

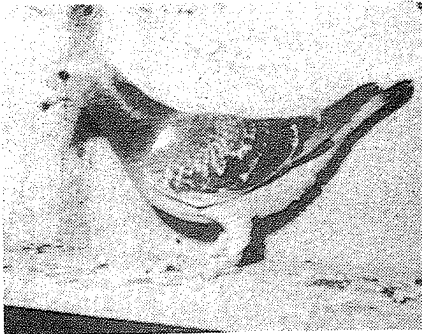
1st Annual Joseph DeLuca Memorial Bond Race

by Anthony Sorrentino
Terrace Loft
37 McCormick Place
Staten Island, N.Y. 10305

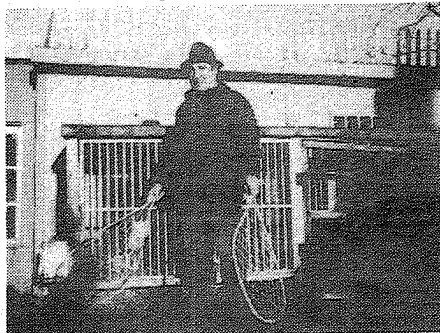
This is the story of the winner of the 1st Annual Joseph DeLuca Memorial Bond Race. This race formerly known as the Albert Mecca Bond race and sponsored by the Boro Park Homing Pigeon Club for the past ten years, has now been renamed to honor another great member of the Boro Park Club. This year's winner is one of the finest gentlemen in the sport today, the Captain or Salty, as he is known by everyone, is a real pigeon lover and engages in the sport for the pleasure of the hobby. From his early youth, Frank Mazza flew pigeons on a rooftop in Hell's Kitchen (Lower Manhattan). Flights and tipplers were the trend of the day then. In his adolescent years, he became interested in the homing pigeon and became addicted to the fascination they hold for all of us.

After serving with the U.S. Navy in the Phillipines on the USS Bataan and returning home, Frank again sought the lust for the pigeons. In 1956 he purchased at the U.S. Army Sale at Fort Monmouth, N.J., a pair of homing pigeons, a Blk. Spl. Cock and a Blue Spl. Hen, a few gift pigeons from a fancier in New Jersey which were Gurnay and Bastin and completed the blend that Frank still flies today. The family is very uniform in conformation and typical of the Gurnay strain. They are mostly Blk. Checker and splashes with strong hump backs and broad thick primary flights, the numbers 8, 9, and 10 almost even in length with a good step up to the primary from the secondaries which are nice and long and broad. The vents are thick bones and vise-like, lying close to the keel which is medium in length. Greater pectoral muscle is strong and vibrant and supple. Eyesign enthusiasts would have a field day with this family as they all possess full strong serrated sign, mostly green and yellow sign.

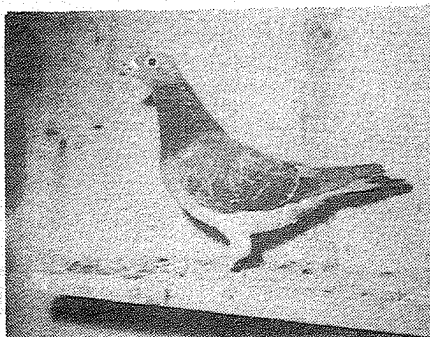
The Captain's management methods are quite unorthodox in this area. He is not a tough trainer, in fact he rarely trains. On occasion the birds are placed on the training truck twice weekly, free loft with no forced flying is generally the rule. They will fly about thirty minutes without being forced. Frank's schedule doesn't permit him to fly the birds in the AM as he leaves for work at 5:00 AM. If the birds are on the truck, he leaves the feed in the trough for the birds so when they return from the toss they will enter the loft and feed. Frank attributes some of his success this season to a neighbor's cat, who has been exercising the birds for him by scaring the daylight out of them. The week of the DeLuca Race, she had them flying about 3-4 hours even into the darkness as they were afraid to drop. They also learned to enter via the stalls due to this, as they were entering the loft through the screen door prior to



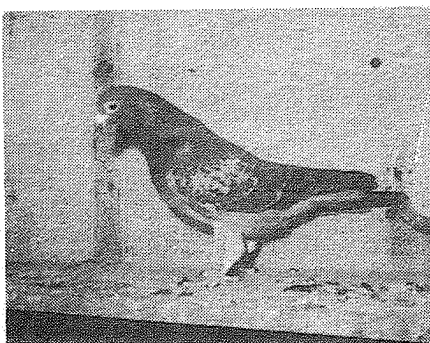
"Miss Bataan" RCC-319-79 B.C. Hen, winner of Joseph DeLuca Bond Race.



Frank (Captain Salty) Mazza in front of his loft.



Dam of winner BCA-7432-74 D.C.



Sire of winner RCC-1035-77 D.C.

this and now from the fright, started to land on the platform and enter the loft the proper way.

On many occasions Frank has taken the young birds right from the loft for their first toss about 35 miles down the road (although they have been routing well). He flies his birds to what is called the Happy System, the sexes are not separated nor encouraged to mate. If they do pair up, he will fly them to the nest. He selects his race entries based on how they feel in the hand. He likes the body to be tight and the eyes to sparkle with clarity. Tip condition is unimportant. He stated that years ago he was shipping a team to a race and an oldtimer inquired as to his nominator & when he showed the old timer the pigeon, he frowned and told him never to ship or nominate a pigeon with the tenth flight partially moulted. Frank took his advice and lived to regret it the next day when the pigeon was there to win.

The Captain's pigeons are allowed to feast in the garden. He never worms or pokes or treats for coccidiosis. On occasion he will give them an antibiotic and some cod liver oil. The feed is a 17% protein mixture and the birds receive about 1 1/4 ounces per day. He uses Ace High Brand and Foust grit. The deep litter system is employed in the lofts except during the Y.B. season during which time he cleans the lofts about once per week as he feels that the youngsters are more susceptible to disease.

This year's winner who bested the 378 birds from 46 lofts over the 250 distance with the wind calm sped home at the speed of 1411.530 ypm and is banded RCC-319-79. She has been named Miss Bataan after the Naval vessel of the same name. She is a medium sized pigeon with a nice full bouyant body. Her keel is medium in depth and length, her wing is typical of the family. She has a number 9 yellow eyesign with the black superimposed, her iris is red/yellow with bright sparkling vessels. She is bred from RCC-1035-77 B.C.C. who was reserved for stock & he transmitted the eyesign to his offspring. The dam is BCA-7432-74 Dk. Chk. She has flown the 600 and has diplomas from the long distances.

Frank has on several occasions timed in when nobody else is getting birds. His family excels on the long hard races when few make it on the day. He has made a hobby enjoyable for himself. He doesn't make a job of the game & enjoys it to the hilt. One night while selecting the pigeons for a race, a bird walked into the carrier on its own. Frank looked and thought, well, if you want to go, okay with me. He shipped the bird and nominated it. The bird didn't fail him on race day as he won the pools and took a top position in the race.

The Captain is a blessing to the sport, always the hub of hilarity & good sportsmanship. We certainly wish him continued success and enjoyment in our great sport.

