

Keith's Corner/McGill News

March 13, 2020

Re-cycle—Really??

That is my standard answer to young people that tell me, that my generation didn't re-cycle, like they do now days. Consider the following things.

Look at the size of the local landfill and how it grows each year. The garbage containers used today are 2-3 times the size of the old metal ones we used.

During the WWII years many everyday items were rationed. The major list consisted of-Gasoline, tires, meat, shoes, clothing, sugar and coffee. We had to have gubberment issued ration stamps to purchase such products.

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Every person, including us young McGill heathens,(I was 7 years old), had a book of stamps. Not only did you need stamps, but many things were on a quota system. Items like tires and inner tubes,(tires had an inner tube unlike today's tubeless) were very hard to get. We had to put "boots" or large heavy thick patches inside tires that had been punctured. The inner tubes were full of patches. Tires were scrounged from the dumps.

I remember having to take an empty toothpaste tube in order to get a new one.

All of the boys had a ball of tin foil with them. Every little scrap of tinfoil we found was pressed onto the ball. When the ball was big enough it was turned in to the gubberment. These little pieces of tinfoil were dropped by our bombers to confuse the enemy radar. It was called "chaff".

We also had a ball of string. The tin cans all had paper labels that were torn off and saved for the paper drives. Both lids were put inside the can and then flattened and saved for the war effort.

Our milk and cream was in returnable glass bottles. Soda pop was not in cans, only returnable bottles.

Cardboard and paper were turned in for the paper drives.

Clothes were patched and handed down. Now jeans are worn with deliberate large ragged holes and priced several times the regular jean price. That;s progress???? Shoes were repaired with half soles and heels by Momer the shoemaker. Many times we did them ourselves on a cobbler stand.

Now days we live in a use it once and then throw it away system that creates huge landfills. Who is/was, REALLY, re-cycling??

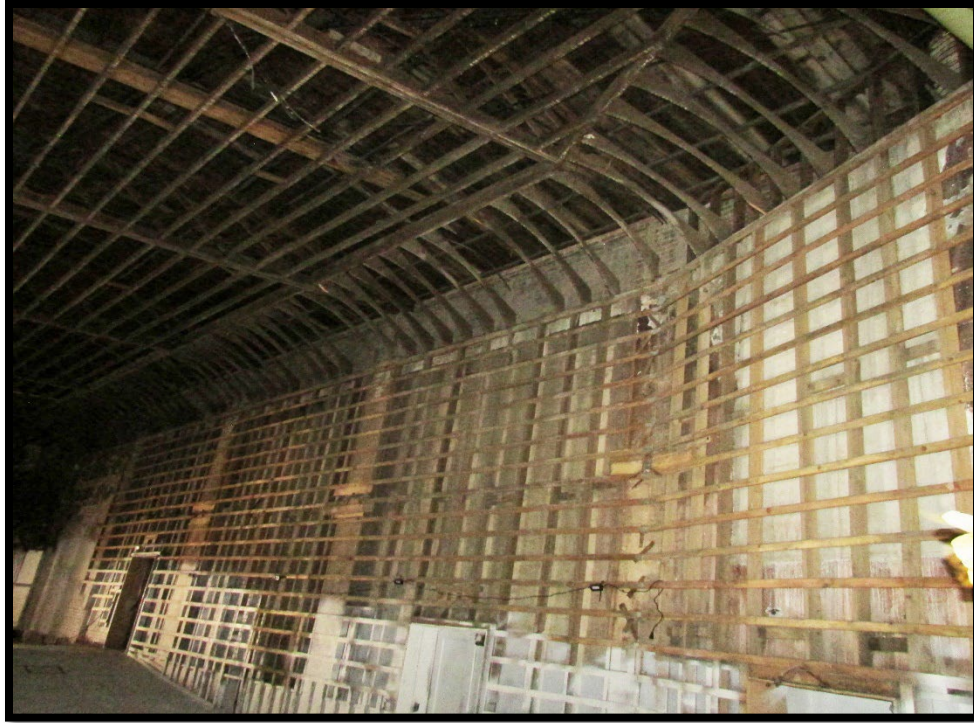
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I was given a tour of the theater by Sean who is the main contractor working there now. I was stunned by the construction of the place. As far as I can find out, it was built in a little over a year around 1927. It was shortly after John Kinnear Sr. took over the company and started many projects that made living in McGill more attractive. These are discussed in my book, "Making America's Copper". Here are some photos of what I mean.



Taken from the stage looking towards the front dor. Had to leave the doors open to have light. That caused the white vertical line. There is a |catwalk| running down the center to service the extensive wiring in the ceiling.

McGill is so lucky to have Rudy. No more ghost town status for us.



The roof is curved and the intricate wood work that made it so, is a great example of the craftsmanship in those days. Sean has studied it a lot and told me that the saw cuts look like they were made with hand saws.

More next issue. Here are some bows we are learning how to make at the drug store and will soon offer some for sale as soon as the other colors get here.



Old Photos



A little fuzzy as this is an enlargement of a phot taken on June 3, 1935 from atop the Clubhouse. The theater is there along with the Standard Market building. I don't remember the little shed. Perhaps it was for propane. This is the only photo I have seen of the McGill on the roof of the boardinghouse/commissary.

Speaking of photos, here is one I took yesterday. Some young McGillites took it upon themselves to hike up to the peak and put up Old Glory. They hung it just below the solar light that Pere Boundy put up when he and I strolled up to the peak on October 27, 2018.



