

Newsletter234

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

November 3, 2023

### Boredom In McGill ????

Whenever I visit with some of the young folks in McGill, the topic of boredom comes up. They tell me that they are quite often bored and that somebody should do something about it. I suggest they do something about it themselves. The answer with the question, was my generation ever bored? I tell them that, yes at times we were bored, but we did something about ourselves, such as getting up a game of sandlot baseball or a basketball game in the nearest alley backboard. Maybe go for a hike or a long bike ride out to Bassett Lake.

One time several of us rode our bikes to Camp Success and stayed overnite. There was no oil road in Duck Creek, It was dirt all the way from the highway. We had a tire pump and a patch kit to repair flats.

We played kick the can, hide and go seek and other games with the other kids in our area.

In the winter months we were sleigh riding, making snow forts outside and after dark we played board games in the house. I have fond memories of playing Monopoly, Pit, Uncle Wiggly, Tiddly Winks and constructing stuff with our Lincoln Logs and Erector Sets. We built model airplanes from scratch out of balsa wood and wrapping them with tissue paper. We used rubber bands to run the propellers.

We built kites out of butcher paper and sticks, when we couldn't get store kites, especially during WWII. We made some great box type kites that would go very high.

Most of us McGill heathens were interested in science and did a lot of scientific research. We studied gravity by jumping off a garage. During WWII we did it with

a pillow case be like a paratrooper. Of course we learned a lot of things the hard way, but we did it ourselves.

Another great pastime was scouring the local dumps at Steptoe of below McGill for wheels and axles to build a cart that we would pull uphill and then ride down and then pull it back up to the top.

Most of the things we did ended up in a contest of some sorts. Shooting marbles, working a yo-yo, mumble-peg with our pocket knives, etc.

In addition to all of the above, we had after school chores, like keeping the kindling wood box full, having 2 full buckets of coal by each stove. Weekends was yard work etc. We also had school where we actually learned about history, math, geography, economics. When in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we heathens had a full year of mechanical drawing, 7<sup>th</sup> was learning wood working tools and 8<sup>th</sup> grade we made furniture. We also had band and sports after school.

We spent many fun moments in scouting, learning first aid, camping etc.

So for those that ask if we were bored, the simple answer is hell no. We didn't sit around exercising our thumbs. We exercised our whole body. We always found something to do. In my old age I have thousands of memories to look back on to make old age more pleasant. I feel sorry for these new generations that in old age can only look back on a video game or a TV show. They will probably have back and leg problems too. My advice to them—get off your asses and accomplish something and exercise something besides your thumbs. Like, your body and your brain. Like these Scouts that backpacked and camped.



Or maybe start a baseball team. These McGill heathens got together and formed a baseball team. They sold raffle tickets for waffle irons, toasters Etc. to buy their own uniforms. It took a lot of effort but oh boy what a payoff in fun and lasting memories.



## Note

Last week's NL about going to Gabbs with the Tomcats, elicited an email from James Reed. He remembered how low the ceiling was in the Gabbs gym. It was very hard to shoot a basket. I had forgotten that.

He also, remembered staying at the International Hotel in Austin.

## Old Photo



Jerry Cox and ?? Laird. One thing about Kennecott, everyone was different.