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OUT OF THE PAST

Here is news that could be of interest in the Magazine, it is dated 29th December, 1905.

"The Sydney Homing Pigeon Society's last old bird and longest race of the season was flown from Cunnamulla (520 air line miles) the birds were liberated by Mr. F. W. Daniels. The day was not at all favourable for fast flying, owing to the extensive bushfires and the dense haze. The wind blew at strong gusts from North. This blowing all the smoke the way the birds were coming. The first bird to arrive is owned by Mr. R. Thompson of Dulwich Hill, while the other placegetters were 2nd prize Mr. John Ward, Balmain, 3rd Mr. George Drury, Leichhardt, 4th Mr. W. Poole, Botany, 5th Mr. A. Grinham, 6th Mr. L. Hordern Jnr., Strathfield.

Mr. L. Hordern would have received third prize money owing to his timing clock failing to start on the arrival of the bird, other competitors close up were: Messrs. Wood, Booth, Mumford Hoarigan and Onadby, Swanson, Adams, Beek."

This is an extract from an old English Homing Pigeon weekly paper, made into a quarterly magazine, its is very old, too old for travelling or parting with. It originally belonged to Mr. S. M. Evans, Jamestown who I believe imported some Logans. It was given to me by Mr. B. Hyett, since deceased of Stopford Road, Brighton, S.A. This is authentic. I was interested in Mr. L. Hordern after reading the Barker column in the magazine P. J. Smith and Son.

WANTED URGENTLY
RACE BASKETS FOR CLUB
Contact C. Mayes, 115 Nasmyth Street, Young.

THE CONCEPTION OF PIGEON'S EYE THEORIES

(By "Eye Sign")

In the early 1920's, all over the world, new theories concerning the eyes of our racing pigeons were advanced by fanciers, veterans and novices alike.

They all had some common points intending to draw critical conclusions about the bird's quality by means of observing physical eye characteristics, such as colour, different pigmentation, structure circles, etc.

Most of these theories have been abandoned, for the time being we will try to prove that all this eye sign theory has paid off well in later years.

Nevertheless, we all know that, when examining your pigeons our first glance is instinctively to the pigeon's eyes.

Are we still influenced consciously or unconsciously, by the old eye sign theories.

Well, in my opinion it would be convenient to divide all fanciers into two groups, the first one being really still influenced searching for certain characteristics in order to deduce from these the race pigeons' qualities, etc., or at least trying to do that, and the second judging less by specified characteristics than by the whole impression given them by the eye itself. by the "expression".

With the last group we find the most successful pigeon amateurs able to draw important conclusions by a mere glance at the racing pigeons' eyes.

Notwithstanding, when asked how the employed method operates, they are certainly never in condition to tell you anything about their procedure.

Their conclusions and statements are based on an undefinable impressions and knowledge certainly due to practice on their own family of racing pigeons, but even so this is only obtainable by a very few that have the knack.

Concerning the first group, we find there nearly all novices, and (this is a fact) also some of the old fanciers, too.

I will attempt to explain judging from the hundreds of books and pigeon papers written on the subject, just what the fanciers that know are looking for.

I shall begin by stating that it is possible to tell your hard day and long distance pigeons by the eye sign, but as we said above you must have the knack and know what you are looking for in the pigeon eye.

Nevertheless, there are characteristics or defects, as I shall call them, permitting a preselection of all birds.

The first defect to consider is the elliptical form of the pupil.

All birds not showing perfect irregular form of the pupil, all birds not showing round pupils are degenerating and though even these pigeons are sometimes good racers they should never be used as stock birds.

The second defect I take into account is not so easy to explain, but I will do my best, close around the pupil exists a kind of filament, a very very thin dark line, hardly to be seen without very strong lens.

This circle is the famous "Circle De Adaptation" as called by most of the very old fanciers, but today we call it "eye sign". This is not a muscle as some pigeon fanciers call it. It is only a skin like membrane adjusting or clinging around the eyehole, all pigeons, hens and even all human beings possess an adaptation circle. Such characteristic is common to all pigeons, but this is only a very small part that makes up to what we today call "eye sign" in the racing pigeons.

The third "defect" I would consider is when the racing pigeons' pigmentation of the iris, generally speaking is of many colours, or perhaps I should say shadings does not reach the fine, black or dark limiting the outer border of the eye.

A pigeon not showing a "perfect eye" as far as these three characteristics are concerned could

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Publicity Officer: R. W. Pocock.

The first race will start on 23rd April. This will be a benefit race for the club, all members intending are asked to support this race. General meetings will be held each Tuesday night of each week at the club rooms, 2 Regina Street, Glenorchy. Entries will close for each following race on these night.

Yours in the Sport,

R. W. Pocock, P.O.

NORTHERN COUNTRY PIGEON CLUB (TAS.)

The Northern Country Pigeon Club with headquarters at Longford will commence its fifth year of racing on 7th May and finish the roster on 3rd December. The roster consists of seven mainland races, 16 King Island and Flinders Island races and eight within Tasmania.

In 1965 members of the club won three Tasmanian Federation races out of five, one being a smash. Chas. Nelson, Geelong; Syd Aitken, Ballarat; Max Baker, Horsham; Tom Eyles (King Island), Steven Hutchinson and Roy Crack, Melbourne. Club races, all members won places throughout 1965.

The lofts are of very high quality as most fanciers imported the best birds available from Queensland, N.S.W., Victoria and South Australia for breeding. Members live in Deloraine, Westbury, Longford, Perth, Evandale and Rossarden covering a distance of 70 miles.

The club will use TAS rings instead of NCPC as in the past. It was also decided to build a flight on Flinders Island for club use. In the past birds arrived by plane and were let go immediately regardless of weather with the loss of many fine birds. Now with an official liberator on Flinders and a flight the race birds can be sent to the island a day early

and held over for days if need be.

Any club flying from Flinders Island or wanting to can use this flight. Birds must be addressed to Mr. Arty Withers, Pats River Airport, Flinders Island. Flinders Island Airport to Essendon Airport, 245 miles. To Mascot 482 — a good stepping stone to Tassie. All welcome.

LAUNCESTON INVITATION HOMING SOCIETY

The Launceston Invitation Homing Society held its annual general meeting on Saturday, 19th March, 1966. There were about 25 members present including two invitation flyers, Mr. R. Best and Mr. G. Bartlett.

Officers elected for 1966 were as follows:

President: R. Bowden.

Secretary: V. Fleming.

Treasurer: S. Barrett.

Patron: A. Bell.

Assistant Secretary: K. Riley.

Ring Secretary: G. Zielosko.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. J. Doolan, R. Best, S. Reynolds, E. Fleming, R. Benneworth.

Committee: W. Cushion, H. Roberts, M. Blades, N. Rouhliadeffs, F. Nemeth, E. Jinks, S. Reynolds.

I would also like to take the opportunity of wishing all flyers the best of returns for 1966. The aggregate points for old birds series was won by Mowbray flyer, Max Blades. I was having a look at his young birds the other week and I would like to warn the other chaps to watch out. They are certainly a nice looking lot of birds, especially the Stokoes bred from the stock of Mr. D. Siphorth of Victoria.

Aggregate Points

M. Blades 41; R. Bolton 35; K. Riley 32; W. Cashion 31; F. Nemeth 29; S. Barrett 23; G. Zielosko 22; V. Fleming 15; R. Bowden 11; Page and Edwards 11; S. Reynolds 4; R.

Wesley 4.

The young bird derby will be held from King Island this year, 200 miles. Our first race will be held from Penguin on 2nd April, I will have the results ready for the next edition.

THE CONCEPTION OF PIGEON EYE THEORIES

(Continued from page 1)

eventually race well enough to be spared, but in general and especially for reproduction I would refrain from using it.

Notwithstanding, I would insist once more, the perfection of the eye concerning these three cases is of course not sufficient to prove the racing pigeons' quality, but any imperfection in them is sufficient to eliminate the pigeons in question.

Going back to the imperfection of the pupil the too little development of the "adaption circle" when a youngster and the third case, could be considered as a pre-selection "method" by physical defects in the common sense, rather than a postulated 'theory'.

If you have a pigeon whose last feather is two centimetres shorter than the last before you would certainly eliminate the pigeon and not due to any hypothetical theory but rather because for this fact is a concrete imperfection, a defect in the real sense of the word.

The fancier who knows everything about pigeon racing is yet unborn, so most of us have quite a lot to learn. What are we doing about it?

(To be Continued)

WANTED TO PURCHASE

Five or six club baskets — Cane preferred but no objection to wire baskets. Contact E. Southon, Hon. Sec., 39 Hovell Street, Goulburn.

PIGEON FANCIERS' PROTECTION UNION

Meets second Wednesday each month

REGENTS PARK CLUBROOM,
VAUGHAN STREET, LIDCOMBE

Hon. Sec., W. S. KIRKBY,

26 Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill.

Phone 55-2173