

MY BLOOMSDAY PERENNIAL MEMORY

Two weeks before the first Bloomsday, two friends and I heard there was going to be a run through the streets of Spokane.

The three of us played basketball on the same team all winter in the Spokane County Recreational League. We believed ourselves to be in great physical shape. How tough could a 12k run be anyway? We signed up.

It occurred to us we should do at least one training run before the official event. We laced up our high top Converse Basketball shoes and headed out. At the end of the first mile we were at a decent 7 minute per mile pace, heads held high. The second mile was seemingly endless torture at an 11 minute pace. Apparently sprinting up and down a basketball court does not create great distance runners. We were done with training!!

We did “run” that first Bloomsday, sort of. There was a fair amount of walking too, at least on my part.

After I crossed the finish line, bent over and gasping for breath (and still in my high top Converse basketball shoes, of course!), a friend came up to me and said “Ron, if you’re going to be a serious runner you had better get some Nikes.” My response: “What the heck is a Nike?” I had never heard the word! Nike and I got much better acquainted shortly after that first run.

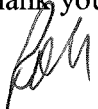
Oh, and by the way, those two friends who so foolishly signed up for that first Bloomsday with me? Both are Perennials (Terry Whitten and Bill McElroy) still slogging through the Spokane streets on Bloomsday!!

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Birth Date: Nov. 27, 1945

Personal Information: Attorney with firm of Douglas, Eden, Phillips, DeRuyter & Stanyer (practiced law in Spokane since 1971). Married to Barbara. We have four children (our two sons live in Spokane, our daughters got away, one to San Diego and one to Paris). We have two grandchildren with three more on the way, which will keep us hopping! My wife and I do a lot of hiking, biking and snow skiing to stay fit.

Thank you,



Ron Douglas