

## Keith's Corner/McGill News

May 9, 2025

### Spring Break 1950s-Part 2

The sun disappeared over the mountain heading west. The golden sky reminded us to get our bedrolls set up for the night. We huffed and puffed to fill up our air mattresses. I didn't like the feel of the many ribs of a firmly filled mattress, so I left my filled just enough not to feel the rocks. Then we unrolled our sleeping bags, covered them with a large waterproof tarp. It will protect our sleeping bags from the morning frost.

We put our jackets on, as the approaching darkness swirled around us, dropping the temperature down into the middle 30s.

Jimmy stoked up the fire, Paul dragged some logs over to sit on, while I made some 'on the trail coffee'. (that is coffee made in a blue or black enameled pot with speckles of white. The coffee grounds are scattered on top of the water and a fresh green twig is laid on the top of the pot to prevent it from boiling over) . Don't ask me how that works, it just does.

Soon, we were drinking coffee, eating some of our Mom's homemade oatmeal cookies. That had to be one of the best desserts ever known, especially out there in the throes of Person Nature. (PC). The red hue of the sunset was moving out of the way of the approaching darkness.

We noticed the first star to appear, while chatting about what we wanted to do the next day.

A soft cool breeze drifted down from the mountains, to replace the warm air of the valley. Our backs were getting cold, so we turned around to feel the warmth of the fire on our backs.

Looking away from the fire, our eyes quickly adjusted to the full darkness of the night. The sky was completely full of stars and we could make out the Milky Way, the Big Dipper and even the Small Dipper.

Everything around us was now various shades of black, none of the beautiful colors such as the greenery of the trees and bushes. The spring flowers in bloom around our campsite are now colorless. It is Nature's way of taking a rest after a long day. We take the hint and start getting ready to 'hit the hay', or in our case the hard ground.

We stoke up the fire, make sure our food is protected from any pesky night raiders. Put on a clean pair of socks. Our Boy Scout training taught us that little gem of knowledge. The socks worn during the day have some moisture from sweating inside our boots. This moisture gets very cold during the night.

Next, we fold our jackets, Levis and put them under the tarp. No, we rough and tough men of the mountains don't wear pjs.

The sleeping bag is cold at first, but quickly gets warm and comfortable.

As the fire dies down to a red glow of embers, we notice the sky is getting a bit lighter as the moon sneaks up over the mountain. That is an awesome sight. Nature is so great when you are out in it and actually a part of it. City dudes usually see photos, but to be there is so much better.

Photos are nice, but they don't have the feeling of being there and hearing the sounds of the night, the various smells drifting along with the cool breeze. No traffic noises or smells, just fresh clean air and quiet noises.

We can hear some deer going thru the brush to get a drink at the creek. A night owl is them for making too much noise. These things tell us what a small part of Nature we really are.

We pull the tarp over our faces to block out the cold breeze that seems to be increasing and soon with the babbling of the stream we are soon in la la land.

## McGill



News

We finally got a Museum sign for the side of the place, so the northbound travelers can see that we are not, just a Drugstore. Several of the snow birds have told me that they didn't stop because they didn't need anything from a drug store. We have an identical sign for

the front of the building and will be putting it up soon. Bob Dewhurst of Goldfield made the signs.

Bill Chan, who is on the staff of U. S. Senator Masto was a recent visitor at the Drugstore. He liked the place and said he will try to bring the Senator in for a visit later this summer.

I also had 3 young men from Greenland visit us. They gave me a lot of information about Greenland. I didn't know that one of their major exports was aluminum. They have ore shipped in from other countries and smelt it and then make huge rolls of aluminum sheeting for shipping to other countries.

## Old Photo



The old Steptoe Hospital in East Ely.