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Keith's Corner/McGill News

March 22, 2024

McGill Ranch House



The William N. McGill residence at the McGill Ranch. Later destroyed by fire. (Nevada Historical Society Collection)

The McGill Ranch house was built by W. N. McGill at great expense. It was built before the railroad arrived in McGill, so the materials for the house were transported by horse and wagon for over 200 miles. I

The McGill family lived there until the ranch was sold to the Nevada Consolidated Copper Co.. NCC purchased the property to build the mill and smelter in McGill. There was a Post Office at the ranch from 1891-1906.

After the McGill family moved out of the house, NCC made it into a dormitory. In February, 1907, Joseph P. Gavsam, the new General Manager of NCC moved into the house. Later on, the house was used as a dormitory for NCC workers.

On August 28, 1912, the ranch house burned to the ground.

The fire was first reported at 8 a.m. and the Smelter fire department and a group of volunteers quickly arrived at the scene. The firemen had two hose lines

working, but were unable to save the structure. They did manage to keep the fire from spreading to other buildings.

The cause of the fire was never determined.



The loss was a blow to the folks of McGill. There had been many outings and celebrations held there over the years.

The 4th of July celebrations were held at the ranch. The festivities started with the arrival at the McGill train depot, of folks from surrounding towns. They were met with the local band and some speeches. Then, they marched down to the ranch house for a picnic. Later they played games and watched a baseball game being played in the local pasture-(later the McGill Dairy).

The fire was the end of a short and colorful part of the history of McGill.



McGill News

We have had a few days of spring weather/ Not much wind and lots of sunshine. Temps in the mid 60s. But, most of us McGill heathens know that more snow is still to come. The bitter cold temps around zero are pretty much over, yet it is not spring enough to plant anything outside.

Old Photo



The electric locomotive #80, that pushed the ore cars in to the rotary crusher building at the mill. It must have been a very boring job doing for 8 hours. I don't know who the engineer is standing in the doorway. I did know 3 engineers that worked on the locomotive at different times—Roy Sullivan, J.M. Turner and Dan Bush.