



Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, *in association with the Smithsonian Institution*

Issue #68, Spring/Summer 2013

Newsletter

Park: (pärk) n. [ME parc] 1. an open square in a city with benches, trees, etc.; 2. a large area of land with grass and trees which is maintained for the pleasure of the public.



Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum 2008

Copper Queen Plaza, in the middle of the Park. Historically, the Museum served as the General Office Building of the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Co., renamed the Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1917, and acquired by Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold in 2007. Revisiting our early history, the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Co. built the Mercantile in 1891 (which was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1939, located just south of the Park), their headquarters' building in 1897, and the Copper Queen Hotel in 1902 to house visiting dignitaries (located just north of the Park). The Park centers the three buildings and functioned as a cornerstone for the commercial districts of Brewery Gulch and Main Street.

Similar to urban "pocket parks" today, Copper Queen Plaza Park provided the fami-

lies of Old Bisbee an open space with grass and shade trees throughout the 20th century. In rummaging through Bisbee's history, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the nickname 'Grassy Park' first appeared on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of 1930s, and not, as I had incorrectly assumed, named for the aromatic presence of the drug of choice during the 1990s! From the 1930s onward, 'Grassy Park' was aptly named... until today.

As the Museum Director, for the last two decades I have watched several generations of children play in the Park. The signature mine cars, donated by the Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1972, offer perhaps one of the most unique play areas in southern Arizona! I have also witnessed the gradual deterioration of the Park as budget cuts to city government reprioritized funds elsewhere. As with the green grass, one rarely sees Bisbee's children playing in the Park today.

With the closure of the mines in the mid-1970s, Bisbee reinvented itself by capitalizing on its history and aligning itself with the growth of Arizona's tourism industry. As visitors enter Old Bisbee, it is visually impossible to miss Copper Queen Plaza Park. Sustainable or 'smart' tourism does not necessarily depend on simply attracting more and more visitors, it also inherently works towards preserving our community's intrinsic integrity and quality of life. Taking pride in our Park not only reflects our pride in our community, it also enhances the quality of our lives as well as enhancing the visitor's experience, thus

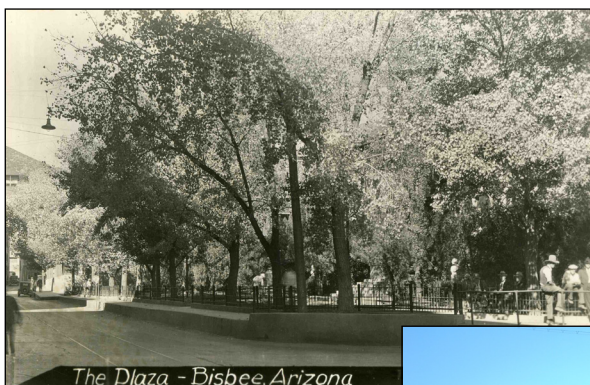
NOT TO CLOSE PLAZA

Since the arrival of the iron fence which is being placed about the Copper Queen Plaza, there has been much conjecture as to whether the mining company intended closing their ground to the public. This will not be done.... Gates in the fence will permit passage from the walk donated to the city to both the steps leading to the Copper Queen Hotel and to the office of the company. A third gate will allow the use of a walk from the east end of the plaza to the general office entrance. The grounds are to be planted with grass seed and flower plats [sic] are to beautify the grounds.

Bisbee Daily Review August 11, 1906



Copper Queen Plaza Park 1906



*Copper Queen Plaza Park
east end, ca. 1930s (above)*



Goar Park today (right)

The Park's history has been a balance between change and continuity. Concrete with the addition of newly planted trees introduce the Plaza's landscape. The Bisbee Daily Review reported the Plaza's beginning transition into a park in 1906 with the planting of grass and flowers (*see photo & insert on page 1*). In 1912, seating was added "to provide a comfortable resting spot for men between shifts, after work was done, or for tired women and children" (*Bisbee Daily Review July 14, 1912*). By the 1930s, the eastern side of the Park took on a wooded feel as the western side of the Park highlighted the flower beds and more formally laid-out grass parcels. The western end of the Park remained relatively unchanged through the 1960s; however, the eastern 'woodlands' were replaced by the Arborvitae trees that were planted the length of the Park fronting the Museum (date unknown).



*Copper Queen Plaza Park, west end, ca. 1930s
colorized postcard*

In reference to laying the flagstone patios around the Arborvitae trees, then Management Services & City Treasurer Jeri Dustir noted that "the two trees (Arborvitae) were slated to be cut down five to six years ago...." a quote supported by Cathy Wertz, District Supervisor for the Arizona Department of Agriculture statement "the trees are no longer beautiful and have outlived their normal lifespans" (*Bisbee Daily Review August 11, 1994*)... almost 20 years ago! Now, 20 years later, we are planning on replacing these trees!

In 1990, the *Bisbee Observer* ran an article praising a new volunteer effort to beautify the Park: "Last week the volunteers, who donated about \$6,000 worth of their time, landscaped the park around the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, planting about \$1,800 worth of low-maintenance, low-water requirement, indigenous plants..." (*March 15, 1990*). In 2008, the Bisbee Bloomers, a local gardening initiative, recaptured this community spirit and once again worked to beautify the garden beds.

So... why you are reading about Copper Queen Plaza Park? The Museum will be leading a community effort to bring some of the historic beauty back to the Park, honoring this balance between change and continuity, the essence of our Park's history. Let's bring back some of the historic beauty to the Park (*photos above*). The Museum will be applying for grant funding for a large part of the proposed project; however, we can only succeed in our application if this becomes a true community project, supported by all of us who live in the community and those of us who may have moved away, but hold our memories of Bisbee near to our hearts.

What's the plan? Referred to as "Grassy Park" since the 1930s, we plan to bring back grass to the eastern- and westernmost sectors of the park, reducing the irrigation area and water consumption by half! Acknowledging hotter, drier weather ahead, we are working with Water Wise program of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension to reduce water consumption in the maintenance plan. A rain-catchment system is planned to counter somewhat our nostalgic inclusion of our historic nickname. The garden beds will be enriched with a wide variety of low-maintenance, low-water requirement flowering plants such as lavender, rosemary, lilac, and salvia with the garden beds protected by low rod-iron fencing reminiscent of the 1906 fencing encircling the park today. Banksea rose will be planted along the northern line of the Park. Yes, the proposed plan does include the removal of the Arborvitae trees (those trees of rather an advanced age!), the the mesquite, and dying magnolia; however, we plan to offset this with planting eight Arizona Ash and Chinese Pistachio to provide shade. For a preview of what such trees could do for Grassy Park, simply visit Goar Park (*above insert*) at the entrance to Brewery Gulch that was rehabilitated in 1997 to see how these trees truly evoke the image presented above of Copper Queen Plaza Park in the 1930s! Pending funding, the majority of the work is scheduled for 2014... but that is just a half year away! Stop by the Museum this month (July) to view the changes to "Grassy Park" throughout the 20th- and early 21st-centuries in a small exhibit of images from our photographic archives.

How can you help? You can donate to the project to help us build matching funds for the grant application by emailing your pledge to carrie@bisbeemuseum.org and I will add you to our growing list of donors (at the time of this printing, we have raised \$10,000). The first of our grant applications is due in late August. Don't have any loose change in your pocket? Be creative, come up with an idea and share it with us!

supporting our local tourism industry. Supporting Bisbee's tourism industry isn't a bad thing... especially since a lot of our paychecks depend on it!

Today's Bisbee prospers because of this transformation and the lively diversity of our residents, whose creative energy is rooted in a powerful blend of historic preservation and the arts. Underlying the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum's mission of preserving and promoting our vibrant cultural heritage is the hardrock reality of economic sustainability. In Bisbee, we work together to enhance the tourism experience and to sustain the unique sense of place in which we live and work. Such collaboration preserves the unique urban-rural heritage of Bisbee, while adding to a shared sense of belonging.

Today, many neighborhood parks are receiving increased attention and valuation as significant community assets and places of common enjoyment. Community groups are joining together to support local parks that have suffered from decay and neglect. With the Museum's mission of preserving our heritage, our 'pride in our community,' and sharing that heritage with our families and visitors, we are perfectly positioned to take a leadership role in bringing some of the historic beauty back to 'Grassy Park.'

Upcoming Museum Events

July

Museum Invites all Bisbee Residents to Visit FREE during the Month of July!

Every year, the Museum opens its doors to all Bisbee residents during a summer month. This year, we have chosen the month of July to coincide with a small exhibit offering a photographic chronicle of the changes to Copper Queen Plaza Park dating back from the turn of the 20th through early 21st centuries (several of which are pictured in this newsletter).

Bring your friends to the Museum this July and take advantage of the free admission for non-members. We will be offering an 'ideas' book and a 'project partner' book, opportunities to add your voice to the project and to sign in your pledge.

Finally, a "thank you" to Freeport-McMoRan, Copper Queen Branch, for the photographic enlargements that will be on display!

August

Tournament of the Century 3rd Annual Charitable Golf Tournament



Bisbee Council on the Arts & Humanities Board member,
Jimmy Stewart

Scheduled for Saturday, August 17th, the Bisbee Council on the Arts & Humanities, the governing authority of the Bisbee Museum, invites all golf aficionados to join our wonderful group of golfing stalwarts for a beautiful day on the greens at Turquoise Valley Golf Club.



Although oddly named, the shotgun start begins at 8:30; registration at 7:30. Get together with friends and colleagues to form a team.

Entrance fees vary, depending on whether you are a member of Club - Club mem-

Turquoise Valley Golf Club - Club members are \$40 (\$35 if your membership includes a cart) and \$60 for non-members; lunch is included.

Sponsorship opportunities:

- \$500 Event Sponsorship
 - Complimentary participation fees for four
 - Company banner displayed at event
 - Table tent acknowledgement
 - Four complimentary admission Museum passes
- \$50 Business Sponsorship
 - Business logo displayed at hole of your choice

- \$50 Historic Excerpt Sponsorship
 - Your name sponsoring one of the wonderful historic excerpts from Bisbee's golfing history (displayed at hole of your choice)
- \$20 "In Loving Memory of..."
 - Honoring a friend or golfing partner who are with us in spirit (displayed at hole of your choice)

Sponsorships are tax deductible!

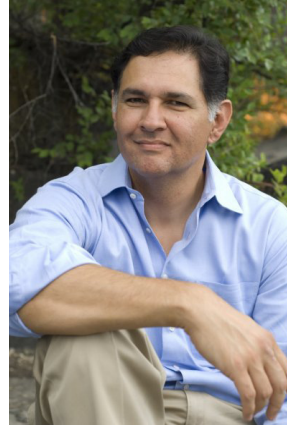
September

The History Detective Comes to Town!

The Museum's Annual Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction

Saturday September 28, 2013

This year we get to play with history! Dr. Eduardo Pagán, my favorite PBS History Detective, will take us sleuthing into the wondrous world of history, transforming objects into stories!



Eduardo is the Bob Stump Endowed Professor of History at Arizona State University. An Arizonan, Eduardo received a BA from Arizona State University, an MA from the University of Arizona in US and Latin American history, and an MA and Ph.D. from Princeton University in US history.



Before returning to Arizona, Dr. Pagán served as an assistant dean of students at Princeton, a faculty member at Williams College, and as a senior program officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C.

His books include *Murder at the Sleepy Lagoon: Zoot Suits, Race, and Riot in Wartime L.A.* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), *Historic Photos of Phoenix* (Nashville: Turner, 2007), and *Remembering Phoenix* (Nashville: Trade Paper Press, 2011).

We are still working out the details of our evening event, but we will be offering a delicious dinner selection from High Desert Market & Café and, as has become our standard, a selection of fine wines & local beer!

Please Note...

Due to the extensive reclamation activities undertaken by Freeport-McMoRan, Copper Queen Branch, the 2013 'Hunt for Turquoise' has been cancelled. Check with us next Spring for an update.

Heritage Keeper Members

Bisbee Daily Review, Patricia Wick • Bisbee Vogue, Inc. • Charles Henry Bethea • Calumet & Arizona Guest House •
Golder Associates • Justice Financial • James Stewart • The Warne Foundation

**Remember us in your will & estate planning.
A bequest can perpetuate your annual gift!**

Let's say your annual gift to the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum is \$500, the entry level into our Heritage Keeper membership status. A bequest to us of just \$10,000 can be endowed so that it distributed \$500 each year (5% of the principal) to support our work. Even a small bequest, when endowed, can have a significant impact on funding our important programs. Ask us about the many endowment opportunities available to you and how you can create a meaningful legacy through a well-planned charitable bequest. For further information, contact Carrie Gustavson, Director, at (520) 432-7071 or by email at carrie@bisbeemuseum.org for details and references.

We would like to thank the following for their wonderful support:

Alice Metz Bequest

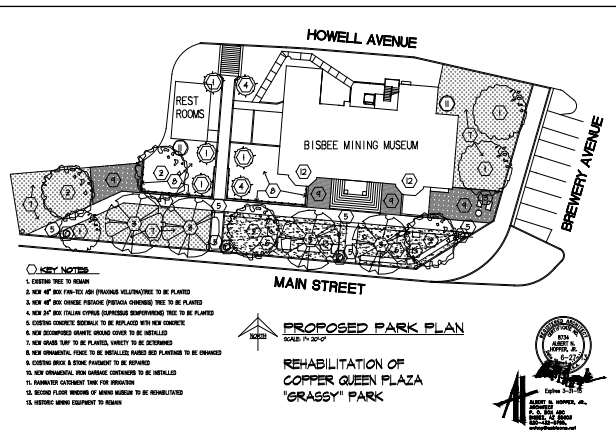
John & Sylvia Iriarte Riddle Bequest

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Copper Queen Plaza Improvement Plan 2013