

“Never Say Die” The Clausing Story

©By Silvio Mattacchione BA MA

Great occasions do not make heroes or cowards; they simply unveil them to the eyes of men. Silently and imperceptibly, as we wake or sleep, we grow strong or weak; and at last some crisis shows what we have become. ~Brooke Foss Westcott



I think it safe to say that most fanciers worldwide have heard of David Clausing and his one loft and futurity racing exploits, however the vast majority are unaware of the tragic accident that changed the direction of his life forever. “Motocross” racing was in his blood but clearly it was never meant to be and events, call it fate, took him down a very different road and a very, very different form of racing. Without this knowledge and insight into **“Clausing the man”** it is impossible to truly appreciate his unique creation **“Clausing the racing pigeon”**!

On that fateful day his entire world changed forever, shattered along with his back. Everything he thought he was and could be instantly erased. His hopes, his dreams, all that he expected of his life gone in an instant. He struggled to understand why had this happened. Afraid, physically and emotionally shattered all he could do was cry. How could this have happened and what was he supposed to do now?

It was a cold Wisconsin winter day, a day just like any other day or so it had started. Trail riding with a group of local friends the unthinkable would come to pass and in a moment all would seem lost. The 6th of January 1980 is etched in David’s mind as one filled with great joy as he received the incredible news from his wife that morning, that they were expecting their first child, followed later that same day by tragedy for the 6th was also the day that young David Clausing broke his back. He was only 25 years old, married with a birthday coming up and a child on the way. How could that day have started off so incredibly and ended so tragically?

“My accident happened as I was practicing motocross with metal screws in my dirt bikes tires, which allowed for good traction and high speeds in the frozen icy wintery conditions in Wisconsin. I was leading a small group of my local friends trail riding, and a ditch buried in snow to look ground level, got me. I was caught by surprise as the front wheel of my bike sunk through the snow into the ditch, thus causing a big bad flip, and landing on the plowed furrows of concrete like frozen dirt. Such an accident in other than the dead of frozen winter would have allowed the dirt to be forgiving and absorb much of the impact, but in the cold cruel winter the frozen dirt makes it like landing on rocks.~ David Clausing”

Young David and Anna Clausing, in their prime and with a joy for living were set to pursue a fun filled, exciting lifestyle. They loved motocross, racing on the weekends with David winning local races and with plans to turn professional and eventually break into the national races.

“... On the way home we stopped at a nice steak house restaurant, I crawled in and sat down at the booth. After a couple of minutes everybody quit staring and went about their meals, but this was mentally monumental for me, as for the first time I was without a wheelchair in a public place, I felt like my old self. We hired a therapist to come to the house and I was later fitted with long rigid leg braces and crutches, and the wheelchair was sold off, good riddance. Muscularly when one thing gets working, something else starts. When that gets working, then another thing starts. As I had joined a gym I continued to make progress, and all of the people were so helpful and reinforcing, and I mean everybody including the gym workers and the regular people there just for a workout. Eventually I got down to short ankle only braces and crutches, then canes, then one cane, then no canes. This all took several years, and I still continue with going to the gym an average of five days a week, always striving to be as good as what I can be.”

~David Clausing

Emergency surgery was followed by the surgeons depressing prognosis advising David that he was and would remain paralyzed from the waist down with no chance of recovery, that as a paraplegic **“statistically speaking”** he would most likely only survive five years and lose his young wife within the first year and to top it all off his income would most likely never exceed \$2.00 per hour!

David’s fearful reaction to this catastrophic news was to be expected:

“My most immediate fears were that these highly educated doctors would be correct about all of the bad future I could be left with... I had lived a good active and athletic life... now it was all gone. What kind of father could I be, unable to teach my son to run and everything else that I had always... taken for granted?” ~David Clausing

It is only in these life threatening circumstances that most of us ever really learn to appreciate the true value of all that **“Providence”** has so graciously provided us with. Health being the first without which all else matters not. For 50 long days David Clausing was confined to the hospital. If it had not been for his wife “Anna Marie”, his parents, family and his friends all would have been lost. A positive outlook and plan for his future was essential to his eventual healing and the maintenance of David’s emotional equilibrium. Anna was the **“rock”** that secured David.

*“After Anna would care for our birds in the morning she came in to visit me in the hospital each of the 50 days I was in there. **She would lift my spirits with her positive attitude, and assured me that I was not going to be one of their normal negative statistics.** A positive attitude is really a prerequisite for any progress in anything, and I would come out of my*

depression and feel much better with her around motivating me.”~ David Clausing

David Clausing was determined to live as normal a life as possible and even more determined to eventually free him of his wheelchair and one day walk again. It all started with a small but controllable upper thigh twitch:

“...I had been working on trying to move muscles in my legs mentally, before it ever became a physical reality... In the weightless environment in water that weak twitch makes for noticeable movement, which is not only exercise, but for a positive mental reinforcement of present progress with more hopefully to come.”~ David Clausing

Over a period of several years with incredible determination and sheer force of will coupled with the total and positive support of Anna as well as his family friends and associates and the distancing of himself from all things negative (and that included his nay saying statistic quoting doctors) he was finally able to walk! David was intent upon “not becoming another statistic” he was an individual; he could overcome the adversity and emerge a stronger and more loving human being. The key it seems is David’s relentless “striving to be the best that he can be” and doing all that is necessary to attain his goal.

In time the young Clausing couple decided to try and turn David’s childhood hobby (show poultry) into an actual business. Oddly enough though I had (prior to the preparation for the research and writing of this article) never before spoken personally to David Clausing even though it turns out that through my publishing company I had in fact supplied (both directly and indirectly) books on poultry to the Clausing’s bird supply business in both Wisconsin and Florida.

“... the birds were changed from a hobby into a business. While I was still in a wheelchair we started our bird, and bird supply business. We started with \$100 of vaccines that we bought to resell at a local weekend poultry show. After making \$50 profit we invested that along with the \$100 and bought chicken bands and sold them the next weekend. Each week we added the profit in and built upon our slowly but steadily increasing business. As our business was growing we added mail order also. We sold biologicals, pharmaceuticals, books, bands, feeders, waters, incubators, brooders, everything for birds. ...”~ David Clausing

The Clausing’s slowly and methodically built their supply business and travelled around the country each weekend to both chicken and bird shows of all kinds. Seven years after his accident the Clausing’s moved from Wisconsin to Florida. They continued to build their business including mail order supplies added beef cattle and then began to get serious about fighting chickens and racing pigeons. In fact another one of my own book resellers Mr. Art Zernia played a significant role during those years thus inspiring David’s decision to begin both his poultry supply business as well as trying his hand at racing pigeons.

“Even though I had the racing pigeons for many, many years, I never started racing them until in the early 1980s. After my back breaking accident I met some special pigeon people. A guy was at our home to fix our well, and was asking me about our chickens. He asked if they win much, as he seen the trophies and ribbons in our home. I told him that we won \$25 for champion of the

Wisconsin State fair. He told me his son had just won \$100 in a pigeon race. I was amazed that you could win \$100 for winning a pigeon race, and he told me no, it was \$5000 for first place; his prize was much lower than that. I was astonished that there was that kind of potential, and that to be a great pigeon breeder, must be worth a lot more than being a chicken breeder.” ~ David Clausing

For eleven years (seven in Wisconsin and an additional four in Florida) success totally eluded him.

“... Art Zernia, who was a pigeon racer and owned and operated a pigeon supply business in addition to his regular job as a plumber.... gave me some birds to start breeding from, and I started racing the children the next year. I didn't take the pigeons too seriously though... After racing pigeons very much part time and halfheartedly for seven years in Wisconsin then four years after we moved to Florida, I became more interested and more serious about...” ~ David Clausing

When he finally did become serious about winning David concluded that he could never make progress with mediocre pigeons and the situation really called for genetically superior stock. Without which he was doomed to perpetual failure. His good friend Art Zernia told him about a bloodline that was winning for a mutual friend of theirs in Wisconsin, Daryl Bruckner and so

David contacted Daryl and inquired as to the source of his success.



Anna Clausing and IF National Champion 1994,
“Anna Marie”

“I called Darryl and asked what his new secret was, and he told me that it was a Houben strain....I decided to buy my first pedigreed racing pigeons, and I put in my order with my ex neighbor Daryl.” ~ David Clausing

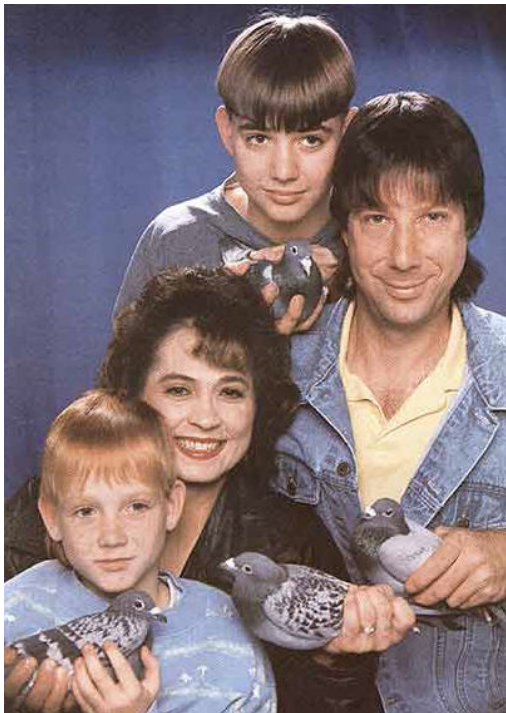
By 1991 David Clausing finally decided to get serious about the sport and used some of the profits from the supply business to purchase what he hoped was better genetic racing pigeon stock.

Those original Houben (The Janssen Brothers and the Houben family actually drew their respective lines from the same original source Von Ceulemans) were original imports purchased from Daryl Bruckner of Wisconsin in 1991 who had himself acquired them through Mike Ganus. The first progeny of these Houben line pigeons were raced in Florida in 1992 to the great consternation

of his 30 member local club. In short order David and Anna won 6 out of ten club races with the

youngsters out of those Bruckner pigeons. In 1993 he bred and raced his first Hall of Fame winner and in 1994 he had successfully bred and raced his first #1 National Champion “**Anna Marie**” whom he named after his wife Anna. David’s wife Anna Marie played and continues to play a pivotal role in both David recovery and his ever growing winnings.

“In 1994 when we won seven of 10 combine races, and had our first National Champion, I named the champion after my wife Anna Marie. In the mornings I would take our bird’s road training while my wife cleaned lofts. I would call her to let her know the expected arrival time of our young birds, and she would coax them in to get them used to quick trapping. We did the same thing in late afternoon, but for shorter training tosses.” ~ David Clausing



It is clear that the whole Clausing family enjoys the racing pigeons and that they are very supportive of their respective interests and thus support each other’s efforts. According to David one of the great people in their local club is Dick Bachman who was always helpful and generous with his expertise and support in always setting the record straight. That year David had become dismayed with the poor sportsmanship of most of his club members and seriously considered actually quitting .It is at this point that the Clausing Line story begins in earnest and continues unabated to the present!

“Then our third year in 1994 flying these birds we won seven of 10, combine races. As we were learning both about the parts of our family of birds, and handling, we got to be too good. We were too good for the majority of the club members who became nasty and belligerent with their jealousy about our birds and their results. I

told Luc Houben that it had become no fun and that I was going to quit racing. I was into my second year of selling pigeons, to recoup my bird purchases costs. Luc asked if I knew that there are people winning off of the pigeons I was selling, and that some of them are now ordering direct from Houben because of the results they were getting from the Clausing Line. Luc told me about more of my customers who were winning one loft races already from my birds, than I knew about. He talked me into sending a couple of birds to a Las Vegas race, which we were, co-winners at. I had ventured \$400 to enter my two birds, and came away with over \$8900 for the co-winner.” ~ David Clausing

It really is interesting to note that the best and most pre-potent were not purchased from the Houben family directly (even though David eventually purchased and thoroughly tested almost 300 Houben imports) but rather from the original birds purchased from Daryl Bruckner of Wisconsin. After Clausings

incredible 1992 season he returned to Bruckner in the fall of 1992 and bought Darryl out to the tune of 33 birds that included **“ZIKO”**.

“All of my most consistent results came from children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren and so on of a bird named Ziko. My first pigeon purchase was in 1991 from Daryl Bruckner, and when I had my first winning race season after 11 winless years, I went back and bought him out that next year. My Ziko was one of the 33 imported birds that I got in Darryl's complete sellout”. ~ David Clausing

1994					
Local races club and combine results					
Race Date	Number of Lofts	Number of Birds	Miles	Positions	Level
1 10/09/94	23 27	334 414	106.069	1,2,3,5,6,7 1,2,3,5,6,7	Club Combine
2 10/16/94	23 27	297 368	130.596	6,8 12,14	Club Combine
3 10/23/94	20 24	315 386	130.596	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	Club Combine
4 10/30/94	19 23	290 363	171.725	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	Club Combine
5 11/06/94	21 24	265 312	171.725	1,2,3,4,5,6 1,2,3,4,5,6	Club Combine
6 11/12/94	17 21	178 239	130.596	2,4,5 4,6,7	Club Combine
7 11/19/94	19 23	223 275	216.629	3,4 9,11	Club Combine
8 11/26/94	21 25	274 336	267.077	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10	Club Combine
9 12/03/94	14 17	118 154	267.077	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	Club Combine
10 12/10/94	7 7	95 95	130.596	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	Club Combine

Club member Dick Bachman in a letter to the Editor of the Racing Pigeon Digest that appeared in the April 2003 issue stated as follows:

“I doubt if any flyer had a better season against good competition. He won seven out of ten regular season races .For three races he didn't win, he was 2nd 3rd, and 6th .For most of the races he had five to ten birds in the clock before anyone else had one. The weather and wind direction made no difference. His pigeons were simply superior to any others, and I thought we had some good ones”~ Dick Bachman

We discovered a very important point that I dare say is a lesson to us all, I pointed this very same issue out in my recently published book **“Kingmaker”** so was fascinated to see that the very same thing had happened in this case that lead to the purchase of what may be one of the most important racing pigeon foundation and performance breeders of all time. As we know Clausings **“Ziko”** was one of the original 33 Houben purchased by David from Wisconsin racing pigeon fancier *Daryl Bruckner*. He is also the single most important pigeon ever purchased by David or anyone else for that matter. **“Ziko”** became the foundation sire of what was soon to become a distinct line or family that should more rightly be referred to as the **“Clausing Line”** founded on the Houben base but I would insist distinct from it in so many fundamental ways as to make genetically and immunologically totally superior to its origin. How does someone let a jewel like that go? Well the reality, (regardless of what the pundits and alleged experts claim) is that no one can truly judge either the breeding or racing ability of any animal regardless of his alleged expertise using only visual cues.

“The basis of the Clausing family of pigeons is the Houben strain, mostly from Daryl. In a matter of less than two years my Ziko was sold by Houben to Mike Ganus, and then traded to Daryl, all before any of those experts had him long enough to see the results of what he was producing.”~ David Clausing

I remember addressing this very issue many years ago in an article entitled **“Successfully Breeding The Racing Pigeon”**. It is worth rereading it because the experts in this case made this very fundamental error but Clausing reserved judgment until performance made possible a truly informed decision.

“Rule 5: Two pigeons in one!”

Do not be fooled-and almost everyone is-when handling and evaluating a pigeon. Most people pick up a pigeon, pull its beak, (I'd like to pull your nose and see what I can conclude from this); force open its mouth (yes, I have confirmed the existence of a tongue and throat); open its wings (recognize nothing and close them knowingly); and comment on its weak vents (yet I have never seen vents not up to their purpose) and/or weak back (not knowing that the back is actually between the birds shoulders). These real experts look at a pigeon's eye or eyes (in reality all they can do is confirm that yes it has two), and then either proceed to have an orgasm or declare that they have better.

The reality is that no one can conclude anything from the physical makeup of two equally well-constructed pigeons. If you are honest, you can, in reality, only confirm to someone your own personal subjective preferences. Not all opinions are of equal importance or value, all by definition are subjective; but the corollary of this is not that all opinions are of equal value because the truth is that they are not (see stock sense).

Now in each pigeon there are actually two pigeons: the one physically that you see, and the hidden bird that you have no way of seeing, and therefore no way of judging.

When you evaluate a bird, you must of necessity evaluate both what you see in front of you and what is in the bird and you cannot see. In horses this is often called heart. If you misjudge this you lose your chance to own the champion.

For example, in 1960, a small horse was born in Oshawa, Ontario. As a yearling, he was offered for sale for \$25,000 (Canadian) and there were no takers. His owner retained him, trained, and raced him. In 1963, Northern Dancer won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness went on to become the most pre-potent sire in all history. I watched at a yearling sale as his sons and daughters sold for between \$1.5 and \$3 million (U.S.) each. E.P. Taylor would eventually refuse \$40 million (U.S.) for the Dancer. He founded a dynasty worldwide and single-handedly created a horse industry in Canada.

My point is that all of the experts and fender fixers evaluated the horse that they saw, and not the one that they couldn't, and they were all wrong: Most pigeon enthusiasts are all wrong!"

~`Silvio Mattacchione from "Successfully Breeding The Racing Pigeon" <http://www.silvio-co.com/pigeons/breeding.htm>

How did "**Ziko**" become the Foundation Sire of the Clausing line? It was clearly not by accident but rather a case of detailed observation, evaluation, performance and design. Once the superiority of the breeding potential of "**Ziko**" became clear David acted to devise and institute a methodical breeding plan to thus produce as many direct possible with all of his best operation, planned and smallest detail. Many "Stallion System"

"Our (Clausing Line) of incredible results everywhere fortunate to get the "right" excellence in extreme accident either. Importing

birds, sorting through the masses, breeding, racing, proving and selecting has formed this family of ours. We built up to a peak of 2000 birds from 1994 through 1998 and then began to cut our number in half each year and did. Now leaving only 125 of the best (as of the writing of this article in July 2013 David has reduced his colony to only 60 exceptional specimens). The results come from about 2% of the original breeders and thinning down to that small select group has compounded our consistency. The results and wins pointed the direction for the breeding plan and fantastic successes." ~ David Clausing

*"To improve your hit
rate you need to breed
youngsters from your
superior pigeons"
~David Clausing*

line-breed and inbreed and children of "Ziko" as hens. It was akin to a military methodically executed to the referred to it as the Clausing

Houben pigeons have made in the world. We were birds so necessary for competition. This was not by and owning hundreds of

The masses of birds bred from the original imports were not for selling purposes they were required in order to properly test the genetic and performance abilities of each bird imported. Selection was made by results alone, not by pedigree or ego or personal preference our misplaced theories. All were selected via performance and for 4 years huge numbers were bred so that all pairs could be properly tested. All were bred in individual (chicken) cages that many laughed at, at the time but I assure you those who laughed had no idea of the incredible planning, methodical recording of data and its continuous evaluation all, leading inevitably to one evidence

“One loft races are tests for superior genetics: the proof is in the performance...I was very lucky to get some very super breeders, and skillful enough to form my most successful and consistent family around them”

~David Clausing

based conclusion. The evidence became clear quickly “Ziko” was the breeding force that emerged, yet he was the bird sold by Houben to Ganus and then traded by Ganus to Daryl Bruckner. Houben, Ganus, Bruckner all evaluated Ziko on visual characteristics and only Clausing evaluated all of the birds on results alone. Hopefully you understand the lesson herein? Once that was clear the breeding direction became self-evident. The chicken cages that assured parentage and immunological superiority had proven a critical role. Unorthodox at the time but no less brilliant. In 1994 and 1995 the Clausings trained almost 200 young birds, an enormous number but necessary to test the many, many individual pairs of breeders. In 1995 and 1996 they had over 120 individually caged breeding pairs. Some visitors laughed some denigrated David’s novel methods, all failed to recognize and appreciate the then novel approach. No one is laughing now and many successful fanciers now copy this approach.

Recently we have seen major high profile instances of questionable parentage leading many auction houses to insist on DNA testing and confirmation! Clausings method would have eliminated the stress and heartbreak that others have gone through.

My departed friend and author Bob Kinney made some important observations in a cover story that he wrote about Clausing decades ago.

“Dave Clausing has done something few of the big name pigeon sellers have been willing to do. That is he has cut to a center cream of his family of birds...It isn’t so much that others are bad, they were just not up to a standard and it is and always will be that the average birds will hurt the loft much more than culls...You either go backwards or forward. The average will take you backwards. David Clausing is going forward and his stock proves it against the best competition in the WORLD.” ~Robert L. Kinney, Owner/Editor The Thoroughbred

David Clausing has been developing a family of immunological superior (stress resistant birds that depend on their own innate superior constitutions) racing pigeons for some 30 years now. From the very beginning, though totally misunderstood by almost everyone who viewed his operation, David designed his testing to quickly separate the wheat from the chaff. David was extremely tough on his breeding stock because he needed to ensure that his least efficient future breeders were quickly identified and thus removed from his breeding program as soon as possible. We are all familiar with the saying *“you’re only as*

“Over the years from Bruckner and Houben and other sources, I have owned over 320 Houben imported breeding pigeons. Anymore, I have descendants of only four of the cocks and 15 of the hens. The most consistent quality breeders came in that first group, when I bought out Darrell. Everything I own today goes back to two of those cocks 6277564 Ziko, and 6277488 and a few hens of that original group including my number one foundation breeder Ziko.”

~David Clausing

strong as your weakest link” that in fact is true and the fact is that most fanciers worldwide fail to act upon this truth, that is they fail to immediately remove these inferior specimens from their gene pool when said stock is identified .

In hindsight it is now personally do not will find a breeding was as focused or as tougher than anywhere in the Because of the way pigeons have been and raised, they have diverse locations and management conditions around the world.



safe to say that I believe that you program that tough or Clausings world. Clausings bred, developed succeeded in under various

All of David’s consistent results came from children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren and so on of a bird named Ziko. He skillfully created a family centered on Ziko. In fact this had become his first priority. If he was to progress, genetically he needed to mate the best to the best. A very obvious and important example of successful inbreeding is the fact that two of the four number One Ace birds of the Sun City Million Dollar Pigeon race for his customers came from a mating with Ziko when mated to one of these best breeding daughters. It is obvious, once you study the pedigrees that David was able to concentrate the most desirable genetic traits of his most successfully and most pre-potent producers. Inbreeding and line breeding is a great tool when used with the best breeding birds only.

Clausing’s Ziko derived from some of Houben’s most famous lines, including his mother who was a daughter of their most famous seven-time winner, Young Artist. It did not take long for Clausing to realize that this might be the key, so he bought several more direct children from Young Artist, only to discover that Ziko was indeed unique! In personal conversations Clausing expressed that the son of Ziko named **“King David”** actually bred better than his father Ziko, and another son of Ziko, and half-brother to King David, named **“Dana”** produced even more consistently.

In 1993 Clausing bred his first Hall of Fame bird and his nest sister won first and second, three weeks in a row and he stopped racing him after that early part of his career, and named him Early Retirement. They later became named King David and Queen Anna. After the second

consecutive weeks wins he looked to see who the parents of King David and Queen Anna were? The sire to King David was Ziko 6277564. The sire to Queen Anna was 6277488. Queen Anna and her most important brother 1883 of 1995 are also in the pedigrees of every bird Clausing has

bred in the last few years. These combinations will remain in his bloodline forever I am told.



“After the third consecutive wins I stopped the racing careers of Early Retirement and his nest sister Blue Lightning as I knew I had something extremely special already. They had beaten lots of competition, but more importantly to me, they had beaten all of my other birds as well, and remember I had a huge race team back then. My conservative worries were that maybe club members were right, and would these

birds be late at middle-distance, or might they get lost at long distance? I wanted to be sure I would still have them for the future as breeders, just in case something bad could happen to the parents and or grandparents before I formed a family around them. To stock these unbeaten young racers, was at this time a conservative no-brainer decision.” ~David Clausing

Clausing has been accused of line breeding and inbreeding more than almost anybody, however it is the method that produced many national champions (poultry) in show birds for him. It was only natural that he would employ this same methodology on his racing pigeons.

“I was no geneticist, everything was trial and error, and the race results led my direction for the future. And of course the more results I got from these methods, the more I would use them, compounding this all the way to the present. When I bred show birds, and especially bantam chickens, I used artificial insemination to mass produce from the best sires. I always knew and felt it was most important to get the major productivity from the most superior individuals. This was common sense and I remember on my grandparent’s dairy farm that they only kept one most superior bull.” ~David Clausing

Inbreeding and line breeding were really only part of the program the other vitally key element was the fact that Clausing sought to produce the greatest numbers of progeny from only his very best stock. Sounds simple but believe me this concept is rarely applied in actual fact.

“All important priorities revolve around the proven pre-potent super breeder. Sometimes it can be the least beautiful specimen, but can outbreed all of its more beautiful siblings.” ~David Clausing

During those early years and in many cases even today many denigrate the methods employed by Clausing and in doing so expose their own ignorance and incompetence to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear. The methods developed in 1994 by Clausing are still employed by him, unchanged, to this day!

“When superior results are obtained from a breeding pair, it is always the question of is it him or is it her? This question would always torment me into switching the mating’s, and seeing which were still giving the great racing results to their children. Once you know the answers, you know who you need to mass-produce from. I did not have the easy results with artificial insemination of pigeons, so I started to play with the bull or polygamous system. It was just a bit of trial and error, and I found what worked well for me. Today I do it much the same as when I started this with my pigeons back in 1994. Each hen has her own cage, and the cock is just rotated to his different hens in their cages. It takes a while for each of the cocks and hens to understand their jobs. The polygamous cocks and their hens are not used to sit the eggs or raise the babies. Other foster pairs are used for those duties.” ~David Clausing

Nor was Clausing one to sit on his laurels or past achievements. No matter how important or pre-potent the breeder he always looked to improve upon it. Once he definitively identified the genetically and performance improved progeny he did not allow emotion to cloud his judgment so very, very key pigeons were regularly sold to customers and friends who could make good use of these older superstars. So it was with both Ziko himself as well as King David.

“I sold my Ziko and King David in 2002 when Ziko was 12 and King David was 10 years old. My friend and customer Tersia Engelbrecht in South Africa bought them inexpensively because of their age. I informed her that they were each starting to miss fertilizing some eggs, and that Ziko was showing signs of arthritis, and I was distressed to watch them age. One of the very wisest men I have ever had the pleasure of being friends with, was Dr. Gene Thomas. When he did the health papers for the shipment of these birds to go to South Africa, he asked me why if these birds have done so much for me, how is it that I could ever part with them? I could only explain that it is because they have done so much for me, that I could let them go and easily carry on with their very many children and grandchildren for the future, as they were also proving to be very super pre-potent breeders.” ~David Clausing

So the birds were sold to South Africa to an exceptional loft but how did they impact the world class Engelbrecht loft? I was not long in discovering the positive results as they were written by the internationally known pigeon journalist Mr. Thomas Smith for the Western Cape Pigeon Racing organization in South Africa and you can find the entire article at this URL http://www.westerncapepigeonracing.co.za/tersia_engelbrecht.htm

“David & Anna Clausing have stunned the racing pigeon fraternity by leading the pace in the Million Dollar prize pay-out package with their staggering results in this event. Since inception of the race in 1997 a summary of some of the top results that the Clausing have scored are: 1st, 3rd, 4th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 36th, 45th, 58th, 68th, 90th, 93rd, 99th – and numerous other places in the top 250 cash prize positions. The win which came in 2003 with their pigeon named, ‘Never Say Die’ netted them a cool US\$ 200 000 in hard cash.”

~Thomas Smith

“The American Connection (Dave Clausing)

Amongst a flock of world class stock at the Engelbrechts loft they also proudly own two of the Worlds most celebrated foundation stud Sire’s: ‘Ziko’ and his son ‘King David’. They were purchased from the World renowned breeder, the American champion, Dave Clausing. ‘Ziko’ & ‘King David’ are two of the World’s most prolific breeders responsible for paramount racers and breeders of ace racers equaled to the best of the best in Europe & the rest of the World at large. These famed specimens, globally known as ‘Clausings’, have a success history in the pigeon racing fraternity unequalled to any other strain or family of pigeons in the World today. The Engelbrechts sold several Clausings between R6, 000-00 – R15, 000-00 each to earn back some of the capital invested in the purchase of their Clausings. The Clausings are a blend of the following Belgium strains: Houbens (originating from Jeff, Luc & Nadia Houben), Gommaire Verbruggen, the Janssens Brothers and Imbrecht.” ~ Thomas Smith

‘Clausings’ – the Money-Makers

In organized lofts over the World, known as One-Loft Races, (in SA also called National lofts), pigeon fanciers enter their newly weaned youngsters to be homed and trained from these lofts to compete for cash prize money. Besides a number of pre-final flights during the training period to get the birds in shape and experienced, the ‘big’ money is paid on the final race, (or main) flight. The ‘Clausings’ hold the record for the most One-loft winners in the World. In South Africa the Engelbrechts have scored a win and several positions at the top in only a few years of participation in the National races with their ‘Clausings’. One of these organized races is the International Sun City Million Dollar Pigeon Race, held annually in South Africa – known as the richest pigeon race in the World of all times. It offers a combined cash prize pay-out of US\$ 1Million plus 5 brand new motor cars and 350 ways to win. It is dubbed as the tour de France of pigeon racing. The cream of more than 30 countries of the world’s best is entered here to stand the supreme test of quality against each other. David & Anna Clausing have stunned the racing pigeon fraternity by leading the pace in the Million Dollar prize pay-out package with their staggering results in this event. Since inception of the race in 1997 a summary of some of the top results that the Clausings have scored are: 1st, 3rd, 4th, 24th, 26th, 26th, 36th, 45th, 58th, 68th, 90th, 93rd, 99th – and numerous other places in the top 250 cash prize positions. The win

which came in 2003 with their pigeon named, ‘Never Say Die’ netted them a cool US\$ 200 000 in hard cash. Their own results & and those of others with ‘Clausings’ will fill all the pages of this magazine. As opposed to fainting during their flight in the heat of the day, they kiss the morning sun.” ~Thomas Smith

At almost 60 years of age David Clausing still demands as much or more of himself as he does of his superior collection of the winning-est one loft and futurity family of racing pigeons in the world. This recent facebook photo attests to his determination and the “*Never Say Die*” attitude that has taken a once broken young man of 25 to the very pinnacle in the field of global performance racing pigeons.

Downtown Athletic Club's Photos

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Downtown Athletic Club

David Clausing doing lat pulldowns here at DAC. For max effect, David leans back slightly and pulls the bar to his upper chest, squeezing the lat, or upper back muscles, while also hitting the biceps.

Album: [Downtown Athletic Club's Photos in Timeline Photos](#)

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The fact that David Clausing raised champion show poultry from a very early age gave him unique insights and a range of novel tools that others steeped in the fancy would never have known let alone ever considered. It seems to me that David may have had an advantage because he was not weighed down by an entire mythology, ill proven methodology and a tradition of mediocrity. Though he had no formal training in genetics he had certainly perfected a common sense approach to genetics gained through intensive trial and error. Thousands of birds were bred

“You either go backwards or you go forward. The average will take you backwards if you want the very best in the world. David Clausning is going forward and his stock proves it against the best competition in the WORLD.”

~Bob Kinney

“From when I started with the one loft races in 1995, over the next decade I could genuinely say I have more wins than anybody, and especially if you factor in international race wins including even winning what most people consider the ultimate, the Million Dollar Pigeon Race.”

~David Clausning

and thoroughly performance tested as he sought a few rare jewels. His approach reminded me of what I wrote so long ago.

“Champions are rare! Pre-potent champions are the rarest of the rare. They are rarely recognized by anyone regardless of his confidence, experience, selecting abilities, or manifold self-proclaimed studies. How often have I been called by novice and expert alike and had described to me in minutest detail the results of selection processes that proclaim so-and-so's loft to have an above average number of world class pigeons? Imagine an absolute plethora of world class pigeons in one loft alone! The novice and old pro alike are delighted, they have been stroked, their egos inflated, they have a loft full of world class pigeons. They have just been deprived of reason, judgment, insight, direction, and knowledge. They have walked into a closed-ended trap and the light was turned off. They have accepted and filled their nostrils to overflowing with the sizzle and will never taste the steak, let alone digest it! This happens continuously-the blind deluding the blind.”

~ Silvio Mattacchione, “Successfully Breeding The Racing Pigeon”
<http://www.silvio-co.com/pigeons/breeding.htm>



The reality is that good fortune played a key role and insured that Clausning acquired a genetic masterpiece (**ZIKO**) that had been rejected by a series of experts that included the original breeder. Clausning by operating on the basis of selection alone, consistent, superior, repeatable performance identified the quality of “Ziko” when

others had failed to do so. Then he instituted a campaign to, at the very least, replicate or if possible actually improve this “**genetic treasure**” and insure that it would flow unimpeded through the generations. Against the odds David Clausing succeeded to both replicate and unbelievably to actually improve the genetic base and has continued to do so for almost 30 years and over seven generations now. Clausing demonstrated not only great skill in forming a hugely successful and totally consistent winning family but I would actually credit him with brilliance in this arena! In 2003 the headlines on the May 2003 issue of “The Racing Pigeon Digest” focused on the actual reality of what David and Anna Clausing had succeeded to accomplish. Winning is in fact in the genes and it is a heritable quality and the unique Clausing line has it in spades and so long as his methodology and program is followed the Clausing Line will continue to dominate the one loft and futurity racing worldwide as it has now done since the very first running of the Sun City Million!

Winning is in the Genes- Dave Clausing, 2003 Winner of the Million Dollar Race!

As the dominance of the Clausing line became ever more apparent the Houben family made a point of visiting David in Florida. They were interested to discover what was “**doing it**” for Clausing as well as viewing his overall operation. A number of things emerged from this visit. First the Houbens were rather surprised and greatly mystified that “**Ziko**” was in fact the Kingpin of Clausings entire strategy. Why? Well because the Houbens had essentially eliminated this line from their colony as they believed that it was totally unproductive.

“The Houben family (Luc and his wife Monique, and Luc's sister Nadia and her husband Robert and their daughter Cindy), were to our Nocatee, Florida ranch two different days in 1997, during a trip for them to the USA. I took Luc into a loft that had about 70 young birds in it and he said that they all looked like brothers and sisters. I told him that at least some of them were full brothers and sisters but they were all at least half siblings, as they were all from our polygamous mating's from Ziko. They did not ask to acquire any of those, but did get a few birds still from the Ziko lines at other times.” ~ David Clausing

Additionally they were no doubt shocked to see pair after pair under the oak trees in wire cages seemingly un-phased by either the Florida heat, nor humidity nor the Florida rain. They were amazed that their health was unaffected by these extreme conditions.

“Selective breeding of anything involves many directions and choices... producing excellent world-class racing pigeons involves many variables such as; speed, stamina, intelligence, orientation abilities, heart or desire, and health or superior immune system. Racing events are

tremendously stressful, and the winners are those that have the best combinations of the important and desired qualities. As I became more interested in the racing pigeons, it was ...usual I had more pigeons than facilities or housing, until I started cutting back in years later. On a visit to our place in 1997, Luc Houben asked me about some birds that I had in cages on the grass under oak trees. It rained almost half a foot last night, and these birds have no covers on their cages, what happens to them? I told Luc that they just get 6 inches of rain dumped down over their heads and backs. He asked don't they get sick? I told Luc that the majority of birds produced from their best working bloodlines for me did not, and those would be strong birds usable for breeding, but not the others. Luc and most people believe this is an extreme method of selection, but so is nature and so is the rigors of racing. As I had too many pigeons for the facilities back then, it was just another test at that time. Over the years I can say that my best breeders have never had a bad day, never sick and never a problem,... ~ David Clausing

David Clausing developed by judicious selection and keen observation and relentless real world performance testing a family of immunological superior (stress resistant birds that depend on their own innate superior constitutions) racing pigeons. Most who visited his ranch were so hamstrung by convention that they were unable to look outside of the matrix or construct that had been forged by generations of fanciers all doing the same things in the same way and thinking they were cutting edge. When they in fact actually saw “cutting edge” they not only did not recognize it but they in most cases denigrated what they had seen! Recently I had discussions in Canada where certain fanciers still have this totally negative view without realizing that this coupled with constant performance testing in one loft race events was in fact one of the necessary keys to real success.

“Results of children and or grandchildren in races and or in breeding pens, ultimately, all we care about is race results...Pedigrees were not real important at first, but after finding which birds produce the best ones, it became the priority. Where the winning racing results comes from is so important, as that points the direction to concentrate the future breeding on. ~David Clausing

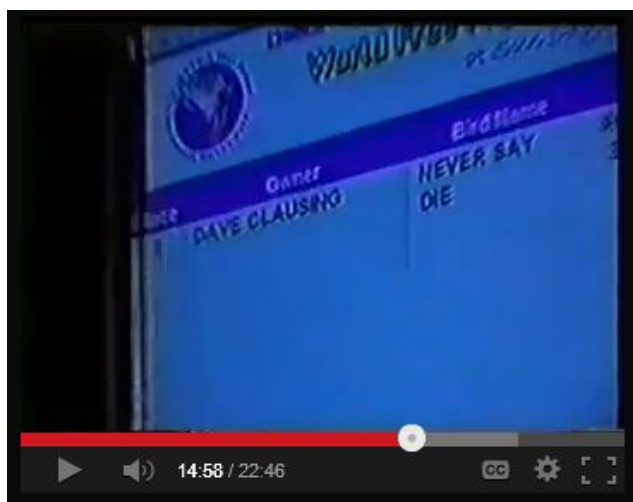


Figure 1 "Clausing and his "Never Say Die" win 1st overall at 2003 Sun City Million Dollar Pigeon race

David is a veritable storehouse of statistics on his birds, their results and their pedigrees as the importance of very detailed record keeping of what each male and female produces in the breeding pens was drilled into him long ago. Good records are the very lifeline of a successful breeding operation. These notes will indeed help you in your efforts to mass produce the very best results!

There is certainly no second guessing who has won more One Loft Races than any

person in the world and when I asked David Clausning this question directly he answered as follows:

*“From when I started with the one loft races in 1995, over the next decade I could genuinely say I have more wins than anybody, and especially if you factor in international race wins including even winning what most people consider the ultimate, the Million Dollar Pigeon Race. We unfortunately suffered a pigeon theft in 2005. And fortunately for us they missed the best breeders, but it made me worry what if they hadn't? If all my birds were gone I would want to start over, but I know that at my age I wouldn't have the ambition to breed from 120 individual pairs, to sort through so many birds to get down to the very best. To have so many customers winning with my birds is as big an ego trip for me as winning myself. It is much easier for customers to win with my birds, as I have so many good customers getting great results. As an example I have only had the number one Ace in the million dollar pigeon race one time, and second Ace two times, but customers have done it from birds that I have owned, three times already. **And this is not to mention six car wins for my customers**, and I have never won one. And a lot of people don't understand that if I have maybe three birds in a race, and my customers collectively might have 30 or maybe even 300 in a really big race like the million dollar pigeon race. Big numbers of customers are racing against me and I am not going to beat them all most of the time, and I am really fine and happy with that fact. ~David Clausning*

Clausning holds Million Dollar World Record – Most Birds in Top 50 of FINAL RACE in 4 Years (2002 to 2005)

Position	Name of pigeon	Breeder
3	VALENTIN	
Clocked	01/26/02 07:46 PM	Bred by DAVE CLAUSING
36	WOVEN CROWN	
Clocked	01/27/02 10:12 AM	Bred by DAVE CLAUSING
1	NEVER SAY DIE	
Clocked	02/08/03 03:46 PM	Bred by DAVE CLAUSING
26	MOON INGRAVER	
Clocked	02/08/03 04:49 PM	Bred by DAVE CLAUSING
24	WATER NYMPH	
Clocked	02/07/04 03:30 PM	Bred by DAVE CLAUSING
26	PRONTISIMO	
Clocked	02/07/04 03:30 PM	Bred by DAVE CLAUSING
45	WHERE'S TAYLOR	
Clocked	02/07/04 03:39 PM	Bred by DAVE CLAUSING
4	HEIDI	
Clocked	01/29/05 06:28 PM	Bred by DAVE CLAUSING



On July 6th 2013 a friend that was visiting me asked if Clausing was still winning. Well I answered “ **yes he is still winning to this day but what is even more important is that so many of his customers are also winning in major races worldwide and the Clausing bloodline dominated the biggest money races in South Africa in 2012.**”

Hennie Kallmeyer the most successful one loft race specialist in Ireland and a Clausing Line enthusiast had the following points to make:

“1) David holds the world record for the person with the most top 50 finishes in the MDPR for the years 2002-2005 you can see a summary of these performances on our home page at www.pigeonperfect.webs.com. No other fancier has won the same amount of top prizes over such a 4-5 year consecutive period in this race ever. There's a few that came close but not quite and here we talk about the world famous Koopman from Holland and Alfons Klaas from Germany.

2) The amount of Overall Aces and Hot Spot Aces in the Million Dollar with Clausing bloodline is staggering and the ones I know about are only the tip of the iceberg:

- For the 4 year period 2009 to 2012 - no less than twice or 50% has the Overall Ace at the Million been bred mainly from Clausing pigeons - In 2009 it was won by Heriberto Borrotto (USA) and in 2012 by Fred Brough (S Africa)

- David has also won Ace bird titles there himself on more than one occasion - I can remember in 1998 he had the Hot Spot Ace pigeon with a child of 'King David' and later on again.

David has also won the USA Country challenge there on one or more occasion - I can remember in 2001 with a child of 'David Jr' who is a son of 'King David'

- We have won the S African Country Challenge (co-winner) on a 11 bird drop 7 minutes ahead of the rest with 'Nocatee' in 2004 who is yet again a g.gson of 'King David' and g.son of our S African foundation Clausing breeder 'Leonda' AU 1998 Clausing 0141.

- We have won the Irish Country Challenge (co-winner) on a 38 bird drop (23rd through trap) with 'Dubz' in 2011 who is a g.son of 'David Jr' he was also National Hot Spot Ace that year.

- There are numerous other fanciers who have performed tremendously at the Million Dollar Race with his bloodline, some names that I know about - Gallo Loft (USA), Dennis Metcalf (USA); Fred Brough (S Africa); Tersia and Jannie Engelbrecht (S Africa); Tom Kuiper (USA); also Hawaiian Stanley George etc.

- I regard 410 as the best producer of million dollar prize winners in the world and in the history of the million dollar race.

The key message I'm trying to get across here is that no other bloodline in the world has won or is winning with such consistency Ace pigeon titles and top prizes in this race which most fanciers consider to be the Olympic event of pigeon racing in the world. Other fanciers have had top performances there also but with different 'lines' or families - in David's case the performers are closely related as his family is essentially a very closely line bred family of birds which is unique in itself. ~ Hennie Kallmeyer

“His birds have made us Union champions in S Africa (North West Province) for yearlings and

old bird categories over short, middle, long distance and overall categories. We still hold the record for the loft with the most Union winners in one season which is 7 wins in a season (this is against approx. 120-145 lofts). Another memorable year that jumps to mind is when we competed in 36 races out of the 42 race program and won 20 races at club level; 11 x 1st at Combine level and 6 x at Union level - losing out on points in 6 races that we did not compete in we still won the club championship with a huge margin of points and ending 2nd in the Union averages. The pigeon at the foundation of all of our S African successes is 'Leonda' - a son of 'King David'. I have stopped counting at 120 x 1st prize winners from this cock and his offspring..." ~Hennie Kallmeyer

Clausing Bloodline Dominates the Biggest Money Races in South Africa in 2012



SA MDPR

- 1ST Overall Ace Pigeon



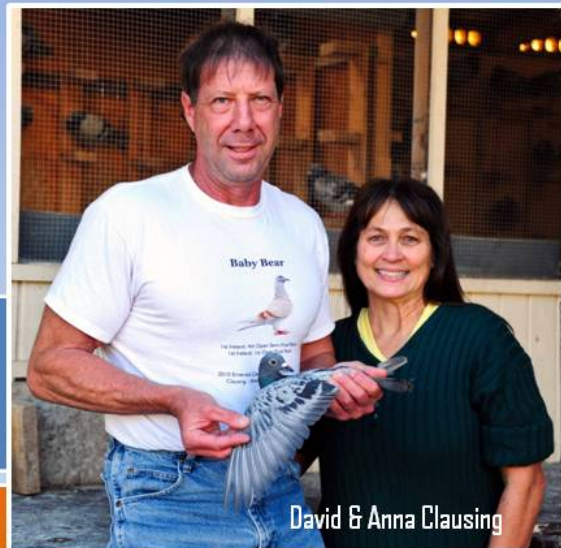
Dinokeng OLR

- Final Race - 1st, 3rd, 4th and 30th, etc.



Allflite OLR

- 1st Semi-final Race and 6th in the Final Race
- 1st Long Distance Ace Pigeon



A partial list of customers worldwide that have purchased and won with Clausing Line pigeons read like an International Who is who! I have contacted a number of David Clausing's customers and interestingly enough one of the very first fanciers to purchase Clausing Line pigeons was the exceptional American fancier Mr. Lou Coletta another early customer was Nettis Family Loft (USA), also Hawaiian Stanley George (USA), Dennis Metcalf (USA), and Paul Rueter (USA). South Africans recognized the value of the Clausing pigeons and young Hennie Kallmeyer was the first to import directly and many very successful South African fanciers purchased and gained even greater success than they had hitherto experienced and some of these included,

Egbert O'Kelly of "Out of Africa Loft" (South Africa) - Janene and Faunty Gillmer (South Africa) - Tersia Engelbrecht (South Africa)-Corrie Naude - Million Dollar Trainer (South Africa)-Saville Penkin (South Africa)-Johan Strydom (South Africa), Tinus Boshoff (South Africa)-Fred Brough (South Africa), Ian Mc Kay (South Africa), B Einkamerer (South Africa)-Johan Cronje (South Africa), H Stigling (South Africa), Mark King (South Africa), F Gillmer (South Africa), Tom Chalmers (South Africa), N Chalmers (South Africa), W Peveritt, J Pretorius (South Africa)

Flip Koch (South Africa), Danie Hattingh (South Africa), K Strydom (South Africa) to mention but a few. Many Clausing line pigeons also went to China.

I contacted a number of these Clausing enthusiasts and many took my inquiries very seriously and responded with details that are most enlightening.

South African Fred Brough responded on June 14 2013 and his email was very much to the point, just the facts and here is what he wrote:

"I was following Dave Clausings results at the Sun City Million Dollar Pigeon Race over the years, Then I decided I must get some of his pigeons. In 2007 I imported 2 birds from Dave Clausing. And again in 2009, 4 pigeons. The one pigeon Ring No AU399/2009 is the son of Ziko 2 AU 9/2002 and a daughter of AU 410/2000 Ring No AU 25/2006.

*This is where the fun started. I mated AU 399/2009 with a hen TRPF 25938/2007 and bred a baby Ring No TRPF 2307/2010 (Cliff). **She won the SA Challenge Race and came 17th in the main race +/- 3200 pigeons in the race at Sun City Million Dollar Pigeon race in 2011. Then in 2012 another baby from the pair ZA 60210/2011 Cliff 2 won Ace pigeon award Grand Average Winner on 27 races and won 80th position in the main race at Sun City Million Dollar Race winning R184, 000.00. Another baby ZA 060211/2011 Cliff 3 won 335th place in the main race and 75th Ace Pigeon Award. In 2012 I sent 2 babies from Cliff TRPF 2307/2010 to another one loft race (Dinokeng Lofts) and I won 1st in the final race 623 kms with Mandy TRPF 9669/2011 winning for me R700, 000. The other sister won 98th position. Two weeks ago a baby from Mandy TRPF 9669/11 mated back to Ziko AU 399/2009 won a very hard race for a friend of mine.***

*So the best thing that ever happened to me was to import the birds from Dave Clausing. **What a great family of birds he has got. (Champions.)**" ~ Fred Brough*

Though I did not write to West Rand pigeon fancier Steven Fouché' his dedication to pigeon racing has made him a force to be reckoned with. Thomas Smit in an article reviews his achievements as follows.

Dave Clausing/Houbens. "My foundation hen is a granddaughter off Ziko and a great-granddaughter off King David, from US champion and world-renowned pigeon breeder Dave Clausing. "I've also since bought a cock from Port Elizabeth champion Tom Chalmers, which is a great-grandson off Jonge Artiëst, mated to Air Wolf, who's a daughter of the 5th pigeon in the 2000 SAMDPR, by JLN Houben from Belgium," says Steven. In addition, he has a grandson off King David (from Nelspruit champion Paul du Randt) and a granddaughter off Jonge Artiëst (from Jeff Luc and Nadia Houben in Belgium).

American champion Nettis Family Loft have been very public about their assessment of the value of Clausing line with the following acknowledgement on their website at <http://www.nettisfamilylofts.com/houbens.html>

*"In the fall of 1995 we purchased a 6 bird young bird kit from David Clausing. These were our first Houben. They didn't impress us at this point being late hatches and most of them on their 7th tip. Because of their bloodlines and David's success we decided to pair them up and give them a try. This turned out to be a wise decision with 5 of the 6 breeding winners in the first year. They blossomed as yearlings and now looked beautiful. One of these "kit" birds was a compact little apple bodied smokey blue hen we named "Smoke Dream" who became the mother of our loft. She was a double granddaughter of Houben's foundation cock "Young Artiest" We tried to acquire the imported parents from David but he had already sold them to two different fanciers and one of them out of the country, we believe. **"Smoke Dream" went on to produce 12-1st place winners with her children and now her grandchildren producing winners as well.***

Needless to say we became very interested in the Houben strain. Over the next 6 years we purchased 14 direct children of "Ziko" and "King David" from the Clausing loft and visited David in Nocatee, Florida which is only 30 minutes from our Florida home in Sarasota. This would be an appropriate time to thank David Clausing for starting us out with this remarkable family that wins out of turn. We have since added the "1383" and "Dana" bloodlines." ~ Nettis Family Loft

In the 2005 American racing pigeon Union annual convention race in San Francisco, California the first, second, sixth and seventh place winners were all Clausing Line pigeons. In order, they were Ted Smith from Michigan, and Brian Bogart from California, and Lou Coletta from California, and Paul Rueter from Oregon.

Hawaiian Stanley George was the USA country challenge winner and also scored 19th on the 2006 MDPR final with a double inbred 410 grandchild. In the very same race Lou Coletta from California was 11th on that MDPR final, bred from a son of 410 mated to the nest sister of 410, (411-2000). A Chinese enthusiast present at the 2006 race indicated that 4 Of the 25 top birds in that final were Clausing bloodline, two of them by South African customers that this Chinese customer bid on in the MDPR auction.

Number one Ace birds of the Million Dollar pigeon races are Carlos Avilla #1 Hotspot Ace (bred from two Houben birds that had been sold to two different customers), Heriberto Borroto from USA in 2009 won the number one grand averages Ace bird (Ziko in the pedigree three times), and Fred Brough in 2012 number one grand averages Ace bird from a son of Ziko II when mated to a half Clausing. David Clausing had the number one hotspot Ace in 1998 and was number two in both 1997 and 1999.

Fred Brough also won first at the Dinokeng 2012 South African final with the same mating as his number one MDPR Ace bird

On May 30th 2013 I received the following note by email regarding Clausing Line pigeons from Dennis Metcalf :

"I had a Double Grandson (Jonge 300) of Never Say Die, Grandson of 410 and Ziko ll who was 181st Overall 2575 Pigeons. He was 14th Overall Car Race Averages after the Car Race 4 Liberation, arrived late in the Car Race 5 liberation. Although inbred the Clausing's maintain sufficient vigor to perform in competitive races, not everyone of course. The significant thing about this is this is flying against the best in the world!"

*2nd SCMDPR 2010 Car Race 1, 3877 Pigeons
72nd SCMDPR 2010 Car Race 2, 3553 Pigeons
371st SCMDPR 2010 Car Race 3, 3269 Pigeons
177th SCMDPR 2010 Car Race 4, 2960 Pigeons"*

Followed by this update the very next day:

"I hope you are aware that the PA Dutch Classic Race 2008 Overall Average Speed winner was a Double Granddaughter of 410, Granddaughter of Never Say Die. Winning \$23,000 you can double check but I think she was 1st 100, 4th 200, =1st 300 miles so you see the evidence keeps recurring".

Hennie Kallmeyer as I have already mentioned was the first South African to import Clausing line pigeons in 1998 and immediate success was his reward when he and his wife emigrated to Ireland and unable to import his South African birds he again imported Clausing line stock directly from David Clausing and again his success was phenomenal and this was almost 15 years after the original South African imports. Here is what Hennie relayed to me recently by email.

"To give you a little bit about my personal background - my love affair with the Clausing birds go way back to 1998 when they just started to make headlines in the hot spot races in the MDPR in South Africa when I still lived in S Africa. I was the very first S African fancier to start collecting Clausing birds. These birds took me to the very top in S Africa and also many of my customers, and later on even customers of customers - that is how easy these pigeons pass on the winning traits from one generation to another. I now live in Ireland and 15 years later I still have not found a line-bred family of birds that win with the same consistency and ease under very different circumstances around the world.

In Ireland one of the biggest challenges is to get pigeons to cross the Irish Sea returning from races. Experienced Irish fanciers will tell you that 90% of all imports to Ireland from other parts of the world will fail this test, as it goes against a pigeon's nature and instinct to take on such a

mass of water, often with rough seas and high winds to negotiate. The Clausings have done this in their very first year of racing in Ireland.

Many of my friends in S Africa say to me 'it must be great to live in Europe and to have access to the best lofts in the world on your doorstep and to go visit them' - why is it then that I buy and import pigeons in the USA from Dave Clausings.....?

That is how high I rate them! ~Hennie Kallmeyer

Jannie & Tersia Engelbrecht were very fortunate to have acquired Ziko and his son King David in I believe 2003. As top South African fanciers they had no problem relating their experience with the Clausings Line pigeons.

"The first year after we bought our Clausings, we clocked 4th in a motor car race. A few years later we have had the winner at Sun City in a motor car race, but unfortunately we did not activate that pigeon. A customer who bought from of our Clausings from us, did activate his pigeon on another race, and won the car in that race! ... winning goes synonymous with Clausings!

In the Sun City Million Dollar competitions, we've been pleased with many good positions and prize money... we won SA Hot Spot Ace competition, which was 46th against more than 30 countries'... We've been within the first 100 or 200th positions at SCMDPR hot spots and car races and trainings many times. We won First SA Average, which was 19th against all countries (5461 pigeons) over 5 car races + 18 trainings! We have had best bird in National Loft South, 4th in final race 600+ km when only 10 day birds were clocked; 4th ace pigeon in Carnival City international competition and many, many more with our Clausings pigeons. To have nine Clausings pigeons into a One Loft Race competition, and six of them win prize money, and to have three clocked within the first 30 pigeons on a final race, is not impossible – even in strong competitions like a South Africa National Race... This was the case when we won at SA Dinokeng One Loft race the Second Turbo race, and being 3rd and 4th in the main race. In both these races, we also won money for the first two pigeons per entrant home. The winner of the Second Turbo race was from a line bred daughter of Ziko, mated to her niece. The 4th in final race was from line- and inbred to Dana. That is how close they were, when they still won against top competition in shorter and in longer distances like 623 km. In our local competition against close to 1000 pigeons, it happened many times that our Clausings and Clausings crosses, took the first ten or more positions... in races of 500, 600 and more than 600km! They won for us from nearest to furthest race, which is 827 km... if not first on the total yearend points of our federation, then at least almost in first position. Ending with best bird or best hen or best cock quite often. That is what you can expect from the Clausings family of pigeons!" ~ Jannie and Tersia Engelbrecht



Without a doubt we have a large number of Clausing Line enthusiasts that know that these pigeons are special. How do they know they are special? Well the simple answer is they win out of turn! The Clausing line at its source draws from the same well as the Janssen line. The Clausing line tolerate, to a great degree, both inbreeding and line-breeding without losing those

special winning genes generation after generation. Outside of the Janssen brothers themselves and now Clausing I personally do not know of any fancier in the world who has developed a closely related line that wins at the highest levels of competition domestically and internationally. The Clausing pigeons though a small to medium sized pigeon cross well giving as a result excellent hybrid vigor. By nature they are a more aggressive or assertive bird which may give them an advantage in one loft race situations given the competition at the feeders. The Clausing line matures quickly, have a strong maternal connection, great muscle quality, recover easily and endure well beyond the point where others no longer persist. Finally as a rule they do not stress easily and are immunologically superior.

"My birds are produced without medications, only an occasional worming or anti-canker is used.

The babies that are sent out to one loft races are not medicated against coccidiosis or respiratory or other ailments. It has been this way for my flock for many, many years. Illnesses were much more of a problem for my birds many years ago, but extremely rare today anymore. I know that this would in part be due to the fact that I have so very few pigeons now; compared to the vast amounts I had when I was testing so many bloodlines and parts of the bloodlines. But I would definitely say that it is also from breeding from birds that do not need medicating that thus will produce birds like that, for the successive generations. I know my birds will receive different vaccines and medications in the one loft races that they are sent to, but I have no control over that. There are also many one loft races that do very little medicating of the entries, as for them the concern is expenses. In either scenario, the birds with a greater natural immunity have an advantage over weaker birds that do not do well without being medicated. I repeat it often, but the best breeders are those that never have a bad day."

~ David Clausing

Clausing OLR Results – The early years 1995 to 1997

(This Results List was kindly prepared by Hennie Kallmeyer, Dublin, Ireland)

1994

- IF Hall of Fame, 1st and 6th; President's Cup, and #1 American Ace Bird

1995

- 1st Las Vegas Crapshoot Race
- 1st Oklahoma State Race
- =1st (2nd, 3rd, 11th, 14th and 20th on clock) at San Francisco Bay Area Classic
- 1st at 200 mile San Diego Triple Crown and 3rd overall in 3 race series
- 3rd, 4th and 6th in the Asian Band Race final

1996

- 1st American Ace Pigeon by a customer
- 4th, 6th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 19th and 21st at the Bay Area Classic
- Rhonfried Euro Race, Belgium:
 - 4th at 140 miles;
 - 13th and 42nd at 220 miles; and
 - 23rd and 63rd at 250 miles.
- =1st (7 bird drop) at Devore Challenge, California 235 miles
- 7th and 13th plus 4th Ave Speed at the Fly for Hope OLR
- 4th at the 350 mile FVC 3 Star Futurity Race
- 4th, 17th and 25th at the 300 mile Crapshoot Classic
- 12th and 13th at the Northlake OLR, Louisiana
- Las Vegas, Silver State Triple Crown:
 - 1st and 5th at 150 miles;

- 4th 10th, 14th at 200 miles; and
- 14th at 250 miles.
- Milwaukee Futurity Race:
 - 1st and 12th at 280 miles; and
 - 15th 19th and 20th at 350 miles.
- Atlantic City, Seashore Classic:
 - 5th, 6th and 29th at 100 miles; and
 - 4th, 15th, 20th, 22nd at 240 miles.
- Oklahoma OLR:
 - 7th – 150 miles
 - 6th, 8th and 16th – 250 miles; and
 - 20th – 300 miles.
- 24th at Olympiad Race, Basel, Switzerland – 215 miles
- =1st (19th) at Triple Crown Classic 100 miles.

1997

- 1st Las Vegas Valentine Futurity
- 2nd co-partner winner with Houben in the South Africa Million Dollar Race
- 1st, 2nd, 9th and 10th at Atlantic City Seashore Classic 150 miles
- 3 x =1st winners (2nd, 3rd and 7th on clock) in Bay Area Classic (8 bird drop)
- Beijing Classic, China:
 - =1st (4th on clock) at 200 miles; and
 - =1st (2nd and 7th on clock) at 100 miles.
- 4th Thunder Bay OLR, Canada – 300 miles
- Cow Country, Texas Futurity:
 - 8th, 11th and 29th at 340 miles; and
 - 14th at 400 miles.
- 1st, 3rd, 10th and 11th at Gayle Renfroe, Texas OLR – 300 miles
- 3rd Bavaria Forest OLR, Germany – 430 km final
- 38th in the 300 mile Gulf Coast Classic Futurity Race
- 18th in the Golden Triangle Futurity Race
- 21st and 36th in the 300 mile Las Vegas Crap Shoot Race
- 43rd in the Midwest Convention Race
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 7th in the Monterey Bay Invitational OLR
- Oklahoma OLR
 - 3 X =1st winners at 150 miles;
 - 1 x =1st winner at 200 miles;

- 2 x 1st winners at 250 miles; and
- 2 x 1st winners at 300 miles.
- 1st and 9th at Palomar Classic OLR
- 2 X 1st winners at the Southern California Classic OLR – 325 miles
- 2nd Sunflower State Classic OLR – 300 miles
- Swiss Classic, Switzerland:
 - 1st at 110 km; and
 - 4th at 120 km.
- =1st (11th on clock) plus 11th, 30th and 45th at Texas Center OLR final
- Triple Crown Classic:
 - 2 x 1st winners (2nd and 5th) at 100 miles; and
 - 10th – 200 miles.
 - 12th and 16th Overall in 3 Race Series
- 9th and 15th in the World of Wings OLR 300 mile final

Clausing Million Dollar Performances 1998-2013 Plus Other Memorable OLRs

1998

- Dave bred the Hot Spot MDPR Ace from ‘King David’
- David wins Southwest Florida Combine at 171miles with AU 96 Clausing 83 – In later years this blue cock became known as ‘Dana’ and is one of the most important foundation breeders down from the original imported Houben cock – ‘Ziko’. Dana later bred birds such as ‘410’, ‘248’ and ‘98/123’ which became foundation breeders in their own right for David. Their children dominated the Million Dollar Race on a worldwide scale.
- Another important Southwest Florida Combine win at 267miles was with AU 1998 Clausing 411 – this hen was to become a fantastic breeder and is mother of one of the best producing sons of ‘King David’ – i.e. David Jr.

1999

- 68th with ‘Boundless Energy’ in the MDPR
- 93rd with ‘Brennar Pass’ in the MDPR
- T-Bird Stakes Winner, San Diego, USA
- ‘David Jr’ (1-1999) and his sister 3-1999 score 1st and 2nd in the 267 mile Local Futurity Young Bird Race. The very next year ‘David Jr’ has started to show his real class and breeding potential by producing some top one loft performers, such as the 2000 USA MDPR Country Challenge Winner – ‘Hiere Hanover’ – see below.

2000 – The year that made legends – ‘410’ and ‘217’

- '410' wins 7th Prize (only 7 day birds) in the Holiday Cup Race at 363 miles. This is a defining moment in the Clausings family as this cock went on to become one of the best producers of One Loft Money winners and breeders of winners that the world has seen.
- '217' wins 4th prize in the Gulf Coast Classic Futurity (handler Bruce Cerone) against 1,800+ pigeons at 321 miles. Another defining moment and bird, as '217' has later become one of the main breeding hens and mate for '410' but she also produced on other cocks, such as 'Jay' champion racers.
- 71st with 'HIERE HANOVER'

2001

- 171st with 'Hiere Hanover' who also led the Hot Spot Averages in this series
- USA Country Challenge Winner from 'David Jr'

2002

- 3rd with 'Valentin' at the MDPR (410 X 217)
- 36th with 'Woven Crown' at the MDPR (410 X 217)
- 226th with 'Converse' at the MDPR
- 1st and 4th Hot Spot Aces at Sky Comrades OLR, S Africa
- 1st Texas Challenge, USA for Dave Clausings
- 1st America's King Cup OLR – 200 miles
- 1st Vegas Connection OLR – 150 miles
- 4th at 150 miles; 8th at 200 miles and 4th at 300 miles (first drop) Pacific Northwest Challenge OLR ; and
- 1st Overall Ace / Average Speed at the Pacific Northwest Challenge OLR.
- Wisconsin One Loft Race winner

2003

- 1st with 'Never Say Die' at the MDPR
- 26th with 'Moon Ingraver' at the MDPR (who I believe has bred a million dollar winner in Taiwan)
- 68th with 'Korona' at the MDPR
- 1st Overall Ace Pigeon at the Skycomrades OLR in S Africa
- 4th Overall Hot Spot Ace at the Skycomrades OLR in S Africa
- 2 x Money winners in the final of the Skycomrades OLR in S Africa
- YB Average Speed winner in local club at 100 to 300 miles. One of the star performers here was 03/186 which is currently one of the best breeding hens and amongst others mother to 2005 MDPR 4TH Prize winner 'Heidi'
- 1ST at the Royal Crown 150 mile Race

2004

- 24th with 'Water Nymph' at the MDPR
- 26th with 'Prontisimo' at the MDPR (today a foundation breeder for Butch Einkamerer in S Africa)
- 45th with 'Where's Taylor' at the MDPR
- 90th with 'Ichiban' at the MDPR
- 204th with 'Jungle Flower' at the MDPR
- Co-winner (3rd on trap) at Masters OLR, Texas
- 1ST Drop co-winner Devore Challenge, USA
- 1st, 4th, 7th and 16th at the Southwest Special OLR 230 miles
- 1st and 6th at the Dueling National Show Challenge
- 2 x 1st drop co-winners at the Early Bird 195 mile Challenge Race

2005

- 2nd with 'Stephanie' on Hot Spot 4 (346km) at the MDPR
- 4th with 'Heidi' at the MDPR
- 173rd with 'Extraordinary' at the MDPR (for Tom Kuiper of Michigan)
- 2 x first drop co-winners at the 200 mile Masters OLR, Texas
- 3 x first drop co-winners (9th, 10th and 11th on clock) at the 350 mile Masters OLR, Texas (all 3 g.children of 410) This included bird 05/321 who is currently one of Dave's best 2 polygamous breeding cocks.

November 2005 – The theft of Dave's Pigeons – This was a very sad day for the Clausing family and I believe it had a significant emotional impact. Many of the key birds stolen were recovered at some considerable degree of risk. Recovery involved the cooperation of local, state and National law enforcement agencies.

2006

- 99th with 'Breezy' at the MDPR
- 101st with 'David' at the MDPR
- 2 x 1ST co-winners (on a 25 bird drop) in the Flamingo One Loft Race (350 miles), USA for David Clausing

2007

- 104th with 'Med pet' at the MDPR
- 2nd USA and 19th Overall Hot Spot Ace at the MDPR
- 2 x Co-winners (10th and 16th on clock) in 150 mile Flamingo OLR, USA
- Co-winner (5th on clock) at the 250 mile Flamingo OLR, USA
- 1st by 7.5 minutes ahead at the 200 Mile World Ace Challenge OLR
- Co-winner (4th on clock) at the Winners' Cup USA OLR

2009

- Co-winner at California Classic OLR

- Co-winner at the Highlander OLR, Wyoming
- Overall Ace Pigeon at Allflite OLR, S Africa
- Everglades 150 mile OLR winner for David Clausing
- Co-winner at the at the 100 mile Flamingo OLR, USA

2010

- 2 x co-winners at the 241 mile California Gold Country OLR (4 birds on drop)
- Co-winner at the 250 mile Flamingo OLR, USA

2011

- 2 x Co-winners at the California Classic OLR at 302 miles
- Hot Spot Ace pigeon at the California Showtime OLR for David Clausing
- Co-winner Kansas Prairie Classic OLR at 400 miles (only 2 birds on day) for David Clausing
- Co-winner of the Fast Eddie's California Late Hatch Classic at 306 miles for David Clausing.
- Co-winner at 185 miles San Diego Holiday Cup OLR
- 2 x Co-winners at the 135 mile San Diego Holiday Cup OLR
- 2 x Co-winners at the California Classic OLR at 150 miles
- Co-winner at the Antelope Valley Classic OLR at 100 and 200 miles
- 1st Pacific Northwest Challenge at 218 miles
- Co-winner at the Blue Bucket Stampede OLR at 207 and 250 miles

2012

- Co-winner Tournament of Champions, Las Vegas at 286 miles
- 1st Tournament of Champions, Las Vegas at 100 miles with 25 minutes clear of 2nd.
- 1st Semi-final (356km) of Allflite OLR, S Africa and 2 weeks later 6th on the Final Race (521km)
- Co-winner Kansas Prairie OLR at 200 miles
- Co-winner Pacific Northwest OLR at 100 miles
- Co-winner at Blue Bucket Stampede OLR 167 miles
- 2 x Co-winners at Blue Bucket Stampede OLR 207 miles
- 2 x Co-winners at the Showtime LATE Hatch Classic OLR 204 miles
- Co-winner Sunshine Hill OLR at 338 miles
- 1st and 5th at California Late Hatch Classic OLR at 176 miles
- Million Dollar Overall Ace Pigeon for Fred Brough from S Africa with Clausing Bloodline
- 1st Semi-final Allflite OLR, S Africa (4 minutes lead) and 2 weeks later 6th Final Allflite OLR with same bird making it the Long Distance Ace pigeon for David Clausing.

2013 – All races outstanding apart from the Late Hatch entries.

- Co-winner of the Fast Eddie's California Late Hatch Classic 300 miles for David Clausing.

Another one of my tips and beliefs to help fanciers is that of genetic prepotency testing.

When you inbreed or line breed, you can concentrate the genetics, and if they are superior they can be even more superior in... passing the good family traits along to the next generation. If the inbreeding or line breeding produces offspring which have less genetic prepotency, less great race results etc., then you know that that is not the part of the family that you should be concentrating on.

... Race results always show the right direction for the future breeding's.

~David Clausing.

Irish Champion Hennie Kallmeyer is young, dedicated, and exceptionally talented and already hugely successful with the Clausing Line. There is little doubt in my mind that David Clausing is very much a “mentor” for Hennie and they are close friends who have a lot of fun competing together in many international events!

“- the Clausing pigeons in Europe is a very recent chapter - we were the first to import pigeons directly from David and this was at the end of 2009. We started breeding in January 2010 for the first time - the impact was immediate! That year we won the Emerald Classic International One Loft Race with 'Baby Bear' - son of 'Bear' and 'Baby Blue' - both direct imports from Dave. ..

- Currently we hold the Irish National Record for the most Country winners at International One Loft Races for 2010 to 2013 - all with Clausing pigeons!

- 'Baby Bear' was sold on PIPA for a record UK price for a One Loft Race winner in 2010 to Brian and Mavis Clayburn (UK) - winners of the 2009 MDP in Africa. Children from 'Baby Bear' have scored immediately for Brian Clayburn in the big National Races out of France when the birds have to cross the English Channel -....

- Our pigeons are very popular in Romania - in 2012 we sold some late bred there on auction and in the same year their children have won for Mihai Nicoara 11th National YB race against 499 lofts and approx. 5,000 pigeons. The same year Fratti Georgescu was co-winner (3rd on clock on a 6 bird drop) clear ahead of the rest in the Corabia One Loft Race at 515km.

- In Ireland I have given pigeons to 3 friends - Conor Byrne, Blaine McVoy (2 young lads that I am helping) and southern Ireland's top loft - Billy Wallace - these birds and their offspring have won for these fanciers in their very first year.

- In the past two years we have sold pigeons to China, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, S Africa, Romania, Germany, Qatar, Ch Republic - already 9 different countries. I know the Clausing pigeons are very popular in China and Taiwan - in Taiwan a Million Dollar winner was reported down from Dave's 'Moon Ingraver' -...

Billy Wallace, who I rate as one of the very best fliers in Ireland has visited my loft on a few occasions and his opinion was that the Clausing pigeons is one of the very best family of pigeons to have found their way into Ireland. This is coming from a man that has been Federation champion in Cork, Ireland probably 7 times in the last 9 years, if not more...”

~Hennie Kallmeyer



Figure 2 Five generations and almost 30 years later the line developed by Clausing is still dominating for both Clausing and his customers.

Partial Summary of One Loft Results for Clausing Customers

This list is the proof of where the rubber hits the road. There is little doubt that the Clausing line is superior in every sense of the word!

- 2004 South African MDPR Country Challenge Winner for Hennie Kallmeyer – 4th Open on Hot Spot 5 (423km) also winner of Club Championship and 19th Hot Spot Ace Pigeon winning more than \$12,000.
- 2004 USA MDPR Country Challenge Winner and 19th overall at the final for Stan George of Hawaii - 8th Open on Hot Spot 5 (423km).
- 2005 MDPR Race Car Winner and 36th at the final for Felix Khan, of Phoenix, Arizona, USA with Clausing bloodline in 2006.
- 2005 MDPR – 19th Open for Stan George of Hawaii.

- 2006 MDPR – 10th Hot Spot 1 Race for Stan George of Hawaii.
- Highlander One Loft Race (294 miles) – 5th for Stan George of Hawaii.
- 4th Average Speed in the 2006 Ohio Breeder's Classic for Stan George of Hawaii in this 5 race series.
- MDPR Hot Spot Ace Pigeon for Carlos Avilla of New York, USA.
- MDPR Grand Average Ace Pigeon 2009 for Heriberto Borroto of Florida, USA with 'Ziko' in the pedigree three times.
- 2009 MDPR - 87th for Heriberto Borroto of USA with Clausing Bloodline (Also Ace Pigeon)
- 2009 MDPR - 215th for Heriberto Borroto of USA with Clausing Bloodline (nestmate of Ace Pigeon above and currently one of the best breeding hen's in David's loft – the No. 1 hen now when mated to #270)
- 1st and 3rd in the Lucky 17 OLR final (294 miles) for Stan George of Hawaii in 2009.
- 1st California Classic OLR final (300 miles) for Stan George of Hawaii.
- 18th in the Sierra Ranch Classic 350 mile final for Stan George of Hawaii.
- MDPR Grand Average Ace Pigeon 2012 for Fred and Brenda Brough, South Africa from a son of Ziko II. (**Interesting to note that this Ace was purchased at the MDPR auction by Mr. Mike Ganus of the USA)
- MDPR South African Challenge winner in 2011 – first S African bird back on the final race and 17th Overall in the final race for Fred and Brenda Brough, from a son of Ziko II.
- 2nd Shasta Classic 200 mile for Stan George of Hawaii.
- 11th in the 2006 MDPR Final for Lou Coletta of California with 'Wild Bill' who was bred from a son of 410 mated to 410's nest sister number 411.
- 19th in the 2006 MDPR Final for Stanley George from Hawaii with an inbred 410 mating.
- 2006 USA MDPR Country Challenge Winner in 2006 for Stanley George from Hawaii with Dave's '410' blood.
- 2011 Irish MDPR Country Challenge Winner (co-winner 23rd through trap on a 38 bird drop) for Hennie Kallmeyer, Dublin, Ireland with 'Dubz' who was also best Irish Hot Spot Ace and 40th Overall Hot Spot Ace. 'Dubz' is a g.son of 'David Jr' who is a son of 'King David'.
- 2012 Co-winner of the Sierra Ranch Classic 225 mile race for Stan George of Hawaii.
- 8th in the USA Winners' Cup 2012 for Stan George at 200 miles.
- 2010 Emerald Classic International OLR - Hennie Kallmeyer of Ireland win 1st Open with a 100% Clausing and with the same pigeon was also Co-winner (4th on clock) at the semi-final ending as 4th Overall Ace Pigeon.
- 293rd in 2011 MDPR for Hennie Kallmeyer, Dublin, Ireland with 'Vertigo' who is a g.son of 'Ziko II'.
- 181st MDPR for Dennis Metcalf with 'Jonge 300' - a double g.son of Never Say Die, g.son of 410 and Ziko II.

*“Super Secretariat is a proven super racer, a bird demonstrating, to get out front alone and make a straight beeline shot home, without the zigzagging that a flock so often does. The mother is a bird bred by my customer Nick Tacu of Blue Angels Loft, in Florida, that he sold to Dick Lacroix. The dam of the winner Super Secretariat was right off of two birds that I bred and sold to Nick. The mother and the maternal grand-parents were never raced, but the good blood is there. I would prefer to breed off of my one loft race winners, but this shows that it is not always necessary. It takes two great birds to produce a fantastic racer such as the Super Secretariat.
~ David Clausing.*

- 2nd MDPH Hot Spot 1 for Dennis Metcalf with ‘Jonge 300’ - a double g.son of Never Say Die, g.son of 410 and Ziko II.
- 2012 Dinokeng OLR Final – Tersia and Jannie Engelbrecht win 3rd, 4th and 30th in the final race all with Clausing bloodline.
- 2012 Dinokeng OLR - Tersia and Jannie Engelbrecht win the 2nd Super Turbo Race with a pure home bred Clausing.
- 1st Rep. Ireland and 14th Open in the Southwest OLR from France (sea race) at 300 miles for Hennie Kallmeyer with Clausing bloodline in 2010.
- 1st Rep. Ireland and 11th Open in the French Young Bird Derby at 300 miles for Hennie Kallmeyer with Clausing bloodline in 2011.
- 1st Irish and 6th Overall Ace at the French Young Bird Derby at 300 miles for Hennie Kallmeyer with Clausing bloodline in 2011.
- 1st Rep. Ireland, 2nd Five Nations Challenge and 10th Open in the North Coast Classic OLR, UK for Hennie Kallmeyer with Clausing bloodline in 2011.
- 2nd Rep. Ireland and 4th Open at semi-final of Emerald Classic International One Loft Race, UK for Hennie Kallmeyer with Clausing bloodline in 2011.
- 1st Dinokeng OLR S Africa for Fred Brough of S Africa with Clausing Bloodline (the 2nd most prestigious race in S Africa) in 2012.
- 3rd Corabia One Loft Race, Romania for Fratti Georgescu with Clausing bloodline (Co-winner on a 6 bird drop) at 2.5 minutes ahead from 515km
- 1st Rep. Ireland, 13th Open – Emerald Classic International OLR Final for Hennie Kallmeyer with Clausing bloodline in 2012.
- 1st Rep. Ireland and UK, 20. Open – Balkanic Fair Play Race, Semi-final for Hennie Kallmeyer with Clausing bloodline
- 2nd Rep. Ireland, 27. Open – Emerald Classic International OLR Final for Hennie Kallmeyer with Clausing bloodline
- 3rd UK and 33rd in the World Championship in Slovakia for Brian Clayburn of the UK – bred from Kallmeyer 2010 Emerald Classic winner.

As can be readily seen from the partial list of customer results the Clausing line has impacted the results of a great number of dedicated racing pigeon enthusiasts. In fact my interest in the Clausing story was the direct result of a recent article that I was writing on a hugely

successful Floridian flying in Springhill Florida the “Little Belgium” of the USA. While preparing an article on “Gallo Loft” Manuel Rodriguez who is dominating the results not only in Springhill but also at The Canadian International and knocking at the door of success at the South African Million Dollar Race as well. It turns out that “Gallo Loft” is also founded on the Clausing Line and some 80% of the Gallo colony is Clausing Line Genetics.

The base of the Gallo Line of racing pigeons is comprised of pigeons originating from the Clausing line. Therefore the Gallo loft is made up of essentially 80% Clausing Line pigeons. Manny’s foundation cock is a bird he calls “**Eddy #1**” given to him by a friend and his foundation hen he purchased for a modest \$200.00. These two pigeons both bred from original “Clausing stock” represent the older Clausing line. Mated together these two specimens remain to this day an exceptional foundation pair for the Gallo Line based upon the Clausing Line genetics. I wanted to have an idea of just how good “**Eddy #1**” was so I spoke with David Clausing asking him for input.

“Number 318 is from my favorite Houben import in 1994, when I bought the whole fourth-round, which consisted of 99 birds. The 1994 sire number ending in 430 was a son of Lotus x Helga. I liked 430 so much that the next year I ordered five children from the same parents. One ended up breeding the number one ace in the million dollar race hotspots 1998; another bred a one loft Ace bird for me in Germany, and other great results. I still have descendants of the two nest sisters that bred the aces in Africa and Germany. The dam to 318 is my 180 CHF 1994 who we named Wonder Woman. My wife dressed up like the real wonder woman in some of the old advertisements; see the advertisement for November 15, 1998, under my old advertisements section of my website. The pigeon wonder woman was also the nest mate to our national champion Anna Marie. Even though Anna Marie was the national champion, Wonder Woman was actually a stronger built and performing pigeon, but luck would have it that we maybe grabbed Anna first. But I have descendants of both of the nest sisters in my current bloodlines. Helga mentioned up above was a direct daughter of Houben's best ever mating of Young Artist and Kletskopje, And the nest brother to Helga is the son of young artist with the band number ending in 671 of 1993. The dam to 5537 is also a sister of 671, Band number ending in 443 of 1994. The father of my Evert was Rico, another brother to 671 and 443. The sire of 5537 was another son of young artist with the band number ending in 445 of 1994; I do not have any descendants anymore of 445 or 5537. The number one grand averages Ace bird of the million dollar race in 2009 has the 443 hen back in the pedigree, when she had been mated it to my Ziko.

” ~David Clausing

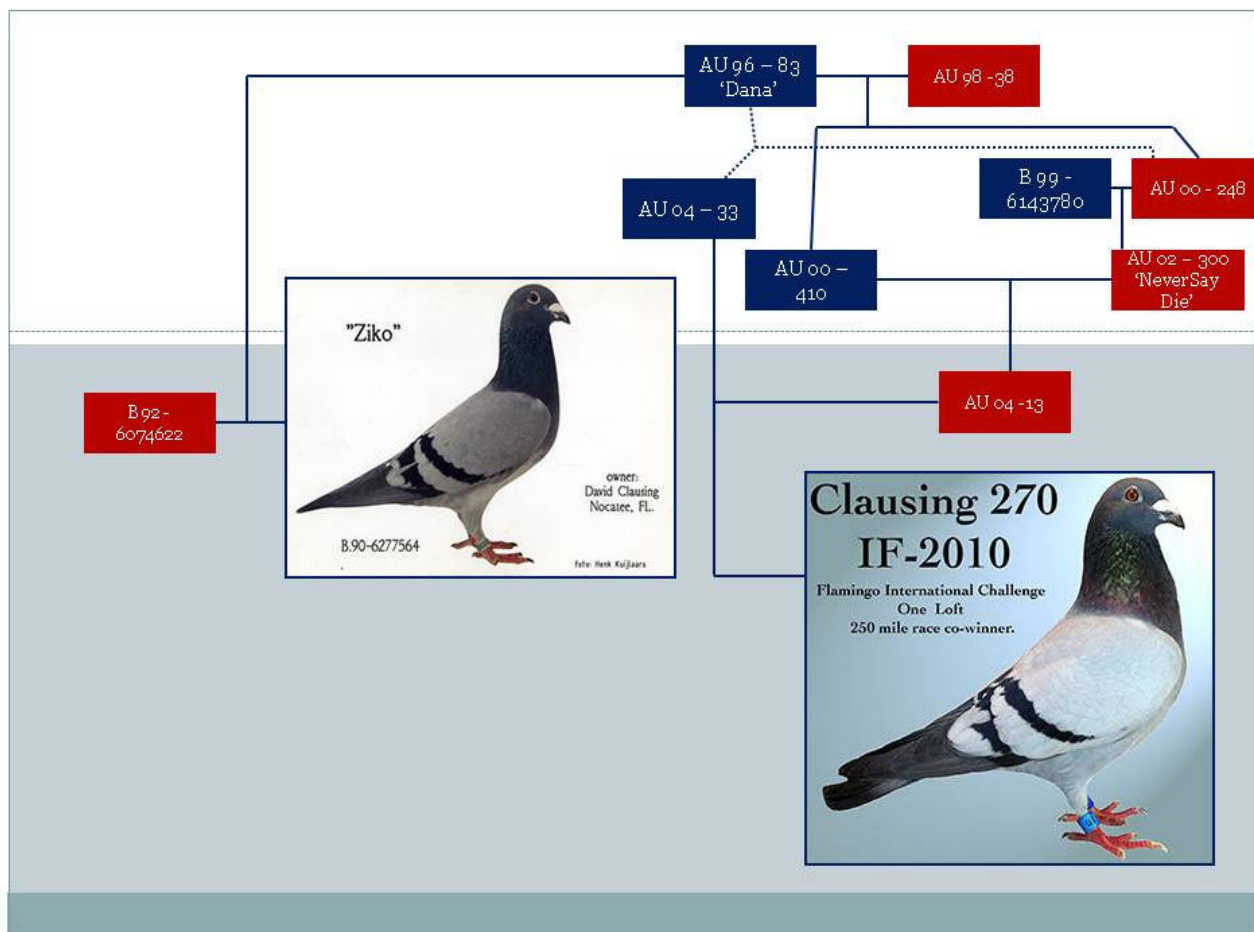


Figure 3 270 is one of two Clausing Line current foundation sires the other being 321, five generations away from Ziko and still winning. These two Sires are bred on a polygamous system

When I asked David Clausing about the Gallo Foundation hen he responded as follows:

"Manny's foundation hen is produced from 5762 x 5732, two birds bred by me, the IF-B bands I used back then along with others such as AU- ARPU and SAR and CHF ... Then in 1996 I added AU-CLAUSING bands ... With both my show chickens and other poultry as well as my fighting chickens, I had already learned that genetics was the most important thing to pay attention to for a good and successful start. I bought my first Houben's from Darrell Bruckner of Wisconsin in 1991, then I won six of 10 races the very first year of 1992, of racing their youngsters. I was so impressed that I bought out Darrell Bruckner's entire flock of Houbens in 1992. The group included 33 Houben imports plus many youngsters bred directly off of them, and 2 Imbrechts. In 1993 we won more club races and combine races and had our first Hall of Fame winning bird. So then in 1993 becoming more motivated, I traveled to Belgium to meet the Houben family, and ordered the entire fourth round of 1994. This group included the parents of the two birds that I bred numbers 5762 and 5732 from, which produced that (Gallo) foundation hen. A lot of birds of that 1994 group of imports, handled larger and deeper, than what the birds I was already winning with of the Houben family that I had previously purchased from Darrell. I mixed body types in the pairings to include the opposite of larger birds versus smaller birds. The results

were some offspring more closely resembling either the sire or the dam, but the most of them a combination of the parents. This turned out to be important for my local racing in Florida, as the larger and looser handling birds would not do so well in hot and humid and headwind weather conditions. You might have a very super intelligent pigeon, but the body might not be right for the course. It is fortunate that I didn't cull any pigeons by how they handled, as the combinations when raced, would show me the way with the results obtained. As that entire fourth-round in 1994 consisted of almost 100 pigeons, some were from the most famous and expensive and others were not, but several of the cheapest turned out to breed the best. ~ David Clausing."

Gallo Loft has built an exceptional winning family upon the Clausing Line foundation and their success attests not only to the genetic prepotency and longevity of this Clausing Line but to the ability and determination of David Clausing.

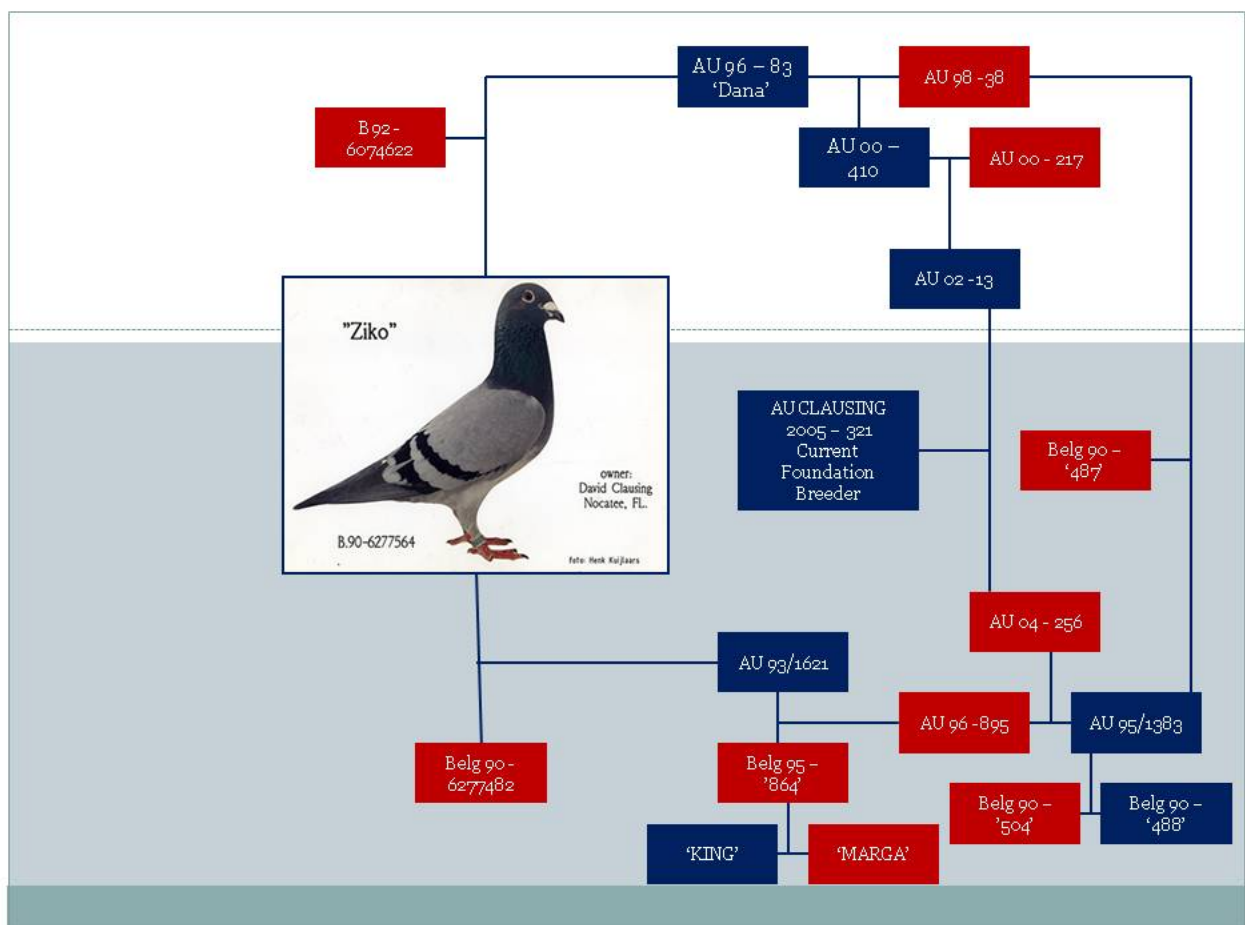


Figure 4 321 is the second of the two current foundation sires in the Clausing line.

David Clausing has lived his life with his family at the core. I was fascinated with the Clausing story and I assure you it would be very easy to write a book on this man and his line. This article serves as a special tribute to an American fancier who overcame all odds and proved that courage, determination, ingenuity, attention to detail and love of family can overcome every obstacle and that catastrophe need not spell the end but can rather be only a new beginning!

There is a lesson here for all of us, *“Never Say Die”!*

David Clausing lives his life as if every day just might be his last so he does the very best that he can do each day. At a time when others would have grown their numbers exponentially in order to “sell, sell, sell” as so many well healed Europeans so readily do, David has done just the opposite as his colony is now comprised of less than 13 cocks and 26 hens. It has taken time, David was adamant that his racing pigeons were a hobby and so he has ,over the past few years, intentionally, insured that this would be the case by systematically and dramatically reducing his numbers. Though Houben was the source of the Clausing Line genetics there is no doubt that the Clausing Line after 30 years of planning and meticulous execution is indeed a unique American family. The breeding decisions made by Clausing were and continue to be non -traditional and that is why this line continues to dominate in the most important races in the world. Clausing has dominated while only sending very few pigeons to the MDPR and other races where others have sent up to 20 or more teams. David has fun entering one loft races and futurity races worldwide and he still takes great pride in supplying some very select bloodstock to a handful of close friends only. It’s sad to say but do not bother wasting your time attempting to acquire birds directly from this “Master Breeder of the Ultimate One Loft Performance Racers in the World” as they are not readily available but take heart there are a number of past Clausing customers who are more than pleased to supply your needs. With over 1000 pages of resources of historical interest and significance the Clausing website www.clausingdavid.com , built by son Dana Clausing is indeed a unique “fact-checking” resource. Every word herein written therefore can be easily confirmed.

Many people over the years have been fortunate to acquire Clausing genetics but after doing extensive research, if I were located in Europe I would seek out the Clausing Line genetics from the young Irish Champion Mr. Hennie Kallmeyer mentored directly by David Clausing .On the other hand if I was located in the USA or Canada and wanted to acquire Clausing Line genetics I think I would seriously look at the Floridian Champion Manuel Rodriguez of Gallo as my source.

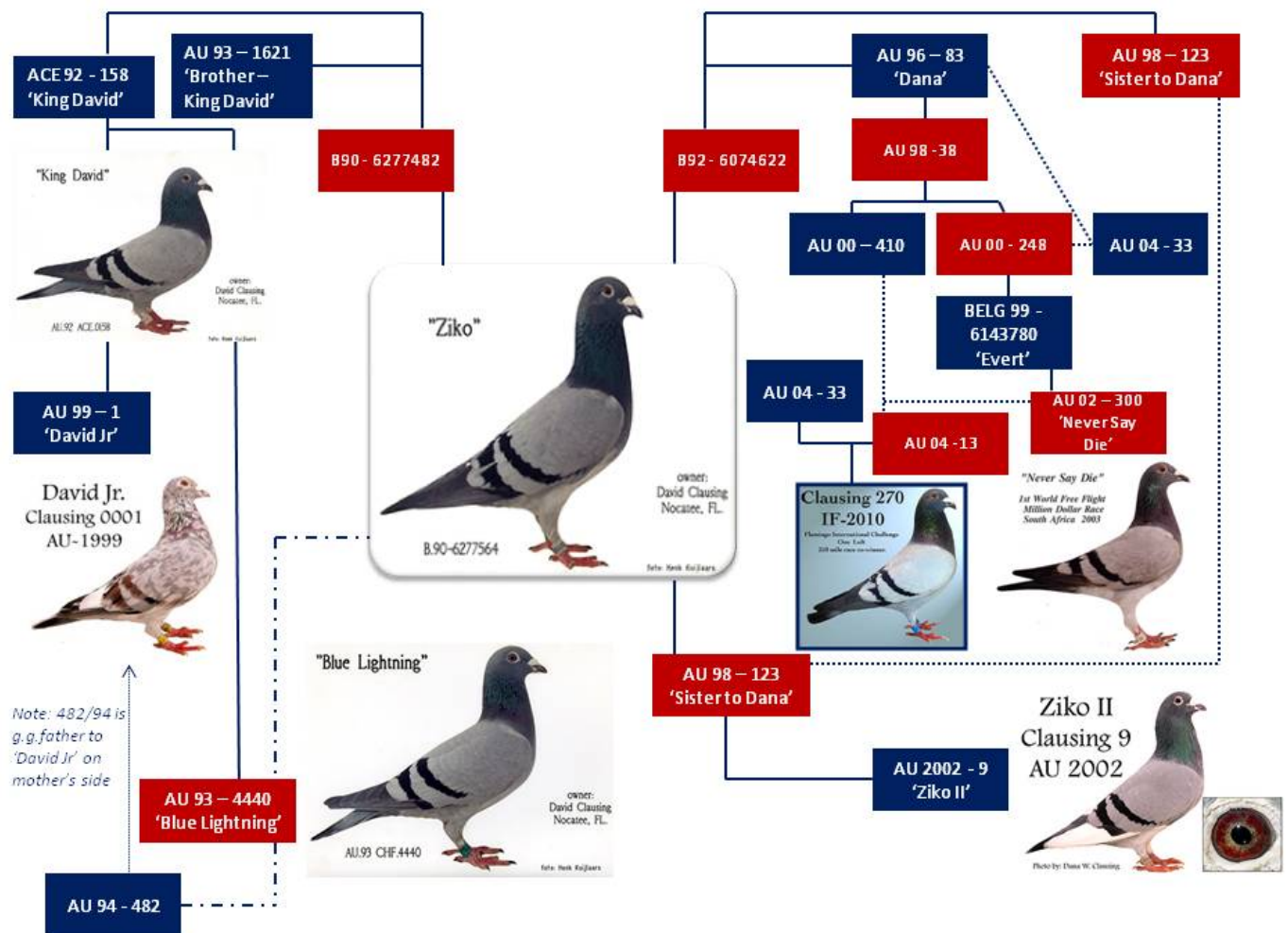


Figure 5 The Ziko genetics covering 7 generations .The most winning line of one loft racing pigeons in the world.

