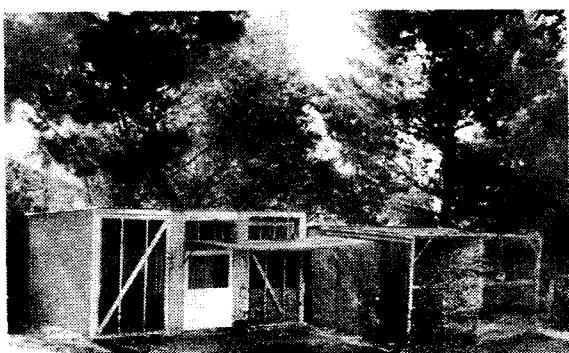


PIGEON NOTES



● Kevin O'Connor

Plasterer Kevin O'Connor, 40, has been a member of the Oaklands pigeon racing club since its inception in 1962.

In fact he was one of the foundation members.

And as a member of the club during 1972, Kevin flew a successful season with the SAPU.

So successful, that he was placed third overall in the aggregate points of the organisation.

He tied with Don Briggs for the aggregate points in his club.

Kevin believes in racing only hen birds, and he gives away the cock birds which he breeds prior to the derby each year.

The first two seasons of his 10-year career in the Oaklands club were with the SAHP.

Foundation stock for his loft came from Dan Cudmore, the Clipson loft at Stirling, and the Schumann champions, of Payneham

Many of his champions are related to a red cock bird bred from a pair given him by Dan Cudmore.

He is married, with three children, aged eight, 14 and 17.

The surprising factor in Kevin's third in the Union points is that he did not win a Union race this year. It was his wealth of close placings which earned him the honor.

Race points in which he was favored included Keith, Pimba, Dimboola, Marree and Farina (near Marree).



In Benalla Kevin was successful with a club win; however he finished fourth with this bird in Union placings for that race.

A similar position prevailed in the Maryborough Open, where he again won club honors, but finished second in the Union.

His placings in the SAPU included seven second placings and three thirds.

This is the mark of a good flyer — consistency.

Of 50 hens which Kevin bred last season, 25 are still in the loft after the end of the season.

Kevin believes his location, in relation to other flyer's lofts, is not as good as it could be. Neither line offers him much overfly . . . he has to give quite a deal each way.

However he is content to be up there with the leaders.

A speedy return and trap is essential in the sport, and good training and the American system of traps are Kevin's answers to these problems.

He often takes his racing birds out on early morning tosses, in addition to using public transport.

And the results come back on the race days.

Kevin was forced to step out of the sport for a season or two because of sickness; however, he is back with a vengeance.

In the off-season he, like most other flyers, finds plenty of work to do around the loft in looking after his champions.

The off-season is no time for complacency.

Kevin goes one step further than most owners each breeding season in laying a new floor of specially mixed sand. This is prepared in a concrete mixer and laid about 3 in. thick, similar to cement.

The result is a disease-free loft . . . and contented champions — **GMA-HAM BADGER.**