

Newsletter317

Keith's Corner/McGill News

May 30. 2025

McGill Football-Part 2

The first few years, 1906, 07, and 08, of the town of McGill were used to build the mill and smelter that provided McGillites with a nice monthly payroll. Those years also saw the formations of several baseball teams.

Then in September of 1909 football was started. Men were playing on the pastures of the McGill Ranch for fun and soon a team was formed. The team was called, The Steptoe Valley Football Team. Uniforms were ordered and a series of games were scheduled with the Ely Football Team.

The first game was set of October 31. The game was to be played at the East Ely ballpark. I am not sure just where that was located.

There was a tremendous amount of excitement throughout the area. Leading up to the game day.

Nevada Northern Railway announced the schedule for special trains to run from McGill and Ruth in the local papers. The McGill team was to be quartered at the Steptoe Hotel in East Ely. Game day saw large crowds of people in the East Ely district.

Both teams had new uniforms and the players were primed and ready for action.

The lineups were=

Ely McGill

Dickerman	LE	Fay
Pickett	LG	Curtis
Reeves	LT	Holmes
Schaeffer	Center	Henton
McLucas	RG	Tippett
Collins	RT	Watkins
Rice	RE	Smith
Kieley	QB	Burns
Gourman	FB	Dunkle
McGill	LH	Graham
Worthington	RH	Robbins

Referee----H. R. Plate

The first game on October 31, 1909 was played at East Ely. McGill won by a score of 12-0.

A second game was played on November 7, 1909. McGill won this one by a score of 11-5.

I am sure that some of you football fans are wondering how that score was attained. Well, a little football history is noted as follows-

1883-A TD was 4 points and the PAT was 2 points.

1897—A TD was 5 points and the PAT was 1 point

1910—Game was changed from 2 halves to 4 quarters.

1912-A TD was 6 points and a PAT was 1 point like it is today.

The only picture I have ever found of the McGill team called the Steptoe Valley Football Team is this one---



The caption indicates that this was the first team and they played a game in Nov. 1909. The first game was October 31, 1909 and this picture was taken in front of the grandstand at the McGill ballpark that was located between H and I avenues and 3rd and 4th streets. I recognize mill in the background and also the board fence, so I am sure this was taken around 1912. I will research it further and let you know.

Sometimes pictures are not dated correctly and get passed on and end up confusing us. I found the next photo that I used in my book—McGill Memories chapter 6.



The McGill Football team, 1910. The individual kneeling in the front row, fourth from the left was J. C. Kinnear, Sr. (Courtesy Nevada Mines Division, Kennecott)

The date is 1910 and the board fence of the McGill ballpark is in the background. The ballpark was built in 1912, I thought.

This stuff gets complicated and frustrating., but interesting.

Mr. J. C. Kinnear is in the picture. I do know that he started at Nevada Con. Copper on October 2, 1910, but I can't find him on the football roster as reported in Oct. 30, 1910 newspaper. Me. Kinnear was also a great baseball player and played center field.

Roster—Mng. Hogan, Ends-Richards, Clifton, Marsh-Tackles-Solomon, Vaughn, McNaughton Gurads-Holmes, Seebaum QB-Hogan Backfield-Rhue, Rigson, Miller, O'Neil. Center -Hunter.

Was the ballpark built in 1910 or 1912. I hope to find the answer.