

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

December 10, 2021

### Christmas memories

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas these days is a lot different than during the WWII days of the early 40s. Back then everyone in McGill knew of a fellow McGillite that was in the military and many were overseas in the Pacific or in Europe. The Christmas spirit was much higher, as we all hoped they would all come back alive. The Red Cross was constantly doing blood drives. For some dumb reason, they would not let us young McGill heathens give any. We were assigned to pick up tin foil, string and scrap metal instead. Then there were the Bond drives. In the big cities many of the top Hollywood stars would put in personal appearances to help sell War Bonds as they were called. The KCC workers could have a certain size bond taken out through a payroll deduction. Most families had \$25 or \$50 bonds taken out. A \$25 Bond cost \$18.75 and after 10 years was worth \$25. We didn't have any big stars come to McGill, but once a week at the McGill theater, after the cartoons and Newsreel (that was our only chance to see actual footage of the war, as we didn't have the scourge of TV yet), the lights would come on and Max Blackham would appear on stage with a mike and sell War Bonds. There was a bowl on the stage with ticket stubs and he would have some kid draw one out. The lucky ticket holder would get a free War Bond, usually \$25.

Several other lucky ones would get a gravy bowl or other dishes to start a collection.

The war played a big part of our lives. Younger people have no idea. Our country has never had to fight such a war since. It was a 4 year struggle and everyone helped. For us wretched young'uns, it meant a bleak Christmas in terms of toys. However, what toys we did get were cherished and kept in good shape. I still

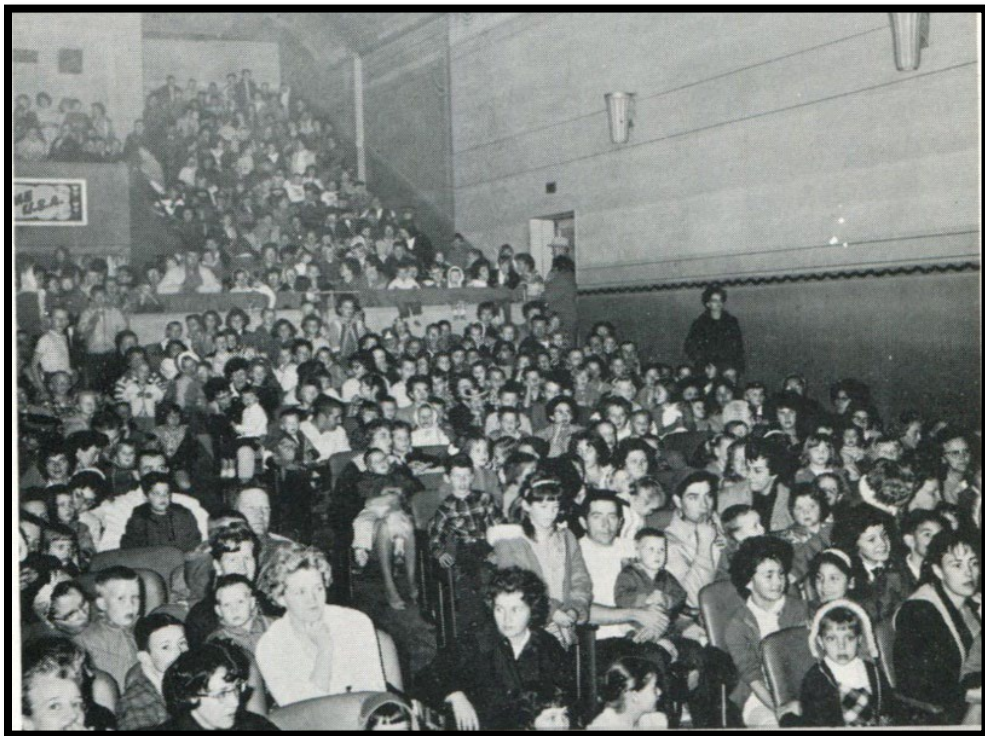
have some from those years. Now days most toys are used briefly and then tossed.

We spent many a night looking thru the Sears and Monkey Wards catalogs for that one toy we might could ask Santa to bring us. At this time there was a major transformation in the behavior of kids. They suddenly became little perfect angels, willing to do chores and helping Mom around the house. Us boys even made the ultimate sacrifice and was nice to the girls. It was hard, but had to be done in case Santa watching.

No matter what we did, the war was a big part of our lives. The families that had someone in the service had a sticker in their window. There was a star on the sticker, I think blue for each serviceman. When one was killed the blue star was replaced with a gold star. The whole town felt the pain of each gold star, especially during the Christmas season.

All of those things made Thanksgiving and Christmas more meaningful to us.

Here is a Christmas party at the theater in more peaceful times, thanks to all those who gave so much.



# McGill News

WOW!!! Another year has roared past. Here comes another Christmas. Time to get folks out of the house and do some decorating for Christmas. The annual pole decorating contest is on again to honor Rose Papez.



This year it is especially important to celebrate our National Christmas Holiday. It has been a drab year and needs some spiffing up with some great decorations. I have been getting some old Christmas stuff out at the Drug Store and putting in the front window. The annual McGill Christmas Parade is tomorrow, followed by a party at the old library. Santa will be there.

**Author's Note**—Yes, this is somewhat a repeat of #82. I felt it needed to be seen again. We must never lose sight of our wonderful history.

(Besides—it's my 86<sup>th</sup> Birthday)

Several subscribers have asked for a list of books available.

I can send them to whomever you want, with a note from you if desired. The Newsletter requires an email address.

## **Books and Newsletter**

**History of McGill Baseball 1906-1956**—McGill was a power house in baseball for many years. I searched the newspapers and interviewed some of the older players. Have many photos of teams from 1906 to 1956.

**McGill Nv Memories-Mine and others -1935-1955**—Growing up in McGill during the 30s,40s and 50s including WWII. What it was like for us McGill heathens.

**Making America's Copper**—More McGill history and how people lived. What it was like working at KCC. What the Moms did.

**Keith's Corner—Vol1**----A compilation of stories about people and events. These were published in the local newspaper. They have been updated and photos added in some articles.

**Keith's Corner—Vol.2**—Twenty-five more stories about events and people in McGill.

**Keith's Corner/McGill Newsletter**—A newsletter sent out by email each Friday. The first one was sent out May 24, 2019 and every Friday since.

All items handled thru —Keith's Books—P.O. Box 1315, McGill, Nv—89318.

All books are \$20.00. This includes postage.

Newsletter subscription is \$30.00. New subscribers will receive ALL back issues at a rate of 5 issues per day. Please include email address. Check or M.O.