

**Some more Reference Birds**

from the

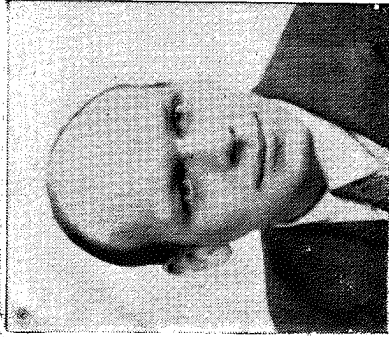
**Champion "YOUNG HAWK" Lofts.**

The Cover Photo.

Ref. AR N.U.H.W. 47 G 5

Grandson of

Champion "YOUNG HAWK"



## A Greeting.

In this little book is set out a part of what pigeons mean to me ; part of the ideals that I aim to achieve.

To you, my many friends, all over the world, many of whom I have never met, I send a greeting, thanks for the many past letters exchanged, and a hope that there may be many more. I enjoy them all, the news of foreign lands, what your birds are doing, your stories of the sport in the past. Often my letters are brief for my time is full. Perhaps this booklet will answer many queries that in the past were rushed over. The photograph, in serious mood, will help you, if ever you see me, to come to speak to me. I shall be glad to meet you face to face.

Many readers of this booklet may well wonder why it contains other varieties besides the Gurnays. First of all my aim is PERFECTION. That is something that is difficult to attain, but a start has been made by collecting the World's Best Family of Racing Gurnays. From these, by careful breeding and the basket, it is my aim to produce the perfect long distance racer. I believe that, with care and patience, I shall succeed. Already I find that the results of my birds improve with increasing distance.

What is the ultimate perfection ? To my mind there is no limit to the distance that the future perfect pigeon can be flown.

However, besides the racer, I am interested in pigeons in general, in all the things that pigeons can do well : racing, tumbling, rolling, high flying, the production of high-class squabs and last, but not least, beautiful pigeons. Our sport and fancy is too little known outside our circle. It will help if you, as I aim to do, show the general public the best of which our interest is capable and not let them sit back and think that the only pigeons are those that befool the buildings in our towns and cities.

So, in addition to the Gurnays, I have searched the world to find the best, the very best in other varieties. I do not keep a lot of them, just a small select team of each. Each team, just a few pairs, is the best that money can buy, and yet my aim is to make them even better.

The racers, the Gurnays, have been formed into a stud of the finest breeders I know. From this stud young birds will be sold, but also some will be kept to add to the laurels of the strain. One does not need a large team for racing, just a few good birds. Two to four per race is my usual entry, sometimes only one bird is sent, yet despite that they win out of their turn. I keep my big team in my stock loft, and race a few of the best they breed, then let the rest, plenty of good ones, too, go to my many friends and fellow fanciers. Some have expressed their appreciation in their letters, a few of which are given in this booklet.

In conclusion I would like to extend my best wishes to all the many friends that the sport has brought me.

R. G. SILSON.

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## Eyesign.

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Much rubbish has been written and many bricks thrown about eyesign. I do not propose to throw any more, but just to state a few points as I see them.

Firstly in all the hundreds of **long distance** pigeons I have handled I have yet to find one that hasn't EYESIGN. Also the quality of the eyesign improves as we come to birds that have flown long and longer races.

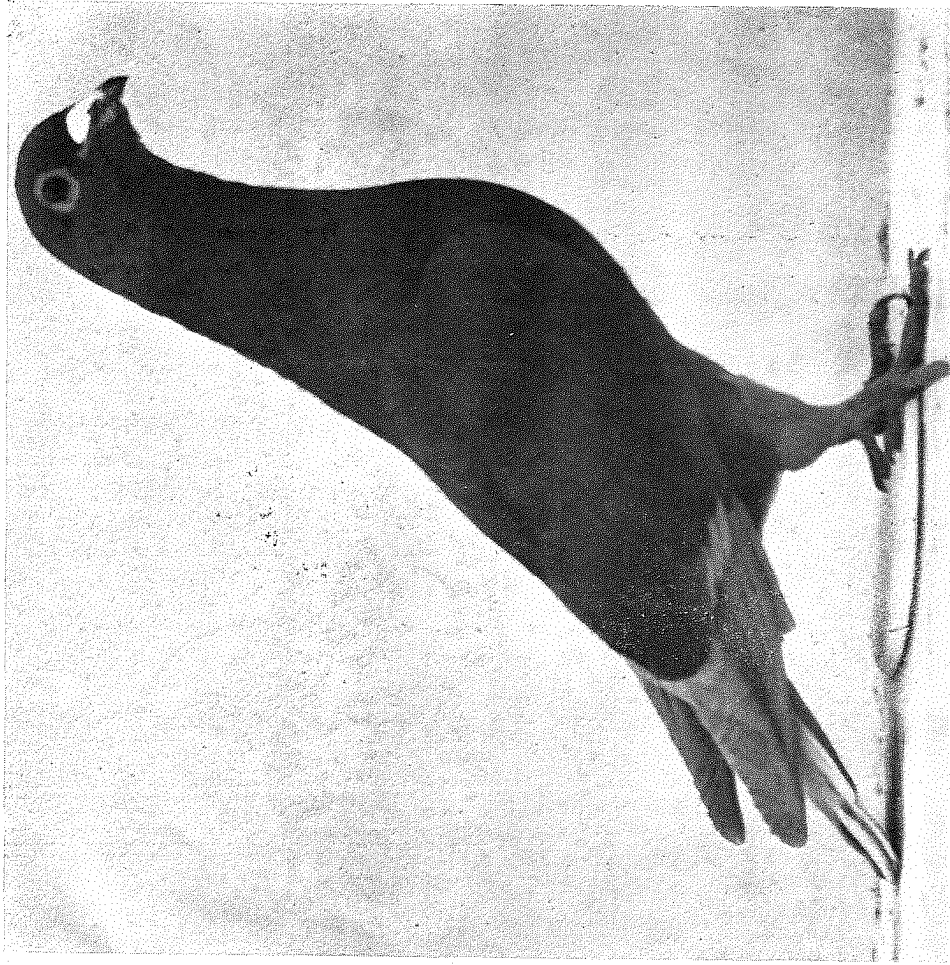
Many pigeons, fancy pigeons as well, have good eyesign, but fail because they lack other essentials, but certainly whatever other good qualities are present a loft without eyesign will not succeed at 200 miles and over.

Most fanciers who decry eyesign do not know what it is. They just do not believe in it, and that is enough for them. Others know what it is but fail to recognise the hard ones. If they still believe in it they will succeed, but will probably throw away a lot of good ones. However, if doubtful, stick to the ones you know, you won't go far wrong.

In my own loft I bred for eyesign, some are almost perfect, others close behind. It benefits my racing and whether they believe in it or not it will benefit those who buy selected eyesign birds from this loft.

Finally if the eyesign isn't at its maximum width, for any pigeon, it's a waste of time racing it.

The eyesign is the Circle of Correlation and it has been called other similar names by the old fanciers who found a little about it for themselves.



Ref. Z. N.U.H.W. 46 x 9878.  
MY FAVOURITE STOCK COCK.

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## Genetics and Pigeon Breeding.

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Nearly ninety years ago Mendel discovered the first simple laws of genetics but until 1900 no one noticed he had done so. Since then genetics has been used more and more first by plant breeders, then animal and poultry farmers, and finally by a few, very few, pigeon fanciers.

This short note will not attempt to cover the subject, but just recommend to pigeon fanciers, that they study a little of the subject to help them breed that champion and more than that breed more of them. Many have been bred knowing nothing, but there are few breeders who stay at the top who do not practice scientific breeding, whether they know it or not. It is a shorter cut to success.

## Rollers.

For hundreds of years the Tumbler has been known to pigeon fanciers. To-day they range from Parlour Tumblers (single, double or several), through Tumblers to the pride of the lot—Rollers.

There are Rollers and Rollers, and the best have been produced by W. H. Pensom, through scientific breeding over many years. These roll so fast that they seem like a ball with a hole in the middle, some as many as fifty yards in one go, again and again. A kit in the air is marvellous, especially if they are all champions. Lucky man who can say that.

The team here are pure, pedigree Pensoms, personally selected for me from his very best.

I shall be pleased to spare a pair occasionally to any of my fancier friends.

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## Tipplers.

For the fancier who likes to sit in the garden and watch the "doos", these tireless performers will keep him well occupied. Three to six of them, released at dawn, will fly high above the loft for hour after hour. If conditioned right, and on a good day, they will fly right through until after dusk, and need a lamp to bring them down.

I wonder how many long distance racing men could train Tipplers to fly as long as do their racers.

A small team are kept here of Dawn to Dusk strain. I am proud of them.

## Kings.

My American friends will need little introduction to the Kings as a breed but how many have met birds of the calibre of the small team here.

At the beginning of the century fanciers set out to create a pigeon that would produce TWENTY or more squabs a year, each weighing over a pound. The final result was a pigeon so remarkable that it was named the KING.

Year by year the breed was purified and improved bringing nearer the aim of the original breeder. One pigeon farm with 20,000 pigeons has almost reached the target with their best pairs. The owner of this farm personally selected, and sent to these lofts several pairs of these perfect producers. There are none better anywhere.

The birds are of two kinds. SILVER KINGS, the original family that has grown through the years to its present peak of quality. They are beautiful pigeons, the adults weighing nearly two pounds, docile and marvellous breeders. They will, if need be, rear four youngsters at once. Just the thing for rearing youngsters from our champions of other breeds. It is amazing to fanciers who have difficulty in producing even one pair of youngsters from their favourites, to see these Kings go on year after year (even up to eight years) producing a continuous stream of youngsters, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

To those who have never tasted the meat of a 28-day squab, you have missed the world's finest meat for taste, tenderness and nutriment. It is one of the few meats that can be eaten by invalids and is nothing like the old pigeons usually used in "pigeon pie".

Anyone with a small poultry house or shed can keep two to six pairs and have their own private meat supply all the year round. The only trouble is your friends will be calling round to dinner too often.

The other kind of KINGS are the AUTO KINGS. For the first time a family of pigeons has been produced that can be sexed on hatching they are auto-sexing. A child can tell cocks from hens at any age from a few hours to several years.

They always breed the same, too, cocks almost white, hens almost blue. Otherwise they are the same as the SILVERS with all their good qualities. They have cost pounds and pounds to produce but they have answered the pigeon fancier's prayer of knowing just how many cocks and hens he has at all times.

A loft of these birds, well fed, will average 16 squabs per pair per year. By continued careful breeding it is hoped to bring the average up to 22. Despite what some people may think as to tall stories good pairs of pigeons have done just that even now.

## GURNAY

### Reference Birds.

- Ref. AE N.U.H.W. 42 H 3285 **BLACK—COCK.**  
**Wide Yellow Circle.**  
Bred from A. Brown's best.
- Ref. AF N.U.H.W. 44 W 5635 **BLUE CHEQUER (W.F.)—HEN**  
**Extra Wide Green Circle.**  
Bred from A. Brown's best.
- Ref. AG N.U.R.P. 46 RR 6901 **DARK CHEQUER—HEN.**  
**Medium Yellow Green Circle.**  
SIRE.—NU45G8661 Bronze.  
DAM.—NU45G8676 Blue Chequer.  
Brother and Sister mating.  
Sire.—Ref. K.  
Dam.—Ref. L.  
6901 won 3rd PERTH Smash 1947 260 miles.
- Ref. AH N.U.R.P. 46 RR 6902 **BRONZE—COCK.**  
**Extra Wide Grey Circle.**  
SIRE.—Ref. W.  
DAM.—Ref. Y.  
6902 won 3rd DURHAM 145 miles 1947. He was then turned south. After only one single up toss at HITCHIN 50 miles he was sent to NANTES 401 miles with the National Flying Club, arriving home on day winning 56th Section 800 birds (4,000 in race).
- Ref. AI N.U.R.P. 46 RR 6903 **BLUE CHEQUER—HEN.**  
**Wide Yellow Green Circle.**  
Nestmate to Ref. AH.  
As yearling in 1947 she was jumped from loft to BANFF, 350 miles. Only training 15 miles toss two months earlier. No birds on day due heavy rain. Home on 2nd day. Just out of money. A grand stock hen.
- Ref. AJ N.U.H.W. 46 K 920 **BLUE CHEQUER—COCK.**  
**Wide Yellow Green Circle.**  
SIRE.—Ref. D.  
DAM.—Ref. O.  
A fine type of pigeon. Kept for stock owing to accident.
- Ref. AK N.U.H.W. 46 G 4141 **BLUE—COCK.**  
Nest mate to Ref. A.C.
- Ref. AL N.U.H.W. 47 G 25 **BLUE CHEQUER—COCK.**  
**Wide Black Circle.**  
SIRE.—Ref. M.  
DAM.—Ref. V.  
A lovely compact pigeon kept for stock.
- Ref. AM N.U.H.W. 47 G 13 **BRONZE—COCK.**  
**Medium Yellow Green Circle.**  
SIRE.—Ref. AK.  
DAM.—Ref. S.  
A typical Gurnay, full of fire.
- Ref. AN N.U.H.W. 47 G 82 **BRONZE PIED—COCK.**  
**Wide Green Circle.**  
SIRE.—Ref. Z.  
DAM.—Ref. P.  
An outstanding pigeon, full of spirit. One of my favourites.
- Ref. AO N.U.H.W. 47 G 97 **RED CHEQUER—COCK.**  
**Wide Yellow Green Circle.**  
SIRE.—Full brother Ref. Z.  
DAM.—Ref. AG.  
An exceptionally strongly built pigeon.
- Ref. AP N.U.H.W. 47 G 8 **BRONZE—COCK.**  
**Wide Black Circle, Violet Eye.**  
SIRE.—Ref. K.  
DAM.—Ref. V.  
A fine grandson of "Young Hawk".