

Keith's Corner/McGill News

August 16, 2019

Keith's Corner

Sports in McGill

It was brought to my attention the other day, that the young folks in McGill seem to be hiding. There are lots of kids at the pool on hot days, but other than that, where are they? Good question. Several folks noted that one rarely sees kids on bicycles or even walking around town. Juist for kicks I drove all over McGill and I saw just 2 kids on bikes. I did see several roaring around on dirt bikes and ATVs. The great McGill ball park was like a tomb. The weeds are growing in the base line. Pretty sad. Several questions pop up, such as, has McGill become a retirement town? Do we suffer from a lack of youngsters? I don't know the answer. A lot of folks argue that there aren't many things provided for the kids. These McGill kids have one of the finest ball parks and swimming pools in the country. There are mountains close by to go hiking and camping in. There are streams and lakes for boating and fishing. Now I do admit that there are kids that do some of these things and in my opinion, these kids are so much more well adjusted than those that don't. A good example was the archery get together in May at Gilbert Meadow. I think that participating in some kind of sport is not only good for the body, but also for the mind. Competing in sports teaches kids to understand that there is wining and losing and one has to get used to both in order to grow and get along with others.

Several of us kids were not good enough to make the American Legion baseball team and so we formed out own. We sold raffle tickets to by our uniforms. We called ourselves the Cadets. Soon another group of kids formed the Badgers and

we competed. We didn't wait around for someone to do something for us.



Figure 1--The Cadets, circa 1948

We were always doing different things on our own. One summer, several of us rode our bikes to Camp Success and stayed overnight. We enjoyed making carts, kites and other fun things, especially during the WWII years. Simply put, we made our own fun.

The fondest memories I have of growing up in McGill were the sandlot baseball games, hikes to the lead mine, playing King of Bunker Hill on the rafts in the pool, skinny dipping on a moonlit night, fishing/camping at the creeks, searching the dumps for goodies to make things, riding bikes all over the place and of course the deer and duck hunting trips. Another activity was to be in the Boy Scouts. We did a lot of hiking and camping in the local mountains. The McGill Community League was a great asset for many years. The League and KCC built and maintained the ball park, pool, horse corrals, the 3 day hikes and many other activities. Would like to see such a thing again.



Figure 2L-R--Charles Knight, Roger Patterson, Eddie Brewer, Paul Gibson, Stinky, Keith Gibson at Bird Creek 1948 circa.

The BSA in my opinion was the greatest boy's group that ever existed, but sadly it has been compromised and is about to close down at the end of this year. What a gigantic loss to this country.

I had been away from McGill for several years and when I moved back I was sickened by the fact that the grade school did not have band or sports. Where does all the tax money go?

It would be nice to see more kids out riding bicycles, playing ball and other such activities. There are several families that encourage their kids to do these things and that is wonderful.

Times have changed and our world is a much different place now, so the kids of today have a much different challenge to keep up with others. Everything is getting more complex and the world I grew up in is facing fast. By the time these youngsters of today are in their 80s, they will have gone to Mars and other places that we can't even contemplate. That is the realm of human destiny.

McGill News

The annual McGill Picnic/Birthday is coming up fast. There will be a get together at the McGill pool park. There will be a BBQ at the park and they always have those great hot dogs from Bradley's market, along with hamburgers. Both items are cooked on grills fueled by mahogany coals. The large mobile grill is supplied each year by Pat Benson.



The cooks are volunteers from the famous McGill Fire Brigade. There will be booths set up on the grassy park. The pool will be filled with the kiddies enjoying the annual "Splash" event. The MRA sponsors organize the whole festive occasion. They raise money for the annual fireworks display, along with a parade and street dance.



A big thanks and well done to the MRA and other volunteers.



Some fearsome looking football players.