

"SUPREMES"

Written by Wm Murkley Jr.

Since reading my last URCA bulletin, recall coming across your plea for members to send in an article, so decided to put together something. Have tossed this one around for quite awhile and was hesitant to even think of writing it, as I am still very humbled by my 98 show season. I have written before when the new Baldhead Show Roller standard came into existence. That is when I almost threw in the towel because I had spent nearly 20 years trying to perfect the then present standard, and all of a sudden I was faced with an entirely different set of guide lines. It was drastic enough to question if I wanted to continue to breed baldheads for show. Well, now 9 years later the proof is in the pudding.

Yes, I took on the challenge and yes, it did work. It has been tough competing against all those Wegners, Guells, Barton's etc. etc. but with gritting the teeth, it had finally paid off. Winning one national in any one year will make any fancier very proud and humble, but to win the Y B. National, the O. B. National and the state show all in one year, each show with a different bird was most gratifying to me. Especially when I had found my old gene pool continually resurfacing along the way. It was very hard to repress all those genes in which it took 20 years to set, and also to change that ideal in which I always wanted to go back to, wanting to keep many of the older style looking birds.

Many will never forget Merle Ed Emerson in the show roller circles and to some that is a positive thing and others a negative. I for one, if for nothing else, admired his continual accomplishments in producing birds, which judge after judge would pick because they were drawn to them. His string of national wins will probably never be broken. He also had a

special way in how he marketed his birds and people flocked to his place to purchase them for unheard of prices. Today that still sticks in a lot of peoples crawls, but much of that other people created because, they continued to pester him for birds he didn't care to part with, and when they offered him a price only a fool would turn down, they were sold. Anyway, the three Amigo's came to mind in that they were all brothers and had won either champion of a show or reserve.

Now for the meat of this article! In the beginning I stated I was fortunate to win the YB, OB and state show all this past year. What I find interesting is that they too were all sisters, and all had won champion of a national or the state show. Thus I am not an Emerson and never will be, but I have labeled them "THE SUPREMES!" Not sure that will ever happen ever again for anyone, and do believe the odds must be very far out to do such a feat. Especially with all the competition which is out there today. I am very proud of that and feel very lucky to have been one to have done so well in the "'98" show season.

I am so pleased with the big changes that had to be made at "Lakeview" to have accomplished the inevitable. My thanks go especially to one of our past fanciers who had helped out numerous breeders, in one way or another, and that is Mr. George Petro, rest his soul. After making three trips to Pennsylvania over a three year period to George's place, I found George's birds crossed extremely well with mine, mostly because we seemed to have liked many of the same characteristics, and also building a family the same way step by step etc. It took some time to clean up the markings, and to finally be able to get back to my inbreeding and line breeding, but it finally clicked.

I wish George could have been here, to see what help his family of birds did, in improving my baldhead family with the use of his birds. He said to

me once, "Bill, you're on the way and things look real good, don't let anyone change your mind for you, continue with your thoughts, and don't go astray, and it will workout for you!" THANK YOU GEORGE for those words of wisdom! Maybe some day the Murkley strain of rollers will help some family produce that National winner! The Emerson helped Petro; Petro helped Murkley and now its time for Murkley to help - (maybe it will be you.)