

1111 Echoes

Fall 2001

A newsletter from the R. I. Reds Heritage Society

Great News: Next Reunion set for July 28, 2002

Mark this on your calendar: The R.I. Reds Heritage Society has scheduled its second reunion for Sunday, July, 28, 2002 at the same site, Goddard State Park. The carousel and its surrounding areas have been reserved so you have about nine months to make your plans.

If you are coming from out-of-state, think about tying in the reunion with your summer vacation. Rhode Island is beautiful in July and there is no more picturesque setting than the Ocean State.

Hope to see even more "out-of-towners" in 2002.

Membership Renewal Time

This issue of *1111 Echoes* concludes your first year as a Charter Member of the R.I. Reds Heritage Society. As one of 285 Charter Members, it is time for you to renew for the 2001-2002 hockey season.

Annual dues remain at only \$20 (USA). You can renew easily by completing and mailing in the enclosed membership form.

With your renewal you will receive three full-color newsletters over the next year and an invitation to attend our July 28, 2002 reunion.

Please don't let your Charter Membership lapse. We have a lot of fun articles planned and another major reunion event scheduled for you as a second-year Charter Member.

With 285 members we are the largest historical society to represent a former minor league hockey franchise. Let's continue our great heritage by involving our children.

Reds "Face-off Reunion" a Smash Hit

With warm, sunny weather, a cool ocean breeze and beautiful sailboats providing the backdrop, Sunday, July 29 was a day to remember for those who will never forget the old Rhode Island Reds.

Players who once proudly wore the red, white and black uniform for the fabled American Hockey League team arrived from many parts of Canada and the United States for the first ever R.I. Reds Barbecue Reunion. They were surrounded by adoring fans at the site of the event, the historic Carousel Building at Goddard State Park in East Greenwich, RI, located on scenic Narragansett Bay.



"They actually got Clinton here?" gestures Bob Robertson. Ferny Flaman, looking puzzled too, seems to be wondering the same. Our own Ray Clearwater played the part of former President Clinton.

While enjoying an array of delicious barbecue offerings and the shelter of a building that once hosted happy-faced horses whirling around carrying giddy children, these loyal fans wanted to chat with the players and recall all the wonderful times at the old R.I. Auditorium on North Main Street in Providence.

Baseball jerseys, caps, old photographs and even a sign or two set the scene for the 230 persons who attended this inaugural major event put together by the rapidly rising, 285-member R.I. Reds Heritage Society.

More than 30 gifts were awarded in a major raffle. Background music included organ renditions of "Roll Out the Barrel," "This Could Be the Start of Something Big," and "That's Entertainment," along with songs from the fifties and sixties.

A highlight of the afternoon featured the legendary George Patrick Duffy, "Voice of the R.I. Reds," doing a three-minute, play-by-play re-creation from the building's 20-foot balcony, similar to a press box. "Toppazzini scoooooorrrrrrrss!!!" was the climax of his rendering, which was followed by a standing ovation from an appreciative audience.



"How about that 1955-56 season?" George Patrick Duffy reminisces with Ray and Donna Ross about the last Calder Cup championship year for the Reds. Ray and Donna made the trek from Hamilton, Ontario.

In all, if the entire afternoon event had been a show on Broadway in New York, the theater critics would certainly have termed it "a smash hit!" This R.I. Reds Barbecue Reunion was a first. Its huge success demands an encore for next summer.

R.I. Reds Heritage Society's First Annual Reunion

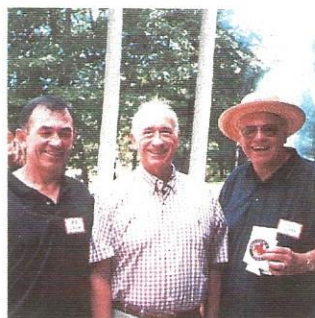


"The Gang's All Here": Front row, from left - Lou Pieri, Bob Robertson, Buzz Deschamps, Al Bentley, Ross Brooks, Stan Baluik, Serge Boudreault, Gil Mayer, Wayne Muloin, George Sage and George Patrick Duffy. Back row - Harvey Bennett, Don McKenney, Jack McGeough, Peter Demers, Chuck Scherza, Buster Clegg, Ray Clearwater, Ferny Flaman, Bo Elik, Bobby Leduc, Dan Poliziani and Ray Ross.



All in the family: The Pieri group--Lou, son Lou, Jr., and wife Maureen.

Hot Time in the Old Town: Bill Castro is having such a great time his hat appears to be smoking. Looking on are Bobby Leduc and George Sage.



Back Home in Rhode Island: Bo and Jackie Elik, real party people, made a big hit with their genial socializing with both fans and former teammates. The Elikes came in from Oshawa, Ontario, as a 50th anniversary present from family and friends.

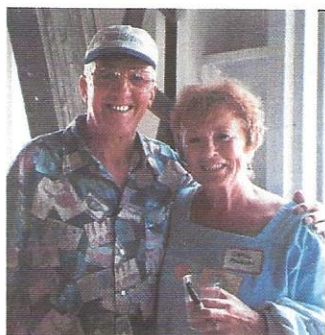


All Smiles: Ross Brooks and Ferny Flaman flank Tom McDonough, reunion master of ceremonies.



Hail to the Chief and First Lady: Retired AHL president Jack Butterfield and his wife Nina came in from Springfield to take part in the reunion fun.

Dan and Carol Poliziani having a good time reminiscing at our First Reunion. Dan came in from Canada where he has been training racehorses.



Those Were the Good Old Days: Serge Boudreault and Wayne Muloin discuss times at the old R.I. Auditorium at 1111 North Main Street. Wayne traveled here from Cleveland.



The Scherzas: Chuck, right, and son Norm enjoy a good time together.

Backchecking and Forechecking

“Backchecking and Forechecking” is a regular feature of *1111 Echoes*. It is intended to bring readers up-to-date on the “whereabouts and goings on” of former R.I. Reds players and associates. This edition features profiles of eight individuals who took a few minutes to fill out and return the questionnaire contained in previous editions. These updates are published as they are received and as space allows. If you have not already submitted yours, please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire so you can be in a future newsletter.

Backchecking

Johnny Bower had two goaltending careers: one in the AHL with Cleveland and the Reds and another in the NHL, mostly with Toronto (12 years). He was the backbone of the Reds last Calder Cup winner in 1955-56 and was MVP the next year. He led in lowest goals-against average three times in each league. At ages 37 through 42, Johnny helped the Leafs win four Stanley Cups and was inducted into the NHL “Hall of Fame” in 1976.



Forechecking

Johnny and Nancy, his wife of 52 years, raised a son and two daughters and have six grandchildren. The couple resides in Mississauga, Ontario. He scouted for the Maple Leafs for 20 years. He enjoys fishing, golfing and gardening...but still keeps in the game by running a goalie school each summer for youngsters trying to become “Johnny Bowers.” All of us here in Providence would like to know: *Johnny, how old are you, really?*

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Ray Clearwater spent five full seasons wearing the colors of the R.I. Reds. A steady defenseman, Ray could also lug the puck out of his own end and set up scoring opportunities for his forwards. He was a major factor in helping the Reds make it to the Calder Cup semi-finals in 1967-68. When the World Hockey Association was born in 1972-73, Ray signed with the Cleveland Crusaders with whom he played for three seasons.



Ray began and ended his career in New Haven, first with the EHL Blades and finally with the AHL Nighthawks. He and his wife Judy have made their permanent home in that city. The couple has been married 35 years, have two children and four grandchildren. Ray remains in pro hockey as a respected scout with the New York Rangers. His hobbies are golf and grandparenting. *The latter is contagious, Ray.*

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Ivan Irwin spent only three years playing for the Reds (1955-56 through '57-58) but is still a legend here. While Ivan was here the Reds enjoyed some of their finest moments. He was a tough guy on the ice, very capable at defense and also intimidating. He had 352 penalty minutes in only 154 games. In the NHL Ivan played for both the Canadians and Rangers. And in 1965-66 he came back to the Reds as coach.



Actually a “gentle bear,” Ivan is loved by all. He and his wife Peg live in a suburb of Toronto. Ivan has five children and seven grandchildren (4 boys and 2 girls are hockey players). After the pros he was in sales, real estate and now is part owner of a nursing home. His hobbies: golf, woodworking, tennis, sailing, skiing, hiking, canoeing and yes, age level hockey. *Ivan, do you still have those clutch and hold gloves without palms?*

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Eddie Kachur, a gritty right winger who played 16 years of pro hockey, enjoyed his best seasons with the Reds, six years in all. Playing on a line with Dave Creighton and Brian Perry in 1967-68, Eddie led the AHL with 47 goals and was selected to the first all-star team. In all, he scored 152 goals and had 111 assists in regular season and playoff games with the Reds. Eddie also played two seasons in the NHL with Chicago.



Eddie and his wife Sheila have been married 41 years and have three sons and two grandchildren. After hockey he worked 22 years at a grain elevator and retired a few years ago. He was inducted into the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame in 1998. Today he and Sheila own Camp Sawmill Bay, a resort in Upsala, Ontario. His hobbies are fishing and hunting. *Our 285 members are planning to visit your resort...all at once!*

Backchecking

Don McKenney played 15 years in the National Hockey League before ending his pro career with a two-year stint here with the Reds (1968-69 and '69-70). Known as a classy, center playmaker, Don worked for the Bruins, Rangers, Maple Leafs and St. Louis Blues in the big time. With the Reds in 1968-69, he scored 26 goals and had 48 assists for 74 points in as many games. He also added 4-7-11 in 12 Calder Cup play.



Forechecking

A nine-year Bruin, Don became a resident of Braintree, Mass. He and Margie, now married 42 years, raised three children and have seven grandchildren. Don was Ferny Flaman's assistant at Northeastern for 17 years and has been a scout for both the Quebec Nordiques and Colorado Avalanche. His hobbies include golf, traveling, woodworking, boating and guess...? Babysitting. *You too, Don?*



Allan Soares, while playing Division I college hockey for Brown University in the Ivy League, caught the eye of general manager Terry Reardon and owner Lou Pieri in 1960. A top-flight defenseman, Allan played only briefly with the Reds. But within a few years he became head coach at his alma mater and was later recognized by his peers as one of the bright, young strategists in college hockey.



Allan is a shining example of the fact that there is "life after pro hockey." He went from college coaching into investments and today is president of his own company in Providence. He and Karen, married 37 years, have raised a son and daughter. A resident of Bristol, Allan likes to golf and play squash. In the last two years he has gone back to playing hockey, age level 60 plus. *No "lifties" Allan.*



Allan Stanley was the epitome of "the defensemen's defenseman." His pro career began in Providence in 1946-47 but 2 1/2 years later the New York Rangers acquired him in a deal that sent six players to the Reds. The rest is history. Often underrated, he played for four teams in his 21 year NHL career, ten with Toronto where he helped the Maple Leafs win four Stanley Cup titles. He was voted to the NHL "Hall of Fame" in 1981.



Allan has also proven that there is life after pro hockey. He and his wife Barbara Ellen have been married for 43 years and have settled comfortably in sunny Venice, Florida, far from chilly Toronto, where he played his greatest hockey. He owned a golf resort in Florida for 20 years but today enjoys retirement. *Allan, come back to Rhode Island for our 2002 reunion. You can't beat the weather...much better than Florida in July.*



Tommy Woodcock was an accomplished player for Hope High, just down the street from the old R.I. Auditorium. He was the consummate "rink rat"--cleaned ice between periods at Reds' games and practiced early mornings with his team. He became Reds' assistant trainer under the tutelage of George Army and eventually went "NHL" as head trainer with St. Louis, Hartford and now the San Jose Sharks (34 years in all).



Tom has three children and eight grandchildren. He and his wife Tina live in a nearby suburb of San Jose, California. In a note to *1111 Echoes* he asked to say hello to his old Rhode Island friends. "Nice to hear from the old gang," were his words. His hobbies: golf, pool and "drinking." *The first one is on us, Tom. Hope you can join us at next year's reunion barbecue.*

Goddard State Park, R.I., Sunday, July 29, 2001

Longtime Friends:

Ferny Flaman and Harvey Bennett, who both grew up in the Boston Bruins chain in the 1940s, take time to chat with



Buzz Deschamps, a Reds player from the 1960s. Harvey came in from Florida and Buzzy from Long Island.



Reunion Planning Committee: From left, Les Keats, Buster Clegg, Larry Beirne, Bill O'Connor, Jim Clegg and Tom McDDonough.



Haven't Changed a Bit: Ray and Judy Clearwater who jaunted up from New Haven.

PR Man: Gordie Anziano, former director of public relations for the AHL, and his wife Carol joined us from



their vacation on Block Island.



Centers Stage: Stan Baluik with granddaughters and Serge Boudreault. Both were centers for the Reds back in the 1960s.



All-time Great: Gil Mayer and his wife Marielle enjoy the party. Gil is the only goaltender in AHL history to win five consecutive Hap Holmes Awards, presented to the league's net minder with the season's lowest goals against average.



"No way, Dan!" Dan Poliziani has just tried to trade a "10-year-old, never finished" racehorse to former Reds' owners Lou Pieri and George Sage in exchange for a hockey franchise. It's "glue time," Dan.

Next Issue

The next issue of *1111 Echoes* will come out in January 2002. It will include details of the public presentation of our "Tops 2001" awards to Chuck Scherza and George Patrick Duffy, reports on newly acquired Reds' memorabilia, "Backchecking and Forechecking" updates on Wayne Muloin, Bo Elik, Bob Robertson, Howie Menard and maybe even YOU ... plus a review of the great 1948-49 Calder Cup championship season.

A Tribute and a Prayer



"God Bless America"



for its courage and resolve and our dear neighbors to the north, Canada, who always stand solidly beside us for peace and freedom. And please bless the many millions of innocent, good people throughout the world.

Reunion

Remembering Eddie and Lou: Jack Butterfield, former president of the AHL, and Buster Clegg, ex GM of the Reds, bring back colorful memories of when



Eddie Shore owned the Springfield Indians and Louis A. R. Pieri ran the Reds. What a rivalry!



came all the way from California for the reunion.

How Time Flies: Pete Demers, just a "kid trainer" with the Reds back in the 1960s, shown with daughter Aimee. Pete is now head trainer with the NHL's Los Angeles Kings and

2001



Blasts from the Past: On display were three separate R.I. Reds uniform styles and designs from the past.

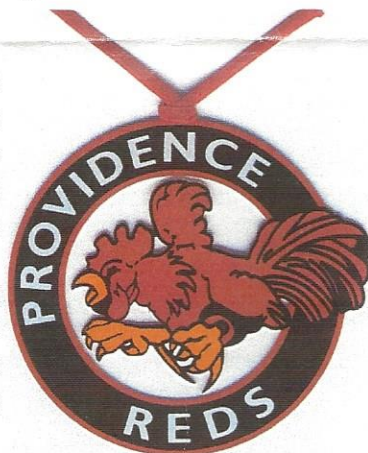
The Perfect Holiday Gift . . . only \$10.00

The R.I. Reds Heritage Society is proud to present its first annual commemorative ornament, the "Raging Rooster," perfect for trimming your holiday tree.

Cartoonist Frank Lanning created the design back in 1948 and today it is still the most recognizable team logo in the club's 51-year history.

Delicately etched in solid brass, this outstanding collectible, 3" in diameter, is finished in sparkling 24 kt. gold and silk screened with authentic team colors of the Reds. It is handsomely gift boxed and includes a handy stand that allows you to display and enjoy your ornament on a desk or tabletop year-round.

The "Raging Rooster" is a limited edition collectible. Inscribed on the reverse side is:



Actual size is 3 inches.

R.I. Reds Heritage Society
1st Annual Commemorative
2001/2002 Season
Limited Edition of 250

To order yours, simply fill out the enclosed ornament order form. Note: To ensure Holiday delivery, orders must be received by December 1, 2001.



R. I. Reds Heritage Society
P. O. Box 167
Barrington, RI 02806
(401) 247-2666

"On Frozen Pond"

"On Frozen Pond" is an historical heritage documentary chronicling the first 50 years of schoolboy hockey competition in Rhode Island, focusing on a group of Burrillville small town boys and the coaches who turned their "hicks from the sticks" into a succession of State and New England champs--earning a permanent place of honor in the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame.

Inspired by the memory of legendary educator and coach Tom Eccelston (Burrillville High School hockey coach 1936-1956, Providence College Friars hockey coach 1956-1964; Pennsylvania's Hill School 1971-1983; BHS 1985-1990) who passed away at age 90 in December 2000, the program also explores something that no film has explored before: Rhode Island hockey culture and its link to the unique origins and development of American hockey.

Help recreate the period! If you have photos, film or video of Burrillville, Providence College or Hill School hockey players, games or practices under Coach Eccleston; or Burrillville High School hockey players under Coach Babe Mousseau 1956-1974, please contact Kathi Wheeler at 401-568-9623.

The production is also seeking still or moving images that depict pond hockey games around the state (1930s-present), outdoor winter scenes, interscholastic games at Brown or Rhode Island Auditorium (interiors and exteriors), and other visuals that provide historical context. Credits in the film and a VHS program copy will be given as thanks to each person who provides images used in final production.

"On Frozen Pond" is a project of Rhode Island Interscholastic League, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, and is endorsed by the R.I. Reds Heritage Society. Broadcast is projected for December 2002 on WSBE-TV36, presenting station to the national PBS network. *Please support "On Frozen Pond" with a tax-deductible contribution! For details, call Rhode Island Interscholastic League Treasurer Jane Hale at 401-849-6854. All contributors receive a film credit; donations over \$100 receive free VHS program copy.*