

# Keith's Corner/McGill News

May 1, 2020

## Community Spirit

The town of McGill during my younger days had a community spirit that knew no bounds. It was wonderful. I remember such things as the raking of the old ball park. Early in the spring lots of folks, young and old showed up at the park with their dandelion rakes. Those are the ones with the small teeth. We lined up at the top of the field, at the ditch below the grade school and started raking rocks. We slowly raked down the hill to the infield. Then KCC sent a truck down and we shoveled the rocks in the truck to be hauled off. It was a real community effort. These kinds of events help bring folks together in a town.

The ball park was an important part of the cultural being of McGill. Games were played at night during the week and the whole town turned out. Weekend games drew even bigger crowds. The night games were called, "The Twilight League" games.

McGill's Junior League teams were the best in the state and our town teams were feared by many out of state opponents. It gave the town a great sense of pride and all of us young local heathens did our best to get on one of the teams. We started by batting rocks with a stick in the alley and gradually worked into playing on the ball park in sandlot type games. We looked up to the older players with pride.

We had several teams that represented different areas of the copper company, such as the Mill, Smelter, Shops, etc. This made for a lot of competition, which in turn promotes better and better ball playing. It was a good system. Everyone helped in the effort. Some by playing and some by helping keep the park in good shape. Most folks belonged to the McGill Community League and paid a small 50 cent a month fee. KCC matched this and much more. This fee helped maintain the park and provide uniforms and equipment for the teams. It also paid for many other community activities, such as, 3 day hikes to Camp Success for the

boys and girls, monthly card parties and dances for the adults, Christmas parties, an annual swimming pool Carnival and many other projects that benefited the whole town.

This spirit also filtered down to smaller groups such as neighbors. When someone died the neighbors and other friends were quick to help the grieving family by visiting and offers of food and any other help needed.

Then along came TV and things started to change. There was less and less community spirit in the town. People could now watch pro ball teams and soon our great baseball tradition was dying a slow death. It was difficult to watch. Without a good community wide spirit of helping and belonging, a town soon becomes nothing more than a small city of humans not even knowing who their neighbors are.

There are some folks working on restoring the great McGill ball park back to what it used to be. At least as regulations will allow. I hope it all comes to fruition so that our town has a focal point of pride once again.

## McGill News

The work on the IOOF Hall is doing fine. Here are some photos. The cement has been poured to cover the sewer lines etc and also for the foundation for the columns to hold up the 12 inch H beam to support the upper floor.

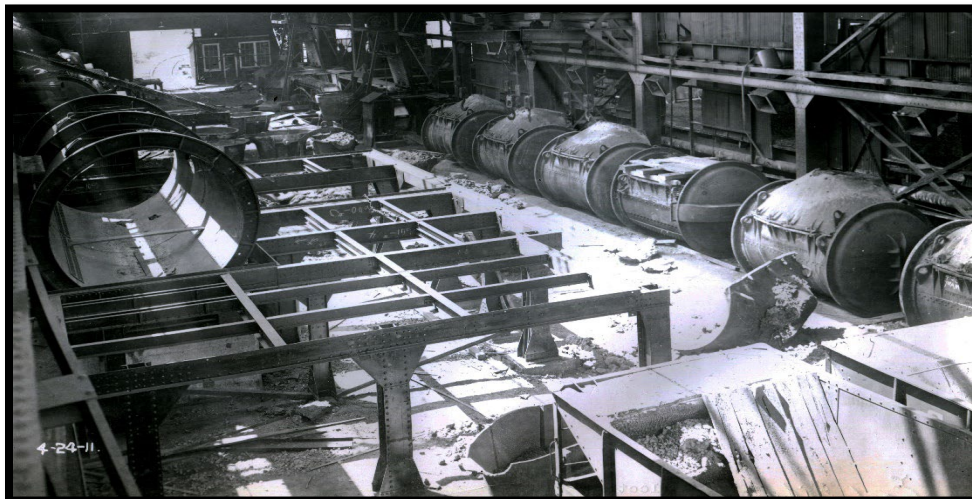


The workers found some boxes that brought back some old memories. How many remember Peet's Soap?? The other is the Silver State drinks. I do remember Peets and it brought back memories of Fels-Napths brown soap that we cut into slivers to put in the washing machine. When on KP in the Army we put the Fels in a #2 can with holes and added some water and then with a large brush we swirled the soap around in the can making suds for the kitchen sink. It was not a detergent and so didn't do a thing on grease.



What was in the boxes is q story in itself, which I will have next week, as the items need to be researched out to be sure what they really are.

## Old Photos



New Pierce Smith converters being installed replacing the smaller clay lined ones.  
Photo taken on April 24, 1911.

