

Newsletter89

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

January 29, 2021

### McGill Ranch-Smelter Area

This photo was sent to me by Diana Callaway. It is an interesting early look at the Smelter and McGill Ranch.



As usual, I had to enlarge it and look for stuff. It is what I do instead of watching the boob tube. Much more interesting. These old photos are deceiving as the foreground tends to be moved to the right of the top half of the photo.

The first thing I noticed was the wooden. water pipe line in the foreground.



I assume it is wooden, as the metal one wasn't but until 1928. This isn't the one from Duck Creek. I think this is the one that went to the water tank above townsite, where the water was distributed to the houses and possibly a line to the lime quarry. . Next is a big pile of dirt to elevate the power house track.



The slack coal for the boilers was brought in on this track. Quite a feat done by horses and Fresnos. The machine shop looms just above the pile. Above the machine shop is the warehouse and above it, the boiler shop.





Speaking of horses, this looks like the many stables needed for them. I think these were in the area just north of the “circle”. There are apartments there now. The white house at the left bottom corner, was one of the circle houses.



In this view, we can see, faintly, the dirt road that turns off the main highway and goes downhill to the old McGill Ranch home. Could this be the present road to the swimming pool? Looks like it. Just to the left of the road is a clump of trees that is still there and in my day was the location of the spring that fed the little stream that ran into the NE side of the pool. It was ice cold and had great

watercress. Just below the spring there is a small white spot in the trees. This could be the McGill ranch house. The trees going to the left were buried under the slag coming from the smelter. The slag ditch (before the overhead flume), looks like it crosses under the highway just before the turn to the pool. The ditch is a thin dark line, coming from the right side of the photo at about the 3 o'clock position.

I remember standing on the dike above the pool and could still Ely. There were many tops of trees still sticking up above the encroaching slag.

Before the copper company got here, the springs at the north end of the pool ran to the southwest. The copper company built the large block wall behind the diving boards, creating the pool and forced the water to run under the bridge into the pumphouse building to be pumped up to the smelter.



This shows the large grain field that made the mc\gill ranch at one time, one of the biggest grain growers in Nevada. This was probably put into hay for the horses and later the dairy cows. It was all flood irrigated by the Duck Creek ditch.

Any comments or ideas are welcome. I like to be sure of every detail, for future reference.

# McGill News

We finally got a little snow, with emphasis on little. Crazy winter. With the poor one last year, the ground is very dry. Let us hope we get some good spring snows, especially in the mountains.

For you folks that like to search for things in our past, the WP Library has been putting the local papers on a website. They have done 1903-1932 so far. It is a searchable site. [Ely.advantage-preservation.com](http://Ely.advantage-preservation.com) Some very interesting stuff.

## Old Photos



I get asked a lot, about what business was on the vacant lot next to the drug store. Here is a photo showing the McGill Candy Kitchen. It was also a store called Brownings.