

Newsletter157

Keith's Corner/McGill News

May 13, 2022

Friggatriskaidekaphobia

That terribly short word, as most intellectuals know , means the fear of Friday the 13th. It comes from the era of Frigga, The Goddess of Wisdom. I think Friday comes from that also. Another word of distinction is, Paraskevidekatriaphobia, the fear of the number 13.

Another infamous Friday 13th is here. Better not walk under any ladders or let a black cat cross in front of you today. Does that mean it is OK to walk under a ladder on any other day?

Superstitions are a big part of our lives. Some people are more superstitious than other, but most folks have some. I've known some people that won't step on a crack in the sidewalk. Who knows why or where that came from. I think a lot of folks make up their own silly things to worry about. We are all guilty of that.

One summer in the 1960s, I was working with a survey crew doing some mining claims on Ward Mountain. I was running chain with a guy from Texas who had the nickname, sheepdip. That is the nice version. It really rhymed with hit not sip. We were staking claims for Silver King Mines on both sides of Ward. We were in a rocky area and ran across a few rattlers. One of the crew almost stepped on one and ended up killing it. Sheepdip proceeded to cut off the head and bury it and then he tied the rest of it to his belt. He said that he had to carry it until he could hang it on a barbed wire fence or the snake's mate would find him and bite him. We all looked at each other in amazement and nobody had the heart to tell him that there were no barbed wire fences anywhere near. He packed it all day and when we got back to camp, he put the snake in the bed of his truck and went looking for a fence. Guess some superstitions are highly feared by some folks.

While in college I worked as night manager of a 50 unit motel that had no room number 13. There was #12 and #14. Some hotels don't have a 13th floor. I always figured that the floor after #12 was the 13th, no matter what they numbered it.

In the long run, I guess without Friday the 13th superstitions, life might be a lot duller.

McGill News

Busy week at the Drugstore.

Just finished scanning over 2100 pages of inventory at the Drugstore. The inventory was done by the Rebekah Lodge ladies several years ago. What a job that must have been. Each section of every shelf and cabinet were accounted for with descriptions, numbers and prices of every item, along with an inventory number on every item. It is all on a little 16GB thumb drive now.

Monday, May 8, I signed up to go before the WP County Commissioners at 10 am on May 25 to present the idea of the McGill Heritage Center.

The Boot Barn outfit was supposed to shoot a commercial at the Drugstore this week, but wasn't able to it, mainly because of the bad snowy weather.

The electricians showed up today and got started on some electrical upgrades. They put in some new lights in the old furnace room and got us more light in the east storeroom. They will put in a wall heater in the long storeroom tomorrow. The small water heaters arrived yesterday. I picked up the paint and the painter will be here Tuesday/. Hope to be all done in 10 days.

Oldies

1908—February 15---Steptoe Drugstore opens in East Ely.

1908—November 22—Graham Mercantile Co. in Smelter (McGill) ran an advertisement.

Old Photos



20-30 Club float, late 40s-early 50s. Notice the people are standing on the sidewalk not in the street. Top photo shows Bell and Whorton Store and bottom photo shows Chevron Station. I miss seeing those beautiful floats bands and horses in the modern day parades.