McAdam's Own Skyscraper .

Living in a small village nicknames for people , places and building abound . Names like Bungie , the Horse Back and Grandfather Rock . This story is about a building nicknamed , " The Skyscraper" .

I have asked several people about the Skyscraper and few have ever heard of it . During the 1980s as I was visiting the Owl's Club , I had a long conversation with Walter Boone (nicknamed Boonie). I was at the club to copy some old photographs and Boonie kindly helped me with the task . I was curious about the photos and he was eager to share his historical knowledge . Our conversation turned to the Skyscraper , something I had never heard associated with McAdam . Skyscrapers are buildings in large cities, so I was curious to know that McAdam such a building .

Boonie told me the structure was near the tunnel , west of the old European North American Train Station (another building that is surprize to many) . We could not find a picture of the famed Scraper on the day of my visit and I never followed up on the story until this year .

Boonie was a great story teller , as I write this article I have fond memories of the day we spent talking about the old days in McAdam . There were many building and structures that could have been called Skyscrapers in this Railroad town ; the coal shed , the many water towers, any of the three story houses built in the 19th and early 20 th centuries . However all these are pretenders to the title , " the Skyscraper" .

Skyscraper pretenders

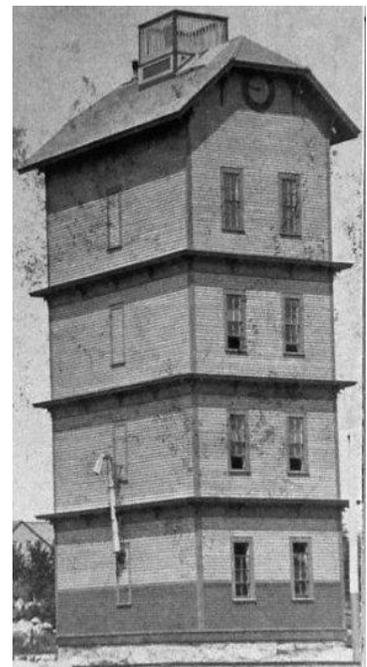

Coal Shed in 1970s   Royal Hotel prior to 1937   N.B. R. Road Water tower in 1880
                                                                                                                  80 feet tall ,40,000 gal capacity

The story of the skyscraper starts with a family from Perth who moved to McAdam in 1899 . Their move may have been to increase the family's fortunes . The family included ; Elizabeth Caughey (mother-age 62),   Thomas Caughey (Head of Family and son-age 25) , Maud E .Hetherington (daughter- age 36) , Maud (granddaughter-age 6)and John (grandson –age 5).

 Thomas built a large general store on the East side of town north of the tunnel next to the tracks . Thomas and his sister Maud were partners in the store . In 1904 Maud had a 3 and- a- half story house built on the west side of the track just north of the tunnel . This was a tall narrow building and became   known locally as **the Sky**scraper .   Maud also had a two story   dwelling constructed across Saunders Road from her Sky-scraper .

Maud's daughter also named Maud said they ran a store and had boarders . One fall they boarded 23 men who worked for the C.P.R. cutting stone 3 miles north of the Village , a distance they walked each day . She tells that these workers came from Newfoundland , Scotland , Australia and Poland . The stone was being used   by the C.P.R near Newburg on the St. John river . It seems the rock quarried in McAdam was used for other C.P.R. projects , besides our stone station .

Marching Lodge members @1915 Saunders Road McAdam .
Note the marchers with Top Hats and Saches .
Skyscraper back right, 3 and one-half stories tall.

The Skyscraper burned down with tenants   living in it at the time   . I am not certain of the date of the fire but it seems it was after 1915   . Bonnie tells that a man by the name of George Proctor   was living in the Sky - scraper at the time of   its' demise   . Bonnie was present at the fire and   they yelled, " George come out she's on fire" . He replied, "you can't fool me   , you can't fool me , I am staying " . Finally someone had to go in and get him out . The building was never rebuilt and so the story ends of   the McAdam's   one and only Skyscraper.

The McAdam Public Library and the McAdam Historical Restoration Commission have a wealth of pictures and writings on our village   . Often this material is   forgotten by our citizens . I hope this article will create interest in stories that are fading from our collective memories . If you have old pictures or stories you would like to share I would be glad to hear them   .   David Blair   , May 2012

References   :

1. **Walter Boone interview** ,Sept 17,1982 McAdam Public Library
2. **Maud Hetherington Interview,** (1977) McAdam Public Library
3. **Personal interview by David Blair,** with Walter Boone Owls Club .
4. **Photos** from McAdam Historical Restoration Commission and McAdam Public Library .
5. **1901 Census** for the Parish of McAdam ,N.B.