

The History of Kearns Junior High School

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2006

Kearns Junior High School  
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## HISTORY OF KEARNS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### BEFORE KEARNS

Although Kearns was surrounded by early pioneer towns, it remained unsettled until 1942. Kearns was just a vast field of acres of dry farms for grain or open country. Mr. George Hurt introduced dry-farming in 1887 which resulted in more productive farming. Dry farms were not irrigated. In good seasons the farmers had good crops. In bad years the wind would blow away the crops and blow in sand.

Mining in the nearby Oquirrh Mountains brought the railroad through Kearns and a deep, underwater well was dug at the intersection of 5400 West and 4700 South and trains stopped there for water. Thomas Kearns was a wealthy mine owner and a United States Senator. He and his wife unselfishly shared their wealth with others including schools and an orphanage. He was later honored by having Camp Kearns named after him.

A land grant of 45,836.05 acres was granted by the United States Government to the Territory of Utah for University and school purposes in 1855. The land passed into private ownership with the sum of \$7.00 per acre. The first three owners under this law were B.O. Johnson, 1904; Joseph D. Park and David War, in 1908.

**KEARNS IS NAMED** Kearns was named after Thomas Kearns (1862 - 1918).<sup>1</sup> He was born in 1862 in Oxford County, Ontario, Canada, to Margaret Maher and Thomas Kearns. His Catholic Irish immigrant parents moved to a farm in Nebraska where he attended school. He came to Utah in 1883 to work, prospect and develop the Silver King Mine that made him a millionaire. He married Jennie Judge and they had three children. He was elected an alderman in Park City, was a delegate to the 1893 state constitutional committee where he advocated an eight hour workday. In 1900 he announced his candidacy for U.S. Senate where his knowledge of mining law helped him win the election. He served from 1901 - 1905. Kearns and his partner, David Keith purchased the Salt Lake Tribune in 1901. In 1904 Kearns introduced a bill to annex 800 square miles of Arizona north of the Colorado River as part of Utah. He died of a stroke in 1918, eight days after being struck by a car at So. Temple and Main St. The Kearns fortune helped build St. Ann's Orphanage (now Kearns- St. Ann's School) and the Kearns home which was donated to the state in 1937 and is the Governor's Mansion.

### CAMP KEARNS

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<sup>1</sup>History of Thomas Kearns from Utah History Encyclopedia

On December 8, 1941, the United States declared war on Japan after their bombing of Pearl Harbor on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The military went into action to create training bases far enough inland to be safe from surprise attacks. Engineers were sent to locate secure areas. The area of Kearns was recommended by Colonel E.G. Thomas on February 10, 1942. The army transformed the farms into an army base. Building and utilities were constructed between April 7 and May 22 of 1942. 1200 acres of land was used for the camp site. Captain Cutler, an Army Engineer, worked with the farmers adjusting crop and property damage. Roads, sewer lines, electricity and water lines were constructed and another railroad spur was added. By August 21, 1942 the barracks were completed and by September 12 the base held its first formal review for the commander, Colonel Leo F. Post. The entire installation cost \$17 million and included 926 buildings, two gymnasiums, two service clubs, 16 mess halls, a cold storage plant, recreation fields, parking a 10 wing hospital capable of caring for 1,000 patients, a bank, post office, a theater, a telegraph office, a library, four chapels, barber shops, shoe repair shops and a train station. 25,000 trees and shrubs were planted to keep the dirt in place.

During 1943 and 1944 Kearns served as a field of the Second Army Air Force and trained pilots, ground crews and gunners at the base. On April 15, 1944 the War Department transferred Kearns to the Western Technical Command. At its peak the Army stationed 40,000 troops at Kearns and by October, 1943, the base had trained 90,000 men. The base included bombing sites and rifle ranges. Senator Harry S. Truman made an official inspection of Camp Kearns in August of 1944. Many soldiers called it the “windiest place” in the world. Byron Thomas was one of the first soldiers who lived in the tents. He said, “Sand blew on our food and in our water until we ate and drank more sand than food.” Basic training lasted an average of 50 days.

So many people passed through the gates to Camp Kearns at the underpass and 5400 South there was a sign that read, “Under this sign marches the best damn soldiers in the world.” By 1945 the Army valued the base at \$50 million. Camp Kearns functioned efficiently until the end of the war. September 2, 1945 was V-J day (victory over Japan).

An article in the Denver Post by Bill Hosokawa read, “Utah’s newest city is Kearns, a fenced-in ghost town browsing on the windy flats south of Salt Lake City. No one lives in Kearns. Yet its 1,200 acre area is criss-crossed by splendid paved roads worth roughly half a million dollars.” The army had laid out a city. Camp Kearns was declared surplus January 24, 1947. By 1948 only 100 of the buildings remained but the railroad tracks, paved streets, utilities and fire equipment remained. The Utah United Veterans Council proposed that the state purchase the property and divide it into lots for sale for veterans. Bids were opened in March and April and Mt. View Construction Company began building homes on the site. In 1953 164 homes sold for \$8,500 and \$9,500 and banks granted \$6 million in loans.

Mr. A. Miller Sams who moved to 5000 West 5000 South in Kearns came to the area to plan for the future of Kearns. He was an architect and laid out a master plan of 1200 acres. The street, “Sam’s Boulevard” is named for him. Kearns Junior High School is on Sam’s Boulevard.

## **GROWTH OF KEARNS**

Construction of homes increased and by 1949 many new homes were ready. The homes were both brick and wooden and some had basements. By keeping the design down to a few basic plans, the contractors hoped to cut costs. All the houses were built on lots with a minimum

65 foot frontage and 7,000 square feet total area. Many houses had ample garden space. 3,500 homes were added in 1952.

The Salt Lake Tribune reported (2-3-52) "Kearns Seen As Fastest Growing Utah Town." Kearns had changed from a camp of marching soldiers to a town of children and families. A town council was organized and the residents hoped Kearns would become an incorporated city. As of 2006, it is not incorporated.

School age children were driven to Granger for school by their parents in their own cars, reports Connie Bigler.<sup>2</sup>

### **BEGINNING OF KEARNS JUNIOR HIGH**

In April of 1952 a group of citizens in Kearns requested the possibility of a school to be constructed in the Kearns township area. The land requested was formerly an Army Air Force Cadet Training Center during World War II. The citizens included E.K Winder, Mrs. Rex Oberhansly, Mr. Richard Health, Mr. Wm. Robertson, Mrs. Helen Ashby, Mr. O. Thayne Acord and Mr. O.K. Fairbanks and they met with the board of education. Mr. Winder was the chairman of the group who reported the Kearns area was growing rapidly and 155 students were being transported from the Kearns area to other schools in the district.<sup>3</sup>

A delegation of Kearns residents visited the Granite School District offices daily for month and would not leave until they had talked with Supt. David Gourley. Their persistence paid off. Superintendent David Gourley recognized many schools in the district were overcrowded and other members of the board agreed to work with the Kearns community. On May 6, 1952 Superintendent Gourley reported in a board meeting that he and Board President, Dr. Calvin S. Smith, had visited Kearns and inspected the little theater building from the Air Force which had been offered to the board for renovation for use as a school. The contractor for the renovation was Sherman Frederickson.

Kearns School was located at 4065 West 5215 South and was constructed in 1952 above the old military theater location. It included remodeling the old theater and adapting it for school use. The cost was \$32,296. Moroni Jensen was the first principal and the PTA was organized with Carol Hibler as President. Open house was held in November 20, 1952.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Kearns Community Development Program, p. 14.

<sup>3</sup>Gooderham, Marie E. 1977. p. 71.

<sup>4</sup>Kearns Community Development Program, p. 41.

In 1953 an addition was made for a cost of \$102,398.<sup>5</sup> Mr. Reho Thorum became principal and the school grew from four rooms with 280 students to a nine-room building with 540 students and another 140 students who were “farmed out” to Plymouth School in Taylorsville. School busses that held 70 to 80 students were overcrowded with over 100 students per bus but the school district would not furnish more busses. Again the Kearns community residents went to the school board to discuss overcrowding and safety. Every morning women were assigned to count the children as they boarded the busses and then they called the Highway Patrol to report the violation of the State law by overcrowding. Finally the school district allocated more busses. PTA meetings were held in the hallway since all the classes were in use.

In 1953 the school district approved a school bond of \$1,835,000 for school construction. A 22 room elementary school for Kearns held first priority from the money. Construction was rushed and in September of 1954 the new West Kearns Elementary opened with Mr. Max Jackman as their principal. Even before the building was completed, Kearns had outgrown it. A \$4,300,000 bond passed by voters January 25, 1955 and a 15 classroom addition began on South Kearns School with another addition to East Kearns school. The school had double sessions during 1955.

In the spring of 1956 construction began on a very large addition to East Kearns to convert it into a Junior High School. The building was remodeled at a cost of \$1,112,837. Junior high students had been attending Valley Junior High with high school students attending Cyprus High. Mr. Alma Edwards headed the faculty. East Kearns Elementary students moved to the newly opened South Kearns Elementary and began double sessions with some 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders being “farmed out” to Whittier School in Hunter.

On November 22, 1956 the new addition opened with 20 classrooms, a gymnasium, auditorium, shops and a library making a total of 33 rooms. At this time there were 416 junior high students. The auditorium was build to hold 1251 people!

The architect was Woods and Woods and the contractor was Howard Construction Company. The school had 9.3 acres of land and the building was 119,837 square feet.

Another bond election was held February 5, 1957. The bond issue was opposed by groups in other parts of the school district. Citizens again worked to get out the vote and passed the bond issue. Their “take your neighbor to the polls” campaign worked. This bond issue helped finish the junior high and begin construction on Oquirrh Hills Elementary which opened in September 1957 with Mr. LeRoy Urrey as principal. High school students still attended Cyprus High in Magna. Dr. Burton Brasher of Kearns was elected to the school board in 1957, the first person from Kearns on the board. By the fall of 1958 all the schools were overcrowded so

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<sup>5</sup>Gooderham, Marie E. 1977. p. 115.

Granite District applied for Emergency State Aid. David Gourley School opened at the beginning of the 1959 school year with Daryl McCarty as principal.

“ Current plans of the Granite School Board call for converting the Kearns Junior High into a Senior High School in the next two years.”<sup>6</sup>

In 1960 the school was remodeled at a cost of \$280,783 and the architect was Woods and Woods with Maurice Romney Construction Co. as the contractor. The 300 hall, new library and improvements to the auditorium were added.

In the 1970's the girls' gym (small gym) was added and the cafeteria expanded.

**SCHOOL MASCOT** The mascot is a black panther.

**SCHOOL SONG.** The music was written by F.E. Bigelow (1873 - 1929) in 1892 as the Harvard University Fight Song, titled *Our Director*. It quickly became popular around the country and was adopted by many school as the music for their school song. Words were written by girls in Mr. Barnett's 8<sup>th</sup> grade music class. The band score by Rubank, Inc was published in 1954 and by 1957 the school song began. In 2006, Lynn R. Carson notated it for piano. Our band director, Mary K Davis, has the band play it for nearly every assembly while the teachers and student sing our school song.

All hail, our Alma Mater,  
Kearns Junior High  
Black, white, gold, our colors  
Keep our standards high  
We'll fight to win together  
Panthers don't say die.  
We're always loyal  
To Kearns Junior High.

### **STATISTICS and Enrollment**

Kearns Junior High was constructed as a junior high in 1957 on 9.3 acres. It had 44 teaching stations. Construction costs in 1956 were \$190,476; 1957 \$1,112,837; 1960 \$280,783. Enrollment was 1956-57...424; 1959-60...1,107; 1964-65...1700; 1978-79...1,060; 2001...1375; 2003...1,074; 2003-2004...968; 2004 - 2005...1,016; 2005-2006...932.

### **PRINCIPALS**

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<sup>6</sup>Kearns Community Development Program. 1960.

Moroni Jensen	1952 - 1953	(Kearns School had grades 1-4 with 4 teachers)
Reho Thorum	1953 - 1956	(grades 1-6)
Alma S. Edwards	1956 - 1958	First principal of the school as a junior high.
G. Morris Rowley	1958 - 1963	
Norman L. Gibbons	1963 - 1965	
Lee C. Burton	1965 - 1972	
Dr. I. Riley O'Neill	1972 - 1979	Vice Principals: Sundee Listello, Lyle D. Stevens, Rudy Varoz
Dr. Elwood "Woodie" Clayton	1979 - 1984	
Dr. Annette Duzett	1984 - 1986	Vice Principals: Timothy Dyson, Jerrie Frank
Timothy Dyson	1986 - 1989	Vice Principal: Jerrie Frank
Dr. Parley Jacobs	1989 - 1995	Vice Principals: Dr. Shelly Pierce, Jerry Frank, Merla Bybee, Curt Hansen
Dr. Katherine McCarrie	1995 - 2000	Vice Principal :Robin Williams, Dr. Shelly Pierce, Anthony Godfrey, John Anderson
Maile Loo	2000 - 2003	Vice Principals: Dr. Shelly Pierce, Mark Johnson, Steve Hogan, Valerie Allison
Dr. Robert Averett	2003 - 2006	Vice Principals: Mark Johnson, Jim Rice, Mitch Nerdin
Kandace Barber	2006 -	Vice Principals: Jim Rice, Jennifer Slade, Jared Reynolds

### PRINCIPAL'S NOTES.

Maile Loo, written 16 May 2006. "Six years ago when I was given the assignment to be the principal at Kearns Junior High I was honored to be given the opportunity. I went over to visit three different times before the year ended to meet with Dr. McCarrie and all she kept saying was: you will enjoy it here! Kearns Jr. High in my opinion is a historical school filled with much great history. My experiences there with the staff have been a lasting one. Their knowledge of junior high students is supportive of their academic success. I believe that you have to be pretty special to teach on the junior high level because of their adolescent type behaviors. The faculty and staff at Kearns Jr. are exceptional individuals and the experiences that I gained by being the principal there for three years has helped to prepare me to be the principal at Hunter High School. I can positively say, 'I am a better principal because of my interaction with the faculty, staff, patrons and students of Kearns Jr. High.' Thanks for the journey..."

### GHOST STORIES

The rich history of the school and its former history as an army air base lends itself to ghost stories. Some stories existed for generations and others are more recent. Teacher Scott Henrie enriches our lives by the retelling of these stories each October to students, parents and faculty. Some of the stories are: fiddleback spiders in the dungeon, ghosts in the halls, unexplained footsteps, etc. A student fell asleep in class and dreamed something grabbed his

ankles and when he woke up he had bruises around his ankles. A student heard whispering in the restroom and no one was there. Coach Hancock heard a basketball bouncing in the gym and saw it in the middle of the gym hanging in the air. During a power outage in the dark school a cheerleader saw a guy with a bullet hole in his head. After soccer practice a student walking down the hall heard pennies falling on the floor behind her. Students have reported hearing crying in the auditorium when no one was there. At night you can hear ghosts of people who died in the tunnels beneath the school.

## EVENTS BY YEAR

**1965-1966** Kearns used the school as an elementary for 6am to noon and the junior high from 12:30 pm to 6:00p.m. The yearbook had stories and class pictures by homerooms. The school was so large (1700) that even closets were used as classrooms. Rooms 111,118 and 123 existed but we later returned as closets. Bettie Harrison reported (06) that these small rooms had desks but no aisles so students walked across the tops of the desks to get to their seats. The cafeteria was so small students ate lunch sitting in classrooms and in the halls. In 1965 there were double sessions of classes. The high school met here from 6am until noon and the junior high from 12:30 pm until 6pm. Kearns High opened in 1969 and they took 200 of the 9<sup>th</sup> graders to the high school to relieve overcrowding at the junior high. There were still 1600 students at KJHS in 1969.

**1972** Betty Harrison reported that when she began teaching at KJHS the teachers went into the dungeon (bomb shelter) under the 100 hall, and removed the K-rations and water the army had stored for emergencies. The school newspaper was named *Panther Tales*.

**1970's** there were 1700 students. Teachers rotated rooms so every room was used every period. Some of our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students went to Kearns High (about 200) in 1974, reports Betty Harrison.

**1985** The boiler room in the 400 hall had a pan full of sand for use as an ash try for teachers who smoked. Smoke used to come up the vents and into the classrooms. After the law was changed in 1994 about smoking in schools, some teachers would ride around town in a car to smoke during lunch. The school had pool tables for the students to use.

**1986** Journalism editors had school sweaters like the student body officers. The yearbook editor was part of the SBO's.

**1987** January 15 a midair collision killed 10 people in the disaster above Kearns at 12:56 p.m.. The collision at 7,000 feet was between a Sky West commuter airplane and a private single-engine plane practicing take offs from Airport #2. It killed ten people and scattered debris and bodies over three square miles of Kearns. The debris was scattered from 4800 to 5700 South and 4200 to 5000 West. There were no survivors. The city's Mobile Command Post was dispatched to St.

Francis Xavier Catholic Church as the command location for police, firefighters and volunteers. An estimated 300-400 officers helped from every jurisdiction in the valley. Teachers who were in the building including Betty Harrison reported that teachers pulled their blinds down and the students had to stay in the building until 7pm when most of the body parts and airplane parts were removed from the track and field area. This was an early “lock down.”

**1988** There were so many students from VietNam that teachers used consultation periods in other classrooms to conduct classes. Teachers used carts to move from room to room to teach. Teachers were advisors to many after school activities and clubs. This is before Career Ladder monies were offered to teachers to advise these groups. Teachers spent extra time with student because they wanted to. Every teacher was asked to form a club or group so all students would belong to a group with the same interests and no one would be left out.

From 1988 - 1993 the school helped Hogle Zoo by adopting a panther. The students named her Panthera and sponsored her for 7 years until she died of old age. The students raised \$1,000 the first year and then \$300 a year after that. Mary Murdock reported this information and she was the SBA advisor. The school and panther were on the t.v. news as a feature segment and the school had a plaque stating that we supported the panther.

**1989** This is the last year students wore costumes to school for Halloween.

**1995.** Bettie Harrison recorded that KJH was on schedule to be replaced with a new building as it was one of the oldest in the district. They district was going to build a new building where the track is and then tear the existing building down and place a new track there.

**1996** A new panther mascot costume was purchased for use in the school.

**2001.** Enrollment was 1375.

**2002** The Utah Olympic Skating Oval was one of the sites for the 2002 Winter Games. The Olympics brought special challenges and opportunities for teachers and students. Because of security and traffic the school was on a shortened day for the two weeks of the Olympics. But many students were given free tickets to the ice skating events at the Oval and free tickets to the Alpine skiing events. The Olympic torch came west on 5900 South and students and teachers walked to Walgreens to stand on the sidewalk to cheer for the torch.

**2003** Robert (Bob) Jones, a former KJHS students, was aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz on patrol off the coast of Iraq sent bulletins to the students telling us what the war was like and his memories of KJHS. “Be excited. You are different and you have problems because you are individuals with your own minds, your own dreams. I am here to tell you that you have so much to look forward to. The secret to success is school. Education. Knowledge. I was just a red-headed misdirected kid that lost his mom and got picked on in junior high. Whose the man now huh? DOAH?IF you want something bad enough in life—you will get it! Those kids with the

worse attitudes and the worst dispositions are the ones that need the most help. They are hurting inside for whatever reason and whether or not you dig deep enough is not as important as you just showing them genuine concern. I've been around long enough to know there are kids right now at KJHS that were just like me, and I am here to tell them all, things will be just fine, no matter what they're going through. Life is what you make it. ”

He plans to join the Sailors to Teachers Program.

**2004** Granite School District is 100 years old. Every student in the district received a pencil honoring this historic moment. In 1904 (100 years ago) U.S. Senator Thomas Kearns introduced a bill to annex 800 square miles of Arizona north of the Colorado River as part of Utah. So the school was named after him. KJHS collected \$3,500 for a Sub for Santa project. The money provided Christmas for 11 families in the school area.

**2005.** Enrollment at 904. New principal Kandace Barber. Academic Games team excels in competition..

**SPORTS , CLUBS and ACTIVITIES** **These make our school a unique culture.** KJH was noted for the outstanding activities it provided for the students. Teacher and student moral was high. Many awards were received by teachers and students, locally, state wide and national for their efforts.

**Academic Games** This after school group meet to practice and then compete district wide with other junior highs in teams that solve problems and answer questions. It began as a way for students to compete not in an athletic sports event. The students have had special jackets, shirts or hoodies and they take pride in doing well in competitions. The questions are in the core subjects: math, English, science and social studies.

**Advisory Committee 85-96** Bettie Harrison began this group to select the Student of the Month. The students wore school sweaters and they helped Bettie with projects and the awards banquet at the end of the year. When Bettie retired a teacher was asked to do the Student of the Month. (See Student of the Month)

**Artist-in-Residence .** One year there was an artist in residence: Brad Frances.

**Assemblies.** Assemblies used to be held every Friday. Students earned the right to have an assembly by not leaving early and having good citizenship. The Friday assemblies were mostly student produced and consisted of a theme (Halloween and other holiday) with the band playing, a skit from the Drama Club, the chorus singing and dance. Today assemblies are held during a special assembly period and include talent shows, plays, music, fund raisers, spirit rallies, and special programs.

**Band, Choir and Orchestra.** They played for assemblies, marched in parades and at athletic games. They attend music competitions These competitions continue through this year (2006). Students compete at a district and sometimes state levels. KJHS has a tradition of doing well in competitions. At one time the choir had 300 students in it. Band and orchestra was also larger. Jazz Band was added and a Pep Band. Mary K Davis is the talented current director and has been for many years. Ms. Charlene Newell, noted

musician and composer, led the choirs until her recent retirement.

**Cheerleading** Several different teachers were the advisors and the number of cheerleaders has varied between 8 and 12 . Phaedra Johnson was cheer advisor, Ms. Cook and this year is Debbie Dupaix.

**Charm School** Girls were taught how to dress and act in public, at parties and dances.

**Chess Club 1986- 2004**

**Community of Caring Club 94-99**

**Computer Club 83- 89**

**Conflict Manager** (now part of PLT) 1994-5

**Dances** KJHS has had dances since the school began. They danced swing, rock and roll, disco, etc. through the years. The PTA sponsors a dance each year and the SBO's also help sponsor a dance. The yearbook stomp began in 2003.

**Dean of Students 1991 -2003 Kim Heppler**

**Deseret News Spelling Bee** 1991-2001 The school participated in the spelling bee and had three district and state winners. The Spelling Bee competition ended in 2001 when it ended for security reasons. Ms. Elizabeth Weight was the last advisor for this event.

**Disco Dancers 78-79 and 2006**

**Drama and Advanced Drama Club** This club helped students perform a skit, often long, in every assembly until 1999. The club began after the beginning of the school and has continued to today.

**Ensemble** (mixed choir) 85

**Four Paws** 2004- current. This monthly magazine is illustrated and written by students to encourage writing and creative art. It began as a grant with Yevgeny Pevzner (science) and Pamela Carson (English/reading) as a way to synthesize science and writing. The name came from the term *faux pas*.

**French Club** There has been a French Club during most of the years. The Paris Café provided students with an opportunity to purchase French candy and goods, a patisserie. 2000-2006 Robert Freebairn had a French Club and took some students to France. Dana Boggard did this before 2000.

**Game Day** When the school had sports events, school was released at 1:30 pm so all the students could attend the pep assembly and the game. 1970

**Girl's Service Club** 72-73 They became the K-Hi-Co's.

**Golf Club** 2002-2005 Robert Freebairn was the coach and advisor for this club.

**GT** This class is for the gifted and talented students since 1983.

**Gymnastics** 1972- 1995

**Halloween.** Costumes in the school ended in 1990 for security reasons.

**Intramural Sports ping pong 83** Every homeroom had a team and they could choose their team. They played once a week. Ribbons were given at the end of each session. Doyle Unsworth (2002-6) enhanced the intramural sports program by adding fishing, bowling, one on one basketball, flag football, hacky sack kicking, rock climbing, etc.

**Jazz Band** Mary K Davis has this group meet daily before school for an hour.

**K-Hi-Co's 1970 - 1979** This was a girls' service club that helped promote school spirit. There were about 20-30 girls. It was for 9<sup>th</sup> graders only. They marched at games. By 1979 it

became so expensive for the outfits and cliquish that it was abandoned. This club evolved into the Miss Kearns Pageant and that began in 1984. Bettie Harrison was in charge of this change. Girls were judged on talent and in swimming suits and the pageant was held here at KJHS. Now the pageant is too big to have here.

**K-Klan 1972 -1992** This was a boy's service club. They had to try out and have a B average in grades and citizenship. They served lunch duty, patrolled the halls, were ushers, boosted school spirit and earned money for school projects. They would help teachers in the classroom when a teacher needed to leave the room. "Always looking sharp in their gold shirts, the K-Klan, under the direction of President Greg Pedroza, boosted school spirit, ushered at activities and earned money for school projects." (1972-3 yearbook. ) The K-Klan boys wore their own school sweaters.

**MESA** Math, Engineering, Science Achievement

**Model Club** 1978-86. This club made models, mostly cars and rockets.

**Multicultural Assembly** 2006

**Musicals** KJHS has been well known for its musicals even from the first year the school opened performing *Bye Bye Birdie* directed by Mavis Steadman She was the English/Drama teacher. She had her students perform one act plays each month. She had a stage built in the cafeteria and gave performances there three times a month during lunch. When the school boundaries changed, she went to another school. A French speaking teacher, Goya, directed *Babes in Toyland*. Since 2000 J. Scott Henrie has continued the tradition with a huge cast of students showcasing many talents. He has directed *Annie*, *Into the Woods*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Music Man*, *The King and I* and *Guys and Dolls*.

**9<sup>th</sup> grade Promotion** Promotion was a yearly event that began before the school was built and ended in 2005. It became increasingly more expensive to have students purchase formal dresses, rent limousines, etc. The American Civil Liberties Union complained about the money. For several years the teachers helped raise money to help buy the dresses for the girls. Eventually the school board asked that promotions end.

**Panther Pals** 1983 This group was the forerunner of PLT. They were a service group.

**Panther Pride Team** 2000

**Panther Tales Newspaper** 1974-1999

**Paw Prints Newspaper** 1999- current

**Pep Club** The Pep Club sat in the stands at games in uniforms and cheered. They supplemented what the cheerleaders were doing on the field/courts during games. They had uniforms and this group ended in 1981.

**PLT Peer Leadership Team**

**Prime** 1987 This was an early version of Title I. Aides were employed to help struggling students. The classes were in the 200 hall. The classes were small. Prime won several awards. It was government sponsored. Students took tests and scores were recorded. The program was outgrown and then disbanded and became Title I. aides 89-90 89

**The Quill** This is the official name for the yearbook Yearbook was an activity, then a class, then a journalism class for 9<sup>th</sup> graders for high school credit. Pamela Carson taught this from 2000-2006.

**School Store** The old ticket booth south of the auditorium became the school store. School

supplies, drinks, candy, etc is still sold there.

**Science Labs** Students had science labs twice a week and they commented that labs were the most interesting and fun they remember from junior high. Yevgeny Pevzner continues this tradition with over 80 labs a year for a hands-on experience. Biology labs ended when students misused the scalpels and pinned frog parts on other students.

**Soccer, Girls'** 1985 - current. Girls in 9<sup>th</sup> grade may choose to play for the high school.

**Soccer** Boys' soccer ended by 1985. If they were good players, they played for Kearns High School so they lost interest in the junior high teams.

**Ski Club 1975 - 1992** Students today are offered discounts at ski resorts for good grades.

**Student Body Officers/ Student Council** This began as a government class. The students made the rules and groups competed with each other. Classes all sent a representative to the council to help make decisions for the school. Competitions were held on the stage and all the junior highs participated. Some of these duties were replaced by PLT and the Student Council became Student Body Officers.

**Student of the Month** This was a big event each month and students were honored. At the end of the school year a banquet was held to honor students, especially this group. It ended in 2005. See also Advisory Committee.

**Spanish Club** This club is noted in the 1975 yearbook and was very popular. It was a big club. They had cultural parties with food, piñatas and fiestas. The club was held in the room in the 300 hall with a little room inside it which was once a self contained kitchen. The Spanish Club existed for decades.

### **Student Council 85**

**Talent Show** KJHS has had an annual talent show for many years where students share their talents, some of them are unusual talents.

**Wrestling for girls 1989 to 1996.** Coaches from other teams had difficulty with this and some of their team members refused to wrestle girls so this part of the team ended

**Wrestling for boys.** Boys' wrestling began just after the school was built. The school has won many awards and honors for wrestling.

**PTA/PTSA** From the beginnings of the school we have had a parent-teacher association. The PTA provides support in the school with dances, the annual Reflections contests and awards and special gifts to the school. Past PTA presidents are:

1957-58	Marie Scoffield
1958-59	Wanda Whittle
1959-60	Bill Snyder
1960-61	Edith Lloyd
1961-62	Larue Willden
1962-63	Barbara Bowers
1963-64	Volma Heaton
2002-05	Susan Holman
2005-06	Tammy McFarland

## RESOURCES

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Gooderham, Marie E. (1977) *History of Granite School District 1904 - 1976, its roots in Utah and American Education*. Granite Graphic Center, Granite School District, Salt Lake City: Utah.

Harrison, Bettie. . Personal interview with Journalism class, May 2006. Bettie taught over 7,000 students at KJHS and today substitutes in our school. (May, 2006)

Johnson, Phaedrea. Personal interview. May, 2006. Ms. Johnson attended KJHS as a student in the early 1980's and later became a social studies teacher here.

Jones, Robert C. E-mail letters from aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz in the Persian Gulf. 2003-4. Bob was a former student of KJHS.

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Steadman, Mavis. Personal interview with J. Scott Henrie, May, 2006.

Todd, Pam *Kearns Historical Society Website*. <http://kearnshistorian.tripod.com> Motto of Camp Kearns: Les Ergo Tempus Sustineo Alas. "I'll Forever Hold Your Wings High."

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