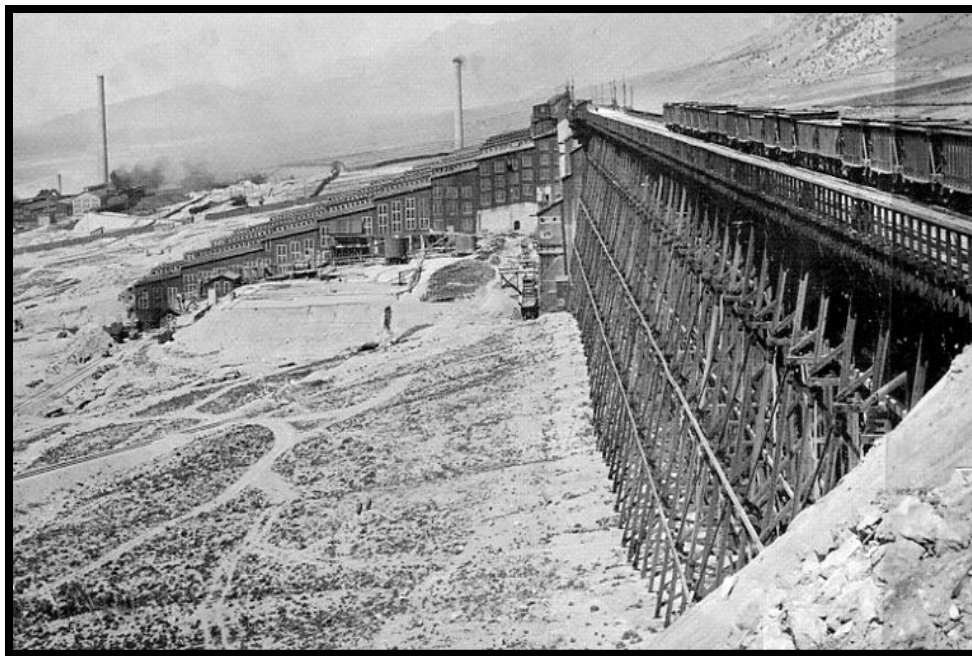


Keith's Corner/McGill News

October 30,2020

Mill Fire July 9, 1922

The mill fire has always intrigued me as to how a steel structure could burn. Well the other day I found a brochure from the Kansas City Steel Corp. that had some photos of the fire and their building the new mill. In the text was a comment, that the old 'wooden ore bins', were be replaced with steel ones. I remembered that the old mill had the ore train take the ore cars on top of the mill to be dumped directly into the bins. Here is a photo showing the tracks leading across the trestle onto the top of the mill.



So, maybe it was the large wooden bins that burned. I still don't understand what could have caused such a fire. It happened on a Sunday and in those days no one worked on Sunday. Some sources say that a repair crew was working there and sparks from a welder started the fire.

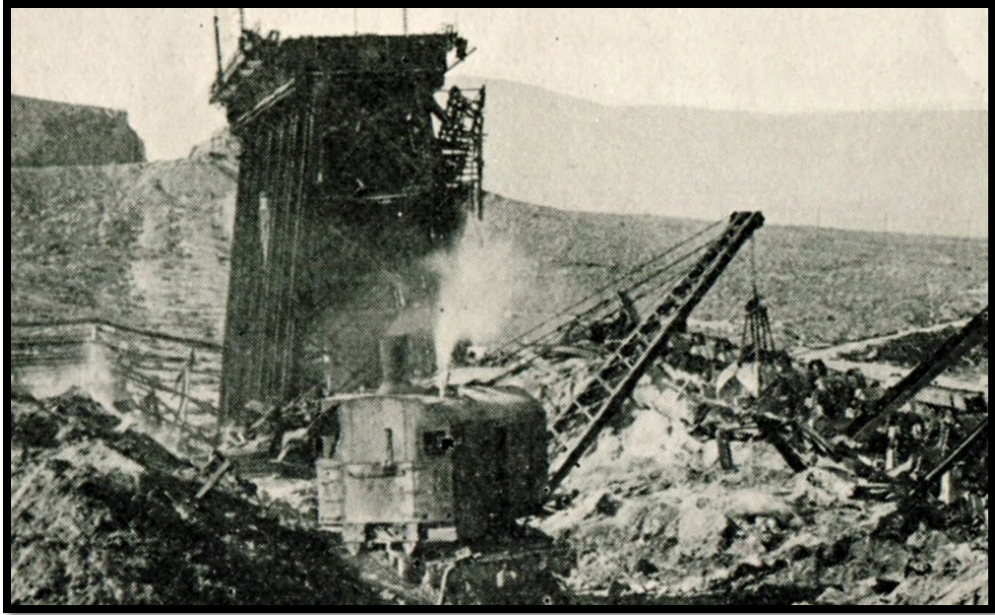
What ever was the cause this next photo shows that most of the smoke is coming from the top of the mill, where the bins would be.



Another question I would like answered is—did the wooden trestle burn ?? Some sources say that it did not burn , but was torn down and the timbers used to help build the new mill. I tend to believe that theory. When us McGill heathens and rascals would climb up to the lead mine, we would sneak thru the old cement foundations of the trestle. If my feeble old memory serves me right, there was some of the old wooden foundation still anchor bolted to the large cement footing blocks and they weren't scorched.

Here is another photo from the Kansas City Construction brochure. NOTE—The Kennecott gloves that are all over McGill had KCC on them. It was always said that they were not Kennecott, but Kansas City Construction.

This first photo shows the trestle gone except for the part where it enters the mill, leads me to believe that the trestle did not burn. The second photo shows this part being built in 1906-7,



The above photo show the cement footings going back to the start of the trestle. Notice the smoke and steam from the steam powered crane.



Several amazing things in the bottom photo. How did they get the crane on top of that structure?? The trestle was built from both ends and came out perfect. A testament to the genius of the engineers back then. Plus, it had to match up to the mill structure itself.

McGill News

Not much happening. Had a very cold Sunday night and everybody is hankering down trying to adjust. Typical hot cold, hot cold weather. Still not a drop of moisture. Very dry .

Old Photos

Enjoying a fun dive off the high board at the McGill Pool.



Now there are no rafts, no high diving board and there are fences all around the pool area. We have lost some many freedoms in the name of so called safety and potential lawsuits. I am so glad I grew up back in those fun filled days. We all knew how to keep from being hurt or hurting other kids. I remember diving off the high board on a moonless night and not knowing where the water was. Kinda scary, but fun. The local deputy, we called Hawkshaw, would drive up and shine his spotlight on the pool. We could hear him coming and would hide under the diving platform, until he left. The pool was nice and deep where you dived and the bottom was sandy anyway. What a lot of cherished memories for old age.