

Keith's Corner/McGill News

July 22,2022

Summer Fun -Late 1940s

The Great WWII, (that is World War 2 not World War eleven), had been over for a few years and things were getting back to normal for us McGill heathens.

We could go looking for good stuff in the dumps (now landfills) as people were not keeping everything. They could get a replacement now. The main items we looked for, were buggy wheels and axles, for our homemade carts.

These carts were made with old scrap lumber, which was now in abundance as new buildings were put up and lots of re-modeling being done.

Now these carts were not just thrown together like a bunch of kids would probably do. Our carts were scientifically engineered with an eye on future modes of transportation, suitable for the masses in the large cities. We were too young to think of putting a gas engine on our carts. The usual source of power was a younger brother or the family dog. (Little did we know that in about 75 years there would be some calling for the end of fossil fuels. Which, if that happens, folks will be back to using the family dog.) We should have patented our designs. As usual, engineering wise, we were ahead of our time.

The best source of mobility of course, was the fact that McGill was built on a hillside. Lots of free coasting. The only problem was the fact that we had to wait for the kid brother or the family dog to come down and take us back up the hill. Spring and fall weren't too bad, but in the summer it was miserable waiting in the hot sun for our power source.

Other than the carts, we spent lots of time at the ballpark, swimming pool and hiking. We liked to get a sack lunch and hike up to the lead mine. This meant crossing over Kennecott property, especially the ore train tracks. We avoided the tracks the electric engine used, as we were afraid to touch the rails for fear of

being electrocuted. It was a short hike and after eating lunch, we scoured around the dump for chunks of lead ore that we could melt down for our lead soldiers. Most of us had an electric cauldron to melt lead. The molten lead was poured into molds of soldiers etc.. These items were in a kit. Doubt if they could be on the market now. The ore turned out to be a waste of time, because it wasn't pure lead and didn't melt as we thought it would. Oh, well, another fact of science we learned the hard way.

The McGill swimming pool in those days was far different than it is today. There was no fence around at all. We had a nice high diving board and a lower one. The lifeguard had a seat between the two boards, with a large metal umbrella to keep the hot sun and rain off. They could just lean forward and dive into the water to help someone.

When the lifeguard wasn't around, we would get up on the seat and jump to the low board and spring out into the water. Some crazy guys would even get on the umbrella and jump to the low board. They got quite a bounce from that.

There were two large rafts that we could play, "King of Bunker Hill" on. That usually meant a lot of bruises and scraped skin.

The Red Cross gave swimming lessons and most McGill heathens could swim very well. It was all part of growing up in a small isolated community in the mountains of Nevada.





The diving boards with the lifeguard seat between them.

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Still dry and windy. We had one day with some heavy rain, but it only lasted a few minutes. Gary Stokes came to the Drugstore and shot some video and stills, for an ad to go on Facebook soon. Will let you now when it goes on. James Reed donated several of his great book, "The Fatal Affair in Convict Canyon" for us to sell at the Drugstore. He did it without any advice from me, so it turned out to be a masterpiece. We offer it at \$25 in store and can mail it for \$5 S & H. Thanks Jim. He also writes a column for the Bristlecone Tribune, White Pine's newest newspaper. He writes under the pen name of "Slagditch". Jim lived just across the slag ditch from me when we were growing up in McGill. Must have been something in the odor from the ditch that made us want to write books later in life. Hey, that's as good an excuse as anything else.

If you want the book send check or MO made out to -McGill Historic Drugstore Museum, P.O. Box 973, McGill Nv 89318

Oldies

1910—July 31---McGill Cooperative Merc. Co. had an ad in the White Pine News.

1921—November 21—Dr. Ontie Hovenden moved his practice from Ely to McGill

Old Photo



ORIGINAL CREW for the McGill pipeline in 1929 is L-R: A.G. Wright, unknown, Rusty Jameson, Harold Giddlie, Vic and Joe Toffer. *(Courtesy of Albert Wright)*

The crew that replaced the wooden pipeline with the existing metal one.