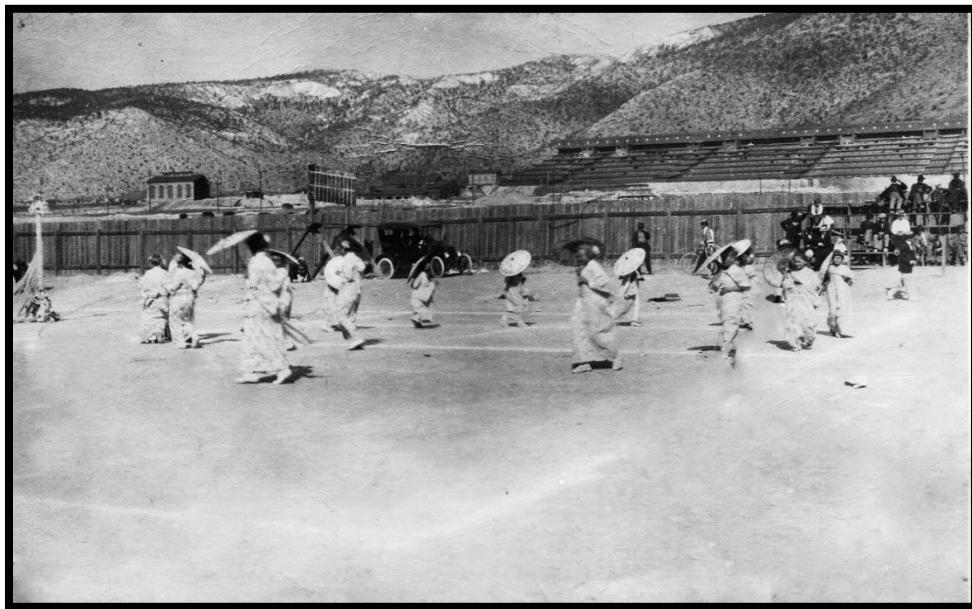


# Keith's Corner/McGill News

March 27, 2020

## Ballpark Mystery

Back in the late 1940s, when I was learning how to play baseball, along with a friend of mine, David Robb, we were at the ballpark talking with some older guys. Dave and I were complaining about the many rocks on the outfield and how a hard hit grounder would sometimes hit a small rock and bounce into your face. They told us it is a much better field than they had at the “old” ballpark. I forgot about that, until many years later the following photo appeared.



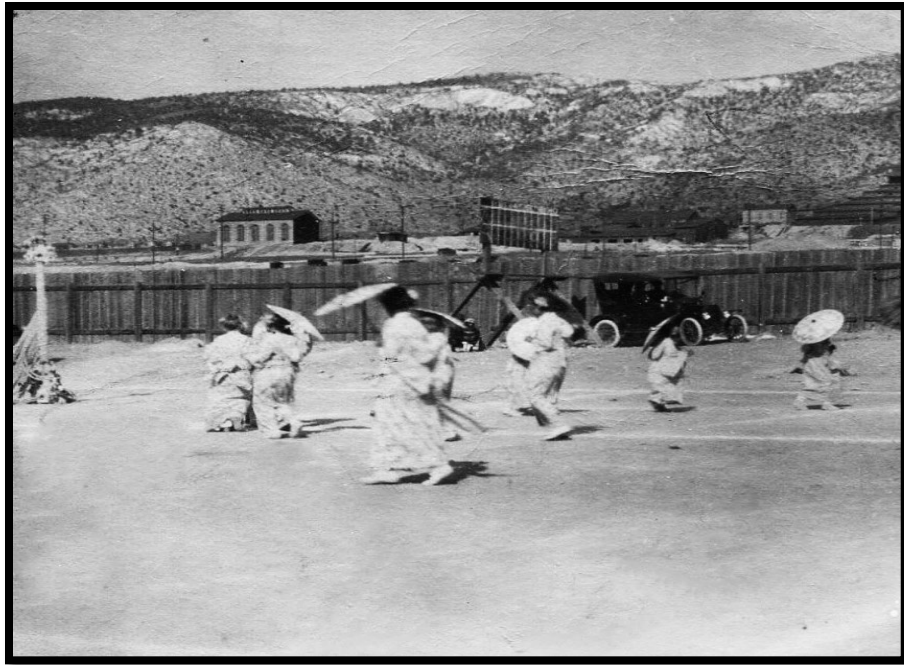
Several things stuck out glaringly. There is a board fence around the field. The bleachers are facing away from the mill and the mountains.

These factors got my interest back, about an older ball park. So I enlarged some parts of the photo looking for some details about the date and place the photo was taken.



It looks like some of the Japanese girls living in McGill are performing a dance routine on the infield. There were a lot of Japanese in McGill during the early days. There is a man with a bicycle near the fence. The mill seems very close. The top of the mill still has the part where the ore trains entered and dumped the ore, after they crossed over from the trestle. This was in place until the mill burned in 1922. Some of the men are wearing straw hats. The spectators have their backs to the mill.

This next picture shows the “bucking shed” near the mill. It is the building with the tall windows. I haven’t figured out what the building just to the right of the scoreboard is used for in the milling of the ore. Carpenter or machine shop. Perhaps??



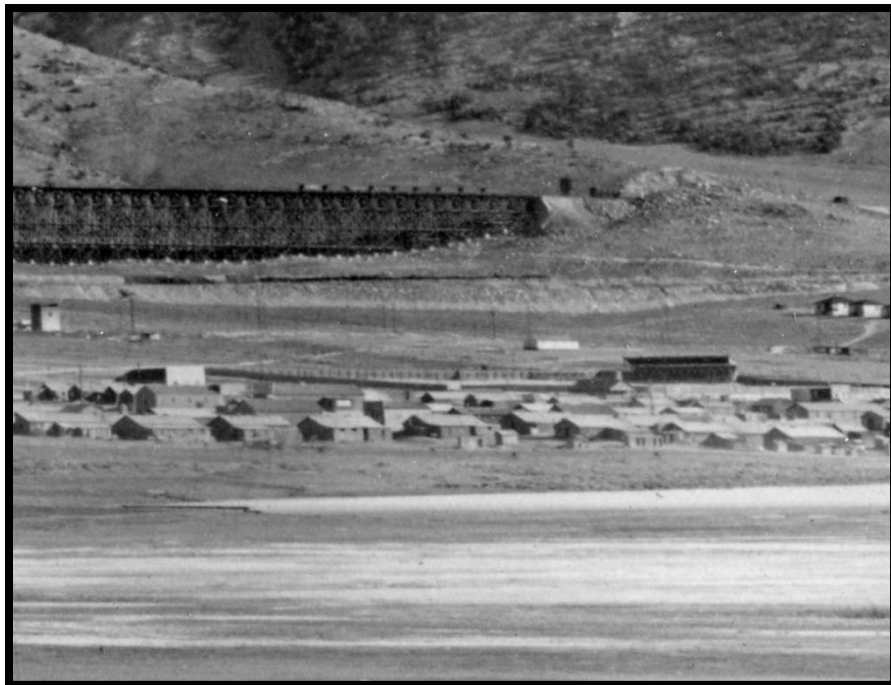
The next enlargement shows the scoreboard and the car. I don't have any idea what year that car was made.



These different things were also in my thoughts when I ran across this next picture taken in 1909. It was taken with a "fish eye lens" and is largely distorted. I noticed something in the area below the mill and trestle.

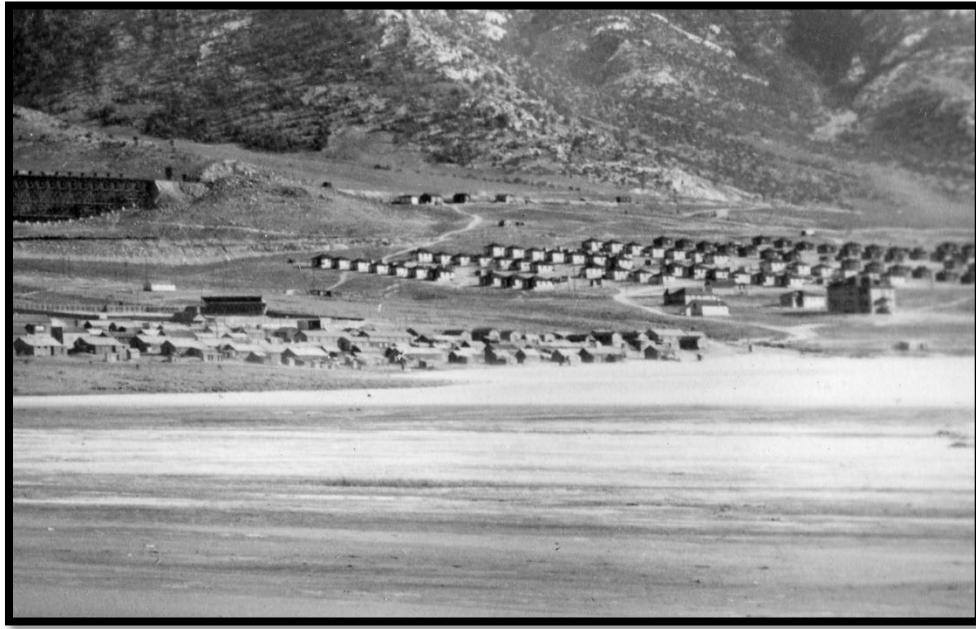


Upon enlarging, this showed up.



That looks a bit like a ball field with a wooden fence and a grandstand in the lower right hand side.

Could that be where the current field is located? Well, let's enlarge some more.



Note the grade school on the right. Note also the LDS Church on F row. Is that the Catholic church next to the LDS? Could the Catholic Church have been moved down and placed on the corner of F row>>

Some of you probably remember me writing about this before, but recently I was reading some stuff from an old Polk directory and it mentioned that the ball park used to be in the area which is now middle town. One sentence mentioned that the field was where Middletown Ave. was later located.

There is an answer somewhere to this mystery.

# McGill News

- . The old fountain is just resting there. It was over by the back wall as you entered the front doors.



- . The next photo is an enlargement of the open box. Sean the There is a box on the wall bl behind the fountain contractor that took me thru the place hasn't figured it out as yet, but is going to keep trying.





It has an on/off button switch in the back, which was probably used to open and close the curtains on the stage. There is a pressure gauge and an oil reserve tank. There is a copper line that goes into the floor. Anybody know what it is?

Could it be an oil line to lubricate the large air fan needed to circulate the huge volume of air in the place?

I ruled out a direct oil line to the popcorn popper!! Ha,Ha. A little humor there.

Well, winter finally showed up today March 26  
with about a foot of wet snow.

## Old Photos

Ever wonder what the Ruth pit looked like at the start of mining operations? Here is a photo taken on June 6, 1908. Notice that there are three steam shovels working very close to each other at the same time. It is a monument to the skill of those mining engineers that planned the digging.



How about the designers and makers of those steam engines. The amount of building material and equipment brought in by train in a little over a year after finishing the railroad is a miracle in itself.