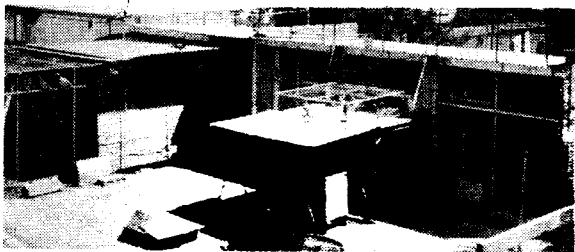


PIGEON NOTES



● Alex Wear

Fifty-one-year-old waterside worker Alex Wear is "king" of the SA Homing Pigeon Combine for 1972.

In the season just completed he and his son, Alex junior, took out first place in both the combine and Port Adelaide Association.

The combine, SA Pigeon Union and the SAHPA are the three largest pigeon racing organisations in SA and it is from these three groups that some of the strongest competition and best flyers come.

Alex Wear is one such successful owner. He flies as a member of the Riverside club, and his loft houses between 200 and 250 birds.

The 1972 season proved to be his best ever, and crowns a career which began in 1933. He was then a new member in Riverside club.

He is married and has a sizeable grown family.

Alex has some of the finest racing pigeons in the State.

Alex junior is also active in the sport — the second "half" of a winning combination. His father's circle of friends in the sport extends throughout SA and interstate, which is not surprising, as Alex senior has given away more birds than most owners can breed in five years. He has founded a number of lofts and helped create winning families elsewhere. Combine, union, association and interstate successes have been scored by birds related to his stock.

The Melbourne success this year of Geelong West Flyers R. and C. Leeson was largely due to Alex, as he provided all the birds to start the loft.

The Leeson loft won the long distance aggregate in the Victorian association with four firsts, two seconds, one third and one fourth in the last eight races.

Alex is justifiably proud of this interstate success and his name is well known in interstate circles because of it.

His loft is founded solely on "eyesign" and Alex

does not believe in pedigrees. "You won't find one in the place," he says.

When looking for new blood for his loft, Alex goes to the chosen loft and picks out the birds he wants personally. He uses an eyeglass and his knowledge of the "eyesign" phenomenon in his choice.



In return, that owner can pick out any bird he wants from Alex's loft. This two-way agreement has resulted in success on many occasions for those concerned.

The 1966 season was previously Alex's best.

He is always striving to better himself and his birds in the sport — he regards it as a sport and hobby, not a business.

Alex feeds by hopper, even during the racing season, and strangely enough, despite the fact that food is available to the birds 24 hours a day, it is rare to find great quantities of food in any one bird's crop.

His loft is founded on blood "from just about everywhere" with success over a range of distances.

This year Alex's birds performed very well over the middle-distance races, including Maryborough, Oodnadatta and Finke, and long race points Temora and Benalla.

There is a knee-high pile of race certificates in his shed. These papers are what Alex Wear and his son are in the game for. "It's recognition of time well spent," says Alex.