

By the Kansas Historical Society

Why is Glenn Cunningham a Notable Kansan?

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... Letha stayed outside to play on the swings, even though it was so cold. Floyd, Raymond and I went inside. Mr. Schroeder kept the key to the front door, and the side door, left unlocked, only opened from the outside. It was understood that we could use the side door if we arrived before Mr. Schroeder got there, but once you went in the side door, you couldn't get back out that same door unless someone opened it from the outside. Floyd went to put wood inside the large pot-bellied stove to get the room heated, while Raymond and I went to the blackboard to play games and draw. As Floyd worked, I decided to go back where he was. He was arranging the coal chunks on top of wood, then he reached over to get the five-gallon can of kerosene that was kept nearby to get the fire started. He started to pour it into the stove. Then everything blew up!

—Glenn Cunningham

In running it is man against himself, the cruelest of opponents. The other runners are not the real enemies. His adversary lies within him, in his ability with brain and heart to master himself and his emotions

—Glenn Cunningham

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Meet Glenn Cunningham



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1. Quote credit: "GLENN CUNNINGHAM (1909-1988) ... Never Quit." Interview by Darrel Hicks. *Interview Spotlights*. MyBestYears.com. <http://www.mybestyears.com/InterviewSpotlights/CUNNINGHAMGlenn080409.html>
2. Quote credit: Cunningham, Glenn. *Never Quit*. Lincoln, VA: Chosen Books, 1981. Print.
3. Image credit: "Meet Glenn Cunningham." Famous Kansan trading card. Kansas Historical Society, 2010.

NEW WORLD'S RECORD



A mile in four minutes and four and four-tenths seconds. That was the new world's record set last Thursday night by Glenn Cunningham, Elkhart, Kansas, boy, on Dartmouth college's springy six and two-thirds laps wooden indoor track.

Glenn's mile was the fastest ever recorded in the world's history. The time was four full seconds under his 4:08.6 indoor world's record and two seconds faster than the outdoor mark of 4:06.4 recently credited to England's Syd Woodersen by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

"I thought my time would be about 4:05 because my second quarter was a little slow." Cunningham said after the race. "But I'm not surprised at the time. The track was marvelous and the conditions were ideal."

4. News article credit: "New World's Record." *Elkhart Tri State* [Elkhart, Kansas] 11 Mar 1938: 1. Microfilm. Kansas Historical Society: NP 2033.