

Newsletter150

Keith's Corner/McGill News

March 25,2022

Teacher's Dormitory-McGill School

Here is a great photo of the McGill Grade School, Teacher's Dormitory, courtesy of Margaret Papez Payton.



I remember it vividly, because I lived in the house at the bottom of E Row that appears on the right side of the photo.

It was a beautiful brick building and had a copper shingle roof that gleamed in the sun. I remember going inside one time to take something to one of my teachers. I think the teacher was my 5th grade teacher, Miss Maxwell. I don't recall what it was about. The lady that was the "house mother" asked me in and had me sit in the waiting room just inside the front door. I could see part of the kitchen and the stairs to the second floor.

There were a lot of single women teachers in the grade school and most of them lived in the dorm. Many of them married local guys and stayed in McGill.

Several times during the school years in WWII, we McGill heathens were given a long recess so the teachers could go down to the huge Commissary Store to stand in line for nylon stockings. Those nylons were hard to get, but were the style. A lot of the women would cover their legs with a light colored rouge and then paint a dark line down the back of the leg to simulate nylons with a seam in the back.

One of my classmates was very smart in math and astronomy. He talked his parents into getting him a telescope to study the stars. Well, one day he came to school with a broken arm all fixed up in a plaster of Paris cast. He claimed he fell off the house while star gazing. Most of us knew that he was star gazing in the windows of the teacher's dorm. He lived above me on E Row and had a perfect view of the dorm.

I don't know when the dorm was built, but a good guess would be in the late 30s. There are newspaper articles about school dorms as far back as 1915. One article mentioned that kids from out of town could stay at the school dorm for \$3.00 a month and that it was very popular with the kids living in outlying areas.

An article in the White Pine News on October 19, 1926, mentions a dinner at the teacher's dorm given by Mrs. C. L. Fleming for her son Jack's birthday. Mr. C. L. Fleming at the time was the druggist and owner of the McGill Drug Store. The son Jack later wrote articles and a book called, "Copper Times".

On August 30, 1927 there was an ad for piano lessons to be given at the dorm by a Mrs. K. Torrence.

That beautiful building is now in a sorry condition. It would make a nice office building or apartment house. Such a shame to let it go like that. More of our heritage down the drain for no good reason, but neglect and indifference to our history.

McGill News

McGill is “suffering” from a few days of 70 degree weather, clear skies and very little wind. It has been an extremely mild winter. Still a little snow on the mtns. We may be suffering, but we’ll take it in stride.

I have been getting bids for some electrical work on the Drug Store. On April 4 a crew will start washing the walls and ceilings and later the front windows. We will have the place sparkling. We are open Thur, Fri. Sat. and Sun. from 10 am to 3 pm.

Oldies

1912—February 11---Pacific Standard Time was adapted .

1908—July 26—Clark Drug Store and Lindskog Jewelry store had an ad in the local paper.

Old Photo



I was asked how many gas pumps were in front of the Cononelos store. There were two. One was for regular gas and the other one was for ethyl or diesel. I suspect ethyl. This photo was probably taken in early 1930s. The Sherriff's office is barely visible behind the gas sign. That building was built as a laundry in August of 1927.