

Keith's Corner/McGill News

August 30, 2019

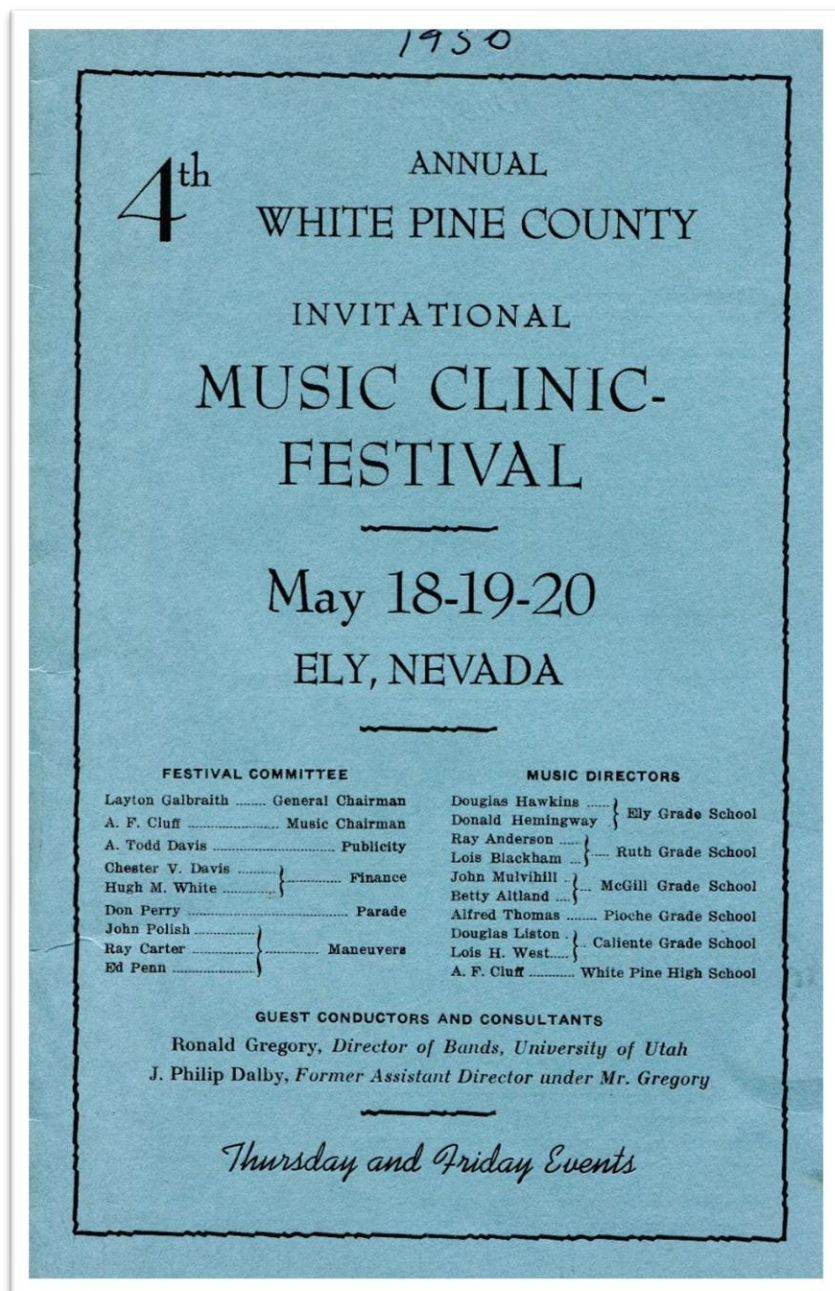
Keith's Corner

Music Festival

Time for a blast from the past. My Mom, bless her heart , saved all kinds of things from her two heathen son's grade and high school days. Somehow they have survived all my moving about. While looking for some photos of old McGill I ran across several music festival brochures. I was looking thru the photos to find a picture of the KCC Commissary service station, located at the top of K Street, just before the entrance to the plant. Could not find one, but I did find these gems.

They are from back in the days when the grade schools had bands and for the record, very good ones. They all went to the festivals and showed off what they could do in the realm of music. Each school would put on a concert and of course some of the best players would perform solos. There were music critics from out of state that judged the performers. Ronald Gregory and J. Philip Dalby from the U. of Utah. They also visited all the schools for consulting.

It was an exciting time for many of us. It meant long hours of practice with the whole band in the music room in the basement of the "new building". For those that had to do a solo, there were many hours of practice at home, which probably drove the neighbors crazy. Especially those that didn't appreciate high class music. The neighbors in those days didn't have TV to drown out the melodic tunes penetrating thru the walls of their homes.



The one shown is from 1950. John Mulvihill was the McGill director, along with Berry Altland, the choir director. This brochure lists the many band concerts. The bands and glee clubs were from McGill, Ruth, Ely, East Ely, Pioche, Caliente and White Pine High School. Marylyn Overfelt performed Malaguena for WPHS.



This one is also from 1950 and is the listing for the individual soloists.

These festivals were a great experience for us inmates from the various schools. We got to meet kids from other schools, that we would be playing and marching with in the future. We also got lots of advice and pointers from the judges. Too bad the kids of today don't get these experiences. It really infuriates me that they don't. The school budgets are too bloated with useless nonsensical garbage.

McGill News

The only thing going on here so far this week is the hot weather. We had one of McGill's great thunderstorms, lots of thunder and just enough wind and dust to mess up all the car window. The typical hot August sticky flies are all over the place. Oh, well just wait awhile and the snow will be here.

Tomorrow is the annual parade and street dance and then Saturday the hot dog, hamburger BBQ and Splash at the world's best swimming hole. Then a softball game Sunday and that night some tremendous fireworks. The folks on the McGill town Council and the McGill Restoration Association work their magic each year and are to be applauded for their great effort. Not very many small towns have the will to do such things. The Spirit of McGill lives on, thanks to such folks.

I will get some pictures of the various events and put them in next week's newsletter.

For your information—the WP library has put almost all of the Kennevadans magazines on flash drives. There are three of them and they charge \$6 each plus some shipping. You can call 775-293-6900.

I know you all like to see photos from the past, so here are a couple of the mill fire in 1922. You can see the damage and in just 65 days it was re-built and in production. Amazing that the new plans were ready and waiting. The new materials were on their way from back east. Probably because the local, state and federal gubberments were not involved.

