

Newsletter179

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

October 14, 2022

### Hoover Dam Tidbits

The dam is built of concrete and is 660 feet wide at the bottom and 45 feet wide at the top and is 725 feet tall. That is a lot of cement. The cement was produced near Boulder City and transported to the dam site by rail. There it was put in large 7 ft. high and 7 ft. wide buckets and then hauled out across the canyon on a cable trolley system and then lowered to the site. The buckets were emptied by releasing a door on the bottom of the bucket. There was 8 cubic yards of cement that came gushing out. Cement is very heavy and it was believed that several men were caught in the pouring cement and entombed in the dam.



This myth is all nonsense. The cement was not poured into a large form, as most people would visualize. It was poured into hundreds of boxes stacked on top of each other. When the bucket was emptied into these boxes, it flowed out across the box to a depth of just a few inches. There was no way a man could have been buried. Also, the engineers would not have allowed a body to remain in the cement as it would weaken the strength of the structure.



There were 112 men killed in the construction. It was a very dangerous place to work. There were men, called 'high scalers', that hung from ropes up to 750 feet high on the steep canyon walls, chipping the loose rock off so it wouldn't fall later on and kill somebody. Several fell to their deaths and some were killed by falling rocks. To protect themselves from falling rock, the men made safety hats by smearing tar in large layers over their regular hats. This was the first form of hard construction hats that are used today.

# McGill News

I had some very interesting guests at the Drugstore recently. They were from Germany. They worked as graphic illustrators in Germany. They flew into Las Vegas and rented a car and traveled to McGill to see the Drugstore and to camp overnite at Bird Creek. They had a lot of dun making bows and were fascinated with the machine. They were going back to LV and then tour California up to SF and then fly back to Germany. They were very delightful and lots of fun. They took lots of photos and asked lots of questions. This is the fun part of my job at the Drugstore.



The very next day, this young man from Germany stopped in to do an interview. He is Tom Noga, a freelance reporter for several German radio stations. He made the orange bow he is holding. He played a lot of soccer in Germany and also boxed.



Soon, folks in Cologne, Germany will be hearing the warm clear voice of one of McGill's older heathens, describing out now World Famous Drugstore.



I hired a local man to start fixing all the outside wood structures that are getting weather beaten. He will cover the wood with some painted metal siding and put in some drip guards. There is quite a bit of this to be done. The weather is great right now, so should be finished with the outside of the building soon, before the snow starts falling.

