

Newsletter319

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

June 13, 2025

### Coyote Tales (not tails)

The coyote is often seen running thru the sagebrush in our area. They are hunted a lot and are blamed for a lot of damage to livestock and game animals. They are called all sorts of names, some good, but mostly bad ones. They are called mangy and if you are lucky enough to see one in the wild, you will understand the name. Another named bestowed on them is wiley. I like that one the most. My favorite cartoon was 'The Road Runner and the Wiley Coyote'. Speaking of such, why aren't there any good cartoons now days?

I think they are very smart and highly creative. They manage to live in cities. I saw several in a neighborhood in Beaverton Oregon. I have heard of them in other big cities.

My experience with them has been while working on hay ranches.

One time while baling hay at night on a local ranch I saw a large jackrabbit sipping along in the headlights of the tractor with a young coyote right behind. The rabbit was too fast for the young coyote. The soon ran out of the light and into the black darkness. A little later I saw the rabbit speeding along again, but this time with a larger coyote chasing him. I never saw them again, but I assume the rabbit lost the race. I have seen coyotes use this technique while chasing deer. The coyotes usually win.

One day, while raking hay for Bob Tromley on his large 360 acre pivot near Lund, Nv, I got to watch a Wiley coyote at work. I was raking two

large windrows of hay into one large one, when a large coyote appeared out of nowhere into the area between the windrows. He stayed about 20 feet in front of the tractor. If I stopped he would run ahead and wait for me. Pretty smart.

He would walk along with his head tipped to one side and then the other. I surmised he was listening for something. All of a sudden he would leap high into the air and then dive head down into the windrow. He would come up with a mouse or gopher and quickly swallow it. The tractor and the rake were scaring the mice and he could hear them running thru the windrow of hay. I counted over a dozen that he caught in a short time. He left, but was back the next day.

I, being of possible, but not likely sound mind and a former McGill heathen and scientific researcher in my youth, my brain cells started vibrating and soon a wise thought emerged. Mice eat hay and coyotes eat mice. Why do ranchers kill coyotes? I later talked with Bob Gardner and Bob Tromley and they both said that they let them alone.

Many times after that I observed coyotes chasing rabbits and other critters in the hay fields at night while baling hay.

## McGill News

One day while Chris was working in the back room he noticed some dirt and gravel under the bottom steps. He moved the steps and started cleaning the dirt up, when he noticed something shiny still in the dirt that didn't fall. It was a bottle.



No markings on it. Guess it was tossed in the back fill probably in the 1920s.

## Old Photo



The mill fire of 1922. It was huge.