

Newsletter269

Keith's Corner/McGill News

July 5, 2024

Great5 Basin National Park

The Great Basin National Park is a beautiful addition to the US National Parks system.

It was opened in 1986 and comprises over 100 square miles.

I was working for Mary Petrilli at the Fireside Inn. I was the bar manager and part time room clerk for the adjacent motel.

Several days before the Grand Opening, it was rumored that President Reagan was going to be here to officially open the park.

I watched an Air Force fighter jet make several landings and takeoffs from every direction and use every runway. I suppose it was to check out if Air Force 1 could land safely. President Reagan did come. Maybe it was not safe to land Air Force 1. Whatever the reason, there were a lot of out of town visitors.

Late in the afternoon of the day before the ceremony, I had several of the motel residents rush in and tell me that someone had shot a hole through the walls of their rooms. I went over to the motel and saw that everyone was outside hollering about being shot at. A man that rented a room on the west end approached and told me that he had fired the shot. He said it was an accident. We went into his room and he showed me that he had taken a pistol out of his suitcase and it went off. He thought it was empty as he had been shooting it the day before. He showed me his credentials as he was an FBI/Secret Service Agent. Then the police showed up and took him into town. Later, the sheriff called and told us that he had been released and confirmed that he was with the FBI/Secret Service.

The man came into the Inn and told me that he would pay for all damages. He then went out and apologized to all the people. He left me his address.

Mary contacted a contractor and got a quote. I went with the contractor and saw the damage. The bullet was probably an armor plated one. It went through 4 rooms before embedding in a wall. The walls were half inch sheet rock.

The bullet went through the first wall and passed through the shade of a lamp sitting on a table between the two twin beds. The people were sitting on the edges of the bed talking and the bullet went between them. It veered upward and went thru the next wall and came out at eye level below a clothes rack and just missing a man hanging up a jacket.

The bullet veered upward some more and then went thru the next wall and into the next room and embedded in the far wall.

The only obstacle it hit was the lamp shade. The sheet rock walls didn't slow it down.

It was a miracle that nobody was hit.

As far as I know there were no charges made against the FBI/Secret Service man. He left town immediately. He mailed a check to Mary to pay the contractor in full.

The next day a Japanese family came in to register. The father, several times, asked me in broken English, "where houses". I told him they were in Ely's red light district. His son told me, that he meant where are all the houses. They had driven from Reno and the father kept wondering where the houses and people were. They were stunned at all the open country.

McGill News

We have been working on the outside of the Drugstore. By the end of July the whole outside of the place will be sealed, painted and ready for the next 50 years.



Putting the final coat on the outside walls. It will lighten up as it dries. Should be close to the colore of the tin roof.

Old Subjects -New Photo

These handsome young men posed for a photo at their 70 year Reunion. WPHS Class of 1954.



Keith, Claude, Walt

