



An anonymous runner leaves a prize ribbon at 'Pre's Rock.' A private donation from the Shirley family and money from the city of Eugene with be used to purchase the 1.5 acre area around the rock to prevent it from being developed and convert it into a city park.

Scott Barnett/Emerald

Pre

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"Who would have thought 24 years ago that we would be standing here today?" Cliff Shirley said. "We are. That's very important."

At Friday's ceremony, Shirley signed a deal with Eugene City Manager Jim Johnson to make the \$120,000 payment in installments. Shirley paid the first \$12,000 Friday.

"There are some people that just talk about things, and there are some people that do things," said Kathy Herrmann of the Oregon Track Club.

The guest list reads like a Who's Who of Oregon Track and Field. Nike CEO Phil Knight was slated to attend, as was former Oregon track coach Bill Bower-

man, but neither were present. Pre's parents, Ray and Elfriede, and his sister Neta, were also in attendance.

"We know he is still an inspiration for many," Elfriede Prefontaine said. "We know this way Steve will be remembered."

The Prefontaine family still receives phone calls, letters and visits from people all over the country, she said.

"It's great," said Pre's friend and coach Bill Dellinger. "I think that piece of land up there, it's appropriate that be a park dedicated to Pre. I would have hated to see that land developed."

Larry Norris of the Oregon Track Club agreed.

"This is probably the best

thing that could have happened for everybody," he said.

Cliff Shirley presented several intricate trophies of Pre at the ceremony. Only 12 of the approximately 20-inch tall statues were made.

Before the ceremony, trophies were given to: Pre's parents; Tom Cruise, producer on the most recent Pre movie "Without Limits"; Pre's Marshfield High School track coach; and the Southwest Oregon Youth Association.

At the ceremony, Shirley presented trophies to the city, Knight, Bowerman, Dellinger and the Oregon Track Club.

The city's purchase of Pre's park should become official in the next several weeks, said city spokesman Eric Jones.

Janitors

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mix with wild animals, ocean waves and golden sunsets. Along the edge of the supply shelf are Far Side cartoons, pictures of friends and placards that read, "Direct Your Future Now" and "Start Each Day with a Smile."

When retirement comes in about five years, Bob will be 55. He plans to travel. The Himalayas and Nepal, Yucatan jungles and Mayan ruins in Mexico, a ferry up the inland passage of Alaska and New England in the fall are all on his list. Maybe he will return to Switzerland where he once gazed on the Jungfrau, Matterhorn and Eiger mountains during a month vacation between graduating from the University and returning to get his janitorial job in 1973.

Bob works alone. He likes it that way. No music, although his idols are folk singers. Sometimes he is on autopilot while working, sometimes he is dreaming. He loves adventure fantasy books and reads them at a rate of two per week. He likes that impossible and magical things are accomplished.

"Sometimes I dream about being the rich guy out saving the poor and creating world peace," Bob says. And sometimes he worries.

Bob's biggest obstacle was graduating from college.

"It took me six years," he said. "There were many classes I almost flunked and I had to drop because I didn't study well or I was bored or I just didn't get it."

When he found a love for history, grades turned to A's and B's, and his biggest challenge — getting a degree, became his biggest accomplishment.

He never considered using his degree to teach. Bob does not like being in front of people. He considered becoming a librarian, but found the necessary computer skills a bit much.

Work at the University brought Bob the security of good benefits and weekends free for adventure. Occasionally he climbs a mountain. He has climbed the Three Sisters, Mount Washington, Diamond Peak and Thielsen near Diamond Lake.

Bob enjoys his work but wastes no time getting it done. He leaves the closet with buckets filled and push-cart loaded, heading to the bathrooms. Cleaning toilets is his least favorite part of the job.

"They are not exactly my cup of tea," he said and laughed. The grossest thing he has had to do is clean feces scrawled on the wall.

Bathrooms done, he sweeps along his way, darting in and out of molecular biology and chemistry labs, emptying trash cans, cleaning door handles, erasing blackboards and vacuuming carpeted areas.

But for Janitor Bob the secret to life is not in the janitor's key box or on the top of mountains.

"Just enjoy life, whatever you do — working or whatever," Bob said. "And don't let things get to you. Enjoy nature, birds, waterfalls and music, but enjoy life — be happy."

On warm nights, at three in the morning, Frannie can be found laying on her favorite University bench, head on a pillow, looking up at the stars.

When her half-hour lunch is

over, she leaves her bench under the crab apple tree and goes back to work with the detail crew.

Frannie Mays was recently promoted to lead worker of the five-woman janitorial crew. They spend about four weeks in a building before moving on to the next. Their job includes cleaning things many people will never notice or appreciate.

Frannie once cleaned the bottom of a mat that rolling chairs rest on. It just looked a little too dirty, she said. The next day the mat's owner, a professor, called Frannie's supervisor — to complain.

She was missing a pair of earrings, and Frannie was the suspect. Two hours later the professor called back. She found the earrings, but she never noticed the mat. It bothered Frannie, but not for long. She was too busy.

Frannie's supervisor describes her as a hard worker and "a real go-getter." That may be an understatement.

Forty hours a week on the graveyard shift and a second job waitressing on weekend nights leaves the 35-year-old Frannie saying she is fortunate.

"Jobs have always accommodated me," Frannie said. "They have always fit my hours, my needs and wants."

Frannie's wants and needs revolve around having days and evenings free to spend with the joy of her life, her 8-year-old son Joseph.

"I don't know why I got blessed with such a wonderful son, but I did," Frannie said.

When graveyard ends at 7:30 a.m. she rushes home, wakes Joseph, gets him fed and dressed, takes her shower, and then takes him to school. Then it is home again for four to six hours of sleep before picking him up from school. Frannie does not want to miss any opportunity to be with her son.

She coached his soccer team to a 6-1-1 record last year; she volunteers at his school, and together they pass afternoons and weekends having adventures. They go to movies, climb the Butte and go out to eat. During the summer, they go to the McKenzie River every weekend.

Last week, they went to the Globetrotters game and in the last two years they have not missed a Ducks Club Sports hockey game.

"We get down and pound on the glass," said Frannie, whose love for sports will carry over into playing league softball this summer.

Frannie admits she is a "workaholic." The longest she has gone without having at least two jobs at once was six months. And she has often worked three jobs at a time.

The best part about her year and a half at the University, has been working with her best friend "Glow" and being on a fun crew. The worst part is cleaning bathrooms, especially the men's.

Frannie thinks she is becoming more nocturnal. The nights bring her peace and time to let her imagination free. There's nothing as beautiful as snow at night, Frannie says. Last week she fed a raccoon by hand for the first time.

"I really grooved on that," Frannie said. Then she gets quiet and looks out the open window where a warm midnight breeze is blowing in.

"Listen now — it is so quiet out there." And then she smiles.

Oregon Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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