

Keith's Corner/McGill News

August 11, 2023

McGill's Famous Swimming Pool

The McGill pool that we all loved in our youth, started out as a pond. I don't know when this photo was taken, but it was probably during the 1920s. The young McGillites are sitting on a homemade diving board.



During those days if you wanted to learn how to dive and have fun, you had to build your own diving board. The only other pool I know of in McGill at that time was the indoor pool at the Clubhouse. I have read several accounts of that pool being hard to get into. I don't know if there was a diving board or not. There were set hours that the pool could be used and several days a week the pool was open only to certain groups. This situation may have been responsible for the young men to make their own place to dive and swim.

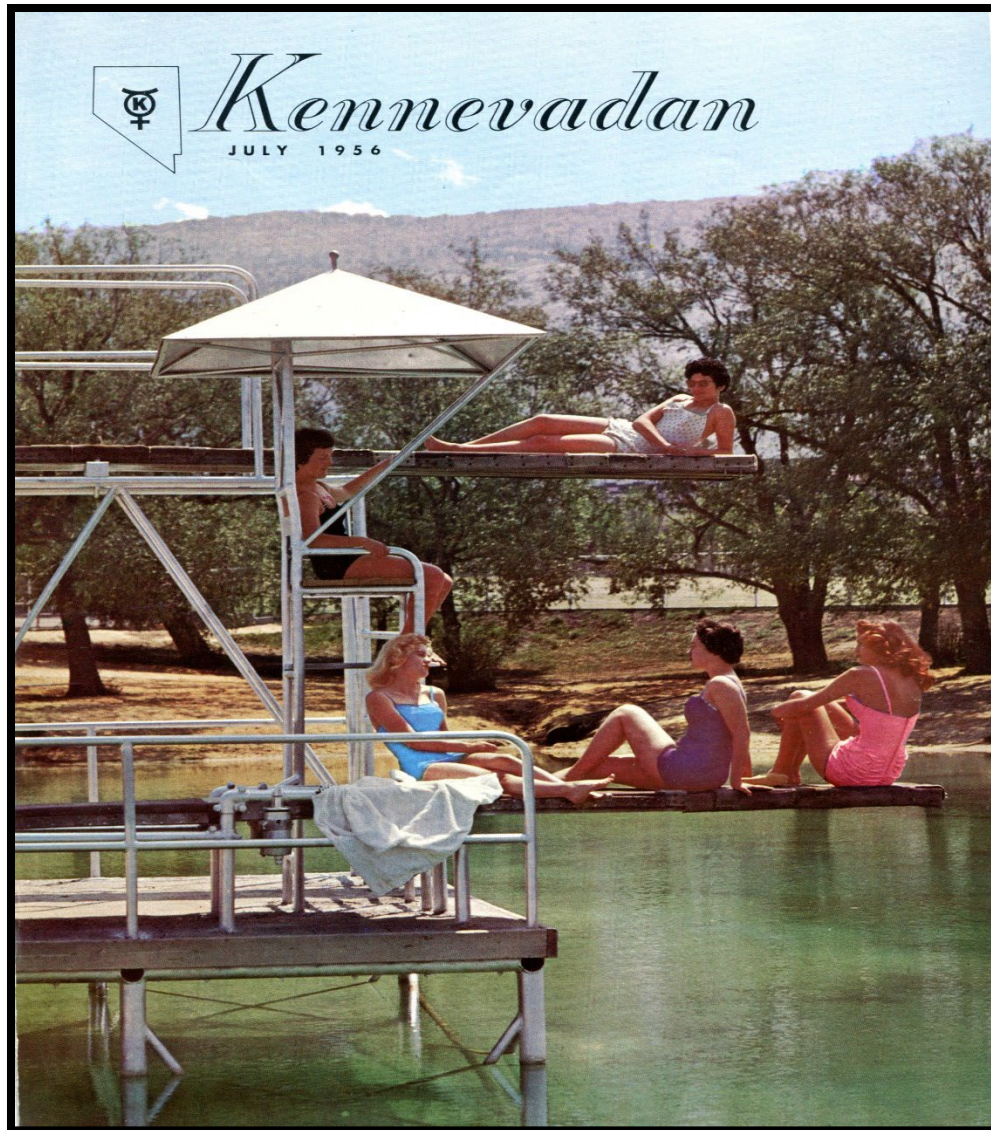
Sometime in the late 1920s the NCC under the direction of John Kinnear Sr. decided to fix the pool up and I imagine that is when the diving platform was put in.



There was a high board and a low board and the lifeguard's chair in between. Unless you have dived off the high board and floated in the air like this young chap, you will never know the feeling of flying for a brief few seconds and then the plunge into the cool water. Also, there was no fence around the place. We could in my time, go 'skinny dippin' at night. What a thrill it was to go off the high board on a moonless dark night, not knowing where the water was. You had better be in the right position or suffer the results. It is a memory that I cherish to this day and wish that the kids of today could have the same memories. But, alas, sue to the greed of lawsuits that can't happen. The insurance companies are also there to collect a bunch of cash to protect against lawsuits. Sometimes, I think the lawyers and insurance companies are in cahoots with each other. (For you younger folks-cahoots means working together or plotting together).

So for whatever reason there are no more fun filled times diving off the boards at the McGill swimming pool. What a shame to deprive the kids of that experience.

Oh, by the way, the diving boards were not used just for diving. The local beauties could lounge on the boards and take in some sun. Notice how clear and inviting the water was in this photo.



McGill News

Last week's NL about the Power House, prompted an email from Gust Proutsos, about visiting his father, who worked at the power house for 30 years. Gust commented on how clean the place was and that you could 'eat off the floor'.

I remember working there, for a few days while on the 'Bull Gang', sweeping floors and other cleanup duties. It was interesting how all the generators and compressors howled and thumped. Gust, said that the constant noise wrecked his father's hearing. I can certainly understand that.

The other men that I remember working there, were, John Proutsos, Lester 'Speed' Bush, Albert Collier, bill Kirkopolos and I think A. C. Johnson.

Old Photo



Looking towards the main gate at KCC. The machine shop is on the left. My father Bud Gibson worked there along with George O'Boyle, Ed Knous, Jimmy Grant, John Assuras and others. Then the little brick house that held patterns for the tin shop, which is the next building. I worked there, one summer, when Clarence Slater was the boss, along with Mickey Zingleman, Mel Sampson, Steve Bakaric, Denny Sampson, and others. Next is the paint shop that was bossed by Art Nicholson. Next was the auto repair shop and last was the fire station. On the right, out of sight was the warehouse. I remember bob Pratt, Lester Menzies working there. Then the large building housed the carpenter shop, bossed by 'Spik' Reed and carpenters, Carter Anderson, Ray Johnson, Louis Papez, Harry Londos and others.