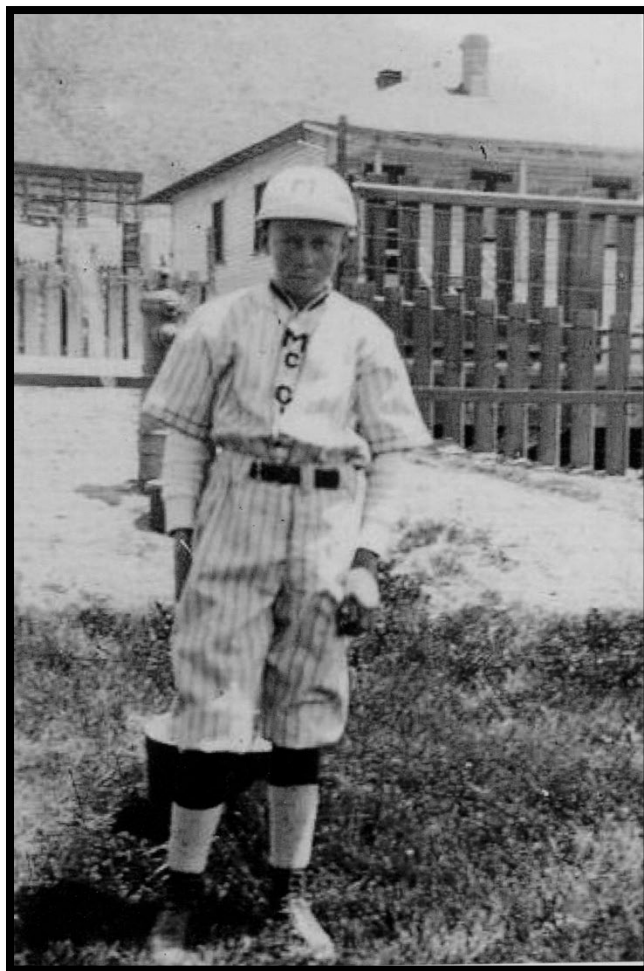


## Keith's Corner/McGill News

August 21, 2020

### Tailings/Slag Ditch

This is a picture of my Dad, Earl "Bud" Gibson, in his baseball uniform in about 1921. He is standing in the SE corner of our yard on 1<sup>st</sup> street. He and his mother and father and three sisters, Perle, Helen, Irma moved there when the house was first built.



I found the photo in my Dad's effects upon his death in 1988, but had never studied it, until 2008, when I got Adobe Photoshop and was able to enlarge it. I was surprised to notice the picket fence and the fire hydrant. I knew exactly where the hydrant was located. Then I saw the tunnel that went under first street and it finally sunk into my few grey brain cells that it had to be the tailings or slag ditch.



I remember the picket fence on the slag ditch, but the ditch was over across a vacant lot in my time. What gives??? Then I was studying the mill fire in 1922 and noticed that the slag ditch came out of the north end of the mill. The new mill had it coming out further south.

So it was apparent that, that was when it was changed. It now crosses first street further south and has to make a turn about half way to 2<sup>nd</sup> street. The old ditch came down thru the lot where Larry and Sue Manning live now. Their lot used to be a huge garden put in by Fred Feld each year. It crossed under first street and went straight to the sands. That is why no house sits on the vacant lot. The Manning house was purchased by Fred and Toot's daughter Toby in about

1956 and moved from the dairy/pool area. The Hall Bros. did the moving and I watched them. It meant the end of the great Freddie's gardens.

It is really interesting and informative to study old photos, especially with our modern computers. It clears up many questions, but also raises a lot more.

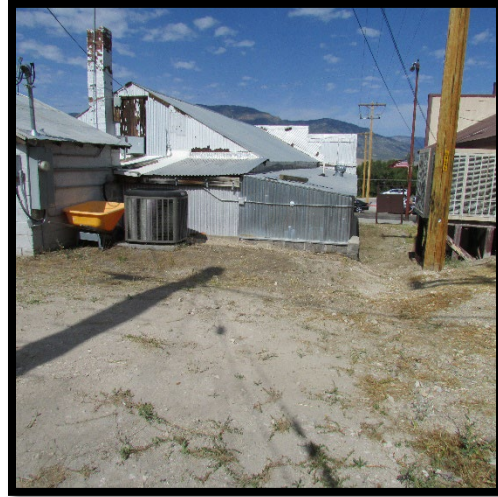
**Author's note**---In last week's NL, about McGill milk, I failed to mention that during the early days when one of us McGill desperados was sick with something like chicken pox or measles, Doctor Hovie or Smernoff would put a large quarantine sign on our front door. My Mom had to put a pail out for the milkman to empty our milk into as we weren't allowed to use the milk bottles.

## McGill News

The last few days have seen some improvements taking place at our great Drug Store. Last Friday, Larry Manning, replaced the old narrow, dangerous stairs going up to the furnace room and out the back door. He had to dig a lot of dirt out to do the job. He did an excellent job. What a great improvement. Thanks, Larry, from all of us.



A few days later, Janet VanCamp, Sue Manning-Museum Board members, Rick, the curator of the WP Museum and this old carcass, showed up at 7 a.m. and got rid of a lot of weeds around the Drug Store.



## Old Photos



This is an enlargement taken from another photo. It shows the Palace Meat Market. . The McGill water company sits there now. You can see also see the front of a warehouse, The Victory Club and the Emer Carlson Dry Cleaners. The Greek Church is not quite visible. The house on the right is visible because the Frosty stand is not there. The tall light poles at the ballpark are there.

