

Newsletter91

Keith's Corner/McGill News

February 12, 2021

Cyprus Hall

The Cyprus Hall was the top floor of the McGill Club building, as shown in this photo.



The McGill Club building in the early years was the American Trading Post and was a one story building as shown in this 1909 photo, below.



The question is, when was the Cyprus Hall built?? (Found it-see NL 105)

Next is a photo taken in 1926. I use this date because the theater is not there, The Commissary is there and I know it was built in 1925-26. The theater was built at about the same time, but after the Commissary.



According to a newspaper article on Sunday, May 23, 1920, the Cyprus Hall was officially opened the night before with a meeting of the Knights of Pythias Lodge #33. It was constructed by the O. M. Wallace Jr. Construction Co. under the supervision of J. D. Watson of the Nevada consolidated Copper Co. The painting was done by Charles Rowan. The hall was 112 feet long and 32 feet wide and could seat 800 people. It was the best meeting hall in the entire area.

Sunday, May 23 and Monday, May 24, 1920 the Elks will initiate 80 new members from McGill. There will be a parade and later a dance at the new Cyprus Hall.

It had electric lights, maple flooring and bathrooms. Entrance was thru a door on the left front of the McGill Club. There was a long fire escape on the south side.

The hall had many dances and many Christmas parties. It is not in use now, as the fire codes are too strict.

I remember several Christmas parties when I was a McGill urchin. Santa would come in thru the fire escape, after landing his sleigh on the roof. We all got a large net stocking stuffed with nuts and fruit. During the years of WWII, we treasured the oranges. We cracked a lot of the nuts on the sidewalk with a rock or hammer. Such great memories.

During WWII folks in McGill would drive to Wendover and bring back some soldiers and airmen. We had some stay at our house. Sometimes the military would bring some in. The McGill Club was crowded on those nights. There was usually a dance upstairs. Several of the local ladies married some of the troops.

McGill News

As usual not much is happening at this time. I have been finding some interesting little tidbits in the old local White Pine Newspaper, such as, the date the new 300 foot smoke stack was finished in McGill—June 7, 1908.

Also that month a soda fountain, the first in the area, was delivered from a company in S.F. Calif. It was installed in the McGill Drug store.

There is an ad for Graham Mercantile in Smelter (McGill was called this at first) and an ad for The Toggery

Old Photo



McGill Office staff in early 1900s on porch of general office building. Anyone know some of these gents??