



2006 SECOND PLACE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Gerard F. Wohlrab, III

Racing Pigeons and Life: Two Intertwined Events



Gerard F. Wohlrab, III, Sattending State University of New York: Institute of Technology at Utica / Rome Sophomore

As I walk around my grandmother's two story house, a small white garage can be seen. This garage houses the newly born, maturing, and elderly pigeons who can not withstand the elements of Upstate New York's drastically changing seasons. As I walk through a gate that connects the house and the garage together, a large pigeon coop sits at the very back of the property. Its supports elevate the coop from the ground

where an old band clock is stored to store a pigeon's individual fly time. Here, mature, conditioned, and able-racing pigeons live. The inside of the coops have several shelves with separate cubby holes for each pigeon. On the other side lay water and feed stations along with windows. As a young child, I spent extensive amounts of time taking care of these pigeons.

For as long as I could remember, my grandmother told me one

basic principle that can be utilized in everyday life: with a little commitment and determination, anything can be made great. Every goal I have personally dreamt to achieve can be compared to a racing pigeon. Each aspiration begins like a new born pigeon: only the idea of greatness is present. As more information is found out, you are able to set future decisions and actions to achieve the goal. Similarly, a racing pigeon must be trained to fly long distances and be able to find the home coop. Next, a goal is physically strived for; the person actually attempts to accomplish it. For racing pigeons, their test comes as several hundred mile races as they compete against hundreds of pigeons to reach their home coop the fastest. Lastly, a person needs to assess the completion or failure to attain the goal. For racing pigeons, this involves clocking their bands and comparing their times with the rest of the pigeons.

Throughout my lifetime association with racing pigeons, I have learned the importance in striving to be the best at everything I do. In addition, I have gained knowledge for racing pigeons along with the business associated with it. Most importantly, I have gained a closer connection with my grandmother through an activity we both enjoy participating in.

Gerard F. Wohlrab, III

Beverly Brezinski

Grandmother

**Mid - State Sportsman Invitational
Racing Pigeon Club**

