

Keith's Corner/McGill News

October 25, 2019

Keith's Corner

Tank In McGill

While going thru some boxes in my storage unit, I found this photo.



It is dated September, 28, 1919. On the back is a note written by my Dad, Earl "Bud" Gibson. This tank was brought here by the U.S. Army to show it's power and to promote bond sales. A house owned by "Junk Baker" was moved over to the lawn in front of the houses on the "Circle". The tank was then driven thru the house, to the delight of "Junk Baker". The man on the left with the mustache is, Bill Moustakis. He worked in the smelter converter department. My Dad's notes did not identify anyone else. I will always wonder if one of the boys was my Dad. Could be the woman is "Junk Baker". Guess we will never know.

When I read the note, my feeble brain mustered up enough strength to formulate a thought that then resulted in a memory of hearing about “Junk Baker” somewhere in the past. Then, thru some kind of weird continuum, I remembered hearing Dale Cottrell talking about her on a tape recording. My Dad, said in the note that she bought and sold second hand furniture. Dale said that also, and that she would buy Consolidated Commissary coupons with cash. She would pay you 20 cents for each 25 cent coupon.

I have never heard or read anything else about her. Once again, it is frustrating that I didn’t talk with my folks about such things. My folks and most others never did say much about their younger years. Why, I don’t know.

I have seen several other photos of the U.S. Army being in McGill. I think a small unit was sent here to guard the smelter during WWI.

Several weeks ago I was hosting the McGill Drug store for a group of Highway 50 folks. They were driving from DC to San Francisco, following Highway 50, “The Lincoln Highway”. They were celebrating the 100th year anniversary of a tour of U.S. Army troops led by Col. Dwight Eisenhower back in 1919. I had a long talk with one of the fellows and he went back to his car and brought me a book written about that trip. The McGill Drug Store is mentioned in the book. The book is called, “After Ike”, by Michael Owen. There is a photo of Dan Braddock behind the counter.

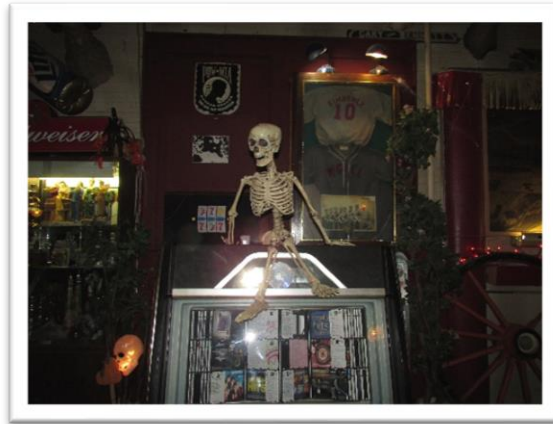
It is amazing how many different and interesting folks I meet while volunteering at the drug store. It is the perfect way to keep in touch with the “outside world”.

McGill News

The month of October has slipped by at an astonishingly high rate of speed. Halloween is just around the corner. Not too many of us left , that can remember the great Halloween parties at the old McGill ball park, when it was all dirt and rocks. Kennecott would erect several large tepee like piles of railroad ties and set them on fire for heat and light. There was a tall metal pole that was heavily greased and had 10 or 20 dollar bill on the top. All of us heathens tried to climb it and ended up with greased clothes for the attempt. There were races, apple dunking and the biggest of all was the greased pig chase. The last celebration was

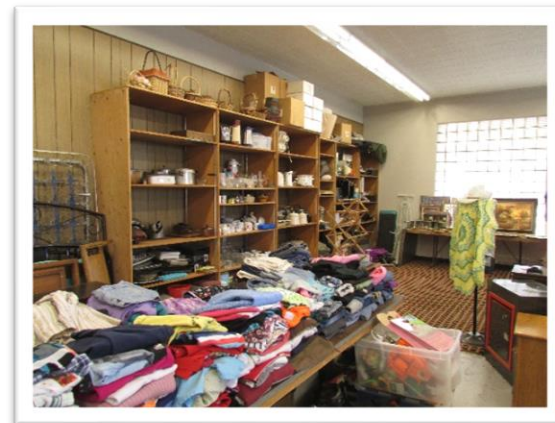
held in 1948, because the next year the ball park was changed forever. The grandstand was moved and grass planted.

The McGill Club is getting in the Halloween mode for this year. The new owner Jessica has been busy decorating the place with lots of cobwebs, skeletons, ghosts and other scary objects for the big party this Sat.



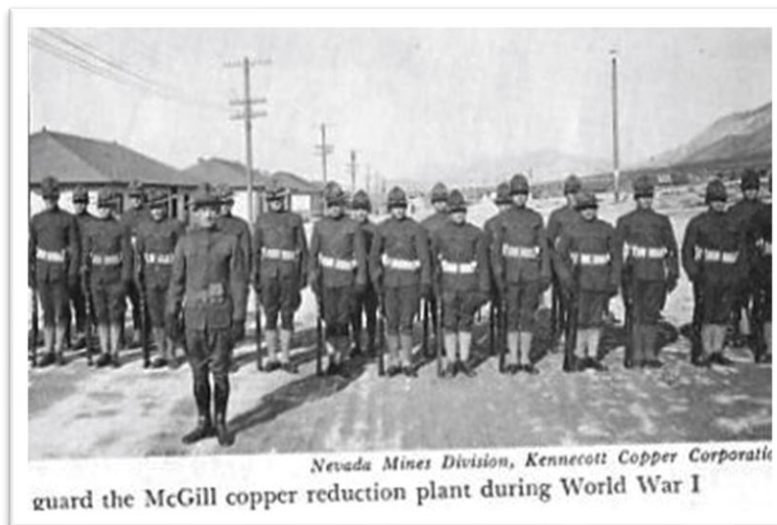
That dude in the black judge's robe looks like he stayed a little too long.

Mike Nass the owner of the McGill Thrift shop is having his grand opening this Friday. He has erected some major shelving on the south wall and has put lots of items there. He also has a light blue cabinet that has lots of old tjomgs on it, just under the old Bank Club sign. There is an old brass plated cash register and several old signs.



Old McGill Photo

It will be hard to beat the photo of the tank, but here is one of some soldiers. They were sent to guard the copper plant during WWI, so I would think they were here a year before the tank arrived. These might be Nevada National Guard Troops.



Just received from the printer, two books—McGill Memories-1935-55 and Making America's Copper. Both are about living and working in McGill with many photos of people and places. Normally priced at \$20 each, plus \$5 S & H. Price to Newsletter folks--\$15 plus \$5 S & H.

Order from ---Keith's Books---P.O. Box 1315—McGill NV.--89318