

My start with pigeons.....

By Nome Middleton

At age 18 I climbed up the side of a chimney and took one of the two feral pigeons from a nest. That bird was my beginning and to this day I will never forget him. Tony lived with me freely for 3 years making his home in my garage on top of the hot water tank. He loved people but he continued to fly down and land on my elderly neighbor's shoulder much to his dissatisfaction!! Actually it really scared him! I was so afraid that he would be killed by that neighbor but to my happiness Tony started seeing a feral female and eventually flew the coop with her. Maybe he and or his offspring are flying around somewhere in San Diego to this day.

I was hooked! I started going to pigeon club shows in my area and began raising Komorners and Helmet pigeons. Did pretty well with both at the shows/fairs picking up ribbons and trophies. Eventually I bought three pair of purebred Pletinckx racing homers from Neil McDermott out of Anaheim. He raised and trained Disney's birds for years. For me at that time (early 60s) \$25.00 a pair was pretty steep but I just had to have those birds! To this day, I still raise the offspring of those birds, crossing out only twice with other pure Pletinckx. Some from Pennsylvania and some out of Utah. Both were pedigreed birds from original lines brought straight over from Belgium and those birds cost \$200.00 each early in the 60's.

I just have these birds in my blood and probably will till my death! Most people who know or have known me can testify to that! I moved here to Southern Oregon from San Diego in 1985 . I left my birds there with Mike Trout with the satisfaction of knowing that when I settled and bought me a place and got my loft built that he would send me a kit of young birds to start up again here in Oregon and so it was. Mike sent me 17 youngsters from my original birds and I started up again.

Through the years I started a fancy pigeon club here in Roseburg, Oregon and named it **UPC.....Umpqua Pigeon Club**, and also helped start a racing club that I also named...."**UFO**"**Umpqua Flyers of Oregon**. We had 45 members right from the beginning. Through the years I was president of each of the clubs at different times and helped to start a lot of new people and kids into the sport of pigeon raising, racing and showing. Many people and friends have asked me to write a book about the Pletinckx pigeon and just pigeons in general but at this time I have not yet finished that endeavor.

Game Bird And Conservation's.... The Gazette, www.GameBird.com, has done several articles on me and my Pletinckx and also has included pictures of me and my birds and some of the pictures that I have taken. The first article was printed in the: **August 2005** issue. Since that article the editor, "**James Allen**" has included many articles on pigeons and doves.

It is a **great magazine** and well worth any pigeon fancier's subscription. James is always welcoming articles about pigeons and doves so you might check with him if you are interested in sending in your articles. He is really a great guy!

So, it is that I will always have my pigeons! Although Multiple Sclerosis has slowed me down quite a bit I will continue to raise my beautiful white Pletinckx as long as I am able to. To all of you that have pigeons and love your birds....

Great Flying To You And Keep Enjoying Them!!!!

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PLETINCKX...My Passion

