

Newsletter141

Keith's Corner/McGill News

January 21, 2022

McGill's High Curb

There was a rather high curb on the upper side of main street for many years. You can see the cars parked in front of it .



There was a section of dirt between the curb and the sidewalk. There were two gas pumps in the dirt, one in front of Goodman's and one in front of the Cononelos dry goods store.

These pumps had a large glass top. There was a locked door on the side that had a large handle for the store clerk to pump gas up into the glass top. There were lines around the top so you could see how many gallons were pumped. Inside the door was a long hose with a nozzle. It was a thrill for us kids to put the gas in the car.

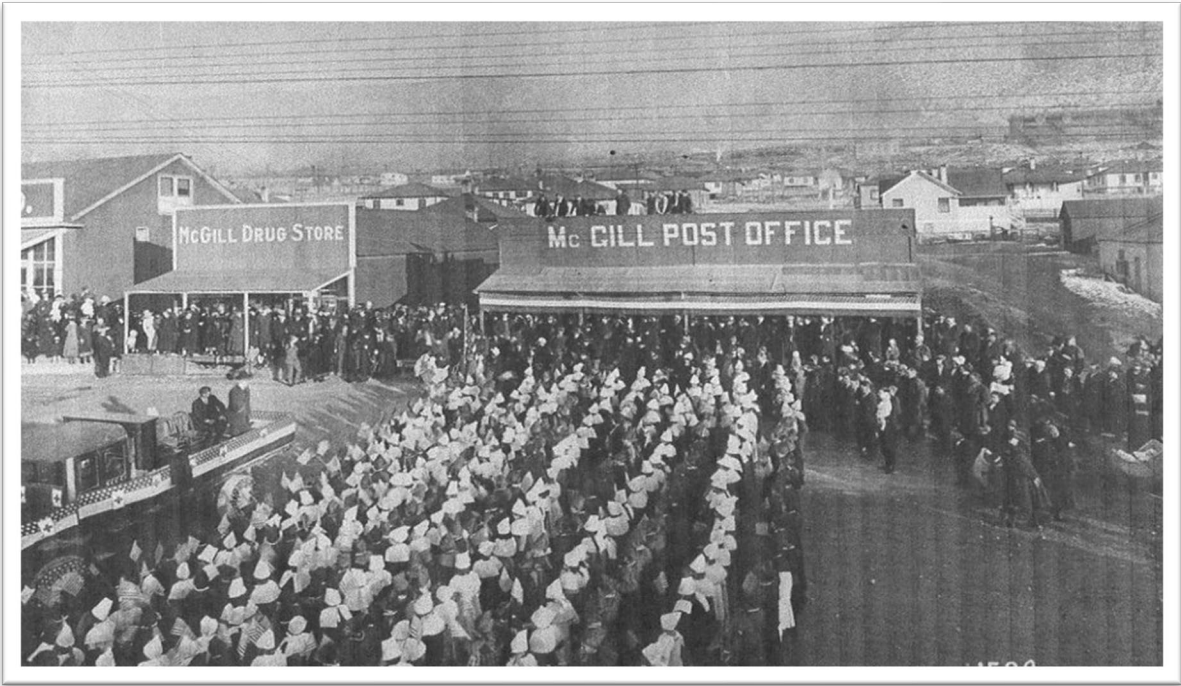
There are three cars to the right of the gas pump. I think the dark one is the car that Jack VanCamp bought from the Frandsen family of McGill. You can also see the awnings rolled up on the front of Goodman's and the drug store.

Notice the gas station on the corner across from the bank. It was a Standard station and then a Beeline. That area is now the site of the fire and ambulance building.

The curb ran from K avenue to J avenue. There were some steps in front of the Sheriff's office and a pipe post at each end of the steps to hold onto if needed.



I don't know for sure what year the curb was put in, but I have two pictures that might show a range of years that it could have been built.



This photo was taken in 1919 and there is no high curb. You can also see that the original Campton store is still sitting with it's long side to the street next to the drug store.

This next photo was taken in 1926 and the high curb is there.



The high curb is not there in this next photo, as evidenced by the cars being parked on a slant and close to the stores.

My guess would be that the curb was put in between 1919 and 1926 and was removed in 1960-61.



The curb was about 16 inches tall, but everyone had no trouble stepping up and over it.

I drove one of the WPHS buses during the 1953-54 school years. It was a long critter. We kept the buses on the main floor of the north end of the old Standard market building. There was a small door that is now bricked up, that we had to navigate thru. The entrance left about 3 inches on each side of the bus, so one had to be careful.

When going in or out, our boss and mentor, Oscar Seigal, would stand out in the middle of the street and stop traffic for us. When backing out in the morning the curb across the street was quite a barrier. My bus was very long, but the back end stuck out over the back wheels and was high enough to go over the curb, so I could back up until the back wheels touched the curb.

After school and unloading the last of the kids, we had to make a tight turn to line up with the narrow door

The Standard Market business was not in there at the time. There was a gas station run by Ray and Mary O'Neil. They had a couple of gas pumps next to the street. There was also a Nash car dealership office in the station. I remember the old Nash cars that looked like an upside down bathtub on wheels.

The high curb allowed for the main street to be a bit more level than it is now. The cars were parked at an angle on both sides of the main street. See old photo section.

It was quite an honor to be a bus driver at the tender age of 17. We had to pass a chauffeur's driving test to get our bus driving license, much like a CDL these days. Mr. Keagan, of the Nevada State Motor Div., gave us the test.

There were 4 buses in McGill. I drove the freshman and sophomore gals, Bill Spane drove the junior and senior girls, Jim Bell drove the junior and senior boys and Oscar drove the freshman and sophomore boys. Jim Bell also drove the Bobcat teams on their trips and I drove the Tomcats.

Mc Gill News

Still waiting on the clothing store being in operation. Everyone is exited. It will be the first one in almost a half century. The last one I remember was the LCC Dry Goods store.

Oldies

1909—May 2—McGill Bank officially opened

1910—March 13—McGill Bank officially became McGill National Bank

Old Photo



Early 1950s photo, showing high curb and cars parked at an angle on both sides of the street. Also, notice the yellow warning light .