

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

September 11, 2020

### Wildlife In McGill

Wildlife in McGill during my growing up years, was limited to birds, gophers, monarch butterflies, humming birds, and of course us McGill heathens. The wildest time of the year was on October 31, when the sound of rolling garbage cans could be heard all over town.

Very rarely one would see a stray jackrabbit and even more rarely, a deer. That has all changed in these so called "modern times". I have a large doe and sometimes a fawn in my yard several times a week. They jump the back fence, eat some grass, leave a deposit and then push the front gate open and head down the street. The folks on the "Circle" see them in their yards and in the parks all the time. They do get in and raise havoc on gardens.

In the first part of August several skunks started roaming in the yard and the smell would permeate into the house. My neighbor said she had several in her yard and so she had animal control over to trap them. Since the middle of August 23 of the critters have been trapped. There are still some left. I have never heard of such an infestation here in McGill.

Another unwelcome creature is the dreaded rattler. Several have been killed in townsite. Last fall Frank Stanko had a huge one with 6 rattles in his back yard. Folks along the upper part of first street have seen several this summer. Since we have not had any rain for several months, the nearby hills are very dry.

There are a large number of huge vultures or buzzards living in the big trees below town. They float around high in the sky looking for prey.

I think the main reason for the snakes is that KCC is no longer shielding the town on the east side.

The influx of deer here and all over Ely is because there is too much vehicle traffic in the mountains the last few years. It is safer for them here in town.

Several people have reported seeing a mama lion and cub in their yards the last few weeks.

Last year we saw a set of lion tracks in the dirt road below town. It was a large set of prints. I wouldn't want to surprise it in the yard some dark night.

We humans have stores and cafes to get something to eat. These wild animals have to chase something down for a snack and it is probably much easier to come into town and feast on our gardens and garbage cans.

## McGill News

The annual McGill Picnic was not held this year due to the phony scamdemic. Sunday night there was a fireworks display down on the sands. It seemed a little bit shorter than last years, but it was very intense. Some very spectacular stuff. The ending was really great. Hats off to the folks who put this on.

Saturday as I was coming out of the post office my eye caught a strange sight. Across the street between the IOOF Hall and the Sheriff's office was a big Yurt tent. It was white. I didn't get a picture of it, but hope someone did. Rudy, the one doing the IOOF Hall and theater was taking it down and it was gone before I could get home to get a camera. He is going to build a Yurt site just north of the Bassett Lake road. He has purchased 80 acres there. He is really investing in our town. These projects of his are going to pull lots of tourists off the road. The traffic is getting thicker each year. I look for a booming McGill in a few years.

## Old Photos



Early shot of the converter building, courtesy of Bob Pratt. I have not determined the date, but I would assume it was in 1906-08, as it looks like the roof is still under construction.