

Keith's Corner/McGill News

February 11, 2022

McGill Social Life, Before TV

Social life, before TV, anywhere was vastly different than after the idiot box appeared. This was very evident in small towns, like McGill.

Social life in the very early days of McGill, was usually centered within the different ethnic neighborhoods in the form of social clubs, coffee houses, etc. These ethnic divisions were soon to be blurred by the simple fact that McGill was a small town out in the middle of a lot of open country. In a city, these groups could draw on a larger population to flourish.

What could possibly bring all these various groups together in a common social setting? I think that there were two main factors. One was the fact that they all worked at the same place, enabling interaction during working hours. The other factor concerned the non-working hours of free socializing time. This time was soon filled with sports. All these groups loved sports and the thrill of competing was common. Baseball was a sport that anyone could play and enjoy. Kids learned the game by playing in neighborhood sandlots. As they got better, they joined teams made up of kids from all over McGill. The first organized games were played in the pastures of the McGill ranch just north of the McGill swimming pool. Sometime around 1912 the Nevada Con. Copper built a field between G and H avenues on the east side of main street. Then in the early 1920s another ball park was built where it now stands.

Differences in ability on the playing field and at work helped to dissolve the ethnic differences. There were many teams, such as the Smelter, Mill, Office, Shops and of course the American Junior Leagues. Baseball was the fabric that held the town together. It became the identity of McGill pride, shared by all McGillites. It would grow to a fever pitch when a McGill team played an outsider.


The large number of teams allowed for games on the weekends and with the installation of huge lights, many night games. There was a Twilight League formed that played in the evenings. Most of the town would turn out for the games, making baseball one of the pillars of McGill social life. McGill was a power house in baseball.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY


25c

Home of Champions

'26 '29 '30 '31 '32 '33 '34
'41 '43 '44 '45 '47 '50



The park was constructed last year by the Nevada Mines Division of Kennecott Copper Corporation.

 **Junior Baseball Tournament**
McGILL, NEVADA
AUGUST 3, 4, 5
1951

There were of course other forms of social activities, such as church groups, scouts , friends gathering for a pot luck dinner or card party, etc. All of these endeavors involved groups of people getting together for some form of social activity. When the idiot box showed up in the late 1950s, these social gatherings of people was soon replaced by the individual family, socializing at home in front of the TV. The wonderful evening dinner table that allowed for family discussions was traded in for that other, horrible invention, the TV tray.

Socializing outside the home deteriorated. TV shows were more important. Mental and physical abilities suffered. Instead of McGill growing a new crop of ball players each summer, we grew a crop of potatoes. Couch potatoes that is.

Social groups and clubs lost members. Churches had a hard time. The great McGill ball park grandstand became devoid of cheering and booing spectators. It deteriorated and became lifeless.

Two years ago thanks to some hard working folks, the ballpark and grandstand were brought back to life. Now all we need are some ball players and spectators. Probably hoping for a miracle, but why not. Now is the time to take advantage of the new park and maybe even bring back some pride and socializing in McGill.

I fondly remember those night games. The nights were cool and refreshing. And by the way, summer nights in front of the tube is boring with all the silly sit-com re-runs and endless, stupid commercials.

McGill News

As some of you have heard, I am trying to find photos and names of people that worked at the McGill Drug Store in past years. I would like to honor them with a display of their photos and names. So far I have photos of Thalia Sankovich, Joan Andreas, Jewel Sertic, Connie Roberts, Elsa Culbert, Jerry Culbert, Paul Schroeder, Eugene Muir. Names, but no photos—Lavon Tate Phyllis Algers, Colleen Crawforth, Emma Cottrell, Donna Parker, Irene Scoble, Valine Cooper, Howardean Merritt, Georgia Munson, Lois Rene Picollo, Melba Gidley, Florence Slater, Mary Fields, Joyce Gidley, Margaret Hill, Nick Thompson, C. L. Fleming, ??Overson, N. Seabrook, C. Handley, V. F. Henry, R. L. Henry, A. Slichter, Molly Thompson, Bob Bailey, Von White, H. Clark. Anybody have names and/or photos??

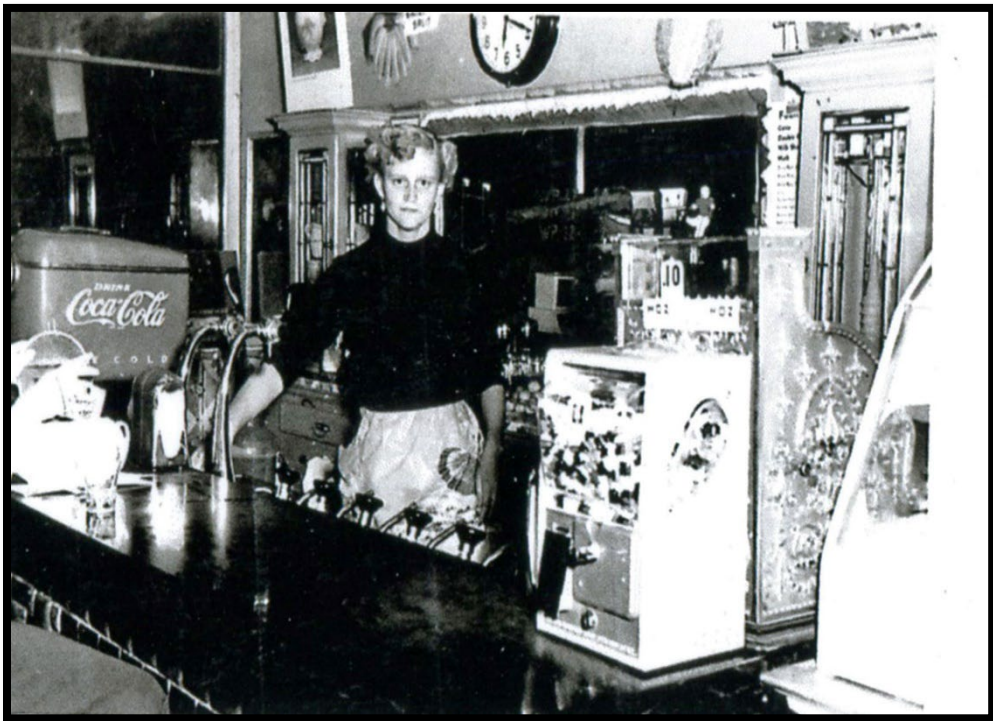
Oldies

1930—April 14--New WP County Deputy

Sheriff sworn in.

1930—April 14—The road to Wendover is completed.

Photo



Connie Roberts working at the McGill Drug Store in the 1950s.