



(Cape Times)

An historic picture which shows Safring's first clerical assistant, Miss Barbara Castle, thoroughly involved with unclerical assistance in the cause of bird ringing. Readers who have visited Safring have probably noticed that Speckled Pigeons *Columba quinea* are common residents at the University of Cape Town's upper campus. In 1972/1973 the first Ringing Organiser, Clive Elliott, and his enthusiastic assistant caught and ringed some 37 pulli on the ledges and rooftops of the University's buildings.

This glimpse into the past is prompted by the recovery in October 1981 of one of these pigeons near Melkbosstrand where it was shot whilst feeding in a grain field. One wonders whether it was still a U.C.T. resident and whether our nesting birds regularly fly 40 km to suitable feeding grounds and back again as a matter of course.