

Newsletter252

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

March 8, 2024

### Bridge Building Experts

There are lots of famous bridges in the USA, such as the Golden Gate, The Bay Bridge, but how many people know of a unique bridge in Whit Pine.

Due to neglect and the ravages of Person Nature (pc), it is no longer with us. Luckily, I just happen to have probably the only photo of the bridge. Here is the great engineering marvel of 1948 for your enjoyment.



It was built to blend in with the nearby natural surroundings. . Notice the superb use of local materials. . We didn't want to use man made materials like

cement or steel beams because we were Boy Scouts and were taught to be innovative and use the materials at hand.

Once the proper design was agreed on, we searched the area for the right materials. The large support logs we found a long way up the mountain. Utilizing a unique log hitch from our extensive knowledge of knots and a long rope we snaked the logs to the site.

While we 'mules' were moving the large logs, some of the other Scouts were laying out the bridge. Wooden pins were driven into the ground on both ends. Using a Boy Scout sighting compass, a center line was established by turning 60 degree angles from both ends of the bridge and on both sides.

The support logs were placed with the big ends under the bridge line and the tops joined on the center line forming a triangle. Both support triangles were pulled into a perpendicular position with ropes. Our plumb line was a small rock tied on a long string. A line from each end of the bridge was marked on the supports and a notch cut for a cross brace. With the cross brace secured on both sides of the triangle, we had our support for the walkway and hand rails to be built. All joints were bound tight with large and small ropes. Since the area was not a jungle we used ropes instead of vines. That was our only submission to manmade materials.

Now, 78 years later, I can look back at that photo and recall what a wonderful experience it was. We were at the beautiful Success Boy Scout Camp for a week of learning and having fun.

We learned to work together as a team, share both the burden of the job and the feeling of satisfaction upon completing the bridge. What a wonderful feeling of accomplishment surged over us Scouts as we walked across the bridge for the first time. The bridge itself may not have survived the past 78 years, but those feeling are still alive and well.

Here are the bridge building experts.



I-r—Fred Parry, Bob Pratt, Dick Stoops, Ed Pesout



I-r—Dick Bradley, Jimmy Joe Carlson, \_\_Jenkins, Ed Pesout, James Hoagland, ??, Jimmy Madsen.

Hope I got the names correct. If not, let me know. Also those I couldn't remember.



The Boy Scout program was a big part of my life as a young McGill heathen. It taught us discipline, how to take care of ourselves in any situation, a true love of nature and country.

The day after building the bridge we back packed several miles to the top of Water Canyon. We stayed overnite and used our camping skills. The next morning we had the annual snowball fight on the large snowbank. The area below the snow is filled with skunk cabbage. More lifelong memories.



## McGill News

Good News. Elaine Blackham, told me about a possible Rio Tinto program for McGill. I applied for it and we received a donation to be used for advertising and scanning. It should bring in lot of new visitors to our Museum. Thank you, Rio Tinto, for helping McGill to thrive and not end up another ghost town.

