



1981 Conference Taking Shape

by *Tanner S. Chrisler,*
Publicity Chairman,
St. Louis, Mo.

Announcement of a partial list of the speakers to appear at the 1981 Conference of the American Pigeon Fanciers' Council was made by Joseph W. Quinn, Chairman of the Council, and he emphasized that all five people in this initial release are "new" to APFC audiences.

DeVere Burt, Director of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, will present the results of his study of the population dynamics of urban living feral pigeons. Burt, who is an active breeder of racing pigeons himself, has made some fascinating discoveries of how, for example, the pigeons adjusted their behavior and feeding cycles to the schedule of the city's street sweepers. If you thought that common pigeons were stupid animals, Burt has some news for you.

It isn't often that the Council can present an honest-to-TV celebrity on its program, but this year's gathering will be greeted and entertained by Dave McKelvy, who has appeared many times on *The Johnny Carson Show*. Those who have seen McKelvy on TV have witnessed some of his remarkable feats of bird training. Those who have not will just have to come and see. The title of his presentation was not decided by the time for closing this release; so we can not say if McKelvy will work with pigeons or some other kinds of birds—or if he plans to tell his audience how to train their own birds. While Quinn will have more

information on this later, it promises to be a real treat for all pigeon people.

Of celebrity stature—but probably less well known around the country—is Dr. Raymond Kray of North Hollywood, California, noted veterinary authority on avian medicine. If you have looked long and hard to find a vet who really has a depth of experience with birds—and have failed to find anyone in your area that meets your needs—bring your questions to St. Louis and bounce them off a real expert. The exact title of Dr. Kray's talk will be announced in a later release.

To round out the initial list of five newcomers to the APFC will be two speakers who have been closely associated with their particular breeds for many years. George Kleinpell of Cleveland, Ohio, author of "The Turbit Handbook", noted student of short-faced pigeons, will give a judging demonstration of Turbits. Although Quinn's announcement didn't say, it may be presumed that Mr. Kleinpell will bring some of his own famous Turbits and do some genteel proselytizing, while he educates the newcomers in the finer points of his breed.

The other breed specialist will be James C. Isselhardt of Belleville, Illinois, highly successful breeder and well recognized judge of Racing Homers bred for showing. It should be pointed out that Isselhardt's birds are not Show

Racers (formerly Showpen Racers), but actually a dual purpose breed, judged by feather texture (and "snap"), condition and the other qualities that are most likely to make a good flying pigeon. Strictly as a personal observer, this reporter must say he had not seen such clearly "blue" blue pigeons until he saw some of Isselhardt's. He will show and tell the finer details of judging this growing breed.

This twelfth annual conference of the APFC will be held on Friday evening, Saturday all-day, and Sunday Morning, July 24, 25, and 26th, 1981, at the Ramada Airport Inn, near the Lambert St. Louis International Airport. Advanced registration (\$5.00 per person) should be made by mail with the secretary-treasurer of the Council, Mrs. Thelma H. Snyder, 2421 Old Arch Rd., Norristown PA 19401. Those registered in advance will receive a complete program, showing all speakers and the schedule of their appearance.

Further news of the 1981 conference will appear in the next issue of this magazine. Mark the dates, and plan now to attend. Hotel reservations (at special convention rates) may be made directly with the Ramada toll-free reservation center, 1-800-228-2828. The Saturday night banquet will once again be hosted by Ralston Purina Company. Banquet tickets are issued with your registration •

1st Annual American Pet Show

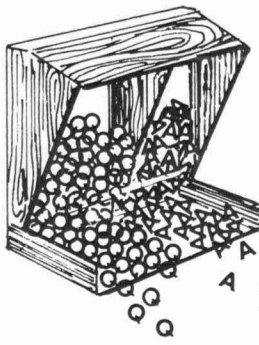
JULY 10, 11, 1981

The American Federation of Aviculture has been invited, and has agreed to participate in the First Annual American Pet Show. We have been given 30,000 sq. feet of exhibition space to display our birds in this two day event at the Anaheim Convention Center July 10 and 11.

This is a tremendous opportunity for your organization to participate in an event which will place your club and your birds in the limelight. You will be able to display your birds in an attractive manner to an expected 100,000 animal lovers. You can also explain to them your goals and joys as a hobbyist as well as familiarizing them with your club activities.

For further details please contact the A.F.A. Home Office - and hurry, time is running out.

Sharon Clause
Chairwoman, AFA American Pet Show



New Q&A Column to begin in the next issue of Watchbird

Beginning with the June/July 1981 issue the WATCHBIRD will run a "Question and Answer" column. A broad and impressive panel of highly recognized experts have agreed to answer all sorts of questions that arise in aviculture. No one person can be a master of every subject so we will have veterinarians answer veterinary questions, nutritional experts respond to diet questions, construction engineers deal with building problems, genetics experts handle genetics, exterminators deal with your mice, etc., etc.

Please prepare your questions in full detail and send them to the AFA Home Office, P.O. Box 327, El Cajon, CA 92022. On the front of the envelope mark a large Q.A..

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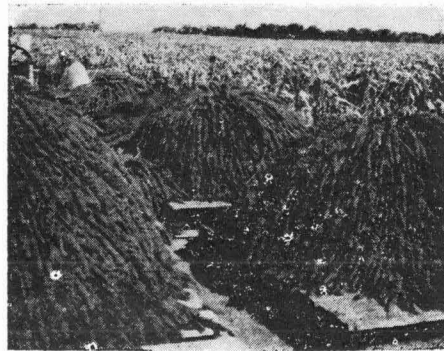
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