



● 'Arty' Morris

The distinguished pigeon racing career of South Australian Homing Pigeon Combine flyer Frank "Arty" Morris goes back to 1926.

And this is one of the reasons he has proved such a hard man to beat.

Up until 12 years ago Frank flew in the top group of flyers in the SA Homing Pigeon Association.

He made a name for himself, with consistent placings and wins, including a hard race from Albury.

Since his switch to the Combine he has had continued success, and now can proudly say he has won from just about every release point used.

Last year Frank's birds won two Marrees in the Port Adelaide Association and an Oodnadatta in the Combine, as well as a fourth and a third in the same races.

And they won for him second place in the PAA aggregate points behind Alex Wear.

His original birds came from the stock of Dick Collins (SAHPA) and the Stein loft of Balaklava. Main bloodlines are those of the Stassart and Jurion strains.

Early in his career Frank flew with his late brother, Les.

Because of strict family breeding Frank would now have possibly one of the few remaining pure Stassart and Jurion families in SA.

Other Stassart and Jurion birds to have been introduced came from Charlie Henderson.

It is only through a gift that pigeons from his loft leave his care. He does not believe in selling to other owners.

However those that have been loaned out have come good with champions for other owners.

These include a hen which was loaned to SAHPA flyer Colin Copeland two years ago, and which bred him his Cook winner this year, and a pair which bred a Maryborough placed bird for another association flyer.

Of the 200-250 birds Frank looks after, about 50 would be stock pigeons.



His formula for success starts with good pigeons from good flyers.

He says you should not have too many to start with, and that if your original breeders are performed flyers "you are half way home."

Breeding good strong healthy youngsters is important, and if a youngster falls below the health standard the owner should not waste time with it.

Frank believes champion racing pigeons are "made" in the first few weeks of breeding.

North or south races suit Frank and his birds, even though he was told he would never win on the south at the time of his joining the Combine.

He does however have a slightly better chance of success on the north because of overfly.

Pigeon racing is purely a sport for this champion.

Since his start in the sport he has only had three years break . . . and that was for no special reason. He had the birds but did not fly them.

His keenness for success usually sees him waiting near the loft on race days long before the birds are due home. — **GRAHAM BADGER.**