**PHOTO CAPTIONS**

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| 1 | Tony Fischer and Willard Haley |
| 2 | Nigher Alfaro and Jim McDermott |
| 3 | Esther Harris and Margie Gunter |
| 4 | David Burke, Clay Flaugher, Trevor Griswold and Scott Griswold |
| 5 | Waiting for the start |
| 6 | Waiting for the start |
| 7 | Tobby and Alisha Eldridge |
| 8 | Terry Atteberry |
| 9 | I’m not sure of this woman’s name, and don’t want to guess. Any help? |
| 10 | The starting line |
| 11 | On East 2nd Street, minutes into the race. Nigher Alfaro and Jane Barnes take the early men’s and women’s lead, never to be relinquished. |
| 12 | The middle and back of the pack, making the first turn onto East 2nd |
| 13 | Terry Jarrett (#857) leading a group on East 2nd. |
| 14 | A rear view of the front of the pack on East North St. |
| 15 | Lisa (#870) and Aaron (#871) Washburn lead a group through the Business 54 intersection on East North St. |
| 16 | Erin Gerloff (#845) and Anna Harrell (#853) make the turn on to Industrial Park Drive just past the one-mile mark. They ran together for nearly the entire race. |
| 17 | The first of many spectators we would see along the course |
| 18 | A volunteer brought along three young spectators |
| 19 | The first aid station--staffed by enthusiastic Eldon High School students--at the split-off between the 5K and half marathon courses. This is where we faced a huge temptation: We could turn right and run just a half mile more (to the 5K finish) and call it a day, or go straight and run 10 more miles. |
| 20 | More spectators, on S. Aurora St. at the 3.1-mile mark |
| 21 | Volunteers at the second aid station at S. Grand and W. 8th. (Mile 3.8) |
| 22 | The volunteers were always happy to pose for a photo |
| 23 | It’s “thumbs up” from Randy Holtmeyer of Iberia at the turn onto S. Walnut (Mile 3.9) |
| 24 | Lisa Washburn turns onto W. 4th St. (Mile 4.8). She later told her husband about a creepy runner who was taking photos during the race. ☺ |
| 25 | Volunteers keeping their hands warm at S. Grand and W. 5th St. (mile 5.0) |
| 26 | Spectators giving a thumbs-up at mile 5.2. One didn’t seem to be too impressed. |
| 27 | Hard to come up with an excuse to top that one. These are Jayna Gray’s kids. Jayna was hit by a car in mid March while on a training run, and bounced back to run the half marathon. |
| 28 | Due to last year’s chilly, rainy weather for the race, we saw very few spectators/cheerleaders out on the course. Seeing so many out there this year made the race so much more fun. |
| 29 | Another cheering spectator, on W. 2nd St. (mile 5.8) |
| 30 | Sarra Echelmeyer (#840) and Vickie Lyskowski (#860) ran together the entire race. I suspect they also chatted the entire way, because I could hear them chatting the entire time I was near them. |
| 31 | The first of several signs for us along W. Haven Drive. (Mile 6.4) |
| 32 | “Worst parade ever”? Ouch! Even worse is that this young spectator failed to offer me his glazed doughnut. Fortunately for him, he redeemed himself with the reverse side of his poster. I spotted Kari Salsman nearby, so I’m assuming that’s her son. Thanks for being out there, Kari and gang! |
| 33 | Correction, kiddo: My feet hurt because I’m too old and heavy to run a half marathon. |
| 34 | Wow! This was really surprising and nice to see. It’s hard enough to get a high schooler to wake up before noon on Saturday, but to see these three young ladies come out to cheer us on, in costume, was just what we needed before climbing the brutal hill on Sunnyview Circle (mile 7.1). |
| 35 | Residents on Sunnyview Circle watching us from the porch. |
| 36 | Aid station on Sassafras Drive (mile 7.4). They went above and beyond to accommodate me. I saw the orange Gatorade cooler from a distance, and dumped what little I had left in a bottle I was carrying in order to get more. (I didn’t want to mix flavors, in case they had a different one.) I asked for Gatorade, but it turned out the cooler contained water. I drank a cup of water, and then continued on. Half a block away, one of the young ladies chased me down, handing me a cold bottle of Gatorade. You can’t beat that level of support! |
| 37 | Scott Gray finished the 5K and then drove around cheering Jayna and the rest of the runners on. |
| 38 | Volunteers at N. Grand and Rainbow Drive (mile 8.1) |
| 39 | Volunteers at N. Grand and Vernon Drive (mile 8.2) |
| 40 | Sharon Schaefer (#866) on N. Spruce (mile 9.1). Sharon, at 61 years of age, was the oldest female in the race, and impressed the heck out of me. She finished in 2:12:32. |
| 41 | The same group of spectators we saw at the one-mile mark came over to cheer us on at N. Spruce and Walker Drive (mile 9.3). |
| 42 | It seemed like every police officer, fireman, EMT, and public works employee in Eldon was out there supporting us. Combined with all the high school student volunteers and spectators, for its size, this event received more community support than any race I’ve ever done. |
| 43 | A spectator at S. Oak and 1st St. The finish line was so close (one block away on S. Maple), and yet so far (3.1 miles to go). |
| 44 | More volunteers/cheerleaders at S. Oak and 1st St. |
| 45 | An Eldon public works employee mans the intersection at S. Oak and W. North Streets (mile 10.1). |
| 46 | Aid station volunteers at the church parking lot on W. Haynes St. (mile 10.9) |
| 47 | Spectators at mile 11.1 on W. Haynes St. Two miles to go! |
| 48 | The sign in the spectators’ front yard. |
| 49 | She recognized me first, but that’s Daphne Partridge on the right. My brain was numb as this point in the race (mile 11.3), but somehow I remembered her name. It’s always great to see a familiar, friendly face during a race. |
| 50 | How’s this for cute? I wonder if the little guy was awake ten minutes later when Tanya Rhine would come by. |
| 51 | Cheering section at mile 12. I wish I had had the energy of that little doggy at this point in the race. I think he could have run the half marathon. |
| 52 | I’ve seen lots of signs over the years, but this was a first: “Runners don’t die. They only smell like it.” I can vouch for that. |
| 53 | The last water station, at mile 12.2 on E. Newton. The ladies told me to go catch Willard Haley, whom I hadn’t seen since mile 1 and presumed had finished long ago. It didn’t matter—my legs were too fried to “race” at this point. |
| 54 | Pretty neat, huh? With all the “peace” signs, I first thought it might be one of those hippie Volkswagen buses from the 1960s, but saw that it was only a Ford Econoline. Still, it was cool to see. |
| 55 | Two enthusiastic cheerleaders at E. High St. and Eldon Ave. (Mile 12.3) |
| 56 | Volunteers directing us to the short out-and-back on E. 3rd. |
| 57 | Lo and behold, Willard Haley hadn’t yet finished, and was coming the other way on E. 3rd. Leg cramps slowed him down, but I still wouldn’t catch him before the finish line. |
| 58 | One last group of cheering spectators at the turnaround on E. 3rd. (Mile 12.9) |
| 59 | One last race photo from this side of the finish line. (Mile 13.0999) |
| 60 | My preferred side of the finish line. |
| 61 | Mark Golden crosses the finish line in 2:18:43. |
| 62 | Alisha Eldridge (#841) and Terry Atteberry (#664) were the second and third women, respectively, to cross the finish line. |
| 63 | Tanya Rhine crosses the finish line in 2:28:27. |
| 64 | Dr. Scott Griswold and his son Trevor cross the finish line in 2:30:17. |
| 65 | Roger Brauner (#837) and Mark Golden (#847) pose for a post-race photo. |
| 66 | Steve Martonfi crosses the finish line in 2:45:46. |
| 67 | With her feet badly blistered, Jayna Gray crosses the finish line in 2:46:16, six weeks after being hit by a car. |
| 68 | Jacqueline Dudek was the overall female winner of the 5K, finishing in 28:09. |
| 69 | Overall male winner of the half marathon, Nigher Alfaro. Nigher finished in 1:35:17, beating his second-place finish time of 1:36:51 in 2013. |
| 70 | Monica White and David Burke cross the finish line in 3:05:40. |
| 71 | David Burke (#838) and Clay Flaugher (#844) pose for a photo. Clay finished in 1:51:08, nearly an hour faster than his 2:46:39 finish in 2013. |
| 72 | Christy Meyer-Kidwell of the Miller County Child Advocacy Council, which organizes the Run for the Children. |
| 73 | Amy Harrell (#854), Anna Harrell (#853), Joan Jarrett and Terry Jarrett (#857) pose for a photo. |