

PIGEON NOTES

Retired gardener, Frank ("Arty") Morris won the aggregate points in the SA Homing Pigeon Combine last season.

Frank Morris

And it was a fitting reward for the 67-year-old veteran Riverside flyer.

Although Frank has topped the PAA list three times, last year was the first time he had won the Combine points.

Frank has been associated with racing pigeons since 1926.

He is well known in SA pigeon racing circles, having also flown with the SAHPA as a member of the Woodville club.

His pigeons are a well-knit breed of performers which have been tried with success over almost every distance and race points.

They are mainly of Jurion-Stassart bloodlines.

His original birds came from the loft of SAHPA flyer, Dick Collins, and others from another veteran SA flyer, Charlie Henderson.

Birds were introduced through outcrosses from stock of the Argent and Legg Loft at Port Pirie, and from the former Stein loft at Balaklava.

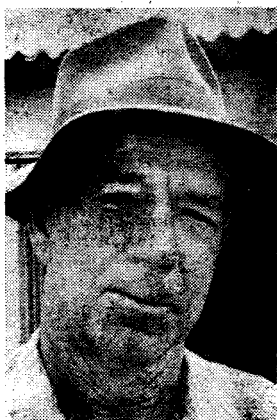
The Morris loft houses about 200 pigeons, including about 150 young birds.

Frank races both hens and cockbirds, although he slightly favors hens.

Last season his achievements were very impressive.

He trained an early club winner from Carrieton and then produced a stunning run of successes in PAA and Combine events.

His pigeons won the first Oodnadatta and were placed seventh and tenth, finished fourth in the Marree Combine Futurity, second and third in the Bendigo Combine, fifth and twelfth in the PAA Benalla, second fifth and seventh in the Ood-



Frank Morris

nadatta Combine, third, fourth, sixth, tenth and eleventh in the Benalla Combine, and sixth in Temora.

These results indicate the job other Combine and PAA flyers had in front of them last year.

It was a team effort with Frank bringing his birds to a peak of fitness at the right time.

The team of racebirds is exercised around the loft once a day with a variety of training tosses each week prior to an event.

They are fed peas and wheat, with small seed supplied for returning racebirds.

Frank finds training and caring for his pigeons an exacting and demanding job.

He has put many hours, into the sport and believes that any flyer wanting to be successful must also put in a great deal of time.

This enables the owner to pick birds which are ideal in condition and temperament for a particular race.