

Newsletter168

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

July 29, 2022

### Riding The #40 Time Machine

It was a cool, damp, overcast morning, Oct 21, 2018. The kind of morning that could cast a gloomy spell over anyone, but it had the opposite effect on me as I walked from my vehicle towards the Nevada Northern Depot.

Was that muffled panting sound coming from me or something else. The answer was obvious as I rounded the corner of the depot. There was a beautiful sight. It was an old friend from way back in my youth. The sleek #40, steam engine that used to bring the freight into McGill from Cobre. The memories of it chugging up the hill with L. Lebate at the controls sprang into my inner sight. I could hear the hissing of the steam. See the plumes of smoke, and hear the 2 longs, 1 short and 1 extra long blast of the, never to be forgotten, steam whistle as the train neared the crossing at the bottom of F row.

We McGill townsites would run along the side of the engine and Lebate would blow the whistle for us. We loved to have the small black cinders fall around us. Wonderful memories, but that was long ago. Today was reality.

I found the Conductor and showed him my ticket and remarked to him just how small the engine looked now. As a boy it was huge and now as an old man it looked small. That soon changed as he led me over to the engine. By the time I climbed up those 3 steps into the cab of #40, that engine grew tremendously and all of a sudden, I was a young McGill kid once again. Miracle? The real miracle was being able to remember those memories and to actually picture them somehow in the old grey matter. The mind is a wonderful thing.



One such memory took me back to around 1943 when I was 8 years old. Our family was in Cobre, visiting my maternal grandfather. He was the stationmaster along with my step grandmother who was the post mistress and cook. They lived in a red house with white trim that indicated it was built by NNR. The front of the house was a combination of store, post office and dining room.

The freight train from McGill would stop there so the train crew could eat and rest. My grandfather would take #40 down to a "Y" and turn it around for the trip back to McGill. He let my brother Paul and me ride with him. That was my first time riding in a steam engine cab and now I am doing it again. Wow, what a feeling. Old #40 is still shiny black and in perfect working order, while this rider is old, gray and rusty in the joints. Quite humbling when you think of it.

The entire ride was such a great thrill. The train crew was very helpful and above all very, very concerned with safety. They love what they are doing and several of them travel great distances to do it. You can see it in their eyes. It is such a treasure to have this in the local area.

# McGill News

The \$5000.00 Grant that we applied for to do some work on the outside of the Drugstore and some electrical inside, was granted. I am trying to get some contractors to submit bids on the work. The roof leaks in 2 spots and the outer walls allow a lot of air and dust to enter. Getting the whole outside of the place sealed up better, will help lower the heating and AC costs.

I had the ice cream freezing compartment checked out by O'Flaherty Plumbing and it was determined that the unit is no longer able to be fixed. The equipment is just too old. So I got a small refrigerator/freezer and placed it at the end of the fountain area. We will still be able to offer some single service items, like ice cream bars, drum sticks and cans/bottles of water/sodas.

The video that Gary Stokes shot last week at the Drugstore is on the internet on FB and other places. He just did another one, on the Kinnear Library.

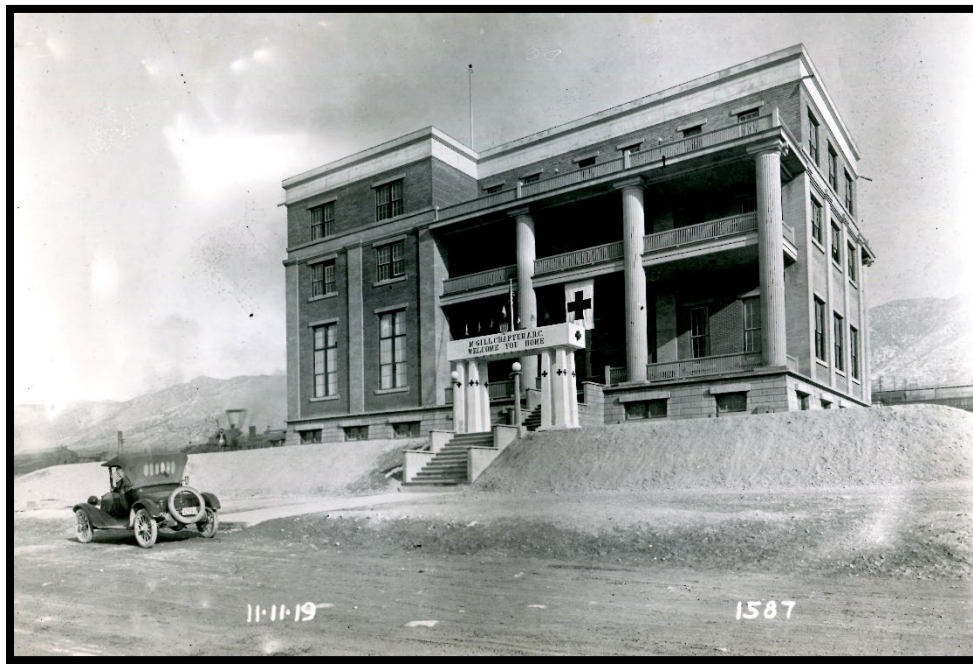
So watch out for the McGill Video Man. He may put you on FB.

# Oldies

1910—May 1—Nevada Con. Copper was averaging 89 tons of finished copper per day.

1912—February 11—O.J. Winter and M.J. Horman opened a new barber shop in McGill.

## Old Photo



Several request have been sent to me about whether the old Clubhouse had some large columns in the front. This is a 11/11/1919 photo. Yes, there were 3 columns and they helped support two decks. The tall windows on the main floor on the left, were for the basketball court. When I was in grade school in the 40s, that was our basketball court. We rode our bikes down there AFTER school to practice. The Red Cross was welcoming the troops back from WWI.