

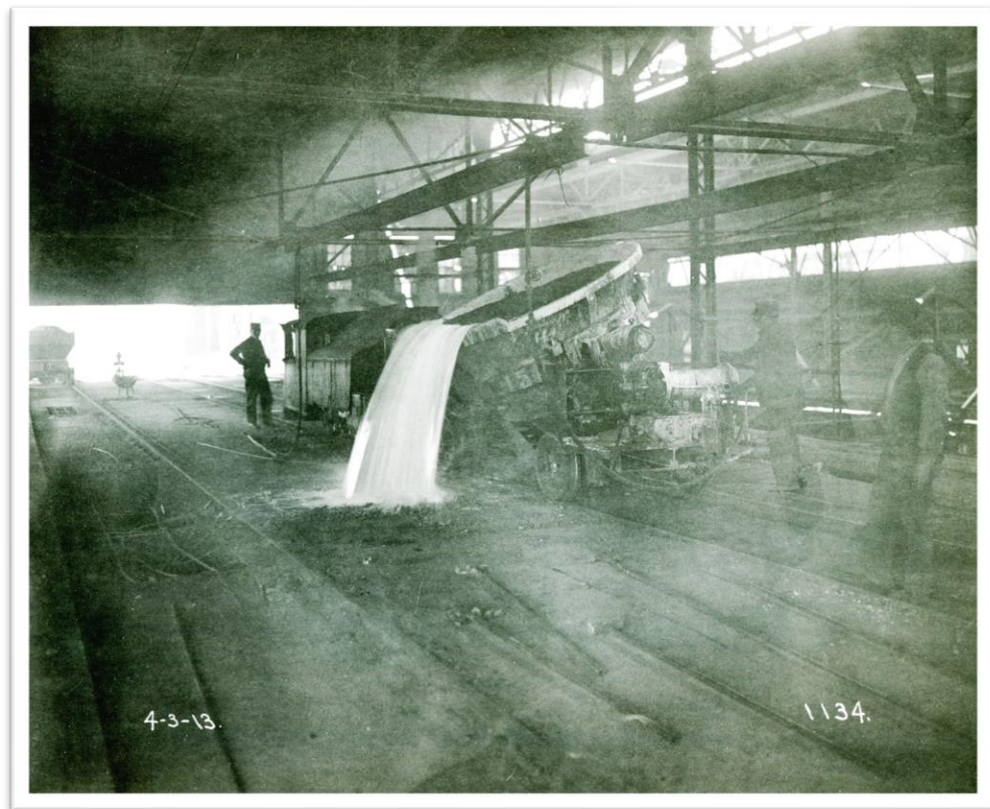
Keith's Column/McGill Mews

November 1, 2019

Keith's Corner

Molten Slag Car

This is a photo of the molten slag car that was used in the old days to transfer the slag from the converters up to the reverb furnaces. Dated April 3, 1913.



Upon seeing this photo, there arose a flashback to a memory from the forgotten depths of that gray stuff centered between my ears. My Dad had told me about this process.

The slag came out of the converters. At the time there was no way to dump it back into the reverb furnaces by crane. It had to be loaded onto the slag car and

taken out of the converter building by a “dinky” steam engine. It was taken out the north end of the building to a point where it could be switched onto another track heading up the hill to the reverb building and then dumped into the furnaces. The car was operated by an electric motor as seen by the cord in the photo.

My Dad told me that when he worked at the smelter, in the converter department, that sometimes at night some of the workers would ride the car out to the switching point and then hop off and go into a bar close by and have some beer, until the car came back from dumping. He started working there in 1929, and so this system was still in use then. Later, (don't have a date yet), there were some chutes, called slag laundry chutes, that allowed the cranes to pour slag pots into the ends of the reverbs, thus eliminating the slag car.

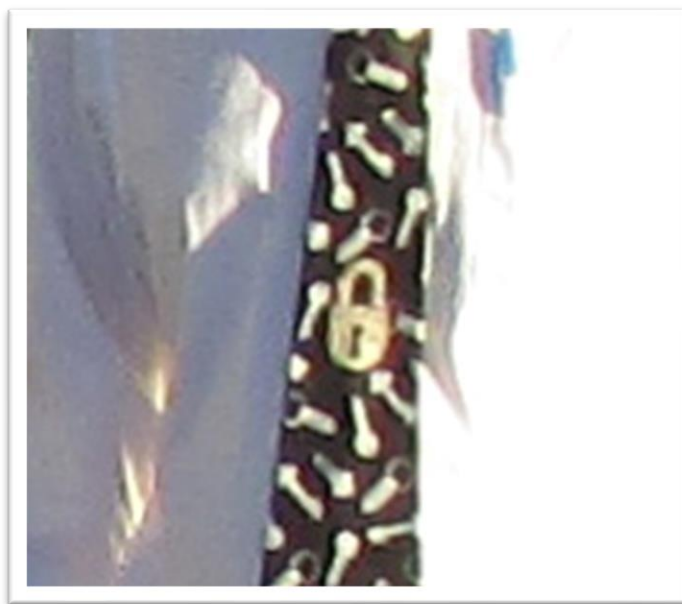
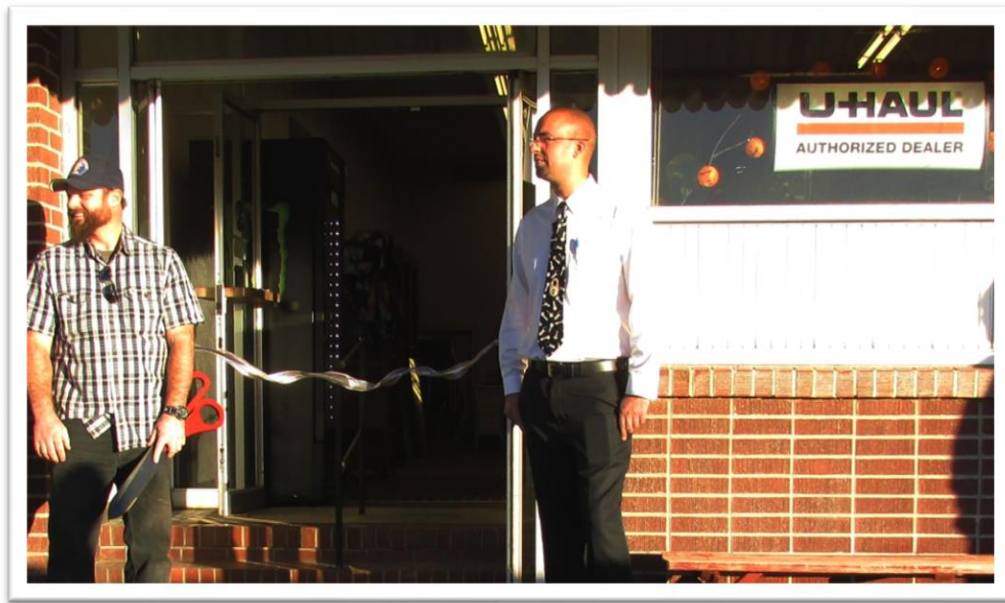
The week before I found the above photo, I was thinking about the story my Dad told me about the saloon. I went out looking for it and managed to find some evidence of where the tracks were. I found some pieces of tie still in the ground and a spike. Located both tracks and the switching point. Could not find any trace of a saloon or other buildings.

Several weeks ago McGill was hit with a cloudburst that dropped several inches of rain in about 20 minutes. The store had it's basement flooded and several homes and basements got hit. The area where I was looking got hit hard with flooding and a lot of the surrounding ground was washed away, making it very hard to find anything. Old “person nature” manages to erase a lot of history.

There is a photo of the area somewhere in my collection. Will try to find it.

McGill News

Mike Nass had his grand opening of his Locksmith and Thrift Shop on Friday Oct. 25. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony. The McGill town council was there along with Wayne Cameron, Head of the local C of Commerce. Mike had some finger foods, cake and a selection of wines. Mike also had on his special Locksmith tie. Mike also rec'd a lot of new western clothes. Place is full of neat stuff. Make sure to stop in and say hello.



Other great news for our main street is that Rudy has a hazmat crew taking all the asbestos out of the IOOF hall and should begin remodeling the entire place soon.

There is some exciting news about the theater which will come out next week.

More and more tourists are stopping and looking around, now that there are more places to shop and visit.

Old Photos



This was taken in 1907-08. The trestle is up and running. The tents are still visible. Just think, three years before this photo there was nothing there but sagebrush.

Time now for an update on last weeks tank story. I had mentioned that I had heard about a “junk Baker” from a recording of Dale Cottrell and then again on the tank story by my Dad. Well, 3 days later I got a call from Geraldine (Manning) Mayes from Thousand Oaks, Cal. She was in the class just behind mine. She was raised on 2nd street at #27. She informed me that “Junk Baker” lived next door at #29 and that she had made a tin cup for Geraldine when she was born. Gerri said she still had it and found it while we were talking. I asked her if she could take a photo of it. She did and here it is.....



She would have had to be married and her husband a foreman or tradesman to live on 2nd street. I will try to find out. I delivered the Salt Lake Tribune to the Mannings and I am sure also the folks next door. Could be I dealt with "Junk Baker" and didn't know it. I do remember a boss or something like that named Baker.

