

Newsletter108

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

June 11,2021

### Ballpark Mystery Solved ????

As you all know, I have been trying to figure out if there was an earlier ballpark, than the present one. I do know the present one was built in 1949-50. I was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and remember watching KCC workers dig out the area where the grandstand is now and spread the dirt to level out the playing field.



The above photo is from an aerial picture taken in the 1930s. The grandstand is on the corner of G Avenue and the highway at the 9 o'clock spot. The old Standard Oil building is at the 3 o'clock position. Check Newsletter 40 for more info on this park.



The above is from a 1950s aerial photo. The grandstand is up by the school. The old Standard Oil building is still there. The shiny roof of the gym is visible.

This ball park, according to Russell Elliot, was built in 1926, when John Kinnear Sr. was general manager. He, also, started the Community League for McGill and Ruth, which are credited for ball parks in both towns. I thought that there was an older park somewhere in middle town. See Newsletter 45.

Then I found some references to a ball park near the McGill ranch house, sown by the dairy. See Newsletter 106.



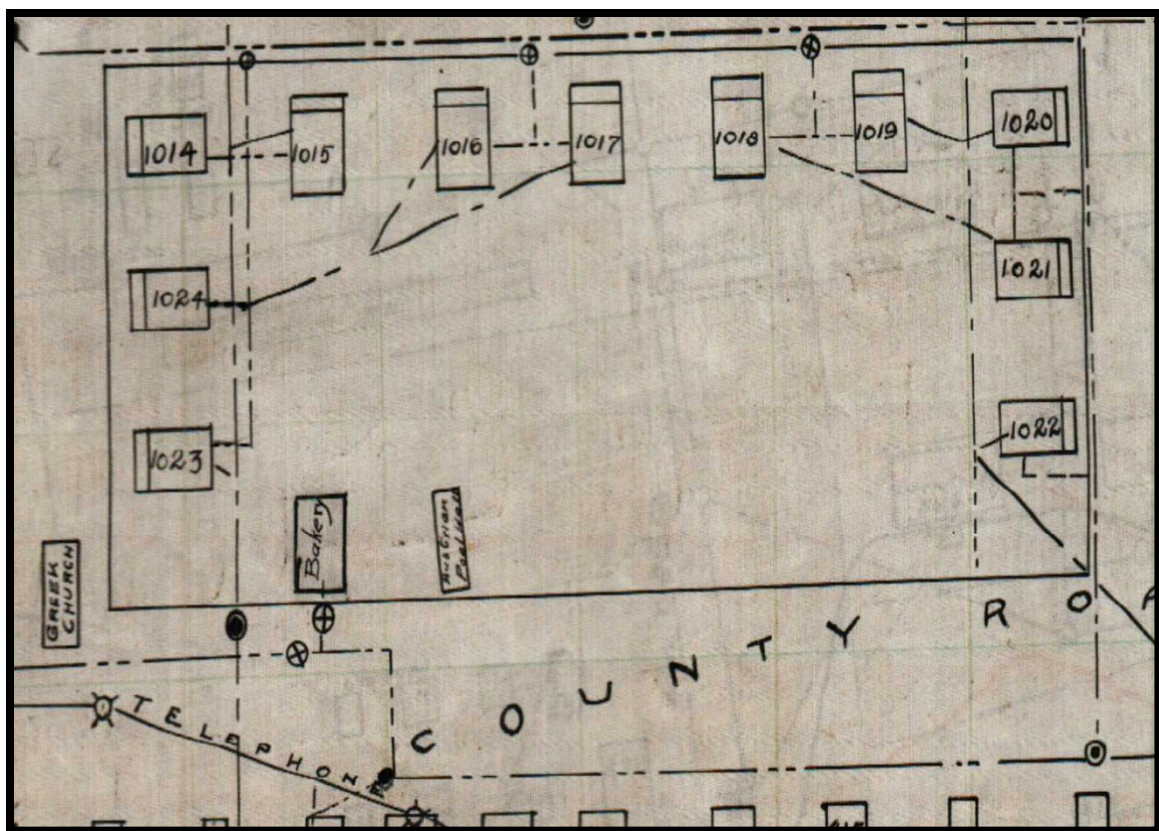
1916 photo of ball players marching south towards the center of McGill.

Where were they going?? The park, as we know it, was not there until 1926?



They usually marched north towards the dairy. So, some time, between 1911 and 1916, another park was available in town.

The ball park article in Newsletter 106 sparked a distant memory in the mind of Lindsay Christensen. He remembered talk of a ball park north of the present one. He mentioned the slope in the back yards of folks that lived on 4<sup>th</sup> street between H Ave. and I Ave., such as the Tate family that had such a slope. The slope was reputed to have been for the bleachers. His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Giles lived on #30 third street. The family legend was, that the 2 locust trees planted in their yard grew so well, because they were planted over the pits of the old ball field's outhouses. I just happened to have a 1922 plot map of McGill, so I located the area between H Ave. and I Ave. and was startled to see the lack of houses in that block. Could this be the ball park?? I think so, but you decide for yourselves. Here it is.

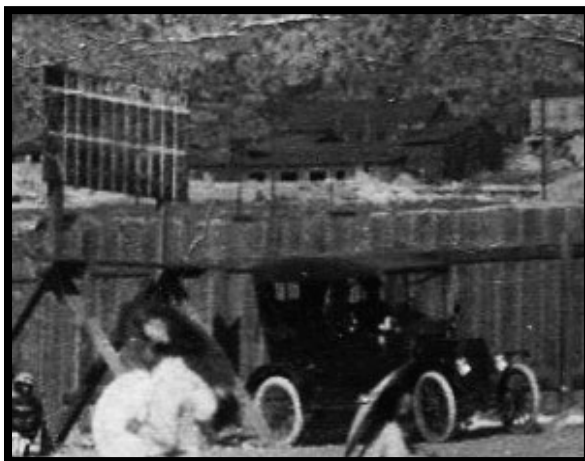


This is a plot map for future sewer lines. The houses may not have been there yet. The county road is 4<sup>th</sup> street.. If the bleachers were in the area right behind the 3<sup>rd</sup> street houses, then this photo could be of those bleachers.



The car, I believe, is the one in the photo above, of the ball players marching. That could date the photo of the Japanese dancers, to about 1916.

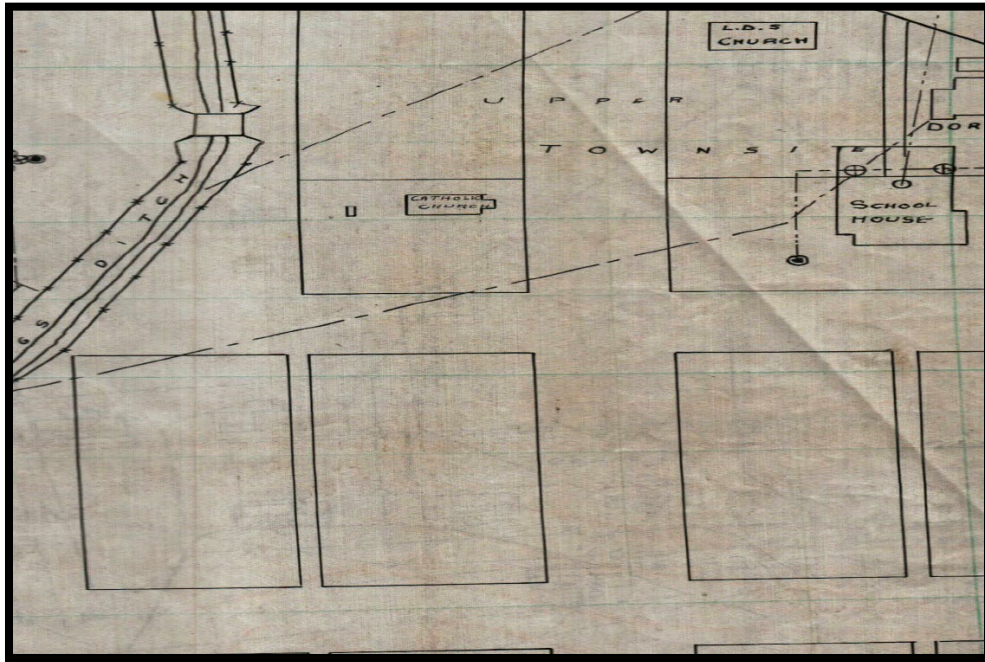
Now, let us look at the scoreboards. First an enlargement of the one above, probably 1916. The one on the right is from a Labor Day 1929 game. Two different ball parks, possibly same scoreboard.



I firmly believe there were 3 ball field areas. At least until proven different.

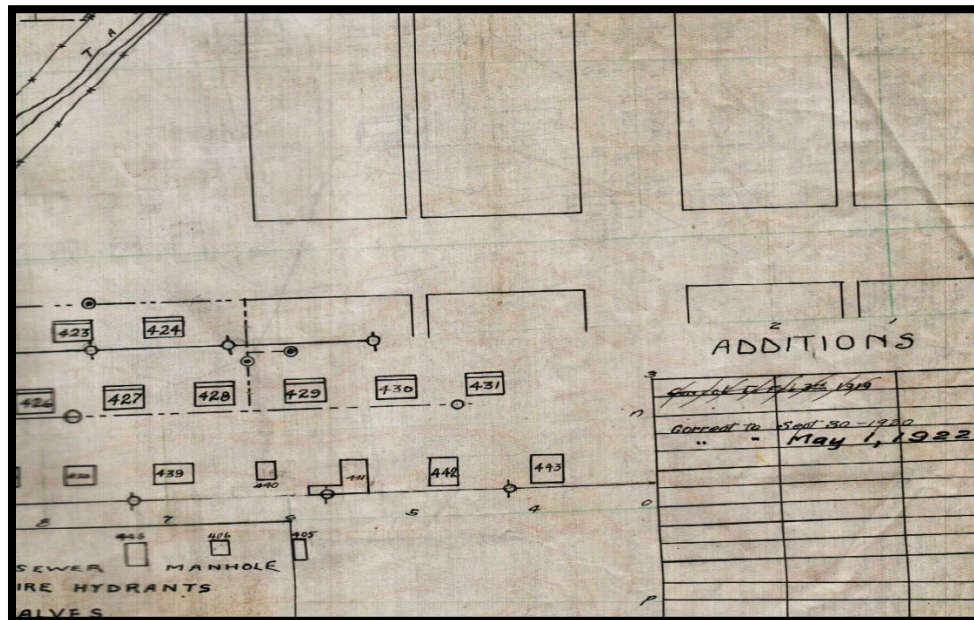


Here is another section of the same 1922, plot map as above. The area where the ball park is now, is shown as empty lots below the grade school.

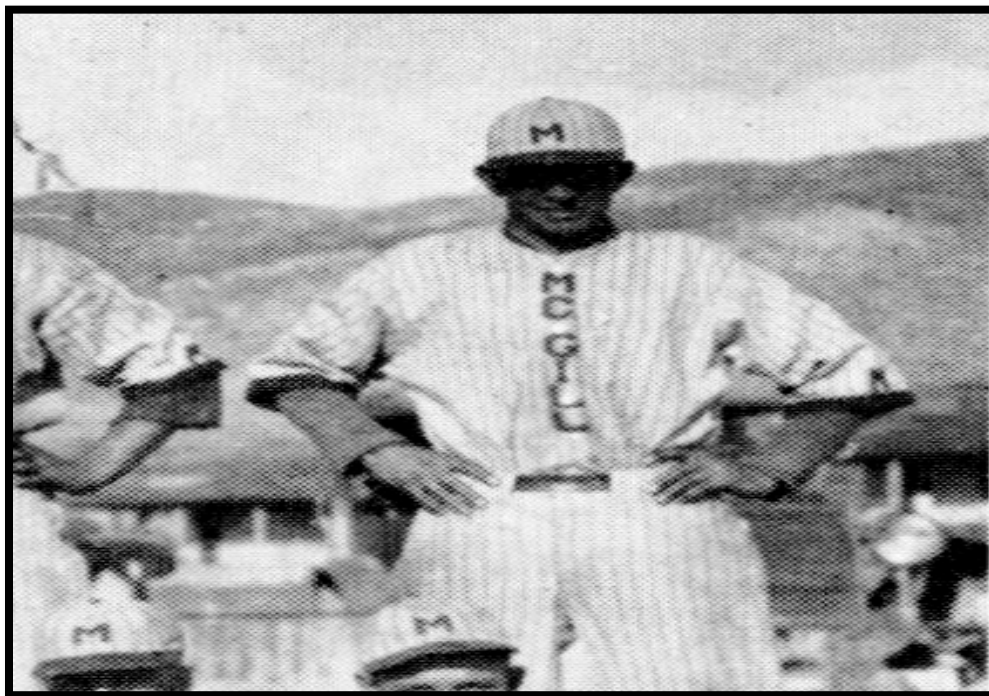
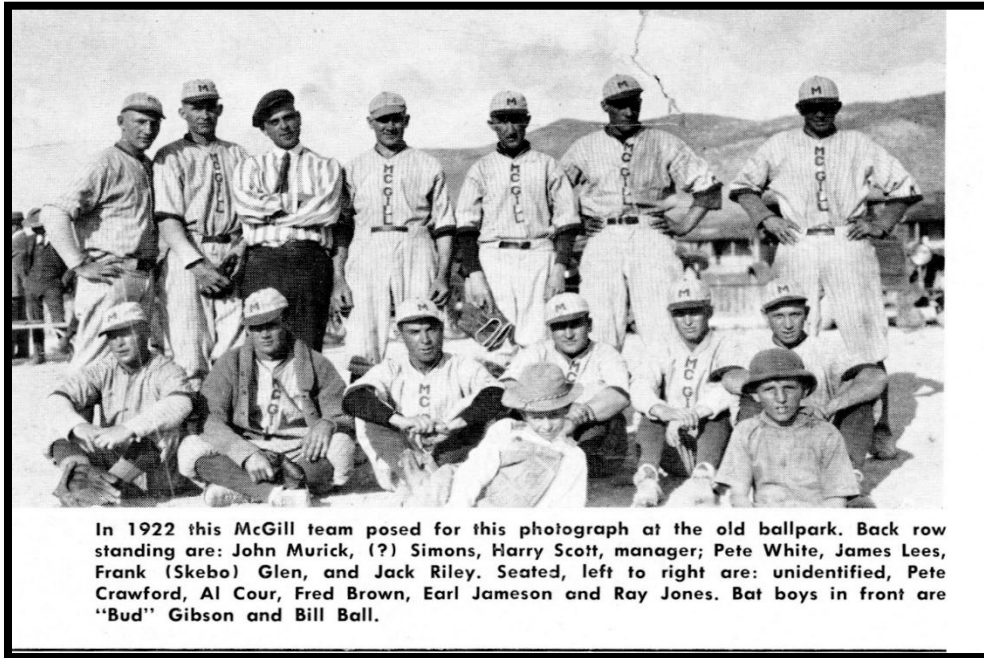


You can see the positions of the Catholic and LDS churches and the grade school. The ditch at the left is a second tailings ditch from the old mill. I will be doing an article on it soon.

Here is the date, affixed to the above plots, 1922.



The next photos may prove my theory. The caption says that it is the “old ballpark” and the photo was taken in 1922. Next is an enlargement.



This shows people in the bleachers in the bottom right corner. On the other side of the man, are houses (east side of 3<sup>rd</sup> street?) facing toward the ballpark.

# McGill News

Last Saturday, a large number of small race cars came thru McGill at well over the speed limit of 25 mph. There must have been 50 or more of these cars. Not one NHP or County cop anywhere.

I found this tidbit in an article in the White Pine News in 1918. -----'Deputy Sheriff Newman had an unusual experience this week . He had to remove an objectionable sign on the public highway. The labor required 7 minutes. Mr. Newman, was greatly peeved, because of the uncalled for effort and disruption of his usual, tranquil day's work. His ordinary exercise, each day, consists of winding his watch.-----'

## Oldies

1907-June 29—H. A. Comins deeds the Bird Ranch to Steptoe Valley Mining Co. (I assume this was the ranch in Duck Creek that now has the dams.)

1912—November 17—Antonio Manos, sold the Greek barber shop to, Constantine Kanelopulos, for the sum of \$10.00..

## Old Photo



Local Cowgirl racing after a steer. It was during an all, girl rodeo (year??) sponsored by KCC. Remember the Kennecott stack?

