

GLEN CUNNINGHAM

Cunningham was born August 4, 1909, the son of Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Cunningham, formerly of Elkhart, Kan., now living at Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

Glenn spent his adolescence among the hardships of prairie life in southwestern Kansas.

At the age of 8 Glenn was involved in a tragedy which caused the death of his brother Floyd and all but left Glenn an invalid.

Floyd then 13 years old, was stove tender at the little rural school attended by the Cunningham boys and girls. One morning Floyd threw fluid from an unlabelled can into the stove to start the fire. An explosion followed.

Eight-year old Glenn was standing nearby. Both were enveloped in flames. Their 12 year old sister, Letha, broke into the schoolhouse and extinguished the fire with sand.

Floyd died from his burns and Glenn was in bed six weeks before he recovered to a semi-invalid stage, his legs covered with scars.

He attended high school at Elkhart, Kan. where Coach Roy Varney, a graduate of Kansas State Teacher's College of Pittsburg took Glenn in charge. In the spring of 1930, his senior year in high school, Glenn came to the Kansas Relays, where he set a high school mile record at 4:31.4; at the state high school meet he ran a record 4:28.4 mile in the rain and at Chicago in the national high school meet he set a record of 4:24.7 which was never broken.