well as my old tried-and-true wooden ones at first. I just put a couple of handfuls of shavings in the bottom of each one and hung them up on the wall in an open loft of Frillbacks. It wasn't too long before I noticed they were treating them like pigeon-sized lawn chairs. They just seemed to enjoy lounging around in them. Then I thought they'd roost on them and fill em up with poop. Frillbacks generally like to hide a bit when they nest (like a lot of other breeds). But, next thing I know I've got eggs in them!

Now, let's 'think' about this. These birds passed up a nice cozy little conventional hide-a-way up in the corner for a plastic egg holder hanging on an open wall? Yup, these Science Nests have the same old magic attraction that my V-shaped nests had. All I can say is, hurrah for ingenuity, and hurrah for Hawk Enterprises for helping out the pigeon fancy. Give Science Nests a try folks. I know you'll be as pleasantly surprised as I am.

Is It Time For Another Tumbler Special?

by TOM THOMPSON, Jersey Shore, Pa.

It's been almost eight years since a special issue has been done on L.F. English Tumblers, muff and clean leg. In those eight years a lot has taken place, the loss of many prominent Tumbler breeders, the workings of a new written Standard, the forming of the United English Tumbler Club, and new faces in the Tumblers fancy.

When the Oct. 1983 Special came out, I believe it was the biggest APJ ever assembled. That has been beaten but if that's any indication of what happened then, we should really pull one off now. I'm willing to act as a coordinator for this Special Issue, please send me your thoughts via phone or letter. Tom Thompson, R.R. #2, Box 726, Jersey Shore, PA 17740, phone 717-745-7319. Best wishes for all Tumbler breeders in 1992.

Back To The Future In Tumbler Breeding

by DAVID PADDICK JR., Terre Haute, Ind.

How many times have you heard someone lament, "how I long for the good old days" or "if we could only turn back the hands of time." Around pigeon fanciers it seems we hear these sayings a lot. I hear it in the circle of fanciers we call the Tumbler men (or women). As a young man, and a novice breeder, I have no idea what the "good old days" were like. However, I do know what it is like today. And I also know that tomorrow can be even better IF the current fanciers begin to effect change in our hobby.

I for one am frustrated with the concept of the "good old days." If they were so good then how come so many varieties of Tumblers are no longer around? Why did it take 30 years for the marked muffs to make a comeback? Where are all of the brilliant colors that once graced the show cages at the Tumbler shows (i.e. Khaki and Brown Bar Muffs, Almonds, Andalusians, etc.)? Why are the C.L. Beards 20 years behind the C.L. Baldheads in Tumbler type? To my knowledge there are only a handful of muffed Tumbler breeders that are even trying to breed the standard colors of barred muffs! If we are to preserve what is left of the "good old days" (which are the modern day Tumblers) for future generations then the time to start is now. As a novice breeder I would like to present, for your approval, four steps that I hope will lead us back to the future.

Step number one, NEVER GIVE UP. How many times, even this breeding season, have you threatened to "chuck it all" sell your birds and head for the local fishin' hole? If you have felt that way - take heart my friend, you are not alone. I have recently been in contact with a couple of people that feel that way. My advice to them was - never forget what brought you this far. Relax, there is always next year. Tumblers are not a matter of life or death. Our entry into heaven is not contingent on our current breeding season (I hope!).

Step number two, COMMUNICATION. How many fellow breeders have you been in contact with this year who do not live in your area? How many letters have you written to your club secretary? How many calls have you made to breeders you know are working on the same project(s) that you are? I know that everyone is busy, but how long does it take to pick up the phone or jot down a note? And besides, it is much cheaper than a personal visit. If nothing else just encourage one another in the fancy. There are a world of people out there needing to fill a void in their lives - why can't Tumblers do it for them too? If you have lost your best breeder and need help - pick up the phone and call. I know that there are fellow fanciers out there willing to help. But alas, if we remain unin-

formed we will never know. I would like to say BRAVO to Bob Witte for letting the rest of us know about the comeback of the whiteside muffs. Had it not been for his few lines and photo in the APJ, I would have never known. THANKS BOB!! Just because you have raised Tumblers for several years, don't assume that everyone knows what is going on. I know that as a newcomer to the fancy the best way to improve my birds is to pick the brains of the people who have been successful over the years. Are we all so wrapped up in our own Tumbler "fantasies" that we can't take time out to speak with or communicate with our fellow breeders? If we can't communicate among ourselves how do we expect to attract a new generation of breeders that will love Tumblers as we do?

The third step is PARTNERSHIP. Isn't that what pigeon breeding is all about, helping each other? I know that there are many breeders willing to help out. I would just like to say thank you to those who have helped me out many times over: THANKS Bob, Harlan, Gary, Bobby, Barry, Jim Stehr, and Charles Hutton! I don't understand how in one breath a breeder can say how much he loves the fancy and in the next breath ask a novice breeder to pay \$100.00 or more for a pair of birds! Don't forget that you were the novice once too. Had it not been for those "cheerful givers" that went before you, would you be a Tumbler fancier now?

The final step is ADVERTISING. Advertising you say? Isn't that a bit much? I don't mean to take out an ad in the APJ every month - I mean SHOW YOUR BIRDS! Other people are never going to fall in love with Tumblers if they never see them? The local, specialty, and national shows are the best way to help promote our fancy. I know a couple of people who breed quality Tumblers but choose never to show them. They say that they are just for their pleasure. If you enjoy them that much don't you think that other people might too if they only knew? I plan to show some of my first year stuff this year. I already know that they don't have a prayer in the show. However, I want the breeders that helped me out to see the progress that I am making. I also want the judge to be very specific about the areas that my birds are lacking. Even the most accomplished breeder is never too old to learn. If you enjoy them, promote them.

For what it is worth that is the platform that I suggest. It may have been great back in the good old days but tomorrow can be even better. How's about it? If you're with me - let's get busy!!

(Note: This article is in no way meant to be a criticism. It is simply some observations and some possible solutions).

Charlie Armstrong, A Tribute

by JIM ARMSTRONG,
Auburn, Alabama

"Give me the roses while I live," too often we wait until it is too late to express appreciation to those who have helped us. I don't want to be guilty of that error.

Way back around 1966, I was searching for yet another animal to add to my menagerie. Several species were batted around until Dad finally suggested raising pigeons. That day began a hobby that has lasted over 25 years and, like the Energizer bunny, still going strong.

After visiting some pigeon fanciers in the Winston-Salem, North Carolina area, we came home and modified a rabbit hutch to house a pair of blue Baldhead Rollers. From that rabbit hutch, we grew into a 6' x 8' loft of Frillbacks, then a 10' x 12', on up to a 12' x 24' loft. Through all of this, Dad was 100% supportive; he would take days off of work to build lofts and spend evenings at pigeon club meetings. Dad and I devoted many a Saturday and Sunday afternoon to visiting pigeon fanciers.

Show season was no different. Some of my fondest memories involve drives to Florence or Greenville, SC, Charlotte, NC, and finally, Louisville, KY. These times were spent planning matings or figuring loft expansions to accommodate that new pair of birds Dad just bought for me.

Like most boys, with age, I became interested in sports and other things. However, unlike many adolescent pigeon fanciers, my interest in pigeons never faltered. I am sure that a large part of this consistency was due to the relationship Dad and I built around the pigeons. Even when I went away to college (several times), I was able to continue in the pigeon fancy because Dad kept the birds for me.

Today, I am married and have children of my own; but Dad and I still keep pigeons. He has a loft of Racing Homers and Frillbacks, and I keep Show Racers and Frillbacks. A phone call never goes by that we don't discuss some aspect of the pigeon hobby.

I should add that while this article is a tribute to my father, my mother has been very tolerant and helpful through the years. I am thankful that both Mom and Dad are in good health and can enjoy retirement on the family farm. I am also thankful that Dad helped me start up a hobby which has brought us closer together through the years. I hope that I can instill a love for pigeons in my children and carry the hobby into a third generation. Thanks again, Dad and I love you.

The Bird Of Beauty

by ROBERT ANDERSON, Pub. Dir.,
American Lahore Club

For those of you who have bred or shown Lahores and could never find the quality or colors that existed in other breeds, look again. Those of breeders who were members of the American Lahore Club in the past and found it somewhat unresponsive, look at us now!

I welcome you to visit the Lahore Breeders at an upcoming ALC meet and see the new Lahore Standard and the new colors we're creating. We're especially proud of our new Standard of Perfection and the job well done by our Standard Revision Committee: Guy Marlar, Steve Bieberich, Mike Garcia, Roscoe Harbaugh, and Selden Perry. Our new Standard is very clearly written and includes a host of new colors.

We still raise with delight those rich reds and yellows, the deep blacks with a beetle-green sheen, and the pastel lavenders, but it's the other colors I'm going to tell you about. In the last ten years several breeders have introduced colors that are now widespread.

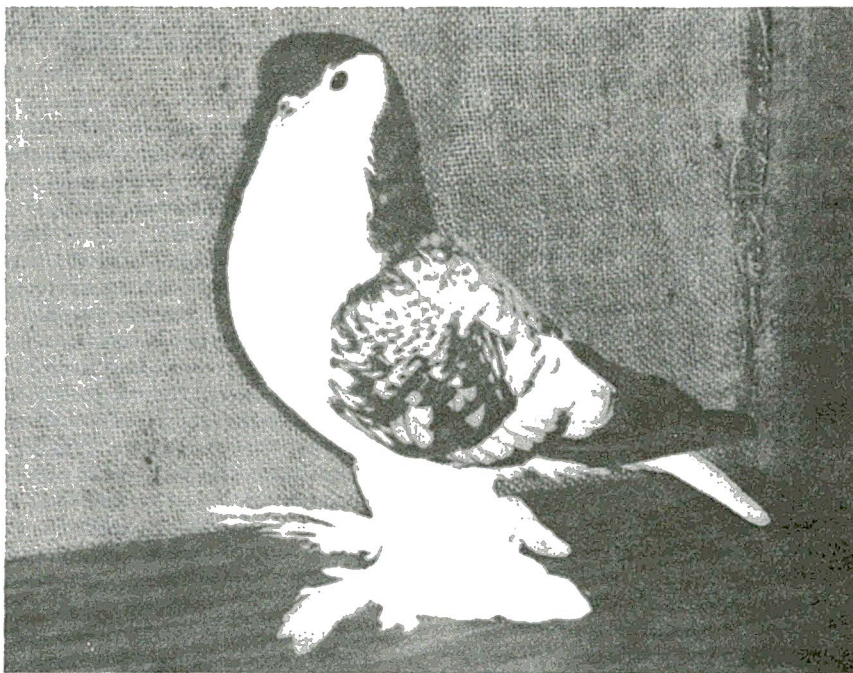
On the West Coast is Mike Garcia who shows birds developed by Norm Lofing which have Modena Bronze. Mike raises russets, bronzes, ochres, as well as creams, khakis, silvers and his excellent blues.

Lynn Willis' color projects are: dominant opal, barless, archangel and modena bronze. (Lynn - hope you'll show them here in the Midwest!)

Dallas Davis in Wisconsin breeds many colors, but dominant opal and grizzles are the projects he's keen on. Verlyn Lemke, also in Wisconsin has a very good stud of mealys and blues, and we'll be seeing them at the National in Milwaukee.

In Kansas, our President Guy Marlar has been developing toy stencil, andalusian, indigo, and reduced - all of which are overshadowed by his powerful blacks. Steve Bieberich's brown family are very close to winning a major show. Steve also breeds and shows Khakis in bars and selfs, and the ash red family. Washington, DC is the home of our secretary Alan Zuschlag, who works overtime to put out the American Lahore Club's 10 page monthly newsletter. Alan is working on the ice color and barless. I know I've missed a few other breeders in the ALC breeding other colors. If I have please drop me a line and let me know the projects you're working on.

The acceleration of the ALC as a club on the rise is due to the new officers, a revised standard, new colors, and an informed and active membership which has doubled in less than a year. If you are interested in a terrific breed with plenty of challenges, beautiful colors, and the backing of a great specialty club, please contact our secretary for further information: Alan Zuschlag, 1507 Corcoran Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.



Blue T-Pattern toy stencil Lahore Hen. - Bred and developed by Guy Marlar, Arkansas City, Kansas.



LAHORE
Black old cock #881. - Bred by Guy Marlar, Arkansas City, Kansas.

Pierce's Pigeon Supplies Temporarily Closed

by DOUGLAS PIERCE

It has come to my attention through several complaints from close personal friends of mine that Pierce's Pigeon Supplies had not been sending out catalogs as were requested. The ones that were sent out were sent late and were just copy-machine garbage.

The man responsible for this was my shop manager. He had pocketed the funds for himself as he tried to cheat the customer. This man has been fired!

Pierce's Pigeon Supplies has been tem-

porarily closed. I'm moving the business to my home-town in Colorado. New catalogs will be printed up and I will be personally running the business myself. I would like at this time to apologize to anybody that has tried to do business with this firm before this publication.

I'm hoping to start back up by May 1, 1992. Looking forward to doing business with the public. Again, my deepest apologies.

Update On Pending Legislation Which Could Eventually Affect The Pigeon Hobby

by CHARLES HILDRETH, Cincinnati, Ohio

I recently placed an article in APJ (Oct. 91, page 35) about the dangers that animal rights extremist groups are posing to our hobby and all of aviculture through their aggressive lobbying in congress and public campaigning, which many regard as one-sided and misleading. I referred the readers to information in November 1991 "Bird Talk" magazine about this issue. The February 1992 issue of "Bird Talk" has an editorial on page 3 summarizing and updating the information. I believe it is becoming even more urgent that we all act promptly by becoming fully informed and writing our congressmen who will vote on the final legislation which will have broad impact on our hobby. Even before any legislation has been passed the animal rights groups have strong-armed some airlines into refusing to ship certain imported birds. It is clear that these fanatics are trying to put their goals over behind our backs before most of us wake up and wonder what happened. It is ironic that the people who clamor so loudly about the "ethical" treatment of animals are not ethical in their own tactics.

I am submitting a sample letter which I urge all APJ readers to copy, sign and send to both senators from your state and the representative from your congressional district. You may prefer to use this letter as a model for one of your own. It would help also if you can locate the above-mentioned issues of "Bird Talk" and get the facts first-hand. At first it may seem that the controversy concerns only parrots and other exotic species, but eventually the outcome will affect us all. All of us in aviculture must stand together. Addresses are: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, and U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Let's keep informed, spread the word, and act now. Let's let these animal rights fanatics know that they had better be ready for a heck of a fight if they insist in meddling in our hobby.

Dear Honorable _____,

I am a breeder and keeper of pet birds, and I am disturbed by legislation proposed by some animal rights activists aimed at severely restricting importation and trade in pet birds. Even though their initial aim is to eliminate importation of wild-caught birds for the pet trade, their ultimate goal is to severely restrict and even eliminate all avicultural activities. Their lobbying and public campaigning activities are one-sided, dishonest, and misleading. I therefore urge you not to be misled by their deceptive tactics and to vote against their proposals, labeled HR 2540 and S 1219.

Instead I would urge your support for the carefully-prepared proposals HR 2541 and S

1218 of the Cooperative Working Group on Bird Trade (CWGBT), made up of a well-rounded group of respected, credible, effective conservation, avicultural, zoological, veterinarian and other organizations. Any real accomplishments in the areas of bird conservation, preservation of natural habitats, elimination of abuses, better care of pet birds, and captive-breeding of birds for conservation purposes and for the pet trade will be made by this group and others like it. The proposals of the animal rights party will only prove to be disruptive and counter-productive to the legitimate concerns of all parties including the birds, and will lead to increased smuggling and other abuses.

{Editor's Note: This was sent to us by Frank Dorritie, San Francisco, Calif. We have also received several other articles on the live pigeon shoots from across the country.}

DEAR ABBY: I read in a recent column about the Midland (Texas) Community Spirit Award honoring American communities for distinguished caring service.

Although it is fitting that truly good people should be honored may I suggest a different award - for the community that most shames America by its total lack of decency and humaneness. I nominate Hegins, Pa.

Every Labor Day, this little town invites its residents to a family outing that features a live pigeon shoot.

As the pigeons (which have been confined in small boxes) are released, and the disoriented birds attempt to achieve flight, they are shot down by the town's "sportsmen."

The birds that are not killed instantly then have their necks twisted and broken by young boys trained for this occasion.

Their slogan this year was "Shoot pigeons - not drugs!" (As though the only sensible alternative to shooting drugs is shooting pigeons.)

The keeping of birds is an activity which brings untold joy and meaning to me and countless other people around the world. It is a time-honored activity that goes back to the early days of human history. It is totally unfitting that some upstart group of self-appointed "do-gooders" should be allowed to disrupt this worthwhile endeavor. The animal rights philosophy is based on the absurd premise that it is wrong to keep any birds or other animals in captivity. Both common sense and history prove this notion to be absurd.

Please support the reasonable, practical, constructive legislation HR 2541 and S 1218 of the CWGBT and vote against the plausible-sounding but erroneous proposals HR 2540 and S 1219 of the misguided, fanatical party of "animal rightists."

Respectfully,

Pigeon Shoot Ruffles Feathers

Let's hope public awareness and outrage at this unbelievable cruelty will finally bring an end to this "sport," which the Pennsylvania legislature has refused to stop.

ASHAMED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ASHAMED: I hope so, too, but don't bet on it. In 1986, I wrote to then-Gov. Dick Thornburgh (who was until recently U.S. Attorney General), asking him to please put an end to this shameful sport.

He shot me down with a courteous letter defending the live pigeon shoot as a time-honored tradition.

To call this practice barbaric is to unfairly malign barbarians. The fate of our hobby is directly tied to the public's attitude toward the common rock dove. A short note expressing the feelings of a pigeon fancier will have a most positive result if addressed to Abigail Van Buren, Dear Abby, Universal Press Syndicate, 4900 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64112. More people read her column than the pronouncements of politicians.

Incidentally, Dick Thornburgh just lost the election for senator from Pennsylvania. Ms. Van Buren's column appeared nationwide a few days before the election. - Frank Dorritie

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Junior In The Fancy

by JORETTA HAAS, Clyde, Texas

I am writing this article to remind seniors in the pigeon fancy not to chase our juniors away and to teach them to love pigeons and not make a chore out of taking care of them. We, as adults, should help as much as we can. I know kids have to learn responsibility, but I am talking about children from three to ten. My son is five and has been in the loft and around pigeons since he was born. We had pigeons before we had children. He has settled my birds down a lot. They are not near as flighty as they have gotten use to loud noises and children playing. I gave him some birds

when he was four and he can catch and hold our Parlor Tumblers much better than his older cousins. He has helped me feed and water only when he wants to and we have made a game over how good of help he has become. I never force him to help and I let him hold and pet the birds whenever he wants to.

He also has open freedom of the loft and we have never lost a bird yet. This past summer when he turned five we built him a kit loft and he is currently flying 18 Rollers which he and I fly together. Most days he

helps to feed and water his own birds but when he doesn't want to, I do it for him. I have to feed and water my own birds anyway and it does not take more than a few extra minutes to feed his. As he gets older he will have to do it all my himself but right now I want him to develop a love of the hobby and not be driven away by thinking of his birds as another chore. I want them to be the joy they were meant to be and five year olds are old enough to enjoy the birds. He also has a few racing homers that we take out and let go and he shows in every show that MaMa shows in. He has a trophy and lots of ribbons and loves his birds. Let them grow into the responsibility and don't force it on them and maybe that love of the birds will stay with all their lives and they will become the fanciers of tomorrow.

Those Wonderful Wutas

by ALAN DeGROTE, Worthington, Minnesota

Are the nose diving Wutas truly a wonderful breed of pigeon? Through a lot of hard work, I found the breed to be very rewarding. As a novice in this breed the rewards didn't come easy.

After I purchased two pair of quality birds from a respected fancier, I soon had young birds to fly. I started a training program with a couple of young birds. With very little understanding or knowledge of the breed, I had become frustrated. The birds were interested in nothing but walking around

the yard. I would try to toss the birds into the air, but with the same results. These co-called nose diving Wutas were nothing but grounders I thought to myself.

Would two nose diving Wutas get the best of me? What about that roaring dive? Why wouldn't those birds fly?

I continued with my training techniques and experimented with new ideas. After several days I was able to toss the birds into the air and they would fly to the loft door. Still the birds didn't seem too interested in the blue skies overhead.

Would flying one bird be the answer to my flying problem? Releasing one bird into the air seemed to be the solution. The single bird was soon circling the loft about tree-top high. Being very excited with what I was seeing, I released the second bird. With little luck, the two birds were soon back on the ground. The birds became more controllable by cutting back on the feed. I found the birds more at ease and not so wild if I didn't handle them. Soon I was able to lead the birds through the loft door out onto the yard. With a clap of my hands, the birds were airborne and flying higher and higher.

Just as things were looking up, I soon had another problem. Would you believe I had nose diving Wutas that would fly until almost dark. All my commands for the birds to come down to the loft or yard was met with little response from my highflying Wutas. I was able to solve this problem by doing several different things. I discovered cutting back on the feed, feeding only after flying, and flying at different hours of the day soon helped.

As the weeks and months pass, maybe my time and patience are beginning to pay rewards. The birds are flying, stooping, diving, and responding better each day. With the days getting shorter in southwest Minnesota, maybe I can now say I have nose diving Wutas at my loft.

The wonderful flying Wutas, what a remarkable breed of pigeon.



WUTA

Blue Checkered Wuta cock. — Bred and owned by Alan DeGrote.



WUTA

Pure white Wuta hen. — Owned by Alan DeGrote.



Zach Haas in front of his kit loft. — Photo by Joretta Haas, Clyde, Texas.

My Newest Pigeon Buddy

by BOB RYAN, Staten Island, N.Y.

I would like to introduce you to my newest pigeon buddy, my daughter Amanda. She is 22 months old and she loves the birds since she first went to pet shops in Queens, NY, and Brooklyn, NY, she has been in love with the birds. I think it's great. She stands with me when they fly, claps her hands when I do to make the birds fly higher, tells them that they are bad when they're on the ground. Anyone who has a young daughter or son I hope you know and enjoy the time with your kid and the birds. It is an awesome feeling.

In closing, I hope the APJ will print this article so I can show it to Amanda when she is old enough to read and understand it. I want to tell you I love you Amanda, you make me so proud every day and you make a great hobby even better day by day. I also want to thank my beautiful wife, Renee, for giving me such a beautiful and super special daughter.

Pigeons And Kids

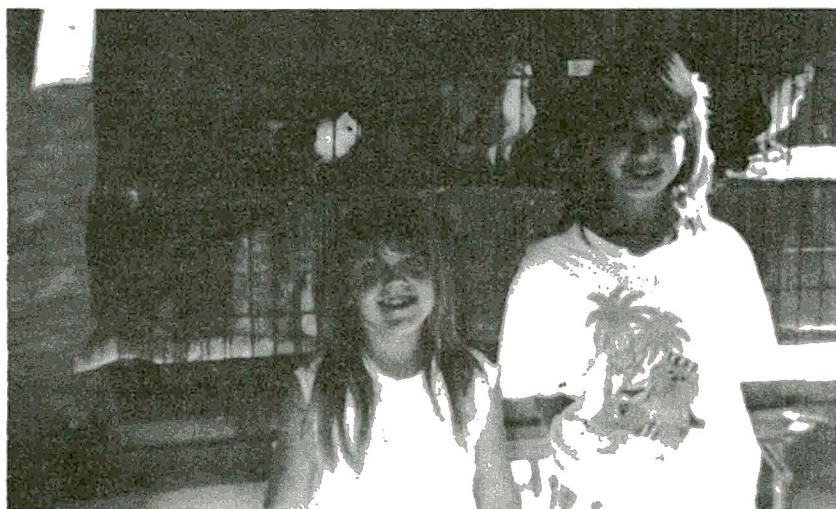
by BOB SALWEY, LaQuinta, Calif.

I remember my first pigeons. They were commies I caught in a barn when I was in 6th grade. (A few years ago). They kept me off the street and out of trouble, plus taught me a lot about responsibility.

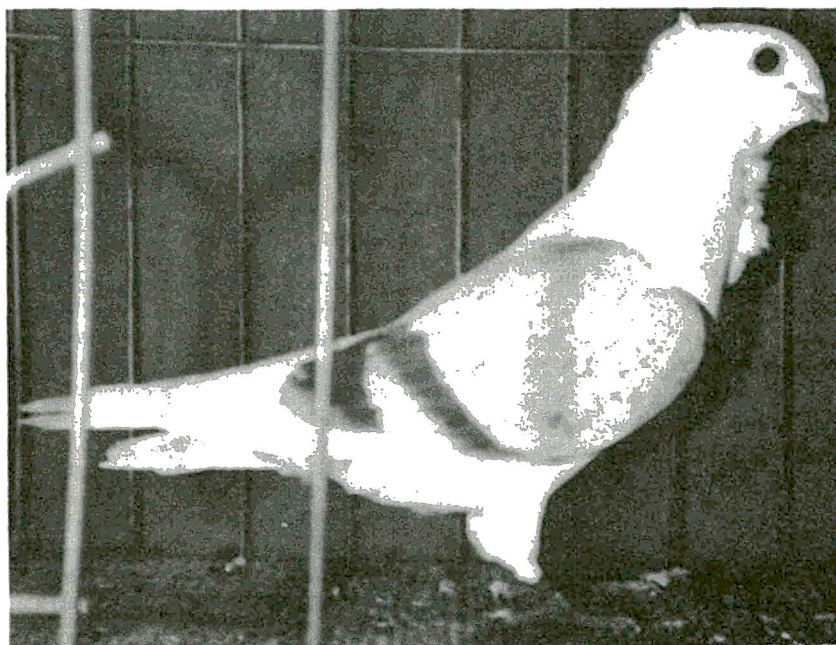
Well, I'm not a perfect parent, but having a hobby that we can share really helps me to a special time with my children. My oldest daughter has really been involved with her Old Dutch Turbits and shows them whenever possible. She has not had much competition, but at the last few shows, she com-

peted against some other people. I remember her talking to me about not winning or what the judge is going to say. And I'll remember those times. And I'll remember the ride home when I got to listen to her tell me how much fun it was and how she was glad she won. I pray we can always have these special talks and can find other things that bring us together as we enjoy God's creation.

She raises reds, red bars, blue bars and blacks. And, we are working on brown bars. She is also looking for yellows or silver bars.



Mandy Salwey (left), five years old, and Niccy Salwey, nine years old.



OLD DUTCH TURBIT

This Red Bar Old Dutch Turbit, #74, was Champion Old Dutch Turbit and Reserve Champion Rare Breed at the Pomona Grand National. - Bred and owned by Niccy Salwey, LaQuinta, Calif.



ENROLLMENT FORM

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

Club Name _____

Sec.'s Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

We have _____ members

and have enclosed _____ for enrollment.

Send To:
Nick Gavura, APFC Treas.
4027 Graybridge East
St. Peters, MO 63376

PigeonholesLoft Ideas For You

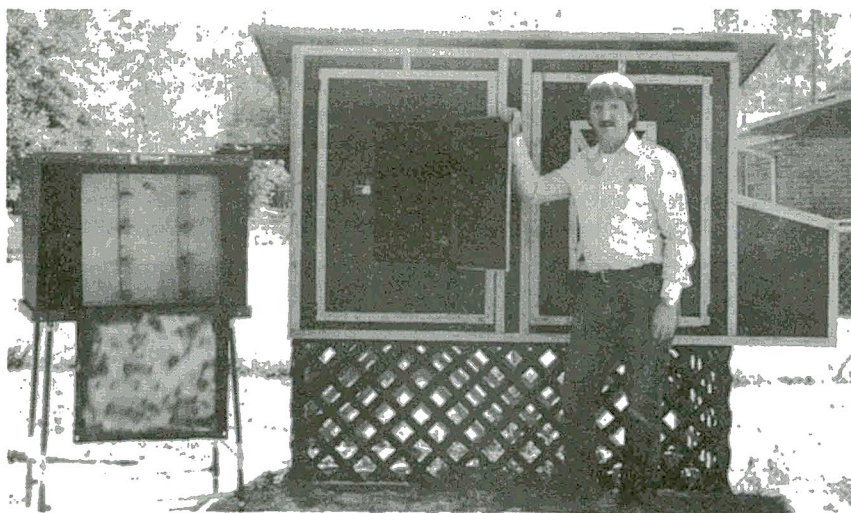
Portable Kit Pen Convenient For Roller Fanciers

by EARL WALKER, Palatka, Fla.

In June 1991, I attended the annual Backspin Classic held in South Carolina. This was a very well planned event and the guys involved had plenty of help and support from their wives. If any of you have ever tried to move a large number of people from one location to another through city traffic you know what I'm talking about. Everything went very well from what I saw and couldn't have been coordinated much better. Believe me, Don Greene doesn't need a P.A. system, just a platform to speak from. (He also flies some great birds as most of them did).

While there we told pigeon tales and passed pictures around from different lofts. I was asked by Roger Baker and George Valiska to submit an article and pictures to the APJ of a portable kit pen I designed and built.

In picture number one you see the portable pen set up and ready to fly from. I'm standing in front of one of my dual kit pens. The second picture shows the perches taken

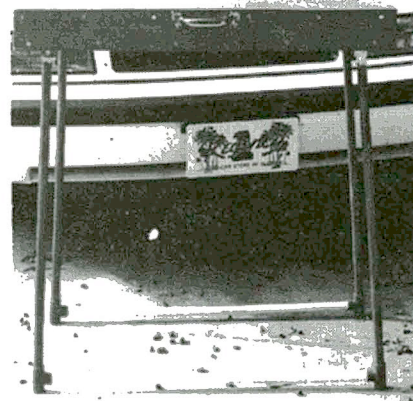


Earl Walker, Palatka, Fla., in front of his dual kit pens for Rollers. On the left is the portable kit pen Earl designed and built.

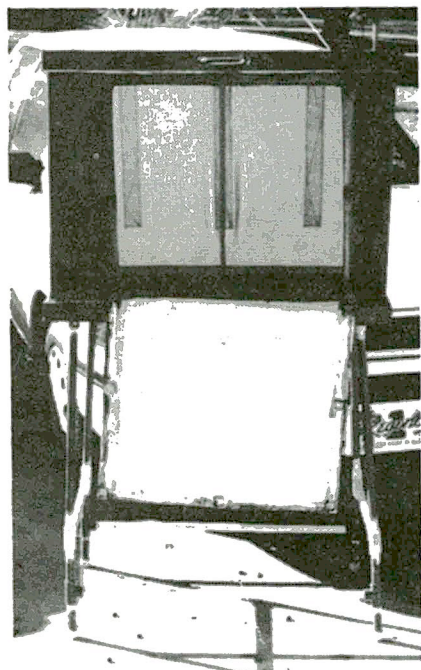
out and the velcro that holds the perches in place. In picture number three the pen is folded with the perches inside with the legs still in place. In picture number four the legs are slipped apart and placed inside the case and closed ready to travel. I carry the birds in a carrying basket.

The top and bottom are made of 1/4 inch plywood with a 1-1/2 inch strip around each piece. The sides are made of Hercu-lite which is a very tough and durable vinyl. Hercu-lite is woven nylon string and then covered with a water proof plastic. This material is often used in making boat tops, awnings and other items that are outside and exposed to the elements. The legs are made from PVC pipe that can be purchased at most hardware and plumbing supplies. Most of the leg joints are slip joints that make it easy to disassemble and then placed inside along with the perches.

The perches are 2-1/2 inches wide with



The portable kit pen is folded with the perches inside but the legs are still in place.



The portable kit pen with the perches removed.



The portable kit pen is completely folded down and ready to travel.

velcro glued and stapled to the backside. The perches stick onto the sides of the pen where velcro is sewn in a vertical position. This size pen will hold 20 birds, three sets of perches on the back wall and one on each end consisting of four perches on each set.

The pen is held open by four braces or legs which are hinged in each inside corner.

The release door can be any size you want (the pen also). The door has velcro sewn on each side and has two twist type boat snaps on each top corner to prevent an accidental release.

The overall weight of the pen is approximately 15 pounds. This includes the perches, legs, and settling cage which are designed to

fit inside the case when closed. Not pictured is the settling cage which fits over the release opening and also folds. This wire cage serves the same purpose as a settling cage on a stationary kit pen.

As most roller men know, our birds are creatures of habit and can be trained to fly from and return to almost any type of container. It's all in the training.

This kit pen can be set up or broken down in approximately one minute without the use of any tools.

Anyone with questions or comments can write to me at: Rt. 5, Box 1859, Palatka, Fla. 32177.

Issa Hilweh, Amy Neill, Chris Medders, and Brian Medders. The winners of the open competition were:

Champion: John DeCarlo Jr. (NPA Certificate and SCVPC plaque) - Chinese Owl.
1st Res. Champion: Mike Neill (NPA Certificate and SCVPC plaque) - Indian Fantail.

2nd Res. Champion: Tim Hodge (NPA Certificate) - Show Roller.

3rd Res. Champion: John DeCarlo Jr. (NPA Certificate) - African Owl.

4th Res. Champion: Scott Brandt (NPA Certificate) - Standard Fantail.

Congratulations to all. The competition was real close and the judges commented on the fine condition of all the birds.

The second show I attended was the CCPC Cavalcade of Pigeons held on Nov. 2 and 3 in Fresno, California. I'm still waiting for a list of junior entrants but there appeared to be about 12 to 15 in the competition with 20 birds entered. Amy Neill was the winner with a Vienna Gansel old cock and she brought home a real nice trophy. Geoff Teigen had a real nice showing of Modenas in the National Modena Club 6th District Meet (about 300 birds). He had 1st and 2nd Reserve Champion in their junior competition of about 10 birds. (Sorry, don't know the name of the Champion yet). Tim Hodge had the Champion Show Roller and Amy Neill had Champion Tumbler. Both of these were in competition with the seniors. Nice job, juniors. I was lucky enough to capture Best of Color for my Splash Indian Fantail and Jr. Champion Indian Fantail at both the Great Western and the CCPC Cavalcade.

There are still a lot of shows left so keep working with the birds and keep up the good work.

In the Fancy, Mike Neill.

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SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

by KELLEY D. SPURLING,

Head Junior Director,

Performing Roller Assn.

1475 Sunglo Dr.

Grants Pass, Ore. 97527

PERFORMANCE

The true Flying Performing Roller is cultivated to turn over backwards with an uncountable number of flips (inconceivable velocity) in one unbroken sequence for a considerable distance.

The roll should be free of visible faults. There should be no changing of the wings or twisting sideways.

When the roll is executed, the wings should be held in an upward position, so as the bird will be more aerodynamic.

The wings are not to be outstretched, as this will cause drag, thus limiting velocity.

When beginning the roll it should be smooth appearing effortless.

The bird should end the roll in the same manner, appearing to "pop" out of the roll in a clean fashion.

Velocity is the most important factor when judging a birds worth.

Rollers of extreme velocity are usually very clean and straight performers. And never "loose" in the roll.

A roller will "tuck-in" only so far, what appears to be tighter is an illusion caused by great velocity.

At this "tuck-in point," we have a pigeon which shows two holes barely visible. An "S" forms on the bird. This is a high-quality pigeon.

As the velocity gets greater, more optical illusions appear. The next type of performer will show a large hole in the side. This is what can be called the "H" roller, as view from the back or front resembles an "H".

As the velocity types go on, the hole appears to shrink. Eventually until it appears to disappear. This is the "no hole" roller. The hole is an optical illusion created by extreme velocity.

The human eye is incapable of seeing the roll as it really is.

The roll appears cylindrical, but you and I both know a bird cannot roll itself into a perfectly round ball.

We will never understand this bird, and this is best. If we did understand the bird, everything would be easy; soon we would become bored, turning our attention elsewhere.

It is the mystery and challenge which draws so many to this bird. Without the next generation drawn to the breed, every effort of anyone and everyone would be wasted. I would hope the reader will in every way promote the breed to the younger generation so as our time and work will not go to waste. Yours in the Sport, Kelley D. Spurling, Head Jr. Dir., Performing Roller Assn., 1475 Sunglo Dr., Grants Pass, OR 97527.

To finish up this month's column, here is some information from Michael Neill, Dist. 8 Junior Director of the National Pigeon Assn.

Dear Fellow Junior Fanciers:

I hope you are as busy as I have been getting your birds ready for the District 8 shows. I've attended two District 8 all breed shows so far and the turnout of junior fanciers has, so far, been bigger than the last few years.

The first show I attended this year was the SCVPC Great Western on Oct. 26 and 27. Approximately 1465 birds were entered with 59 breeds represented. The open junior competition had 12 entrants with 21 birds being judged by a panel of four judges. Thanks to the following juniors for bringing great birds to the show: Scott Brandt, Katie Manion, Steve Santos, Mike Neill (me), John DeCarlo Jr., Tim Hodge, Robert Salinas, Geoff Teigen,



Bits & Pieces

from the research notes of
Joe Quinn

"The early settlers in Virginia found the pigeons in winter 'beyond number or imagination. The Plymouth colony was threatened by famine in 1643, when great flocks of pigeons swept down upon the ripened corn and beat down and ate a very great quantity.'" – Edward Howe Forbush, 1917

Q's Law: "If you don't care where you are, you are never lost!"

Life's Notes: "The worst month for downhill ski racing in Atwater is August. The lines are the shortest though. . ."

"All Toy Races originated from the common field pigeon, and many have been bred since the middle ages in Germany; especially the Monks of that time, were the most renowned for their interest in these breeds and did much towards their development." – C.A.M. Spruijt, Gouda, Holland, 1925

"Lee Tharp, Saucier, Mississippi, was the first fancier to import the German Beauty Homer (Deutsche Schautaube) to the United States in December, 1945." – PGNL

As when the dove returning bore the mark

Of earth restored to the long lab'ring ark,
The relics of mankind, secure of rest,
Oped every window to receive the guest,
And the fair bearer of the message
bless'd." – Dryden (1631-1700) in To Her Grace of Ormand

"Pigeon eggs have relatively small yolks and thin shells as compared with chickens. Pigeon 72.4% Albumin, 18% Yolk, 9.5% Shell. Chicken 53-56 Albumin, 32-35 Yolk, 12.0 Shell." – A.L. Romanoff, 1949

Architecture: "The homes in Atwater are divided into two major periods: Middle-Thirties-Dustbowl and Early Halloween."

Dove Rings: "Alexandrian Christians in the late second and early third centuries wore finger rings (signets or intaglios) that they used in the common secular manner, to mark personal property against theft. Clement specifies certain subjects, such as dove, fish, lyre and anchor, that in his view Christian signet owners could emblazon on their rings in good conscience." (The greatest collec-

tions of these rings are in London of Dalton, Paris and Rome, uncatalogued). – Everitt Ferguson, Early Christianity, 1990

Q's Law: "To Err is Human and frequently a hell of a lot of fun Too!"

"Looking back, I cannot remember when there were not pigeons nesting in the rafters of the outhouse on our premises. Their numbers were kept down by periodic visits by the local fishmonger. Two of my school chums had started keeping pigeons, so on the quiet at night, I caught some and sold them to the bird shop, but as they were wild, none of them stayed with their owners. This did not do business any good, so he sold the buyers wing locks and fitted them to the pigeons. These wing locks prevented the pigeon from rising off the ground, reducing the number that returned to me. After some time, I persuaded my father to let me have a small henhouse . . . Now I had a place in which the

inmates were under my control." – Maj. A. Neilson Hutton (Scotland), 1973

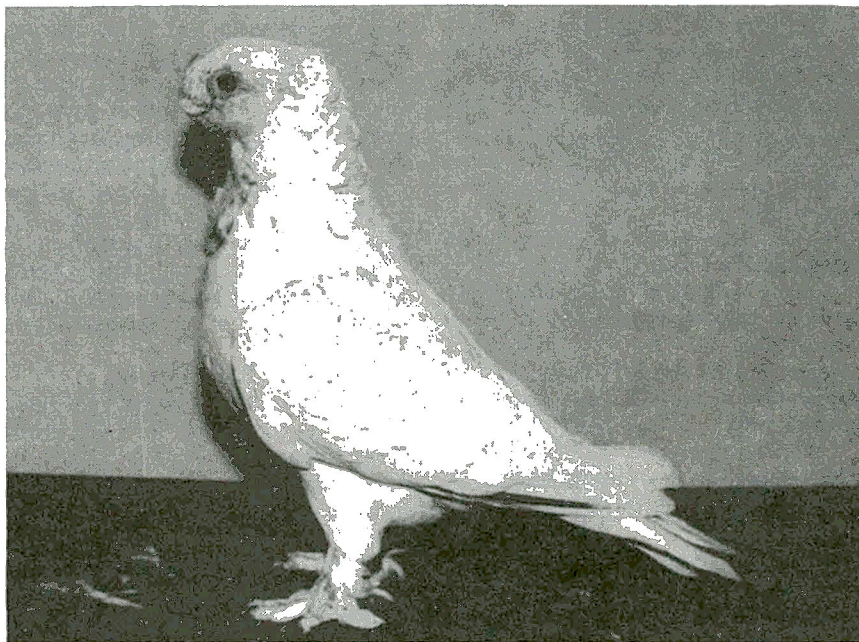
Q's Law: "The TYPE of pigeons you raise helps explain the TYPE of Women you are with!" (Note: Fanciers who repeat this law often, find it easier to get the extra money necessary to buy CLASS PIGEONS.)

"Dr. Hubbard conducted a study of the color of feathers and its influence on the homing ability of the pigeon. Race reports . . . in the N.Y. Metropolitan area were used . . . since many thousands of pigeons participated in each race from 100 to 600 miles. The results of this study were never published. However on a percentage basis, the Grizzles were first in performance and the Blues were second. There was little difference in the performance of birds of other colors." – Otto Meyer, ARPN, 1970

Trihybrid: "What the Blue Cock shouted to the female Eagle as he flew over the Zoo!"

"The Band-tailed pigeon is a bird of western mountains and foothills, preferring an area where there are both oaks and conifers." – Sprunt & Zim, 1961

"Breeding practice nowadays has come to a point where the progressive breeder can hardly go any longer without some firm, scientific foundation of his art." – Metzelaar, 1926



CHAMPION BLONDINETTE

This Dun Lace Cock, #88-2-384, has had three wins, all champions, at three shows. The wins include Best Old Blondinette Cock and 2nd Reserve Champion at the Cairo Variety Show Oct. 19, 1991; Best Old Cock and Grand Champion Blondinette at the Amsterdam, N.Y. Annual Fall Show, Dec. 8, 1991; and Best of Show at the Central New York Pigeon Club Show Nov. 19, 1991. – Bred and owned by Eugene DeRusso, Frankfort, N.Y.



The New Au & You

by ROBERT "BOB" PHILLIPS
Publicity Writer
Box 218 • Lithopolis, Ohio 43136

Did you know that the A.U. now has a 1-800-number for you and the public? This number 1-800-755-ARPU is answered 24 hours a day. The party answering the phone will direct your question or request to the proper person in the A.U., who will return your call.

Having spent the last week listening to the confirmation hearing on the new head of the CIA I came to the conclusion that perhaps we were keeping our 1-800-755-ARPU number a secret. I asked flyers at one of our futurity races in October if they knew the AU 1-800-755-ARPU number. The CIA could indeed take a lesson from us on keeping secrets. The men I talked to "Did not know we had such a number," "think it is about time," and "just great." I asked myself about time for what since this number has been published in our A.U. Up-date and all of the national publications for the last six months.

This scribe thinks it's about time that we again share this number with the fancy. I suggest that in the future when our flyers are interviewed for the newspapers, T.V., etc., that we make sure that they give John Q. Public this number 1-800-755-ARPU.

I have asked our Central Ohio Combine to secure the New A.U. pamphlet "Race Horses of the Sky!" I would like each of us to carry some of these with us when we train. This way when people ask questions we can hand them out. At least our 1-800-755-ARPU phone number is on the back of them. Our combine driver will have a supply in the truck with him. Who knows one of us may even be asked to testify before a congressional committee and give them our 1-800-755-ARPU phone number.

This past week I had a letter from a flyer in Virginia asking me two questions. One, could I help him locate a club to fly with as he had just started with pigeons and second, could I help him locate the owner of a bird that came to his loft. I am pleased to say that the one answer I gave him solved both of his

questions as the owner of the bird flew in a club just 15 miles from him.

We should all remember I.P.T.A. "It Pays to Advertise." Dust off your club P.R. Handbook and let me see some of your handiwork in the forthcoming year.

Let me leave you with the following.

Winner vs Loser

The Winner - is always part of the an-

swer.

The Loser - is always part of the problem.

The Winner - always has a program.

The Loser - always has an excuse.

The Winner - says "let me do it for you."

The Loser - says "that's not my job."

The Winner - sees an answer for every problem.

The Loser - sees a problem for every answer.

The Winner - sees a bird trap in every race.

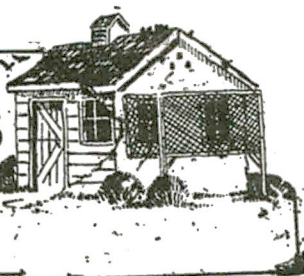
The Loser - sees two or three that would have won if trapped.

The Winner - says, "it may be difficult but it's possible."

The Loser - says, "it may be possible but it's too difficult."

BE A WINNER, JOIN THE A.U. and be a PART OF TARGET 2000.

Organizations



259 African Owls At Tulsa

by A.J. "SKINNY" STRATTON, Ft. Worth, Texas.

It was my pleasure to attend the show at Tulsa, Oklahoma. There was an excellent turn out even though the weather was bad for this time of year. We had a great turn out of breeders and also a good number of exhibitors. The judging was done by Orrie Moore of Washington and he did a very good job in selecting the winners in each class of colors and sexes. Orrie had his hands full as there were several classes with 10 or more to a class. I can recall that Don Gilmore had an outstanding young Grizzle cock that went all the way. This bird was small with good type, head, beak and showed real typy Owl carriage. The young bird went on to be selected the Champion African Owl of the show over the adult winners. This is a nice accomplishment for a young bird to be the overall winner in a big show at such an early date in the season.

Now as to the exhibitors and breeders . . . the fellowship was outstanding among the breeders and a very good time was had by all.

Chuck Harter, the secretary-treasurer of the Western Owl Club, took over by working hard to get the show set up along with Ed Pointer, Cecil Rose, Tony Baker, Jeff and Debbie Adair. A job well done by all of these dedicated members. Their hard work really

paid off.

Then, last but certainly not least, Si Berger flew in from California for the show. Don Gilmore brought me to Tulsa by automobile. Good fellowship was enjoyed by everyone present. This is what it is all about . . . not who won or who didn't win . . . GOOD FELLOWSHIP.

These were only a few words I wanted to share with you about my observations and enjoyment of the Tulsa Show that was put on by the Oklahoma Frill, Turbit and Owl Club.

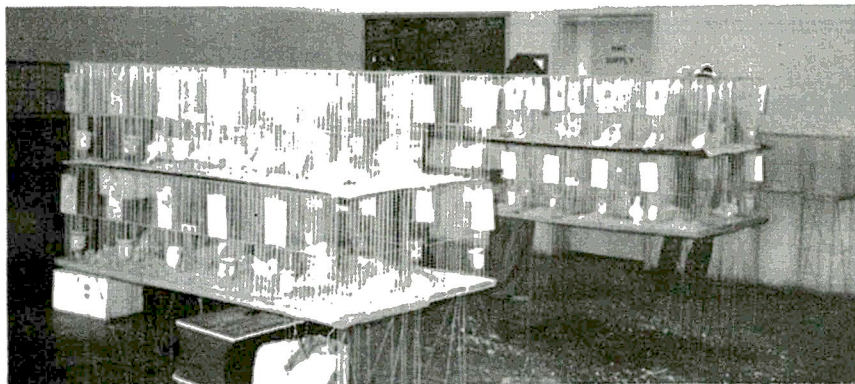
Ft. Worth, Texas, was the site of the largest African Owl Meet ever held, in 1989. There were over 400 African Owls shown in 1989. Let's all try to break that record in 1992! There are many other specials to be won. Come one and all to the Greatest African Owl Meet!

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Dove section at the Tennessee Pigeon and Dove Club Show Nov. 9, 1991. — Photo by Eugene Baxley, Huntsville, Ala.

Tennessee Pigeon And Dove Club Show

by EUGENE BAXLEY, Huntsville, Ala.

The Tennessee Pigeon and Dove Club has done it again. They have put on another great all breed pigeon show on November 9, 1991, at the Tennessee National Guard Armory in Columbia, Tennessee. The show was held in the drill hall with heat and concrete floors. There was plenty of room for all the activities. They found the armory clean and they left it the same with the help of several members.

We had a good turn out of doves this year. There were not as many as there were last year, but there were some nice birds. The dove people are really getting into new colors in their doves. We purchased some new dove exhibition coops this year. They were not all used. We invite all you dove breeders to show with us next year and fill those new coops up. If you overflow them, perhaps we can purchase some more.

The Giant Runt Club of America showed with us for a second year in a row and we heartily invite them to return next year and for years to come. We purchased new large size coops for the Giant Runts and we had some large judging coops made. They were not all used, but we hope they will be in future years.

The American Komorner Tumbler Club 2nd District had their annual show with us this year. The results of that show are reported in the Komorner Klubhouse. We hope to have a bigger and better Komorner show next year. Some new members are joining the AKTC in the second district.

This year our Secretary, James Burns, organized a youth show in which several breeds were shown. James had trophies for several categories. Trophies for the youth show were furnished by James Burns and Eugene Baxley. The kids had a good time.

The rest of the show was a catch all section which included several breeds. Each breed was judged and best pigeon was chosen.

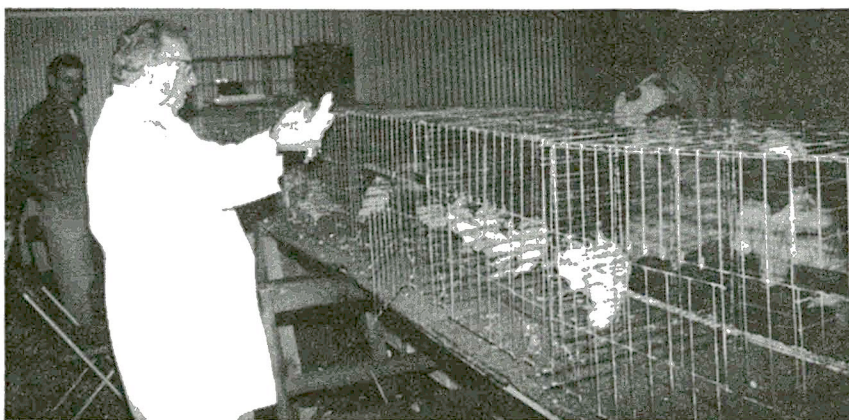
Again this year, we had a for sale section which was full. Several people brought birds to sell.

Several people donated pigeons to be auctioned off by silent auction for the benefit of the Tennessee Pigeon and Dove Club. The highest bidder registered at 1:30 p.m. was the buyer. There was some heated bidding on some of the offerings, especially a pair of brown magpie Komorners and a pair of Short Faced Tumblers. There was good activity on a pen of four Thailand Laughers and two pens of doves. There were also some Reversewing Pouters, Performance Rollers and other Tumbler breeds at auction.

Let's all set aside a pair or two of good specimens of the breed we raise to be donated to the club next year. It helps the club and we may gain some new members.

Alas, you folks that missed the show missed a good time, and we missed you. We had coffee and doughnuts in the early morning followed by sandwiches, soft drinks and/or coffee at noontime. Try to plan to be with us next year. Your breed may not be represented by large numbers of entries, but the numbers will steadily grow if you continue to show.

Up with pigeons, down with dirty, pigeon politics.



Bill Fobian judging Oriental Frills with Bari Goodson looking on. — Photo from Chuck Harter, Tahlequah, Okla.

The Oklahoma Frill, Turbit And Owl Club

by CHUCK HARTER, Tahlequah, Okla.

The OFTOC had a very successful show this year with the Tulsa State Fair. The OFTOC had their first show with the fair in Sept. 1990. We had 179 entries composed of 100 Frills, 69 African Owls and 10 Turbits. This year we exceeded all of our expectations with 206 Oriental Frills, 259 African Owls and 65 Turbits. What a show it was! Next year's show with the Tulsa State Fair even promises to be bigger and better with some changes being made.

Before I get into the heart of the story I would like to thank a few people. First our breed superintendents. Bari Goodson of Ardmore, Oklahoma, and Ed Pointer of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The secretary of the OFTOC, Jeff and Debbie Adair of Huntsville, Ark., (and family). These guys and gals were the main power houses behind the scenes. Bari took care of the Oriental Frill entries and Ed did the African Owl and Turbit entries. Without a doubt, all of us thank you for a job well done. I would also like to thank everyone who helped and carried birds. I am not going to mention names as I am afraid I will leave someone out. Without you all to pick up the small things a shows of this quality could not happen.

Even with some negative publicity that was put out by a few, this show was and still will continue to be the largest Oriental Frill, Turbit and African Owl show in the country. We are going to move ahead with or without a select few.

This year's show was held on Sept. 22, at the Tulsa State Fairgrounds. We had 21 exhibitors from eight states. There were over 20 trophies and a whopping \$3,901.00 paid out at this show in premiums. I do believe this sets an all time record. There simply is no other show that will pay out the kind of money that the OFTOC and the Tulsa State Fair can pay.

The judges at this year's show were the infamous Bill Fobian, Concord, CA., on Frills and Orrie Moore, Longbranch, WA, on Turbits and African Owls. On a personal note, Orrie was the first Owl judge that I have ever seen who was not a head hunter and looked at the entire bird, and not just the head. Both of our judges did a fabulous job and I don't think there were any complaints. We, of the OFTOC, would like to thank them both for coming, we hope you had a good time and we invite you both back next year to show with us.

We were most honored to have two special guests in Tulsa to visit us. Si Berger of African Owl fame flew in from CA, to check things out. A.J. "Skinny" Stratton from Ft. Worth, Texas, was up to see us and showed with us. It was an honor to have these two present and I saw to it that they both had a front row seating. It was a real pleasure to have these veteran fanciers in attendance. I just wish I personally had more time to visit with them.

I don't think anyone left broke, as everyone left with more money than they came in with, (except me). This is a show to make money. Where else can you do that? Everyone is a winner here!

The three that came out on top were: Best African Owl was won by Don Gilmore of Everman, Texas, Best Oriental Frill by Cecil Rose of Oklahoma City, OK, and Best Turbit to that smilin' Texan Charlie Smith.

Everyone at this show had a great time even though it rained. It was an experience I know I will not soon forget. We, of the Oklahoma Frill, Turbit and Owl Club, would like to wholeheartedly extend an open and friendly invitation to join us at our next extravaganza in September 1992. Next year's show will begin on Saturday morning and will conclude by noon on Sunday. We are still in the growing and changing process so if you think you have an idea that will help us have a better show, don't be shy, send it in. We are dedicated to hosting the largest and the best Oriental Frill, African Owl and Turbit Show in the country, so far, we are headed

in that direction.

Those that attended the show are as follows: Cecil Rose, Chuck Harter, Jay and Scott McGehee, Tony Baker, Ayron Baker, Joey Caldwell, Jayson Caldwell, Ed Pointer, Bari Goodson all of Oklahoma. Jeff and Debbie Adair from Arkansas. A.J. Stratton, Charlie Smith, Don Gilmore, Larry Rose from Texas. Jeff and Roy Skog of Utah.

The S.D. Metro Pigeon Club held its Annual Show for 1991. We had a nice turnout. Our invitations sent out by Phyllis Moore for that Potluck Dinner helped. Phyllis and Steve had a very nice layout up against the side of the house, with a very convenient sidewalk to line up on. They formed a large long line and they had so much to eat. They topped it all off with Clinton Messerschmidt watermelon. They really have an outstanding set up on their premises. I have an idea that Steve spent most all day Saturday setting up the cooping and arranging everything so neatly. The backyard was completely covered with people while the show was on.

When they finally started with their pigeons they ganged up on me. I was not expecting anything like this at all. So I had quite a time trying to keep the Seniors and the Juniors separated. I set up one page thinking this would take care of it and then some. That was my first mistake. I had to try and keep everything for the Seniors and Juniors this can become quite a hassle, try it some time. Richard Gentz has helped before and was able to help a lot in getting the breeds lined up for judging. We had a total of 294 pigeons to be judged. There were lots of pigeons for sale.

Many of our Seniors never show any pigeons at all. Like to come and clean up on the raffle and an afternoon to visit old friends. Some of them are very lucky winners. Like

Orrie Moore from Washington. Bill Fobian and Bill LaLonde of California. (Bill LaLonde sent in an entry and at the last minute had to cancel). Coyne Lord of Missouri and Lloyd Geist and Jim Byron of Louisiana.

If you would like any additional information on our club or our show contact: Jeff Adair, Rt. #2, Box 178-A, Huntsville, Ark. 72740. He will get you on the right track.

S.D. Metro Pigeon Club

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

Eugene Kilburn, Eugene East, the Mendells, Chuck Dubert, John Roszell, his wife Jo-Ann and son Bobby, Isaias Serrano generally win something. Mr. Serrano comes all the way from Sultana, CA. He use to live here in National City, CA. Mr. Serrano comes to see us every chance he gets.

John Roszell, Childers Loft, Lauren Docherty and myself showed Modenas. John has his own show for Modenas that he holds at his house with all the best in the state of California and Arizona. They hold one show every month and other shows that come up in between. They are very well up in the world of Modenas. They make the Pageant and the National every year. They're in the top notch class of Modenas. Mr. Roszell has been bringing his all to our Annual for approximately four or five years now which is a great help to our club to have John, an outstanding pigeon man. I had Russ Froemming another Modena man judge for us. Childers Loft won two trophies and the junior trophy won by Lauren Docherty. Judy Docherty won the trophy in miscellaneous breeds with a Chinese Owl.

The raffle of four bags of feed won by Eugene Kilburn, Mike Mattern, Bing Lee and Isaias Serrano. Pigeons won by Chuck Dubert, John Roszell, Joe and Frankie Mendell, Don Klatt, Clint Childers.

I gave out ten trophies and have to order five more to give at the next show. Racing Homers, Ethan Wraith, Jr., John Phillips, Show Rollers, Sr., Anthony Ortiz, Flying Rollers, Jr., American Show Racers and Komorner Tumblers, both won by Isaias Serrano. Old Dutch Tumblers won by Eugene Smith, Fantails won by Geo. Cosby, Clinton Messerschmidt, Jr., won the English Trumpeters, Jr., trophy.

We had a very nice long day. Having a potluck dinner. Then holding an Annual Pigeon Show on the same Sunday we have not done this before. We been having so few pigeons that I let it go at that, to hold the two big things at one time was not a bright idea. The weather was beautiful with a slight Santa Ana wind in the making. Jo-Ann Roszell and Ramona Colesanti were watching out very closely to help me out.



Bill Fobian judging Oriental Frills. Seated, left to right, are Charlie Smith, Larry Rose, Cecil Rose and Jeff Adair.

A Few Judging Notes From 1991 NYBS

by GARRY GLISSMEYER, IFCA Pub. Dir.

231 Indians were entered this year at the NYBS. Because I judged the Indians, I wasn't in on the scoop and never really heard how many were actually shown . . . I know it felt like all 231, considering the judging had to all be done before 5:00'ish so awards and tear down could take place before 6:00 p.m. Even though that is a lot of birds to go through (7 hours of judging time=420 minutes, 231 birds into 420 minutes leaves less than 2 minutes to spend, per bird . . . hardly quality inspection and observance time). But we do it and hope the better birds do make it to the top. Nevertheless, it is always enjoyable.

As I draft this article I am in room 3123 of the Executive Inn, having just finished a delightful dinner with five new-found friends in the fancy: Amy Mueller, Darrold's 11 year old daughter and proud Junior Champion winner in Indians; Don and Pam McCullough, Marshalltown, Iowa, both fairly new into our Indian breed and already trying to clean up the white band in red and yellow Ribbontails! And they introduced me to Larry and Carolyn Long, also from the Iowa area, into Homers and genetic rare breeds. We enjoyed pigeon talk while eating chicken and meatloaf! (I just caused a vegetarian to gag, I guess. Sorry!) Anyway, thanks to them for inviting me and I hope our paths cross again. Now back to NYBS.

In that judges can't loiter around the breed they're judging and spend too much time chatting with the exhibitors just prior to the judging, I really wasn't too aware of any major pre-show problems; I did hear that Rick Leimann, District 3 Director and Frank German had to go through and re-classify many of the birds, but it was down without much fanfare or effect on the show, it seems. The only problem I encountered was some dad-burned sun glaring me in the face through the windows towards the mid-afternoon time

. . . it was hard to see some of the birds more than in silhouette, so I had to move some of them more than I would like to.

At times I feel like judging should maybe be done from the gallery, back where everyone sits or stands and can clearly see what a goofy job the judge is doing. You know, everyone could hold up those number cards like in the Olympics: 6.5, 7.5, 6.0 and so on. At least the harumphers would have their vote!

On a few occasions I could hear a mumble or two ("Jeezus, can you believe him leaving all those split tails up there?") And every so often I would catch a nod of approval out of the corner of my eye for something I seemed to have done right. But mostly the judge just focuses on the immediate 2-3 feet in front of him. "Split tails . . ." did that palooka say? There is a major difference between a genetically split tail where the shafts next to each other are gapped and grow in angled, different directions, and a LOOSE TAIL that hasn't been properly groomed, or bred, or a tail that has narrow feathers and won't lay properly when arranged . . . all of the aforementioned can cause the appearance of a gap; only one is the disqualifying SPLIT. The poorly groomed tail will cause the bird to be placed lower in its class, but no need to disqualify it. Having handled each bird and moved the tail feathers around, even blowing some of the down feathers aside to see into the base, I feel quite comfortable I didn't leave any genetic splits up there (I did DQ two for splits and 2-3 birds for parasites, but overall there were very few disqualifications for as many birds as there were . . . congrats to the breeders!)

THE MOULT. A lot of birds aren't ready this early in the year (late October) and more than a few were affected by not being in prime condition. But in addition there were a LOT of loose-feathered Indians. Maybe it's the time of year, maybe it's not. Maybe we

have so much to worry about (peak crest vs. shell, powerful neck, eye over toes, medium muffs and matching hock feathers, "level" stance, no shaky neck, double-layered 3/4-7/8 wrap on the tail, tail held upright not too far back, top tail, color, mark and on it goes . . . one might ask why we breed such a complicated pigeon, mighten one?) that the feathering is getting away from us? Well, my birds ain't perfect yet, either. But breeding out of 5-6 pair sure causes one to cull hard and I hope to watch the "loose feathered" effect.

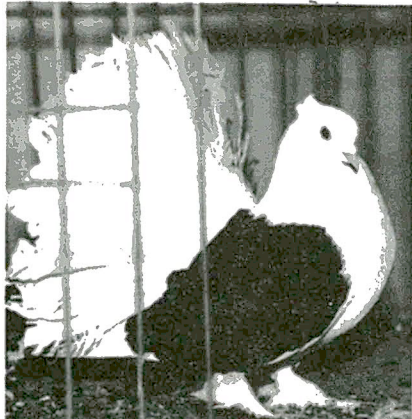
ABOVE ALL ELSE WE STRIVE FOR A WELL BALANCED BIRD. I had to call on this ill-defined term over and over during this judging. I almost cannot remember a class where I had 2-3-4 final birds that were even close to each other . . . where I could concentrate on tie-breaking details. Instead I felt like I was working hard to find redeeming qualities to justify placing a bird at the top of its class. True, this happens all the time, but not at the rate I seemed to have just experienced. Many of the birds just didn't show well due to being scared . . . not cage trained or at ease with being handled. This is a must, folks. Our standard also allows: all things being equal, go with the larger bird. And all things being equal go with the best color or colored bird. And all things being equal, go with the marked bird. (If you think about it, it should be really tough for a white to win . . . no color, no mark, just quality and size to go on). Anyway, there weren't very many times where I had enough "equality" I had to use one of the tie-breakers. And that makes for speculative judging . . . the kind no one likes on either end.

SIZE. We're getting smaller, folks. I handled a lot of small birds. True, we have a range from 14-18 oz., but I would wager a few bucks we are skewing towards the small end of the scale . . . more so than in past years. It's easy to breed small birds. Mother Nature will help us take them there. It is an accomplishment to have enough breeding discipline, skill and records to work with to breed the Indian UP in size, not down. I bumped into a Modena breeder from Long Beach (he travels all over the world and was just visiting the show as a stopover . . . we met leaving the airport to the hotel). He said he had seen some European pigeon shows and that the Indians in Germany were larger than ours, at least based on his limited exposure to our breed through California breeders. Something to think about; if we don't, in not many years we will be the same size as the Fantail.

TAILS. Loose tails. Narrow-feathered tails. Tails not layered before being placed in the judging hole (not laced, layered . . . big difference), some with toptails 3-4" over the head (Standard says 1-1/2-2"), and many tails not very heavily feathered. I'm fighting it in my loft, too. I crossed a 30 feather and 32 feather-tailed pair together and they threw five youngsters. Not one youngster has 30 tail feathers! Go figure! And the width of



Unpublished photo of Best Tailmark, #69 OC, at 1990 NPA Grand National, in Pomona, Calif. Bred and exhibited by Dennis Briggs, Sugar City, Idaho. — Photo by Garry Glissmeyer.



Unpublished photo of Best Saddle (Black) OC #604 at 1990 NPA Pomona Grand National. Bred and exhibited by Joe Ceaser, Tucson, Calif. — Photo by Garry Glissmeyer.

feather is important. Two inches wide at the top of a tail feather could be a desirable goal. A one inch wide feather won't give the fullness or wrap. Thirty 2" wide feathers, double row, looks a lot fuller and holds together better than thirty 1" wide feathers. . . in effect you lose 50% of the volume. Are we paying attention in our breeding?

Well, we did narrow things down to a winner in each class and for the show. I had fun doing it. I know a few breeders who didn't have the same fun due to some of my calls, but what can you do . . . you do your best and hope you get invited back to try another time. Next month in the APJ, I'll hopefully have my photos back and the full show report. I'll go over my judging notes, class-by-class, and we'll try and have a more detailed look at the show and see some pictures. And if you don't already know, Mike Nawojczyk won the champ with a nice T-P cock. The remaining reserve and color-class winners we'll save for next month.

Overall, a tough show to judge due to the inconsistencies in our birds exhibited. Overall, a great time visiting and meeting the 31+ breeders and exhibitors there. Overall, this Indian is a great pigeon to look at and breed. The Giant Homer guys were next to us and in-between classes, I had my back to our Indian exhibit and watched them. Their birds looked like they were stamped out of cookie cutters - they seemed so uniform, by comparison to ours . . . and for me that would be a drag to judge. So, I'm not complaining, just hoping for an ever better bird, like the rest of you. Here's to our fast approaching 1992 breeding year!

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National Pigeon Assn. Insights

by MIKE LERP

Publicity Chairman

P.O. Box 221, Manchester, MD 21102

Our NPA Quarterly Review that's mailed out to all the members of the NPA always contains updates, NPA Sanctioned Meet announcements and other related material that might prove to be of interest to our members. While this information is available to our members only, I often pass some of it and other pertinent material along by way of this column in hopes of (1) filling members in on NPA news between issues of the Quarterly Review, (2) giving members who have either served the NPA or met with success in the show room public acknowledgement, and (3) gaining new members by reporting upon the many programs that the NPA offers to its members and the pigeon fancy in general.

Jack Andersen, our outgoing Director for District Six and Auction Committee member, has informed me that we will have at least 20 pairs of outstanding pigeons to auction off at the Milwaukee Grand National. All money raised at this auction will, as previously reported, go towards the publication of the next edition of the Book of Standards.

Although Jack is retiring from his position of Sixth District Director, he kindly took the time to answer a questionnaire that I mailed out to our incoming elected officials. While he feels that his answers wouldn't be of interest to readers, I believe that the opposite holds true. Jack has unselfishly given of himself to both the NPA, the American Giant Homer Assn., the American Show Racer Assn., the Oklahoma Pigeon Club, and the Tulsa All Breed Pigeon Club. Fanciers of Jack's caliber most certainly deserve public recognition. Jack has been an NPA member for 20 years and as mentioned he will be retiring from his post as our Sixth District Director. His goals were to increase the membership of the NPA and to assist us in balancing our budget. As to the former, Jack has sponsored an NPA membership drive during his stint as a Director. Last year he managed to double the number of NPA members in his home state of Oklahoma and has high hopes of adding new members throughout his district in 1991.

Like many of us Jack got started in our hobby as a youngster. At that time Jack resided in Missouri. He was introduced to the sport of Racing Pigeons by a neighbor

and became involved with a Racing Pigeon Club in St. Joseph. Among the many breeds of pigeons that he has raised were Racing Homers, Kings, Rollers and Fantails. In his loft at this time American Giant Homers, Show Racers and Parlor Tumblers may be found. He is currently the President of the American Giant Homer Association and in the past he's held the position of Fifth District Director and Secretary-Treasurer for that organization. The AGHA has acknowledged his efforts in the Giant Homer fancy by awarding him their Master Breeder Award, their outstanding Member Award and their Breeder of the Year Award.

As a firm believer in the "grass roots" level of our fancy, Jack presently serves as the Publicity Director for the Tulsa All Breeds Pigeon Club. Within NPA District Six he has strongly promoted all of the State and District Shows that were held in the district and is a firm supporter of our NPA Youth Program. Like many of us Jack feels that we must make an all out dedicated effort if we are to be successful with it. With people like Jack in our corner this program will most certainly not fail.

The National Pigeon Association has acknowledged Jack's efforts by presenting him with its Membership Award and Outstanding Service Award. In the Insight Column that previously appeared, I wrote a few words about Art Kehl. I stated that our organization has been very fortunate to have Art as a member, well this statement also applies to Jack. My association with him has been limited to phone calls and letters and I'm looking forward to meeting him in Milwaukee so that I can shake his hand and say thanks for all of the help he's provided me with. And like I said about introducing yourself to Art, you should also find the time to seek out Jack Andersen, you'll be meeting a truly fine gentleman and one heck of a pigeon fancier.

In future NPA columns, I hope to introduce you to both our new officials and to those who have retained their positions of leadership, as well as their plans and ideas for the future of our club. All of these fanciers have been mailed a questionnaire and I'd like to thank them in advance for their response.



Long Island Domestic Flight Club

by JOHN IZZO

1400 Thompson Drive
Bay Shore, New York 11706

I'm wondering what to write about this month and all of a sudden this comes to mind - "The Loft And It's Fittings." So here goes.

SIZE: The larger the loft the better. Make your loft as large as you can afford to, but keep the sections down to a practical size especially for the pumbers. If you make your sections about six feet square and six and one half feet high, it is best. Some of my pumber sections are six feet wide by seven feet long. A section this size will hold 12 pair of pumbers comfortably. If you have the room you can make your sections for the breeders six feet wide by eight feet long. This size is ideal for ten to 12 pair of breeders. Do not make any sections larger than this if possible. When you stand in the center of a six by six you can reach all four sides very easily. The birds know this and are much easier to handle because they know there is no room to fly by you, which in turn makes them more tame. This is what I believe are the ideals. We can't always stick to these sizes so you have to adjust accordingly. You may not agree with these sizes so use what works best for you. When you're building a new loft do some serious thinking on your lay out. Build according to your pocketbook and the space available. The more loft and less birds the better off you are.

LOFT DIRECTION: What direction to face your loft? If at all possible, face your loft South. You will get the most benefit from the sun this way. East or South - East is not bad. When your loft faces East you get all the morning sun in it. The bad part about facing your loft East is when it rains, that's the side that gets the wettest. If you face the loft West you'll get the evening sun. North is out, never face your loft North. This is your coldest side, plus some rain and many of your snow storms come from the North. Don't put your entrance door to your loft on this side unless you really have to. Never put windows on this side. Don't even put your nest boxes on the North wall. The North is definitely the toughest side. Beware of it. Many times you cannot face your loft South due to your location and neighborhood. In this case you will have to adjust your plans to fit the situation. No North!

VENTING: This is the most important part of your entire loft set up. Without a good venting system your loft will always be damp and smelly, and your birds will always be in poor health. There are so many different ways to vent a loft. So much depends on the size of your loft, the direction it faces and the type of roof (flat, hip, pitch, etc.) you have on your loft. A small loft with a flat roof

can be vented very easily. A four inch roof vent in the center of the roof is all that is needed. The larger lofts are a little more complicated. One of my Brooklyn lofts was 19 feet square with a hip roof. It was a two car garage before I got my hands on it. I put two floor vents on the South side. Put your floor vents floor level unless you expect to use powdered droppings, then you should put your floor vents three to four inches from the floor. The garage was made out of cement blocks so I used block vents. They are the same size as a cement block (8"x16"). Make sure your floor vents have louvers so no rain or snow will get into your loft. On the North wall above the birds heads, in between the eaves, I made a two inch by 19 foot long vent with a door on it. I only opened this vent in the summer. On the hip roof I had two eight inch roof vents to let the stale air escape. This is how it worked. The clean, fresh air comes into the loft from the floor vents, rises and escapes from the high eave and roof vents. From the ceiling of the loft to the top of the roof was eight feet high dead space, and it seemed that the air wasn't moving very well. I was going to put two more roof vents in but instead I went to a roofing supply house and told them my problem. They suggested I make a dormer on the roof, put a 16 inch square automatic louver vent on the outside and an eight inch exhaust fan inside. When you turn the fan on the forced air would open the vent. When the fan was off the vent would stay closed. On real hot summer days, I would let this fan run several hours a day. This worked beautifully!

My first Long Island loft was ten feet wide and 32 feet long. It was 30 inches above the ground, sitting on 12 cement block piers, which were topped off with metal cones to prevent mice and termites from entering my loft. Mice can climb very easily but when they hit this tin cover they can go no further. Termites can tunnel right through the cement blocks, but they too are stopped when they get to the tin. Termites may build an outside tunnel right around the tin, but you would be able to see it and take the necessary measures to exterminate them. I had a hard time venting this loft. The loft faced East. I put five floor vents on the East wall and a four inch by 32 foot long vent along the top (in between the eaves) on the West wall. This didn't work at all. The loft was damp and very drafty. The two worse things that can happen to a loft! I tried other ways like putting the floor vents on the West wall, and taking the floor vents away altogether. Nothing seemed to work. I didn't go to the roofing supply this time.

Instead I went to two different homer flyers for advice. Jake Partenza and Jimmy Acquaviva. Jake was an old timer. He had pigeons all his life and was one of the top flyers out here (Long Island). He came to my loft and told me to make larger windows to let more sunshine in, close the floor vents altogether, and open up the vents between the eaves both on the East and West walls. He also told me to keep the windows open all day but make sure I closed them at night, summer and winter. Before I did any of this I called Jimmy over. Jimmy has been a pigeon man for many years. Most important of all to me was that he lived on Long Island about 20 years, so he knew the climate conditions real good. Jimmy made almost the same suggestions as Jake and told me if I wasn't happy how this worked out, to put in a few roof vents.

Well, I put in larger windows, closed the floor vents and opened both front and rear eave vents and the improvement was terrific. The only thing was, being that both front and rear eave vents were open all the way the air would pass through the loft too fast and would not take out the stale air. To correct this, I put peg board (Masonite with 1/4" holes drilled through it) along the entire length of the overhang on the East wall. This slowed down the air movement just right. I ended up putting two eight inch roof vents on the roof.

My present loft is huge. It started off as a five sided building, built in a barn effect, 24 feet by 26 feet and two stories high. The second floor is 18 feet wide by 26 feet long. Then I added a 12 foot wide by 32 foot long extension to the South side of this. And believe it or not I'm seriously thinking of adding a 12 by 90 foot to the East side of this building. I have windows on the West and South wall, a solid North wall and windows and doors on the East wall. Two big turbo vents in the roof and that's it. I may add a couple of 14 inch attic fans upstairs to help move the air a little better in summer and to get rid of some dust.

So you see in Brooklyn you vent your loft one way. On Long Island, which is very damp, you vent your loft another way, even changing the venting system summer and winter. Every loft, depending on its location, climate conditions, size and direction it faces has its own special way to be vented. Cross ventilation is the best way to make a draft. It's fine to have wind and cold blow into your loft but it's deadly to have them blown through your loft. No cross ventilation! Make sure your loft is well ventilated and vented properly and that there are no drafts!

SCREEN COOP: The way things are today, most pigeon men don't fly their pigeons. Everybody seems to complain about our birds. It's either someone hanging out their clothes or your pigeons are going to make on my barbecue or in my pool or something. I guess people think that the only bird that flies and makes droppings at the

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same time is a pigeon!

So, the best thing to do is make a screen coop. If you prefer, you can make your screen or day coop as large or larger than your night coop. I like a small screen coop. In Brooklyn, we call them "Homer Screens." All the homer flyers use this size screen. They are from 30 to 36 inches deep and from three to four feet high, and usually the length of your night coop. I believe the birds would prefer as large a day screen as they could get if they are not allowed their liberty. I use the Homer Screens and my birds haven't been out for 25 years and they are doing fine. As a matter of fact, in my last Brooklyn loft (the two car garage) I had no screen coops at all

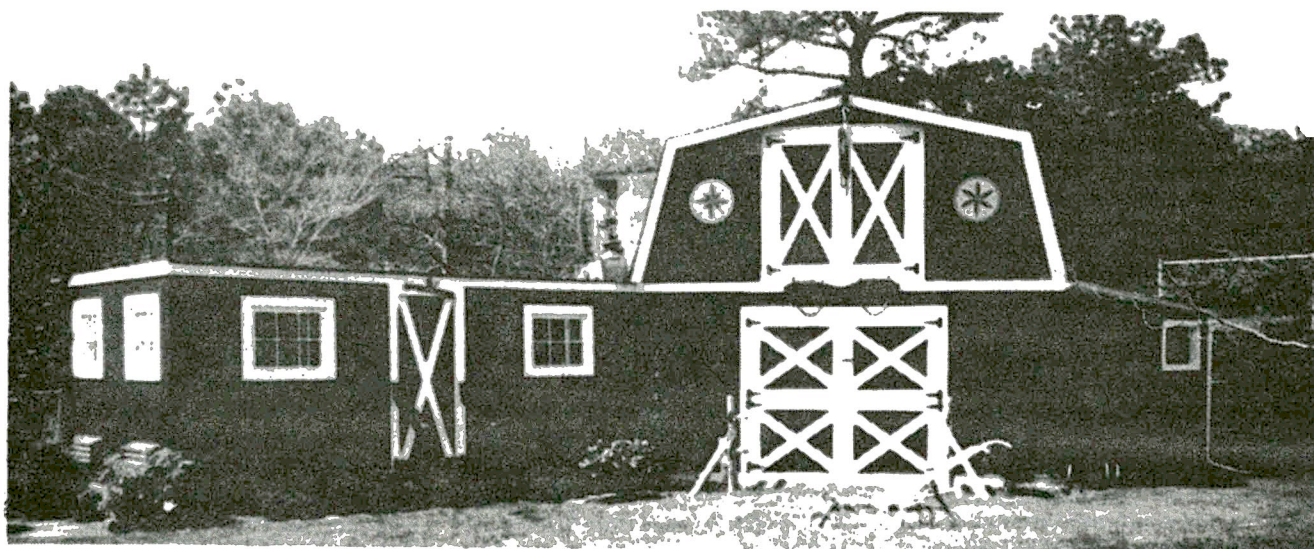
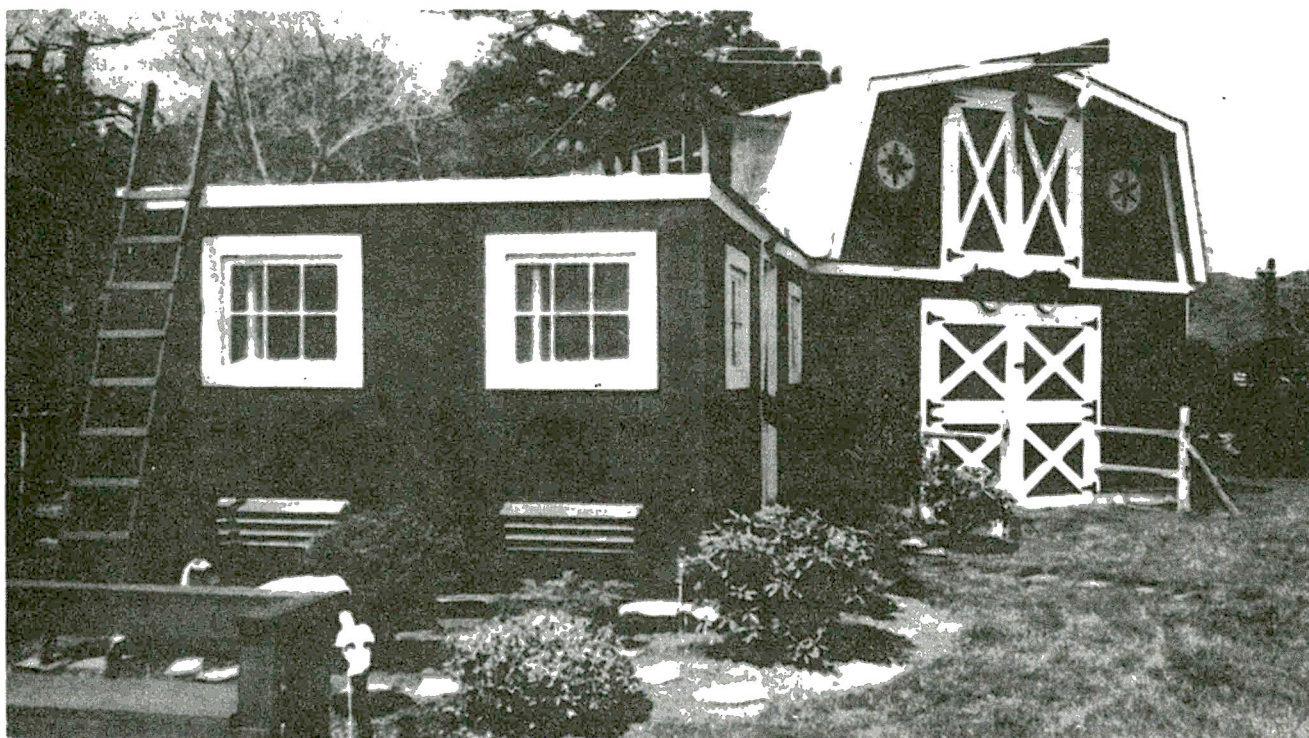
and the birds were never let out. There are a few things to keep in mind when you build your screen coop. If at all possible, use wire (half inch square) for your floors. Make sure it is galvanized and of a heavy gauge. For the walls use one inch chicken wire or whatever else you prefer. Nothing larger than one inch or you will find sparrows and other wild birds in your coop. If you don't like or can't use a wire floor and make a wood floor, you can use fine mesh screen wire for your walls. This will keep out many insects. The roof of your day loft must be solid. I don't care what you use as long as it's not wire. A solid roof keeps out the rain and prevents the droppings of strays and other wild birds from entering

your screens. Not to mention the sun light. Too much sun on your show birds is no good. It will bleach out the color on your duns, reds, etc. A dun African Owl with its feathers bleached from the sun isn't much of a problem. On the other hand a dun Domestic Flight bleached from the sun will be penalized more severely. A white Tumbler is no problem. Give them all the sun you can. Do what you have to do so that it works best for you and your particular breed and color.

This article is getting too long, so I'll have to make it in two parts. Next month, we'll talk about the Loft Fittings.

Got a phone call from John Thornton a

(Continued On Next Page)



The Long Island loft of John Izzo.

few months ago. He had some show birds lay eggs and no pumpers to put them under. John has his way of keeping these eggs until the pumpers lay and wanted to know my method. I take the eggs away as soon as they are laid and put them in a shoe box, egg box or whatever. Give them half a turn twice a day and they will stay fertile for up to two weeks. This will work at any temperature, although room temperature is best. John Thornton keeps them the same way I do except he turns them half a turn once a day. Larry Pennachio told me he never turned the eggs. Johnny Grasso told me he put an egg in the refrigerator until his pumpers were ready and this bird hatched with no problem. John sometimes puts a name on his pigeons. Naturally this pigeon was called "The Fridge." Here's four guys doing it four different ways. Do whatever works best for you.

Remember the Long Island Domestic Flight Club is "The Heartbeat of the Domestic Flight" and "The Club of the Nineties!!"

United Roller Club News

By ART R. KEHL, Hillpoint, Wisc.

SHOW ROLLER HOBBY

By the time this goes to print we will have completed just about every show accept our all age National Meet in Milwaukee, Wisc. As each and every district meet has been reported, it has been obvious that we have a degree of parity in our hobby at this time which we have not seen in at least 20 years. Shows are being won by many different fanciers and at each show we are seeing many different names in the top twenty list. This gives me the feeling that our hobby is as healthy as it has been in a long, long time!! As a good example I noticed that the Young Bird National in Des Moines, Iowa, had about 40 exhibitors and the next weekend in Louisville, KY, at the MRC meet there were another 30 plus exhibitors, and almost every one of these were different. That means nearly 75 exhibitors at just two shows here in the upper Midwest.

As for the winners, well I think we all are. When the hobby shows the kind of numbers both in terms of birds shown and exhibitors then I think we can all consider ourselves winners. When we see this type of enthusiasm we know our bird is popular and that we will continue to see intense competition for years to come. It is also a tribute to the officers of the URCA as it implies that the current programs are working. I am certain that as time goes by we will institute positive changes in our standard, our judge certification program, our show procedures, etc. In the mean time we can all be proud of the direction our Show Roller Hobby is taking under the direction of URCA leadership.



NATIONAL BIRMINGHAM ROLLER CLUB NEWS

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

by JACK MEYERS,
Publicity Director

3112 McGerry Ave., Modesto, Calif. 95355
209-521-6812



I've read many articles and heard numerous comments from performance-minded Roller breeders concerning the early developing Roller. And to be totally honest most of what I've heard has been negative. If you have a bird spinning with any depth or velocity under five months of age you can bet anything the cry of "Rolldown" will be heard far and wide. Why is that? Is it really that important how old a bird is when it comes into the Roll? Or, is it more important how the bird handles the Roll? Let me put another question to you. Do you believe it's possible

for a bird say, three to five months old to endure extreme depth and velocity without cracking up?

The reason I am asking these questions is, I've never heard anyone give a valid explanation to support this "Rolldown" theory other than their own opinion, which was based on opinion rather than results. What I would like is some feedback, positive or negative, based on results that I can publish in future news. So send all replies to Jack Meyers, 3112 McGerry Ave., Modesto, CA 95355.

THE ROLLING PHENOMENON IN ROLLERS

by David A. Rinehart (July 1969)

As a Roller breeder and lay-geneticist I wish to set the record in its proper perspective and refute the complete and total nonsense perpetrated by many that the phenomenon breeders of Rollers and Tumblers refer to as "Rolling" is due to epilepsy.

Myself and numerous other investigators have delved into the study of this unique behavior and all have collected data that seems to lead us down new paths of research. All existing published data indicates that the phenomenon we call rolling is not a form of epilepsy. There is not one, I repeat, not one shred of scientific evidence that would lead us to believe that "rolling" as associated with breeds of Roller and Tumbler pigeons is due to any form of epilepsy.

Psychologists have shown that epilepsy is epilepsy and varies very little in form or function from man to lower forms of life. When an epileptic seizure occurs, the brain gives off erratic impulses and the organism has absolutely no control over his muscular movements. All muscular movements are uncoordinated during the seizure and the organism who is experiencing the seizure cannot exercise any will over duration or strength of seizure. An epileptic can neither control when a seizure will occur, its duration or strength.

Careful observations tell us that Rollers have some degree of control over themselves while rolling. I myself remember a double-dose grizzle that rolled down and never did more than two or three flip rolls for several months after his first roll down. It took many months for him to regain his self-confidence in the air.

Let's backtrack! We know fits of epilepsy in all observed cases is completely uncontrollable. To quote a noted Pensom

When it comes down to naming names it becomes a difficult task as there are so many this year. Based upon the results of the Young Bird National in Iowa it is obvious that George Petro started out right where he left off by winning the National Young Bird Champion. While George has definitely established himself as one of the countries premier breeders, I believe this show indicated that many birds were not far behind in quality. Reserve champion at this show went to Bob Evertson and I can assure you that you could have easily reversed these fine two young cock birds without many complaints. I had the honor of being one of the judges at this show and I can assure all of you that in many of the large classes the difference between 1st and 5th was almost impossible to distinguish. I'm not implying that the winners were not great, they were, however, many of the birds that did not win were great also.

Dave Wormington, Bill Herman, David Johnson, Mike Carroll, Bill Koenig, Steve Johnson, Barry Jennings and Wayne Feder all pushed birds up high in some very tough classes at this show. From other show reports I see that Norm Brozovich, Tom Dugar, Lee Robertson, Ron Simpson, Charlie Albaugh and John Putney all are showing top notch Show Rollers this season. The grand finale, the URCA National Meet, January 16-18, Milwaukee, Wisc., was a great show. There are many in the hunt and that is making our hobby fun, making our hobby exciting and the type of hobby you should want to be a part of. Join us, it's great.

Roller breeder, Joe Houghton, in his 'An Open Letter', "The champion can control it - the others are overtaken by it." Control is the key word in that statement. Rollers have some degree of control. Well friends that leads us to draw one of two conclusions: (1) There are two distinct factors involved in the "Rolling" Phenomenon or (2) "Rolling" is not due to any form of epilepsy.

As a pigeon geneticist I see no indications that there are two distinct kinds of rolling or multiple factors involved. Scientists discount rolling due to epilepsy, so where does that leave us?

It has been demonstrated that severing the lower branch of the 8th cranial nerve (auditory nerve) which controls equilibrium, in a person causes an action similar to the

rolling of Parlor Rollers. The pigeon experiences backward loss of equilibrium whenever it becomes exerted or otherwise nervous. Is this a lead? Only further research will tell. But whatever bit of evidence it presents, there is much more evidence to search in the direction of an inner ear disturbance than in any other direction at the present time.

So let's stop calling the rolling phenomenon epilepsy and just call it the "Rolling Phenomenon" until the question is finally resolved.

If anyone would like information about the NBRC, or would like to become a member, contact George Valiska at: RD #2, Box 437, Delta, PA 17314.

Western Fantail Club News

by MICHAEL deOLIVEIRA, Pub. Dir., Fremont, Calif.

Greetings to all Fantail fanciers and club members. Our club is on the move. Our president Jim Krebaum Sr. reports that all members that he has contacted have had very good breeding seasons which promises to make this year a very exciting show season once again. The club held its Young Bird Show at the Krebaum home on Sept. 1, 1991, which brought out some of those young hopefuls for their first competition. There were a total of eight exhibitors and 42 birds that day, and a potluck Barbecue for all to enjoy. Jim Krebaum won champion with a blue hen #685, which I'm sure made the day even more enjoyable for him.

Earlier in 1991 the club celebrated its 20th anniversary at the NPA Grand National at Pomona in January. Gordon Larson of Lawson, Texas, had the honors and formidable task of judging and I only wish I could have been there to watch this master at work. Here are the results from the National for Best of Color Class and Champions as listed by our very talented bulletin editor and secretary Joy Krebaum.

Almond, YC #657, D. Lawrence; Andalusian/Indigo, OH #713, B. Vincent; Black, YC #686, D. Lawrence; Blue Check, YH #3648, L. Rosales; Blue, OH #994, D. Soares; Dominant Opal, OC #738, J. Krebaum; Powder Blue, OC #360, J. Krebaum; Powder Silver, YH #823, B. Vincent; Red, YH #609, J. Montoya; Saddle, OC #88, D. Lobenstein; Silver, OH #820, B. Vincent; White, OH #178, D. Lobenstein; Yellow, OH #419, T. Hughes; AOC, OC #955, D. Soares; Cream/Mealy, YC #42, D. Soares; Grizzle/Qualmond, OH #761, J. Petter Jr.; Tailmark, YC #721, L. Rosales.

Congratulations to Dennis Soares of Tulare, CA, for winning Champion with his blue OH #994. Ron Schwartz won First Reserve Champion with a blue young hen. Second Reserve and Third Reserve Cham-

pion awards were won by Drew Lobenstein with white old hens. Junior Champion was won by Jaime Petey Jr., with blue check YH #777. Best Young was won by Ron Schwartz with his blue YH #311.

In February of 1991 the club also held its Super Bowl of Fantails Show at the home of Gil Cardoza in Tulare. The show was again a terrific event with a total of 146 Fantails shown by 10 exhibitors. Here are the Color Class winners and Champions from the Super Bowl as listed by our secretary Joy.

Almond, OC #364, J. Krebaum; Andalusian, YH #595, J. Krebaum; AOC, OH #967, R. Sparkman; Black, YC #669, D. Lawrence; Blue, OH #768, J. Krebaum; Blue Check, YC #39, D. Soares; Creams/Mealy, #43, D. Soares; Dominant Opal, YH #20, R. Sparkman; Mismarks, OH #125, D. Soares; Powder Blue, OC #710, D. Soares; Powder Silver, OH #892, D. Soares; Red, OH #776, D. Lawrence; Saddle, YC #727, L. Rosales; Silver, YH #23, R. Sparkman; White, OC #686, D. Soares; Yellow, OC #3876, J. Krebaum.

Congratulations to Rick Sparkman of Ennis, Texas, for winning Champion and Best Young with his Dominant Opal YH #20 and also for winning First Reserve Champion with his Silver YH #23. That is quite an accomplishment given the top quality that is shown at the Super Bowl Show every year. Dennis Lawrence won Second Reserve Champion with his Black YC #669.

I truly look forward to the 1992 shows and seeing what graces the show pens this year.

For more information about the Western Fantail Club or upcoming shows please contact: Jim Krebaum Sr., at 213-941-6672. I hope to see you all very soon at the Great Western and that all your birds come through the moult well and be in their prime for what promises to be a great a show.

National Championship Tumbler Show

by DICK KRUEGER, Orange, Calif

The National Championship Tumbler Show this past December was hosted by the Pacific Tumbler Club in San Bernardino, California, and was a feature meet at the Pageant of Pigeons with over 625 Long-Face and Short-Face Tumblers on exhibit.

This show would never have been possible without the tireless efforts of a few members. Roland Teed made the back-drop and set up the custom lighting for the judging area. Larry Deckert set-up and tore-down our display (which was the best looking in the show) and promoted this show at his own expense. Fred Drumm made all hotel accommodations and plans for the Tumbler banquet. Marie Drumm filmed the entire show on video. Tom Evans shuttled out-of-towners from airport to motels to showroom and back for five days. These are the people that really put on this N.C.T.S.

The quality of Tumblers at this show was outstanding in all colors and classes and if I were to reflect on just one; that would have to be the White Self Muffed Tumbler classes. There were over 100. Each class having 23 to 27 birds each. Since I was doing the recording, I had a front row view and I was especially impressed with the judging that was done by Jim Bush in this class.

Our elder statesman and Life Member Bob Smith presented all the awards. The United English Tumbler Club (our National Club) awarded Fred Drumm a "Master Breeder." And Fred didn't disappoint anyone. He won Champion Tumbler with a young Black Self Clean Leg Tumbler again!

Mike Knaggs, Les Williams, Archie Taylor, Scot Sharp and Colin Glendinning, just to mention a few visitors from England, attended this show.

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Guest writer of the month:

INFERTILITY

IN AMERICAN SHOW RACERS

by Randall Rapetti, Laugna Niguel, CA

It seems as though the complaints increase each new breeding season. The top pairs in the breeding loft just are not producing as they should. Infertile eggs, youngsters dying in the shell, and so it goes. This breeding season I made a personal vendetta to get to the bottom of the fertility problem when my best cock failed to fertilize an egg in seven consecutive rounds with two different hens. I talked with old time breeders, listened to their complaints and their solutions, and determined to differentiate the science from the folklore. I also researched some literature and probed the minds of biologists and veterinarians. I finally found an answer to my scientific problem, but learned the causes of infertility are many and diverse. The following paragraphs outline much of what I learned about the nature of infertility in Show Racers.

1. Infectious Causes.

Pigeons do not reproduce well if they are infected with bacteria. Many successful breeders treat their breeders with an antibiotic several weeks prior to mating as a prophylaxis. It is not a good idea to use antibiotics while the birds are breeding as they may interfere with fertility or embryonic development. Bacteria can also infect the testicles and reproductive system of cocks which is a difficult problem to diagnose in the loft.

2. Physiological Causes

There are various physiological causes for infertility including internal defects from birth, testicular tumors and obstructed reproductive ducts. Some of these conditions can be corrected with surgery if the bird is worth the cost involved.

3. Biomechanical Causes.

While observing my birds copulate, I have noticed the more powerfully built Show Racers having greater difficulty in making a satisfactory connection sexually to fertilize the egg. This may be one reason why the better birds have fewer fertile eggs.

Turkeys and chickens have become so full breasted and top heavy that nearly all of them are artificially inseminated today. As we breed for more wedged, full breasted show racers we MAY be creating similar problems. I created a "mating board" this

year that allows the cock to swing more freely around on the hen. I don't know if it is helpful or not but fertility has been high in that loft. Other solutions include clipping an inch or so off the cocks tail and trimming the vent feathers. Some breeders even "shave" a one inch strip two thirds of the way around the hen creating a "notch" for the cock to slide into. I have my doubts about the effectiveness or necessity of such a procedure.

4. Psychological Factors.

In talking with several leading bird veterinarians I was surprised to learn that this is a major cause of infertility and may be THE leading problem. Some birds just do not want to be together. I learned that this is probably the main reason my good cock was not fertilizing his mate's eggs. For whatever reason he lacked sexual desire for both hens. I was told that hemp seed might increase his libido. I tried with no luck. Finally I heard one of the genetics club members, Stan Luden, mention a product that greatly increased arousal in Fantails. The product is called "Nekton-E" and after just seven days of treatment I noticed the cock frequently mounting the hen. I began using Nekton E on all my birds and have had 100% fertility in the last two rounds since I began administering it. Some breeders have claimed that it should be discontinued when the cock begins driving the hen because he becomes overly aggressive. I have not had this problem so far. However, I do give it to the birds for only about ten days prior to laying and then discontinue it because it contains a fat soluble Vitamin E. This can be harmful if given in large doses.

Hopefully we can increase fertility in our breed by maintaining good health in our birds and by being creative in our breeding programs. Some discussion may be warranted in the biomechanical area to determine if we are breeding ourselves into oblivion with a "type" of pigeon that cannot reproduce itself. Maybe we would rather use this as an excuse for poor loft management or some other misdiagnosed problem.

Thanks Randy for this article, I would hope that other show racer fanciers would send me articles that are of real concern to them or like your article give some answers that will help not only the novice but the old timer as well.

Eastern Jacobin Club News

by DON O'CONNOR,
Copake Falls, N.Y.

It's been quite a while since I've taken pen in hand. I have a lot of news on some of the endeavors on the show circuit this year. First big show for the Jacobin breeders was the National Young Bird Show, Louisville, Kentucky. The host club was the Central Jacobin Club. This was won by one of the Eastern Club members, John Kirchner. John has come a long way in the last two years. He is a real force to reckon with. He has some of the best whites I have seen and he does very well in the other colors also. I finally was able to attend this show, it was very impressive! I have been sending a few young Almonds to this show for the past few years and placing them 2nd and 3rd. I was really pleased to have the young Almond hen I brought with me come in Best Almond.

At this point, I am going to take a page of the Central Jacobin News Bulletin, written by Tom Reich. Before I do this, let tell you about the Eastern Young Bird Show that took place this year. It was hosted by the Bayshore Pigeon Club of New Jersey. I am sorry I was not able to attend this show but from what I understand it was a repeat of Louisville, John Kirchner did it again with the same young white cock 607. What can I say?? John is on a winning streak! WOW!! Now, to make things easy on me, I'll include the show report written by Vern Duntz, our secretary of the Eastern Jacobin Club.

My very best to all of you in 1992.

From Tom Reich: I think congratulations are in order to all the Central members who made this latest Young Bird Show such a resounding success. The show was the most cordial and fun the members say they've had since it all began. Judging began around 10 a.m. and each member was called upon to make a judging selection based on their experience and knowledge of the Standard. The merits of each bird in question were thoroughly outlined and the newer members were given first chance to define their selections with the guidance of the membership body giving assistance when needed. After the placings, the floor was opened for discussion. In a spirited debate, each member openly challenged the rational behind our selection process and some long standing opinions were put to task. Everyone contributed! Even though no formal guidelines were adopted into our judging protocol, the club itself came alive with unbridled participation. Each bird in the judging represents a different aspect of the Standard and in comparing these variances, our focus basically emphasized the most important prerequisites a show Jacobin must address; the big surprise was the amount of uninhibited input the gang provided. Each gave challenge as well as

support concerning the various viewpoints of comparative judging. The Central members sometimes play rough but always a spirit of goodwill and common respect prevailed. The open dialogue really strengthened our common interest and provided the best of comradery.

I wish to especially congratulate our newer members for the excellent showing they provided. Frances Anderson did exceptionally well this year, winning best Red as well as best A.O.C. and even Reserve Champion with the best Yellow! Her efforts have paid in earnest and we collectively applaud this husband and wife team for their patience and persistence. This isn't an easy breed to excel in, however the reward to sweat ratio is relative. Grand Champion went to John Kirchner who made his debut with this show. He did this amazingly well with a beautiful, typy White young cock. Over the years, the Eastern members have become a very intrinsic part of the Central with John Manckia, Vern Duntz, Don O'Connor and John Maliza who provided quite a bit of the judging. By the way Don D'Connor brought a class act with his beautiful Almond, easily winning its color class. The Yellow cock class was also won by an Easterner with a beautiful, smooth free shower bred by Charlie Palmer. The Black, Blue and Silver classes were taken by our Southern members Ron Davis and Pat Avery. This show truly belongs to the cross section of members who traversed a wide span of geography to attend this event. These individuals deserve a generous hand of recognition.

From our Secretary Vernard Duntz: We were a few members short this year, and still had an entry of 42 young birds and 7 yearlings. They were in real good shape, considering the warm weather we have had. My birds went through three separate molts. I hope my birds finish for Reading or I'll have to borrow some to show.

I don't like to keep repeating myself, but the gentleman from Lancaster, Pa, did us in again. John also won Louisville too. For the past three or four years John has put an impressive winning steak on.

I would like to welcome back to the shows, Sergio DeAlmeida. Sergio hasn't shown in seven or eight years, but he sure came out swinging at this one. I was really impressed with his birds.

Our judge was late, so I judged the A.O.C. and Yearlings. Then John Maliza arrived and finished the rest off, and a fine job he did.

After the judging was over, John Kirchner and his very thoughtful wife Darlene surprised me with a birthday cake. It was my birthday too. My family celebrated it the day before, so I could attend the show. I must say

John, you and Darlene were very thoughtful and I appreciate your kindness.

Can't think of anything else so hope to see all of you at Reading.

Best Young White Cock, 607, John Kirchner (Best White) Grand Champ; Best Young White Hen, 614, John Kirchner, Res. Champ.; Best Young Red Cock, 351, Robert Muszynski; Best Young Red Hen, 655, Sergio DeAlmeida (Best Red); Best Young Yellow Cock, 646, John Kirchner (Best Yellow); Best Young Yellow Hen, 659, Sergio DeAlmeida; Best Young A.O.C. Cock, 613, John Kirchner (Best A.O.C.); Best Young A.O.C. Hen, 626, John Kirchner; Best Yearling Cock, 30, Sergio DeAlmeida; Best Yearling Hen, 354, Sergio DeAlmeida (Best Yearling).

White Rose Winter Show A Success

by J.D. HOUSEMAN, Altoona, Pa.

Another grand show put on by the White Rose Association, Inc., located in York County, Pennsylvania and held at the York Fairgrounds on November 2, 1991. There were 136 exhibitors showing their best which constituted 1655 total birds on display.

President Stan Stover ordered a nice day and so it was! With the temperature just right and the atmosphere was filled with joy and contentment throughout the day. Everyone seemed to be having a wonderful day! Oh yes, the "For Sale" section was highly populated with birds as well as prospective buyers standing two deep to pick up a bird or two of their liking. The "Circle K" feed distributor was on hand with a nice supply of "goodies" for our birds including medication, feed and equipment. All in all it was a typical "White Rose Production," produced by Darla Stover, our competent show secretary.

Modenas took the honors of having the most of any breed - 349 head. Birmingham Rollers came in second with 296 while Helms, all varieties, had 158. Flying Homers

had 137 and 19 other breeds were in the two digit figures. I believe the above mentioned varieties had scheduled meets with White Rose creating the fine turnout. We enjoyed having you with us and do hope you see fit to return again next year.

We would like to list the champion of each breed. Modenas: Stu Webster; MF Crested Helms: Tony Patti; MF Plainhead: Albert Flinn; SF Crested: Bob and DaWanda Dunlap; Flying Homer: Stan Stover; Rare Breeds: Bob McNalis; Dragoons: Clair Wright; English Carriers: Clair Wright; Nuns: Stan Ryan; L.F.C.L. Tumblers: Jerry Michaels; West of England Tumbler: Tom Humphrey; Indian Fantail: Eric Kooker; Fantail: Steve Combs; Lahore: Joe Thomas; Flying Tipplers: Mike Babcock; Brunner Pouters: Edward Feher; Show Racers: Martin Shutt; English Trumpeters: Steve Combs; Komorner Tumblers: Joe Powers; Hungarians: Joe Poole; Parlor Roller: Jeff Shriver; Maltese: Milan Bakic; Bohemian Pouter: Howard Kingsley; Dutch Cropper: Amy Kingsley; Domestic Flight: Mike Lerp; Birmingham Rollers: Record not available as same weren't identified as to who the Champion was. Will check further as to winner and indicate in our next published report.

Junior Champion for the day was Amy Kinsley with a beautiful Dutch Cropper. Congratulations Amy!

In behalf of the Officers of the White Rose Association, we want to thank all the judges who so willingly took their time to judge the show. Without their contribution, any show would be less than successful. Also thanks to the 136 exhibitors from far and wide who traveled many miles to attend. We certainly enjoyed having you present. We hope you had a good day of relaxation and reminiscing with old and new fanciers alike. Seems at each show we see some new faces which only lends me to believe our hobby is still growing. Let's hope it continues!



Dave Harris' blue black bar young cock fullhead (#509) walked away with this year's honors at Louisville. The October 26 Show Champion was selected from 37 birds, 22 of which were Silesian Swallows. Harris also had the best Fairy with blue white bar young cock (#603). Out of the large Silesian class, a silver barless young hen (#917) owned by Nate Wayne of Minneapolis rated top bird and a clean legged blue barless hen (#32)

shown by Ed Conlon rounded out the final four. All birds were judged by Perry Mueller of St. Louis, MO.

The Swallow Club geared up for the Milwaukee National. Swallow fanciers from coast to coast were in attendance. This year's National was held at the Mecca Center in downtown Milwaukee, January 16, 17, 18, 1992. Watch next month's APJ for details on the Grand National.



The English Trumpeter Club Of America

by DENNIS RUPP, Publicity Director
New London, Minn.



Club Meetings

By now many clubs will have held young bird shows and are preparing for your all age shows. At some point in time during your shows, each club will probably hold a club meeting. Will your meeting be a well run meeting or will it turn into a name calling, mud slinging contest? We are all aware of how a meeting can deteriorate when the president cannot keep the meeting moving crisply and efficiently from one topic to the next.

As in the past falls in my column, I like to summarize a few points that you officers can do to make the meeting run smoothly and be a meeting that people can enjoy and leave with a good feeling.

First, the president and other officers should have a short officers meeting in order to decide just what has to be accomplished at your annual meeting. List these topics on a sheet of paper labeled "Annual Meeting of Any Town Pigeon Club." On this sheet of paper list every topic to be discussed at your meeting. Examples might be: Call the meeting to order, Secretaries report, Treasurer report, Club bands, next show date, awards, officer election. You can list anything you feel that the club wants to discuss. Post this agenda in your show area at least one day prior to the meeting if possible. You can leave copies lay on a table or wherever a member can observe the topics. This gives the members time to think about the topics and to ask questions ahead of time. Be sure to list the time, date and place to the meeting.

Second, it is very important to have a quiet meeting place. Try to have all members sitting in order to prevent members from milling around in the back of the room. This is the time when the president's role is very important. If your club has a gavel for the president to use, this gavel is a very effective tool for keeping order. Rap the gavel three times to call a meeting to order and three times if you have to ask for quiet. Rap the gavel once for each time a vote is announced on a motion.

Third, remember these meetings are held in order that ever member who desires to speak and make his wishes known are heard. Do not dominate discussion. Each member who desires to speak should be heard before you speak a second time on a topic.

Fourth, be sure you enjoy your banquet and get together following the meeting. This is where the real camaraderie takes place.

ET Standard Continued

As I mentioned last month, I would discuss the "Heart" shaped body. Twenty points

are allowed for the body. The five parts of the body covered by the standard are the body conformation and weight, chest/underbody, back, wings and tail.

Body conformation means that the body shall be short cobby and heart shaped when viewed from the back. This heart shape shall be created by the birds broad shoulders tapering down to a narrow tail. This is a very characteristic shape on correctly formed birds. From the side view the body should be as deep as possible from the back through the body to the underbelly. The body should be heavy and robust.

The chest shall be prominent, rounded and gracefully curved when viewed from any angle. The underbelly should be deep enough to keep any light from showing through between the legs. The chest feathers should cover the wing butts.

The back shall be broad and flat and taper

to the wing tips.

The wings shall fit tight to the curvature of the body. They shall lay on top of the tail and should be 1/2 inch shorter than the wing tips.

The tail shall be one and one half feather wide. It should be short in order to be in balance with the short cobby body. The angle of the tail shall be 45 degrees to the ground and just clearing the ground.

Possible faults in the body area of the standard are: light body, exposed wing butts, long narrow body, no underbelly, dragging one or both wings on the ground, wings crossed, tail held to horizontal to the ground or dragging on the ground.

Next month I will discuss the muffs and hocks. This area is one of the many ornamental feathers that make an English Trumpeter such a fine loveable bird.

Bits and Pieces From Here and There

I have heard from a few Minnesota breeders but nothing from out of state. Is anybody raising any birds in any part of North America except Minnesota?

My address is 2840 Co. Rd. 40 NE, New London, MN 56273. My phone number is 612-354-4554. I am waiting to hear from you.



International Roller Assn. News

by RICHARD MILLER, Pub. Dir.

Box 268 U.S. 224 West • Attica, Ohio 44807

419-426-5385

The following was written by Paul Bradford, and I think it has a lot of merit.

HEY - THERE ARE NO SECRETS OR GUARANTEES!

One thing that has bothered me is the attitude pigeon fanciers have towards selling their pigeons. One win and immediately all their birds are Champions. Beware of the feather merchant! It takes many years of breeding a strain of pigeons before you reach the level of a Champion.

Go to a reputable fancier of your breed of pigeon and listen to what he has to say. You will soon learn that it takes many years of blood, sweat and tears to reach the top. When you purchase his pigeons, you will be starting on his level of achievement. Then it will be up to manage your purchase to stay on the top. If you have listened, you will hear him say, "There are no secrets or guarantees."

So what does this mean? What are you trying to say?

In the association of Roller fanciers, there are very few feather merchants. The Roller fanciers are gregarious and hang together when it comes down to their area. I have been in many areas and it is always the same. We may differ in our opinions, but if you try to put down the Roller you will be surprised at the combined support this breed conjures up.

I believe there is an unwritten creed that all time Roller fanciers adhere to, one for all and all for one. If you are looking for a hobby to challenge your mind pick up your spirit or give you quality time, try the Roller hobby. If you are retired and are looking for fellowship and something interesting to do - the Roller will fit the bill.

Over the years I have had several gentlemen visit my loft looking for Rollers. The following is a list of do's and don'ts that I suggest to them before they obtain any birds. Even before considering the purchase of the first bird, visit as many lofts as possible. One visit does not constitute an accurate assessment of him or his birds and their quality. As we all know, there are days when we have our ups and downs, including our birds. Some days I would not give you a plug nickel for my birds, but 90% of the time it is due to my mismanagement.

Listen and learn everything you can about them and their birds. I guess what I am trying to say is, pick one loft to obtain your birds, and then stick with this family of Roller. Learn their characteristics. This cannot be accomplished over night. It could take months or years, according to how fast we, as the fancier, are able to learn. Unless you con-

American Pigeon Journal

sider yourself a master breeder, pick one good loft of bird to obtain your start and go from there. This in turn can save you many years of trial and error, as I went through.

Our Roller club, Sandusky Valley Performing Roller Club, had a very good year in 1991, with ten members flying in the Young Bird series. We have set up our schedule for the 1992 old bird series. The dates are: April 11, 1992 the East half will fly; April 25, will be the west; May 16, 1992 the West and May 30, the East. We will then have a fly off between the East and West on June 13, 1992. This will consist of the two top kits from the East and West. This should make for a very interesting year. We had several new mem-

bers put up some very good and interesting kits of young birds. This being their first year of flying performing Rollers, I was very impressed. Anyone interested in attending, can contact me for more information.

Have been in touch with Bruce Perrault, and he tells me that the International Roller Association is on the move. According to the last financial report, I see where the IRA is sound and doing very well. Our band sales are going well and the IRA is picking up new members. Anyone interested in joining the IRA contact Bruce Perrault, 151 Roberts Rd., Yakima, WA 98908 or phone 509-678-4379. The dues are \$10.00 per year.

WATC Forum

by JERRY B. HOLMBERG

THE FINAL TOUCH – “OR BUILDING BLOCK”

by Jerry B. Holmberg

Here I am again, writing another short article about what I feel should be one of the thoughts on most ET breeders' mind. The improvement, enjoyment, etc., etc., of our chosen hobby, our pigeon – “The English Trumpeter.” When you think of the first term improvement of the ET, which our standard itself is a new venue, you realize that everything about our pigeon is recent history. The ET itself is a recent creation. A product of several organizations in North America formed for the betterment of our favorite pigeon, “the ET.” You start thinking just what club in England, the UK, or the rest of the world has had a hand in this venture? The answer is NONE, period. This pigeon was created by our sweat on this continent. If we started from scratch to create this pigeon we wouldn't be any worse off starting with a Modena or Homer as our first building block than the ET of the pre-fifties. At least the Homer or Modena would give us a leg up on the body requirements toward our present day standard. Look back at some of those pre-fifty drawings and pictures of our breed. If you put a picture of this ET in a stack of various pictures of other varieties of pigeons you would have a hard time finding it and identifying it as an English Trumpeter. Because the ET in that area in time wouldn't even score 25 points toward our present day standard.

I believe that the present day fanciers should have a say on what their creation should be named. We've created the pigeon, the standard, various clubs, bylaws, etc., etc. So why not claim a reward in renaming it to our specification. The name ET is not a bad sounding name. But I BELIEVE THE NAME SHOULD REFLECT THE LOCALITY AND PEOPLE in which it originated. A few fanciers said why not rename it the American Trumpeter. Not bad, but when you give it some thought that name gives credit to some and precludes others. That's what we're trying to get away from in the first place. A

major contributor toward our breed were the Canadians. If you've ever traveled abroad and told someone you were an American they automatically assume that you're from the USA. They don't look at you and wonder if maybe he's an Argentinean, Canadian, South American, etc. They will automatically assume USA. That's why I think Canada would be snubbed with the name American Trumpeter. But the name North American Trumpeter gives credit where it's due. Canadian fanciers were probably further along in the development of our present day Trumpeter than we in the states were, early on. Also the American Trumpeter gives credit to the whole American continent and I can't recall anything our neighbors to the south had to do with the development of our pigeon. I believe the term “Ugly American” came from us taking credit for all the advancements of humanity on this planet, disregarding contributions from our inhabiting fellow mankind. We usually claim to be

responsible for everything, the good old USA.

If you were to display a pigeon that resembled one of the previous ET's of early year along side a present day ET, about the only comments coming from the group viewing the display would be, “What variety of pigeon is it?” Those future pigeon fanciers who will replace us will marvel at our accomplishments and will thank us for leaving this legacy. So why not leave it properly named? I think we deserve the credit with the renaming our creation by giving it a name which points to the rest of the world who and where it was conceived.

It's always been human nature that we are resistant toward change. We will really drag our feet. We have for 25 years, that's about the time I joined the fancy and they were talking about a name change then. Have you noticed those beautiful standard drawings of Diane Jacky, “they're new?” How about the rewriting of our new standard, the wonderful rewording that Gene Cooper and others gave us, “that's new?” The new point distribution, “that's new?” I also hope you've noticed that practically every other pigeon club has rewritten their standards, using ours as a guide. Hell, we've improved everybody's pigeon hobby.

We were all reluctant to move forward on these ventures but upon completion we were richly rewarded toward the perfection and enjoyment of our hobby.

I even believe that the name North American Trumpeter would influence an uncommitted pigeon fancier toward our breed because there might be a little tinge of patriotism involved in the selection of a pigeon to breed. Everybody likes a winner. I believe the name would add an extra touch of class to our breed. If you have a better name selection on your mind – let's hear it. My name selection is not written in stone.

The Idaho Family

by GREG ANDERSON, Lancaster, Calif.

Hello Birmingham Roller flyers! Greg Anderson here reporting on the family type atmosphere I witnessed along with Ron Dent (judge), Paul Bradford, and Jim Brown while attending an Idaho State Roller Club Fly and display on the first weekend of Nov. 1991. I would like to bring attention to two outstanding kits as well.

If you want to see Rollers, go on an Idaho State Roller Club Fly. Take Dick DeBoer's kit which has small and mostly blue checked birds. These birds rolled extremely fast coupled with a smoothness that I love so much.

Then there was Allen Stevenson flying later that day. Allen's kit was the best working of the fly. Allen has very colorful birds including many marked badge type on the small to medium size. These birds not only looked good on the ground, they were out-

standing in the air. Every bird rolled in the H style. Every bird showed the hole. Every bird could be a foundation bird. Every bird was a good one!

Whether or not their birds worked well, each flyer was given a pat on the back by club members and encouraged to continue working toward excellence. All club members look upon each other as equals respectfully with an eagerness to fly their kits.

The Idaho State Roller Club is one class organization, and is an example for any club to follow. To my surprise, Idaho not only has quality birds, but a quality club as well.

Doc. Reimann, Brent Martindale, Dick DeBoer, Barry Bean, and the entire Idaho State Roller Club thanks for making me a family member on that cold November weekend.

Giant Runt Club Of America News

by JOSEPH STEWART

Route 1, Box 156, Melissa, Texas 75454 • 214-837-2597

News from around the country indicates a great breeding season for the Giant Runt breeders. Most everyone should have broken up their breeders by now, and are looking forward to a great show season.

The National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Kentucky, started our 1991 show season, followed by the GRCA Third District in Columbia, Tennessee and the GRCA Regional Show in Robstown, Texas. I feel both shows will be well attended by both the Giant Runts and their owners. I've banded 128 Young Giant Runts as of this article. Of course many of them will be culled. My culls are not sold, and if they are not good enough quality to help someone else, they are destroyed.

There will be several show reports in this article, and I will start off with the GRCA Northeast Regional Show at Rhode Island on November 18, 1990. A total of 82 Giant Runts were shown by the following exhibitors: John Travassos, Lednel Yamara, Joel Teixeira, Steven Ferreira, Jose A. Ferreira, John Germano, David Lima, Eduardo Da Costa, Carlos Simas, and Jorge Machado. Arthur Piccerelli of Rhode Island judged with the following results:

Grand Champion was #2308 Old White Cock, shown by John Travassos; Reserve Champion and Best Opposite Sex was #1827 AOC Yearling Hen shown by Carlos Simas; Best Grizzle, Yearling Cock #245, shown by John Germano; Best Check, Yearling Cock #1820, shown by Carlos Simas; Best Black, Old Cock #27, shown by Carlos Simas; Best Blue, Yearling Hen #1435, shown by J.R. Teixeira; Best Red, Old Cock #3007, shown by J.A. Ferreira; Best Dun, Yearling Hen #1818, shown by Carlos Simas; Best Ash, Yearling Cock #1438, shown by J.R. Teixeira; Best Yellow, Young Hen #972, shown by Carlos Simas.

Another great Giant Runt show was held in Des Moines, Iowa on December 9, 1990. A total of 177 Giant Runts were shown by 19 exhibitors. GRCA members and/or exhibitors present or showing were: Dr. Louis A. Miller and his wife, James and Pat Avery, Charlie Brown, Bob Pennington, John Delahoussaye, John Homod, Jack Osterman, Ike Orsak. Bob Wold, Jean Wold, Bill Pennington, Jerry Kern, Robby Nelson, Joe Stewart, Ethel Stewart, and James W. Branham Jr. This writer judged and John Delahoussaye won Champion with #13 Old AOC Cock. John Delahoussaye also had the Reserve Champion with a Grizzle Young Cock #32. Best Opposite Sex was won by Ike Orsak with a Silver Yearling Hen #665.

Best Dun #610 Young Cock, Bob Pennington; Best Blue #218 Yearling Cock,

Bob Pennington; Best Ash #424 Old Cock, Charlie Brown; Best Yellow #607 Young Hen, Bob Pennington; Best Black #507 Old Cock, Charlie Brown; Best White #517 Old Cock, John Homod; Best Check #642 Young Cock, Bob Pennington; Best Rare #960 Old Cock, Bill Pennington; Best Red #606 Young Cock, Bob Pennington.

As judge, I was able to handle and observe all the Giant Runts at the Des Moines show. I believe they were some of the best I've seen in recent years overall, especially the ones in the parade of champions. It was a real pleasure to judge these large, beautiful Giant Runts.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners at these two great shows!

GRCA Member of the Year - 1991

John Travassos was selected by the GRCA membership to be the 1991 Member of the Year. John has for many years promoted the Giant Runt and GRCA. Thanks John and congratulations.

GRCA Membership List

All the GRCA members should have received a new updated GRCA membership list. The GRCA has had a very healthy growth in recent years.

New Members

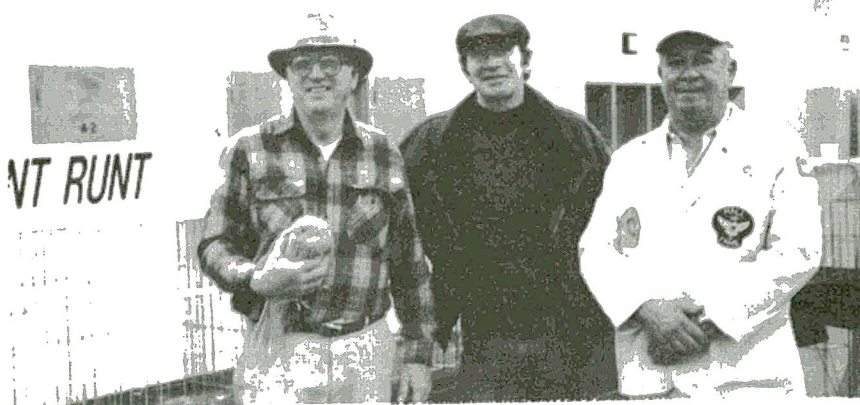
I'm very pleased to welcome ten new members to the GRCA since the last article was written.

Jay B. Beasley, Florida; Mike Ireland, Connecticut; Leiby Silvia, California; John Marcantonio, Connecticut; Manny Demedeiros, Canada; Jose Rodriguez, New Jersey; Robby Burns, Tennessee, Steve England, Michigan.

The guest article this month will be by Jess Lamar, a post top breeder of Giant Runts.

Members Write

Victor Stoll: I am sending my \$10.00 for my 1991 dues. I am not sure if I am sending it to the secretary for 1991? I just visited John Delahoussaye last week and brought back six birds of which two were French Mondains. I raised a nice blue cock of extra large size last year, and I am sending you several photos which show him for what he is, just fantastic in head and neck. I just mated him to a nice blue hen from John Delahoussaye, that came from his #109 Blue Cock, National



Bob Pennington, Jerry Kern and John Delahoussaye at the 2nd District GRCA Show, Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 9, 1990. - Photo from Joe Stewart, Melissa, Texas.



Giant Runt breeders at the GRCA 2nd District Show, Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 9, 1990 (l.-r.): James W. Branham Jr., Robby Nelson, John Homod, Joe Stewart, Ike Orsak, John Delahoussaye, Bob Wold, Dr. Lewis A. Miller, Bill Pennington, Jerry Kern, James Avery, Bob Pennington.

Champion. She is also quite large. Young Blue Cock #2730 is my own development and has little, if any, bloodlines of most of today's Runts. I just thought you might be impressed enough to use these photos in a near future Bulletin, or in one of your articles in the American Pigeon Journal. I always enjoy your articles very much.

Joaquin Tudela: Enclosed please find check number 4677 for \$10.00 for my GRCA Membership dues. I am a new beginner interested in raising Giant Runts. I would like some information on names and addresses that could sell me some pairs, to start with, at a reasonable price. I am interested in buying a pure and good quality Giant Runt to start with. Thank you.

D.C. Sr.: I am enclosing my membership fee of \$10.00 and \$5.50 for a GRCA Cap and

\$5.50 for the GRCA coat patch. And very many thanks for your time and effort of serving me. I am just trying to get my breeding right this year. Enclosed please find \$21.00.

Tony Scalzo: I am enclosing my dues for 1991. Sorry I am late, after my operation I had to give up all my pigeons and I surely miss having them around. Enjoy reading the Bulletin and would like to continue receiving it.

Francisco Gonzales: I am glad you have accepted me in the Club. I am sending my dues. For many, many years my favorite pigeon has been the Runt. In the past years I have ordered Runts from Dr. Bob Pennington and others in the States which I cannot remember. Poor health forced me out of the hobby of raising Runts. At 72 years I have

recovered almost completely and am ready to start again. I will depend on you to buy good and big Runts. We don't have any shows in Puerto Rico at present, and that is my goal, to motivate other fanciers to breed Runts so that in the future we may have some kind of show. As I told you in my first letter, my son Emilio Gonzales visited Ike Orsak and brought some photos of his Runts. I hope you can sell me at least two pairs of your very big and heavy Runts. I don't know how far you are from the airport but I will pay for the transportation and any other expenses needed. Please state or describe color, band number, and possibly weight of your Runts. Price is no problem because I want to start with very good stock birds. I hope you will be willing to cooperate with me. Good health for you and your family.

Ken Kinsey: Hello Runt Breeders. Last year I got two pair from John Delahoussaye. These are the best I have seen in a long time. Just after I got them I hurt my back at work, so my breeding season was not that good. This March I was moving to a new home and I didn't want to miss a Bulletin, I really enjoy them. Other breeds I enjoy are Carriers and Parlor Tumblers. My wife has a few breeds of her own. She used to hate my birds till she got into Chinese Owl, and African Owls. She said I would come home from work and go straight to my coop. Well, I fixed her. I got her a pair of Chinese Owls, now she has more birds than I do. My son also raises birds, he has Parlors and Laughers. We don't get to travel much, but I like to hear about the Big shows. So keep those Bulletins coming.

Randy Dixon: Thank you for responding so fast, enclosed is ten dollars for membership, unless you feel my birds are not worthy of your club. I think my female is anyway, she's on eggs. She looks more like your drawings. I invite comments.

Here is a guest article for this month:

RUNTS AND THINGS

by Jess Lamar

March 12, 1962

An article for your bulletin, provided you think that it is worth printing. I have raised, judged, and shown pigeons for the last 40 years and this is the why I think buying a bird and showing a bird are so much alike.

There are three types of show birds. First, there is the natural show bird that doesn't need much handling, because this bird is not excitable and does not mind the crowd of people always on hand at a pigeon show. Second, it is a bird that can be handled a lot and made very gentle in the show and for the judge to handle while being judged. The third type is a bird that is very gentle in your loft and looks like a real show bird, but when you pet this bird, he or she goes all to pieces and will never show. I don't care how much this bird is handled, I learned from experience when I had a white cock that was as gentle as could be and looked like a beautiful

(Continued On Next Page)



BEST OPPOSITE SEX

This Silver Yearling Hen #665 was Best Opposite Sex, Best Yearling and Best Silver Giant Runt at the GRCA 2nd District Show, Des Moines, Iowa, December 9, 1990. — Bred and shown by Ike Orsak.



GRAND CHAMPION GIANT RUNT

This AOC Old Cock #13 was Grand Champion Giant Runt, Best Old and Best AOC at the GRCA 2nd District Show, Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 9, 1990. — Bred and shown by John Delahoussaye.

show bird. I entered this white cock in our show here in Dallas, but he was thrown out. I couldn't understand why. I didn't see the bird judged, so when I came back, I asked the judge why this cock was thrown out. So, the judge put this cock back in the judging pen with two other cocks. I saw right away what the trouble was as he stretched his neck out six or eight inches and went all to pieces. That's why a man sends a bird to a show, isn't there to see the judging, and wonders why the bird didn't place higher than he did. Often times the judge will be blamed.

Now, getting back to comparing a bird that you just bought and have just received. This may be a real nice bird but he was just picked out of the fly pen and never has been handled. This may have been a real nice bird, and really looked good in the fly pen. Then, when you shipped this bird, he was wild and excited from handling and other experiences that he went through on his trip. Then, he looked like everything but a good bird and what you had expected to receive. On the other hand, if you had put this bird in an individual pen and handled him for a few days or so to let him get acquainted with you and his new quarters, he might have just been the bird you had expected to receive. When I ship a bird, I always tell the person that I am shipping to, to put this bird in an individual pen and handle him for a few days. So then he can get acquainted with you and his new quarters. Then, you look him over and let me know what you think of this bird. This bird may be just what he had expected to get. It usually works out fine if they just follow my instructions. Once in a while, a person will write me back the same day that he receives the bird and tells me all of the faults that the bird has. That isn't giving the bird a fair chance. However most of these people have written me later and said that they were well pleased with their bird or birds.

I had to give up my judging four years ago on account of my health, but I have had mighty good luck in the shows and will probably keep showing birds as long as I am able. Now, Mr. Secretary if you think that article is worth putting in your bulletin, ok. If not, just throw it in the waste basket and there will be no hard feelings.

Oh yeah, for the past four years I have been working on a new breed of Runts. This is the Crested Runt and now I have them perfected. They are a beautiful bird. I have four pair on eggs and youngsters and have two pair of whites and one pair of AOC's for sale. These birds will compare with the regular runt only they have the crested head and neck.

Well, John, I will try to write you a note on the bottom of this page. I am sure glad you are getting out some early youngsters. I hope that you come up with a real champion this year. I won't have any real early youngsters as I have just mated my birds about two weeks ago due to the late Fort Worth Stock Show. However, I do have some early young-

sters from my Crested Runts. Well, John, you said that you would like to have me judge your coming fall show. I'll tell you what I will do. If you Runt boys want to pay my railway expenses for aroundway ticket and one of you will put me up for a couple of days or furnish me with a hotel room and meals for a few days, I will come down and judge your fall show. There will be no charge for my services. I would come down and judge your show and furnish my own expenses but my income is small and I have to watch my nickels, ha ha.

Tell the boy howdy for me and I hope he has good luck with his Modenas at the coming shows. I will be glad to hear from you at any time that you feel like writing.

Your old runt friend, Jess Lamar.

P.S. John, I am sending a check for \$1.00

for my 1962 dues. Please see that this is taken care of for me and oblige.

If you are not breeding and showing Giant Runts, you are missing a lot of fun and good fellowship. Breed and show Giant Runts, the breed with a history and a great future.

For more information on the Giant Runt, the Giant Runt Club of America, or want to join, send \$10.00 for Senior, \$15.00 for family, or \$5.00 for Junior (under 18) to: Joe Stewart, Route 1, Box 156, Melissa, Texas 75454, (214) 837-2597.

A bargain considering our informative Bulletins, drawings of the ideal Giant Runt, and awards offered by the GRCA, at all GRCA sponsored shows.



Performing Roller Assn. News

by DAN OUELLETTE,
Publicity Director,

1008 Reddy Ave., Medford, Ore. 97504

The Debut P.R.A. West Coast Fly was held November 6-17, 1991. It was a worthwhile experience for all who attended. Those who supported and participated in this event deserve a hearty "thanks," especially Joe Testa (co-founder of MAPR) whose time and energy helped make this fly such a success. Joe did an outstanding job judging more than 30 kits that were flown. Dedicated Roller men like Joe Testa keep this Roller hobby moving in the right direction.

Joe selected three nice kits as his personal favorites. First place went to Jack Meyers (Modesto, California). Jack's kit displayed velocity we would all be proud for our birds to have. His birds kitted well, and displayed plenty of frequency for the pleasure of the audience. It is obvious these birds are well managed. Congratulations Jack for flying the best kit out of 30+ competitors! Graham Hutt (Eureka, California) was selected second place winner. Graham's kit stayed at a nice height, kitted well, and exhibited plenty of frequency. The birds also displayed some nice individual roll. Sam Williams (Modesto, California) placed third. His kit stayed in sight at a good height, and he had an array of nice individual Rollers performing for our enjoyment. They worked nearly the whole time we were there. The P.R.A. congratulates all three of these fine Roller men. We're looking forward to seeing all your kits next year.

We learned a few lessons through this experience that will be beneficial in future flies. We found that 30 minutes is too long for a judge to have to watch a kit. Next year we will have a 20 minute maximum (no mini-

mum) time limit. We also decided November is a tough time to have a fly because of weather and hawk problems. I don't know if there is a BEST time to fly, but next year we're going to try another time of the year. Although the weather was really only bad in a few foggy areas, the hawks were present at almost every area we visited. We witnessed hawk and falcon attacks all along the way.

The 6th Annual P.R.A. Fly and Display Convention was an enjoyable gathering. Jerry Lynn (El Cajon, California) was scheduled to judge, but was unable to attend for health reasons. We wish him a speedy recovery, and hope he will be able to judge a verified display in the future. As a stand in, we had the good fortune to get Art Hopkins. An experienced Roller man, Art is founder of the CENTEX Roller Club in Central Texas, and P.R.A. Southern Representative. Art graciously agreed to judge the Verified Display, and did a bang up job! There were close to 40 entries. As Best Old Cock, Art selected a blue bar W.W., bred and flown by Art Solorio (SCVPRA-Cupertino, California). Best Old Hen went to a red check self, bred and flown by Don Marshall (SCVPRA-San Jose, California).

We thank Don Marshall for offering us the use of his beautiful backyard, and the fine lunch he provided. The SCVPRA, consisting of Don Ouellette, Art Solorio, Doug Steudeman, and Don Marshall, deserves special credit for all their efforts and dedication to the Roller hobby. The SCVPRA is responsible for the creation of the P.R.A. in 1985. The P.R.A. has come a long way since then, and we are still growing and going strong.

American Pigeon Journal

The future holds new and exciting possibilities.

I encourage all flying Roller men to PRA Verify-IRA/NBRC Certify your top Rollers, and display them at the NPA Grand National Conventions. The purpose of the display is to join together and promote the air tested top performing Roller. The P.R.A. strives to take politics OUT of the Roller hobby, and put IN value and integrity.

I want to remind readers that the first American Pigeon Journal Flying Performing Roller Special will be coming out in December 1993. This issue will be solely dedicated to the Flying Performing Roller. I will be coordinating this effort and welcome all flying Roller men, whether or not affiliated with a club, to participate. This Roller spe-

cial will be a collector's item, and the first of its kind. I will give more details as time goes on.

If any of you are interested in sharing your opinions or articles on flying Rollers, send them to our new P.R.A. Publicity Director: Don Ouellette, 10404 Menhart Lane, Cupertino, CA 95050 (408) 252-6016.

Area Directors should send completed verification forms to: Doug Ouellette, 235 Surge Street, Reno, NV 89506 (702) 677-SPIN.

If you are interested in participating or serving in the P.R.A. Verification Program contact: Dan Ouellette, 1008 Reddy Avenue, Medford, OR (503) 770-5528.

1992 P.R.A. OFFICERS

Western Representative: Don C. Ouellette,

10404 Menhart Ln., Cupertino, CA 95104, (408) 252-6016.

Eastern Representative: Joe Testa, 398 Mass Ave., Lunenburg, Mass. 01462.

Southern Representative: Art Hopkins, 3001 Gregg Ln., Manor, Texas 78653.

Verification Officer: Doug Ouellette, 235 Surge St., Reno, Nevada 89506, (702) 677-SPIN.

Sec./Treas.: Dan J. Ouellette, 1008 Reddy Ave., Medford, Oregon 97504, (503) 770-5528.

Junior Representative: Kelley Spurling, 1475 Sunglo Dr., Grants Pass, Oregon 97527, (503) 474-5088.

P.R.A. Area Directors

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Area 1: Randy Lewis, 3906 N.E. 114th, Portland, Oregon 97220.

Area 2: Ivan Hanchett, 30900 SW Baid Peak Rd., Hillsboro, Oregon 97123.

Area 3: Dan Ouellette, 1008 Reddy Ave., Medford, Oregon 97504.

Area 4: Carl Schoelkopf, 853 Hawley Rd., Redding, CA 96003.

Area 5: Jack Meyers, 3112 McGerry Ave., Modesto, CA 95355.

Area 6: Joe Granada, 3793 Vista Dr., Soquel, CA 95073.

Area 7: Don C. Ouellette, 10404 Menhart Ln., Cupertino, CA 95104.

Area 8: Norm Reed, Star Route 1, Box 349, Rosamond, CA 93560.

Area 9: Dave Goss, 1824 North Rose St., Burbank, CA 91505.

Area 10: Ron Dent, 5485 Valley Ridge, Los Angeles, CA 90043.

Area 11: Jerry Lynn, 119 Stoney Knoll, El Cajon, CA 92019.

Area 12: Mike Kelly, 25509 Flanders Dr., Carmel, CA 93923.

Area 13: Graham Hutt, P.O. Box 657, Blue Lake, CA 95525.

Area 14: Ed Allen, 4495 Lakewood Dr., Willits, CA 95490.

Area 15: Tony Perez, 1205 Connecticut Ave., San Pablo, CA 94806.

Area 16: Nick Burcher, 1937 Jacqueline Way, Concord, CA 94519.

Area 17: Brent Martindale, 4221 N. Pennfield Pl., Boise, ID 83704.

Area 18: Doug Ouellette, 235 Surge St., Reno, Nevada 89506.

Area 19: Byron Gable, 26118 11th Place South, Kent, Wash. 98032.

Area 20 (Junior Rep.): Kelley Spurling, 1475 Sunglo Dr., Grants Pass, Oregon 97527.

Area 21 (Junior Division): Paul Ouellette, 1008 Reddy Ave., Medford, Oregon 97504.

Area 22 (Junior): Chris Ouellette, 10404 Menhart Ln., Cupertino, CA 95104.

Area 23 (Junior): Pat Ouellette, 235 Surge St., Reno, Nevada 89506.

Area 24 (Junior): Chad Gillium, 4145 Oakview St., Las Vegas, Nevada 89117.

Area 25 (Junior): Barry Bean, Rt. 1, Box 1183, Homedale, ID 83628.

Area 26 (Junior): Scott Huddy, 1658 South St., Bridgewater, Mass. 02324.

Area 27 (Junior): Shayne Castro, Box 316, Mar Mac Rd., Anderson, S.C. 29624.

Eastern Region

Area 1: Curt Neuendorf, P.O. Box 359, Denver, Iowa 50622.

Area 2: Mike Whitney, 2204 Logan, Des Moines, Iowa 50317.

Area 3: Dave Thomas, P.O. Box 135, Dryden, N.Y. 13053.

Area 4: Charlie Hickey, 730 South St., Holbrook, MA 02343.

Area 5 (Eastern Rep.): Joe Testa, 398 Mass Ave., Lunenburg, Mass. 01462.

(Continued On Next Page)



Dan Ouellette (right) presenting Joe Testa (left) a plaque in appreciation for Joe's dedication to the Flying Performing Roller pigeon. Joe did an outstanding job of judging the debut PRA West Coast Fly. There were over 30 kits flown.



Joe Testa (left) presenting the plaque for 1st place in the debut PRA West Coast Fly to Jack Meyers of Modesto, Calif. Congratulations Jack for a job well done.

Area 6: Harold Beall, 841 Pittsburg Ave., North Canton, Ohio 44728.

Area 7: Russ Dever, P.O. Box 52, Brimfield, Ind. 46720.

Area 8: Tony Dasaro, 2306 Poindexter Ln., Sellersburg, Ind. 47172.

Area 9 (Junior Division): Crisie Vulgamore, 1131 Lake Ave., Aurora, Ohio 44202.

Area 10: William Martin, R. 4, 800 N. Bronson, Mich. 49028.

Southern Region

Area 1 (Southern Rep.): Art Hopkins, 3001 Gregg Ln., Manor, Texas 78653.

Area 2: Roger O. Baker, 124 E. Pleasant Spring Rd., Rosebud, Ark. 72137.

Area 3: Bill Young, 2424 S.W. 81st, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73137.

Area 4: Bob Kobel, 2470-25 Ave., Greeley,

Colo. 80631.

Area 5: Scott Rizzardi, 16620 Placita Ninos 2, Marana, Ark. 85653.

Area 6: Mike Richey, 4Y Street, Anderson, S.C. 29625.

Area 7: James C. Osche (Mid-West Rep.), 1454 Boise Ave., Alliance, Nebr. 69301.

The P.R.A. extends a special note of gratitude to those of you who have donated time, energy and money to support our organization. Through your generosity, we are able to continue our activities and award programs. The P.R.A. is supported solely through donations. We need your contributions in order to remain strong. We thank you for continuing to demonstrate your support.

National Modena Club News

by JAMES R. LAIRMORE, Western Vice President

As I start this month's article, I am reminded that we have seen another year go by and our club continues to hold onto its position of being one of the best Specialty Clubs in the world. We continue to hold onto our high membership numbers and in fact we have shown a net gain in members for the year past.

Our annual membership meeting held in Milwaukee was as productive a meeting as I have seen in several years. The new business part of our meeting was handled by President Weyrauch in a very professional manner and our members present gave him almost 100% support in the proposals that were voted upon by the membership.

In attendance at the meeting were some 65 plus NMC members. The proposal which had received the most attention during the past year, that of taking the Annual Meet of the NMC away from the Grand National Show and putting it on a bid basis each year, was soundly defeated by the members present and voting. This vote outcome reflects the feelings of many of our members that we should always show with the National.

There were some 980 plus Modenas entered and when I started looking at the final line-ups of birds which had won Best of Color awards, I saw more hens than cocks and I believe it is fair to say that the crop of 1991 youngsters did not measure up to the young birds of years past in quality as a general rule.

The NPA auction which was held for the first time this year, and for which the monies received were to start the NPA Book of Standards, was a great success. A total of \$4,600.00 was raised. The top money paid was for a Blue Gazzi Cock and Bronze Tri Gazzi Hen donated by Dennis Weyrauch. This pair raised \$600.00. The next highest pair was a White Schietti pair donated by Willi Richert which brought in \$500.00. Needless to say, the part of the auction when the Modenas were up for bid, brought a very quick and very spirited bidding. Both the NPA and NMC can be very proud of these two gentlemen for their gift of these quality

birds.

This was a nice show but the weatherman was not very nice. To say that it was cold would be an understatement. And next year's show will be in Lancaster Pennsylvania, so the chances of another cold show are better than average.

Before I begin to close for this month, I would like to bring up the negative part of this show. And that is the Show Security. Each of us needs to pay a lot more attention to this aspect of the show. At Milwaukee, a young blue Gazzi cock was taken from the show. This young cock was shown by Dennis Weyrauch and is a serious blow to his breeding program. Also missing was a young Bronze Tri Gazzi Cock which Dennis brought for Marvin Angle. And, Manfred Ecker is missing a Black Hen. Hopefully, these birds have been taken by mistake and will find their way back to their owners, but the odds are not good.

One fact that we all must agree on is that the show room must be secured 100% when the NPA Banquet is in progress. We cannot allow fanciers access to the show room until the members who are attending the banquet are also back in the show room. And we certainly cannot allow birds to be removed from the show room on Saturday afternoon as was the case in one or two breeds.

The loss of a single outstanding bird by a fancier can be a really big blow to him. At the cost today of securing good stock, rearing and training the bird, the entry fees and the cost of getting to and from the show can be a considerable investment. Not to mention the loss of an outstanding bird and the set back in the breeding program.

I have now heard of a bird or birds being removed from the show room by methods other than being stolen but as I do not have the personal knowledge or proof, I will refrain from comments at this time.

In closing, I would add that when this happens, it is always one of the outstanding birds that are taken. So let's take the steps to protect the entries at all of our shows.

1991 Northeast Futurity Show

by GERALD L. RUSSELL,
Candor, New York

The 1991 Northeast Futurity Show was held in Candor, New York, on September 21, 1991. The weather for the weekend was on the cool side but the spirits of the fanciers was very warm. Fanciers started arriving early Friday evening for the show. After much discussion about the Roller hobby by those in attendance Friday night, the fanciers settled down for a short night's sleep.

Saturday morning saw the arrival of the last of the fanciers showing in the Futurity. After the final show preparations of beaks being trimmed, feet cleaned and birds powdered, everyone was ready for George Petro to pass judgement on the birds. The quality of the birds was as good as ever with many different fanciers having birds that appeared capable of entering the winners circle.

George started judging the young hens first and when the feathers settled the top five breeders were as follows:

1. 945 Dark Tort D/F, Tom Duger. 2. 848 Medium Tort W/F, Norm Brozovich. 3. 860 Dark Tort D/F, Gerald Russell. 4. 898 Medium Tort D/F, Charlie Albaugh. 5. 925 Dark Tort D/F, Don Mohat.

After a brief break in the action, George started working with the cock birds. Again the quality of the birds was very good and George had his hands full coming up with the top birds. The top five breeders were as follows:

1. 850 Medium Tort W/F, Norm Brozovich. 2. 914 Dark Tort W/F, Joe Grimes. 3. 878 Blue Check Mk, Don Mohat. 4. 851 Dark Tort D/F, Gerald Russell. 5. 925 Dark Tort D/F, Mike Martone.

The next task for George was to find the top four breeders. The final results were as follows:

Champion Breeder: Norm Brozovich, 850 Medium Tort W/F Cock.

1st Reserve Breeder: Joe Grimes, 914 Dark Tort D/F Cock.

2nd Reserve Breeder: Tom Duger, 945 Dark Tort D/F Hen.

3rd Reserve Breeder: Gerald Russell, 860 Dark Tort D/F Hen.

After a short break in the action, Norm Brozovich had the task of judging the three bird open show. Again the quality of the birds was excellent. Norm started with the hens first and the top three breeders were as follows:

1. 3784 Blue Check Marked S.H., Gerald Russell. 2. 164 Blue Check Marked, Charlie Albaugh. 3. 715 Blue Check Marked, Joe Grimes.

The cock birds were judged next and the results were as follows:

1. 136 Blue Check Self, Charlie Albaugh.
2. 759 Blue Check Marked, Joe Grimes.
3. 3778 Blue Bar Beard W/F, Gerald Russell.

Norm then set about the task of finding the top three breeders and the results were as follows:

Champion Breeder: Gerald Russell, 3784 Blue Ck Marked Hen.

1st Reserve Breeder: Charlie Albaugh, 136 Blue Ck Self Cock.

2nd Reserve Breeder: Joe Grimes, 759 Blue Ck Marked Cock.

Plans for the 1992 Futurity Show are underway and everyone is looking forward to another outstanding show. 1992 will be the fifth annual show. Inquiries about the show have increased and 1992 looks to be even larger than 1991. The judges of the 1992 Futurity Show will be: Norm Brozovich for the Futurity Show and Gerald Russell for the Three Bird Open Show.

Fanciers interested in participating in the 1992 show can obtain bands by sending \$10.00 to Gerald Russell, 22 Ithaca Road, Candor, New York 13743 or calling 607-659-7400. The date of the 1992 show will be Saturday, September 19, 1992.

Mondain Matters

by EARL GOLDING,
Waco, Texas

French Mondains were well represented in the 1991 National Pigeon Show, held January in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A total of 279 French represented one of the largest entries in recent years went before judge Carlos Easley of Dallas.

Grand Champion of the show was a young bird, AOC cock 4991, exhibited by Roy Delahoussaye of Mississippi who is comparatively new to Mondains but has long been recognized as one of the greats of Giant Runt competition. Delahoussaye had purchased the bird earlier from Frank Domingue of Louisiana.

Reserve Champion was Old AOC hen 4101, bred and shown by Les Heisserman of New Jersey.

Delahoussaye's AOC had reached the call-back Grand Championship round by edging white hen 3124, owned by L.J. Segura of Louisiana, in the young bird competition.



Pictured above is Henry Tom, one of the Mondain breeders who lives in Honolulu, Hawaii. — Photo from Earl Golding, Waco, Texas.

Finishing as the runner-up in the old bird competition was AOC hen 4104, owned by Floyd Menard, Louisiana.

Dan Davis, National French Mondain Association, said the show was held during extremely cold weather. "The warmest it got while we were there was 21 degrees. Coldest was 5 below."

Four Mondain exhibitors received special recognition during the National Pigeon Association's annual banquet. Art Kehl, of Watertown, Wisconsin, was presented the NPA President's Award; Les Heisserman, New Jersey, received the NPA President's Award; and Elwood Hammitt of New Jersey and Floyd Menard of Louisiana received Master Breeder awards.

In the National French Mondain Association's annual meeting held in conjunction with the National show, it was decided the National club will take over funding of the Mondain Scene, the very popular magazine which is devoted exclusively to Mondains. It was also decided that the highly successful promotional shows which have been held for the past three years to raise money to promote Mondains will continue. The 1992 show is due to return to Breeders Arena in Stephenville, Texas. Dates and details will be announced well in advance of the show.

1991 Promotional

On Dec. 4-5, the third annual promotional show was held at Paul Cook's Breeders Arena, with just over 200 birds exhibited and the usual auction of donated birds raising money to promote the breed during 1992. Entry fee was \$4 per bird, Paul Cook judged, and participating regional clubs affiliated with the NFMA were to divide just under

(Continued On Next Page)



1991 NORTHEAST FUTURITY CHAMPION BREEDERS

Pictured left to right are Gerald Russell, Joe Grimes, George Petro (judge), Norm Brozovich, Tom Duger and in front, J. Duger. — Photo from Gerald Russell.



1991 FUTURITY SHOW BREEDERS

\$3,000. In the last three years, this major show has now produced over \$10,000 Mondains throughout the country. It has been a key factor in the increased popularity of these big, compact blockbusters of the pigeon world.

A brown hen donated by Paul Cook was the top bird in the auction, going for the high bird of \$575!

Grand Champion young bird of the promotional was white cock JG 349, owned and exhibited by Earl Golding, Waco, Texas. David Hurt's brown hen 3029 was Reserve Champion.

Carlos Easley had Champion old bird with an AOC hen, with the Reserve going to Earl Thibideaux's ash cock 632. Earl Golding had best young display and Carlos Easley had best old bird display.

NYBS

In October, Mondains were well represented in the annual National Young Bird Show which is held each year in Louisville, Kentucky. Paul Cook had Grand Champion with brown cock 5402, and Bill and Mark Koenig won Reserve with ash cock 116. Cook's black cock 5431 placed third in the parade, and John Delahoussaye's AOC 4991 was fourth. David Hurt, Texas, was the judge. Cook had best display, with 40 points. List had 23, Carlos Easley 22, and Ed Bakhaus 18.

An impressive total of 162 Mondains were shown. "Louisville is no longer a show that someday will be great for Mondains," John List said. "That someday has arrived." John said that Art Kehl remembered that only six or seven years ago, there were only a handful of Mondains at the Louisville show."

National Dues

Dan Davis, National French Mondain Association secretary, said the 1991 membership finished at 130 members, once again achieving the goal of a 10 percent annual increase.

Dan also said the 1992 membership had already reached 86 in mid-January, so the unofficial goal of at least 143 members for the current year appears within reach.

Dues remain at \$10 this year, and a membership will include a year's subscription to Mondain Scene, which is all about French Mondains. The Mondain Scene isn't just another newsletter or bulletin, it is a magazine, with from 40 to 60 pages and 40 to 50 pictures per issue. It includes news about French Mondain and French Mondain breeders and clubs throughout the country and the world, and is published quarterly. David Hurt is the editor.

If you have French Mondains in your loft, being a member of the NFMA and receiving the Mondain Scene should be a must. We think you'll agree there's nothing to rival this publication among all various breeds of pigeons. It's strictly a professional production, filled with news, pictures, health and breeding tips, show reports and advertisements.



Talking Mondains during a judging break, left to right, are NFMC secretary Dan Davis, Vidor, Texas, and Dave Millwood, California. — Photo from Earl Golding, Waco, Texas.

To become a member of the National French Mondain Association and receive Mondain Scene, send your \$10 check to: Dan Davis, 1080 Evangeline Rd., Vidor, Texas 77662.

Midwest Mondains

Among the many new pigeon folks who have started raising French Mondains in the last two or three years are many who have already made big names for themselves in other breeds.

Bill Koenig is one of those. Bill is a dentist, who lives in Wisconsin. Before he became interested in our big breed, he had already become a highly respected Roller breeder. He still raises and shows Rollers, as well as Mondains.

Bill has a partner. His son, Mark, is also very interested in pigeons and Bill, the senior member, says theirs is a perfect partnership.

"Mark is very good at putting the birds up in the show coops and studying them," Bill said. "I'm in the loft from 6:30 til 7:30 every morning. I'm in the loft every afternoon. I spend three hours a day five days a week feeding, watering and cleaning. I work in the loft six hours a day on Saturday and Sunday. I do the menial stuff."

Bill and Mark raised from 20 pairs of Mondains during the 1991 breeding season, and raised "just enough to keep it interesting."

He says producing birds during the cold months in Wisconsin is almost impossible. "It gets very cold in December, January, and February. It gets down to 20 and 25 below zero. Even if you have good fertility, the birds are going to die in the shell when it gets that cold." He says there have been some breeders who have tried to heat their lofts. "It doesn't work very well. What happens is that it results in sick birds."

Koenig says in whatever the breed, the key to being among the winners is having healthy pigeons, and knowing how to condition them. "There are major pigeon breeders

who will move around from breed to breed . . . and they will be breeders who can get show birds in excellent condition. Health and condition are required to win. The key is healthy pigeons. The key is spending enough time with healthy pigeons to have them in excellent condition at show time."

When Koenig decided to get into Mondains, he purchased his stock birds from Marvin Koenig of the Golden Horse Shoe Loft in Austin, Texas. The two are not related. Among Bill's goals are producing good quality blue and ash Mondains in bars. He's been surprised at the scarcity of these colors in the big breed.

Texas Mondains

The Texas French Mondain Club's 1991 Young Bird Show was held at Breeders Arena in Stephenville, Sept. 21, with 93 birds entered by 14 breeders. White Cock 302, owned by Earl Golding, won the Grand Championship; with Brown Hen 3029, owned by David Hurt, Reserve. Carlos Easley was third with Black Hen 3763; and Earl Thibideaux was fourth with Ash Cock 5291. Tommy Cox placed fifth in a very strong parade with White Hen 4604.

The show was judged by Paul Cook, who called the field exceptionally strong.

Carlos Easley took the Best Display with 47 points, and had five first place winners. Buck Walker was second with 32 points, and had four firsts. Easley finished 1-2 in both the AOC classes.

One of the highlights of this show was the strong showing made by some of the newer members. Lonnie Coble of Clifton, who had built his loft in the summer of 1990 and was entering birds in his first show, finished second in a very strong Ash Cock class of 18 birds, and also had the second place white hen. Tommy Cox, Arlington, had his best show since coming back into the hobby with a fourth in the parade with a white hen and a runner-up spot in the white cock class with one of her brothers.

"Tommy's white cock could have won a lot of shows," Cook said. "He just ran up against a blockbuster."

John McCarroll had his best show yet, with some exceptionally strong young ash cocks. In that class of 18, John had the third, fifth and sixth place birds.

Spindletop Classic (BOLD)

L.J. Segura had the Grand Champion of the Spindletop Classic, held at the South Texas Fair in Beaumont, Texas, Oct. 11-12. He won with AOC 4227, and also finished second and third in the old bird parade with blue cock 4227 and ash cock 981. Young bird champion was Roy Delahoussaye's AOC cock 107. Segura's old bird edged Delahoussaye's young bird champ for the Grand Championship. Raymond Rodrique had reserve in the young birds with AOC Hen 233.

Robstown Show

Roy Delahoussaye had Champion Mondain in the annual All Age Show at Robstown, Texas, the second weekend in November. Roy, who has been one of our major breeders for years, took the top spot with an Old Black Hen. Charley LaBorde judged. Breeders taking part included A.B. Melancon, Dan Davis, Ruben Moreno, Ike Orsak, E.G. Tugwell, and Jimmy LaBarr. Over 70 Mondains were entered.

Louisiana Mondains

The Louisiana French Mondain Club's Labor Day show in Abbeville had its usual strong turnout, with over 160 birds entered and Raymond Rodrique judging. Pierre Harrington had champion old bird with ash cock 4910, and Melridge Harrington had reserve with brown hen 5532. In old birds, Terry Carlin won Champion with AOC hen 1378, and L.J. Segura had reserve with brown hen 3108.

New Lofts

Evidently there's a lot of new lofts being built, plus quite a bit of refurbishing of lofts among Mondain breeders around the country.

Nick Lanza, long-time Louisiana breeder, is in his new facility. Harold Guidry has started work on his new one and Floyd Menard is readying to build a new loft.

In Texas, Roy Delahoussaye has his birds working in a new loft and A.B. Melancon has re-done his.

As this is being written, I'm awaiting the welder's word he has finished work on the new individuals to go into a new loft which has been awaiting them since mid-December. My new breeding loft is patterned after the state-of-art loft at Paul Cook's Breeders Arena, only on a smaller scale. It is 12 by 32, and like Paul's, is heavily insulated to make it much cooler in the summer and much warmer in the winter without air conditioning or heat. I'm looking forward to getting my breeding pairs moved into it. It'll be a new experience, being able to raise young birds the year around. Until now, it has mostly been too cold til March, and then too

January 1992

hot after May.

Mondain Shorts

•George Borba's AOC 1405 finished as the top young bird of 1991 in the Western French Mondain Club. Alan Tom's Ash 4027 was second, and Willie Sousa's 1413 third.

•A.L. Duroux, LaMarque, is getting back into Mondains. He told Earl Thibideaux he'll concentrate on blues.

•Floyd Menard says Louisiana has a strong group of comparative newcomers making their marks. Among them are Frank Dominique, who has been raising birds for just two years and had the Grand Champ in the LFMC's Labor Day show in 1990 and Terry Carlin, who had Champion in the 1991 Labor Day show.

•Jimmy LaBarr, Harlingen, is a new breeder who was to make his first show appearance at the Robstown show in early November. Jimmy lives 135 miles from his closest Mondain friends, John Delahoussaye, G.L. Pugh, and A.B. Melancon who live in the Rockport area. LaBarr plans to breed from only four pairs.

•Paul Cook, who probably has the finest pigeon facility in the country, completed another big loft during the summer of 1991. It's strictly for growing youngsters and for the hens he rests between tours in the brood pen.

•Many Texas breeders are cutting down on the number of pairs they'll raise from in 1992. I'm going from 30 to 10 or 11. Earl Thibideaux, Larry Ellison, David Hurt, Buck Walker, and several others are also cutting back.

Note

We need as much input from Mondain breeders as possible to make Mondain Matters more effective. We also need good quality pictures of breeders, lofts, and birds. Send to: Earl Golding, 525 N. 35, Waco, Texas 76710 or call 817-752-2388.



The Louisville Young Bird Show is behind us and I think that most of us went home with good memories. It was a real pleasure to meet new people and of course renew friendships with those we have known for so long. I know that I say this every year, but those of you who have never taken in the show, are missing out on one of the best shows in this country.

As it has been for many years, the Western Tumbler Club hosted the English Long Faced Tumbler Section, of the Young Bird Show. Thanks to all the people who joined

the W.T.C. at the show and exhibited their birds this year, I think we can safely say that this grand old club is going to be around for many more years to serve the Tumbler Fancy.

The entry in this year's show was 226 Tumblers. There were 146 Clean Legs, 66 Muffs and 14 no-shows. Come on Muff Breeders, the no-shows are gaining on you. While this was not a record showing of Tumblers, it was a good show and I look forward to an increase at next year's event.

Champion Clean Leg this year went to Jim Bush and his black Y.H. #1550. Naturally, Jim's bird was also Best Self. Best Barred C.L. was awarded to the partnership of Emil Piergiorgi and Bill Murphy, with their Mealy Y.C. #651. Best Marked Clean Leg was won by Frank Garcia and his Red Baldhead Y.H. #200.

Champion Muffed Tumbler and Best Self Muffed Tumbler was taken home by Gary Pack and his Red Y.H. #402. Best Barred Muff went to Gary Gammel's Silver Y.H. #251. Best Marked Muff was won by Don Zimmerman and his Dun Baldhead Y.H. #211.

The judges for the C.L.'s were Rick Rutledge, Bill Blair and Paul Budnik. The Muffs were done by John Rice. I want to congratulate the winners and thank the judges and those who carried the birds. A special thanks to those who kept the books and kept the show running smoothly.

While I am on the subject of the Western Tumbler Club, I want to inform everyone that our new Secretary/Treasurer is David Paddick Jr. His address is: 3523 Broadlands Rd., Terre Haute, IN 47805. Send David some news that he can use in the W.T.C. Bulletin and don't forget that your 1992 dues might have to be paid. W.T.C. dues are only \$5.00 and for another \$5.00 David will send you a W.T.C. patch to sew on your coat. I want to also thank Brian Curtis for taking on the duties of secretary/treasurer these past several months. Brian thought that it would be best for all if he turned the job over to someone else. Brian is self-employed and business has been good, taking up much of his time and leaving very little to spend on his hobby and family. He told me that he would help David as much as he could. Thank you Brian and make sure that you keep us posted on your progress with the birds.

One of the reasons that David was picked to serve the W.T.C. was his ability to write to the secretaries of the clubs that he belonged to and me, keeping us posted on his breeding season and giving us something to write about. A recent letter from him was no exception. David is working with Brown and Khaki in his Muffs, along with Black, Red, Cream, Mealy and Yellow. I think I have him working on the Beard Muff also. He hopes to mate his birds by mid-December and possibly try individual breeding pens. It was good

(Continued On Next Page)

to see David and his wife at Louisville and I want to thank her for the kiss from Harlan Petter. (I appreciated it more from her than directly from Harlan.) I hope that all works out for the Paddicks and they can make the trip to the National Championship Tumbler Show in Los Angeles.

I received a couple of letters from Herb Berg from Minnesota. Herb has returned his Saddle Muffs to the man who got him started, but he is giving it some thought about adding some more Muffs to his loft. His main breed is Bohemian Pouter and he had a good year with them. The Bohemian breeders sent teams of their birds to an Oklahoma Show and from what I understand, these birds are then auctioned off and the proceeds go to the hosting club. It sure is a good way to spread the top birds around, but I don't know if I would want to part with all the birds that I showed. Herb relayed that Merle Frank took top honors at both the Oklahoma Show and at Perry, Iowa, with his Bohemians. How about some good pictures that I can run with the column, Herb?

Before we left for Louisville, I had a phone call from the kissing bandit, Harlan Petter. Harlan has had to put his breeding on low lately due to his work. He only makes it home on the weekends. It makes it kind of hard to raise pigeons, when you only get to see them a couple of times a week. He has promised to keep in touch more often. We really miss seeing you and Jeanie at Louisville. Without you, I have to depend on Denise as a co-pilot. (We never get lost anymore, unless she is too busy reading her book).

Frank Bonelli, from California, wrote a couple of times to let me know that he was glad to see my column in the APJ again. It is kind words like that Frank, that gives me the drive to keep going. While Frank still has Muffed Tumblers, his main breed is Rollers.

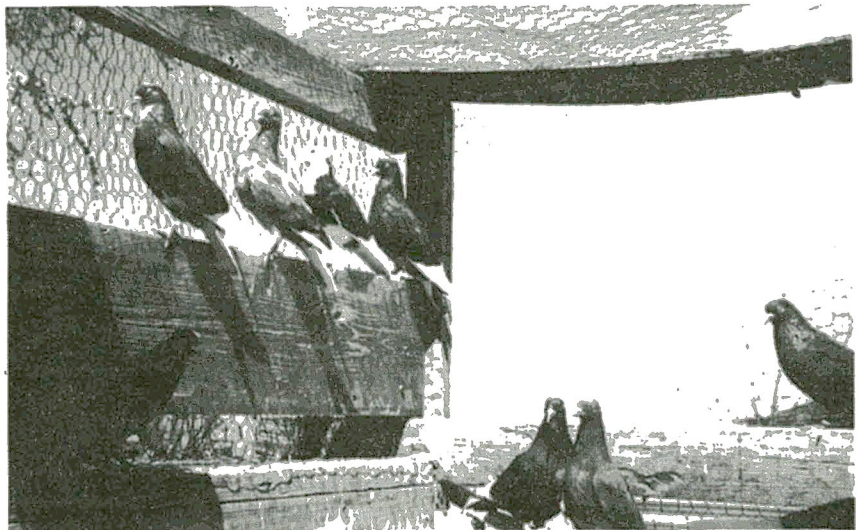
He flies his birds every day. His Muffs are kept in Northern California by his friend and partner, Debbie Lapham. He said that he might try a few pair of Muffs at his house next year. Thanks for the kind words Frank, don't forget that you can use the Rollers for feeders and maybe raise both.

Charles Hildreth, from Ohio, wrote a nice letter telling me that his favorite breed is the Ringneck Dove and he also has Rollers and Racing Homers. He banded over 130 Ring-necks this year. He has only been in pigeons for the past six years, but his involvement has grown immensely and the birds are now the center of his life. He said that he has made great new friends at the shows and he encourages others to attend the show. Charles feels that winning a trophy, or ribbon is a wonderful reward for a year of hard work, but just being part of the event is the best reward. "In a sense there are no losers in a bird show."

Charles had a pair of his white Homers released at a local wedding. (What great publicity for the pigeon hobby). Charles, I am sorry that we did not get together at Louisville, maybe next year.

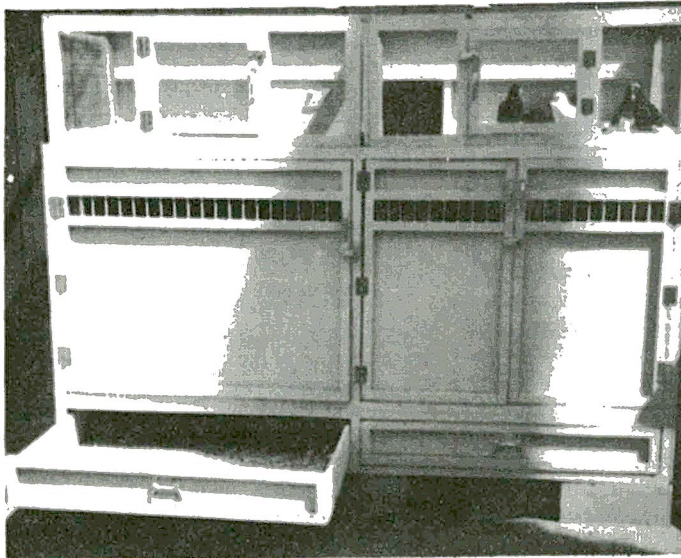
Gary Wells, from New York state, dropped me a line to make sure that I was going to show at the Syracuse show. Gary breeds Clean Legs and has a few Muffs also and he wanted to make sure that he had some competition.

Samual Pino, from New Mexico, wrote and sent me some pictures of Catalonian Tumblers. Samual has over 360 birds in 18 different breeds, after culling out over 390. He still remembers his teenage years and the Muffed Tumblers that he had. Eventually he would like to get back into them. Samual sent me a copy of an article done on him by a local newspaper. This is great publicity for the hobby also. This article was very in-depth



CATALONIAN TUMBLERS

Owned by Samual Pino, Socorro, New Mexico.



ROLLER LOFTS

On the right is one of Frank Bonelli's Roller lofts with a drawer at bottom for easy cleaning. The left is a view of his lofts. — Photo by Frank Bonelli, Simi Valley, Calif.

and included a picture of Samuel and some of his birds. Thanks for the material Samuel and maybe you should consider taking out an ad in the APJ to sell some of your excess birds. An ad worked for me.

From Ron Des Lauries, in Minnesota, came a letter saying that he was satisfied with the year he has had with his Clean Leg Tumblers and that he was looking forward to the Louisville Show. I never seem to get enough time to spend with everyone at the shows, but I did get to talk to Ron a few times and I appointed him as the Western Tumbler Clubs Clean Leg Director. Thanks for the letter and taking the job Ron.

Dave Lindner, from Pennsylvania, wrote to let me know that he was glad to see my column back in the APJ. Dave breeds Rumlbers, German Beauties, Show Racers, Hel-mets and Homers. He has been in the hobby for over 25 years. Both his wife and daughter share in his hobby. He did pick up a C.L. and a Muff to cross into the Rumlbers, but it seems he has taken a liking to the Muffs and may get some more. Thanks for the kind words Dave and I hope that you make the Rochester, N.Y. Show this fall. (Seeing that you will not be reading this until after the show is over, I am referring to the 1991 Rochester Show).

Bobby Kirchner, from Illinois, wrote to tell me that he does not want to see the column end. (Thanks, Bob). For the first time in many years, Bobby and I took some time while we were at Louisville to have a much overdue one-on-one talk. The weather was beautiful while we were there and we sat out by the pool and talked and talked and talked.

Barry Wilson, from Wisconsin, came along just as Bobby was calling it a night and we had a nice long talk. This is not to say that I did not get to talk to others, but normally, it is during the show, or at the hospitality room, where there are several conversations going on at one time.

It was good to see Willie English, from Texas, at the show. Willie had a bad accident late in 1990 and I was glad to see that he had made a full recovery.

It was a pleasure to meet Kip Sulham, from Arkansas. Kip and I met while standing in line at the concession stand. He raises Racing Homers and naturally I tried to talk him into a few Muffs.

Bill Smith, from North Carolina, wrote a nice letter and we followed it up with a chat while we were at Louisville. Bill is originally from New York State and was smart enough to get out before the taxes here took all he has worked for. Bill is the Secretary of the American Pigeon Club and for those who are interested in joining this all breed club, you can contact him at: Rt. #1, Box 824, Thurmond, N.C. 28683. First year's dues are \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for juniors.

Edwin Steinbrecher, from Michigan, answered my ad in the APJ and now has a bunch of my Muffs sitting in his loft. Thank

you Ed, now I am going to work on you to join the WTC. I mentioned you to Rick Rutledge, who is the secretary of the Michigan Tumbler Club and he will soon try to entice you into his club.

A short note from Sylvester Griffin, from Virginia, stated that he is interested in Muffed Tumblers. I would like to hear from Mr. Griffin again telling us what breeds he has now and how long he has been in the hobby.

The following is a list of Tumbler Clubs, who send me their bulletins. If you breed Tumblers, you should support the clubs that put on the shows and promote your breed.

Central Tumbler Club: Contact Bob Wood at 8209 N.W. 31st St., Bethany, OK 73008. Dues are \$10.00, with a first year initiation fee of \$2.00. Juniors are \$2.00.

Eastern Tumbler Club of Canada: Contact Larry Larock at 5908 Leitrim Rd., Gloucester, Ontario, Canada K0A 1K0. I believe the dues are \$10.00. This club needs more Muffed Tumbler breeders, as do most Tumbler Clubs, but it is rare to see Muffed Tumblers at their shows.

Pacific Tumbler Club: Contact Dick Krueger at 1461 N. Grand St., Orange, CA 92667. These are the people who hosted the 1991 National Championship Tumbler Show. By the time you read this, the show will be history and I am sure that it will go down in history as one of the best N.C.T.S.'s of all times. I think the P.T.C. dues are \$10.00.

Pigeon Fanciers Association of Rochester N.Y.: Contact Bob Burk at 3219 State St., Apt. #2, Caledonia, N.Y. 14423. I realize this is not a Tumbler Club, but for the past few years, they have had a good Tumbler Show each fall drawing several breeders from the Northeast.

United English Tumbler Club: Contact the membership chairman Bob Wood. (Address listed with the Central Tumbler Club). Dues are \$10.00 Adult and \$2.00 Youth.

I have mentioned the Western Tumbler Club elsewhere in the column, but I would like to see the other Tumbler Clubs join with the W.T.C. and put a display ad in the APJ. This publication promotes our hobby and without it we would be lost. I think it is only fair that we give something back. By the time that you read this, the W.T.C. should have an ad of their own.

I think that I have finally run out of steam. I want to thank everyone again who contributed to the column. It sure makes it easier to sit down and put something on paper when you have some help. If you would like to send some information to me, my address is: Box 157, Memphis, NY 13112.

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Doneks International
by BILL JACOX
Rhinebeck, N.Y.

Sometimes it is hard for me to comprehend just how much interest there is in Doneks. Letters and phone calls just keep coming in and it assures me that the Donek is here forever! The pigeon has become so popular that most of the guys that have been supplying others with birds tell me they just never have enough. I think this is attributed to the fact that this pigeon is one of the top performers in the pigeon world. And, because this pigeon is so darn smart!! He is a pleasure to have around. Each day when I walk out to my flying loft I anticipate what I am about to see. I let out three Doneks and wait for them to climb to a height that I know the birds will do well at. Oh, maybe 1200 feet. Or when they look the same size as a sparrow. I toss out my dropper and get the thrill of a lifetime. A friend of mine said it looks like a tornado in reverse. It does!! They rush towards the ground from practically right overhead. They drop like a rock and spin like a fighter plane in a tail-spin and then when close to the ground, they pull out at the last minute! Oh man!! They can scare you to death. They do the slam dunk of pigeons. Yes Sir. They bring a smile to your face most of the time. If you have never seen this - do not pass up the opportunity. It's something that you will remember the rest of your life!!!! I am talkin' Air Superiority!

A while back I mentioned in one of my articles that I would make known some of the color/patterns found in Doneks. So I am going to do that with this article. I will start with the Baldheads as we call them.

Black Baldhead - Boatska.

(Continued On Next Page)

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Blue Baldhead – Gyok - pronounced - Yoke.

Red Baldhead – Red Boatska.

Ash Red Bald – Siva Boatska.

Yellow Bald – Zolta Boatska.

Black mottle – Carl le shishka.

Red mottle – Chuckle.

Solid white – Bejas - pronounced - Beeyas.

Solid black – Ceia - pronounced - Seeya.

Solid red – Bakares.

Blue Bar – Srbyak – Sirbeeyak.

Ash red bar – Srpal – Sirpal.

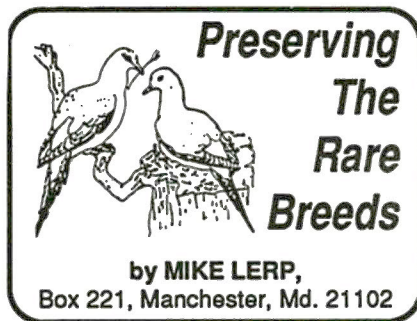
Next article will have some more Macedonian names!!

Well, let me toot my horn here for a moment. There has been a tremendous request for information on how to train Doneks. The video tape that my wife Kay and I have put together has had good reviews from many who have purchased it and applied the information. I would like to say thank you to all who have responded with calls and letters. It is encouraging to hear from all of you. And I know it has been frustrating to some who have obtained Doneks but did not know quite what to do with them once they received their birds from the breeder. We feel this video is the answer to all the questions that we have received. If you are having trouble getting started, this may well be what you need to help you along so you can get the most out of your Doneks.

I am out of words for this article! Please! If you have pictures or something you would like to share with all the other Donek fliers across our nation, drop me a line and I will be glad to give it consideration for this byline. Or if you just want to chat you can call or write. If you would like a reply, just send a stamp! – Bill Jacox, 12 Ackert Hook Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572 or 914-876-4897. Thanks for tuning in!



Bill Jacox with a Movaleia Donek.



There seems to be two popular misconceptions regarding the difference between an Archangel and a Gimpel. It is thought by some that a Gimpel is a self colored pigeon and others tend to believe that a Gimpel has no peak crest. It just isn't so because only the Dark Bronze Black Wing Peak Crested Variety of the Gimpel family can be called and entered in a show as an Archangel. From what I can gather the British bestowed the name Archangel on this variety. All birds having other colors that are recognized by the Standard of Perfection and those having no peak crest should be correctly entered in a show as Gimpels. It would be correct to enter the Dark Bronze Black Wing Peak Crested variety as a Gimpel. On many occasions there have been Gimpels entered in shows that are of a non-recognized color. When this occurs a judge that correctly adheres to the Standard of Perfection has no choice in the matter and must award these pigeon an Individual Merit Grade of Inferior. The most recent occurrence that I came across was at the White Rose Pigeon Association's Summer Show that was held in York, PA. Each and every pigeon in the Gimpel class was awarded an Inferior Merit Grade because they were either of a non-recognized color or their coloration was extremely poor which was an indication of cross breeding among the recognized colors. It should be kept in mind that the following colors and markings are outlined in the Gimpel Standard: Light Bronze (gold) and Dark Bronze (copper) ground coloration. Under these types the Standard varieties are recognized: Black Winged and Blue Winged with white flights, Blue Winged in barless, black barred and the black checkered, White Winged in barless and red barred. All varieties in Monk and Priest marked. Under the standard no selfs, splashes, almonds and so forth are Not Recognized. This also applies to other marked types. However, in order to head off comments directed towards me and other judges who in clear conscience judge this breed according to the Standard by fanciers and breeders of Gimpels who would like to see these "other colors" shown without being penalized I'd like to point out two things. First, judges can't and should not be allowed to take it upon themselves to change the standard based upon what they come across while grading an entry no matter how many pigeons are shown that process either a non-

standard color or a non-standard marking. Secondly, the Rare Breeds Pigeon Club does allow these pigeons to be shown in what can be called an Experimental Color Class. A number of years ago the membership of the RBPC agreed by ballot to give new colors and markings in any rare breed an eventual place in their standard by adhering to guidelines that were suggested by Gary Romig.

Attending the annual Reading Young Bird Show is always a treat for me. The enjoyment comes from being able to visit with other fanciers who I haven't seen in a while and it also comes from getting a look at some outstanding young birds that are entered in the many breed classes. On a more personal note there is even a little nostalgia involved because some of the Ice Pigeons that I brought to this show over the years came home as Champions. Many of the pigeons that have done well at the Reading Y.B.S., in October, have gone on to do as well at the Louisville National Y.B.S., that is held a few weeks later. Reading has been called a testing ground for young pigeons and the rare youngsters are no exceptions. Next month, I'll have the results of both the Reading and Louisville Rare Breed Pigeon Club Meets, but I would like to mention a few of the Reading birds that I took particular note of. The Champion Rare was a white self Mookkee bred and exhibited by Darryl Moyer. This fancier is a breeder of some rather outstanding Mookkees. Darryl's Mookkees have a notable consistency both in size and overall type and this consistency of quality extends to the features found in the Marked members of his show team as well. At our Northeastern District RBPC that was held in January, Terry Fick and I selected a Moyer white as Champion Rare and I also believe that one of his whites swept last year's Mookkee club's meet in Louisville. When Darryl's bird are entered in a show you can be sure that they'll be among the top Rares that are shown, so watch out. The Ice Pigeon class that contained muffed birds from the loft of Stephen Ripper and Ron Cockerham was a pretty sight to behold. Both of these fanciers showed pigeons that would be welcome in anyone's loft, but I was most impressed by Steve's Spangled young cock. The general type, color and markings of this pigeon were of a high caliber and it's one of the finest Spangles that I've seen. If this pigeon is at Louisville, it'll certainly provide Ice fanciers with some very stiff competition, but on the other hand so will a little Barless hen that Ron raised. Another pigeon that caught my eye was Dan Brennan's young Srebrniak cock. The only thing that I feel hurt this pigeon's chance of being graded Highly Superior was its lack of maturity. Other than that it was a very delicate type with long legs, a well extended neck and a nice long straight face. Dan's bird won't be in Louisville, but it will certainly be shown at our Northeastern District All Age Show in Reading. My prediction is this Srebrniak will do very well in the future.

The first steps are now being taken towards having another Rare Breeds-Color Pigeon Special issue in the American Pigeon Journal. The previous special of this kind was published in 1983 and we hope the upcoming one will be even bigger and better. More details will be forthcoming, but in the meantime I ask that all fanciers of these breeds give some thought towards making a contribution to this issue. As with any special of the Journal articles, photographs and advertising will be most welcome. On the cover of the '83 Special, Gary Romig's painting of a Duchess appeared and we're open for ideas as to what might grace the cover of the next one.

Hungarian Giant House Pigeon Newsletter

by **TONY BRANCATO**,
Santa Maria, Calif.

Dear Fancier,

The interest in H.G.H.P. continues with lots of enthusiasm and excitement.

I receive many inquiries regarding our breed almost on a weekly basis. Letters that do not contain an enclosed stamp are rarely answered! Sorry folks, but it gets too expensive to answer inquiries that do not include a stamp. My rationale is that if a person is serious about H.G.H.P. than he/she needs to at least include a stamp to receive a reply. The Hungarian Giant House Pigeon is just not any old rare breed! The breed is by far a large, beautifully balanced pigeon that is gentle, a capable parent and most of all exciting to raise.

Our H.G.H.P. are placid giants that I can easily pick up and handle at will. There is virtually little, if any, fighting among the birds and even with odd birds.

I would recommend that if space prevails that you breed your giants in spacious accommodations for best results.

I converted an old greenhouse into a loft. Before I put the birds into the loft, I put wood shavings of a depth of six to eight inches. Then using a regular garden sprayer, sprayed a mixture of Elmer's glue (1/2 pint to a gallon of warm water) on the shavings. Once it dries, the birds are put into the loft. Presto! The shavings do not fly out nor collect in the corners of the loft but stay "glued" in place. Once the birds have been on the litter, their droppings will provide a nice cushioned litter. Any breeder that uses shaving should try our suggestions! Periodic cleaning is easy and followed by a fresh spraying will keep a great cushioned floor for our heavily muffed birds.

Until next time . . . Sincerely, Tony.

Short Face Gleanings

by **WARREN MAURER**,

966 Oaks Dr. • Franklin Square, N.Y. 11010
516-352-6230

Now that all the shows are over, every fancier is either thinking or actually putting together the pairs he feels will produce a winner. I have been getting quite a few requests for names of breeders of Viennas and Short Beakers. There are not many, if any, for sale in the metropolitan area due to the buying up all the square heads that were available by people from the oil producing countries and for a high price.

In the next few articles I will do a little something different by highlighting two people that are excellent breeders other than the ones that are usually in the limelight.

The first is Joseph Pelligrino of Staten Island, N.Y. Joe has been in the pigeon game for about 30 years and has devoted many years to develop the best S.F. Hollanders in the country. He also has bred Ancients, Reinaugans and Helmets during this time. I have seen some of the above mentioned and some also have been in the winner's circle. Joe, more or less, makes his birds instead of buying them, he is a credit to the hobby.

The next person is a younger man but with almost the same fine qualifications as Joe. He is Walter Boroznoff of Patterson, N.J. I have seen Walter take culls from breeders and in a few years, have birds that finished one, two or three. This was in S.F. Helmets. He also has Ancients that are doing well and is one of the few people that are in Moorheads. Walter, like Joe, is an exhibitor and a fine judge of pigeons.

Dennis Terrizi of Albertson, N.Y., has acquired a few birds from Rich Petrucci of West Islip, N.Y., and hopes to be able to raise something in the near future that he can compete with the rest of the Ancient breeders. Good Luck in your venture Dennis. As with all of us, Otto Giovaniello of New Hyde Park, N.Y. is anxiously waiting to get started with his Budapests and Reinaugans since last year's shows have given him reason to get going. Had a nice letter from Gunter Dahlem, he has the best Ancients in Europe. He wrote he was unable to exhibit in many shows due to the birth of another boy. I think this fits into his plan of having two coop cleaners in the coming years. Congrats!

Since this is a slow month for correspondence, I will close now hoping that everyone gets off to a terrific start with their breeding season.

Write: Warren Maurer, 966 Oaks Dr., Franklin Square, N.Y. 11010, or call 516-352-6230.

Obituaries

R.L. "HAP" BEATTIE

R.L. "Hap" Beattie, 83, longtime Tulsan, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 28.

After his retirement from McDonnell Douglas, he became active in Real Estate. He was a past President and life member of the American Giant Homer Pigeon Association.

A graduate of the University of Tulsa, Hap was an outstanding athlete in many sports and played in the first TU football game in Skelly Stadium.

He was preceded in death in 1987 by his wife, Helen Louise, who was an outstanding artist.

He is survived by: a son, Richard L. "Dick" Beattie of Tulsa; 5 daughters, Cyndia Dasher, Tulsa, Pattie Rutherford, Oklahoma City, Diana Ritchie, Tulsa, Lucy Pennington, North Carolina and Andrea Madison, Tulsa; 16 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren; brother, Bill Beattie; sister, Hazel Speaker, both of Tulsa.

Graveside services were held on Friday, Jan. 31, at Memorial Park Cemetery conducted by Moores Rosewood Funeral Home.

ALPINE CASTLES CHILD

A.C. Child, racing homer and American Show Racer fancier for over 80 years, passed away December 21, 1991, from causes incident to age. He was born Jan. 26, 1899.

Former member of the Utah Pigeon Club and National Pigeon Assn., and life member of the American Show Racer Association, he was considered one of the leading pioneers of the Show Racer in the west. A.C. enjoyed attending many National Pigeon Association Grand Nationals. His first was in 1958 in Stockton, California. A.C. had a profound impact on many fanciers and was always willing to help the beginner. He was a strong, loving man who enjoyed animals and birds all of his life.

He worked in the printing trade, retiring from Rocky Mountain Bank Note in 1964.

Founder of Alpine Loft, his name will continue to live on in the pigeon fancy through his son, Castle Child and grandson, Brad Child, who inherited the Alpine Loft name.

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Dick was just inducted into the NBRC Hall Of Fame in 1991. It was his dedication in preserving this pure Russ Harter family. I dare say if it wasn't for him, a pure Russ Harter bird would be a rare thing.

Dick is my very good friend. These birds I have for sale are some of his good ones.

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PIGEON SHOW CALENDAR

March 28 — Mohawk Valley Variety Pigeon Club Swap Meet, Amsterdam Homing Pigeon Club, 27 Lefferts St., Amsterdam, N.Y. For information, call Tom Metallo, 518-842-5263.

April 5 — Southern Minnesota Pigeon Assn. Spring Swap 'n Sell, Austin National Guard Armory, Austin, Minn. 8 a.m. to noon. Contact: Ted Conrad, RR 1, Box 32, Lyle, Minn. 55953. 507-325-4507.

April 5 — Tri-K Pigeon & Bantam Club Bird Fair/ Swap Meet, Kankakee County Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, Guenter Wenzel, P.O. Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

April 12 — Lincoln Hills Pigeon Club Swap Day, Dave G. Dougan, Sec., 4923 W. 900 S., Huntingburg, Ind. 47542.

April 25 — Blue Ridge Poultry Club Show (includes pigeons), Hillsville, Va. Contact: Mike Griffin, Rt. 1, Box 263, Sandy Ridge, N.C. 27046.

May 3 — Annual Spring Swap by the Fremont Fancy Pigeon Club, Sandusky Co. Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Contact: Jim Feasel, 2373 Co. Rd. 181, Clyde, Ohio 43410 or call 419-639-2935.

May 3 — High Plains Pigeon Club Spring Swap Meet, Ellis Co. Fairgrounds, Hays, Kansas 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. Information: Stan Maslanka, 118 Cindy Dr., Russell, Kansas 67665. 913-483-6154.

May 3 — Tri-K Pigeon & Bantam Club Bird Fair/ Swap Meet, Kankakee County Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, Guenter Wenzel, P.O. Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

May 17 — High Point Pigeon Club Spring Show. Contact: Tovrea Brady, Sec., 1129 W. Holly Hill Rd., Thomasville, N.C. 27360.

May 17 — Southern Ill. Pigeon Club Spring Show and Swap, Bridgeport Pavilion, Bridgeport, Ill. Contact: Gerald Stevens, Show Sec., P.O. Box 47, Parkersburg, Ill. 62452. 618-442-5479.

June 28 — Lincoln Hills Pigeon Club Show. Dave G. Dougan, Sec., 4923 W. 900 S., Huntingburg, Ind. 47542.

Aug. 30 — High Plains Pigeon Club Fall Swap Meet, Ellis Co. Fairgrounds, Hays, Kansas 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. Information: Stan Maslanka, 118 Cindy Dr., Russell, Kansas 67665. 913-483-6154.

Sept. 6 — Tri-K Pigeon & Bantam Club Bird Fair/ Swap Meet, Kankakee County Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, Guenter Wenzel, P.O. Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

Sept. 27 — Fremont Fancy Pigeon Club Annual Young Bird Show, Sandusky Co. Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Contact: Jim Feasel, 2373 Co. Rd. 181, Clyde, Ohio 43410 or call 419-639-2935.

Sept. 27 — Southern Ill. Pigeon Club Fall Show and Swap, Bridgeport Pavilion, Bridgeport, Ill. Contact: Gerald Stevens, Show Sec., P.O. Box 47, Parkersburg, Ill. 62452. 618-442-5479.

Oct. 4 — Lincoln Hills Pigeon Club 1992 Fall Show. Dave G. Dougan, Sec., 4923 W. 900 S., Huntingburg, Ind. 47542.

Oct. 4 — Tri-K Pigeon & Bantam Club Bird Fair/ Swap Meet, Kankakee County Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, Guenter Wenzel, P.O. Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

Oct. 23-25 — Short Grass Pigeon Show, held in Rapid City, SD. All Breed Show, silent auction, banquet and a lot of fun. Contact: Jerry Goetz, 5320 Solitaire Dr., Rapid City, SD 57701 (605/393-1879) for information.

Oct. 24 — Blue Ridge Poultry Club Show (includes pigeons) Hillsville, Va. Contact: Mike Griffin, Rt. 1, Box 263, Sandy Ridge, N.C. 27046.

Nov. 8 — Long Island Show Homer Assn. Fall Show, Islip Terrace Club, East Islip, N.Y. Classes for Show Racers, Unflown Birds and Race plus eye sign classes. For information, call Joe Ognibene, 718-499-4210.

Nov. 8 — High Point Pigeon Club Fall Show. Contact: Tovrea Brady, Sec., 1129 W. Holly Hill Rd., Thomasville, N. Car. 27360.

Nov. 13-14 — Third annual Gurney Racing Pigeon Convention, Show and Futurity, Columbus, GA. For information: Hal Conn, 6625 W. Seven Rivers Dr., Crystal River, Fla. 32629. 904-795-6257.

Dec. 13 — Mohawk Valley Variety Pigeon Club 4th Annual Fall Show for old and young birds, Town Hall, Town of Florida (3 miles south of Amsterdam, N.Y.) For entry forms, information: Tom Metallo, 20 Clinton St., Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010. 518-842-5263.

1993

Jan. 16 — Midwest International Pigeon Show, Fremont Fancy Pigeon Club 49th Annual Winter Show, Sandusky Co. Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Any and all specialty clubs are welcome, we want to host your meet. Contact: Jim Feasel, 2373 Co. Rd. 181, Clyde, Ohio 43410 or call 419-639-2935.

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