

Keith's Corner/McGill News

February 16, 2024

Steve's Pool Hall

The one and only, "Steve's Pool Hall", was located in the block just west of White Pine High School on Aultman. It was an ideal location for us so called 'pool sharks'. It was just right for us to escape out of the gulag and find some sanctuary at Steve's.

We McGill creatures usually had a sack lunch, so we scooted up to Steve's and sat on the several benches along the wall and ate our homemade bread sandwiches. The odor of bologna drifted all around the room. The clicking of the pool balls was music to our ears after the classroom lectures we had been subjected to all morning.

Another feature was the absence of girls. Pool halls in those days were off limits to girls. That was the case in my freshman and sophomore years, but in my junior year, we McGill heathens started getting friendly with girls and some of us ended up going steady. I succumbed along with my buddies and going to Steve's for lunch was out of the question. It is sometimes referred to as a change in one's lifestyle, or something like that. I was going steady with a cute girl, Von Nell Bradley from East Ely. We usually had lunch with Jim Bell and his steady gal, Joan Tilby. On nice warm days we sat on the lawn in front of the Courthouse.

Steve's pool hall never missed us as there was a new crew of pool sharks every year.

Steve operated the place himself with some help from his son John Demos. Steve had to put in a tremendous number of hours each week. I think he was open at least 6 days a week. The days were long and lasted into the evenings.

Steve walked with a limp and it was known that he had a wooden leg. I always thought he lost the leg in WWI or WWII. I didn't know until much later that he lost it due to a blast from a shotgun.

It was way back in August of 1932. At that time, Steve was raising his 2 young sons, John and Jerry. Steve's wife had died in 1931.

During the evening of August 23, Steve was at Tony Staupoulos' house. Mrs. Staupoulos was caring for one of Steve's sons. Another man, Gus Kallas was there and made some remarks about Mrs. Staupoulos and Steve took him outside. A fist fight erupted. Gus threatened to shoot Steve.

At about 9 a.m., August 24th, Steve was on his way home from the Kopas butcher shop. As he passed by Gus Kallas' house, Gus stepped out on his back porch with a double barrel shotgun. He told Steve, "I have a shell for you", and fired. The charge hit Steve in the knee. Steve was rushed to the Steptoe hospital in Ely, where he was to lose his leg just above the knee.

A search was soon underway for Kallas. Several Deputies were involved. They searched the lime Quarry and other places, but could not find Kallas. Later he turned himself into the county sheriff.

He was arraigned on an intent to commit murder charge, which he pled not guilty. He later changed his plea to guilty of intent to commit bodily harm and received 1-2 years.

Steve had to be very tough. He was a hard worker and made his own way in life.

I have very vivid memories of hustling up to Steve's Pool Hall during lunch period. Steve was always behind the small L-shaped counter that contained a variety of candy bars and other goodies. Most candy or peanuts were priced at 5 cents.

In the back of the place was an oil stove. I remember huddling there by it during the cold winter. The whole experience of the place is a memory worth having.

McGill News

McGill's world famous Drugstore Museum made the Nevada Magazine this fall and winter.

FROZEN IN TIME

Transport to the past in these
time-capsule museums.

Everyone knows that museums are filled with exhibits, but what does it look like when the building itself is the exhibit? If you're looking to do a bit of time travel, we've got a few locations around the Silver State to recommend.

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



MUSEUMS



Early in 2023, I was putting together a plan to do some advertising nationwide. Now that is easy to do, if you have a big budget, but we don't have that luxury. Then, I got an email from Margit Bown, a world class photographer and graphics designer. She and her husband Brian had visited the Drugstore earlier. They loved the place and became a subscriber to my Newsletter. She offered to do some graphics for me, so I sent her some photos and she came up with a nice "rack card" that is for hotels and motels etc. She came up with the 'Frozen In Time heading for the cards. I have handed out about 300 of these cards.

Also in early 2023. I had the pleasure of showing the place to 2 members of the Nevada Lt. Governor's Tourism Board, Cortney Bloomer and Cathy Ritter and a little later, Sarah Patton of the Nv. Historical Society. Then Marci Hagerman of Boise emailed me that she was building a website for my NLs.

Don't know what the impact of all this was, but things started to happen. NPR did a radio interview with me and put it on the internet—Postcard McGill Drugstore Museum. Nevada Rural TV did a spot. A guy waling across the US put a video of us on his site—I like Mike. Nikki D. put a nice video on You Tube—NikkiDelventhal.com. A local man, Gary Stokes did a video for You Tube and 2 weeks later I had 2 guys from Ireland that saw it and stopped .

A lady photographer from a German Magazine took a lot of photos. A German man did an oral interview with me to go on a radio station in Germany. The head Professor of Photography at the U. of Japan in Tokyo took lots of photos.

This is all like a snowball rolling down a hill getting bigger. We should have a lot of visitors this summer.