

Bloomsday #11—May 3, 1987

For the first time, Bloomsday passes the 50,000 mark, in both entrants (54,261) and finishers (50,946). Age-group awards for runners 12-and-under are eliminated, both for safety reasons and to encourage fun among younger runners. A local horticulture group recommends planting trees on the north side of Doomsday Hill (Pettet Drive). 70 businesses participate in the Trade Show, where a poster designed by local artist Harold Balazs sells for \$4.00, and the biggest Bloomsday souvenir item is a Tyvek jacket. Spokane Transit Authority adds special shuttles for entrants to get to and from the run, a service that will eventually handle over 10,000 entrants. Steve Binns wins the men's elite race, Lesley Welch the women's, and Craig Blanchette and Candace Cable-Brooks take the wheelchair races. Blanchette's victory is the first of his eight straight Bloomsday titles. Washington State University records the first of its five Corporate Cup victories. Runner Gary Novotney becomes the first fatality in the history of the race when he collapses and dies of a heart attack at the finish line. Another runner, also treated for a heart attack, survives. Susan Gordon, a 37-year-old recovering stroke and aneurism victim who was told she would never walk again, completes Bloomsday on crutches, assisted by family members.

Bloomsday #12—May 1, 1988

The Bloomsday field grows again to an all-time high of 57,298. A geographic analysis of entries shows that 60.3% are from Spokane County. Bloomsday will also record the highest number of finishers in its twelve-year history at 53,155. Light snowfall on race morning ends by 7:40 a.m., and skies are partly cloudy at the start, with temperatures in the upper 30s. Over 250 teams enter the Corporate Cup, and the City of Spokane wins the first of its three titles. Former WSU star Peter Koech captures the men's title with a one-second victory over Matthews Motshwarateu of Botswana, and Anne Audain wins for a sixth time. Wheelchair racers Craig Blanchette and Candace Cable-Brooks again win their divisions, and Jeff Worthington of Colorado Springs, Colorado, wins Bloomsday's first ever Quad (quadriplegic) Division in 47:45, just five seconds ahead of fellow quad wheeler Russ Monroe of San Diego. The Lilac Bloomsday Association selects Dorothy Kirk as its first Volunteer of the Year.

Bloomsday #13—May 7, 1989

A 96-page book, *Bloomsday: A City In Motion*, with photos by Phil Schofield and text by Don Kardong, is published by Cowles Publishing Company. In April, the Centennial Tree Planting Committee plants poplar trees on the north side of Doomsday Hill (Pettet Drive). Poplars are selected because they grow fast, withstand drought and require minimum maintenance. Bloomsday is advertised as the largest timed road race in the world and, with 53.6% females, it is touted as having the largest percentage of women in a mixed field race. The field size appears to have reached its natural peak, as the number of

registrants (56,280) and finishers (52,547) is lower than the previous year for the first time in history. On race morning, first-time Bloomsday wheeler John Bingham loses control of his chair on the downhill to Latah Creek and tumbles down an embankment. Bingham isn't seriously hurt, but the accident delays the start of the race 12 minutes. John Halvorsen of Norway and Lynn Williams of Canada win the men's and women's elite races, and Craig Blanchette and Jean Driscoll win the wheelchair division. Driscoll's victory is the first of her 12 successive Bloomsday wins.

Bloomsday #14—May 6, 1990

Race entry fee increases to \$7.00, the first increase since 1984. For the first time, the *Fit For Bloomsday* youth running program poster is designed by a program participant. The contest winner is fourth-grader Jenna Brown of Ridgeview Elementary. The official Bloomsday finish line is dedicated at the intersection of Spokane Falls Boulevard and Post. Due to safety concerns, Bloomsday institutes a policy that all strollers and assisted wheelchairs must line up in the Red section and must walk the entire course. In addition, a five-year ban is announced for any racers caught entering the course after the starting line. On race morning, winds gust up to 30 mph from the southwest. Elite racer German Silva wins the men's race, and Anne Audain notches her seventh and final victory. Craig Blanchette and Jean Driscoll repeat as wheelchair winners. Among those being pushed in wheelchairs is 100-year-old Anna Searle, who crosses the finish for her third time. Psychics are unsuccessful in attempts to guess the color of the Bloomsday finishers shirt. The actual shirt is a bright raspberry. For the first time, a special Volunteer Party is held several weeks after Bloomsday to celebrate the contribution of volunteers.

Bloomsday #15—May 5, 1991

The Bloomsday Association has an open contest for finisher T-shirt designs, and the winner is Martin Sweet, whose purple shirt shows a stream of runners heading downhill into Peaceful Valley. Dr. Ed Rockwell, whose involvement with Bloomsday goes back to its inception, is selected as the first inductee in the Bloomsday Hall of Fame. Because of the Gulf War, "Desert Bloom" races are held at eight military outposts for service men and women to participate in. Finishers receive the Bloomsday T-shirt with a special "Persian Gulf" insignia. Bloomsday entries top 60,000 (60,104), and 55,794 of those reach the finish. Barcodes have been added to finisher tags to speed up results processing of the largest number of Bloomsday finishers to date. Australian Steve Moneghetti and American Lisa Weidenbach win the men's and women's elite races. Wheelchair racers Craig Blanchette and Jean Driscoll win their divisions, setting course races in the process. Blanchette's time of 27:47 is reported as a world record for 12 kilometers. Farther back in the field, 103-year-old Mercietta Betts of Walla Walla is Bloomsday's oldest finisher.

Bloomsday #16—May 3, 1992

Former Lilac Bloomsday Association Board member Karen Heaps is hired as Bloomsday Race Coordinator for the first of thirteen successive years. The Association commissions local artist Ken Spiering to develop a Bloomsday poster, the first of eleven that Spiering will do. The poster depicts a multi-colored confetti throng climbing Doomsday Hill. 57,651 runners, joggers, walkers and wheelers enter the run, and they're greeted with near-perfect conditions on race morning, with clear skies and temperatures in the low 50s. Yobes Ondieki and Lisa Ondieki win men's and women's titles, the first husband and wife victory in Bloomsday history. Yobes is the first runner to break 34 minutes on the course, and his time is the fastest to date. Lisa's is second-fastest among females. Craig Blanchette and Jean Driscoll repeat as men's and women's wheelchair champions. The Athletics Congress, governing body for track and field and road racing in the United States, reports that Bloomsday is the largest timed road race in the world.

Bloomsday #17—May 2, 1993

April 16 is announced as the first annual Bloomsday All-City T-Shirt Day. Past participants are encouraged to wear their favorite shirts in the days counting down to Bloomsday, and also to Check-In on race weekend. Many inquiries reach organizers about how many people have done every Bloomsday. No formal count is done this year, but estimates place the number at between 100 and 300. Bloomsday registration and finisher numbers are almost exactly the same as in 1992, as 57,680 sign up (compared with 57,651 in '92) and 53,206 finish (compared with 53,303 in '92). Pleasant conditions prevail on race day, with skies partly cloudy and temperatures in the high 40s. Mexicans Arturo Barrios and German Silva wage a stirring two-man battle after cresting Doomsday Hill, but Barrios uses a punishing sprint over the final half mile to claim victory. Anne Marie Letko of New Jersey wins the women's elite, and for the sixth straight year, wheelchair winners are Craig Blanchette and Jean Driscoll. Nick Rose of England runs the fastest time to date on the course by a masters runner (36:31). In the fall, the Bloomsday Association begins a new tradition by sending 30 of the Spokane region's top high school cross country runners to the Foot Locker West Regional Championships in California.

Bloomsday #18—May 1, 1994

Early in the year, the LBA moves to a new office along the course at 1610 W. Riverside in a building overlooking Peaceful Valley. Construction elsewhere sees the completion of renovation of the T.J. Meenach Bridge in time for it to be used by Bloomies. Entries reach 60,037, only 67 short of the record set in 1991. Finishers total 55,195, also just shy of the record. In a Bloomsday first, a 19-year-old male runner is attacked by a goose before the race in Riverfront Park. He (the runner) is treated and released. Josphat Machuka outduels Armando Quintanilla over the final half mile for the first of his back-to-back victories. To highlight female competition, start of the elite women is moved to 8:45, 15 minutes before the men's elite start. Olga Appell becomes only the second

woman to break 39 minutes as she posts a 38:57 victory (adjusted time reflecting course mismeasurement). Craig Blanchette and Jean Driscoll win again, both setting wheelchair course records. The men's wheelchair race goes down to the wire, and Paul Wiggins files a protest alleging that Blanchette cut him off. The protest is overruled. Coverage of Bloomsday '94 is aired nationally on two different ESPN shows. Later in the year, Ken Spiering's poster showing the Bloomsday finish line in a collage of styles of eight different artists is selected by *Runner's World* magazine as the best poster of 1994.

Bloomsday #19—May 7, 1995

The *Fit For Bloomsday* youth running program reports that over 6,000 children and 60 schools are now participating. Bloomsday entry fee rises to \$8.00, the first increase since 1990. 59,100 sign up and 54,154 finish, including a record number of wheelchair racers (62). For the first time, Bloomsday officials use cellular phones on race weekend to stay in touch and coordinate activities. Light rain at the start doesn't seem to deter the elite competitors, as Delillah Asiago becomes the first Kenyan woman to win Bloomsday and Josphat Machuka is the first male to win back-to-back titles. Both set Bloomsday records that will remain unbroken through the 30th year. Paul Wiggins is the first wheeler to beat Craig Blanchette at Bloomsday as he shatters the course record with a time of 25:28. Jean Driscoll wins her seventh title, but much of the women's wheelchair attention focuses on the third-place finisher, 12-year-old LeAnn Shannon of Orange Park, Florida. Shannon was paralyzed in a car accident as an infant and has been racing since she was 7 years old.

Bloomsday #20—May 5, 1996

In its 20th year, Bloomsday enjoys its largest field in history (61,298), as well as its largest number of finishers (56,156). Bloomsday also becomes one of the first races in the world to have a web site. In a nod to its history, Bloomsday invites the approximately 140 individuals who have completed all previous Bloomsdays to a Bloomsday Reunion Run held over the original course a week before Bloomsday. In recognition of its evolution into one of America's premier foot races, Bloomsday is awarded the right to host the first World Road Running Championships, the culminating race of the Professional Road Running Organization (PRRO) Circuit of major U.S. races. As a result, open prize money for 1996 increases to \$100,000. A bomb at City Hall a week before the run puts Bloomsday officials on alert, but the run goes off without a hitch on a cool, sunny morning. Lazarus Nyakeraka and Colleen De Reuck capture the men's and women's divisions, with Paul Wiggins and Jean Driscoll winning the wheelchair divisions. 105-year-old Cecelia Kelly of Cheney becomes the oldest finisher in race history when she walks across the line in 3:20:45 using two canes, after being pushed in a wheelchair over most of the course. Bloomsday volunteers take over computer processing of finishers, a function performed by Medical Service Corporation for almost 20 years, and some resulting glitches postpone the publishing of finishers' names. The finisher T-shirt is one of the most popular in history, featuring artwork by Ken Spiering in which crushed cups

and spilled water spell out “Bloomsday 96” and the numeral 20. After the race, a study by Gonzaga University students estimates Bloomsday’s economic impact at over \$8 million.