

Keith's Corner/McGill News

April 30,2021

Drug Store Visitors

The McGill Drug Store is a treasured gem for us old turkeys of McGill. We remember many things about it and of course Jerry and Elsa Culbert. There are many thousands of items in the store and the Culberts, knew where every item was, whether on a shelf or in a drawer. They willed the store to the WP County Museum Board on the condition that it remain as it was in 1980. It is that way now. We have two McGillites on the board-Sue Manning and Gary Stokes. Sue supervises our store.

The place is open from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and by appointment on other days.

I work there on those days and have met many interesting people from all over the world. Had two gents from Moscow, Russia, a dairy farmer from the Isle of Gurney and lots of folks from all over the U.S..

A lady from Idaho was thrilled to see the old Max Factor stuff. She was in the Marine Corps in the 1980s and said they had to use Max Factor for their makeup. She served on the Marine Honor Guard that protects the White House and was on the podium behind George Bush Sr, when he was sworn in.

Last week a couple came in with their 8 year old daughter. She was very interested in all the products and knew something about a lot of them. I asked her several questions about such things as Dippidi-doo and other old beauty products and she knew what they were. I finally asked her what was in a certain showcase tray. She said, "those are nibs and they go in the ends of old time pens to dip in the inkwells". I asked her mother if she taught her such things. The mother said, no, that she reads a lot instead of asking an iphone etc. She was also teaching herself cursive. She liked to read anything and everything and was interested in all kinds of subjects.

A 92 year old man told me that he had a close friend that was 96 and still working as a druggist, over in a small town close to Provo, Utah, in his own drug store. The man said that he would bring his friend over this summer to go thru McGill's drug store.

A lady introduced me to her father, who was 94 years old and got around like a 50 year old. He called me "kid" at 85. She had put a photo of him on facebook a few weeks ago and a woman from McGill recognized him. Turns out they were born in the same village in northern Spain and knew each other until they both left for the US at age 16. A reunion was set up and they were able to meet and talk over "the good old days" of their youth.

A year ago a silver haired young lady came thru the door and looked at me and asked, "do you remember me"? No, I replied. Then she said, "well, I remember you. You were the brat that lived next door back in the 1940s and 50s". It was the gal from next door, named Beverly. I did remember her then, even though it had been almost 75 years. That is small town stuff, that is sadly becoming rarer and rarer today.

Lots of local folks are always asking me why I spend time at the drug store. It is because I am interested in meeting people of all walks of life and living in a small out of the way village in the wilds of Nevada, it is the only way I can do this. Hey, it beats sitting around and watching the boob tube and is a much more interesting way to spend the day. Get to meet some great folks and learn lots of new things. Never boring.

McGill News

McGill has gas again. Bruce Brunson opened his station the other day. He is still waiting for some food and beverage deliveries and his hot food appliances. Saturday May 1, he is having a grand opening. He is going to use Pat Benson's world famous, BBQ trailer and serve up some great hot dogs and burgers. I will have photos next week.

McGill Oldie

1909-June 26—The copper company was, again, considering digging a tunnel thru the mountain to bring water into McGill in place of the wooden pipeline. They had started a tunnel years before, but did the wooden pipeline instead. The idea came up again, but not much happened and in 1928, the present steel pipeline was put in.

Old Photos



Middle 1940s. Ray and Mary O'Neill's gas station , with the big neon sign, that has NAASH across the top and STORAGE in the vertical and LAFAYETTE at the bottom. I can't make out what the Cononelos furniture store has on the front of it.

