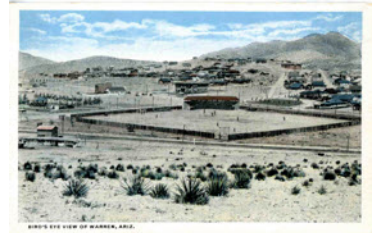


The Dugout

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First project completed! Grandstands chicken wire replaced with netting



Left, top: Patched, and rusted chicken wire. Left, bottom and right: Rey Bussari, Sr. and his son Rey, Jr. install the netting. (Judy Anderson photos)

The view from the grandstands at historic Warren is better and fans will be safer, after the installation of new protective netting three days before Christmas. The removal of the unsightly and rusted chicken wire and chain link and its

replacement with black netting was the first project planned for the 101-year-old facility by the Friends of Warren Ballpark.

The project, which cost \$7, 137.51 was paid for by the Friends through

individual donations, funds raised during the Copper City Classic Vintage Base Ball Tournament in April 2010 and by the sale of "Bisbee's Boys and Girls of Summer" baseball cards. (See **Netting** , page three)

Tournament time draws near...

Copper City Classic to feature home town team

Ballists - the 19th century term used to describe base ball players - from Phoenix, Tucson and Cochise County will once again gather at historic Warren Ballpark March 19 and 20, when the Friends of Warren Ballpark hold the second Copper City Classic Vintage Base Ball Tournament.

Teams that have committed so far are the Glendale Gophers, the Bisbee Bees (from Phoenix), the Phoenix Senators and the hometown Bisbee Black Sox. Also invited but not yet confirmed are the Tucson Sahuaros.

Last year's tournament generated close to \$5,000. Those funds were used by the Friends to fund the replacement of the grandstands screening.

This year's tournament is dedicated to two well-known Bisbee athletes - Ann and Bob



Bisbee Black Sox slugger Andy Arreola hit an inside-the-park home run during a two-game vintage base ball match held Jan. 22 against the Tucson Sahuaros at Medigovich Field in Tombstone.

a right-handed pitcher, played for for the Bisbee-Douglas Copper Kings of the old Arizona-Texas Class c minor league during the late 1940's and early 1950's.

Bob remained close to baseball for the rest of his life, umpiring Bisbee High School and Little League games.

The Tombstone Vigilantes will be attending the tournament to add period flavor to the event.

Gates will open at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 19 and 9 a.m. on Sunday.

Ticket prices are \$10 for for a single day and \$15 for both days. Children under 12 years of age accompanied by a paying adult will be admitted free. "Cranks" - the 1800's term for fans - who dress in period attire will get in for \$10 for both days.

Tickets can be purchased at the gate, at the Bisbee Visitors Center or on-line at: www.friendsofwarrenballpark.com.

Henry. Ann, a former professional baseball player and star fast-pitch softball player for the legendary Bisbee Copper Queens, made the national news in 1947 by hitting .720 during the previous year. Her husband Bob,

Friends baseball historian to talk on Syd Cohen

He was the last man to fan the Babe while Ruth was in pinstripes. He was also the last pitcher to give up a home run to the Bambino before he was traded by the Yankees.

The life and times of Syd Cohen, one of the most colorful players and managers to take the field at Warren Ballpark, will



Syd Cohen

be the topic of a presentation by Friends of Warren Ballpark historian Mike Anderson during the story telling festival, 2 p.m., Sunday, March 6, at the Jewish History Museum, located at 564 S. Stone Ave. in Tucson.

Cohen, who played with the Bisbee Bees during the 1928, 1929 and 1930 (see **Cohen**, page three)

Out of the old emerges the new - in 1937

One of the most fascinating aspects of Warren Ballpark is its Phoenix-like rise in 1937 during the Great Depression. The story of the ballpark's construction and its transfer from private to public ownership is an interesting story.

By 1937 Warren Ballpark was in as sad a shape as the U.S. economy. By the mid-1930's the wooden grandstands constructed in 1909 were falling apart. But help was on the way...

In 1933, the Roosevelt "alphabet soup" public works programs got underway. One of the first New Deal remedies was the Civil Works Administration, intended to use unemployed workers for public works projects. In January 1934, CWA civil engineer Louis H. Laging developed a set of plans for what he referred to



The Warren Ballpark Grandstands look exactly as they did when constructed by the WPA in 1937.

as "Warren Athletic Field." The prototype plans for the new, improved Warren Ballpark included an entrance in the middle of the grandstands intended to hold 3,000 fans.. The plans were scaled down over the next three years, so that when the Works Progress Administration - the agency that replaced the CWA in 1935 - finally built the new grandstands in 1937, the entrance was located to the right of the grandstands, which were evidently built on the original 1909 concrete pad. But before the grandstands could be rebuilt, ownership of the field

had to be transferred from private ownership (the Phelps Dodge Corporation) to public. The man who made it all happen was R. E. Souers - a Bisbee resident who wore all the necessary hats to make the pieces fall into place. Souers was superintendent of the Bisbee School District, president of the newly -revived Arizona-Texas League, the director of relief activities in Cochise County and was chairman of the county welfare board. He engineered the agreement that transferred ownership of Warren Ballpark from the mining company to the school district for the sum of \$10, and by doing so made possible the federal public works project that rebuilt the Warren Ballpark grandstands.

Netting (continued from page one)

"It (the netting) was an early Christmas present to the school district and the community," said Friends board chairman Judy Anderson. "We were delighted to see this done, and hope that this will be the first of many projects by the Friends that will keep Warren Ballpark in good shape for many years to come."

The Friends are already looking at other projects, including a sign, a larger scoreboard, better access for disabled persons and upgrades to the restrooms, Anderson said.

The screening project was carried out by Coyote School Furnishing of Chandler.

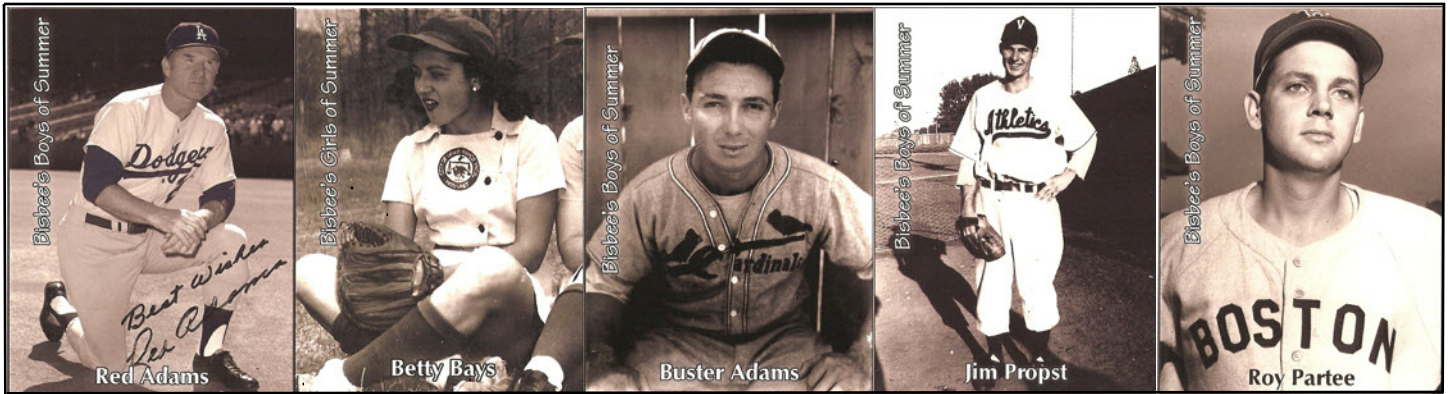
Cohen (continued from page two)

seasons, went on to play 3 seasons in the major leagues and spent a total of 21 seasons playing and managing in the minors. He became a player-manager in 1947 with the El Paso Texans. By 1951, Cohen was skipper of the Bisbee-Douglas Copper Kings, where he remained through the 1953 season. He returned to his home town of El Paso to complete his professional managerial career with the Texans during the 1954 and 1955 seasons. Cohen remained close to the game of baseball and El Paso until his death in 1988.

"There are two things that stand out about Syd," said Anderson. "His love for his family and his deep passion for baseball. He also loved the border and El Paso. There are more Syd Cohen stories than stitches on a baseball and all of them paint him as someone who loved the game, played it with gusto and who was loved and respected by players and fans wherever he went."

Cohen Stadium in El Paso is named for Syd and his ballplayer-brother Andy.

Fourth set of baseball cards now available



Baseball fans, card collectors and folks who enjoy watching a ball game at historic Warren Ballpark all have good reasons to get the fourth set of “Bisbee’s Boys and Girls of Summer” cards. The recently-released cards include some of the most interesting and talented ballplayers to appear in our collection. “Red” Adams, who started with the Bisbee Bees in 1939, helped develop Dodgers pitching talent that included Hall of Fame inductee Don Sutton. Bisbee native Betty Bays Shuller played as a catcher in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, immortalized in the movie “A League of Their Own.” “Buster” Adams (no relation to Red) was the first Bisbee High School graduate

to break into the major leagues. Jim Propst returned from World War II service in the Marines to pitch for one of Bisbee’s most exciting minor league teams - the 1947 Bisbee Yanks. Roy Partee started as a catcher for the 1938 Bisbee Bees and climbed the ladder to the big leagues, where he played alongside Ted Williams, Dom DiMaggio, Johnny Pesky and Bobby Doerr of the Boston Red Sox.

Any or all of the four sets can be purchased for \$5 each at: www.friendsofwarrenballpark.com.

All proceeds from card sales will go towards restoration and upkeep of the ballpark.

A few of the visitors to Warren Ballpark



Left to right, clockwise:

Hall of Famers Gabby Hartnett, Tris Speaker, Honus Wagner, Red Faber, John McGraw and Connie Mack all played, coached or managed at Warren Ballpark

Who we are: The Friends of Warren Ballpark has been sponsored by the Bisbee Council on the Arts and Humanities, a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization since May 2009. The Mission of the Friends is:

- To seek historic designation and to restore and preserve the historic Warren Ballpark. The Friends will pursue historic designation for Warren Ballpark and preserve the park through member donations, product sales, grants and fund-raising activities.
- To research and share the rich history of the ballpark through the creation of baseball cards of players who who played at the park, a written history of the park, museum displays, the Web Page and other community events.
- To support the continuation of Bisbee’s baseball traditions into the future. The Friends will support the local semi-pro baseball team, Bisbee High School baseball and will sponsor on-going vintage baseball games.

Where do we go from here???

The *Friends of Warren Ballpark* are glad to have completed our first substantial project installation of backstop netting at our 101-year-old ballpark. Our non-profit organization is now one-and-a-half years old. Over the next year we plan to launch an ambitious membership and donor campaign, and to search for grants so that we can pursue even larger projects.

We have set goals and objectives both big and small. One example: a visitor to our web site recently told us about his experience trying



to locate Warren Ballpark. He had picked up one of our rack cards at the Bisbee Visitors Center. He used the map on the card to drive to Warren to see the park. He found a ballpark that he believed to be Warren Ballpark, but it had no sign identifying it as such. To confirm that it was indeed the right ballpark he went to the convenience store across the street and asked the clerk. There IS a small marker in front of the ballpark, but it 's hard to see and contains erroneous information.

Thus, one of our goals- if approved by the Bisbee Unified School District Governing Board - is to produce an easy-to-see, visually appealing sign that would enable ballpark visitors to know they are indeed looking at one of the most historically significant baseball fields in the country.

More ambitious goals, such as improvements to the grandstands, restrooms and clubhouse will take more time, effort and funds. This year we plan to work with the school district, architects and construction firms to determine the priorities for needed improvements and to assess likely costs. With this information in hand we will pursue grants to restore the park to its original condition.

Please visit our website:
www.friendsofwarrenballpark.com and join us in our endeavors to preserve the REAL Field of Dreams

“Whiskerinos” played first game against Bisbee minor leaguers

One of the most unusual and talented baseball teams to appear on the field at Warren Ballpark was the traveling team from the House of David, a Michigan-based religious commune that required its members to give up alcohol, tobacco, sex and all worldly goods - but allowed them to play baseball!

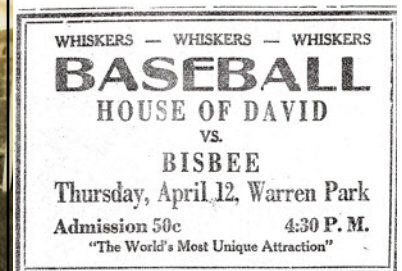
For several decades the long-haired and bearded Israelite House of Dave nine barnstormed



House of David traveling baseball team circa 1928

the length and breath of the U.S., taking on all comers, whether semi-pro or minor league teams. On most occasions, the “Whiskerinos” were the winners.

On April 12, 1928, the House of David came to



Warren Ballpark to take on the Miners, Bisbee’s brand-new Class D minor league team.

A capacity crowd came out to watch the fun that day, and when the last out was made, the visitors were the winners over Bisbee by a score of 11-9.