

Keith's Corner/McGill News

August 18, 2023

J. C. Kinnear Sr. -McGill Giant

Mr. J.C. Kinnear was one of those unique individuals that seem to be in the right place at the right time and with the right qualifications to make McGill a better place to work and raise a family.

Mr. Kinnear was born in 1885 in Scotland. He arrived in America 4 years later. He grew up in Salem, Mass. and attended grade and high school. He entered college at MIT, graduating in 1907 with a Master of Science degree.

After MIT, he traveled across the US to begin work in Goldfield, Nv. He worked there until early in 1910, when he started working for the Utah Copper Co. constructing the Bingham and Garfield railroad. Then in October of 1910 he started working as a laborer at the Nevada Con. Copper smelter in McGill.

In 1912 he was working as a metallurgist in the smelter. In 1913 he was elevated to smelter engineer and in 1915 raised to assistant smelter superintendent.

He continued rising in the copper company and in 1919 was named superintendent of the smelter. Then in 1922, he moved up into the position of assistant general manager. He stayed in that spot until April, 1928, when he took over as General Manager, replacing Mr. Lakeman, who retired after many years of service to the copper company.

Mr. Kinnear was instrumental in keeping the fish hatchery at the Duck Creek dam, that Mr. Lakeman started, on tract to be a great asset for the area fishermen.

He understood that the men working at the copper mine and smelter needed some relief from the hard work and so he established several forms of after work activities.

He helped form the McGill Community League. The workers contributed a small amount each month and it was matched by the company. The League sponsored baseball and other sports teams. They provided many functions for the adults , such as card parties, dances and social clubs. The kids were treated to Halloween parties, Christmas parties and the well liked, 3 day hikes to the Boy Scout camp at Success Summit. I remember the large Christmas stockings, especially during WWII. Also , we McGill heathens were treated to free shows ant the McGill theater.

Mr. Kinnear was a strong supporter of the Scout movement, along with other company officials like Ed Pesout, Buck Jones and others. I remember sitting on a swing set on the patio at Buck Jones' house, while he quizzed me on my Camping merit badge. He approved it and reminded me to always remember to properly put out a campfire, cover it with dirt and then place 2 dry sticks in the shape of an X on top to show that the fire was put out correctly.

I can still see Mr. Kinnear walking around the copper plant with his Irish Setter dog. He would stop at different shops and chat with the workers. He would ask them about their jobs and if there were any problems he would take care of them. He knew most men by their fist name. He promoted a journeyman program that was one of the best in the world. He realized that the workers needed a good way to improve themselves and move up to a better job. These programs also kept good workers from leaving the area. Mr. Kinnear was a true man of vision for the future.

His leadership was also responsible for the excellent safety record. He spared no expense for safety and tolerated no unsafe working conditions.

Mr. Kinnear was truly a man of the people and he cared about us all. His efforts on Scouting, Social Clubs, swimming pool, rodeo grounds, Boy Scout Community League, baseball, fishing and some many other ways that he improved the lives of the workers and their families. He made the McGill that I grew up in, a wonderful place. I have such fond memories of Mr. Kinnear and for all the things he did for us. He made the copper company a good friend of the McGill people and a great place to work.

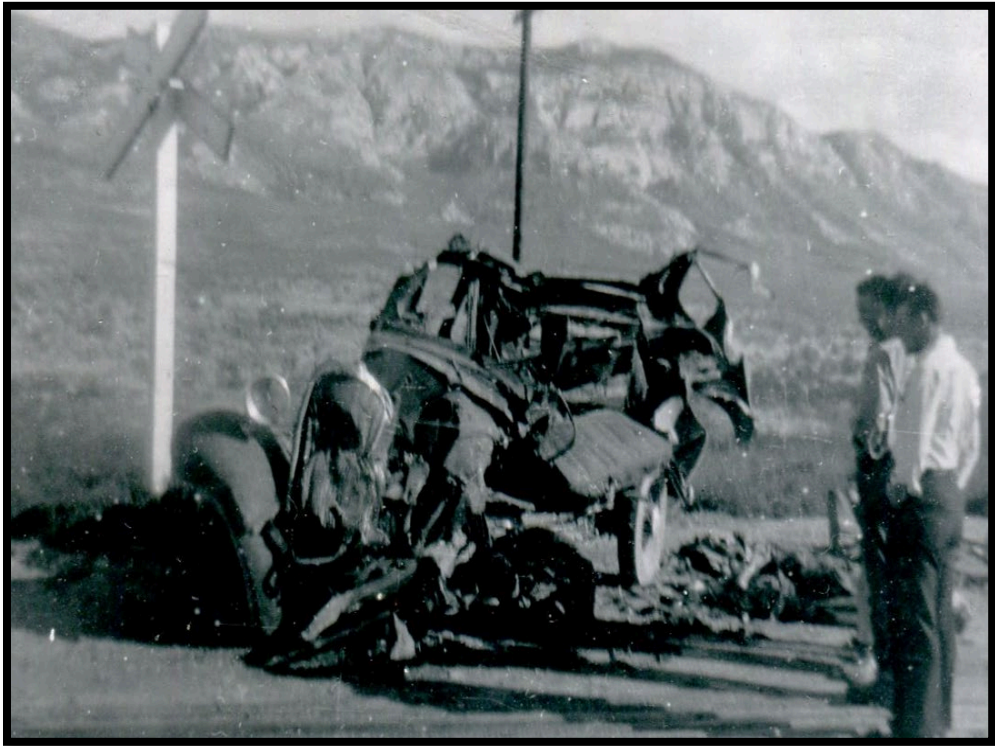
McGill News

The hats, visors and t-shirts at the drugstore are going fast. Have sold several to folks from other parts of the US, that never heard of McGill. Guess we are a curiosity of some sorts.

Had a nice surprise visit from a young gentleman, at the Drugstore this past weekend. He is only 7 yrs. old but knows what he wants to do when he becomes an adult. Too many of us old fogies still don't know what we want to do. He wants to be a farmer so he can put better food in the stores and on our tables. With young men like Vinny and his dream of becoming a farmer, this ole USA is in good hands going into the future.



Old Photo



I don't know what year this was, but I do know where it happened. It was at the first railroad crossing out of McGill. That crossing is now cover up, but the tracks leading to it are still there. Moral of this photo- Don't butt heads with a train. I don't know if anyone was hurt or killed. Anyone know anything about this.????

PS—Linda Holmes sent me an email about NL222.. Her father, Claud Giles, s was a Foreman at the Power House . He retired in 1964/65.