

# Kent Chronicles

## 1919-1925

The 1920s era went by such names as the

\_\_\_\_\_ Age, the Age of Intolerance, and the Age of Wonderful Nonsense. Under any moniker, the era embodied the beginning of modern America. Numerous Americans felt buoyed up following World War I (1914-1918). America had survived a deadly worldwide influenza epidemic (1918). The new decade of the roaring twenties would be a time of change for everyone—not all of it good.



❖ **1919:** This geographic feature carved by the Colorado River is made part of a US National Park:

❖ **1920:** This peasant girl who led the French army during the Hundred Years' War in the 1400s is canonized by the Catholic Church:

❖ **1922:** This socialist state, which was formally dissolved in 1991, is formed:

❖ **1923:** This news magazine, now known for its "Person of the Year" features, first hits newsstands:

❖ **1924:** This "colorful" George Gershwin composition is first performed in New York City:

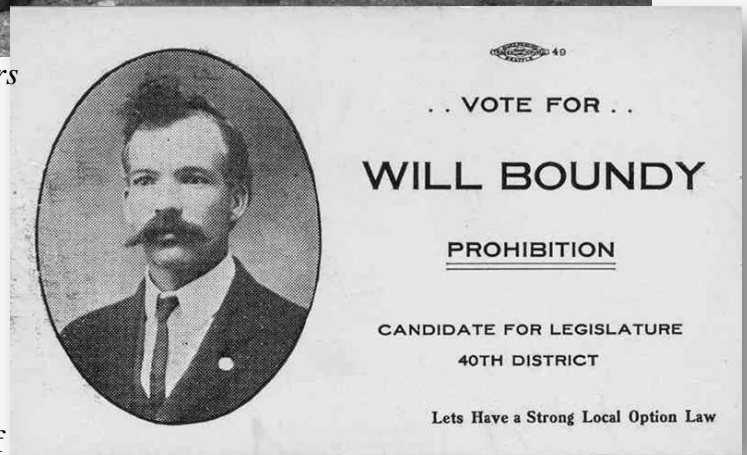
❖ **1925:** Volume One of Adolph Hitler's autobiography is published under this title:





*F. Marion Imhoff, Kent Police Chief, and members of Kent Police with confiscated distillery equipment behind Kent City Hall during Prohibition*

American society enjoyed prosperity during the "roaring" 1920s as the economy soared. At the same time, Prohibition, the ban on the sale and manufacture of alcohol as mandated by the Eighteenth Amendment, made millionaires out of bootleggers. Prohibition also helped the growth of jazz as speakeasies were the only places in town where you could get a drink and where jazz music was allowed.



Why do you think Prohibition legislation was passed? Why do you think there was such resistance against Prohibition laws? Was Prohibition a good idea?

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# CRITERION

## Class Will

We, the Class of 1924, of K. H. S., City of Kent, State of Washington, U. S. A., about to pass out of this sphere of education, in full possession of a crammed cranium, well trained memory and super-human understanding do make and publish this, our last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all former wills or promises by us at any time heretofore made, carelessly spoken, one to the other, as the thoughtless wish of an idle hour.

As to such estates as it pleased the fates and our own strong hands and brains to win for us, we do dispose of the same as follows:

### ARTICLE I.

#### Gifts to the Faculty

Section 1.—To Mr. Wright we leave two silk flags to be put upon the heat flues.

Section 2.—To Mr. Taylor, we leave six books of "Robert's Rules of Order" to be given to his Student Association friends, namely, "Mr. Phipps, Mr. Wright and Etc." We hope in the future he will not leave them in his pockets as he did before.

Section 3.—To Mr. Graham we leave: 1st: Our consent and approval that he control the votes of his class during any association meeting. 2nd: We also leave him our class adviser.

Section 4.—To Miss Pangborn we leave one case of patented medicine guaranteed to cure all nervous breakdowns resulting from the nerve breaking experience she went through during the second period English IV. class in 1924.

Section 5.—To Miss Platt we leave one coupon that will cover the first ten payments on a Chev. coupe.

Section 6.—To Miss Campbell we leave one well developed baseball bat (without bumps or carbuncles,) to be used in persuading tardy members to come to staff meetings.

Section 7. To Mr. French we leave money enough to finance one year of sports so he can be free of those pesty ticket selling contests.

Section 8.—To Miss Jones we leave one pair of boxing gloves guaranteed "to put the punch into the whack," and 6½ yards of black crepe to hang on her door, to signify its full meaning if draped correctly.

Section 9.—To Miss Westacott we leave one new flat iron and the right to order a new ironing board that will not rock like a cradle.

Section 10.—To Mr. Phipps we leave the entire floor in the association meetings so he can talk to his heart's content.

Section 11.—To the rest of the faculty we leave a hearty wish that the future Seniors will be as sweetly dispositioned as we were.

The article on the previous page is the Kent High School class of 1924 “Class Will,” as written in their school annual, the Criterion. What is the tone or mood of this article? Do you think the tone is reflective of the overall mood of the U.S. at the time?

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Below is a photo of the Kent High School class of 1922.



# From *Suffragette* to **Flapper**



*A British suffragette (1910);  
Public Domain source*

The members of the suffrage movement were mostly women from middle class backgrounds, frustrated by their social and economic situation and seeking an outlet through which to initiate change. Their struggles for change within society were enough to spearhead a movement that would encompass mass groups of women fighting for suffrage.

A few historians feel that some of the suffragettes' actions actually damaged their cause. The argument was that the suffragettes should not get the vote because they were too emotional and could not think as logically as men; their violent and aggressive actions were used as evidence in support of this argument.

Many parallels can be drawn between the social statements and behavior of the women of the suffrage movement and that of the social phenomenon known as “flappers.”

Flappers' behavior was considered outlandish at the time and redefined women's roles. The image of flappers were young women who went by night to jazz clubs. They rode bicycles, drove cars, and openly drank alcohol, a defiant act in the American period of Prohibition.

They were also considered a significant challenge to traditional Victorian gender roles... however, some say many flappers weren't necessarily particularly engaged in politics. In fact, older suffragettes, who fought for the right for women to vote, viewed flappers as vapid and in some ways unworthy of the enfranchisement they had worked so hard to win. Others argued, though, that flappers' laissez-faire attitude was simply a natural progression of feminine liberation, the right having already been won.



*Top: Actress Louise Brooks (1927);  
Bottom: Billie Dove on the cover of  
The Flapper magazine ("Not for Old  
Fogies"), November 1922; Both  
Public Domain sources*

