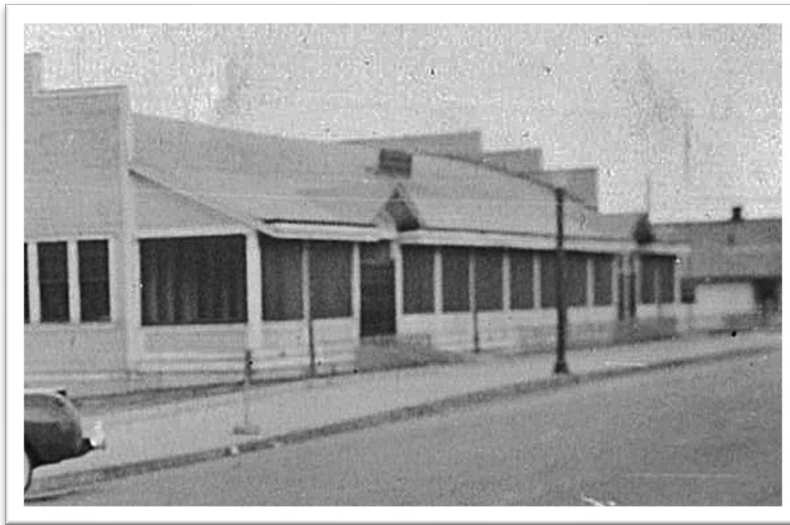


# Keith's Corner/McGill News

December 6, 2019

## Commissary/Boarding House

The big vacant lot north of the Post Office was not always vacant. There was a large building that covered most of the lot. It housed the Commissary on one end and the Boarding House on the other.



*Figure 1--KCC Commissary Store/Boarding House.*

The Commissary was the “company store” operated by KCC. The accepted commissary coupons issued by KCC. Workers could obtain books of these and pay for them out of their next payroll check. I was a complete grocery and meat store, along with dry goods and plenty of work clothes. I think one of the brands was “Dickies”. The back and lower parts of the place consisted of an ice house and a place where one could rent a locker in a large freezer room. The manager as I remember was Bami Hale and some of the clerks were Bill Ball, Kiki Londos.

The boarding house served meals to the single workers and also served as a place to hold dances and the KCC 20-30 awards parties.

The foundation for the building was laid in July of 1924. The main floor was done by August and the roof and walls were up by November. Work continued during the winter and the place opened in 1925. There was a nice looking wrought iron picket fence along the sidewalk in front of the place.

The end came in the summer of 1960, when the decision was made to replace it with a “modern” gas station. It was a steel building and didn’t last very long.

What a dismal fate for a wonderful building to be replaced with a crappy steel gas station that was temporary.



*Figure 2—Commissary/Boarding House-1924*

Notice in the photo that the theater has not been built yet. The existing theater, Stone’s Theater is shown in the lower right hand corner. It later became the grade school gym and later the Rec Hall and the Copper Kettle.



*Figure 3-Photo taken in 1924-5*

I don't know if the pile of lumber is for the commissary or for the Stray Antlers Club which was on that corner. I don't know what the big house behind the commissary is. I heard that there was an ice house owned by the Linnell family somewhere in that area. Also there was a Bates house and barn. Does anybody know??

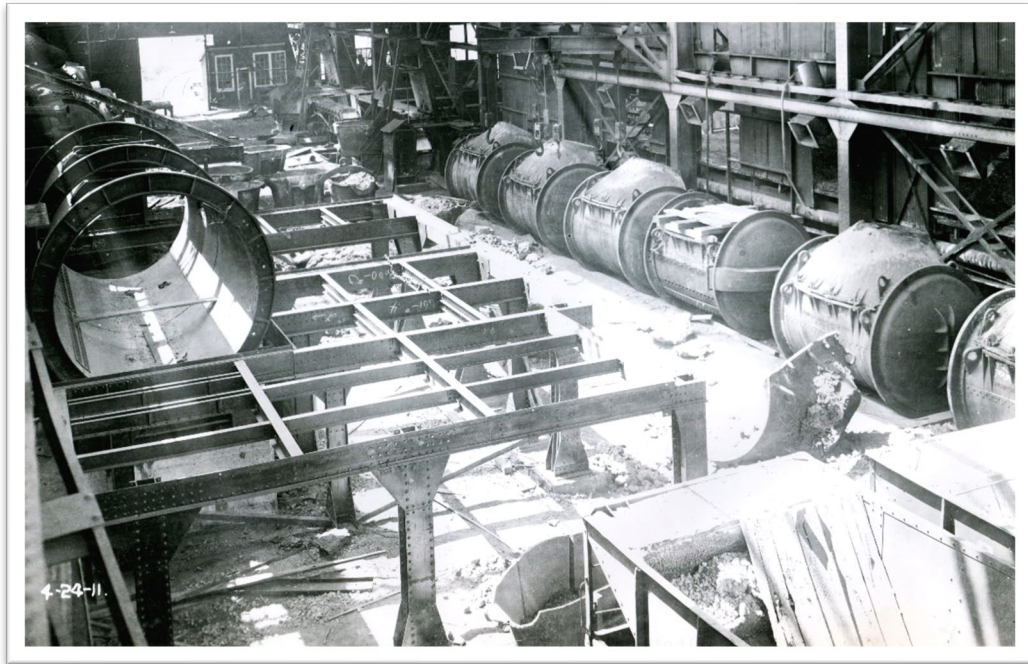
## McGill News

McGill got a little rain and snow the past few days, but it is fairly warm. Person Nature is being nice to us so far this winter. November was great.

The new roof on the theater is going along good. I talked with Rudy the owner and he is pleased with the work. He told me that as of Wed. the Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> that the roof is "dried in" enough to prevent any more damage inside. What a relief. It is great that he came along and is restoring the IOOF Hall and the theater.

Last Saturday Nov. 30, it has been reported that our famous McGill Drug Store had a VIP visitor. John Glenn the astronaut stopped by. He had a lot of good comments about the store. My only regret is that I wasn't there. I do the hosting this Saturday. The McGill Christmas Parade and party will be Dec. 14. Hard to believe that it was a year ago that the Ely Times switched photos of the kids with Santa. That was the reason I quit writing for that paper.

## Old Photo



The new Pierce Smith converters are being built. They will be lined with brick. They replace the old and smaller clay lined ones on the floor. Picture was taken on 4-24-1911

**Update**—I just received my latest book order from the printer. There are plenty of these books.

McGill Memories-1935---55—Growing up during the WWII in McGill

Making America's Copper—Life in McGill and Kennecott

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Regular price--\$20 each plus \$5 S & H

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