

#3B Harkers Island Straits Baseball (By Joe Willis)

Baseball Field in Straits (Information provided courtesy of Dennis Chadwick):

According to Raymond Hall, Ben Watson's brother-in-law, the land which Harkers Island Straits Team utilized as their home field at Straits was owned by Herbert Watson, then his son Ben Watson. There were no stands or bleachers, fans sat on the grass.

The piece of ground the players wanted to use for their field was an orchard type lot with about fifteen to twenty apples trees. Ben wanted to save the trees so he got a crew of young men with shovels to transplant the apple trees.

One crew dug holes behind Ben's house while the other crew dug up the trees. His crew included David Yeomans, Gerald Whitehurst (Manager of Team), Snowball Gaskill, Wilson Davis (18 years old) and David Chadwick with Ben Watson supervising the tasks.

The baseball field across from Guy Chadwick's store turned out great, although all of the apple trees died. Many stories have been told about the ball games played there. Like the time Jack Gardner said he ran into the pecan tree in centerfield on a hard hit ball from the Harkers Island Straits team. Ben wouldn't let them move the pecan tree.

The earlier baseball field behind the Straits Methodist Church was located on land donated by some Pigott ladies of the area. Mr. Carl Gaskill donated funds to build a stadium there.

Some of the team members of the 1930s era baseball team called "SPUD" included (Courtesy of Fate Chadwick):

Ben Watson (LF)	Sammy Leffers (3 rd Base)
Fate Chadwick (P-F)	Everett Fulford (P)
Clemmy Chadwick (P-F)	Leon Chadwick (CF)
Ivey Chadwick (SS)	Norman Chadwick (RF)
Gilbert Whitehurst (P)	Orville Gaskill (1 st Base)
Gerald Whitehurst (C)	Walter Chadwick (2 nd Base)
Elmer Smith (P)	Carl Gaskill (Manager)