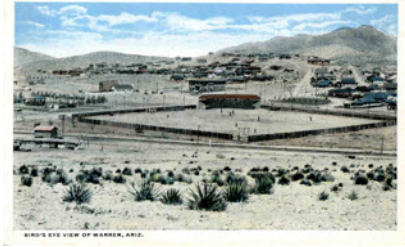


The Dugout



PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF WARREN BALLPARK

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Vintage Base Ball returns to Bisbee!

It looks like a scene from a movie: the players take the field wearing baggy uniforms and tiny gloves. The umpire, also dressed in 19th Century attire, calls the batter to the plate: "Striker to the line!"

What seems surreal is not vintage base ball - that's baseball spelled out in two words - is the early form of the game as it was played in the 1860s up through the 1880s. The game uses a field and rules that are similar to the modern game, and different. To play it, or to watch it, is to take a trip back in time.

The Friends of Warren Ballpark have teamed up with



Hurler John "Socks" Van Cuyk of the Bisbee Bees delivers a pitch during the May 9, 2009 vintage base ball match against the Phoenix Senators at Warren Ballpark. (photo by Larry Elkins)

the Arizona Territories Vintage Base Ball League to bring the game as it was played long ago back to one of America's oldest surviving baseball parks. A four-team tournament, scheduled for April 10, 2010, will feature teams with names out of Arizona's baseball past, including the Bisbee Bees and Phoenix Senators.

All proceeds from ticket sales will go towards the renovation of Warren Ballpark.

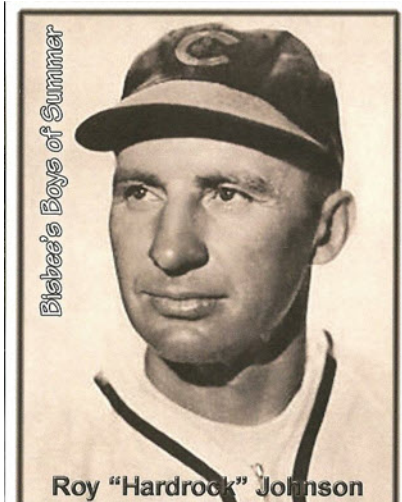
The April 10 event will also feature music from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

For more information about the tournament, visit:
www.friendsofwarrenballpark.com.

Baseball cards available!

Baseball cards have been around since tobacco companies put them in their cigarette packs back in the 1880s. Since then, fans have enjoyed learning about their favorite players and building their collections. Now, the Friends of Warren Ballpark are pleased to announce the publication of a new line of

cards "Bisbee's Boys and Girls of Summer," honoring the players - men and women - who distinguished themselves on the baseball and softball fields in the "Queen of the Copper Camps" during the past century. Featured on the cards are Bisbee's finest high school and minor league ball players and (cont'd on page 2)



(cont'd from page 1) managers, as well as those who left Warren ballpark to play in the major leagues! Each set of five cards is available for \$5 plus \$2 shipping and handling. The sets may be purchased online through the Friends of Warren Ballpark website or by contacting the Friends at:

judithlee46@cableone.net.

Three sets are currently available. Set 1 includes Pete Vucurevich, Russ Kusmertz, Mike Frosco, Clint Courtney and Charlie Metro.

Set 2 contains George "Tuck" Stainback, Bob Henry, Anne Henry, Clarence Maddern and Jim Bynon. Set 3 has Jesse Flores, Hadley Hicks, Bill Buxton, Bobby Holland and Roy "Hardrock" Johnson.

The card sets cover players and managers from the 1928 Bisbee Bees Class D team up to the Class C Bisbee Copper Kings of the early 1950s, and include six players who made it to the major leagues.

All proceeds from the card sales will go towards the renovation of 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:*

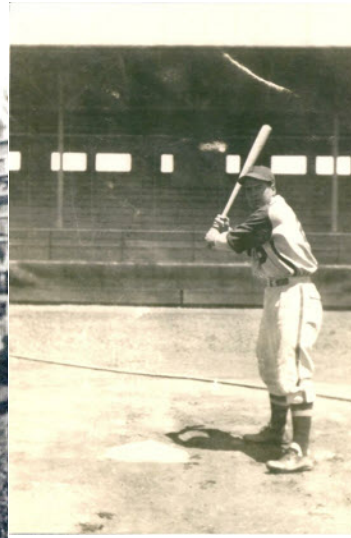
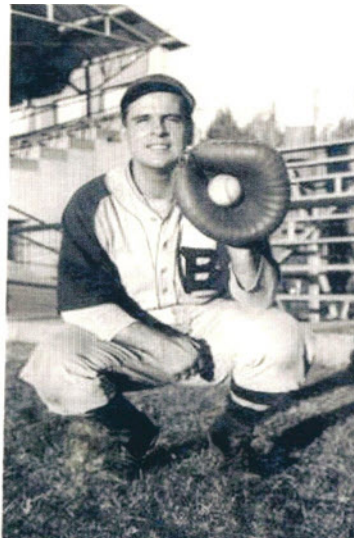
- To seek historic designation and to restore and preserve the historic 100-year-old Warren Ballpark. The Friends will pursue historic designation for Warren Ballpark and raise funds to restore and preserve the park through member donations, product sales, grants and fund-raising activities.
- To research and share the rich history of the Park and baseball in Bisbee. The Friends will share the rich history of the ballpark through the creation of baseball cards of players who played at the park, a written history of the park, museum displays, community presentations, the WebPage 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 league, Bisbee High School baseball and will sponsor ongoing vintage base ball games.**

Wynn Wittcke: catcher for the 1941 Bisbee Bees

By Mike Anderson Founding Member and Historian.

One of the most fun aspects of belonging to the Friends of Warren Ballpark for me has been the opportunity to learn about, talk to or make contact with the ballplayers or their family members.

Recently, the Friends were contacted by Darrell Wittcke, the son of Winfred Alfred "Wynn" Wittcke, a young man from Oregon who ventured to Bisbee in 1941 to play for the Bees of the Class C Arizona-Texas League. Darryl found us through our friend John Tenney, captain of the present-day Bisbee Bees vintage baseball team. After doing an internet search for the Bisbee Bees, Darryl contacted John, who suggested he contact the Friends.



Darrell did contact us via email, and after telling us about his dad and his experience playing baseball here, sent us a treasure-trove of photos, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia, including a copy of Wynn's minor league contract with the Bees.

Wynn Wittcke's season with the '41 Bees was to be his only year playing in the pros. Like so many other young men of his generation, he left the game he loved to serve his country during World War II.

Wynn often spoke of how much he loved playing ball in Bisbee, according to Darrell.

Thanks, Darrell, for sharing your dad's story, and we hope to see you at Warren Ballpark this coming summer.



Become a Friend of Warren Ballpark! Join us as we continue our work to honor one of America's true baseball treasures. Visit our website at www.friendsofwarrenballpark or email us at judithlee46@cableone.net to learn how!