

Newsletter321

Keith's Corner/McGill News

June 27, 2025

Kilroy Was Here !!

This was a very famous slogan during and after World War II. It was written along side a “doodle” depicting a bald headed, big nosed man peering over a wall.

The ‘doodle’ and slogan were thought to have been originated by a James Kilroy (1902-1962), a welding inspector at a WWII shipyard. He was an inspector of welding and marked the areas he inspected with the slogan.

The slogan and doodle were soon picked up and used by servicemen all over the WWII area. Depictions of it were seen in Africa, Far East, Europe and many other countries that our soldiers had been stationed.

It was found, written in white chalk on a charred wall of a barn in Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. It appeared so much in the European Theater, that the German Army reported it to Hitler. He thought it must be some sort of spy system and ordered an investigation.

During the POTSDAM meeting between FDR, Churchill and Stalin , it was reported that Stalin had noted that he saw “Kilroy Was Here” on a wall in the VIP bathroom.

It has been found on structures such as the Brooklyn Bridge, the U.S. WWII Memorial in D.C.

It was even found on the Statue of Liberty.

I remember us McGill heathens writing it on walls. It was graffiti in a sense, but we used chalk instead of spray paint.

Kilroy has been found all over the world and is a reminder of how Americans have been in so many places.

Sometimes other names were used, such as flywheel, schmoe and even SAPO. The only one I can recall as a kid was SAPO. I think it means a sap or idiot.

The British counterpart was a Mr. Chad and the Australians had their Foo.

The Kilroy was here doodle was drawn on many of the large shells and bombs used in WWII.

McGill News

The work in the back storerooms is almost done. The mold and dry rot has been taken care of and the walls have been insulated and the sheet rock has been hung. Have to mud the joints and cover the screws and then prime and paint. The next step will be putting up shelves and the final step will be to put

the many old bottles, display items and scanned records on the shelves.



Chris Grant has been working on the canopy sections. He sands them and then cleans them. Next, he paints them with a semi glossy outdoor enamel. We can't put them up until we get the front of the store scrubbed, pressure washed, primed and painted. It takes time, but it will be nice when finished.

