

Newsletter 159

Keith's Corner/McGill News

May 27, 2022

Toys – Part 2

Last Week's NL about toys drew a lot of comments from people that remembered those days, so here are some more things that we did to keep ourselves busy, since we didn't have the thumb exercisers that kids have now.



Train sets. My brother Paul and Richard Dunt on playing with our American Flyer train set that my Dad built for us. During the WWII toys were very scarce so Dads made a lot of stuff for their kids. Cousin Richard had polio in his left arm during the big polio outbreak in the 40s. Many died and many ended up in iron lungs. Richard never gained use of the arm. That didn't slow him down. He became a draftsman and was a great automobile mechanic with his one good arm.

Another weird toy was the wheelbarrow. This one had an iron wheel and was hard to push and was very heavy. It was best to con your kid brother into driving it. Ha, we took turns. We were dog sitting the dog, Topper, for the people that lived in the red Nevada Northern house up by the depot. This was 1947. We got lots of good exercise.



Maybe we were doing this because in our earlier life we posed for a picture with our dog, Shep.



Same wheelbarrow in our yard on 26 E Row. Probably 1938 – I don't think we took turns pushing it around. The handlebars were a little to high for us to manage.

Now here is a real mode of transportation. A genuine pedal car. I think that the folks that want to get rid of gas-powered cars should get one of these pedal cars. I don't know what happened to it, but I wish it was still around.



There were many other toys that we played with, that I no photos of. Such as Tinker Toys, Gilbert Erector Sets and Lincoln Logs. We used these and our brains to build things. We built some amazing stuff. There were Gilbert Chem Sets and of course we had an electric melting pot to make and remake toy lead soldiers. Yes, Myrtle, we had such dangerous things to play with and they taught us how to be careful. We spend many hours putting jigsaw puzzles together, playing board games like Uncle Wiggly, Monopoly, checkers, chess Pit and many others. We built model airplanes from scratch and of course our kites. Winter toys were sleds, snowshoes and ice skates that were tied to our shoes, like our roller skates. Seems everything we played with required us to exercise our brains or bodies or both at the same time. Wow, what a concept!

McGill News

Good news today, Wednesday, May 25th. I went before the WP County Commissioners and they agreed to my proposal to use the old McGill hospital as The McGill Heritage Center. The next step is to organize and get started. Several of you have offered monetary donations to help. I will work with the Town Council in getting a secure place to put your donations and will let you know soon. I hope to get lots of old photos of McGill and am working on forms for family histories and stories of McGill. These forms will allow orderly and searchable info to be collected and stored for future research use. There are still many down winders looking for info and folks looking to supplement their family histories.

I wanted to attach a copy of the proposal, but my computer skill with copy and paste is much less than the typical 5-year-old kid of today, so I will send it in another email.