

Keith's Corner/McGill News

Keith's Corner

Characters of White Pine

White Pine has always had more than it's share of characters. These are individuals that are a little out of the main stream of what most normal folks call normal. That could pertain to all of us in a sense.

They are different in some ways, but many of them are very brilliant in many ways.

One comes to mind to some of us older folks. That was "Dirty Steve". I don't ever remember seeing him, but I heard a lot about him from my Dad. He was reputed to have been a brilliant lawyer that somehow got off kilter. He was called "Dirty Steve" because he never took care of his personal hygiene. Rumor was that he was taken to the County hospital and given a bath once or twice a year. It was also rumored that he always had on several suits of clothes.

My Dad told me that in high school, students would hire Steve to write their term papers. Dad said that the scam didn't work as the papers were too brilliantly written and the teachers caught on fast. Another story was that Steve stole a pie from a local bakery and when hauled into court he demanded that the pie be brought in as evidence of a crime. He had eaten it and so with no incriminating evidence of any stolen goods, the court had to let him go. Another rumor was that he had been arrested for counterfeiting nickels. Dad said that Steve would sell these coins for 6 for a quarter. He was taken to Carson City to a Federal court. He testified that a counterfeit coin was printed on both sides and that a slug had no printing. His coins had printing on one side and so he argued that there was no actual law that applied to his coins. Don't know if any of these are true, but there they are. I do remember a picture of him hanging on the wall in the old Copper Club, which was located where the Economy Drug parking lot is now.

Steve was often recruited by some of the local attorneys to help them with their harder cases. Money never seemed to be of any value to him as with the other characters.

Another character was “Dragline Miller”. I remember seeing him in a lot of parades. He was always dressed like an old time prospector. He had a long stick as a cane and usually had a pan for panning gold hanging on his belt. He was also in charge of several “Badger Fights” during the 4th of July festivities.

The “Professor” was a fellow that lived above the ore train tracks in an old shack. He was reputed to have been a music professor at an eastern college at one time. He played the violin and was very good. His playing could be heard often and was quite beautiful.

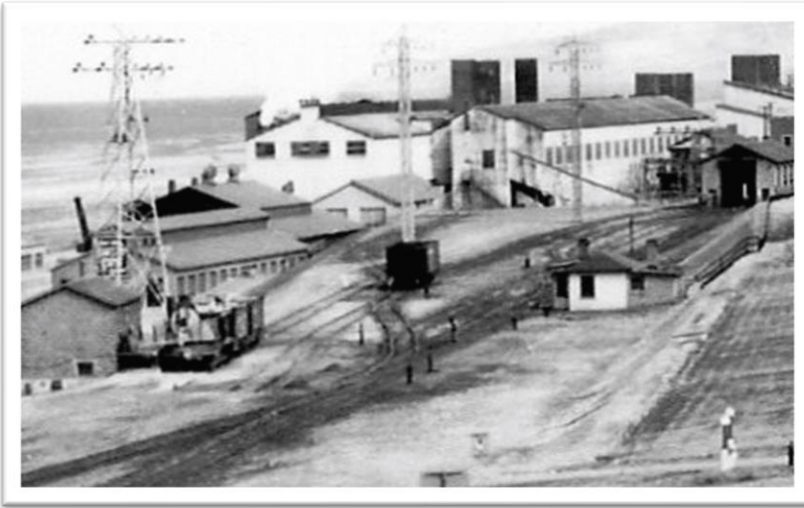
I often wonder where they came from and just who they were and of course what happened to them. Are they buried here in WP? Anyone know?

McGill News

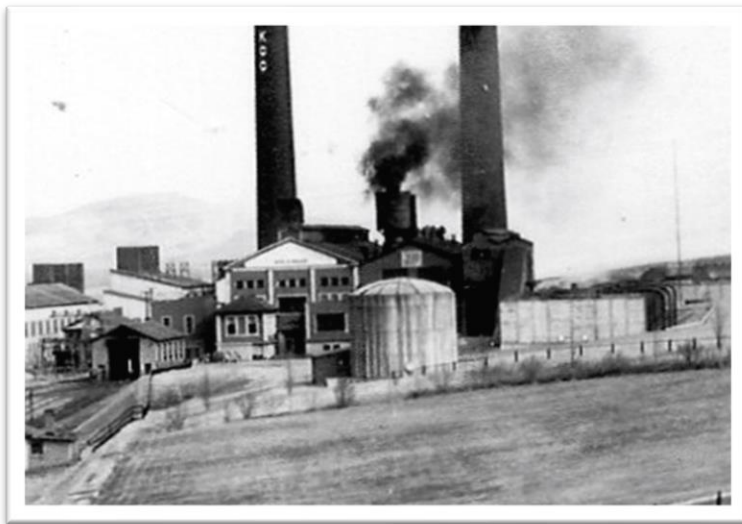
A quiet week here in the old town. Today, Thursday, Sept. 19 we had some cold rain showers and several flurries of medium sized hail. The rain and hail was being driven by a very cold strong north wind. Typical McGill weather. Not much fall, just hot summer and then cold winter.

There is no activity at the IOOF hall and haven’t seen Rudy since the middle of August.

Last Friday there was a large number of people traveling the old highway 50 from DC to San Francisco. It was the 100th anniversary of Dwight Eisenhower leading a caravan of U.S. Army troops and vehicles. I was hosting at the Drug Store and one of the travelers gave me a book entitled, “After Ike”. There was a one page write up of the Drug Store in it. Saturday I had 3 people in the Drug Store from Moscow, Russia. Meet a lot of folks from all over the world by volunteering there.



The smelter is at the top. The track gang shed at the 7 o'clock position and the scale house at the 3 o'clock spot.



The power house and the two old smokestacks that we all were glad to see that comforting sight on our way into McGill from the north.

The photos are a little grainy as I had to blow another photo up to show these buildings and stacks.

Hope you all pronounced those two big word from last week's newsletter, without any trouble.