

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

December 9, 2022

### Christmas Time Again

Where did this year go? It has zipped past a little too quickly, for me, anyway. It seems that we make it to Halloween at a regular pace and then, wham, the hands start to spin on the clock, (for the younger folks, who have everything in digital form, the hands are the pointers on a clock face that has the numbers 1 thru 12).

I think the Halloween spooks have figured out a way to speed up the clock. Seems like we just get the pumpkin mess cleaned up and then it is Thanksgiving. Our poor bodies finally get all the turkey and other goodies digested and then we get hammered by all the ads for the Christmas cookies and candies. I think the total weight of the American people jumps at least 10% during the holiday season.

There are so many different types of cookies. My favorite was the ones with all the different colored sprinkles on them. I think the cookies themselves, were just plain sugar cookies. My mother always made a lot of them and in various shapes, like a Christmas tree, a Santa and of course some reindeer. It was fun to help her cut out the shapes with a special cookie cutter. When she wasn't looking we would grab some of the dough and eat it quickly. I am sure she knew that we were doing it, but she pretended that she didn't see us.

Another favorite Christmas goodie was the fruit cake. Now, every Mother had their own special recipe. The only part of the fruit cake that I didn't like was those green things. I still don't know what they

are. Also, the red cherries never tasted like a real cherry. Some of the fruit cakes were made with some rum, but us McGill heathens were not allowed a piece. We of course were able to sneak some when the adults were not looking.

I remember one Christmas my folks had a box of cherry chocolates. Some of them had a whiskey filling in with the cherry. The top of those had a special swirl that was different than the regular ones. All the chocolates had a swirl that identified what kind they were.

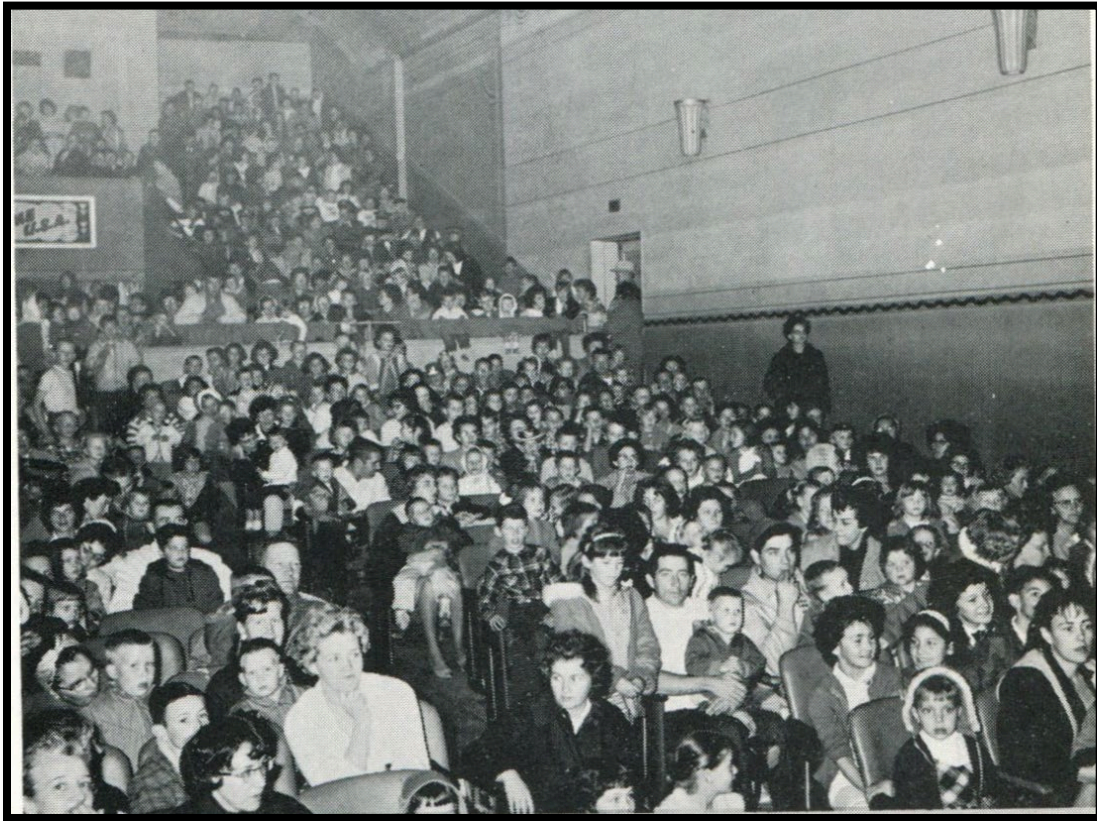
My brother, Paul and I got sick one year on those whiskey chocolates and the next year we got wiped out on those long chocolate covered orange thingys. I still can't stand even to look at them.

My Mom always cooked a nice big turkey the day before Christmas for us to enjoy Christmas eve. After a large turkey dinner and some homemade cream puffs and hot cocoa, we clamored into bed and launched into a deep sleep.

I can still remember the thrill and excitement of waking up early on Christmas morning. My brother and I shared a bedroom and we had to wait for the folks to call us into the living room. Sometimes that same room was called , 'the front room'. I guess because it was in the front of the house. Our house on E Row in townsite was a 4 roomer. There was the front room, kitchen, bathroom and the parent's bedroom. Paul and I slept in bunkbeds on the front porch. It was enclosed but had no heat, so we had a lot of heavy blankets to cover us. During my 8<sup>th</sup> year, Kennecott added a bedroom for us on the back of the house. Wow, what luxury.

All in all, Christmas back then was wonderful and especially right after WWII, because toys were available again and the world had had enough war for a while.

## Old Photo



One of the last Christmas parties at the McGill Theater. I don't know the date. Does anyone know the year and do you recognize anyone?

Let's all get out and meet Santa this weekend and remember to find a power pole to decorate.



**Friday, December 9, 2022**

**6:30 pm**

**Christmas Tree Lighting**  
**(Between the Library and Fire Station on Main Street)**  
**and Hay Ride**  
**Hot Chocolate**

**Saturday, December 10, 2022**

***8:00 AM — FOOD DRIVE WITH THE MCGILL FIRE  
DEPARTMENT***

***11:00 AM MCGILL CHRISTMAS PARADE***

**Line up at the McGill Elementary School at 10:30 am**

***The Parade will be on 2nd Street***

**Parade theme**

**Merry Christmas Parade**

**Everyone is Welcome to be in the Parade!!**

**There will be prizes for the parade winners!**



***Santa will be at the Library along with the Bake Sale  
right after the Parade and the  
Craft Bazaar at the Cultural Center on Avenue K  
right after the Parade***

***Come decorate a LIGHT POLE on Main Street!!***

***Everyone can pick a pole and decorate it  
Make sure your pole has your name and phone number on it!***