

IN MEMORIAM

On Valentine's Day, 1992, a former Olympic runner who grew up in Boyertown passed away.

Eugene "Gene" Venzke, one of the greatest milers of his day, died February 14, 1992, after achieving an outstanding career as a miler in eighteen years of competition.

Mr. Venzke was a former world record holder in the mile run with a time of 4:08.2. He attended Boyertown High School for two years, running his first interscholastic mile for the school in 1923. He dropped out of school and went to work in Pottstown. Later, he returned to school in Pottstown and graduated from there in 1932.

Having sustained a pulled muscle during a training session prior to the 1932 Olympic Trials, Mr. Venzke still competed and just missed making the team. He then ran for the Quakers at the University of Pennsylvania and graduated from there in 1936. That year, he was a member of the United States Olympic track and field team, and he ran the fastest 1500 meters by any American in the trials with a time of 3:52.3.

Gene Venzke will again be honored for his greatness this year as Boyertown Area Senior High School brings back the Venzke Relay Carnival. This event is meant to highlight and perpetuate the outstanding career of a very competitive and dedicated athlete and to serve as an inspiration to future young athletes.



Gene Venzke in action
third from right

