

Keith's Corner/McGill News

July 18, 2025

Competition

When taking visitors through the drugstore museum, I usually mention the baseball heritage we have in McGill. I point out that, our American Legion Junior League teams won 18 state championships between 1925 and 1956. Kennecott and the McGill Community League built the best ballpark in Nevada for our young champions and for the rest of us McGill heathens to play sandlot baseball and aspire to get good enough to make the team.

The first question I get from visitors around the world is—what happened??

My standard answer-lack of spirited competition.

During my tenure as a young heathen in McGill I was involved in competition all the time. Like, shooting marbles. Basketball in the alley with the neighborhood heathens.

Down at the swimming pool it was the rough, “King of Bunker Hill” on the life rafts. It was a rough game and lots of skin was scraped off of shins and arms. Same as tackle football on the dirt ballpark.

No matter what the game was or how many were involved, if you lost you went home and vowed to do better. The games were fun, but so was the feeling of competing and being a part of the game, instead of being a bystander and just watching. The old saying about being in the ring where the action is, was our motto.

We loved to compete with others or even by ourselves, such as throwing a baseball on the roof and catching it as it rolled off. We would try to reach a higher number of catches today than we did yesterday. No matter what the activity, this drive to compete and better ourselves helped us achieve goals in later life.

McGill kids did great in the big world because of 2 reasons. One was the drive to compete. The second was the fact that we could do so many different things than most city kids. We were usually at the ballpark, the pool, or hunting and fishing. Some kids had horses at the local corrals. Dan Bush had a horse and liked to spend his time in the mountains. He became an international hunter and helped capture Jaguars for zoos.

Ted Oakberg liked math and physics. He got his Phd. And I believe became the head of the physics department at the University of Washington.

It didn't matter what field of endeavor, McGill brats did well and it was because of the drive to compete and better ourselves.

It is still here in McGill, but not as prevalent. I blame, TV, video games, smart phones and participation trophies. These have combined to stifle competition especially on the physical side of growing up. I always believed that participating in physical activities during youth are important for mental health maturity.

I talk with a lot of young people between the ages of 12 and 20. Many of them seem to be stuck at the 4th grade level. They appear to be unhappy and bored. However, I talk with kids 4 to 10 and they are bright and ask good questions and seem interested in learning. They appear to be very happy kids.

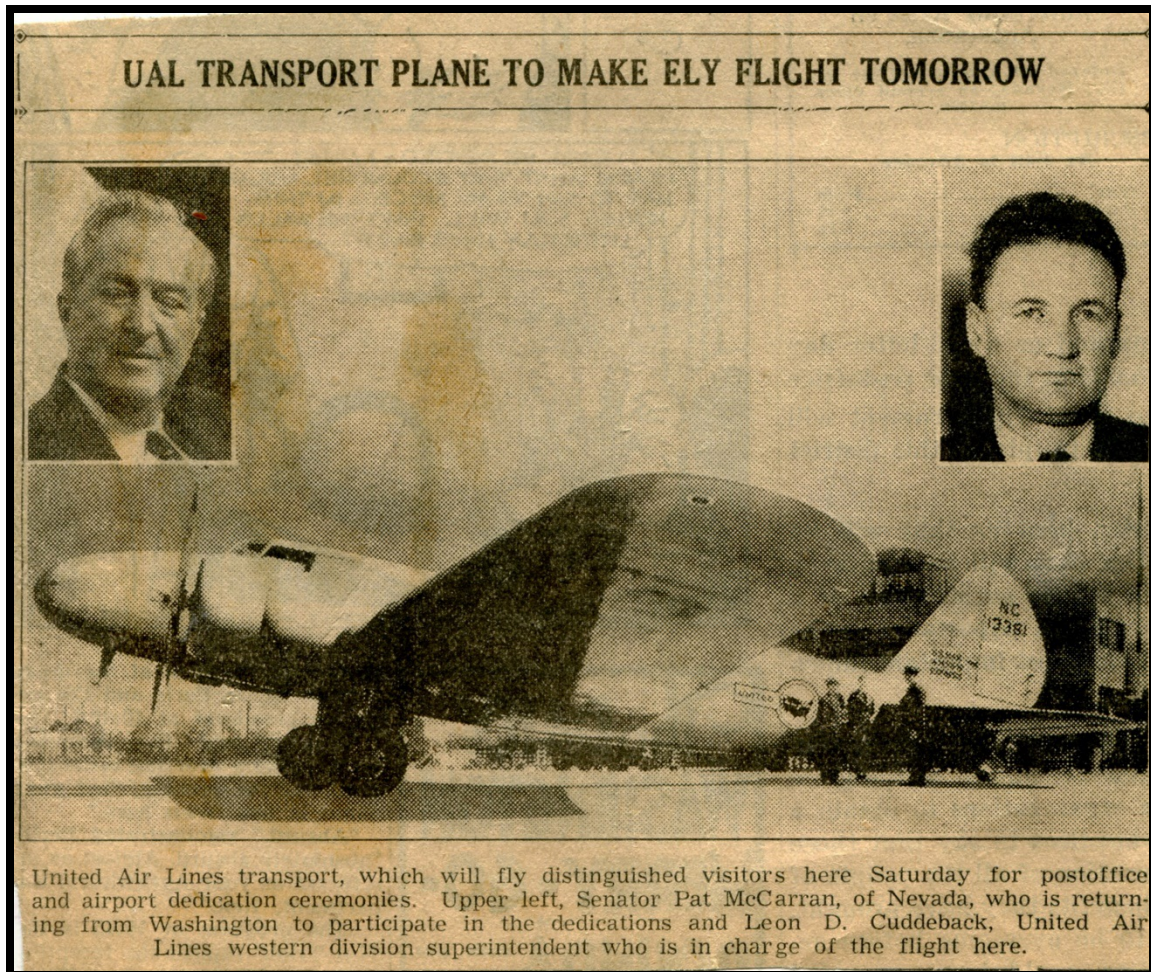
I think a new and welcome generational change is happening now.

McGill News

July 12th, we had a distinguished visitor at the Drugstore. It was Susie 'Culbert', the daughter of Mike Culbert and the Grand daughter of Jerry and Elsa Culbert. We had a really nice visit and swapped stories about Jerry and Elsa. Susie is married to Jon Smith and they live in California.



Old Photo



This plane brought in Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada and Leon Cuddeback of United Air Lines and a sack of Air Mail letters for the dedication ceremony of the new Post Office on January 28, 1938.