

Keith's Corner/McGill News

May 24, 2024

McGill Dairy Memories

Memories of the McGill Dairy still romp around in the space between my ears.

My fondest memory was when we heard the milk truck stop at our house on Christmas morning. We ran to the door to pick up the box of chocolates left there by Mr. Picollo and his helpers. The chocolates were from the McGill Community League.

Whenever the milk truck stopped at our house, someone would hurry and bring the milk bottles in and put them in the 'ice box' (refrigerator) as we called it back in those days. In the winter months if you didn't get the milk into the house quickly, the cream would start to freeze and push the paper lid off and rise up above the bottle top.

Whenever one of us young McGill heathens got sick with a disease like mumps, chicken pox, scarlet fever etc. etc., Dr. Hovie or Dr. Smernoff would put a red quarantine sign on the screen door to warn people to stay away from the house.

My Mom would place a large bowl or pan in front of the door and the milkman would empty our milk into the container. They would not leave the bottle. My Mom would bring the container in and put it in smaller containers for the fridge.

Growing up in McGill in the 30, 40s and 50s, we, McGill desperados, were accustomed to many different sounds. Most of them were of the daily ones, like the thumping of the jaw crusher at the mill, the thump, thump of the air compressor at the power house. The steam and diesel engines switching rail cars in the freight yard. The puf, puff of old #40 coming into townsite with the freight. The loud shift whistle at the power house. These were all very comforting sounds and I miss them very much.

One very comforting sound was the rattle of the milk bottles in the metal carrying basket that the milkman used to deliver the milk. I remember watching a movie just after WWII. It was about some American G. I.s in a Japanese prison. They had devised different American slang to confuse their jailers. One phrase they used was, 'when the milkman rattles the bottles', to denote, early in the morning.

Now here is a question for you to think about. What sounds do you hear every day that are comforting to you??

Bill Varney was working on a stationary hay chopper in the corral near the dairy barn when he suffered a terrible injury to his face, resulting in the loss of an eye. He had to have many surgeries over a period of years. I remember him wearing a bandage on his face for a long time. KCC moved him from the dairy and put him in as a labor gang foreman. I worked on his gang several times.

On July 1 1927, NCC bought out the McGill Dairy. They chose James Bell to be foreman of the dairy. James had been working on the Georgetown Ranch since 1922. He and his wife moved into the top house at the dairy #1, on August 16, 1927. When KCC sold the houses, they moved their house to D Row in townsite.

James ran the dairy for KCC until they decided to get out of the milk business in the late 1940s. I don't know the exact date.

Mr. Bell and his family leased the dairy from KCC. The lease did not contain the milk cows. They raised hay and rented the pasture. I and my brother Paul worked for Mr. Bell putting up the hay with his sons, Bob and Jim. They also leased pasture to the McGill Riding and Roping Club. During the summer months Mr. Bell leased some of the pasture to a Mr. Twissleman, from Texas who ran a large herd of Herford beef cattle. There were some Bhrama bulls in the herd.

Part of my job was to saddle up a horse named Pat each afternoon about 3 pm. I rode down into the pastures and rounded up the riding club horses and drove them up to the corrals by the roping arena for the cowboys getting off work at KCC.

All in all, the McGill Dairy was quite a place and had some great milk and cream.

Ever wonder who lived at the dairy?? Well, wonder no more!!

1-Dairy	six rooms and bath rents \$1.00
8-16-27	Bell, James 5083 Miss 3601

2-Dairy	<i>four</i> three rooms and bath rents \$12.00 <i>\$15.00</i>
6-15-43	Kump, Lyle <i>6010</i> 3215 3810 <i>8-2-54</i>
8-3-54	Cook, Robert 3735

	4 R + Bath, F.E.H. Jan 3, 1946	X
Dairy Residence #3	X & Bath Rents \$12.	
1-21-30	Bambrick, Harrison #3138	Vacated Mar. 31-30
4-1-30	Williamson R.L. 3118	" 8.29.35
8.29.35	Bambrick H. 3138 3261 ³²¹²	" 10-9-43
10.11.43	Whitesell, F.M. 3208	" 3.21.45 ✓
4.1.45	Mulliner J.V. # 3204 ³²¹¹ Took #4	
5.15.45	Doutre, Elmer S. #4129	" 5.24.45
4.5.46	Monroe, Chester F. #3218	" 7.17.46
8.13.46	Lani, Raymond L. #3208	

	4 - (9-23-46)	
Dairy Residence #4-	8 Rooms & Bath	Rents \$12.
"/25/32	Williamson G.L. 3120	Vacated 11/18/32
"/25/32	Salvi, Pete 3129	" 11/10/34
4/25/35	Salvi, Arthur #3129	6/4-44
6-7-44	Ashby, Paul #3207	3.31.45
4.7.45	Mulliner, J.V. #3204	922.46

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4/25/35	Salvi, Arthur #3129	6/4-44
6-7-44	Ashby, Paul #3207	3.31.45
4.7.45	Mulliner, J.V. #3204	922.46

	Dairy #5	
Dairy Residence	6 R. & Bath	Rents \$21.
2-1-30	J.W.Dobbs #2927	Vacated 5/1/32
"/10/34	Krumpholtz, M #2963	" 6/16/32
7/1/35	^{remains} Salvi, Peter 3129	" 7-1-35
5/29/41	Salvi, Marcus #3134 3203	" 5.5.41
12.16.44	Blackham, J.O. 3048	" 12.15.44
6.16.45	Bench, LaVerl #2434	" 6-15.45
	Blackham, Don O. #3231	

