

Newsletter258

Keith's Newsletter/McGill News

April 19, 2024

Ragtown

Ragtown is what we McGill heathens called the little settlement north of McGill and west of Steptoe City. Many other folks call Ragtown by the name, Ragdump. Maybe that might be correct in the sense that rags were dumped there. There is plenty of evidence that 'slag' from the smelter was dumped there, why didn't they call it Slagdump or Slagtown?? Check out Newsletter60.

I remember hiking up to Ragtown in 1948-49. There were several of us McGill explorers blazing the way for future generations. We didn't go into the housing area, but stayed on the outskirts, because we were wary of old Lady Moore. She lived there and would walk to town to shop once a week. She always carried a black leather shopping bag. We all believed that she would grab kids, cut out their tongues and carry them in the bag.

We never saw her that day.

We did find an entrance to an underground mine. It was a large hole in the ground with a ladder. Some of our group climbed down the ladder to explore the mine. The rest of us headed back to McGill. The ones that went down the ladder found some dynamite and some blasting caps. Two of the boys tried to set off a charge and ended up losing some fingers. The next gulag school day, the Sheriff gave us all a lecture on leaving blasting stuff alone.

Here are some interesting tidbits about Ragtown.

On July 18, 1909, William Twist sued J. H. Ludke for \$100, for damages to Mr. Twist's house. Ludke had his driver ram Ludke's car into the side of Twist's house.

January 10, 1915, the White Pine County Com. closed the saloons in Ragtown after complaints by McGill citizens.

June 8, 1920, C. W. Wiggins was given a “floater” out of the area. He had been arrested for a stabbing and shooting in Ragtown and was put in the county jail. The WP Comm. decided that it was too expensive to feed him so they told him to leave the area and not come back.

February 16, 1924, a District Judge in Carson City ruled that Mary Hill’s Roadhouse and the Ragtown Roadhouse were to be closed for 9 months for letting

The earliest item I could find was on December 12, 1908—George Lukttrell and C. J. Russell were arrested and held on \$50 bonds for beating up H. G. Weal at a saloon at Ragtown.

I found a July 20, 1908 photo that may show the beginning of Ragtown.

Could be the 2 white tents at the left center, above the 2 stacks.



I think the photo was taken from a point below the old dairy/swimming pool area. I remember a cement block building in that area that had a smokestack. It was thought to have been a steam laundry.

I don't know what all those buildings were. In those days buildings were put up in a short time and were either moved or torn down in a few years. I think a lot of these buildings were probably horse barns. There were a lot of horses used in the construction of the copper plant.

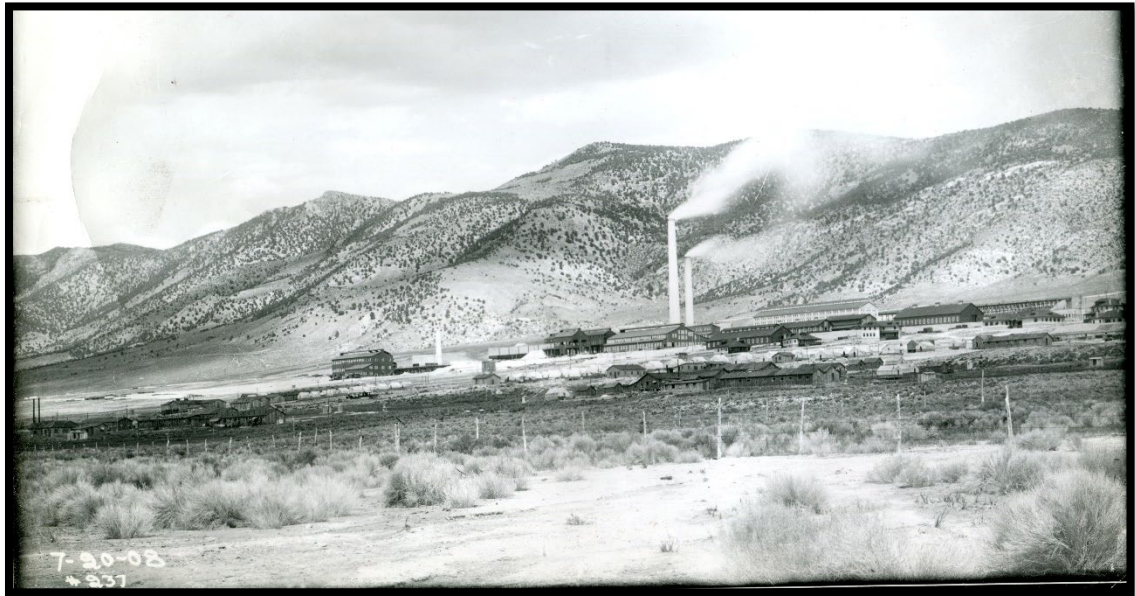
Hopefully, some future writer will find some more photos and figure this out.

McGill News

I recently received a \$3700.00 Grant from Rio Tinto. This money will be used to buy a desktop computer and some scanning equipment so that we can start an advertising campaign for the Drugstore and to finish scanning the many thousands of pages of invoices and other paperwork stored at the Drugstore. These scanned records will eventually end up in the National Archives in D.C. There will be copies for the WP Library and the McGill Library. It will take a lot of time and effort, but needs to be done.

Old Photo

This is the photo that I enlarged a portion of for the above article on Ragtown.



There are a lot of interesting things in this photo. I will work on this in the near future.