

# Keith's Corner/McGill News

July 10, 2020

## Slag Pot Tracks

Way back in Newsletter 24 I did a short story on this newly discovered photo.



The date is April 3, 1913. It is the slag from the converters in the smelter being dumped into the slag ditch that is carried by the overhead flume to the area below McGill. This is the stuff that ended up as “black sand”. Most McGill renegade kids remember what happens when you stroll barefoot thru that black stuff above the pool. Those lack crystal slivers were bad news. They would break off if you tried to pull them out. After all they were like glass. We used to dig a

small hole and put a raw egg in go swim for a while. The egg would hard boil in the hot sand.

In later years, ( I don't know what year), the slag was taken from the converters by crane and dumped back into the reverb furnace. The slag was tapped from there and dumped into the slag ditch. My Dad told me that when he went to work in the smelter in 1929, that he remembers riding the small "Dinky" train with the slag car. The little train went north from the lower converter floor of the smelter and then switched to a higher track and then back into the upper floor of the smelter, where it dumped the slag. I never ever thought about that until I saw this photo. I started wondering where the tracks could be and finally got a clue by enlarging a portion of an aerial photo. Great way to find things.



I was able to find this spot and actually walk the former railroad beds. I found the spot where the switching was done. Later on I took a metal detector and found some very rusty spikes and tie plates. I don't know what year the rails were removed.

This is another piece of McGill history that Person Nature has almost obliterated. The record rain and flood we had last year took out a lot of the railroad beds. Hopefully some day, more photos will turn up of this area.

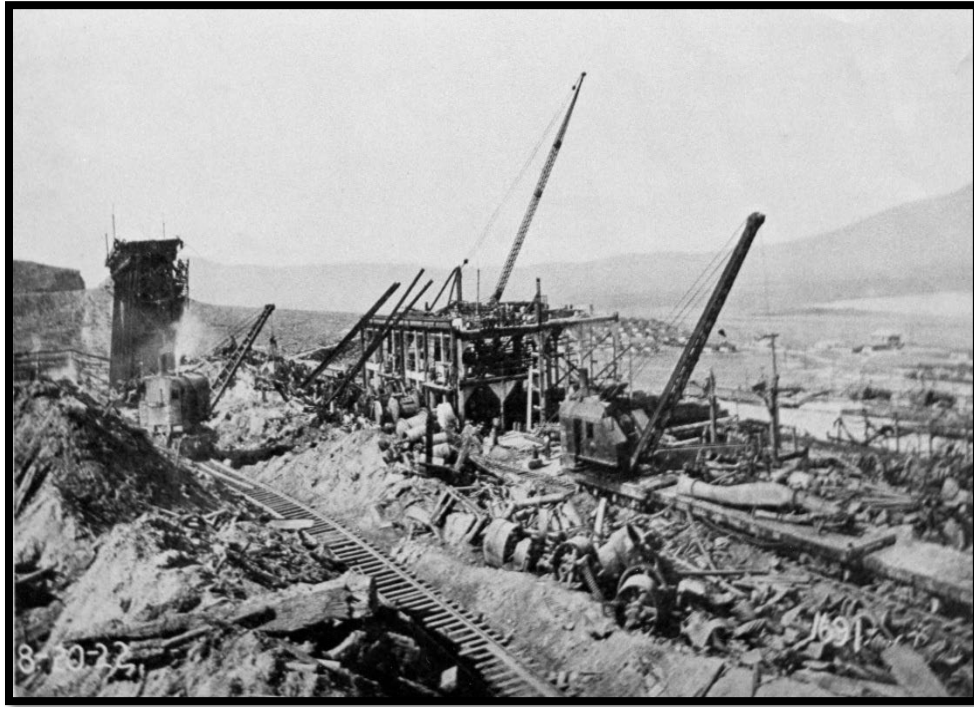
## McGill News

Mc Gill Club, takes delivery of the world's largest keg of beer.



This monster , 720 ton, part of a nuclear reactor came thru McGill at 5:45 A.M. this morning.

## Old Photo



This is dated August 20, 1922. It is the cleaning up after the great mill fire. I think the tall structure is probably part of the old high trestle that allowed the ore train to dump into the top of the mill. I remember Fred Feld running one of the steam cranes back in the 40s and early 50s. He would come steaming down thru the switch yards and on down past the junction to end up at the far side of the sands to work on the dike. Several times I watched him reset derailed cars.