

Newsletter98

Keith's Corner/McGill News

April 2, 2021

McGill Labor Day 1911

Labor Day used to be a big holiday around here. I was a band member in grade school and high school and so for 7 years I marched in the huge Labor Day Parades. All of the Union Members of different crafts marched with the banners of their trades. Games and other activities dominated the day.

I started wondering what it was like in the “older than me”, days. So here is an example.

September 10, 1911, the Labor Day action got started with many people boarding trains in Ruth, East Ely for the journey to McGill. Ten minutes later a small group of daring young men left the depot on motorcycles to race the train to McGill. The finish line was at the Copper Club on McGill's main street. (the post office is there now).

So, this might be the first race between a train and some bikers. I am pretty sure that the road to Ely, at that time, was above the current paved one and was of course, a dirt road.

The special trains entered McGill around 10 a.m.. The folks were met by the usual warm welcome of the McGillites. There was the McGill band tooting their horns. *The following might have been that band.*



The wind was blowing a lot of dust into town, but the party goers paid no mind to it and started lining up, behind the Grand Marshal, E. G. Marquis.

The procession left the Depot area, with the band leading. The Union members were carrying a huge banner with the message, "The very foundations of your home and business, rests on the shoulders of Labor". The parade headed down Guggenheim Ave. (K St.). The parade was festooned with many US Flags. They were very patriotic and loved this country.

As the parade reached main street the first motorcyclist, Earnest Lindskog, arrived, claiming first place. The next rider arrived 20 minutes later and the last one, 1 hour later. (guess the motorcycles were not very fast back then). The Copper Club was the finish line.

The parade continued down to the McGill ranch house in the grove. (where the swimming pool is now.) I ran across this photo with no date. Could this be the picnic????



Baskets were opened and the revelers were treated to a picnic. There were plenty of tables and benches for the throng.

The many pretty ladies and girls in white dresses, converted the grove into a bower of beauty. Here is an enlargement.



They met at the small cold stream in the grove and held a dabing contest. (not sure what that is).

After the orator, A. G. Miller, gave a speech about the importance of Unions, the folks all headed up to the ballpark. They enjoyed a game between the Mill and Shops teams. Then the games began. There was a wheelbarrow race, 100 yard dash and a 1 mile marathon.

Later there was a dance at the Clubhouse and also one at the school. Then they all left on the special trains, with the last one leaving at 1 a.m..

Those people knew how to enjoy a holiday. They also did a lot of walking. What has happened since???

McGill News

Bruce Brunson has just purchased the gas station in McGill. Finally we won't have to go to Ely to get gas. He is going to have some hot foods and other items. He hopes to get everything ready to open on May 1st. What a relief. We all need to support him.

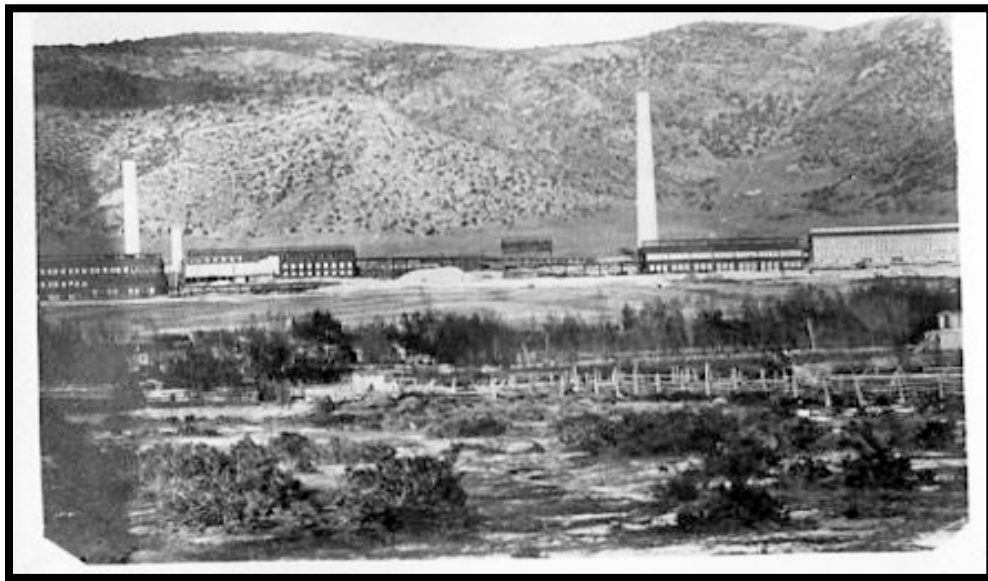
McGill Oldies

1929-December 10-Brickwall on north side of the L. C. Cononelos store was finished. Part of it is still standing, just south of the sheriff's office.



1905-July 27—Rhyolite baseball short stop, Bill Griffith, slid into first base. His cleats uncovered a small ledge of free gold.

Old Photos



Early 1900s Swimming pool area and north end of the smelter complex.