

# Keith Evans

## PIGEON NOTES

Osborne flyer Keith Evans is one of three members of a successful SA Homing Pigeon Combine team.

The other two are his wife, Marge, and 18-year-old son, Clenton.

They compete under the name of K. Evans & Son, and last season finished second to Frank Morris in the combine points.

During the season, birds from the Evans loft achieved 52 placings in club, State and combine events.

Points included Keith, Parachilna, Maryborough, Dimboola, Benalla, Finke and Temora.

Last season, Keith and his family trained winners in eight club races, a State race, and a combine event, topping the points in the Osborne club.

They had been placed second to Terry Underdown in club points the previous year.

Keith originally started pigeon flying in 1943.

However he stopped three years later when he moved to Broken Hill to live.

Last season was his family's third year in the sport after a comeback.

The loft today is founded on birds from the lofts of top flyers Ces Dunstan (PAA), Dennis Edwards (Peterhead), Laurie Lloyd (Lefevre) and Hurtle Simmons (Peterhead).

The strains are mainly Harrison-Jurion.

Keith, now 44, spends a great deal of his leisure time around the loft, as do the other "team members."



They work together to make sure the birds are fed, provided with water, and trained each day.



The birds are exercised around the loft once a day — in the morning before Keith leaves for work.

Marge Evans plays an important part each day by recording times birds arrive home from training tosses during the day.

Clenton, an apprentice refrigeration mechanic, helps his father transport the racebirds on training tosses each week.

These become more frequent as the season approaches.

The Evans race both hens and cockbirds although they, too, slightly favor hen-birds.

Their tidy, well established backyard loft houses about 200 racing pigeons.

About 100 of these would be youngsters.

The birds are fed a balanced mixture of peas, wheat and barley, with small seed on the birds' return.

Clean water is provided twice a day.

The Evans loft achieved the Bird of The Year distinction in the Osborne club last year, as well as the winner of the lowest velocity race.

The Evans family is an excellent example of a perfectly balanced, working pigeon racing team.