

Keith's Corner/McGill News

July 30, 2021

The Three Day Hikes

The day finally arrived in the small town of McGill, that so many parents had been anxiously awaiting. . It was that fateful day, when most of us urchins, were to be, rounded up and bused to a remote location in the mountains, far from town. We would be confined there for three days and nights with no means of escape. We would be housed in tents and sleep on Army style cots. The meals were served in a large mess hall. There were work details such as KP. All activities were announced by a bugle blasting thru the clean, fresh, pine scented air.

The parents may be happy, but we boys were happier. We were packed and waiting for the KCC shift buses to pick us up. The feeling of freedom was racing thru our veins. We were out of the clutches of our parents, for 3 glorious, fun filled days. The horrible, WWII was over. There was a feeling of peace and freedom that can only be felt, but never explained. We knew first hand, the greatness of our country and were proud that we had contributed, with our tinfoil, paper, and metal scrap drives.

We hiked, played games and learned a lot of great things about wildlife. Camp Success, is a beautiful place to be confined to and we owed it all to the McGill Community League, Boy Scouts of America and Kennecott Copper Corp. The League was formulated in 1925-28, under the guidance of J. C. Kinnear, who had just been promoted to General Mgr.

of the copper company. The League was funded by each worker paying fifty cents a month and that amount was matched by KCC.

The League funded many activities such as baseball teams, the swimming pool, horse corrals, rodeo arena and many other sports activities. There were card parties and dances for the adults.

A fond memory was the large box of chocolates deposited at our front door on Christmas morning and the Santa Claus party for the kids, held in the I.O.O.F. hall, Cypress Hall and later at the McGill movie theater. Every kid received a huge stocking filled with nuts, oranges and a small toy. These stockings were a treasure during the WW11 years when so many things were rationed and hard to get.

The League put a lot into the local passion for baseball. The Twilight League teams played several times a week in the evening, under the lights, at the old ball park. There was a terrific sense of pride in the community because of the League. People volunteered in so many ways. I remember in the spring how a large group would show up at the ball park with fine toothed rakes. We would line up in a row at the ditch, at the top of the outfield and rake towards home plate. We accumulated quite a pile of racks that KCC hauled away. It is hard to explain this to anyone that didn't live thru that time frame.

The third and final day of our time at Camp Success arrived too quickly. It was time to go back to civilization, or whatever it was called. There was one benefit in going back to town. That was the fact, that the League rounded up all the girls to be bused to the camp for their three day hikes. We boys had the run of the town for 3 glorious days. I am sure the girls felt the same way when we were out of their hair for a while. Thanks to the McGill Community League, we old timers have a lot of terrific memories. A more detailed account can be found in "Making America's Copper", my second book on growing up in McGill.

McGill News

I have been reading a book written by an old friend from McGill, Jim Reed. The title of the book is-The Fatal Affair in Convict Canyon. It is very interesting and a good one for your bookshelf. McGill has put a lot of talent out into the big world. Not much going on besides the smoke and humid heat.

Great fishing story in this week's Bristlecone Tribune. Our new, newspaper.

Oldies

1908—August 14—Walter Wells is the manager of F. M. Clark's Drug Store in Smelter (McGill).

1910-December 11---C. C. Schnack is the manager of the Lindskog Jewelry department at Clark's Drug Store in McGill.

Old Photo



McGill, 1950-56