

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

August 25, 2023

J. C. Kinnear Sr.-Part 2



Smelter employees in front of the Smelter Office 5/10/20

Front row left to right

- 1.
- 2.
3. Walter Remington
- 4.
5. J.C. Kinnear Sr.
- 6.
7. Frank Slack
8. Leo Larsen
9. J.T. Elliott
- 10.

Back row left to right

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Moore
5. Wm. Overfelt
- 6.
7. R.W. Peterson
- 8.
9. Geo. O'Mealy
10. Benson
11. Chris Haller

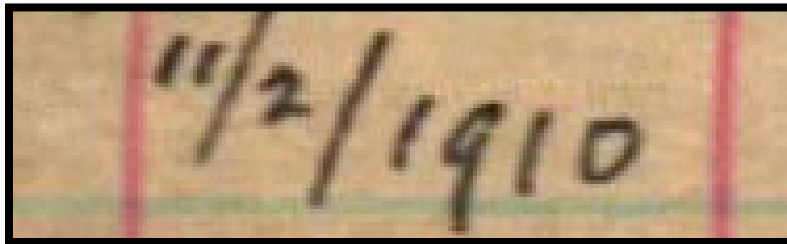
This is a picture of the Smelter crew on May 10, 1920. Kinnear was Smelter Superintendent./ I think the man at Kinnear's left, in the suit , was Mr. Lakeman, General Manager, of NCC.

Jim Elliot, the father of author Russell Elliot, was the lead foreman of the bricklayers. William Overfelt was the NCC Accountant.

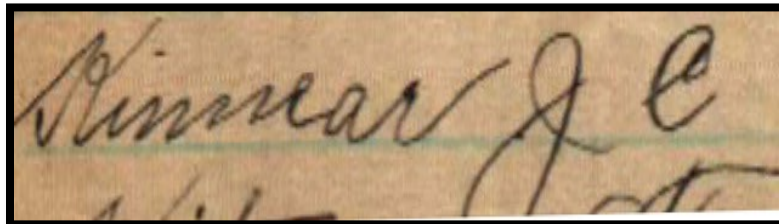
The smelter is in the far, right, background.

These men were the backbone of NCC, especially, 2 years later when the mill burned. They were instrumental in keeping the plant running until the new mill was functioning.

J. C. Kinnear, signed on with Nevada Con. Copper on this date---

A close-up photograph of a piece of aged, yellowed paper with a red vertical line on the left and a red vertical line on the right. In the center, the date "11/2/1910" is handwritten in dark ink.

I don't know if this was his signature.

A close-up photograph of a piece of aged, yellowed paper with a red vertical line on the left and a red vertical line on the right. In the center, the name "Kinnear J C" is handwritten in dark ink.

Mr. Kinnear, had worked his way up from laborer in 1910 to General Manager in 1928. He had worked in the smelter for 12 years, and certainly knew how the place worked. He knew what it was like, working in the gas and dust. He knew the names of all the men in the smelter and adjoining shops. He was one of them and understood what they endured each day. Later on as General Manager he did a lot for the men and their families, both on the job and off.

One story I remember was when he was having a few rounds of drinks with the men at the McGill Club. A man, selling work shoes, asked Norm Linnell, the

bartender how many men worked at the smelter and mill. Norm told him to ask Mr. Kinnear, the GN. The salesman asked Kinnear, how many men worked at the plant. The whole place became very quiet. Kinnear answered in his booming voice, "about half of them". The place roared with laughter.

Norm, told that story many times in later years.

My favorite story about Mr. Kinnear, actually happened to me. I went to work in the smelter upon graduating from high school. I was working on the converter floor as a puncher on the oldest converter. We still hand punched the air lines on that one. I was pushing the puncher bar into the air hole and some molten copper shot out of the hole and hit me in the left eye. I didn't have time to blink and so the dab of copper stuck to the front of my eye. Ed Pesout, the smelter super was nearby and rushed me to the hospital in his company pickup.

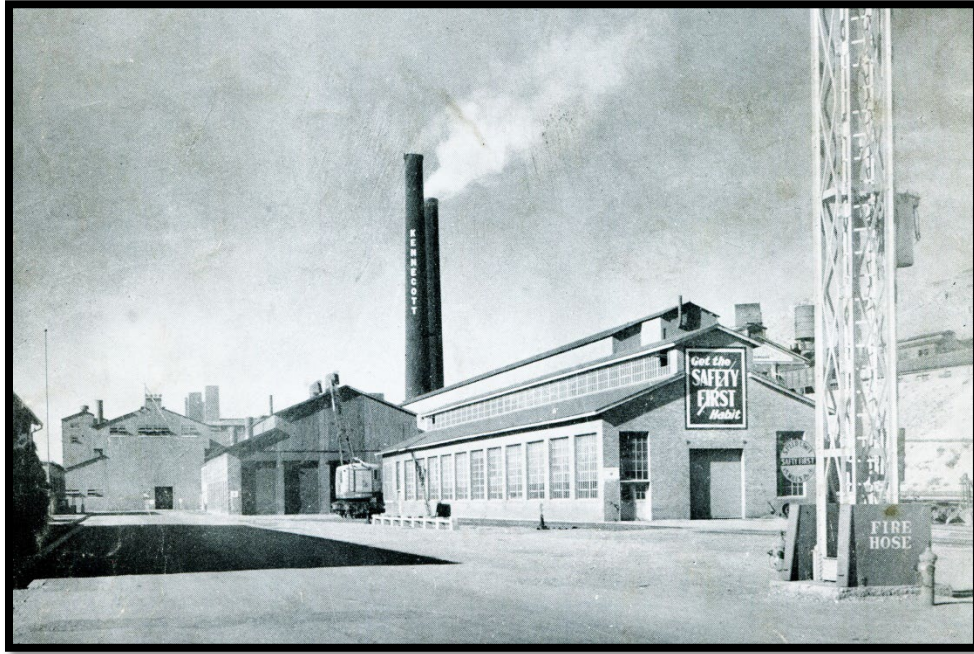
He pulled up in the driveway and knocked on the door. Miss Nettie Bruce let us in and put me on a table. Pesout left for the smelter and said he would inform my Dad.

Miss Bruce looked at my eye and wanted to scrape the copper off, but I told her to get Dr. Ririe.

He came in and put some drops in the eye to numb it and then picked the copper off. About that time the KCC limo pulled into the driveway and Mr. Kinnear rapped on the screen door. Dr. Ririe motioned him to come in. Kinnear was visiting from New York. The limo had picked him up at the airport. He wanted to visit with his old friend, Dr. Ririe. He saw me on the table and came over and said, "Keith, what happened. I told him. Dr. Ririe said that he wanted to get me to the Steptoe Hospital in Ely so he could work on my eye some more. He wanted to scrape the scab off, about every 2 hours. He said it would take 2 or 3 times to do the job. Mr. Kinnear walked me out to the limo and told the driver to take me to the hospital and stay with me until Dr. Ririe was finished and then take me home. He did just that.

This show you what kind of a man, Mr. Kinnear was.

## Old Photo



Machine shop on the right. Engine house in the middle. Smelter building in the back and the smoke stacks. Looks like a quiet Sunday. The shadows indicate a late afternoon.

Many, many KCC workers walked down that road, to and from work.