**The History**

In October of 1938, the City of Miles City and “various civic organizations” filed a request with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to build an athletic field in town. Located on Lot 14, Section 33, Township 8 North, Range 47 East within the City limits the City Engineer, Kurt Wiel, proposed a $36,598.55 project which included a concrete grandstand to seat 500, bleachers to seat 2,000, shower rooms a football field, cinder track, rock arches and walls, parking areas, flood lighting, sewer and water and other “appurtenant” work.

The application explained that “The present facilities are very poor and spread out in different parts of the city; also the present football field is at the fairgrounds which many people would like to have reserved for rodeos.”

On March 19, 1940 Russell Faux, District Director of Operations for the WPA wrote the State WPA Office, enclosing all the red-tape forms of the day and a revised estimate, urging approval the project, saying, “It is hoped we can prosecute and complete job as authorized there. Can be finished for funds requested barring acts of God, unchanged quotas, revised regulations. There has been considerable request for this job ever since hand ball became so popular. Civic desire is all that can be expected. In view of this it is the recommendation of this office that the project be released for operation.”

The project got underway on April 20, 1940 and was reported as 100% complete September 30, 1940, with $5,200 of the original budget left over! The city requested the funds be used to for the American Legion building and an arch over the highway at the Tongue River. The American Legion Building was not eligible for construction under the “New Deal” WPA Presidential Order, but the archway was approved on April 15, 1941.

PHOTO: West Entrance (Courtesy of Miles City Chamber of Commerce)

**Wooden Baseball Park**

Connors Stadium is known among baseball park aficionados for its status as a “Wooden Baseball Park”. Miles City’s ball park is designated as one of the few wooden ball parks still in use today which were saved by the “New Deal” by the WPA. You can read more about this status at the following link:

<http://www.aplussportsandmore-fanshop-baseballfield.com/Wooden-Baseball-Parks.html>

Ball Park Museum

Miles City’s ball park is also featured in an on-line museum of ball parks from around the nation as “…the best non-professional ball park in the United States!” You may take a tour of the stadium at the following link: <http://www.digitalballparks.com/Amateur/Denton.html>