

Newsletter209

Keith's Corner/McGill News

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Boredom of Modern Living

The last 10 to 20 years I have noticed that more and more folks tell me that they are bored. This got me to thinking back to my younger years, right after fire was discovered.

During my young heathen days in McGill, I was never bored and I don't ever remember my parents or other adults, complain of being bored. Now, here in 2023 I hear both kids and adults whining about being bored. What has changed? The sun still comes up in the east every morning and sets in the west in the evening, the wind still blows and lately so does the dust. The seasons still change every year. The winters are cold and the summers hot.

So maybe we have to look at the people and what they do.

As a young McGill heathen back in the 1930s and 40s, we were always active, both mentally and physically. We were outside in the day playing ball, swimming, hiking, fishing and hunting. When not doing that, we were moving the frontiers of science forward by experimenting and exploring. There were many questions that needed to be researched and figured out. Such as, how do earthworms bore holes in the ground without hands or teeth? How can a humming bird fly backwards? We were exercising both our bodies and our minds every day.

We were worn out, physically and mentally, by the end of the day and so were never bored. The evening meal was a chance to spend some time with other family members and discuss things. We never seemed to be in a big hurry, but we did have a set of rules to follow. Like being nice to others, do chores, be home for meals and obey parents.

People of today live differently. They seem to always be chasing something. Hurry up and get to work or school and then hurry home and change clothes and then hurry to grab a bite to eat and then hurry to attend some function or flop in front of the boob tube. Hurry, hurry.

I feel sad for families that sit at a table in a café and constantly exercise their thumbs on a smartphone instead of talking with each other. I think people of today rely on TV, smartphones etc to a point that they don't know what to do without these devices and so are bored.

Thank goodness we didn't have such things in my youth. We had time to live life and do many things, which gave us many fond memories to look back on.

**To sum it all up—folks of today rely on
gadgets to pass the time and not
participate in life itself.**

McGill News

Last week's Newsletter about a Heritage Center at the McGill Hospital brought some results. Several folks emailed me with offers of written history and photos. I will share these with you.

I want to build an electronic file on McGill, that will include photos of the town and the copper plant, along with names and dates of all the McGillites and their families. This will allow people in the future to search for family members and friends back to 1906.

Old Photos



Do you ever wonder, who built things in the old days. Well here is the crew that built the metal pipeline that supplies water to KCC.I. The wooden one was built in 1906 and was replaced in 1929 by these men.

Here is a picture of some folks standing on the original wooden pipeline, that was built in 1906. A lot of the staves from this line were used to build some of the houses at Ragtown and Steptoe. Some were also used in the construction of the 'Deer Lodge' on Berry Creek.



This was the wooden pipeline that supplied McGill's drinking water. The year was in 1908, the people are unknown. A metal pipe now brings the water from some 30 miles away at Duck Creek.