

Newsletter292

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

December 13-+

, 2024

Dr. W. B. Ririe



**Dr. Ririe**

Every time I go to the William B. Ririe Clinic and Hospital, I think of 'ole Doc' Ririe. I was a close friend of his son, John and had several encounters with Dr. Ririe over many years.

Dr. Ririe was born in Canada and spent several years as a youth in China, where his father was a Missionary. During the famous Boxer Rebellion, Americans were not safe there. It was hard to leave China safely during those days. Dr. Ririe's father was a friend of the ruler of China and was able to obtain a certificate of safe travel across China for his son. Dr. Ririe and his belongings in a large trunk, were put on the famed Orient Express train and he made it safely to Canada. He graduated from McGill University Medical School.

He was the KCC company doctor in Ruth for several years and then moved to McGill in the late 1940s.

Young John and I became good friends and did many crazy things. After high school, John went to Colorado State and then to Utah State in Logan, Utah. I was at the U. Of Utah and so we managed to visit each other, when we could. One Friday in May of 1956 or 57, John called and asked if I wanted to ride to Provo and pick up Dr. Ririe's father. The old guy was arriving that Saturday and we would take him to McGill. I agreed and the next day we picked him up at the airport and headed for McGill. John and I had picked up some bottles of coke and a bottle of Jim Beam. I was sitting in the back seat and Mr. Ririe was up front with John. After we were out of Provo John asked me to get him one of those cokes. I knew what he meant and opened a bottle and filled the neck with some Jim Beam. I handed it to him and Mr. Ririe, asked if he could have one. I opened a coke and handed it to him. He took a drink and handed it back to me and asked for one like John had. So, we all enjoyed a coke high. Now Mr. Ririe was 101 years old at that time. He told us some great stories about China.

Many, many years later, John and I were both living in Grants Pass, Oregon. The first time I visited him, I noticed an old trunk in the hallway and above it on the wall was a large, slightly yellowed, parchment like scroll. John explained that that was the certificate of safe travel that Dr. Ririe used to get out of China, when he was a young boy. The trunks had some of the stuff he took on the train.

Dr. Ririe was one of the last doctors that made house calls and spent time with his patients. When my dog, Tuffy, was run over by a WP County dump truck,(The driver never even stopped), I called Dr. Ririe and then took Tuffy to the clinic. Dr. Ririe came outside with a shot to put him out. He checked him over and told me that he couldn't find anything broken. He wrote a prescription for pain and I took Tuffy back home. Every day for a week, Dr. Ririe stopped in to see Tuffy. When Tuffy saw the Doc, he would wag his tail. He recovered fully.

Dr. Ririe in my opinion would be the missing link between old country family doctors and the modern, "take these pills and come back in 2 weeks" medics

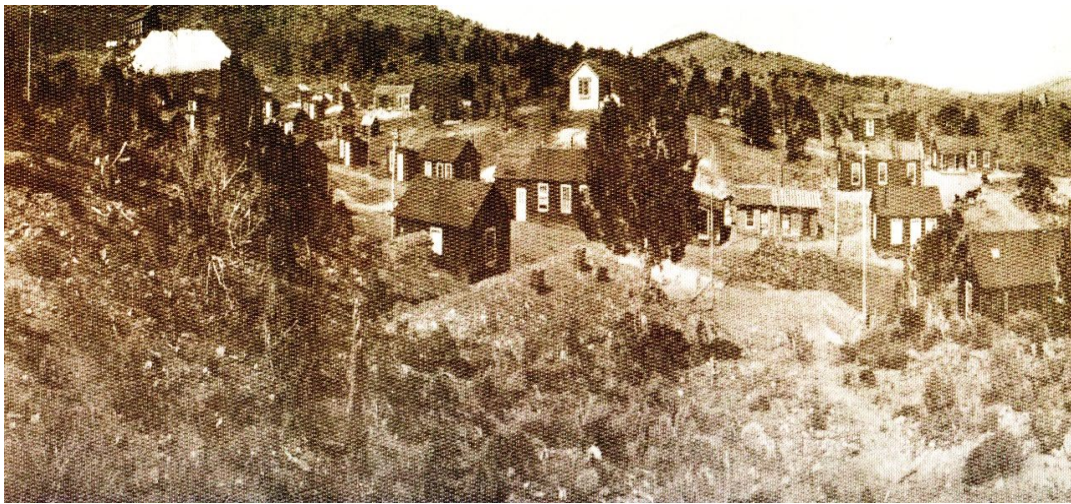
He had a great bedside manner. He made house calls and did rounds at the hospital. He delivered babies at home sometimes. He was a friend to everyone.

Dr. Ririe was a great asset to the county and was liked by everyone. His legacy is the Hospital and Clinic named after him.

## McGill News

Talk about coincidences, I got a call from a man that is doing oral interviews with people about the atomic testing and downwinders. I just did two Newsletters on the same topic. He is going to interview me sometime this week.

## Old Photo



The bustling town of Copper Flat in it's heyday. The Nevada Con. Copper's Eureka Shaft is at the top left. I don't know what year this photo was taken. Anybody know??