

THIS IS IT

What a very “special” Specialty weekend the Board and Committees and workers choreographed for the MRC 50th Anniversary of the Medallion Rottweiler Club! For me it began at the Annual Awards Banquet and Meeting on Saturday night. You cannot imagine my surprise and delight when my #3 son, Larry with wife Tracy and their Jacalyn Joan, 10 years old, joined me for the event. Larry had asked for permission to talk to the group and a very nice speech he could make since he has been entangled in the breed and the MRC his whole 49 years. When membership pins were handed out, I did ask if I should turn in my 45 year pin for my 50th. They allowed me to keep it for my collection. In accepting this year’s MRC Public Education Service Award, I could not without acknowledging that it is all those who have marched in parades, manned the booths, assisted in special events such as the CGC/TDI days and presented their dogs to the public always with the best paw forward who should be receiving it with me.

When I entered my ring on the arms of the President of the ARC, Jeff Shaver and the President of the MRC, Eleanor Jackson and led by two Champion Tracking Dogs with Frank Sinatra’s version of Chicago playing faintly in the background amid standing applause, I knew this was, indeed, IT. The ring was, as usual, expertly managed by the incomparable Chief Ring Steward Connie Hinz, ably assisted by my granddaughter, Chandra. Having judged all over the world, I have come to recognize and truly appreciate the expertise, professionalism and courtesy that the handlers have exhibited in my rings in America. I have been privileged to have been presented many of the most outstanding Rottweilers in the world in the past thirty years. It is time to say thank you to the Show Committees, the breeders, the exhibitors and handlers who have made it all possible.

Some Defining Moments in my 60 years in the breed.....

In Obedience: I was tied for high In Trial, 198 in Nov. B, with Dede (Ch Diedre of Rodsden, CD) and a Poodle at the Milwaukee KC show. The run off back then could be Recalls. Dede came at a brisk trot when the little white fluff tore past her at about 90 miles an hour to a perfect sit. I’ll never forget the astonished look on Dede’s face.

In Tracking: Elko (A/C CH. Rodsden’s Elko Kastanienbaum, CDX, TD, Can.CD) had made the first turn and was on the track when he came to an Oil Drum on its side with the oil spill completely erasing the track. The club had laid an extra track which we were allowed to run at the end of the trial. It was about 3 hours old by then. I cannot explain to you how completely the euphoria of the moment overcomes you when your dog indicates the glove at the end of the track I am and always will be a “Tracker” at heart.

In Carting: At the 1997 IFR Congress, 22 countries had sent Schutzhund Teams for the competition. They paraded in uniform with their dogs down Front Street in downtown Wheaton with their country’s Flags flying and carts decorated to represent their country leading the way. Leading the US Team was our Rodsden team pulling our antique Conestoga Wagon with my four year old great grand daughter, Brianna, seated dressed as a very young Pioneer Girl, waving to the most appreciative crowd.

In Judging: My second and first big judging assignment was for the Bucks County KC. during the weekend cluster and CRC Specialty at Trenton KC. Dr. Duebler had called to invite me to judge. Thinking it might be because by then I had achieved some prominence in the breed, when I thanked her, I inquired why she had invited me. Not my “prominence”... it was because I was a provisional and did not charge for judging .The MRC has honored me by inviting me to judge the Silver, the Ruby and now the Gold Anniversary Specialty. I have always trusted it was not only for the Dr.Duebler reason.

The care and thought that went into every aspect of this Specialty from the procession to begin my judging to the specially designed MRC 50th Gold Key Ring and Thank You Card made it truly Golden for me. Unless I suddenly develop the “Brett Favre syndrome”, THIS IS IT. The MRC has always been known as The Club That Works. I have every confidence that this is how it will continue to be known.

With deep affection for you all, Joan Klem