

The United Swallow Club

SUMMER 2002

President's Message

Hi! I hope this bulletin finds you on the backside of a successful breeding season. In talking with Bill Griebel, Jr., Merle Starr, Bob Benson, and Dick Baker, I realize that some of us have already completed our young bird seasons and are looking through the loft for those potential show birds. That is the way this year has gone. You either had a very good season or you're still trying. I tend to be in the "still trying" category. I will remind you that it only takes one bird and there is still some breeding time left.

You will notice that this bulletin has a bit of a different format than that of our previous bulletins and also that it was mailed to you rather than emailed. In talking with Gary Romig, I offered to give him a break and put out a bulletin for him this time. He took me up on that offer and so, even though this bulletin is not the polished publication you have grown accustomed to, it is full of information. I hope you will take note of the voting card. There are your nominations for site and judge for this year's annual meet. Please make sure you vote. If you are a new member or not familiar with the process, you can call me at 701-236-8493 or email me at oldmkt@aol.com or contact other members for help. The important thing is that you vote.

My conversations with the membership in the past few weeks have fallen into three categories. The first is the issue of the Thuringer standard. Bill Griebel, Jr. has been working with a select group of Thuringer breeders and to date the general consensus was to just adopt the German standard in tact. They are rethinking the issue. Several years ago, we worked on rewriting our standard for muffed swallows and I think we now have a very good tool for all members, new or old, to use for evaluating muffed birds. Part of the success of this new muffed standard is directly tied to the extensive diagrams of both major and minor details of our birds. Some of this certainly is useful general information for all swallows but there are issues pertaining to Thuringer swallows that might be better explained through the use of diagrams. I am recommending that Bill Jr. and this committee look into the inclusion of diagrams of both types of Thuringers and any other features that might need more clarification. Please read the article submitted by Bill.

Secondly, we are in the need of an overhaul to our present list of qualified judges. This list has become outdated and contains judges who are no

longer members of the club. We are currently without a judging commissioner and our judging program, which hinges on our judging base, is not functional. We need to find someone to take on this position and it must come from members who are currently certified judges. This individual would be in charge of keeping the judging list current and evaluating and filing paperwork submitted by judging program applicants. It is a fairly simple job but important if we are going to increase the number of qualified USC judges. If you are a qualified judge, I will be calling you.

Lastly, we are experiencing some difficulty in getting our articles and ads published in the *Pigeon Debut* magazine. It was pointed out to me by more than one member that perhaps our support of a *Pigeon Debut Special* should be re-evaluated. Dick Baker, our publicity director, has sent three articles to the *Debut* for publication and was told that all articles would be published but, after considerable pressure by members, only **one** has been printed.

Back in January, I emailed the *Debut* and informed them that we would try and be supportive through articles and ads. This was something we discussed at our annual meeting in Tacoma. We sent money and copy for our ad to run in the NPA Special. If you received this magazine, you know that our ad was not published. Elliot Yeske, our secretary, spoke with the *Debut* and they said it was "accidentally" left out and promised to run it twice to compensate us for the inconvenience. A few weeks later I received an email asking that we resubmit the copy for this ad, which I promptly did. A week later, I received another email to resend the picture for the ad. In the following two weeks, I sent this photo three different times and finally I called Gary Romig and he also sent it. They asked him to resend it and he did. To date, we have not seen anything of our ad. I will be talking with Dave Harris, coordinator of the *Special*, to discuss strategies for getting this situation taken care of. Any input from members will also be considered. I sent out an email asking for your opinion on continuing the special. I also plan to visit with Ed Pointer of the *Debut* to try to find a way to remedy this lack of consideration. I am hoping for a positive outcome. If you have any concerns on any of these issues, please visit with your director or feel free to call me. Your opinions are important.

Best wishes on the remainder of your season!

Gloria Weisgram

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

It is a slow time of the year for the Club Treasury; not much going on. I have heard from some members; Merle Starr is all done breeding already for the year. He stated that he has never raised so many so quickly as this year. Us folks in Minnesota are not so lucky. I, myself, am having a slow year. The weather has not been great by any means. I have a few young birds but I still have pairs that have not even laid yet this year. Nate Wayne is having a slow year as well, due to weather. Perry Mueller is done with his clean legs, but is still keeping his muffed birds together until August. I have heard that Bob Benson is doing well with his birds.

We have had a few more new members join our club. We still have ten muffed bands to sell if anyone needs more bands. They are 25 cents each and a little something for shipping. Also, still have club stickers to sell. They are done with artwork from Gary Romig and were made available at the Tacoma National. They have a blue check fullhead swallow on them and are \$1.75 for the 3" and \$2.50 for the 4". Please include a little something for shipping.

That's about it from here. Hope everyone is having a good year elsewhere and raising many swallows.

Elliot Yeske

TREASURER'S REPORT

Previous Balance	\$ 1,424.60
<u>Income</u>	
Tacoma Rebate	72.00
Dues	55.00
Bands	25.00
Patches	4.25
<u>Expenses</u>	
Gary Romig newsletter	(96.12)
Checking service charge (Mar, Apr, May)	<u>(9.00)</u>
Current checking balance	\$ 1,475.73

Eastern Director's Report

I had the good fortune, as some of you know, of being offered an early retirement package from the company that I worked for almost forty years. It was too good to turn down, even though I was not sixty-two at the time it was offered. I am now. For those that are close to retirement age, I suggest you go to a health and fitness center before you do. I had heard from others that retired stating that they could not figure out how they had time to go work. It is really true.

We had a nice show at Reading, PA, this past January. We had sixty birds entered. There were, I think, ten "no shows". Ron DeClement did a real good job judging. He had birds entered but he only gave his birds a "G" rating. They were better than that. Club members in attendance were myself, Howard Angevine, Ron DeClement, Gus Colleti, Tim Starr, Andy Kimmel and his granddaughter, Krystal, Dan Breman, Steve Ripper, and Mike Hall. Howard won the show with a super nice blue black bar Thuringer fullhead. Congratulations, Howard! I hope we have a bigger show next year. It is always difficult showing at the Reading Winter Show as it is usually the week before the NPA National Show.

I had a really good year so far. I am on my third round of young and most of the pairs are back on eggs. This should be my last round for the summer. My feed bill has more than doubled. Some of the early hatched are starting to moult in their bars.

I have talked with Howard and he is raising quite a few young this year. Dick Baker emailed me with photos of some of his young birds.

We, as club members, should get behind the club and support the efforts of having a Swallow Special in the October 2003 *Pigeon Debut*. I have talked with several Eastern members and we are all talking about placing an ad in it. This should give the swallows a lot of exposure. It has been a lot of years since our last special.

I will close for now and hope you all had a good breeding year so far. I am looking forward to see lots of swallows at the Young Bird Show at Louisville this fall.

Merle Starr

Thuringer Standard Update

by Bill Griebel, Jr.

USC members, Gloria Weisgram has asked me to chair a committee to develop a Thuringer Standard, which will eventually be presented to the members for a vote. I have invited Howard Angevine, Elliot Yeske and Bernie Licht to serve as committee members. I feel this is a well-rounded group of Thuringer breeders with a wealth of knowledge on this subject.

Over the course of the year, there has been some debate as to whether we should adopt the translated German standard "as is" or to modify the standard as we had with the Swallow and Wing Pigeon Standard. The intent in elaborating upon the translated German standard is primarily to add clarification to the translation, not to alter the context. Consider a couple of other discussion points:

Consistency – a Thuringer Pigeon is obviously very similar to a Swallow and Wing Pigeon, with a few distinct features, which make it unique. It only makes sense that the Standard for the Thuringer is consistent with that of the Swallow and Wing Pigeon.

Clarity – the German standard is vague and not very user friendly for new breeders. I believe our Swallow and Wing Pigeon Standard, including Romig's drawing is the benchmark in the hobby. It is a valuable teaching tool and makes it easier for novice breeders to understand how a standard pigeon should look.

Judging – we have a number of fine Swallow and Wing Pigeon judges; however, most do not breed Thuringers. Our new standard will also be valuable teaching tool for our judges.

The Thuringer Standard Committee will soon be evaluating a first draft and it is my goal that we will have a standard to present to the membership for a vote by the Fall bulletin.

If you have any questions or comments, please call 218-489-2169 or email me at browngriebel@worldnet.att.net

The following article appeared in the April 1946 issue of the American Pigeon Journal. It is a very interesting article on the Swallow Club History.

- Dick Baker, Publicity Chairman

American Swallow Club Organized

By Fred R. Reed

On March 21, L.E. Hummel of Jefferson City, Mo., came east and the following day he and I went to Rochester, N.Y. where we met with nearly all of the Swallow Breeders in that section. On our return we organized "The American Swallow Club", unique in that it was formed on the train between Buffalo, N.Y. and Dunkirk, N.Y. Our aim is to get more fanciers interested in our breed and to get more swallows in the larger shows.

J.A. Reulbach of Rochester was elected President and I will act as secretary while we are getting organized. So far we have five members and after the Rochester Club meets this week-end we will have that many more.

I am hoping to get some sort of a bulletin out every two or three months with something of interest in each issue.

USC Member's Loft Tip ...

This may be old information but here goes: For mites and lice and any other creepy crawlers on our birds, I have found that Permethrin II works wonders. I put one cap full into a quart spray bottle and give one or two spritz's on the rump, back of the neck and under each wing. By the time the Permethrin is dry the bird is free from the infestation. I also use one tablespoon per gallon of water in the bath. I very rarely have a bug problem of any kind.

I hope this helps out some one.

Yours in the hobby,

Rick Norgaard

Ed. Note: Permethrin II is available at most farm supply stores.

Do you have a Loft Tip that you'd like to share with USC members? Something that works for you may benefit another member. Send us your Loft Tip and we'll make sure it gets published in the next bulletin.

For Sale -

Silver and Blue Checker Silesian Swallows.
Young birds and old breeders. Contact
Bob Benson, 5 Fareway Drive, Northfield, MN.
(507) 645-7230

Eastern District Swallow Meet
Reading, PA - Jan. 11, 12, 13, 2002

Number bird shown: 48

Judge: Ron DeClement

Champion Swallow, Best Thuringian, Best

Young: Blue Black Bar Fullhead YC #647

Howard Angevine

Best Silesian: Black Barless OC #512 Tim Starr

Best Fullhead: Black Barless OH #1671 Merle Starr

Best Fairy: Blue White Bar OH #516 Krystina George

Silesians

Red Check

564 00 OC Tim Starr

Rating: G

Red Check

1402 01 YC Tim Starr

Rating: G

Cream Check

1455 98 OH Ron DeClement

Rating: G

Cream Check

1460 99 OC Merle Starr

Rating: G

Cream Check

1596 01 OH Merle Starr

Rating: G

Cream Check

1721 00 OC Merle Starr

Rating: G

Cream Bar

1428 01 YH Merle Starr

Rating: I

Cream Bar

1654 00 OC Merle Starr

Rating: G

Cream Bar

663 98 OC Merle Starr

Rating: G

Cream Bar

1497 99 OH Merle Starr

Rating: G

Ash Red Bar

364 98 OC Tim Starr

Rating: S

Ash Red Bar

1482 00 OC Ron DeClement

Rating: G

Blue Black Bar

471 01 YH Howard Angevine

Rating: G

Blue Black Bar

1451 01 YH Ron DeClement

Rating: G

Blue Barless

1407 01 YH Tim Starr

Rating: S

Red Spangle

208 01 YC Howard Angevine

Rating: I

Red Spangle

1485 00 OH Ron DeClement

Rating: I

Red Spangle

1470 01 YH Ron DeClement

Rating: I

Yellow White Bar

580 97 OH Gus Colletti

Rating: G

Red Barless

1401 01 YH Tim Starr

Rating: S

Black Barless

710 98 OC Ron DeClement

Rating: G

Black Barless

1512 00 OC Tim Starr

Ratings: HS1 *Best Silesian*

Black Barless

1576 00 OH Tim Starr

Rating: HS2

Black Barless

1254 01 YC Tim Starr

Rating: S

Black Barless

466 00 OC Ron DeClement

Rating: G

Eastern Swallow Meet Results continued

Fullheads

Black Barless

1671 99 OH Merle Starr

Rating: S *Best Fullhead*

Fairies

Blue White Bar

11 99 OH Gus Colletti

Rating: S

Blue White Bar

440 00 OH Gus Colletti

Rating: S

Blue White Bar

517 00 OC Krystina George

Rating: S

Blue White Bar

516 00 OH Krystina George

Rating: S

Blue White Bar

516 01 YC Krystina George

Rating: S

Black White Bar

503 00 C Andy Kimmel

Rating: S

Black White Bar

6 00 OH Howard Angevine

Rating: S

Black White Bar

521 00 OH Andy Kimmel

Rating: S

Black White Bar

538 01 OH Andy Kimmel

Rating: S

Black White Bar

588 99 OH Howard Angevine

Rating: S

Black White Bar

510 01 YH Andy Kimmel

Rating: S

THURINGIANS

Fullheads

Blue Black Bar

647 01 YC Howard Angevine

Rating: HS *Champion Swallow, Best Thuringian Swallow, Best Young Swallow*

Yellow Barless

244 01 YH Tim Starr

Rating: S

Silesians

Blue Barless

604 01 YC Howard Angevine

Rating: S

Red Barless

238 01 YH Dan Brennan

Rating: G

Red Barless

202 00 OH Merle Starr

Rating: HS

Red Barless

532 01 YH Tim Starr

Rating: S

Red Barless

640 01 YC Dan Brennan

Rating: G

Red Barless

523 01 YC Merle Starr

Rating: S

Red Barless

516 01 YC Merle Starr

Rating: G

Yellow Barless

517 01 YH Howard Angevine

Rating: S

Yellow White Bar

521 01 YC Merle Starr

Rating: G

The following article appeared in the June 1947 issue of the American Pigeon Journal.

- Dick Baker, Publicity Chairman

Visit with Eastern Swallow Fanciers

by John E. MacDonald

A short time ago I had the privilege and honor to visit the Eastern Swallow breeders. I was accompanied by Fred Reed, secretary of the American Swallow Club. Fred and I started our trip from Cleveland, Ohio, on Easter Sunday night. After a good night's sleep on the train (wait till Fred sees this) we arrived in Jefferson City, Mo., about noon the next day. We were met royally at the station in Jefferson City by Lynn Hummel, well known Swallow breeder and writer. Here in the heart of the "Ozarks" I saw a loft of wonderful Swallows. There were Spangles and Spots in all colors. He had an outstanding stud of Red Spangles, which I believe are the best of that marking to be found anywhere. His stud of Black Spangles were also fine, and a Blue Spangle (Velvet) cock was really a breeder's delight. Another outstanding bird in my notion was a Cream or Silver Spangle hen. This bird had "boots" at least 5 inches long. Altogether Mr. Hummel has a loft about 250 Swallows.

Our next loft to visit was that of Mr. Espy in St. Louis. We were sorry that he was not home, but his father kindly showed us his birds. He has a nice loft of about 40 Swallows. The Blue-Black Bars took my eye. A Red Barless Fullhead cock looked very promising.

From St. Louis we traveled to Rochester, N.Y., the "Swallow Haven of American". After a 16-hour train ride we were ready to do some walking so started out to visit the boys. Our first stop was at Joe Reulbachs. Joe has always kept a fine loft of Swallows. His Black-White Bar Spots were exceptional in my opinion. Also, a pair of Yellow Barless Fullheads looking mighty fine. We also thank Joe and his sister for the fine supper prepared for us.

The loft of Wm. Erhardt was next on our list. He had about 200 Swallows. His loft consisted of mostly Red-White Bar Spots and he sure had some nice ones. He was very kind to take Fred and me around in his car.

The next loft we visited was that of Leopold Fisher. Mr. Fisher is an old-timer in Swallows. He breeds mostly Blue Barless and Blue-Black bars. He pointed out to us a fine Blue Barless which was a champion bird at a recent Rochester show. His loft contains about 40 Swallows and he has some good ones.

We drove out to Ironduoit, which is a suburb of Rochester, to visit the loft of Leonard Miller. Here we saw Black and Red Barless Fullheads in all their glory. I would say Mr. Miller has about 250 Swallows, and all of them were good. I especially liked a Red Barless cock which had a wonderful color and heavy boots.

The loft of Ed Grassl, was next on our list. He breeds Black and Red Barless Fullheads. The Red Barless took my eye. His loft contained about 75 birds. I had corresponded with Mr. Grassl before and it was an honor to meet him personally.

Last, but not least in Rochester, we visited the loft of Joe Kircher. He has bred Swallows all his life.. He breeds mostly Barless and has a good stud.

Before we left Rochester, we had the honor to visit a man who is the oldest breeder of Swallows today. In Hilton, N.Y., we visited the honorable Henry Uhl. This dear old Swallow man has bred them for 75 years. When we arrived at his farm we found him in the back yard pruning his grape vines. After we introduced ourselves he asked his son to take us up to the loft. Here we saw some fine Black, Red, and Yellow Barless. We sat side by side in his loft listening to him explain some of the finer points of the Swallow. Mr. Uhl, who is now in his 83rd year, had bred Swallows since he was a young boy. Mr. Uhl has a hard time to get around due to physical handicaps, but has put his love for swallows above them all. His family told us that he spent at least four hours every day in the loft, even facing zero weather. To everyone who has met him he is an inspiration. I feel it is my duty to pay tribute to a man so deserving as Henry Uhl. I hope to have a chance again to see him. To me Mr. Uhl is the Dean of Swallow Breeders in the United States. May life give you an abundance of happiness, Mr. Uhl, and let you breed more fine Swallows.

I hope I have not missed anyone in this article. My main reason for writing is to promote Swallow breeding in America and to pay tribute to the Swallow breeders mentioned in this article for their untiring efforts to put the Swallow where it is today.

Dick Baker's Watering System

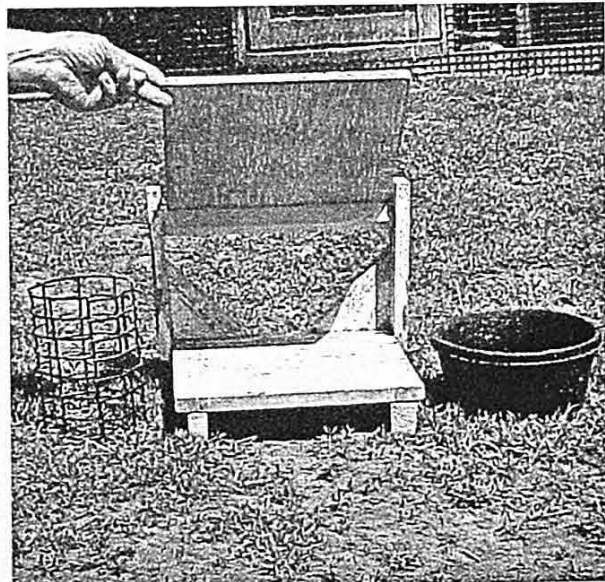
Over the years, I have tried many different types of waterers. As I believe, a lot of pigeon health problems start at the waterer. It is just natural for a pigeon to want to walk or take a bath in the water. I live in New York so I have to overcome the problem of ice and I do not use any heaters. I will try to describe what I have made that is very inexpensive and works very, very well.

First, I start with a rubber two quart bowl that is about three inches deep. Then, I get a piece of one by two inch galvanized or vinyl coated wire. I cut it seven inches high and sixteen inches long, then bend it into a cylinder. This is set in the center of the bowl and will give a space of a little more than one inch all the way around where they can drink but can't get into the water. The next thing I did was to cut two pieces of exterior plywood about sixteen inches square, don't have to be exact. One will be for a base and one for a cover. Next, I put two, nine and one half inches tall, upright pieces of one by two in the back corners. Then, I put one piece of one by two flat underneath the cover on the back edge for hinge pins. I use this because if you try to put a pin into

the plywood it will not last, just splits out. For the pins, I just use nails or dry wall screws. It is important to have a cover to keep the water clean and the cylinder in place. If you like, you could put blocks underneath the base, this holds everything up incase any water does get spilled. It will dry out much faster if it is up off of the floor.

This system is for enough water for sixteen to twenty birds per day. If you have a larger amount of birds you can adjust the size of the bowl and the wire. Make sure that there is no more than one and one half inches of space between the wire and the bowl. You may also use metal or other kinds of bowls. I use the rubber because in the winter time all I did is carry a little stick and tap on the side of the bowl or onto the wire cylinder to release the ice. I also have a tub of water and about every three days I change the bowls and let them soak in clorox water then rinse them for use again. This has been the best system I have found yet. If anyone wants further pictures or information, email me at baks@eznet.net or write to me at 3313 Wayne Center Rd, Lyons, NY 14489 and I will be more than glad to help.

This system can be used for heated water systems but you would have to cut a hold in the plywood base and it will still keep the birds out of the water.



Update from Ed Pointer, Editor Pigeon Debut

By Gloria Weisgram

Ed Pointer of the *Pigeon Debut* called me the other day to discuss some of the issues that concerned the *Pigeon Debut* magazine and our Swallow Club.

Ed stated that he had heard we were upset with his magazine for not printing ads and articles that had been sent in by our secretary, Elliot Yeske, and by our publicity director, Dick Baker. He apologized to me and to our club. He went on to explain that an employee who was responsible for these ads and articles was let go for various problems directly related to this issue and that he did not expect to have these same problems in the future. He assured me that our ad would be in the next issue and would also run a second time at no charge for our inconvenience. The articles that were sent in by Dick Baker are being re-sent and will be printed.

Ed would like to have a good working relationship with the Swallow Club and wants to help us put out a great special. He would be glad to come to one of our meetings in the future to answer any questions or clear up any other issues that members might have. Please let me know if there is interest to have Ed meet with us at Des Moines.

I feel Ed's gesture is sincere and I hope this very recent positive development will make members more comfortable in contributing to the success of our upcoming special. I look forward to seeing our ad and articles and we can begin to think about what we want to include in our special. By the way, Dave Harris, our swallow special coordinator, tells me there is interest from European breeders to be included and the title of our special will be "Swallows Around the World." Great idea! I think it is a fine project – recording swallow history on a world level. It has never been done before and it is exciting to be a part of something so grand. Dave has included swallow special information in this bulletin. Please contribute in any way you feel comfortable.

From the (e)Mailbag ...

Monday, July 8, 2002

From: Hans Schipper
Hans-schipper@planet.nl

"Hi Dave [Harris]

Recently I got the contribution for the Swallow Special from Manfred Gitz. Manfred Gitz is an absolute top-breeder of pigeons and bantams. He is the breed-supervisor of the German special club of Thuringean colour pigeons, specially for the white grounded breeds, also for Swallows. He breeds Saxon-, Thuringean and South German Spots, all in blue and wins many top prizes on the German Nationals and special shows. Then he breeds Saxon Monks blue white barred and spangled (my old stock) and clean legged spot Swallows, also Thuringean blue and silver spangled.

As a breed-supervisor every year, after the show season he has to write a show report of the special show which is published in German magazines. His reports are very detailed; he studies the breeds and colours very intense. I think this report should

be modified a little. I will ask Manfred for a disk with his texts, so I can mail this to you.

Then I asked Andreas Meyer and Reiner Wolf. They appreciated the requests and will send their articles to me. There is one problem: translation! You could ask Berni Stich from Canada for a skilled translation and German into "American" English.

Next week I go to Australia for judging in Ipswich near Brisbane. I got the program: all colour pigeons and Old Dutch tumblers. The number would be about 250, which are intended to be judged within 4 hours! Nevertheless I will get a good impression about the Swallows in Australia. I will make a report both our newsletter and your special.

Dave I wish you all the best with the preparation.

Regards,

Hans Schipper

Monday, April 22, 2002

From: Andreas Meyer, Drebach, Germany
Info@taubenperlen-aus-sachsen.de

"Hello Gloria,

Thank You for your email and the interesting informations how the things are going on in the US. We here also cold weather. During the day we had about 50 degrees F (10 degrees C) and in the nights we had frosty temperatures with 15 degrees F -9 degrees C). We also had some snow and some days we had a lot of rain. Now we hope that the weather will be better. Today we had good weather here, the sun was shine and it was a little bit warmer as the other days.

The birds are doing well. I have banded 20 young birds in the first round. This are 3 Saxon Priest, 5 Switzerland Pigeons, 3 Silesian Swallows and 9 Fairy Swallows. This are not many, but I think there are a few very nice birds. Now I have to band the young birds from the second round. I'm glad because there is no young bird without spot or with white feathers in the flights.

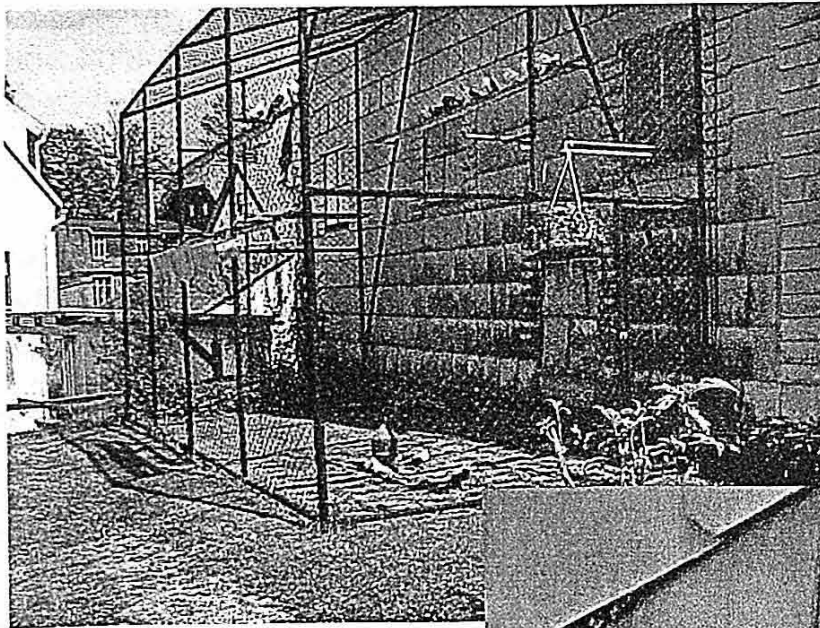
If I have enough time I will send you some fotos of my young birds. This Sunday we have our spring meeting. We have a lot of things to do. One point is to speak about the last show season, we had a lot of shows. Another point is to speak what we will do in our fall meeting, what are the Planes for our next shows, we have to choose the judges and a lot of other things we have to talk about.

Gary is a great artist. I like his artwork and paintings very much. He also had nice pictures with birds, eagles and hawks at his website.

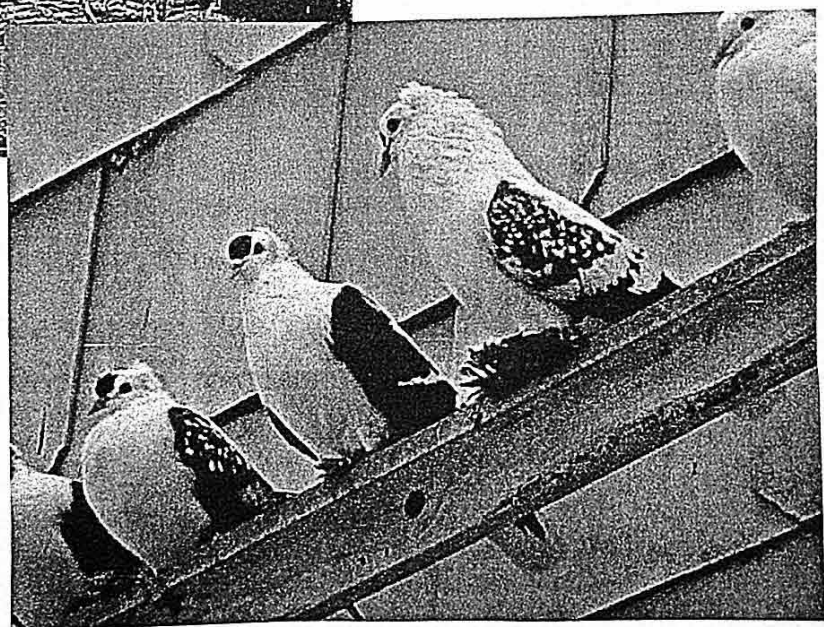
You sent me some fotos attached the email. My problem is to open this file. Can you tell me what program you have used or can you send me the pictures again in another format (.pdf; .jpg or something like that).

I'll be interested to see the fotos from Bob Bensons birds and his loft. It is very nice to send this fotos to me.

That's all for today. I wish you also a good season and a great number of fine Swallows."



Loft of Andreas Meyer



Subj: Here is Holland
Date: Monday, July 8, 2002 1:08:58 PM
From: hans-schipper@planet.nl
To: oldmkt@aol.com

Hi, dear friend!!! Here is Holland.

I guess you would think he's forgotten me. Gloria!

I will never forget you! It was busy season until last Saturday, but now it is E-mail day.

To you first, than to both Nate and Elliot, to Dave Harris and to Ron Wilton in Australia.

I had, despite my retirement a lot of work to do with reorganisation of the organisation for control and management of the sport grounds and accommodations in our community.

Than work and many meetings for pet-associations and the European show next year in Holland.

In the first weekend of June I visited the annual meeting of the German Special club for Saxon Colour pigeons in Saxony. I did not visit those meetings during the last years, because of other obligations, but now I changed priorities. Those days are very social, its feels good to meet old friends and talk about pigeons course European uniformity in standards and , rules, personal life, even family.

I know many people for over 25 years and former East-German breeders became good friends since 1990, when the border was open. In the evening of arrival day people members met around a barbeque, at Saturday morning the annual meting took place, in the afternoon Old German Moorheads and Saxon Breast pigeons. were presented and discussed very interesting and instructive.

In the evening the banquet.

The annual meeting of the Dutch Pigeon breeders Association (NBS), middle June, passed very quietly. No problems at all. This year we had no proposals, also less discussion.

The following weekend the meeting of the Dutch Colour pigeon Club. Many members, a very social atmosphere; some breeders presented their breed or a special colour, supported buy experienced breeders as well as judges. We

discussed South German Moorheads, red Saxon Swallows, Nuremberg Swallows, Ice pigeons and Starlings Very interesting and instructive for the audience. It was the 25th time for me as the president, but nobody, without myself remembered. For them it's still a secret. I will continue until next year. Than have the 40-years anniversary which is celebrated with a special show in December 2003.

Last weekend the annual meeting of the overall association took place. As

the NBS-president I represent the pigeons in the board of executives. In the passed year a number of committees reviewed the show-process: exhibition, judging and animal care. I was project leader for the organisational rules of exhibitions and shows, promotion days etc. We propose many changes to keep exhibiting attractive and stimulating our hobby. These rules are affected by the result of both other teams which had to be implemented into ours. Those were reflected also to any regulations in other European countries.

I presented the proposal; the response was positive, however Association and clubs have to discuss and approve and feed aback. Implementation is intended in 2004.

The NBS-proposal for application of number-votes on all exhibitions from 2004 on is accepted.

My breeding season looks rather positive; I have some good looking whitetails, though many with coloured tail feathers which must be pulled to become white, which means that they cannot be exhibited this year. My Gimpel do well but Luzerns do not; only 5 youngsters. I think some hens are too old. I still have one pair of Shields, no fertilized eggs. Rabbits do well, both for exhibition and creation of new colours.

Next week I fly to Australia for judging colour pigeons and Old Dutch Tumbler. A challenge!

As far as I am informed now, I have to judge about 250 pigeons, if possible within 4 hours!

Than, when back home, our first grandchild will appear. Ineke, my wife got retired last week; she is relaxing and preparing as a grandma now. No vacation this year. In fall she will visit our daughter Carla in the Carribic; which presented her for her 60th anniversary the ticket. Good girls!

Gloria, how is your life?

How do your Indian friends your friend and pigeons? I look forward for any response>