

Pigeon-Racing Held Peer of All Sports by Local Fancier Who Starts Second Season

5 Training Flights Precede Series of Competitive Races

Handling his birds with the same tender care that a mother lavishes on a baby, Ernest F. Kelley proudly declared this week at his small loft on Sepulveda boulevard between Figueroa and Vermont, that his feathered racers are going to give a good account of themselves this spring.

While he stroked his cooing speedsters, Kelley showed that he is one of the most ardent of that sporting fraternity known as pigeon racers even though he has only been interested in the sport for about a year. He is a member of the Compton Racing Pigeon club and is quite a student of the hobby that has held the intense interest of a large number of pigeon fanciers for many years.

In addition to his books on racing pigeons, Kelley keeps all of the bulletins issued by the Compton club on file and studies these in detail. His birds showed up well last year in practice and race flights, the longest being from Bakersfield. But he is expecting much better results this season and is already looking forward to the first practice dash, which will be Feb. 27 from the foot of the Ridge route, near Newhall.

Fly Mile-a-Minute
Then will follow four more training flights and the first competitive race is scheduled for April 3, covering a distance of 100 miles. Like the practice trips for the aerial speedsters, the races gradually increase in length until June 13 the dash will be 600 miles—from Redding, Calif.

Although Kelley takes his birds' amazing intuitive faculty of winging over unfamiliar terrain straight to the home loft without batting an eye, nevertheless he shows that he is still surprised at the way his birds find their way home with such speed.

"I've seen them come in so fast over the tops of the derricks surrounding my loft that my eyes could hardly follow them," he said. "Other times they'll dart into the loft through the trap door so quickly that I've never noticed them till I actually saw them, safe at home once more. Racing pigeons fly, you know, better than a mile-a-minute when they are in good condition and break away from a flock that's just been released."

Clocks Record Time
"My club joins some of the others—Mesa, 20th Century, Los Angeles and Santa Monica—in combination races. In those events the birds, after careful training and attention to their diet, are banded with the racing rubber band (in addition to the aluminum numbered one they wear from the time they are hatched) and then taken north on a train.

"When they are simultaneously released at Delano, Fresno, Bakersfield, Tulare or some other point there are sometimes 700 or 800 birds in the race. I have read that the best racing pigeon record was 600 miles a day and the longest race known was 1,500 miles. Sometimes they come in fairly fresh, at others they are badly tuckered out and perhaps injured. But if they can get home under their own power, they'll come home. I've only lost one bird in training and regular races so far," Kelley said.

Best of All Sports
Before races, the feathered dashers are fed very little—so they won't have to stop for water enroute. Once at home and their rubber bands removed for checking on a special clock kept by each loft owner, the pigeons are given plenty of water but their food is only given gradually. The clocks which time the races are very accurate and there is no way they can be tampered to fix a shorter time on the racing bands than has actually elapsed, the local fancier said. Each loft is accurately mea-

Bird Lore Revealed at Show

In this modern world, pigeons serve small purpose. Electrical communications have made carriers, with freak exceptions, obsolete. The lively sport of live-pigeon shooting is now generally illegal. The decline of the pigeon's utility has stimulated pigeon-breeding as a sport.

Pigeon-racers, who breed, train and fly homing pigeons, consider themselves above professional snob farmers, who rear pigeons for the table, and the more than 17,000 pigeon fanciers in the U. S. whose hobby is raising pigeons for shows.

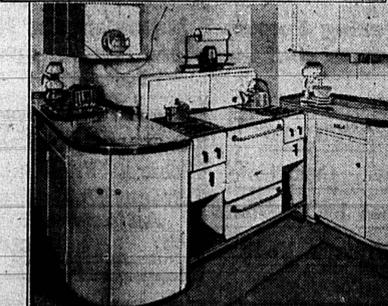
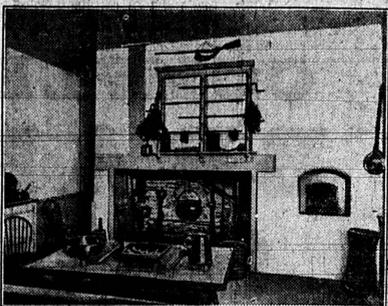
At the last National Pigeon Show, held in Peoria, Ill., recently, about 4,000 birds, worth \$50,000 were on display. Biggest bird in that show was a giant Runt ("Run") is pigeon English for Runt, name of a German breed), from Dallas.

For his 3½ pounds he had an 18-inch body circumference, wing spread of three feet.

Strangest breed were Parlor Tumblers. Equipped with the determination of homing pigeons but utterly unable to fly, their efforts to get off the ground cause them to somersault backward. Single Tumblers flop over once. Double Tumblers twice. Parlor-Rollers will roll 75 feet backward without stopping.

Most numerous were 600 Kings, large, white birds with big, bright red feet. Hand-somest were varicolored round-breasted Modenas. Rarest were Frill-backs with small up-curling feathers on wings and backs. Individual sales at the show ranged from \$5 to \$250. Biggest price ever paid in the U. S. was \$1,600 for a fine pair of English racing homers.

Martha Washington's Kitchen A Sharp Contrast to Today's



WITH the approach of Washington's birthday and a renewal of interest in Colonial days, the kitchen of Mount Vernon takes on a new significance, particularly when compared with the modern home-maker's culinary studio and its multitude of conveniences.

Martha Washington's kitchen with its heavy black iron kettles, its utensils of copper and pewter, and the fireplace with its hooks and crane is indeed picturesque to this generation. But, from the standpoint of utility this kitchen has little to compare with the time and labor-saving equipment of the 1937 culinary workshop distinguished by durable linoleum, easily-cleaned and ever-shining metal utensils, washable walls and woodwork, wall-placed lights for easy illumination and up-to-the-minute gas ranges.

All these strike a modern note which reflects the desire of the present-day homemaker to eliminate the kitchen drudgery which was the lot of the Colonial housewife.

lows hall on Roosevelt highway and the public is invited to attend.

HUGHES OPENS OFFICES HERE

Young Lawyer Takes Place in Professional Group

One of the outstanding recent graduates from the U. S. C. College of Law, Kenneth B. Hughes, has opened offices at 1313 Sartori avenue and is now one of the city's practicing attorneys. Hughes is also an instructor in the commercial department of the Torrance Evening High school.

He has closed his Los Angeles offices in favor of locating here and plans to establish a residence in this city with Mrs. Hughes as soon as they are able to find a home. The young attorney made a brilliant record at U. S. C., where he was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi, national all-university scholastic fraternity, and elected to the Order of the Coif, highest honor award in the law school. Hughes also won first place in the College of Commerce awards.

Saplings Used in Steel Manufacture to Reduce Carbon

Buying a wagon load of green saplings from a neighboring farmer is almost as routine to purchasing agents of some steel companies as buying half a million tons of iron ore.

During 1936 about 20,000 green saplings were consumed by the steel industry. They were used to "pole" or stir molten open hearth and Bessemer steel in order to reduce the amount of carbon present in the steel. The saplings used are from 16 to 20 feet long, and from three to four inches in diameter at the butt end. Elm, ash, oak and hickory saplings are most generally used.

Stirring the molten steel with green saplings produces a violent boiling or agitation in the steel as the carbon in the sapling and the oxygen in the metal react chemically. This agitation mixes the steel thoroughly with the layer of molten limestone or slag floating on top of the steel, and the excess carbon is absorbed in the slag.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE PRODUCTION OF STEEL



Courtesy "Torrance Steel Blade."

That is their combined years of service for Columbia Steel Company. These men are: Front row: Joe Bay, Harry Rasche, R. C. Vaughan, Robert Poe. Back row: Tommy Mendoza, Lou Davies and Ed Scanlon. Joe Bay came here in February 24, 1918; Harry Rasche was hired on November 1, 1920; R. C. Vaughan started on November 4, 1924; Robert Poe came on May 1, 1923; Tommy Mendoza hired in on November 23, 1919; Lou Davies, on November 8, 1925; and Ed Scanlon, on February 3, 1925.

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