

Quick, Before They Get Away

May The Pigeons Of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose

by HOWARD KOHN

A fly-by-night operation under the assumed name of Farmington Founders Festival released 60 pigeons in the parking lot of Danish Inn last week.

All the pigeons reportedly escaped.

POLICE have promised a full-fledged investigation and informed sources say the township's mounted force will be called in to help track the pigeons.

Apparently the culprits fled in getaway cars, though witnesses said some tried to fly away with the pigeons.

Police said the culprits left multi-colored boxes lined with smelly newspaper.

Police theorized that the boxes had been used to cage the birds. Police traced the boxes back to a little old lady who used them only on Sundays. She was identified as Mary Cheek, 65, which is presumably an alias.

Police said they had evidence which would implicate an underground ring big enough to include all Detroit-area disc jockeys.

One ring member, who coincidentally is a disc jockey for WWJ, has already confessed. "I'm

old enough to know better," he said. "But I'm too young to resist."

THE RING LEADER has been identified as Bill Kennedy of Channel 9-TV, who's known as "Sugar Daddums" in underworld circles.

Police began rounding up some of the escaped pigeons early this week.

Dr. John Richardson, city council member, vowed to administer saliva tests for possible drugging. "So far, though, I've only diagnosed three hangovers and one suicide."

He said the pigeon had killed herself with an overdose of birdseed.

Barb Benya, Board of Commerce executive secretary, was reported resting comfortably after being hit in the head by a wayward pigeon.

"The doctors think I'll recover," Barb told The Enterprise & Observer in an exclusive interview. "But I'm never walking under open skies again."

John Dinan, city manager, seemed apprehensive that the recently-installed bright yellow trashcans might attract more birds. He also seemed worried that the "Welcome to Farmington" signs would encourage more fly-by-night operations.



Never have so many been honored by so many just because a few pigeons flew the coop. Bill Bowman of Thompson-Brown, sponsor of the pigeon race for the Founders Festival, gave away the trophies after Thursday's results were in. In lower left panel Jim Hampton and Tom Dean (center) pick up the first place trophy for Jerry Hodak of WJBK-TV. In lower right panel Tom Michaels of WCAR gets Wayne Phillips' second-place trophy. And directly opposite on the right, Bob Allison of WWJ, the "chicken" winner, tries to sneak away with his pigeon. Allison muttered something about being hungry. Allison won his trophy when his pigeon ran under a car instead of flying away. Last place trophies—horse mounted in gold—were also awarded, though the winners declined to pose with them. Defending champion Bill Kennedy of Channel 9 (not shown) filed a complaint because his bird had a 10-pound metal tag on its leg. The winning pigeon flew 35 miles to its home roost in Belleville in 22 minutes, 38 seconds.



On the wings of a dirty-gray pigeon...



Photos By Ralph Evert



Who was that masked bird?

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