

Keith's Corner/McGill News

April 17, 2020

Spring Time

Spring is a great time of the year and everyone has a different thought about it. I always looked forward to Spring for two reasons. The first and main one was, that, we were almost to the end of the evil, sinister requirement that puts us freedom loving McGill heathens behind thick walls for daily indoctrination. That daily madness deprived us of the ability to pursue the really important scientific questions facing the whole world. Such as-- can snakes and lizards ever run backwards? Can fish swim backwards?? How about birds? They always seem to fly forward, except for humming birds. Are they sneaky and only do so at night, when we can't see them?? These important questions need to be answered for the benefit of everyone, but we are restrained from doing so. Weekends don't give us enough time, as we are studying the aerodynamic properties of different sizes and shapes of rocks to get the most skips and distance when tossed onto a body of water. Another mystery---when two rocks are dropped in a calm pool of water, they both makes rings of waves that pass thru each other. How does that work???

The second thing I like most about spring, is that the fishing season usually started in April on the many creeks in Duck Creek valley. The excitement builds up for several weeks before the opening day. Fishing poles are dug out of the cellar and cleaned up. Fishing lines are tested for breaking strength. Several trips are made to Goodman-Tidballs store to get those famous McGill brand of hooks and sinkers. The straw creels with the hole in the top to drop the fish into are checked out. The fly wallet is checked for the all important Royal Coachmen flies and the different types of mayflies and gnats. The bottle of dried out salmon eggs is tossed out. The wet grass we used last year to keep the fish moist and cool is all dried out now and is disposed out quickly, as the fishy smell is still there.

We went to our favorite worm gathering place in Duck Creek and filled our worm cans. My favorite was the Prince Albert tobacco can. It just fit in a shirt pocket.

The night before opening day it is hard to go to sleep. When Dad gives his wake up call, we open our eyes and notice that it is still dark and so we tuck our heads back under the blankets. Dad waits a few minutes then reminds us that it is opening day of fishing. In a record setting 17 and 2/3 seconds we are sitting at the table waiting for his great pancakes and bacon to land on our plates. We wisely had slept in our fishing clothes to be ready.

Soon we were loading the fishing gear in the rumble seat of Dad's model A coupe.



My brother Paul and I jumped in the cab with Dad as it was still too cold to ride outside. We huddled in front of the manifold heater and tried not to fall asleep.

Dad slowed down as we went thru the gap and shined the spotlight on the KCC hayfield. There were many deer there as usual.

The sun was just coming over Timber Creek mtn. as we pulled off the road and started up alongside of lower Berry Creek. No one else was there. We fished our little hearts out. Dad taught us how to watch for snakes and how to navigate our poles thru the brush. He showed us where the fish lurked at different times of

day and lots of other stuff. We cleaned the fish and headed home. Since it was warm enough, we rode in the rumble seat. Back home, we put things away and took a hot bath and looked for wood ticks. Then, a great, fresh trout meal from Mom and off to slumber land again.

For those wondering—no we didn't catch our limit. In those early days in the late 30s and early 40s the creek limit was 25 and then down to 15, then 10 by the 50s. I don't know what it is now.

What a day that was each Spring. Now days there is no opening day and it is a shame in my humble opinion to rob the kids of today of that feeling.

McGill News

I was looking at a copy of the Ely Times from last week. It is only two pages now and has a two page, Eureka Sentinel newspaper inside. Both papers are owned by the same corp. and the rumor is that they are trying to sell or give them away.

The IOOF Hall is moving along. Sean and his team dug the dirt away from the foundation on the north side and then sawed a doorway thru it. This door will be used to get to the planned outside summer eating patio. The sewer and water lines are newly installed and covered up. The re-bar is in place for an expected cement pour soon. The four footings for the new side to side 12inch steel beam are also ready to pour. The beam is there to replace the load bearing wall that separated the kitchen and the main room. It is needed to support the upper floor. The new wall studs are in place.

A lot of work has been done. Here are some photos. Outside photo of the door. Inside photo. Form for beam support post footing . Stud wall in place.



Not much else going on around here. The car traffic is very slow, but the number of trucks going thru seems to have increased. The local grocery store is slowly getting back to normal.

Old Photos



CCC Camp at Berry Creek in the 1930s.