

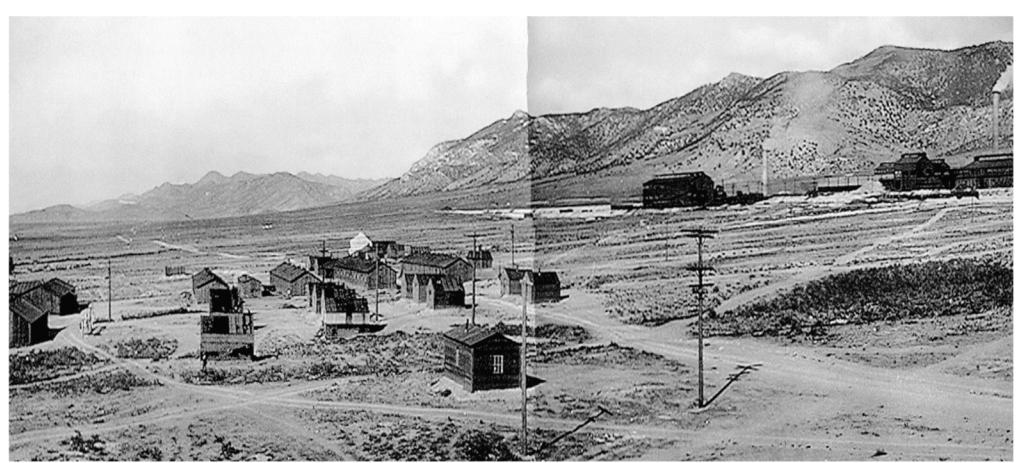
# Keith's Corner/McGill News

January 17, 2020

## Houses On The “Circle”.

The first permanent houses to be built in McGill were those on the circle. The top level management had decided that they didn't want to house the workers in McGill because of the smelter gases and smoke. Kind of hard to believe, since they built their own homes so close to the smelter.

I was recently asked, when the dark brick house was built. It is right next to the office building. I found some old photos and hope they solve the question. First photo is of some of the original tents and tar paper shacks of early workers.



This was taken about 1906-7. Pay attention to the power pole and the shack in the foreground. Also note the dark patch of sagebrush and a dirt road heading toward the smelter area. Compare to this photo.



These are the first houses on the circle and show that there is a large gap to the left of the office building. The dark brick building was built at a later date. Notice also that the first house on the left is two stories.



It was a dorm for the office single men. Later on the first floor was removed somehow. I learned this from a recording made by Dale Cottrell a few years before he died. There is a porch on the right side of the dorm and is still present on the house today. The dark brick one is there filling the gap. I don't know what year it was added nor the year the bottom floor on the white house was removed. Anybody know????



The houses on the south side of the circle are shown here in early construction. Office building is on the left and next is the mansion.



## McGill News

We are having crazy weather here this January. Lots of 40 plus days and no snow. Lots of wind some days. Today Jan 16 the dust is blowing hard enough that Heisser Mtn. is obscured.

The IOOF Hall is being worked on. Last week the old furnace was taken out along with lots of duct work. Yesterday the rest of the old pipe fence in front was taken out. Here is a photo.



Work is going on inside and I hope to have some photos for you next week. The whole project is behind schedule, but is still moving along. Rudy expects to be done this summer.

## Old Photo



This is an enlargement I made from a 1909 photo taken from down below the old dairy. It was done with a “wide angle or fish eye lens” and is distorted. You can see the slag ditch flume at about the 5 o’clock position. The trees are stretched out from around the pool area to the north. I don’t know if the white building at the 7 o’clock position was the McGill family house. I don’t know of any way to overcome the distortion. There is just one main smoke stack at this time. The pic shows the area of Steptoe pretty good.

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