

July 3, 2006

Subject: Thank you Jan for a great pigeon.

Jan de Groot,

It must have been May or June 2001. It was about 7.30 PM and I was relaxing with my wife watching T.V. The door bell rang.

When I opened the door Jan de Groot was standing there with a basket of young pigeons. I had seen Jan on some shows when he was judging pigeons, but did not have that much contact with him.

Jan was an energetic business man in Toronto and his butcher shops were well known. He was a Dutch immigrant and came from the same city (The Hague) as I did. Jan's wife Lia attended the same Public School as my wife did.

What a coincidence.

Fam. De Groot had butcher shops in The Hague and you can imagine talking about our home country, how quickly the evening went.

About the pigeons Jan said: "I got some young birds here and I want you to try them. No charge."

They were rather young to try them and I am sure some were lost on account they were "pushed" too much. But not the 1230.

She flew North Bay – Latchford – Englehart and Matheson as a young bird and won 11th – 53rd – 23rd and 12th. From Matheson. She was 27th against 847 birds in the UNC.

As a yearling she went to Long Lac and was 2nd in the combine (39L-448B)

In 2003 she was back to Long Lac and was 14th in the club (1:4)

In 2004 she was 11th in the combine (44L-431B) from L.Lac

In 2005 she was sent to Nakina. 1st in the club and 15th Combine (47L-474B)

She flew Long Lac too, but was my 9th Day bird and would have won approx 43rd out of 584 birds but was deleted by the UNC.

In 2006 she went to Pickle Lake. She won the race by a large margin. She was 86 minutes ahead of the Ottawa Valley Combine and more than 2 hours ahead of my own Combine.

Jan de Groot passed away in the prime of his life. He was a great man. He would have enjoyed it so much to hear the story about his pigeon 2001 CU OAK 1230.

He was a man who was down to earth and so easy to talk to. There are two other men I knew and wished they were members in my club: Hugh Douglas and Al MacGillis. These people should never have died and are irreplaceable.

I have a very basic pedigree of 1230. The only one who would recognize some of these pigeons is Bennie de Jonge.

Grandam-460 daughter of NL81-607487 (Ooievaar)

Grandsire 5819 van Hee Belgium Best pigeon Jan ever had.

Grandam ½ Bricoux ½ Ko Nipius

Grandsire- Dr Linssen Janssen.

Pigeon racing is a sport with many highs and lots of setbacks.

To see a pigeon on the landing board after flying from Pickle Lake is an emotional experience. When I walked in my loft I applauded 1230.
Thanks Jan I wish you could have been there. .Tom Brouwer