

particularly to juniors. I've read his paper, and it is delightful to see how this young man got his pigeon hobby to become an important part of his education and to achieve high acclaim for his efforts. There are hundreds of junior breeders and hundreds more seniors with high school age children who will benefit from seeing how Todd Gavin made a successful Science Fair exhibit, using his pigeons in a fairly simple experiment. I won't tell you what he learned. That would be like stealing his thunder.

Ralston Purina Company will be the host for the banquet on Saturday night, and those who have attended in previous years can assure you that no one went away hungry. Some may call it a buffet. I'd call it an Old Country Smorgasbord. The company will also be represented on the program by Dr. Fred Pfaff, the man in charge of pigeon nutrition.

As many readers know, Mr. Frank Hollmann, publisher of the American Pigeon Journal, was the Chairman of these Conferences for the first nine years, and he did the heaviest work at assembling the program. At the meeting in 1978 Dr. Hanebrink and Mr. George Browy of Belleville, Illinois, were elected co-chairmen. It is to their credit that Dr. Hanebrink and Mr. Browy stepped right up, as soon

as Mr. Hollmann's passing was known, and began working on this year's program.

Surely, Mr. Hollmann's jovial presence will be missed. But this year's APFC program bids to be worthy of a Tenth Anniversary — the best ever! Mark your calendar, July 27-29, and make your reservations.* It also bids to be the largest attendance we have ever had.

*Ramada Inn, 9636 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Mo. 63134. Group rates apply.

FOLLOW-UP Purple Grenadier

In the previous issue of the Watchbird we reported on successful breedings of Purple Grenadiers by aviculturists in Florida and California. Both those efforts utilized fostering: the birds were raised by Society finches.

In Chicago, Alex Keylard raised seven Purple Grenadiers under their natural parents in an indoor aviary 40 by 70 feet by 10 feet high. The flight is heavily planted and contains about 150 finches, including six pairs of Grenadiers. "It's like having them in the wild," he says.

He got his birds four or five years ago, but says only in the past few years have



several of the pair raised young. "The parents," he reports, "eat a lot of insect food while raising them," and invade wide-wired macaw cages within the huge flight to eat corn fed on cobs to the hook-bills. He believes the parents feed this to their young. Banana peels are kept in the flight to produce fruit flies. The Grenadiers have nested in bushes and in the rafters of the building.

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