

Newsletter129

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

October 29, 2021

### Halloween--1940s-50s.

Once again, the days have shot by and it is now Halloween time. Then a short jump to Thanksgiving and Christmas and another year is in the books.

All the spooks and goblins and witches will be out 'trick or treating' for goodies. I have often wondered how much weight is put on these little critters, the week or so following Halloween. That total would be scarier than Halloween itself.

During the WWII, (for all those thumb benders, don't ask Alexa about World War Eleven), most of the treats we got were homemade cookies and candy. We didn't have to worry about homemade goodies back then. Our main concern was to remember which house had the best stuff.

The phrase, 'trick or treat' had different meanings to different ages of us McGill heathens. The smaller tykes concentrated on the 'treat' part. The older ones figured out that folks took a dim view of bigger and older 'trick or treaters' and would not give them any treats. That being the case, they may as well do the 'trick' part.

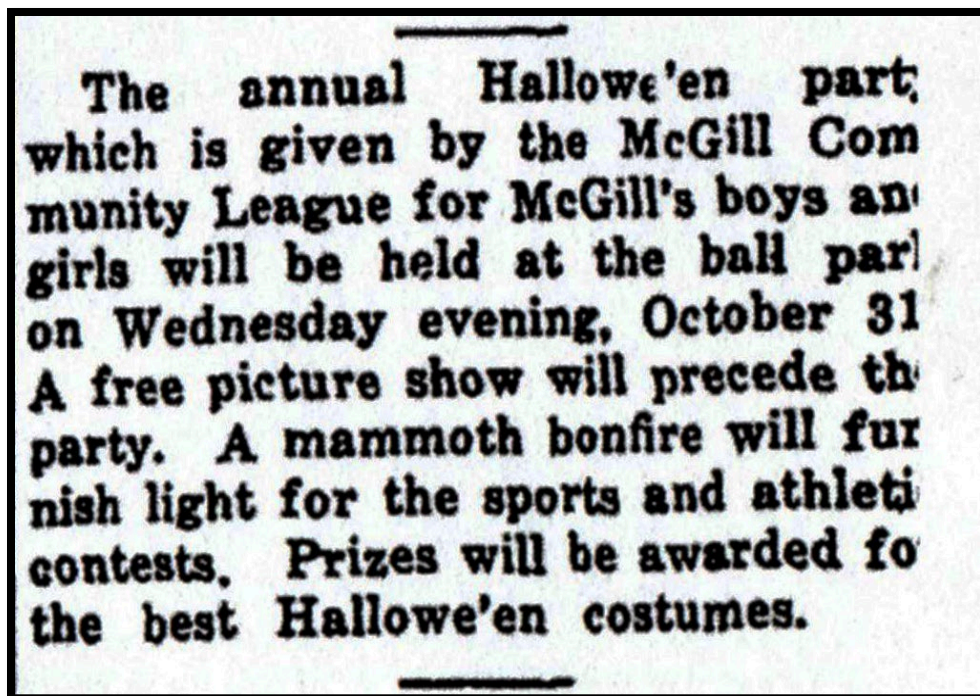
One of the favorite pranks was to wax windows. This required some very early advanced planning, as most stores hid the wax right before Halloween. The wax, was normally used to seal fruit and jam jars.

Another favorite trick was to pile leaves across a road. Most streets in McGill were too wide and the trees too far away. However, McGill's own brand of heathens, after intense study and experimentation, found the best solution. The streets in the 'circle' were ideal. They were narrow and had a curb on both sides,

that would prevent a motorist from turning their car around to avoid the leaves, in case something was in the leaves. Also, the 'circle' streets had a lot of trees next them. This meant less work.

The most favorite 'trick' of all, was the rolling of the garbage cans in the alleys. Now these cans were made at the tin shop were made of heavy gauge steel and had a thick metal ring around the top and bottom. An empty one weighed at least 50 lbs. or more. When filled with ashes, etc. the could reach 100 lbs. This cans made a unique noise when rolled. Any kid from that era would know that sound.

The culmination of Halloween was the giant party at the ballpark put on by the Community League and Kennecott Copper.



This appeared in the Ely Times, October 30, 1928.

In ancient times, bonfires were thought to scare away the ghouls that hid in caves and came out on Halloween. Bobbing for apples etc. was to celebrate the harvest.

I wrote about this in Newsletter23. Those parties ended in 1949, when the ballpark was re-built. The grandstand was moved closer to the grade school and grass was planted, so no more fires to light and warm the revelers. What a shame. The whole town turned out for the festivities. Activities like that, were what shaped McGill into a tight, family like community, also known as , ‘that McGill thing ‘.

# McGill News



Looks like the Music thingy is back on for next Spring.

# Oldies

1929—January 3—New street lamps installed on the “Circle” streets.

1909-May 2—Site for the new bank building has been selected. It will be just north of the Clark Drug Store. (currently the Antique store)

## Old Photo



The trestle, with some ore cars. It was quite a structure. This was probably taken in 1908.