

Realized Life's Ambition

A delightful couple Rod and Linda Kakoschke of 188 North East Road, Vale Park, were the winners of the 1989 Alice Springs Race (830 miles). This has been achieved regardless of Rod's near blindness (25% vision). It was a race that Rod has always wanted to win and he couldn't believe it had actually happened. It took a while for it to sink in.

Rod and his son, Greg, have spent years propagating a family of pigeons with intences concentration on long distance performances.

The race was a special event with sponsorship from the A.N. Railways, they were celebrating 60 years of National transport. To commemorate the notable day they provided free cartage on the Ghan for the convoy of race birds and free travel for the two conveyors, plus special medallions for the first 50 pigeons home.

An extra enticement was the \$1000 first prize guaranteed by the long distance committee. There was a five bird limit on the even and cost per entry was \$8.

548 pigeons departed from the Keswick Railway station in the care of Doug Searle and Rob Wilson at 2.00 p.m. on the 7/9/89 arriving in Alice at 12.50 p.m. on the 8th, two hours later than the earlier anticipated arrival time. With birds due to be released at 1.30 p.m. the same day, pigeons were fed. and watered in readiness.

Temperature was warm 30 degrees with 5 to 10 knott north to N.E. winds, clear sky and brilliant sunshine. Pigeons were out of sight in eight minutes heading due south. It was estimated they would travel 200-250 miles the first day and conveyor reported abundance of surface water due to recent rains in the normally dry outback.

Distastous weather struck the S.A. state on the Saturday and Sunday ravaging gale force N.W. to S.W. winds with torrential rain and bad storms rampaged the country. Anxiously waiting fanciers realized chances of birds getting home through such conditions had been greatly reduced.

But the adage of when the going gets tough the tough get going proved to be the case with a small number of pigeons that made it to their lofts on the Sunday with further pigeons filtering through the following couple of days.

Rod was on his hands and knees in his loft checking on his Emmdale race pigeons when he noticed his 2 year old B.C. Pied hen enter the loft. She was clocked at 12.19pm after two days of battling the elements to reach her home.

She has an unequivocal pedigree. Her dam was a first Alice Springs for the late Keith Pryor, this hen produced 34th LDC Alice also and is g/dam of 28th LDC.

Sire has bred 1st S.A.H.P.A. Creswick 350 miles, 12th Creswick and 34th assoc. Coober Pedy 500 miles. He is full brother to Sire of 4th LDC Alice and are a brother and sister mating to Rawlina winner LDC. As a youngster the Alice Hen didn't race and in 1989 was raced eight times going every 2 weeks.

Rod noticed that she trained late on the morning of hampering for Alice, so he pooled her right through.

A month before the race Rod spent 2 weeks in hospital with pneumonia, acute anemia and blood pressure. The birds were left in the very capable hands of Linda.

Linda and Rod have been married for 50 years, have raised eleven children and have quite a few grandchildren.

Rod was born in the mid-north mining town of Burra. He is of Cornish heritage and from his mother came the love of pigeons. He was six and his brother Maurie (member of Vitesse club) 4 when they first acquired pigeons.

They were members of the Burra Club which had 13 people participating. Pigeons were conveyed to racepoints on the local steam train. Rod was eleven when his mum passed away and he went to live with an uncle, he was thirteen when he went to work carting wool up along the Darling and



Hampering night at S.A.H.P.A. Headquarters for Alice Springs 1989. Photo courtesy Brian Cotton.

groceries and petrol from Adelaide to Burra.

Linda was an Adelaide girl and a visit to Burra met Rod, their courtship followed. Linda was an only child, at thirteen she could drive and became adept at shovel work, rising at 2.00 a.m. to help her father load sand and gravel for his contracts, for house constructions. Her father supplied the sand and metal for the Parliament House building. He built his house with marble left over from this great structure. Rod and Linda live in this house today.

At 18 Rod found the pull of love too strong and decided to re-locate himself in Adelaide going to work for Linda's father and later establishing his own Quarry-master business working contracts all over Australia.

On a property in Greenacres which is now suburbia, but was then farmland they managed a poultry farm, Jersey stud and merino sheep. In 1954 Rod built a loft and started racing again. A pigeon strayed to

him from Vic Pape, he was told to keep it. On a tough race from Balan three pigeons made it home on the all day fly, two were for Pape and one was Rod's it was the stray. It was from this moment he realized the importance of bloodlines.

He purchased more pigeons from Pape, Wegge Harrison, Logan Royal. Rod used to regularly visit his cousin Keith Pryor, Keith was a long distance enthusiast and it was after his death at his final sale that Rod obtained the Alice winner that was to produce Rod's Alice winner. The ancestry in this hen was Hansen and Charlie Delane.

In 1959 Rod and Greg won the Advertiser Trophy for the long distance aggregate — race points were Alice Springs and June.

In 1988 Rod and Greg were still flying as partners and it was Rod who clocked their Bathurst assoc. winner at 7.40 p.m. on the second night. That race was smash conditions also with heavy rain and hailstorms prevailing.

Heredity is all important in creating



Greg Hodgins, 2nd Alice Springs 1990 and Maurie Kakoschke (left), 3rd Alice Springs 1990.

champions as once again it has been proved with Rod's Alice Springs winner, he will relive the please of that special day forever.

Greg Hodgins of the Vitesse Club was placed second in the race. He fell asleep whilst sitting and waiting for his Alice pigeons and awoke at 12.29pm to find his pigeon in the loft. His hen is a blue bard rung 85. She flew Alice Springs in 88 homing just out of race time.

Sire of the hen is a Blue Bar Vic Pape.

Has produced also 3rd Little Topar Assoc. 17th Nundroo Assoc. 23 Eucla Assoc. G/sire of 7th Nockatunga for Maurie Kakoschke.

Dam Blue Check — Alan Goodger — has produced 2nd Morundah Assoc. 25th Alice Springs. G/dam of 17th Alice Springs. A full brother of this he bred 8th Canberra Assoc. for Greg.

3rd position Maurie Kakoschke with Vic Pape bloodlines.

Pat Marchant

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DATE: 7th October, 1990. Viewing from 11 a.m. Sale starts 1 p.m. prompt.

Commissions to Billy Hyde (02) 628 6307.

Sale catalogue and further information from:

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