

FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024

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THESE LADS MADE BASEBALL HISTORY at Fall City in the days when all the players except Emerson Neighbors (bottom row, extreme right), were employed in the McCann shingle mill. They were photographed in front of the grandstand on the Jack Bush farm. Front row, left to right: Dan Hays, Art McGill, Dave Paine, William Crable, Emerson Neighbors. Back row: Conrad, Bill Leedy, Bill Lykes, Harry Smith, Trace Smith. The mascot in the foreground is Bert Smith. Photo property of Mrs. J. W. Willhight of Snohomish.

Snoqualmie Valley Record June 25, 1953

Art McGill and Fall City Baseball

Baseball Career of the Late Art McGill

A story of the outstanding baseball career of the late Art McGill, by one who knew him well as a faithful employee and great ball player.

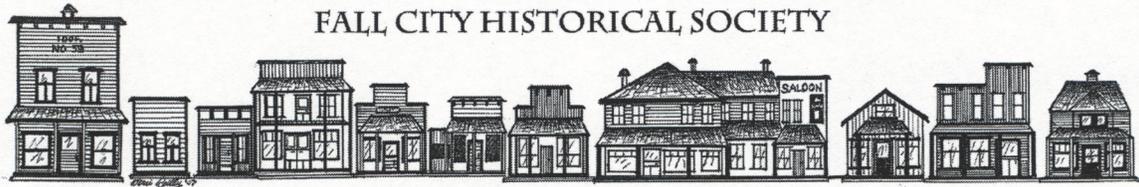
By Andrew McCann, North Bend

In June of 1943, shortly after the death of Art McGill, Andrew McCann wrote a long article for the Snoqualmie Valley Record about his memories of Art and of early baseball in Fall City. He speaks of 1907, when a baseball park was built on the Jack Bush property just over the bridge from Fall City, and McCann was voted manager for the season that ended with a winning percentage of 800! At the close of the first successful year, the Fall City team voted Art McGill “the most alert and valuable player.”

In this first portion of McCann’s article, he mentions getting to know Art McGill when he worked at McCann’s Shingle Mill in Fall City. He gives the date for this and subsequent events as 1907, but notes that it is “after a lapse of thirty odd years.” The leasing of land from Jack Bush and the building of “a diamond ... equal to any in the state” with grandstands and fenced grounds occurred at this time.

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Our first year was highly successful financially and otherwise. The attendance was always good; crowds came in buckboards to the games glad to pay the 25 cents admission to the park, and much betting was done, most of which was in favor of Fall City.

Along about 1908 the Fall City team had gained quite a reputation as having as good a team as any in other large towns, for it had always put up a great game, so had no trouble inducing the best amateur teams to play on the fine grounds at Fall City.

Early successful seasons and Art McGill's contributions

After the close of the first successful year, at a meeting, the Fall City team voted Art McGill the most alert and valuable player of the bunch, many declaring Art's alertness had saved the day and punctured such sharp practices as ringing in batters by an opposing team on the short end of the score. When they tried during the excitement of the game to ring in a good hitter out of turn, Art would call time without any noise or fuss and get a score card going up to the umpire telling him in his softly spoken voice that the batter was out of turn. And again when rules were disputed Art would demonstrate his canny ability of knowing and memorizing the rules and just interpretations, which always commanded the respect of the umpire, his team, and opponents alike.

Later excerpts from the article:

By about 1909 the ranks of that great Fall City team had become depleted by draft and financial inducements from bigger towns. I remember that the first big break came when Dan Hayes and Dave Payne were drafted by the big league.

I remember that Snoqualmie, too, succeeded in gathering a great team. Snoqualmie played in many close games with Fall City, which attracted great crowds, but for the most part Fall City relied on Seattle and other big towns for competition.

Sad to relate, pitchers Dave Payne and Dan Hayes, about the zenith of their incipient baseball fame, became pathetic victims of TB.



"Falls City Baseball Club Manager, W. Dunstan Captain, W. Crable"

Date given is 1904

Many of the players seem to be the same ones identified in the photo on page 8.



WATCH FOR THE "HISTORY PAVILION"
 in our usual spot on Fall City Days, June 20th.
Stop by and take a selfie with a Fall City pioneer!



Support for our work from King County Heritage 4Culture is gratefully acknowledged.

