

Famous Kansans Trading Card Series #27

Vivian Vance

(1912-1979)

A flair for drama first surfaced in Vance in Cherryvale, where she was born. She was active in school and community plays in Independence. Vance appeared in many television and movie roles, but became well known for her role as Ethel Mertz on the television comedy *I Love Lucy*. Her contract specified she was to be “frowsy” so Lucille Ball would appear glamorous.

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Famous Kansans Trading Card Series #26

Mike Torrez

(1946-)

At age nine Torrez accidentally broke car windows with his baseball pitches in his hometown of Topeka. Torrez wanted to be a Major League pitcher and practiced with his father in the street in front of his house. Torrez played for seven major league teams during his career. He was the first Major League pitcher to beat every team in both the National and American Leagues.

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Famous Kansans Trading Card Series #25

Clyde Tombaugh

(1906-1997)

Tombaugh built his first telescope at age ten. As a high school student in Burdett, Tombaugh spent nearly 100 hours grinding mirrors in the family storm cellar to build a better telescope. In 1929 Tombaugh worked as an assistant at the Lowell Observatory where he spent hours comparing photographs of the stars. By comparing star positions on these photographs, Tombaugh discovered the planet Pluto.

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Famous Kansans Trading Card Series #30

Lynette Woodard

(1959-)

As a child Woodard played basketball with her brothers in Wichita using a wadded up sock. Woodard played on school basketball teams through high school and at the University of Kansas where she set an NCAA record. Woodard made the U.S. Olympic basketball team twice, and in 1984 she led the team to a gold medal. In 1985 Woodard became the first female to play with the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team.

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Famous Kansans Trading Card Series #29

William Allen White

(1868-1944)

White’s editorial “What’s The Matter With Kansas?” brought national attention to his hometown of Emporia. His journalism career began at age eleven when he was hired as a “printer’s devil” in El Dorado. As the editor of the *Emporia Gazette*, White wrote about Kansas politics and politicians. White earned a Pulitzer Prize twice in his career.

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Famous Kansans Trading Card Series #28

Bernhard Warkentin

(1847-1908)

Immigrating to the United States as a young man, Warkentin settled in Halstead where he built a grain mill. Warkentin helped other Mennonites settle in the area. In 1885 he brought from his native Russia a car load of Turkey Red wheat seed to sell. He replaced the stone wheels in his mill with metal ones that could process the hard wheat.

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