

-Newsletter275

Keith's Corner/McGill News

August 16, 2024

Clark/Ford Drugstore-Holt Jewelry

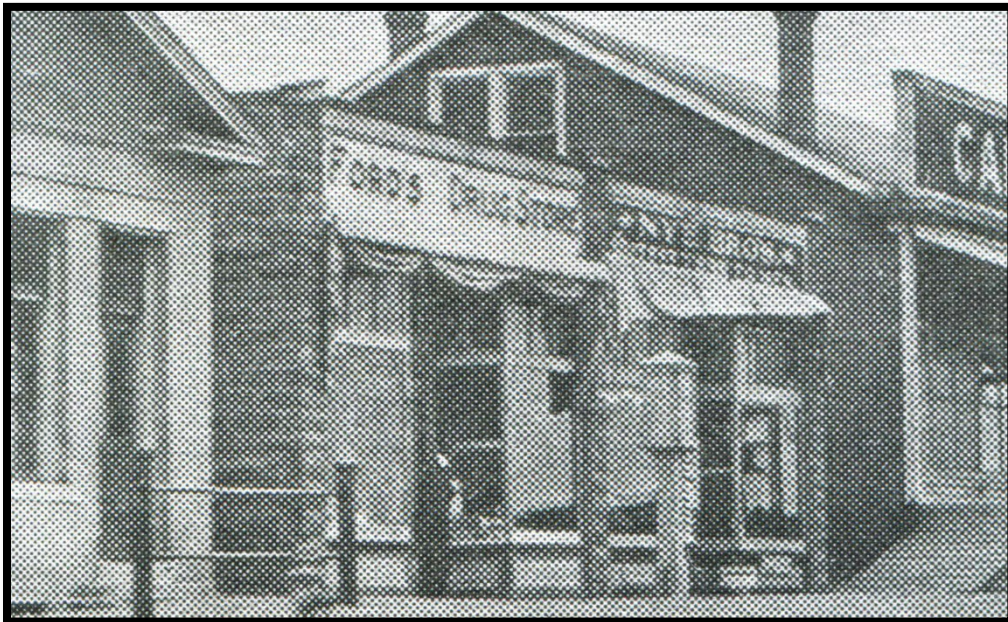
The northern half of the building that is now The McGill Antiques, has been occupied in the past by several different kinds of stores.

In 1907-08 Fred M. Clark of the Ely based Clark Drugstores, opened his Clark Drugstore in the new town of Smelter, as McGill was called at that time. He also was in business with Lindskog Jewelers.

One of the first managers of Clark's Drugstore was a Mr. J. H. Messinger.

On February 14. 1908, Walter Wells replaced Messinger as manager.

Sometime in 1913 Fred Clark leased his Smelter store to Mr. O.I. Ford. Mr. Ford changed the name to the Ford Drug Store. Here is an enlargement of another old photo showing the Ford Drug Store. On the right is the Nye Bros. and on the left is the bank building. At the extreme right is the huge Campton Store that later became Bradleys. The photo is grainy.



Mr. Ford was a very dishonest man. He leased the drugstore, but did not make a lease payment for several months. Mr. Clark apparently allowed Ford to skip payments for some time, but the whole deal fell failed in January 1914. Mr. Ford and his wife did some last minute shopping in East Ely, then drew all their money out of the bank and left the area. They also took some of the stock.

During the time that Clark and Ford ran the drugstore there was a jeweler on the premises. At times it was Lindskog Jewelers.

It was run by a J.A Clomings. In January of 1914 Mr. M. J. Holt arrived from Jordan, Utah and bought Clomings out.

I think that Fred Clark gave up on the place. After Holt had it for a few years it became the McGill Candy Kitchen and various other types of stores. I found reference to Mr. Holt in 1917, but I don't know when he left the area.

McGill News

A few exciting things have happened at eh McGill Drugstore. I got a call from a man in Washington D. C.. He is coming to McGill soon. to do some filming for a You Tube presentation of the Drugstore.

Mike Little, an avid collector of McGill artifacts made me an offer of trading a postcard for a 2 oz. prescription bottle that has McGill-Ely-East Ely-Steptoe Drug in raised letters on it. Now the McGill Drugstore was originally Steptoe Drug. It was changed to McGill Drug in 1912. So the bottle is at least 112 years old.

In Memory Of--



Today August 16th would have been my brother Paul's 90th birthday. This is a phot of him on active duty on a USAF radar base in Chitose , Japan, on Hokiado Island, a short distance from Russia. Paul died of cancer in December 1974. His Doctors in Salt Lake attributed the cancer to his long exposure to extremely high frequency radar levels. He was a great brother and I miss him greatly.

Old Photo



McGill Band—circa 1909