

Keith's Corner/McGill News

October 9, 2020

Steptoe Valley Hospital

The Steptoe Hospital was located on the same spot as the new Wm Ririe Hospital and Clinic is now. For those of you younger folks, here are two pictures of it---

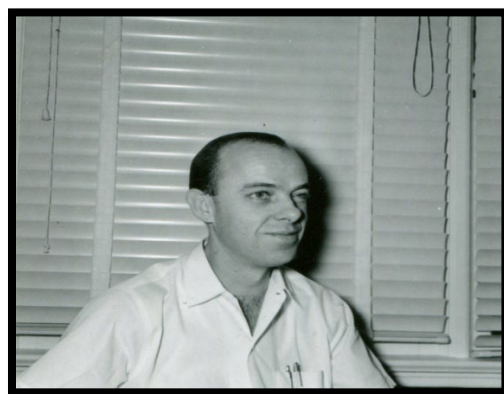
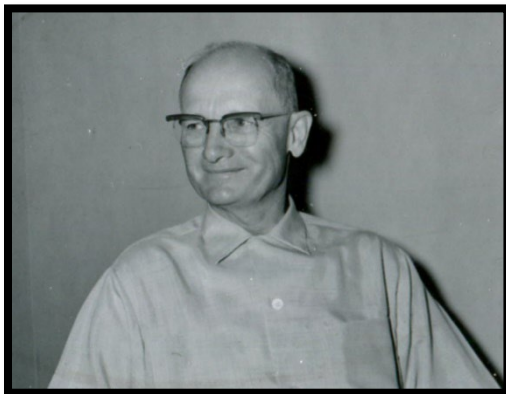


This is a photo of the south side with main entrance in between the two buildings such as in the next photo.

The only building I remember being in, was the one story one on the left. The patient's rooms were in there. One summer, when I was 10, several of us McGill heathens were rounded up, hauled to the hospital to have our tonsils and adenoids taken out. Whether we needed that or not. I was in a large room with 6 beds on each side. I was the last to go in for surgery. I watched in horror as the other kids were wheeled back blood on their pillows. The smell of ether was strong. Same smell and stuff as starting fluid spray cans. It wasn't a nice day. See story on this in Keith's Corner Vol 2, p.65 title—Tonsils Anyone????



I don't know who the surgeon was back in those days. Some of the doctors I remember were, Drs. Noah Smirnoff, Ontie Hovenden and Ririe. Here are Dr. Ririe and Dr. Smirnoff.



I haven't found a photo of Dr. Hovenden or Dr. Frolic.

Dr. Ririe worked in Ruth for many years, before coming to McGill in the late 1940s. I knew him better than the other Docs, because I was close friends with his son John. Dr. Smirnoff was the one that delivered me at home in McGill, long before Ririe was here.

Dr. Ririe lived in China as a youth as his father was a Priest over there for many years. During the Boxer Rebellion, Doc's father got him a written pass from the Emperor of China to be able to travel out of China. He and another friend rode the Orient Express to Russia and then to Canada by boat. The document from the Emperor was framed and on the wall in John's house in Grants Pass. Below it on the floor was the trunk Doc used on the train. I met the Priest one time when he came to McGill to visit with his son, Dr. Ririe. He was 101 years old and quite the character. John and I picked him up at the Provo airport and drove to McGill. I wrote an article about the trip which will appear in Keith's Corner Vol. 3 soon.

Dr. Ririe was of the old school and did house calls. He made several house calls one time for my dog, Tuffy. Another story to be in Vol. 3.

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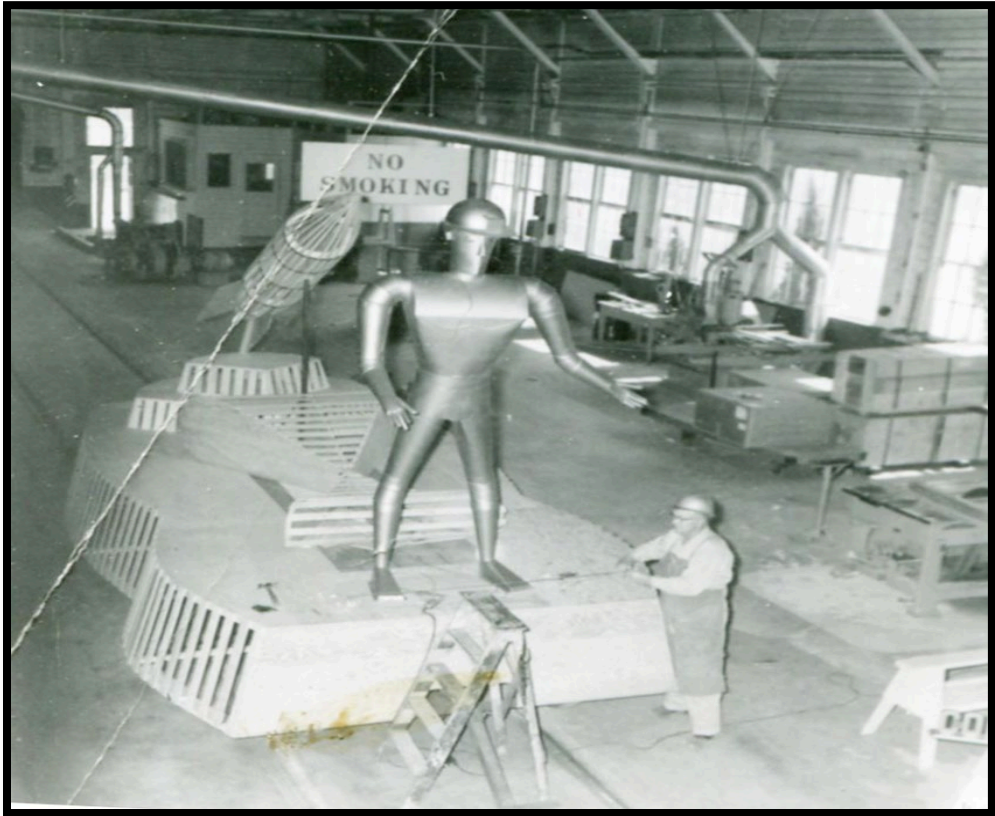
The weather here can be summed up in one word—smokey. It sure has been that for several weeks now. We are hoping for some rain this weekend, but not holding our breath.

Work on the IOOF Hall and theater have ground to a stop waiting for the fire inspector to show up from Carson City to inspect the fire suppression system, so they can get on with the construction.

The amount of traffic is increasing due to the many snowbirds heading south. Some enormous motor homes and trailers are going by in droves. Must be nice.

Old Photos

McGill's first space alien.



I think this was for the parade in 1976.



