

LOFT REPORT

An Afternoon with JIM & BERYL COX of Broadview, S.A.

by Brenda Caesarowicz

JIM and Beryl have lived at Broadview since 1957. They have a beautiful home situated on a large block. The loft certainly commands attention in the backyard and Jim built his new loft in 1964.

been a big team flyer and enjoys the challenge of selecting 5 birds that he thinks will hold their own on the day.

A race from Grenfell certainly was a memorable one for Jim who homed 5 out of 10 before 3pm in the afternoon when Allen Goodger and Bob Blyth came over, not having pigeons themselves. This was Sunday afternoon and at the end of the day Jim had 3 in the 30. Jack Metcalf won the race but Jim's performance certainly was most impressive.

After the war Jim had a pot pourri of different bloodlines and on his own admission wasn't as successful as he wanted to be. Jim was in the building trade and Allen Goodger was at that time working for him. Jim happened to mention his disillusionment to Allen and got a very blunt and truthful comment back: "You know what's wrong with your pigeons, they're no bloody good!"

A hard pill to swallow but it certainly turned out to be the best possible thing to happen, because Jim got rid of the lot and started again.

Vic Pape at that time was doing alright and was known to sell any pigeons in his loft for \$10-00. Jim went around to see Vic and spotted a red hen. Vic wouldn't sell this particular hen for ten dollars but asked \$20-00. In 1974 Jim took this hen home and bred 6 pigeons from her. Vic Pape's bloodlines were Eitzen, Strongman crossed with what he called his Melbourne Cock. Jim crossed this red hen with an Alan Pearce cock who had Colin Nelsen bloodlines with Wickham and Stassart also present. Of the six youngsters bred, one was lost



1st Morundah BCH SA75 45964

Jim was born in 1914 and married Beryl in 1956. They worked hard for their home and now enjoy all the fruits of their retirement.

Jim has had a lifetime in pigeons and acquired his first pigeons in 1929 from Peter Millay. The Second World War came along and Jim gave up his pigeons and then, after the war, began racing again with his brother-in-law Ray Cossey, the pigeons being kept at Ray's place.

Jim now is a member of North Suburban club and considers 1987 as one of his more successful years. In the Association he ran 7th in the Aggregate, won the points in the club, won 8 races - 6 in a row, and was first in the North Derby and second in the South Derby.

Jim has won 5 Association races on the south line - east line and also considers these lines provide his favourite type of racing. The velocities suit his birds with 8 hour plus races. Among some of Jim and Beryl's fond memories are a first and second from Morundah with two hens, full sisters. A win in Mitiamo Open and Mt Gambier 5 bird special have also been most satisfying. Jim particularly enjoys the 5 bird specials because he never has



2nd Morundah BCH SA75 56054

off the roof and the other five all won races for Jim including 1st and 2nd Morundah, 30th Booroorban Derby, Keith and Mittyack. The \$20-00 red hens' youngsters won over \$600-00 for Jim that year. Needless to say, Jim now had a successful winning pair to build his family around. Many good stock pigeons and winning pigeons have come down from this family and they are still very much a part of Jims stock and race loft. Jim has introduced over the years a Syd Randall cock and also from Ross Hocking a Goodger cock related to John Pryors' family. There was also a BBC from Bob Marchant brought into the family.

In his younger days Jim was known to race and train his youngsters to a precise program. Jim preferred to race his birds once every six weeks but in between races the birds were tossed long. Peake was a favourite spot but it was not unheard of for Jim to toss from Lameroo to give that sustained time on the wing. Jim can remember many a time going over the hills with 20 or less pigeons and tossing long. The pigeons might have only had 3 races a year but they were long tossed frequently and were very experienced with plenty of confidence to come through.

As mentioned before, Jim and Beryl's loft commands attention in the back yard. The lofts are 2ft.6in. off the ground and have a wooden floor. The racing loft is 25ft. long and 7ft. deep. There is a 3ft. verandah out the front. The loft is galvanised iron lined with masonite and holds 120 perches. The trapping method is open door and Jim has the cocks and hens separated. The stock loft is 15ft. long and 10ft. deep. There are 3 compartments, 12 nest boxes, 4ft. wide. Jim has only one prisoner cock, all the rest fly out.



Jim standing in front of his loft....

after them for the same. The birds are raced to the perch and Jim usually starts his training 4 weeks before the first race after they are well through the moult. He is never in any real hurry to get them to the first races. The birds have to be working well around the loft and ranging before going for their first toss. The first toss is Dublin, then on to Port Wakefield. Monarto is the first east toss and then further on to points that will stretch the birds right out as Jim likes that one long toss a week. The birds have one race before the Derby and as mentioned before, would probably have 3 races for the year. Jim is a firm believer that success comes from fresh pigeons and does prefer racing the young ones.

Jims' pigeons are not too big, medium sized and not too deep. He doesn't like them too long in the wing and finds that his best longer distance pigeons have a slightly longer cast. As for picking the pigeons that are coming into form, Jim says they look a picture sitting on the perch, bright eyed, tail up. They feel nice and round and silky feathered.

Jims' racing mixture is 3 parts peas, 1 wheat and safflower. The grains are fed separately. Vitamins are given and fresh grit is always available. Jim cleans his loft every day and likes his loft to look well presented. Certainly the birds present as a picture of good health which reflects the caring management exercised by Jim on a daily basis.

As for recruiting new members - new flyers should be given a good start with pigeons from good flyers. Perhaps people in the sport could advise and help erect a loft and all new flyers should, as soon as possible, cement a relationship with their nearest club and get to know it's members and learn and listen to good advice.

We would like to thank Jim and Beryl for their hospitality on more than one occasion and wish them every success in the future.



Winner 5 Bird Mt Gambier BCH SA90 2072