

Newsletter177

Keith's Corner/McGill News

September 30, 2022

Deputy Sheriff, Ed Hand

Ed Hand was the Deputy Sheriff in McGill right after Deputy Sheriff Cliff Dreitzler was murdered in November 1941. (Newsletters 92 and 93). Last week, I had the pleasure of meeting Ed Hand's daughter and also the wife of Ed's son. They visited the Drugstore and we had a wonderful time talking about the old days. They were seeking info about Ed. By using some of the info I have on McGill housing, we determined where and when Ed resided in McGill.

I recalled seeing the bullet holes in Ed's car the day after he had a gun battle with some crooks. Several of us McGill heathens examined the holes with our intense and highly scientific brains and quickly determined they were made by bullets. We knew this from our own experience with shooting holes in old car bodies at the dump, when we couldn't find any purple bottles to use for target practice.

Hey, there was a war (WWII) going on and we had to be in top form if we were invaded.

Sometime in the near future, I will do an article on the gun battle.

Another time that I dug from the dusty and rusty corners of my memory bank, was the day several of us renegades were walking on the sidewalk in front of the tiny Sheriff's Office. Ed was out in front, looking thru his binoculars at something in the sky. He saw us and let each of us have a turn on the glasses. He explained that the object in the sky was a Japanese balloon floating past McGill. He told us what it was and where it came from. He told us not to ever get close to and never touch one. He explained that they would explode. They were launched in Japan and rode the winds to the USA and were expected to come down in our great Northwest forests and set them on fire.

Ed was a crack shot with a pistol, as several crooks found out the hard way. He gave us Scout a demonstration at Camp Success one summer.

Later the FBI enticed him away from McGill.

Last week the Hand/McDowell families had a reunion and came into the Drugstore. We also located where the McDowell's lived in McGill. It was 3 houses above where I lived on E row and I remember playing with the boys, especially Ray.

One time, 2 large 10 lb. rainbow trout ended up in the McGill swimming pool. Every kid in McGill was down there fishing. It was no use, as the fish could see us easily and would head to the other end of the pool. Well, Ray McDowell tied some string on an arrow and managed to get both of the fish.

It is such a pleasure to meet and visit with folks from the olden days in McGill. Here are some photos of them.





McGill News

It is with sadness that I have to report that Dolores Manchester has died. She was the long time secretary of the McGill Town Council and has been involved with various White Pine County government units for many years. She died Wed., Sept. 28 at the William B. Ririe Hospital.

I see some activity at the IOOF Hall, but didn't get over to check on things. Hope Rudy gets the café open soon.

The weather is perfect. Typical fall weather. Cool and not too much wind. No frost as yet.

Traffic has slowed down quite a lot.

Old Photo



Connie Roberts Bunn, working the evening shift at the McGill Drugstore in the 1950s. Notice that cash register. The clock shows 6:20 and it is dark outside, so it must be winter time. Connie is also wearing a sweater.