

Newsletter311

Keith's Corner/McGill News

April 18, 2025

## Prunepeddlers vs. Pendraggers

That is quite a mouthful, but it is the title of a basketball game in McGill as reported in the Ely Daily Times, March 1, 1930. The Prunepeddlers team was the name given to the McGill \boarding House players. The Pendraggers were the Nev. Con. Copper office team. They both belonged to the McGill Men's Basketball League and were fierce rivals. The Prunepeddlers won by a score of 27-20. Bob Pratt and Ross Benson of the Prunepeddlers played a fantastic fourth quarter to win the game for their team.



McGill Commissary and Boarding House.

The Boarding House was the northern half of the large building. It was the feeding place for the single men that worked at the copper plant. The southern half of the building was called the Commissary. If my memory is correct, Bami Hale ran the Commissary and Ross Benson ran the Boarding House.

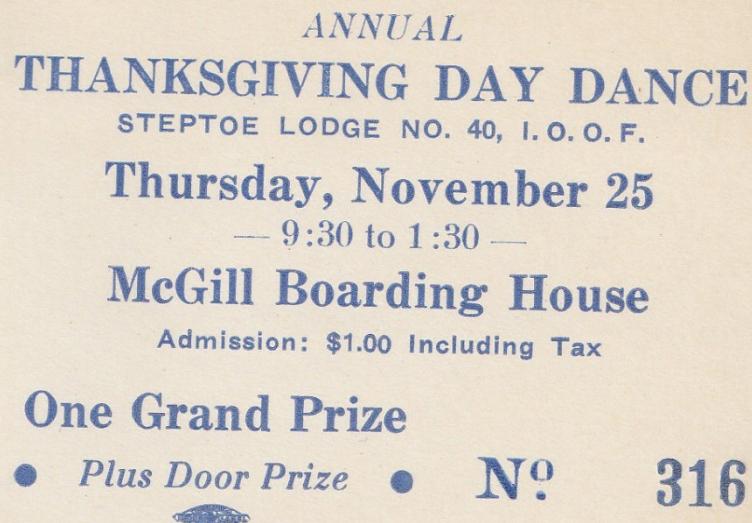
The Boarding house was used for many events. I remember the big 20-30-40 year Parties the copper company had to honor the years of service by employees. The place was packed with employees and their families. Speeches were given by the General Manager and other big shots and then awards were given out to the employees. After the awards, a great dinner was served and usually a dance followed. McGill folks at that time did a lot of dancing. Then the 'boob tube' came along and changed things.

I personally don't ever remember eating there, even though I think they served anyone. The single men ate there and they lived in the Clubhouse or some of the one story dorms along forth , fifth and sixth streets.

The Boarding House was not limited to copper company events as noted by the following events.



LDS Church event



Oddfellows and Rebekah Lodge



American Legion event.

Dances were very popular back in the 30s, 40s and 50s. McGill folks did lots of things together back then. I don't see it any more. What a shame.

## Old Photo



The remains of the original mill, after the 1922 fire. People ask me how it could have burned when it was a tin building. There were huge wooden ore bind on the top side of the building. The ore trains used to dump the ore directly into them. It was these wooden bins that created the heat to destroy the whole building.

Last Sunday I had a surprise visitor. It was Nikki Delventhal. She is the one that did the You Tube video last year that has helped bring us visitors from around the world. You can go to her site—[nikkidelventhal.co-](http://nikkidelventhal.co-). Put in “Frozen In Time” to see what she did. Thanks Nikki