

Newsletter162

Keith's Corner/McGill News

June 17, 2022

Birds-Where did they go?

I received a lot of comments concerning last week's column about, real and fake birds. They all were aware of the absence of birds and many noted a lack of bees and butterflies. None of them has seen a robin in the last several years. Is it because we are too busy to notice, or is there a definite lack of birds. I decided to find out.

I believe in doing a scientific survey to solve problems. As a young McGill heathen in the 1940s I remembered many of our scientific experiments to solve problems. For instance, we jumped off the garage with a pillow case during WWII to emulate a paratrooper. We found two answers. One, the pillow case doesn't work and two, gravity does work. With this in mind, I walked around the neighborhood looking and listening for some birds. There were none. Not even some of those messy pigeons. Could it just be my local area? I drove up and around the "Circle" several times and saw one little sparrow. I drove down by the pool and saw a few blackbirds. I remember as a kid going down by the old dairy ponds and watching for blackbirds with a red or yellow spot on their wings. It is fenced off now.

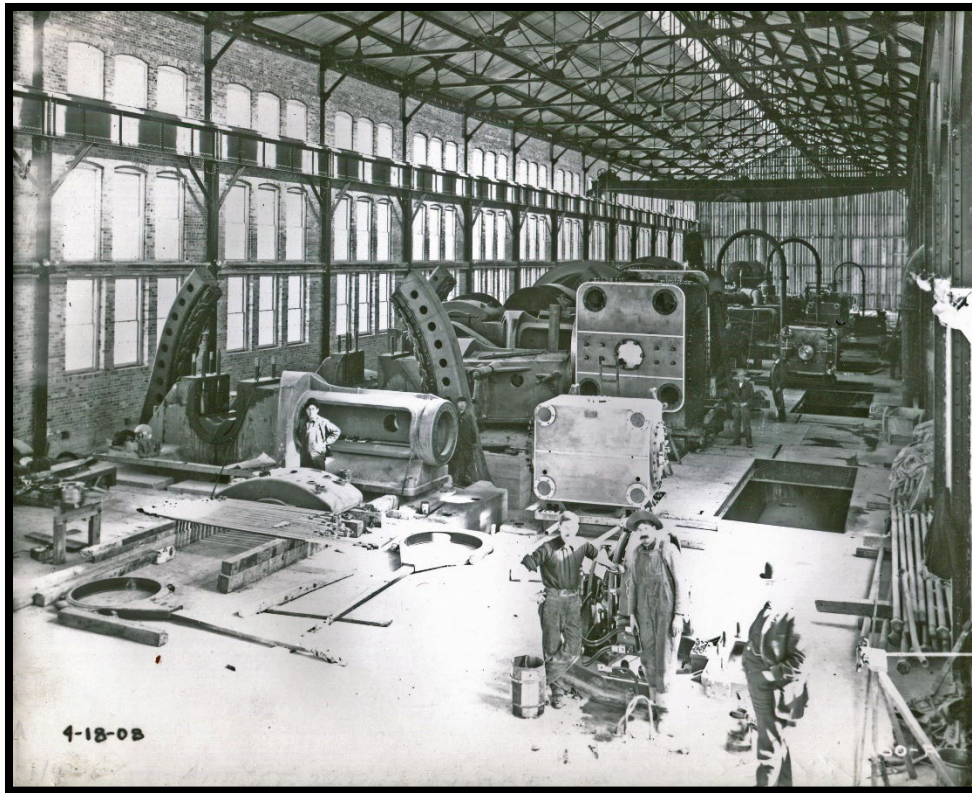
I remember back several years ago, when Bonnie Mesic and I were pine nut hunting up in Worthington Canyon. We stopped for lunch and we both mentioned the lack of birds. There are usually lots of what we called, pine jays, that do a lot of squawking, especially during deer season. There were none anywhere that day. We wondered if some disease was responsible, that we had not heard about.

Those of us that have spent many hours in Duck Creek over many years have noticed the lack of birds. What is going on? Any ideas?

McGill News

We have been getting some horrific dust storms, like the old days. Some of the dust is coming clear from the Ruth waste dumps as it is a different color than our “regular dust”. Lots of wind and of course no rain. It is quite dry here. McGill has survived worse.

Old Photo



Assembling the massive blower machinery at the Power House on April 18, 1908. It supplied all the air for the mill and the smelter. How did they ever handle such huge stuff, back then? Simply amazing!! These machines made the thump, thump that I mentioned in NL161.