

Keith's Corner/McGill News

March 18, 2022

McGill Grade School-Revisited

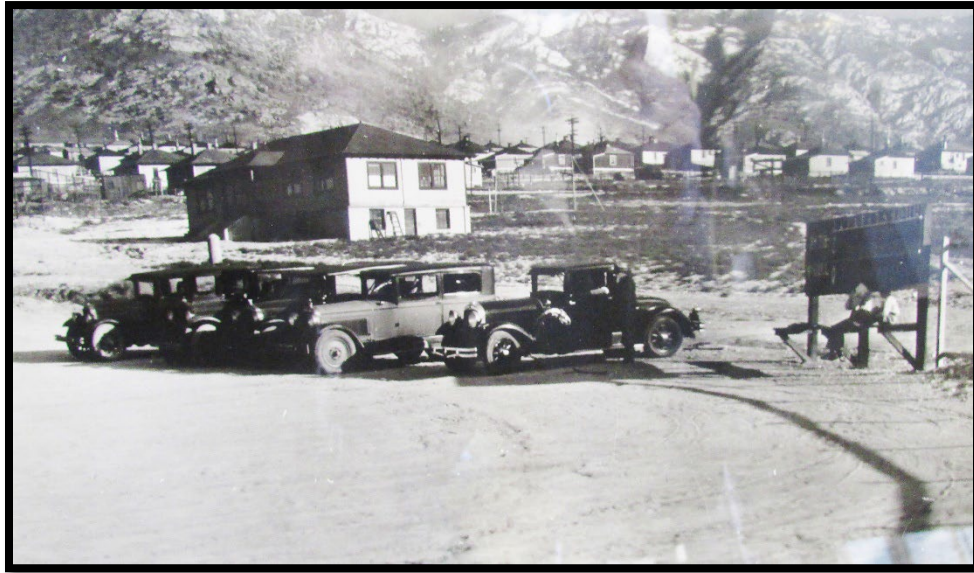
I have written several articles about the school and had photos of some of the buildings. I tried to find one of the building that was used as a wood shop to teach boys the art of wood butchering. When I was in grade school in the 6th grade (1948) we McGill heathen boys were put into an engineering drawing class. We learned to draw pictures of 3-D articles, such as boxes etc. Most of us had learned to read blueprints before kindergarten as we made model airplanes from scratch. We had to follow blueprints to make parts out of sheets of balsa wood and put them together to form the frame of an airplane. Then we covered the frame with tissue paper and shrunk it tight. Quite a process.

In the 7th grade we went to the wood shop to learn how to use various tools. The first project was to cut out a perfect cube out of a large piece of wood. Not easy. Our teacher was old man Carter. That cube had to be perfect on all sides. Carter had a huge paddle that he used on those that defied him.

The next projects were to use various tools in the proper way, such as wood planes, hand powered drills etc. There were power tools such as table saws, but they were inside a locked and fenced in room off limits to us. Near the end of the year we had to build an intricate wall shelf, that required the use of many tools, such as coping saws, rasps and files. I still have the ones my brother and I made.

During the 8th grade, we were allowed to pick a project to build, such as a gun cabinet or other furniture. I picked a night stand to make for my mother. I still have it by my bed today. At the end of grade school us heathens were fairly good with wood tools. It really helped us use tools safely and in the correct manner. We built carts with old buggy wheels, many styles of play shacks, rubber guns and a host of other things boys our age liked to build.

I looked for many years for a photo of the building , with no luck. Then, an enlargement of a 1929 Labor Day baseball game, between Ruth and McGill, showing the scoreboard caught my eye. There in the background was the wood shop. For you baseball fans, Ruth won the game.



The other day Margaret Payton brought me some photos she had taken of the school buildings in McGill and one of them was this perfect photo of the wood shop. Thanks Margie, for sharing such a piece of our history.



The door at the bottom end was the locker room for the grade school football team.

McGill News

I went to the McGill Town Council meeting the other night and suggested that we turn the old hospital into a museum for McGill. If we don't start now to preserve our heritage, we will lose it. We have no industry, no casinos, no hotels to furnish us with a good base. Rudy is doing a great job with the music festival and the IOOF hall and theater. His RV and tent park north of town will provide a place for folks to stay overnight. We need to support him and make other places of interest to the many thousands of tourists that pour thru McGill every day without stopping. Once the train starts coming to the McGill Depot, the passengers could find a museum a place of interest. McGill could become a great tourist stop.

The hospital has many rooms that could be used for different things, such as, town history, school history, Copper companies, sports, medical, social clubs, various businesses, etc. A place to show old photos of people and buildings, before they are lost in the dust bins of time. Would be nice for genealogy research for families.

I think a great name for it would be---The McGill Heritage Center. Simple and all encompassing.

We are getting ready to do some work on the McGill Drug Store Museum soon. We just received a generous donation and plan to use it to make the building more secure and viable for the future and to cut operating costs. We are a 501-c-3, Tax Id # 88-600437 , so any donations are tax deductible. If you care to help, here is the info. Make checks etc. to -McGill Historic Drug Store Museum. Mail it to McGill Drug Store—P.O. Box 973, McGill, Nv 89318.

Our McGill town is too precious to allow it to become just another old ghost town.

Old Photo

I did an oopsie last week with the photo of the blood donors . Those guys were actually standing in front of the new Ely post office. Senator Pat McCarrin was in front. It was the dedication of the new post office in 1938.

Here is the photo of the 20-30 Club blood donors in front of the hospital. Sorry about that. Must have been a teenage moment.



Their names were written on back, but not in any order. Jack Nichols, Art Fielding, Dick Smith, Virgil Smith, Charles Seifers and Jack Bradley. Anybody know these gents ? Let me know so I can correctly identify them. There are, as you noticed, 5 guys and 6 names. I think one of the names was the person who took the photo. My guess is, that it was Seifers, but I need to confirm that.

