

Keith's Corner/McGill News

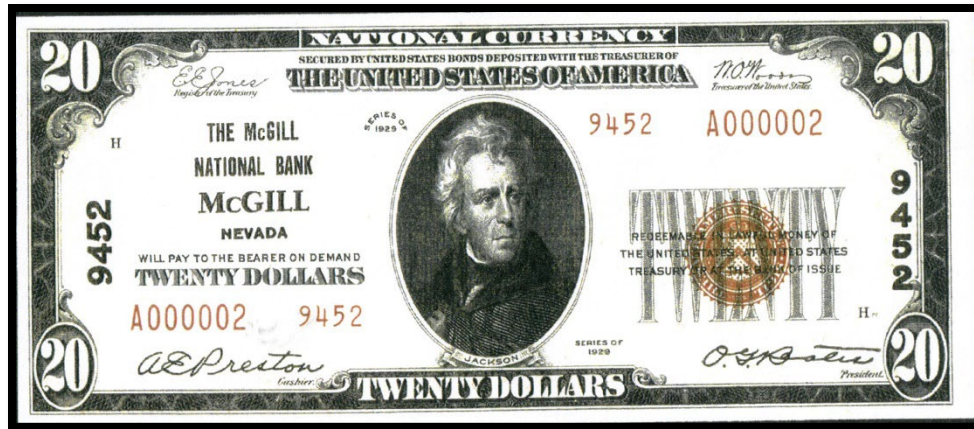
July 24, 2020

A.E. Preston/McGill Bank

Lately, there has been some interest in the old bank in McGill, especially about the long time cashier, A.E. Preston. Some old time money has surfaced with Preston's signature on them. It was speculated by many that the bills were printed here in McGill. That is not true. In the early days of the expansion of the US westward, the US Government treasury printing office, printed the paper currency and only that office. The bills had a blank space for a signature of the person with the authority to put the bill into circulation. These bills were sent to various banks around the US. These banks were labeled "National" and the cashier at each bank was authorized to sign and put the bills into general circulation. The McGill National Bank was one of them and A.E. Preston, the cashier was authorized to sign them.



These large bills were issued until 1928, then changed to the ones we use today, such as the one in the next frame.



These are from a copy of an email from a Mr. Little of Ohio. Next week's article will be about the changes and explanations of the other signatories.

I vaguely remember being with my Father in Preston's office and watched him sign some bills. My Father explained later why Preston could do this. I remember Preston giving my brother, Paul and me a small spin top that he had made in his workshop. You could get it spinning by hand and then set it on a hard surface,

A.E. Preston, was born in Eldora Springs, Mo. And educated in Sedalia schools. He then earned a degree in Accounting from the Walton School of Commerce in Chicago. He came to WP in 1918 and worked in the offices of Consolidated Copper Company in Ruth until 1921, when he started a 36 year long career as cashier at the McGill Bank. During his reign as cashier, there were no holdups or withdrawal runs on the bank. A great record. Tommy Caviglia replaced him.

During retirement he enjoyed, hunting, fishing and oil painting. He was nationally known for his paintings. He also made beautiful jewelry boxes, tops and other wood items. It was rumored that he had a way to cure sagebrush stems into a semi hardwood state for some of his objects. He also opened an insurance office in the space now used as a hair salon by the post office. I bought a policy from him in 1968. Mr. Preston died two years later on December 15, 1970. His wife, Alma Woocks Remington, that he married at Pioche, Nv in 1947, ran the insurance office for a few years before she finally closed it in about 1972

He had 3 brothers, James, Barnes and Clarence. No children.

A big thank you to Lori Williams at the WP Library for fining Preston's obit.

McGill News



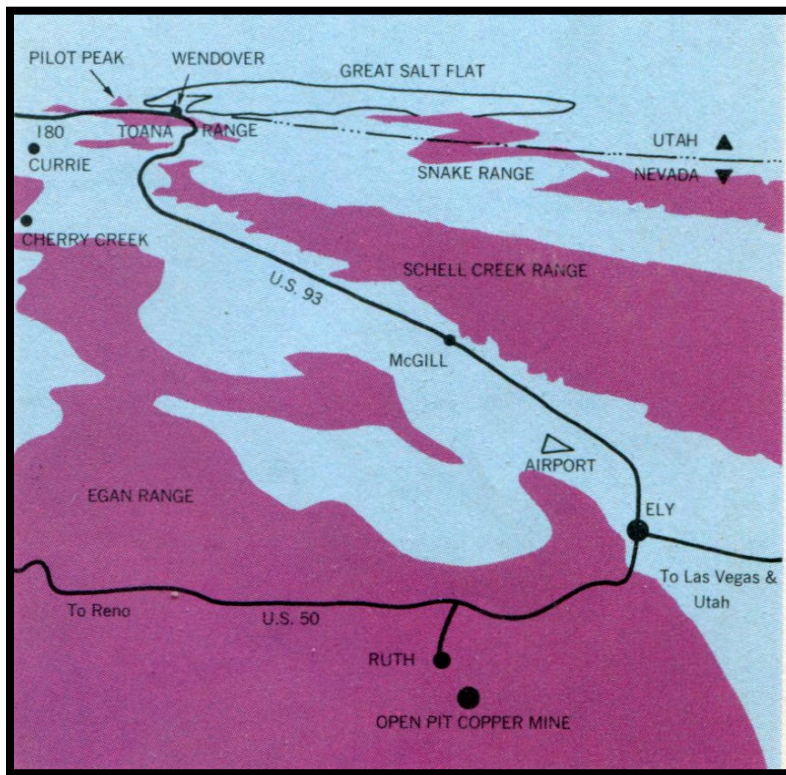
You can see the difference in the IOOF Hall floor, after Kevin Strickland, who put in many super long days, is done. The floor is really beautiful. The big machine is run by the remote control he is holding. It is quite a process, but has excellent results.

Old Photos



This is a photo taken from high over the area. McGill is in about the middle with the sands showing as a small salt flat. The big salt flat is at the top. The Ruth pit is

at the bottom. Duck Creek and Spring Valley are obvious, as is the triangle of the airport. This photo is not that old compared to others, but it is at least 40.



This is the key to the aerial photo. It takes in quite an area.