



DAILY Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

he Jesse Owens Memorial Park Visitors Center, sponsored by DAILY Publisher Barrett C. Shelton Jr., was a popular spot for those seeking a little shade.

Olympics here

Torch ignites partisanship

It's easy to work up support here when the colors are orange and blue and red and white. Auburn vs. Alabama is a natural. Some even say the rivalry is unnatural.

But when the colors are red, white and blue the support and rivalry become old-fashioned patriotism.

The Olympic Games are a worldwide competition of the best athletes, which most people can enjoy with a degree of detachment. But when the Games end, the success is always measured by the number of medals won.

The Tennessee Valley celebrated the Olympics on Saturday when runners carried the torch between

designated points while people along the route offered their support.

Those watching the events couldn't help having pride in their country and their athletes. That pride was probably most evident in Lawrence County where the late track star Jesse Owens was born. His hometown of Oakville worked hard to honor the memory of this extraordinary athlete.

Not many of us will get to Atlanta next month to watch the events but we had opportunity Saturday to feel the excitement and to show our support for the Games, and for Team USA.

It was a great day. A once-in-a-lifetime day for many of us.