

# Keith's Corner/McGill News

September 6,2019

## Keith's Corner Community Pride

Community Pride is a sort of mind set that exists mostly in small towns. Maybe it is because the people know each other on a more personal basis. It could also be that the city dudes are so busy trying to stay out of each other's way or crowding ahead of everyone else, that they have no sense of pride for the community as a whole.

Most folks, small town or city have a lot of pride in their schools, especially for the various groups of students and of course the sports teams.

Growing up in a small town like McGill we all had pride in our town as a whole. We supported the local baseball teams like the town team and the Junior League teams. Attendance at the ball park was a must in the evenings, before so idiot invented TV. The whole town it seemed, turned out for the Twilight league games. Our Junior League teams were consistent state champions. There were teams from the Smelter, Mill, Office and Shops. We youngest heathens formed our own sandlot teams until we could get on the bigger ones. It was a matter of pride to finally make one of the teams and get a uniform. Competition was just a way of live and with that came a sense of pride that is hard to explain to young people.



Our McGill Grade School had a terrific concert and marching band. They marched in the parades on Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day. We got started in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. It was a lot of practice and hard work, but the payoff in feeling pride in doing something worthwhile is memorable.



There was pride in our scout troops and of course different areas of town. In the end we all participated in activities of the community in some form or another.

This doesn't seem to be happening much anymore. TV and the dreaded iPhone have eroded a great way of life. The interaction between different individuals is almost non-existent.

I think the reason McGill kids could leave the area and make good anywhere else in the world is because we interacted in various ways. I guess the modern way of interacting is to carry a piece of plastic around in your pocket to exercise your thumbs with. We heathen boys in the old days had our pockets full of marbles, lizards, grasshoppers, pocket knives, secret de-coder rings, nails that we got flattened on the railroad tracks and lots of other stuff that we will never reveal to anyone, no matter how we are threatened. The girls had their jacks, chalk and other stuff that will remain a secret for all time.

The McGill birthday party each year helps to restore that McGill pride.

## McGill News

The McGill birthday party for 2019 is over. There was a small parade Friday up on 2<sup>nd</sup> street and then a street dance on main street that night. The parade was a few side by sides and a small tractor. There were supposed to be horses and floats, but none showed up.



Saturday was the McGill Pool Splash and BBQ. It started about 11 am. Several booths were set up to display all sorts of stuff for sale. The MRA group had their



snow machine working. They had a raffle for some metal work by Larry Manning.



Then the world class McGill Chefs manned their stations at the grills to prepare the gourmet hot dogs, etc.



The kiddies had a great time in the pool . It was a beautiful day and folks got in a lot of visiting. Sunday was the softball game. The McGill team beat the Sheriff's office 23-18. Thus, McGill went the whole season without a loss while the Sheriffs went the whole season without a win. Sunday night was the fireworks. It was a spectacular show of 40 minutes. Lane and Arlene Hendricks did the honors. They also donated some fireworks. Thanks very much to such great folks. Another thanks to the Frank Stanko family. They had a re-union and had an auction that raised \$800 for the fireworks. We are so blessed to have such people in our midst. All in all, it was a great time and lots of fun. Thanks MRA, Town Council and all the many volunteers. It is appreciated.



This week's old McGill picture. The Standard Oil building below townsite is there.