



Women In Racing

When you're speaking with this Woman of the TGA, Phyllis Mangold, you're reminded of talking to your Grandmother--sitting in her kitchen, having her tell you stories about the good old times--preferably with a glass of cold milk and a batch of her homemade cookies.



Phyllis, along with a gentleman, doing what she loved best, watching and judging the greyhounds at the TGA Spring Meet.

In fact, when she heard that the TGA was on the phone to interview her, she came to the phone with "I wish I still had a greyhound, they are the smartest, most loving dogs, always trying to please you."

Phyllis Mangold is truly a remarkable woman, who started out raising greyhounds at the ripe old age of about 20, having watched her uncle, W. D. "Gig" Viola successfully breed greyhounds for years. "Gig" was inducted as a Pioneer into the National Greyhound Hall of Fame in 1987. She grew up around Abilene, Kansas and so watched greyhounds all her life. In fact, with permission from her parents, she skipped school every year during the Nationals in Abilene. When Sports Illustrated magazine heard her story, they wrote an article about the girl who skipped school to watch the dogs compete.

Phyllis started her own business with one of Gig's dogs, which he sold to her for \$600.00. At her peak, she had 50 dogs, and she learned to do everything for them--breeding, delivered puppies, even some limited veterinary work. Once one of her pregnant females developed eclampsia and she desperately tried to contact her vet in the middle of the night. Her vet was several states away, and was forced to lead her through the procedure over the phone. It involved giving the dog a shot in the vein of her ankle, of course a very difficult and small spot. Phyllis said

it was either give the shot or let the dog die, so she had no choice. Determined to save the dog, she said she did the best she could even in that small area of the dog's ankle, and the dog lived to deliver the pups. She says the men in the world of greyhound racing always gave her lots of respect, mostly because she earned it, teaching herself the business. She raced dogs in Massachusetts, Florida, Colorado, and on and on. She worked many a night and helped to get signatures to help get racetrack betting approved by the Texas Legislature.

Phyllis served on the TGA Board of Directors from 2000 – 2004 and was a force to be reckoned with! She took her job as a Director very seriously and made decisions solely on what was best for the greyhounds & breeders of Texas. She was definitely an asset to TGA.

In her 60's she gave away her last greyhound (she didn't have the heart to sell it) to someone she knew who bred good stock. Now at nearly 85 she still loves animals, in fact still has a place in her heart for dogs, and recently adopted one scheduled to be euthanized from the Hondo, Texas animal shelter that she named Black Jack. She spends time with her grown children and grown grandchildren, taking them all on a trip to Italy recently.



Phyllis Mangold

In the next few weeks, she will venture back to her old stomping grounds in Abilene, Kansas to the National Greyhound Association to be honored by them, which we will share with everyone on our Website and Facebook page. And she cherishes her time she spent with the greyhounds and in the greyhound business, remembering them as the "smartest, most loving dogs, always trying to please."