

Hometown Hero

Lloyd Vernon Kennedy



Lloyd Vernon (Vern) Kennedy was born on March 20, 1907, in Kansas City, Missouri, but lived most of his life in Mendon. He attended college at the University of Central Missouri (UCM), located in Warrensburg, Missouri, where today the football field bears his name.

On September 25, 1954, the university renamed the West Campus Field to Vernon Kennedy Field, in honor of the man considered to be UCM's finest athlete. As a student, Kennedy was a three-time All-MIAA football player (1926/1927/1928)

for the UCM Mules. He also earned accomplishments in track, field, and baseball in 1927. During this time he also won the decathlon at the prestigious Penn Relays.

At age 27, Kennedy started playing in the big leagues with the Chicago White Sox. While pitching for the Sox, he threw the first no-hitter ever in Comiskey Park, which resulted in a 5-0 shutout over Cleveland on August 31, 1935. His most productive season came in 1936 when he posted career highs in wins (21), innings pitched (274 1/3), and completed games (20).

Kennedy made the American League All-Star Team in both 1936 and 1938. Spanning a 12-season career, Kennedy posted a 104-132 record with 691 strikeouts and a 4.67 ERA in 1035 2/3 innings.

During his baseball career, Kennedy played for several other teams, including: the Detroit Tigers, St. Louis Browns, Washington Senators, Cleveland Indians, Philadelphia Phillies, and the Cincinnati Reds.

In his retirement Kennedy remained an active member of the athletic community, teaching and coaching in Brookfield for 10 years and later competing annually in the Missouri's Senior Olympics and the Show-Me Games. At his passing he was the oldest entrant and consistent medal winner and held records in all age groups.

Kennedy passed away in Mendon on January 28, 1993 as the result of a farm accident at the age of 85.

PAST TO PRESENT

First known as Salt Creek in the years following the Civil War, the town changed names in 1871, when Christopher Sharp laid out the community of Mendon. The early town hosted several businesses; among the earliest was a general store built around 1865.

Some 17 years later, the community was faced with a serious decision. The Santa Fe Railway intended to lay tracks about a mile away from the town. The town could either move, or risk loss of business. As the tracks were laid in 1887 and 1888, a new Mendon was established at the site and the previous location largely abandoned. By 1899 the community had expanded, with a school, bank, hotels, and over twenty stores.

While the town's business community has declined over recent years, the railroad still passes through regularly and many continue to call Mendon home. The town's close proximity to Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge has created new business as seasonal visitors and waterfowl hunters come to the area.



Mendon Depot circa 1910.

MENDON



Although a small community, Mendon has plenty to offer for the visitor seeking peace and quiet. Situated near a national refuge, many come to Mendon to enjoy the nature of the countryside.

Chariton County Heritage Tours, Inc.

Janet Weaver, President
P.O. Box 40
Keytesville, MO 65261
660-288-3425

Email: janet_weaver531@hotmail.com

Mendon Memorial Park



Take advantage of the park in downtown Mendon with picnic tables under a pavilion and plenty of open space. The Bittiker family donated the land in 1995 for all to enjoy.

Main Street

Mendon Lions Club



The Mendon Lions Club building serves the community and is available for large gatherings, receptions, and reunions. It is conveniently located next to the park.

Main Street

AgriServices of Brunswick, LLC Mendon Grain Elevator



Farming is a vital part of Mendon's economy.

Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge



Mendon provides easy access to the east entrance of the Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge. In 1937 the US Congress established the Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge to the west of Mendon, in the hopes of preserving wetland. The men of the Civilian Conservation Corps built roads, buildings, and man-made wetlands. Originally designed to preserve habitat for ducks, Canada Geese came in droves during their migrations, with some 800 stopping in 1941, up to 100,000 in 1990. This led to a yearly influx of hunters, benefiting both Mendon and Chariton County as a whole. Hours for the refuge vary based on season and weather conditions. Check online or call for hours.

Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge
16194 Swan Lake Avenue
Sumner, MO 65681
660-856-3323
www.fws.gov/midwest/swanlake

Lost Quarter Hunting Lodge



Established in 1929, the Lost Quarter Hunting Lodge provides quality accommodations for hunters looking for a secluded retreat. Bordered on one side by the Swan Lake Refuge and the other three by Yellow Creek, visitors have the opportunity to hunt deer, turkey, and water fowl.

200 Brunswick Street
Mendon, MO 64660
www.lostquarterfarms.com

Mac's Pack Convenience Store



Mac's Pack is a daily stop for many in the community. Providing a deli, pizza, and burgers along with a great selection of standard convenience store fare, Mac's Pack is a good choice when you need to grab food on-the-go. For those with a little time, the store has tables and chairs to sit and chat awhile.

400 Main Street • 660-272-3244
www.facebook.com/MacsPackConvenience

Lodging



Former stores along Mendon's Main Street have been adaptively reused as apartments and lodging for hunters and city dwellers who enjoy weekends in the country.

Old Fashioned Saturday Weekend in August

Town festival with parade, vendors,
games, music and entertainment!