

Meet The Pres

—by Pat Buckley



President, Tom Dann — Citibank 10K

Following a vice-presidential year of excellent program planning for the membership meetings, Tom Dann became MTC's president for 1993, as of January's banquet. In recent years, Tom has been a familiar figure because of the many times he's gone to the front of an award ceremony to receive overall or age category recognition.

A native of Ohio, where his father was on the faculty at Oberlin College, Tom sank roots in Maine as a child, when his family acquired a summer home next door to Kennebunk's famous "Wedding Cake House."

Tom's running career began as a high school freshman in Oberlin. He won his first very first meet that year, displacing a senior from another school who unexpectedly gave him a few words of support as he was overtaken. In his second high school race, Tom missed a school record by .2 second. On to Wittenberg College in southern Ohio, he was captain of the cross country and track teams. Looking back on having gone to a small high school and college, he feels being in a small pond saved him from becoming maxed out, leaving the desire for competition alive even facing the master's level.

In the summer of '72, Tom's father took him to the Bowdoin College training camp of the U.S. Olympic track and field team. He remembers getting autographs from Frank Shorter,

Bruce Jenner and Dave Wottle, another Ohioan. But the best memory is of a half hour with his idol, Steve Prefontaine, while walking back to the dormitory. The legendary runner asked Tom his best recent performance, and on being told replied, "Geez, that's a damned good time." When he attends the RRCA convention in Portland, Oregon, this year, Tom says he'll take a side trip to run in Coos Bay, Oregon, Prefontaine's hometown, a place where for him personally "it all started."

Tom says his best area race experience was winning Doc's Tavern in 1991. With his friend Andy Palmer in the race, he was surprised to be in front until the last half mile, when Andy finally plowed past him. Digging way down, Tom was able to pull away for the win in the last moments, a fact that he says still amazes him.

For several years Tom was a track coach at Kennebunk High School and now coaches at St. Joseph's College. Also, he's co-director with Steve Jacobsen of the Presidential Race, for which they were "1992 MTC race directors of the year."

Residing in his award-filled Kennebunk home with his son Alex, who's twelve, and Captain Jack, the cat, Tom is a member of the "Road Warriors," a highly visible recreational unit, they of the tuxes at the banquet. On one occasion last year Tom wore a George Bush mask on a run through Kennebunk, with other Warriors appearing to resemble Secret Service personnel. With these references to things presidential, I suppose to us MTC runners he was a "shoe in" for our own highest office. And we welcome him to it.

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