

Keith's Corner/McGill News

April 14, 2023

McGill Is Alive And Well

I hear some of the locals commenting about how McGill is not as good as it used to be, when KCC was operating. The huge KCC payroll was a big part of McGill and the county as a whole. However, that huge payroll has been replaced by a multitude of other payrolls. So, what is different about McGill? I think, we have to look at several things.

A big change was the advent of TV. People had a tendency to satay home and watch their favorite TV show., instead of going to ball games and other community activities. KCC also sold the houses. People stayed home and remodeled.

Then KCC closed operations and a feeling of woe is me began. Then, along comes smartphones and video games. Now days, with all these gadgets, it seems like folks are getting too busy to participate in outside activities, especially the kids. I see families sitting at a table in a café and instead of talking with each other, they are all on their smartphones. Not my idea of living and having good memories for the old age years.

However, I have been seeing younger kids, ten and under, out riding bikes and scooters. One young 8 year old boy told me that he has worn out 2 scooters. He told me he likes to be out in the fresh air and sunshine getting lots of exercise. He will go a long way mentally and physically.

I remember as a young heathen growing up in McGill in the 1940s-50s, that we were outside all the time. We loved being outdoors. In the summer we hung out at the baseball field, the swimming pool, in the alleys playing basketball, having rubber gun fights, riding bikes,coasting on our home made cart, hiking the mountains, fishing, hunting and many other things. We were never bored. At night we didn't need to be told to get to bed, we were tired and ready for a rest.

In the winter time it was sledding, snowball fights, snowshoeing, skiing, ice skating, fox and geese chasing and other fun things.

As we grew into adulthood we kept doing these things and I think it made the soul of McGill whole and healthy.

I am beginning to see a surge of such activity in our young folks and it gives hope for the future.

I recently spoke to a young lady who is getting young kids, as young as kindergarten, involved in learning basketball. It is nice to see people like her doing things for our youth and eventually for the soul of McGill. I plan to do an article on the program in the near future. We all need to support her and others.

You can see her face light up when she talks about it. That look is what is lacking in so many local folks that don't make an effort to improve our town. So to those folks, get off your backside and start doing something worthwhile for McGill and you won't be so bored and feeling sown in the dumps. It is up to you.

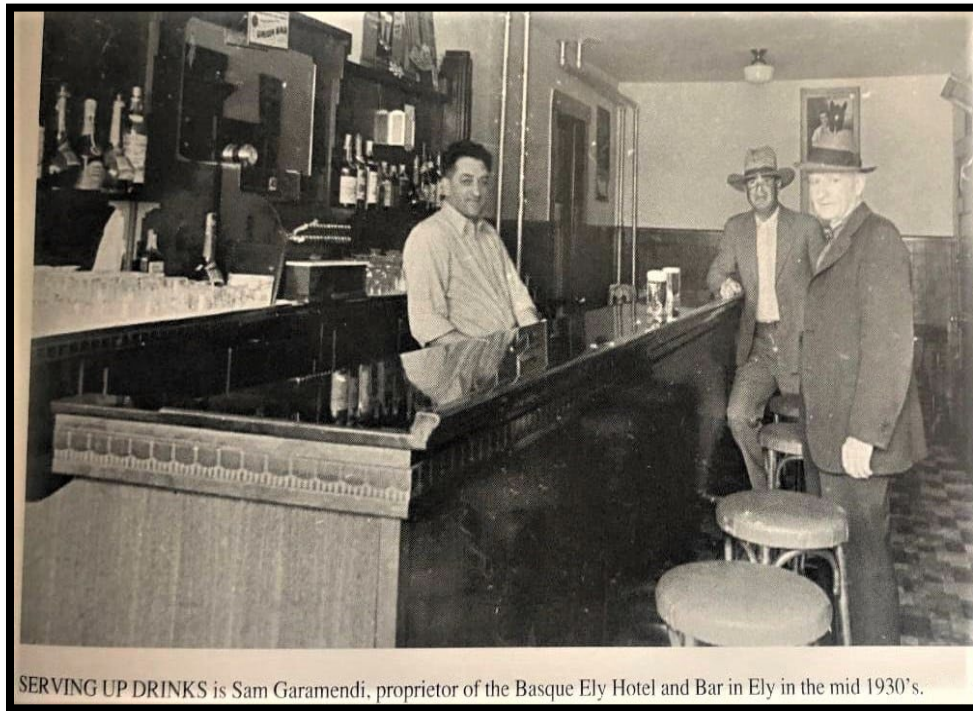


These McGill ladies were never bored. They got together, organized and had some fun. It can be done. They would have loved to be able to play on a beautiful ball field like we have.

McGill News

Finally some sunshine and warm temps. Might not last long, but it sure feels great. There is still plenty of snow in the mountains. I hope as it melts it goes into the ground and not run off. Maybe we can find some good pine nuts this year. It has been a long time without my favorite fall food. We McGill heathens always had our Levi pockets full of pine nuts during the fall months. We also had several gunny sacks of green cones in the garage waiting for the cold months of October and November to open the cones or sometimes we roasted them over an open fire at the sleigh riding street. I can still smell them cooking as we raced out sleds down the hill and then started the frozen walk back to the comfort of the fire and some hot pine nuts. Memories that last forever.

Old Photo



The Ely Hotel Bar in later years was owned and operated by Mary Ann Goyenechea (sp).

She asked me several times to tend bar for her, especially during the Basque Festivals. I made hundreds of Picon Punches. It is quite a drink.