

Keith's Corner/McGill News

September 16, 2022

Shoes We Wore

Most people have to put on a pair of shoes each and every day. The shoes can be different, depending on what you are doing. We have work shoes, play shoes, dress up shoes and just plain shoes.

When I was a young McGill heathen during the 30s , 40s and 50s, we usually had two pairs of shoes. One pair was what we called work or play shoes. These, for the boys anyways, were ankle high thin leather boots. They had laces halfway and then some metal hooks to wrap the laces around. These metal hooks would get bent while we played rough games. It was hard to get them open again. Usually had to use a screwdriver. A small stick of TNT worked great but the darn leather didn't hold up well.

Our other pair of shoes were the dreaded oxfords that were for attending the nearby "school" enforcement area. These were forced on us every year. Usually the last week of freedom in late August, we were loaded up in the car and driven to the local shoe store at either Goodman-Tidball or Louie's (Cononelos) stores. First we had to have a bath. Now, no civilized person needs to take a bath in the middle of the day. Then we had to search through the sock drawer for a matching pair of socks that of course, didn't have any holes in them.

At the store, the clerk measured our feet with a contraption that indicated what your newly washed foot size appeared to be. Now , on most people, the left and right feet are of slightly different sizes.

Then we had to try on different styles and colors. In those days that was only 2 different ones, especially during WWII. Finally the selection was made and we went directly to Momir's Shoe Shop on main street so he could put an extra sole on the new monsters, so they would last longer. Then we went back to our house

and changed back into some decent clothes and shoes and headed outside to enjoy a few mote hours of freedom.

The first day of school was the roughest. Those low cut oxfords were sheer terror. The back of our heels were rubbed raw for a few weeks. The dumb shoes would also come off while we were chasing the girls around the schoolyard. We always wondered why our glorious gubberment didn't ban oxfords. Probably, some of them had stock in the companies that made the torture shoes.

Our work boots most often had a metal arch in them. If you had flat feet, like I did, the arch was very uncomfortable. We would take them down to the Drugstore and have the clerk put the shoe on the Dr. School's arch fitter and bend it to fit our feet.

Thankfully, after school we were allowed to wear our comfortable boots again and of course our Lee coveralls.

McGill News

Rather slow around this town lately, so I thought I would bore you with some of the stuff happening at the Drugstore.



In older days, there was a magazine rack against the wall. Later on some new flooring was added, but not under the rack, so when the rack

was taken out there was an empty space, so I filled it in. Trying to find some hard flooring board to finish and make it all even. I finished building the shelf up to the wall in the corner and adding a nice area rug. Need to fit the rug.. This gives folks a place to rest and read about the store and McGill.



The window on the north side needed some work also.



This is after some painting and fixing the weather damaged areas around the window frame. There was some mold in those areas. I used some Kilz paint to stop that from happening in the future.



There is a lot of work left, especially on the outside walls and roof. Will be starting on that next week.