

Energetic, Thoughtful and Ready to Go - About Trent Lane



By Cynthia Woody

Trent Lane, looking like a man about town with shiny shoes, neat gleam in his eye, and new haircut, stopped at the Baker Senior Center on his way to a gathering marking his birthday and his outstanding performance in the Senior Olympics. Mr. Lane mentioned six world records for seniors 95-99 in discus, shot put, weight, hammer and javelin.

Taking off his hat he mentioned that eight people were going to honor this "Baker boy," born in 1910, who has been with the Olympics since 1991. Mr. Lane registered for three Olympic meets: one in Lafayette, two in Baton Rouge and one in Covington. He does the same thing in each of them.

Quickly came the next sentence indicating he has a plane, loves flying and what's more he loves his dogs, "My dogs are my family," he said. Although enthusiastic about sporting events and flying planes, he admits that his boy and girl dogs, are dear, he calls them puppy - they come. Also, he has a farm, cows and chickens, but he doesn't farm. "Can't do that, can't sell them, I love animals and I know they will be killed."

Trent recalls, while living in Tennessee, going into a packing house to see what they did, "they knocked them out. The hogs are tied by one leg and....never want to see that again. That's why I can't sell animals; I fall in love with them."

Eager to tell more he mentions that he cuts grass-- 18 acres with a lawn mower. As to meals, most every day Mr. Lane joins the group having lunch at the Baker Senior Center. He says living alone makes it easier that way.

When asked to answer the

inevitable question of what would you do if you had life to do over again, Mr. Lane mentioned having had a physical chemistry scholarship in his hand while in Berlin in 1930. The draft board made it clear that his job was to be in the service, though he had finished courses for his Ph. D. in physical chemistry at Louisiana State University in 1939.

Talk of school days reminded him that for years he walked 15 miles a day, and while in school he was tardy once in four years and absent from classes three days because his dad insisted on culling the corn. "Pop didn't believe in school... but my grandparents did." Being familiar with numbers, Lane recalls wearing five pairs of shoes every year while going to school. He added, "Grandpa was the driving force."

When asked what next, quickly he mentioned wanting to acquire more Olympic world records, wanting to go to Australia to enter the World Senior Olympic meet. And, Australians he knew demanded he come to next year's meet, the World Senior Olympic meet. And then this energetic winner wants to fly back home, Sevierville, Tenn.

