

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

July 17, 2020

### Stone's Theater/Rec Hall/Copper Kettle

McGill's first so called cultural center was probably Stone's Amusement Hall.. It was built by Consolidated Copper Company and given to Mr. Henry (Stonie) Stone, about 1912. He had lost a leg in an accident at the mill.



I don't know if Stone is one of these men. When it was the Rec hall', we used the door on the left.

It was a place with amusement games and a stage for live plays and concerts. It was also used as a theater for the showing of silent movies.

When the new theater was built next to the McGill Club, Stone's Hall was used as the grade school basketball gym. Before this, the grade school gym was in the basement of the "new building" or the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade building. It was on the north side. I remember the foul and key lines were still visible in the late 40s.

There were heavy screens to protect the window. We used it as a band room. There was a stage there for plays and graduations.

Sometime in the 40s, Stone's hall was turned into a recreation hall for us McGill urchins. It was run by Art (Nick) and Hazel. Hazel sat behind a small desk that had the sign in book. Nick was always around to handle any troublemakers and also was the basketball coach along with Sid Simpson.



Early 1950s Rec Hall team, l-r standing--Sid Simpson, Dick Munson, Ed Harris, Mickey Johnson, Roger Patterson—kneeling l-r—David Robb, Gerald Crow, Nick, Paul Gibson and Gary Simpson.

The “rec hall” team was made up of several of us early high schoolers that weren’t on the WPHS team. We also traveled to Wells to play a team there.

The old stage was still there and held the pool and ping pong tables. The basketball court was still in use. One night a week was for roller skating. The Rec hall furnished the skates. We all took turns putting them on for the other kids.

The official name was the Copper Kettle, but it was the Rec Hall to most of us. It was a great place to hang out and stay out of trouble. It burned down in 1965. I think McGill needs such a place again.

## McGill News



The wood floor was taken out and now the cement base is being ground down so that the gravel is visible, thus making it like a terrazzo floor. Here are some of the big grinding tools used . They are made by Husqvarna. The white units outside provide the extra power they need. I will have some photos next time of the finished floor.

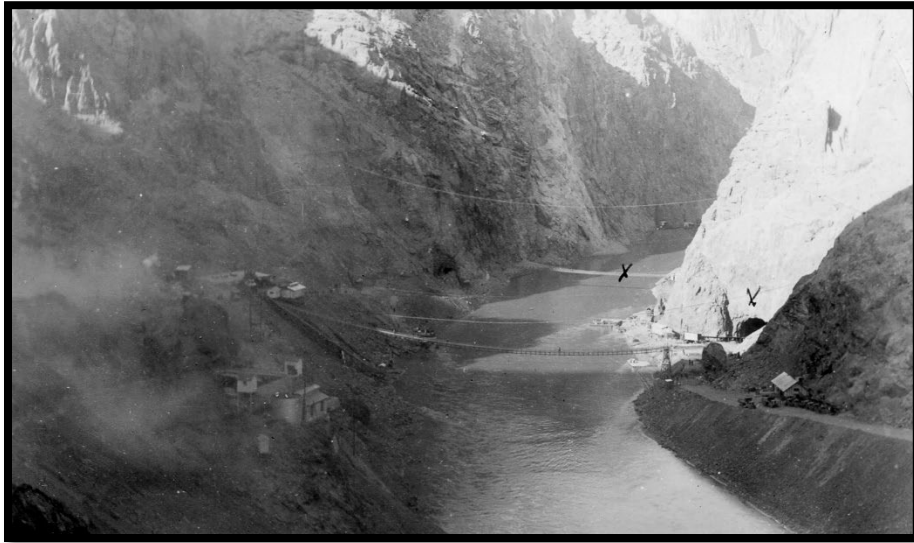




## Old Photos



Boulder Dam under construction and before Lake Mead formed behind it. Early 1930s. Hard to believe how they could build such things back then, but they did. The Empire State Building and the Golden Gate Bridge were done around the same time. They are all still in use. Quite amazing.



This is a phot taken by my Uncle, James Lee. The x marks the footbridge he crossed over while working there. The dam was built in this area.