

PIGEON NOTES

● COLIN COPELAND



Mitcham pigeon racing flyer Colin Copeland has had more than 36 years experience in that field of sport.

And this one of the many reasons why he is one of the State's top flyers today.

Colin is married with six grown children, and competes as a member of the South Australian Homing Pigeon Association with the strong Hyde Park club.

He is a driver by vocation.

In his early days Colin raced with the South Suburban club of the South Australian Homing Pigeon Combine. He was then competing in the

with a young henbird which had half-Morris blood.

Another top owner who has been of help to Colin is Harold Haines, the well known Strathalbyn pigeon showman.

Colin's other interests also deal with "racing" sports, and these include horse racing and trotting.

He has lived with his family at the present location for the past five years.

Some years ago Colin used to fly only the north line. However in the past

By Graham Badger

junior section, against other young flyers.

His career with this club was temporarily suspended during the war years.

The loft is founded on the one family of pigeons, with one or two outcrosses.

It houses about 100 birds — 15 stock pairs and about 70 flyers.

The original Copeland pigeons came from successful owners including Ron Eitzen, Whippet Smith and Frank ("Arty") Morris, who still competes with the Combine.

One year Colin finished runner up to Ron Eitzen in the association points.

The Morris birds have been introduced over the past three years. They are mainly of the Jurion bloodlines.

Last season Colin won a Cook association event

few seasons he has diversified more and included the South races. He believes firmly in racing hen-birds in preference to cockbirds.

The latter he believes are better suited just to breeding.

In addition Colin believes that races over large areas of water are not true flying, and believes this type of race only places more obstacles in the way of racebirds.

The East line which was introduced by the SAHPA last week is very good in his eye.

However he still maintains that the north line is the truest used.

His loft would be one of the cleanest and most hygienic in the State. He meticulously attends to feeding, watering and the cleaning of his loft every day, every week of the year.